

Golden Valley 2005

CITYNEWS

Study Focuses On Future Of I-394 Corridor

Successful cities, like their counterparts in business, plan for the future. One Golden Valley hot spot is the I-394 corridor along the city's southern border. With its central location in the metro area along a major interstate highway and its proximity to downtown Minneapolis, the area is in demand for a number of uses. This high demand, coupled with the current grab-bag of land uses, makes the area ripe for change. Rather than consider changes piecemeal, the City Council is taking a comprehensive look at current land uses and soliciting public input to determine how to focus future development to best meet the needs and desires of the community.

The City kicked off the I-394 Corridor Study in April with surveys of area businesses and residents as well as several discussions with residents and community groups. In addition, all community members were invited to participate in a Visual Preference Survey (VPS) focusing on urban design, building types and architectural styles, parking treatments, setbacks, landscaping, and signage. Participants rated photographs of these elements in other cities with an eye toward how community aesthetic preferences might be incorporated into land use controls through the adoption of design standards. Complete results of all surveys are available at City Hall and online (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/zoning/394corridor/vps/results.html).

RESIDENT SURVEY AND ROUNDTABLES

The City sent more than 1,200 surveys to residents in the I-394 Corridor Study Secondary Focus area (bounded by Laurel Ave, Hwy 100, Hwy 55, and Brookview Pkwy). Of those, 119 were returned. Three open-ended questions asked residents what they liked and disliked about the area and what they would like to see there in the future.

(I-394 Study CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

GV REQUESTConnect OFFERS CONVENIENCE

Need answers or a service from the City? Forget the phone. Connect with City staff and accept the answer when it's convenient for you through *GV RequestConnect*, the City's newest electronic service.

To use the system, go to the City Web site, click on the *GV eConnect* symbol, then select *GV RequestConnect*. Choose the topic that best fits your issue (Animal Concerns, Building Permits and Construction, Neighborhood and Property Concerns, etc) and input contact information and relevant specifics in an easy-to-use form. Requests are automatically routed to the City staff person responsible for dealing with the issue and a response log is created to track your request. Details are posted so the resident who filed the request (and the staff supervisor) can track its progress.

To learn more about *GV RequestConnect* and Golden Valley's other online services, visit the City Web site (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us) or contact Communications Coordinator Cheryl Weiler at 763-593-8004. 

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LEARN MORE: I-394 Study

The I-394 Corridor Study planning process will have a significant impact on how that area looks and feels in the future. By studying what's there now and getting community input about future needs, the City Council can create a plan for the area, complete with updated land use regulations.

Interested parties can stay informed and involved in a number of ways:

- Sign up for email updates or participate in a discussion group through *GV DirectConnect* (see page 1).
- Look for regular updates about the process in each issue of *CityNews*.
- Check the City Web site (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/zoning/394corridor/vps/results.html) for complete survey results and a log of all community input, questions, and answers.
- Schedule a "Roadshow" for your business, neighborhood, community group, etc. These presentations are available through December.

If you're interested in the community vision for development that resulted from *Envision Golden Valley*, visit the City Web site at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/Envision.htm.

Questions? Contact Mark Grimes at 763-593-8095. 

I-394 Study

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Respondents favor the natural area north of Laurel Ave and the area's commercial uses, including the restaurants and Menards. They dislike the traffic, parking lots, and road network, buildings and properties that appear run-down, and the area's overall appearance. They would like to see more and better landscaping, redevelopment of run-down buildings, a variety of commercial uses (including a grocery store), and public gathering places.

The survey also asked residents how frequently they use the area, what transportation options they would support, and what issues should be addressed in the study (see table at left). For more in-depth information, the City randomly selected a group of survey respondents to participate in a roundtable discussion about the area. Central themes included interest in improving the area's appearance and cohesiveness, traffic calming, and increasing retail and restaurants geared towards area residents and workers.

BUSINESS SURVEY

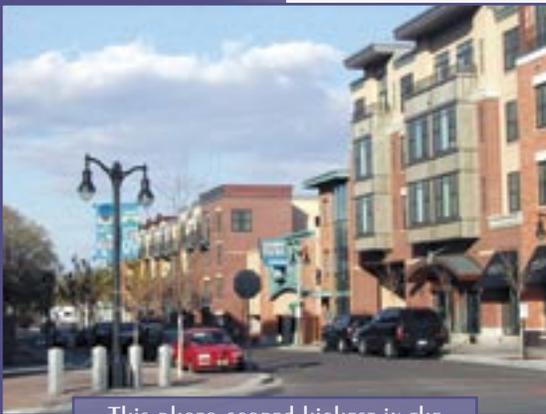
The City surveyed the 190 businesses in the study area to learn more about their plans and concerns for the future, and 26% responded. Several questions asked why businesses located in Golden Valley, if they are considering expansion or relocation, what might deter expansion, and how the city ranked as a location.

In general, respondents picked Golden Valley because of the city's location in the metro area and western Hennepin County, the price of property and/or business lease rates, and accessibility. More businesses are considering expansion or remodeling than relocation, with lease costs and accessibility listed as main deterrents to remaining or expanding. Most businesses rate Golden Valley as an above average or excellent location.

VISUAL PREFERENCE SURVEY (VPS)

The Visual Preference Survey (VPS) is yet another technique used to garner public input, this time regarding the form and appearance of buildings, landscape, and streetscape that can be translated into design guidelines for new development. The City conducted its I-394 Corridor VPS at several community events, in City Hall, and on the City Web site, asking participants to look at a series of images and rate their favorites on a scale of 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest).

A total of 150 people took the VPS, assessing images in six categories: medium- to high-density housing, mixed-use development, commercial buildings, office/business park/industrial development, parking and streetscape design, and signs. In the housing category, respondents focused on materials and detailing, favoring brick buildings and those with narrow wood siding while giving lower scores to stucco buildings. In the mixed-use development category, respondents favored traditional building forms featuring masonry, contrasting colors and materials, and streetscape elements (see photo) while giving lower scores to buildings with flat facades.



THIS PHOTO SCORED HIGHEST IN THE VPS MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT CATEGORY.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Because the City Council and Planning Commission want all interested parties to have a good understanding of the I-394 Corridor Study as it progresses, there are a variety of ways to stay involved (see sidebar at left for details).

The planning effort is expected to wrap up in early 2006. A community open house is planned before year's end and will be announced in *CityNews* and the Web site. If you have questions about the I-394 Corridor Study, contact Planning and Zoning Director Mark Grimes at 763-593-8097. 

RESIDENTS' STUDY PRIORITIES	
Traffic	75%
Landscaping	71%
Building Aesthetics	62%
Pedestrian Safety	61%
Noise	53%
Density of Buildings	48%
Height of Buildings	46%
Lighting	37%
Storm Water Ponding	26%
Complete survey results are available on the City Web site (see sidebar).	

Rain Gardens Turn Lawn Woes Into Wows

Despondent over a dip in your yard? Concerned about storm water run-off (see article on page 12) and want to hinder it? A rain garden can cure these woes and also attract some beautiful visitors, such as butterflies and birds, to your yard. Rain gardens eliminate standing water, make lawns more attractive, reduce lawn maintenance time and costs, and improve water quality. Also called storm water or water quality gardens, rain gardens help water quality by keeping run-off from reaching local waterways and by recharging groundwater supplies.

NATURAL FilTRATION

A rain garden is a sunken garden that imitates nature. The mixture of plants and soil draws water into the ground before it can run-off, either into a basement or the street, where it will enter the storm sewer system and eventually local waterways, such as Bassett Creek. For several years, cities around the country have been installing rain gardens to keep water close to where it falls or melts, reduce run-off into local waterways, and promote water infiltration. Since all water is ultimately connected, having a rain garden, or two or three, is really a way to act locally and have a global impact.

PLANNING YOUR OWN RAIN GARDEN

If you have property, chances are you can also have a rain garden. Plan to place the garden in a sunken area or an area where water tends to run through quickly after a rain or during snow melt. A single garden can accommodate about five percent of the drainable area (eg, a 25-square-foot garden would accommodate 500 square feet of lawn).

Even with a low starting point, the location must be dug from six inches to four feet deep, depending on the type of soil and volume of run-off water to be dealt with. Because of this, do not place a rain garden over any utilities. Call GopherOne (651-454-0002) to have utilities marked before you begin such a project. Also, since most areas of Golden Valley have clay or silty soils that are not very porous, it may be necessary to amend the soil or install an under drainage system before planting. If those steps are not taken, the garden will not infiltrate and will pond.

When the garden area is ready, plant hardy native wildflowers, grasses, and shrubs that can withstand both very wet conditions and intermittent drought-like conditions. Once established, your rain garden will require little maintenance, and you can sit back and enjoy the wildlife that visits.

For a free comprehensive manual covering site selection, plant selection, and maintenance, visit the University of Wisconsin Extension Service (<http://clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/raingarden/rmanual.pdf>).

Watch here and the City Web site for more information on rain gardens. The landscaping wave of the future may just be that strategically placed garden right in your very own yard. 

Photo Courtesy of Urban Resources & Borderland Alliance Network



RAIN GARDENS OFFER AN ATTRACTIVE SOLUTION TO DRAINAGE PROBLEMS.

CITY HALL PLAZA PROJECT INCLUDES RAIN GARDENS

A current project to improve the plaza in front of Golden Valley City Hall will make maintenance easier and eliminate

hazards caused by uneven and deteriorated pavers, water ponding, and slippery conditions. It will also use rain gardens (see article and drawing at left), a solution tailor-made to address the unique problems of the site.

To address these problems,

City staff developed a project that will:

- improve pedestrian safety
- comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act
- eliminate parking stalls that conflict with motorists entering the campus from Golden Valley Road
- improve front door lighting for safety
- provide for treatment of storm water with rain gardens
- eliminate unsafe visual obstructions
- improve the appearance of the City Hall entrance

BCG Construction, Inc began the project in late August and expects to be finished later this fall. Cost of the project is \$172,551. For more information about the project, contact Public Works Project Coordinator Ron Nims at 763-593-8032. 



THE NEW CITY HALL PLAZA WILL USE RAIN GARDENS TO ADDRESS DRAINAGE ISSUES.

DON'T "LEAF" CLEAN WATER TO THE WIND

If you think leaves and grass are just a part of the natural cycle, you're right, but they also contain phosphorus (P), part of the nitrogen (N) family, a non-metallic element found in DNA.

When leaves and grass enter the storm sewer system, they ultimately end up in bodies of water. There they decompose and produce phosphorus (P). This phosphorus is the same phosphorus found in fertilizer that makes lawns green, so it's not surprising it also feeds the vegetation in water.

As surface weeds and algae grow, they block sunlight from reaching the bottom. The bottom plants, which provide food for ducks, fish, and other marine life, then die from lack of light. As they decompose, oxygen-consuming bacteria blossoms to help them break down. The loss of oxygen makes it very difficult for most aquatic life to live.

By properly disposing of leaves and grass throughout the year (see article at right), you prevent them from settling in waterways and ultimately help protect water quality. Proper disposal means not raking leaves and grass into the street, where they can clog storm drains and enter the storm sewer system.

For more on information on Golden Valley's storm sewer system see page 12. For more details on phosphorus, visit the City Web site (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/environment/waterresources.htm).

Dates Set For Fall Leaf Drop-Off

Colorful leaves blowing in the wind may be a lovely sign of autumn, but they are also a leading source of excess nutrients (see sidebar) in our waterways. Golden Valley's annual *Fall Leaf Drop-Off* helps keep those leaves contained.

The *Fall Leaf Drop-Off* provides residents a place to dispose of their leaves at no charge during the last weekend in October and the first weekend in November (see box at right). As in previous years, the drop-off site will be at Brookview Park, south of Hwy 55 at Winnetka Ave. During drop-off days, Brookview Parkway becomes a one-way road. All traffic must enter the site from Winnetka Ave S and exit on Western Ave. City personnel will direct vehicles to drop-off points, where other personnel will help residents unload or de-bag leaves.

Fall Leaf Drop-Off

Four Days Only

Brookview Park (south of Hwy 55 at Winnetka Ave)

Friday, October 28, 8 am–4 pm

Saturday, October 29, 7 am–1 pm

Friday, November 4, 8 am–4 pm

Saturday, November 5, 7 am–1 pm

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

- Participants must provide proof of Golden Valley residency (Minnesota driver's license, ID, or proof of identity and address).
- Residents must untie leaf bags, help de-bag their leaves at the site, and take the bags home for reuse or disposal (see tips below for conserving bags). No brush will be accepted.
- Residents hauling loose leaves must help unload their leaves at the site (see tips below for loading loose leaves).

Golden Valley RECYCLES



The Golden Valley Recycling Program is partially funded by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners.

Holiday Schedule

<u>Holiday Week</u>	<u>Pick-Up Date</u>
Thanksgiving	Sat, Nov 26
Christmas	regular pick-up
New Year's	regular pick-up
Memorial Day	Sat, June 3
Fourth of July	Sat, July 8
Labor Day	Sat, Sept 9

Missed Pick-Ups

If your recycling is missed on Friday, call Waste Management at 952-890-1100 before noon on the following Monday.

If you have specific recycling questions, call 763-593-8030.

HANDY TIPS

- For fast unloading and to conserve your bags, leave them untied. A parking area will be provided for residents to untie their bags before getting in line.
- If you're hauling loose leaves, line the trailer or truck bed with a tarp before loading the leaves. To unload, help the workers lift the corners of the tarp and dump the leaves into the disposal box.

If you miss the *Leaf Drop-Off*, contact your garbage hauler for its policies and rates or check the *Yellow Pages* for names of commercial yard waste processing sites. The Maple Grove Yard Waste Site (14796 101st Ave N) accepts leaves and brush up to 10 inches in diameter for \$7/cubic yard April through November. Grass is accepted for \$13/cubic yard June through September and \$7/cubic yard other months. Open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 7 pm, and Sunday, noon to 7 pm. Site closes November 30 and re-opens April 1 each year. For more information, contact the Yard Waste Site directly at 763-420-8971 or visit www.mgyardwaste.com.

The *Fall Leaf Drop-Off* has been part of Golden Valley's recycling program for 14 years. If you have questions about the Leaf Drop-Off or yard waste in general, call 763-593-8030.



Be Mighty Tidy At GV's Clean-Up Day

If you're like many Americans, you may have old or unused items sitting around that are hard to get rid of. Golden Valley's second annual *Mighty Tidy Clean-Up Day* offers an opportunity to clean out these unwanted household items before winter bears down.

Set for Saturday, October 15, 8 am to 1 pm, at Brookview Park, *Mighty Tidy Day* is your chance to dispose of things like mattresses and sofas, broken bicycles, ancient appliances, tires, and outdated computers and televisions (see box below right for list of items and fees). New this year is the addition of textiles (clothes, footwear, purses, and belts), which will be accepted at no charge. Items must be dry and somewhat clean.

Last year more than 400 vehicles used *Mighty Tidy Day* to drop off 15 tons of solid waste, two tons of metal, two-and-a-quarter tons of construction materials, 122 appliances, 31 monitors, 150 tires, 60 batteries, and 140 bulbs.

"We thought the turnout was good for the first year, and we expect the program to grow," says Golden Valley Environmental Coordinator Al Lundstrom. "Because things went so well, we decided we could add a new item this year."

Who Can Participate

Mighty Tidy Clean-Up Day is open only to Golden Valley residents, and proof of residency will be required at the entrance.

How To Participate

Enter Brookview Parkway from the north along Winnetka Ave (it will be a one-way road for the event). Workers will collect the appropriate fee (see list at right) and direct you to one of three lots: Lot 1—electronics, tires, batteries, light bulbs, and textiles; Lot 2—scrap metal and appliances; Lot 3—sofas, chairs, mattresses, and miscellaneous items (construction debris, lumber, swing sets, bricks, etc).

No hazardous waste (used motor oil, asbestos, cleaning solvents, pool chemicals, etc) will be accepted. Check with Hennepin County Environmental Services for disposal information (see sidebar).

For more information on *Mighty Tidy Day*, call Golden Valley's Environmental Coordinator at 763-593-8046.

Mighty Tidy Clean-Up Day

Saturday, October 15
8 am–1 pm
Brookview Park
(south of Hwy 55
at Winnetka Ave)

Mighty Tidy Day Disposal Costs

Lot 1

Electronics

TV monitor	\$15
Console TV	\$25
Small electronics.....	\$ 8

Tires/Batteries/Bulbs

Car tire.....	\$ 5
Truck tire.....	\$ 7
Tire rims.....	\$ 2
Batteries	\$ 3
Bulbs	\$ 2

Textiles.....No charge

Lot 2

Scrap Metal

Clean metal	No charge
Other (bikes, etc)	\$ 5

Appliances

Non-refrigeration	\$20
Freon units	\$24

Lot 3

Bulk Items

Mattress/Box Spring (any size).....	\$15
Couch.....	\$20
Hide-A-Bed.....	\$25
Chair (small/large)	\$ 5/\$10

Misc Items..... \$18/yard

OR, USE OTHER RESOURCES

Still have stuff to get rid of? Use the following resources to do it safely and cheaply.

Recyclopedia

The *Recyclopedia* is a 32-page alphabetical guide to safe disposal practices. Listings range from businesses that take used building materials (doors, windows, and lumber) to those that take used eyeglasses. The *Recyclopedia* extensively covers proper hazardous waste disposal as well as ways to reduce waste, reuse resources, and recycle more. It is produced cooperatively by the Cities of Golden Valley, Hopkins, Minnetonka, Plymouth, St Louis Park, and the West Hennepin Recycling Commission Cities of Greenfield, Independence, Long Lake, Loretto, Maple Plain, Medina, and Orono.

Recycling Centers

For a fee, the Hennepin County Transfer Stations accept many appliances, such as washers, dryers, hot water heaters, garbage disposals, trash compactors, stoves, air conditioners, refrigerators/freezers, furnaces, microwave ovens, dehumidifiers, dishwashers, and heat pumps.

- Hennepin County Recycling Center and Transfer Station (8100 Jefferson Hwy, Brooklyn Park), 612-348-3777
- South Hennepin Recycling and Problem Waste Drop-Off Center (1400 W 96th St, Bloomington), 612-348-3777

Hennepin County Environmental Services also has an "A-Z How-To-Get-Rid-Of-It Guide" for households. Look for the environment link at www.co.hennepin.mn.us, or call 612-348-3777, Monday–Friday, 8 am–4:30 pm.

For more recycling resources, check the following Web sites:

- www.greenguardian.com
- www.moea.state.mn.us
- www.epa.gov

RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

TEEN

Monster Mash Teen Dance (grades 5–7)—Costume contest and treats. Concessions will be sold. Oct 28, 7–9:30 pm, Crystal Community Center, \$5 by Oct 26, \$8 at the door

FAMILY

Spooktacular—Games, prizes, dancing, and treats. Oct 29: 9:40–11:30 am (ages 4–6 with adult), 12:40–2:30 pm (ages 7–9), Crystal Community Center, \$6/child by Oct 26

Supper with Santa—Friday evening pizza, holiday music, and Santa! Dec 2, 6–7:30 pm, Brookview. All children must be accompanied by an adult. \$10/child, \$5/adult, free for age 2 and under

Airplane Annie Show (all ages)—Songs, games, balloons, silly magic, and laughter. Dec 28, 1 pm, Brookview. Groups must call in advance. \$3/child, adults/free

TARGET CENTER EVENTS

Minneapolis Shrine Circus—Oct 21, 10 am, \$10 lower level reserved, free for age 1 and under

Disney on Ice "Jungle Adventures"—Dec 3, 11:30 am, \$18 lower level reserved, free for age 2 and under. Call 763-531-5151 for additional information.

SENIORS

Holiday Band Concert—Dec 1: Robbinsdale City Band, 7 pm, Crystal Community Center

Annual Holiday Supper—Dec 12: Golden Valley Orchestra and a holiday sing-along. Please bring a new, unwrapped gift to donate to PRISM. 6 pm, \$10 by Dec 7, Brookview

Register in person, by mail, by fax (763-512-2344), or online at *GV RecConnect* (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/parks/prprograms.htm).

For more information, contact:
Golden Valley Park & Recreation
Brookview Community Center
200 Brookview Parkway
Golden Valley, MN 55426
763-512-2345
 8 am–5 pm, Monday–Friday

Park and Recreation Events Offer Excellent Benefits

Want to add up to two years to your life? How about reduce stress and depression or build social skills? According to *The Benefits Catalogue*, you can do this and more by becoming active in recreation activities. And what's good for the individual is good for the community. Strong recreation programs contribute to community pride, attract business, and help secure a city's standing as a dynamic, multi-generational community.

With the variety of events offered through Golden Valley's Park & Recreation Department, finding activities is not a daunting feat. There are year-around socials, trips, themed dances, and activities open to all generations, including Concerts in the Park, the Penny Carnival, and the upcoming Supper with Santa. "I think events like the Penny Carnival are so popular because people remember going to them when they were young, and now they are bringing their children," says Recreation Supervisor Brian Erickson.



Kids enjoy the PENNY CARNIVAL.

Seniors Coordinator Barb Bailey has a slightly different take. "Special events offer wide appeal. Anyone can come, and they are simply different than the norm." Erickson adds, "They are also attractive because they're a one-time thing, not a huge commitment like a regular class or program."

By collaborating with neighboring communities, such as Crystal, Robbinsdale, New Hope, and Brooklyn Center, Golden Valley is able to offer more, explains Recreation Supervisor Sue Cook. "Even if only a few

people from each city sign up, the event still goes on." And, as with Target Center events, "the cost is usually a little cheaper than residents would pay if they went alone, plus the seats are excellent."

Envision Golden Valley showed that residents want to nurture "places, events, and associations that maintain recreation as a focal point of family and community life." The tools for this are in place, active, and always seeking more residents to get involved.

Take a look at the special events offered in the City's Fall Park & Recreation brochure. Chances are you'll be pleasantly surprised, find a great value for your entertainment dollar, and ultimately support a strong community with your participation. For more information, contact the Park & Recreation Department at 763-512-2345.

davis COMMUNITY CENTER

Don't let the cooling weather slow you down. Experience indoor action in the 10,000-square-foot gymnasium at Golden Valley's Davis Community Center (5430 Glenwood Ave).

Golden Valley Park & Recreation programs offer drop-in activities for people of all ages, such as volleyball, basketball, parent and tot or child gym time, or Shoot Some Buckets (a parent-child program).

The daily drop-in fee is \$3. A 10-time punch pass is \$20. Drop-in family fee is \$5 per family. An eight-time family punch pass is \$30.

Call Golden Valley Park & Recreation (763-512-2345) or visit the City Web site (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/parks/DavisCentermonthlySchedule.htm) for a monthly calendar.

Tree Trust Projects Aid Both City And Youth

For the past 29 summers, the City of Golden Valley has partnered with Twin Cities Tree Trust to give groups of teens (ages 14–17) valuable work experience through improving the City's nature areas. This year they cleared a 12-foot swath of woods and underbrush behind the Brookview condominiums on the north side of the new General Mills Nature Area pond. Now City crews can pave a three-quarter-mile path around the pond and provide Golden Valley residents with more walking/hiking/biking enjoyment. Through another Tree Trust program, a group of young adults (ages 18–24) will return to Golden Valley this fall to clear an area and build abutments for a bridge over Bassett Creek to the Betty Crocker Drive sidewalk.



TWIN CITIES TREE TRUST HELPS COMMUNITIES WITH PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.

Through another Tree Trust program, a group of young adults (ages 18–24) will return to Golden Valley this fall to clear an area and build abutments for a bridge over Bassett Creek to the Betty Crocker Drive sidewalk.

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

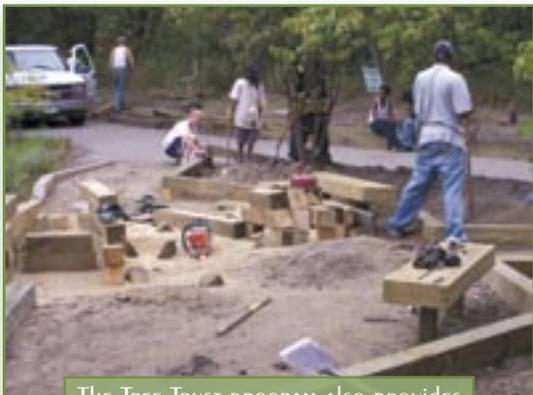
"It would be a major challenge for City crews to keep up with the projects these kids take on," says Golden Valley Parks Maintenance Supervisor Ron Hammer. "And the

quality of their work is excellent. The City's only responsibility is to check if the work is going okay and to give supplies."

"Over the years, the Tree Trust program has done about 90% of amenities in Golden Valley's nature areas," adds Public Works Maintenance Manager Tom Klatt. Youth crews have built retaining walls, bridge abutments, benches, overviews, and stairways, and refreshed wood chip trails. Other projects include the stairway at Medley Park or the floating dock and observation deck at Rice Lake Nature Area.

YOUTH INVESTMENT

Founded in 1976 to help reforest the Twin Cities metro area, the Tree Trust program invests in at-risk youth, unemployed adults, and individuals who need a second chance to excel. Over the years it has helped more than 20,000 youth gain work and social skills, self-esteem and confidence, and prepare for future employment. Youth crews work about 20 hours a week and are paid about \$7 per hour, but the experience seems to be what stays with them. "I've had kids come back and tell me that working with the Tree Trust was the best summer they ever had," says Hammer.



THE TREE TRUST PROGRAM ALSO PROVIDES TEENS WITH VALUABLE WORK EXPERIENCE.

Financing The Program

The Tree Trust program is sponsored by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners and Private Industry Council. It is funded by federal and state dollars and donations from local private foundations and corporations.

For more information, contact Twin Cities Tree Trust at 651-644-5800. For information about City park improvement projects, contact the Public Works Maintenance Manager at 763-593-3981.

SENIOR STUFF

Please pay \$5 dues for 2005 and support your Seniors Program.

All activities at Brookview Community Center and require advance registration unless otherwise noted.

Health Insurance Help—Oct 11, 11 am–noon, call for appointment

Armchair Travelers—Oct 14: Buenos Aires and Central Argentina; Nov 18: Hawaii; 2 pm, Country Villa

Defensive Driving—Four-hour refresher, Oct 20 and Nov 18, 9 am–1 pm

Free Financial Talks—Oct 20: "Understanding the Business Cycle: Where Are We Now? When to Buy and When to Sell," and Nov 17: "Innovative Strategy For Investing During Retirement," 10 am

Continental Breakfast—Oct 26: "Music for Health and Wellness," 9:30 am

Blood Pressure Screening—Oct 26, 11 am–noon

Flu Shot Clinic—Oct 28, noon–3 pm, Winnetka Learning Center

Boo Bash Dance—Oct 28, 1–3:30 pm, Crystal Community Center

Wellness and You—Nov 3: "Emergency Response Service," 1:30 pm, Dover Hills Midrise

Celebrate Senior Dining—Nov 17, noon, Calvary Lutheran Church

Upcoming Trips (register early)—Oct 25: Zumbro Falls Autumn Lights, Nov 2–6: Branson; Nov 15: Mayowood in Rochester; Nov 20: Holiday Homes, Dec 1–2: Wassail Dinner Concert/Old Rittenhouse Inn in Bayfield

Five Cities Transportation Program offers rides to seniors for shopping, social activities, and senior program events. To reserve a ride, call the Five Cities office at 763-531-1259, 8 am–3 pm, Monday–Friday.

For more information, to receive the Seniors Newsletter, or to register for a program or trip, contact:

Golden Valley Seniors Program
 Brookview Community Center
 200 Brookview Parkway
 Golden Valley, MN 55426
 763-512-2339
 8 am–5 pm, Monday–Friday

Notice Is Given: Keep A Lid On Wastewater

The cost of everything is going up, or so it seems, including the cost of necessities such as water. In every metro community there's a charge for disposing of clean water (storm water) and treating water that's been used (wastewater). In Golden Valley, charges for unnecessary treating of clean water are threatening to blow the lid off both our manholes and our pocketbooks.

Wastewater from homes and businesses must be treated before it goes back into the environment. Golden Valley's sanitary sewer system, like those in 103 other communities, connects to the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) regional interceptor system, and its wastewater is treated by the Metro Wastewater Plant (see below left). Golden Valley is also one of about 60 communities that overloads the treatment system with clean water following heavy rains. Those in the know refer to this as inflow and infiltration (I/I).



The Drain Of Inflow And Infiltration (I/I)

There are two major sources of inflow and infiltration (I/I) surpluses. Inflow is usually traced to sump pumps (used by many homeowners to keep groundwater out of their basements) that are directed (cross-connected) to discharge into the City's sanitary sewer system. They are often connected via a hose leading from the sump to a laundry tub or a floor drain. Infiltration occurs when groundwater seeps into sanitary sewer pipes through cracks or joints. At current I/I rates, the wastewater treatment system's capacity cannot meet projected needs, which, along with cost and pollution control, are the three main components of the I/I problem.

Cost Treating clean run-off and ground water wastes about \$300 to \$400 million annually, according to the MCES. If the additional storm water exceeds the sanitary sewer system's capacity and causes wastewater to spill out of a manhole or back up into basements, there are also clean-up costs and federal and state fines. "We simply can't afford to build enough [sanitary] sewer capacity to accommodate the excess flow from clear water, so we need to fix the problem at its source," says Met Council Chair Peter Bell.

Capacity For an area to develop, it needs systems that both deliver water and remove wastewater. Currently, metro area people, businesses, industries, and farms use 384 million gallons of potable (drinkable) water daily (70 to 90 percent of which ends up as wastewater). An estimated million more people in the next 25 years will up consumption to 496 million gallons daily. Problem is, excess clean water is using up the sanitary sewer system capacity designed to handle projected growth. "We need to reserve [sanitary] sewer capacity for new homes and businesses," adds Bell.

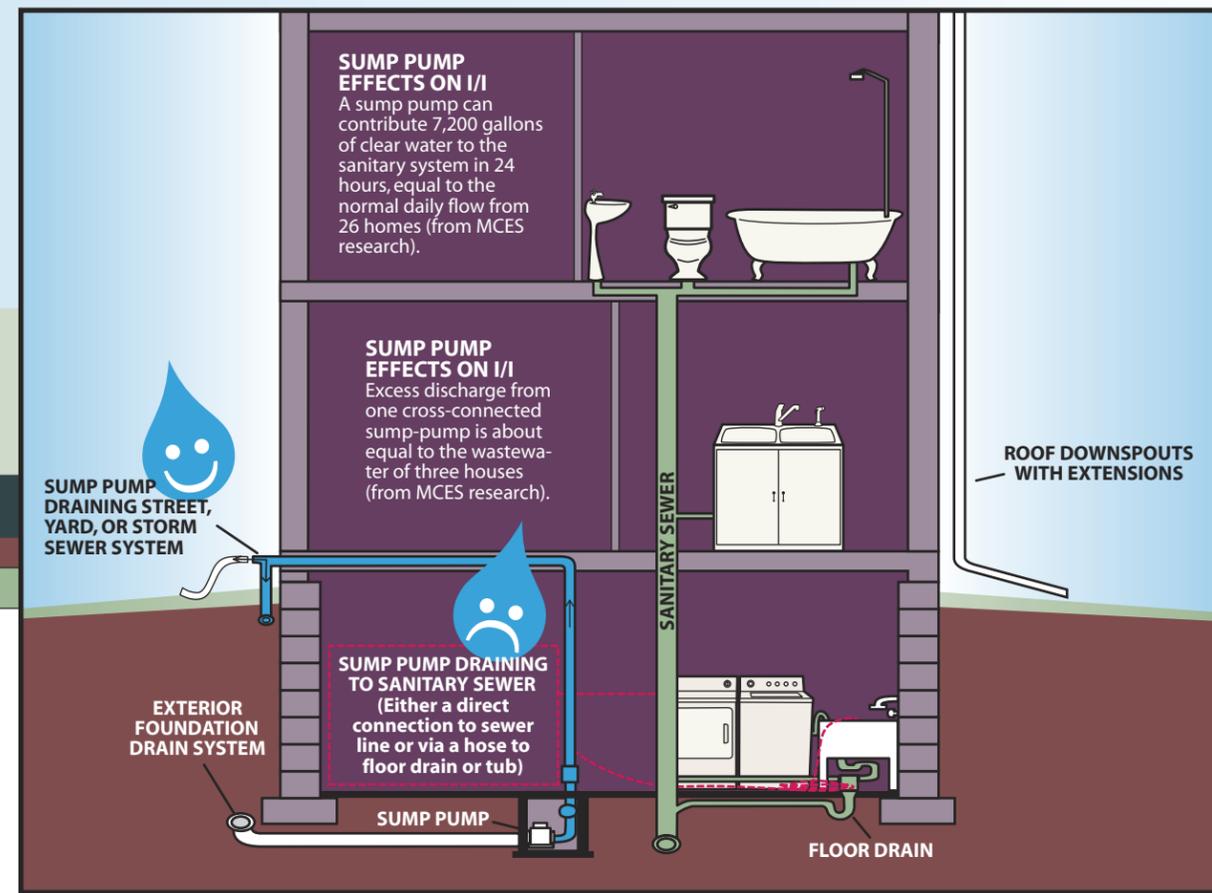
Pollution Control MCES discharges 300 million gallons of treated wastewater daily into the Mississippi, Minnesota, St Croix, and Vermillion Rivers. This discharge is carefully monitored to meet federal requirements, and the MCES has had excellent results, but more discharged wastewater means more pollution load, thus the strain on Minnesota's treasured waterways.

The most cost-effective solution to I/I, says MCES general manager Bill Moore, is a region-wide effort to disconnect sump pumps and foundation drains connected to sanitary sewers and to repair leaky sanitary sewer pipes. MCES's updated Water Resources Policy Plan, scheduled for adoption in 2005, aims to address the problem where it originates—in local communities. To reduce the amount of clear water entering the system, the Council will:

- Establish I/I goals for all communities discharging wastewater into the metropolitan disposal system.
- Require communities served by the system to include an I/I reduction plan in their comprehensive plan.
- Potentially limit future increases in sanitary sewer capacity to communities with ongoing excessive I/I.
- Starting in 2007, institute a surcharge program to provide funding for I/I reduction efforts.
- Starting in 2013, institute a demand charge for communities that fail to meet their I/I goals.

Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant Facts

- Located on the Mississippi River in St Paul
- Opened 1938 as first plant in metro region on the Mississippi
- Largest wastewater treatment facility in Minnesota; among the nation's largest
- 251 million gallons per day treatment capacity
- Currently, treats 215 million gallons of wastewater a day from 62 communities and 800 industries
- Serves 1.8 million people
- Discharges treated wastewater into the Mississippi River



Pulling The Plug On Excess Golden Valley I/I

Since the inception of its sanitary sewer system, the City of Golden Valley has battled infiltration by maintaining a regular schedule of cleaning and maintenance, televising the sanitary sewer system to identify and correct any problems. Improvements to the storm sewer system help the City control inflow by allowing residents to connect their sump discharge into the storm sewer system through the City's Pavement Management Program. See the article on page 12 for more information about the City's sanitary and storm sewer systems.

As directed by the Met Council, the City (along with other Met Council communities) will update its Comprehensive Plan by 2008 to include a surface-water management plan and a comprehensive sanitary sewer plan, a program to reduce groundwater and rainwater in sanitary sewers, and a plan to manage septic tanks. Part of the City's initiative is a continuing education campaign explaining to residents what they can do about excess I/I.

Residents can help reduce inflow by directing their sump pump discharges into their yard or the City's storm sewer system through one of two methods:

- directly onto the ground (about 20 feet from the house but not into a neighbor's yard)
- a direct connection (a pipe from the house to the main storm sewer line), if available

According to the MCES, the cost to correct a sump pump connection can range from \$100 to \$3,000, depending on the work needed. While this may not be a priority for some, residents will pay one way or the other—either by fixing the problem or by paying an increased sewer rate, which will add up over time.

For more information on correcting your contribution to excess I/I, call Golden Valley Public Works at 763-593-8030.

The Met Council

The Metropolitan Council is the regional planning agency of the Twin Cities seven-county metropolitan area. It works with local communities to provide mass transportation services; wastewater collection and treatment; assistance and planning for future growth; population and household growth forecasting; affordable housing opportunities; planning, acquisition, and funding for a regional parks and trails system; and a framework for decisions and implementation for services such as aviation, transportation, open space, and water quality and management.

For more information, go to www.metrocouncil.org.

NOTHING CUTE ABOUT A BULLY

Bullying is a public safety issue that can lead to serious problems and dangerous situations, including court convictions, alcoholism, and mental health issues. One of four children who bully will have a criminal record before age 30.

Bullies have many faces, but all want power and use others to get what they want. Most feel hurt and lack empathy. They keep bullying as long as it works.

Extrovert bullies are usually outgoing, aggressive, active, and expressive. More interested in things outside themselves than their own thoughts and feelings, they tend to reject rules and are angry and mean. They get their way by brute force or open harassment. Often these bullies feel inferior and insecure. Introvert bullies are less obvious. They tend to conform and assert control by smooth-talking. They deceive others into thinking they mean well and get power through cunning, manipulation, and deception.

Anyone can be a target, but victims are usually singled out because they are "different" in the bully's point of view. The victim's daily life is miserable from elementary school through high school, and that leaves lifelong emotional scars. They often develop low self-esteem, frequently feel isolated, and may have poor grades. With continued bullying, even "good" kids may turn to violence, such as starting fights or bringing weapons to school to protect themselves or seek revenge.

The largest number of victims are bystanders—witnesses to bullying. These children and adults often feel unsafe and unable to take action when someone else is being hurt. They may turn the other way because they, too, feel powerless and scared.

For more information about bullying, visit the National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center (www.safeyouth.org).

Bullying Has Long-Term Effects On Society

Compared with guns or drugs in school, bullying behavior may seem rather insignificant. But this aggressive, violent behavior affects everyone involved—victims, bystanders, and even the bully. Today's youth need all the community support they can get to run the gauntlet of challenges tossed in their path, and the Golden Valley Police Department believes awareness and cooperation in curbing aggressive behavior early on is a positive step toward a safer community.

The ramifications of bullying have been documented by the US Department of Justice: 37% of all students don't feel safe at school, and 160,000 children skip school every day because they fear being attacked or intimidated by other students.

It's not just at school either. Bullying happens at parks and other youth hangouts. The National Institutes of Health reports 90% of all 4th through 8th graders and one-third of all 6th through 10th graders experienced some kind of bullying. It begins in elementary school, peaks in middle school, and falls off in high school. It does not, as many adults know, disappear altogether.

Although much bullying happens where adults cannot see or hear it, it also happens when adults are present and often don't do anything to stop it. Students reported that 71% of teachers or other adults ignored bullying incidents. When asked, youth expressed the desire that adults intervene rather than ignore teasing and bullying.

WHAT ADULTS CAN DO

Bullying is not just a normal part of growing up or a rite of passage to adulthood. Whether kids have a propensity to bully or be bullied, they must be reminded it is never acceptable behavior.

While no solution works well in every situation, adults can help deal with bullying issues in the community by modeling behavior.

- Foster an atmosphere of kindness and concern toward others and property.
- Use every opportunity to build self-esteem in youth you know, and give them tools to develop positive relationships with others.
- Encourage youth to report crimes or activities that seem suspicious.
- Let youth know you are available to discuss problems or concerns, and encourage them to be part of the solution.
- Learn to recognize warning signs that a child might be headed for violence, and let someone know your concerns.

For more information on school safety or Crime Prevention, visit the City Web site (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us).

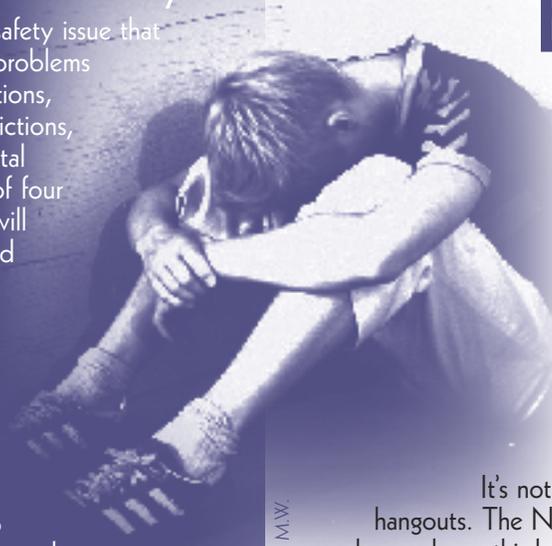


Photo Courtesy of Georgios M.W.

Coping STRATEGIES

- Avoid or ignore the bully. If safety is at stake, walk or run away.
- Hang out with friends—there is safety in numbers.
- Say "no" to demands. If the bully makes threats with a weapon, give in to the demands and report it immediately. If you are threatened or assaulted with a weapon or have your personal belongings stolen, report the crime to police.
- Seek immediate help from an authority figure.
- Finally, do not physically fight back: experience shows this actually increases continued victimization.

Tattling vs. Reporting

Tattling is when someone tells about inappropriate behavior with the motivation of revenge or getting someone else into trouble. Reporting is when someone tells about inappropriate behavior to protect their own safety or the safety of another.

Take The Time To Ensure Your Home Is Fire Safe

The Golden Valley Fire Department (GVFD) wants residents to be fire safe, and in conjunction with Fire Prevention Week (see sidebar) it offers the following fire prevention reminders. According to the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA), the four most common causes of residential fires, in descending order, are related to cooking, heating, electricity, and candles. Help ensure your family's safety by spending 20 minutes to inspect your home using the checklists below.

Cooking Safety

- Stay in the kitchen when food is cooking.
- Keep stove and counter tops clean and uncluttered, with pot holders in easy reach.
- Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove so they can't be bumped.
- Keep curtains and other combustibles well away from the stove.
- Maintain a "kid-free" zone (three feet) around the stove when cooking.

HEATING SAFETY

- Turn off space heaters when you leave the room or go to sleep.
- Keep space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn, including people, furniture, and pets.
- Have chimneys and furnaces inspected and cleaned every year, and keep a sturdy screen on all fireplaces to catch sparks.
- Store propane tanks and other fuels outside your home.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

- Do not run extension cords under carpets or across doorways, and never use them for permanent wiring.
- Make sure electrical cords are in good condition, without cracks or frays.
- Plug kitchen appliances (coffee-maker, toaster oven, and microwave, etc) into separate outlets.

CANDLE SAFETY

- Extinguish all candles before leaving any room.
- Trim wicks to 1/4 inch before each use.
- Keep candles away from combustible materials.
- Never leave a child or pet unattended with a candle. Don't allow children or teens to have candles in their bedrooms.
- Avoid carrying a lit candle. During a power outage, a flashlight is safer.
- Extinguish candles if they smoke, flicker repeatedly, or the flames are too high.
- Keep the wax pool free of wick trimmings, debris, and matches.

Fire Escape Checklist

Sometimes, even with prevention efforts, fires still occur. That's why smoke alarms and a well-practiced escape plan are vital. Use these tips to keep you and your loved ones safe.

- Place smoke alarms on every level, including the basement, in every bedroom, and outside each sleeping area.
- Check smoke alarm batteries and change them when you change the clocks for daylight savings time.
- Keep all exits clear of furniture, toys, and clutter.
- Have a fire escape plan that includes two exits, usually a door and a window, from each room.
- Have your family pick a safe place to meet outside after you exit your home.
- Practice your escape plan at least twice a year.

THE COW'S BEEN CLEARED

National Fire Prevention Week is observed each October in North America in remembrance of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. Two hundred-fifty people died, 100,000 people were left homeless, more than 17,430 buildings were destroyed, and more than 2,000 acres were burned.

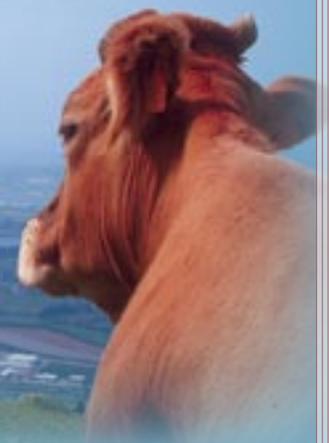
For 130 years the burden of this tragedy rested on Catherine O'Leary's cow. Legend had it the cow kicked over a barn lamp; however, recent research by Chicago historian Robert Cromie debunked this version of events.

While the fire almost certainly started near the O'Leary barn, Cromie asserts there is absolutely no proof the cow sparked the blaze.

With the cow cleared due to lack of evidence, other theories may take on more weight. Some speculate the fire was started by neighborhood schoolboys sneaking smokes. Or perhaps, as others suggest, it was started by a neighbor of the O'Leary's. Or maybe, as still others put forth, the fire was ignited by a fiery meteorite that may have fallen to earth on October 8 and started several fires that day in Michigan and Wisconsin, as well as Chicago.

Whatever the cause, the losses were huge. To help prevent similar losses, each year National Fire Prevention Week promotes public awareness of fire prevention and safety (see article at left) throughout the country. 

For more fire safety tips, visit the City Web site at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/publicsafety/firedept.htm. If you have specific fire safety questions, contact Fire Education Specialist Sarah Larson at 763-593-3977. 



CATCH BASINS PROTECT STORM WATER SYSTEM

Catch basins allow surface water run-off (see article at right) to enter the storm sewer system through a grated entry. The City of Golden Valley has about 1,000, many with a sump area in the bottom to "catch" heavy debris before it goes any farther. This helps protect storm water pipes from getting blocked with sand, gravel, or silt, which can result in overflows. Frozen storm pipes and catch basins during spring run-off also create a potential for overflows.

Regular maintenance is crucial in preventing overflows. City crews clean catch basins with sumps yearly and clean storm pipes before and after each street construction season. The rest of the storm pipes are inspected annually and cleaned as necessary.

Even with regular preventive maintenance, during a storm City crews cannot get to every catch basin. If you have a catch basin adjacent to your property, you can help by adopting a catch basin and keeping debris from the opening.

For more information on the City's storm sewer system or adopting a catch basin, visit www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/streets/stormwater.htm.



TELEVISIONING THE SANITARY SEWER FOR OBSTRUCTIONS



CLEANING THE STORM SEWER CATCH BASINS

Sewer Systems Handle Two Kinds Of Water

In a modern city like Golden Valley, a lot goes on behind the scenes...and below the ground. Down there, cables and wires for all sorts of utilities, including gas, electric, and cable, mingle in the dark. There are also pipes for the City's storm and sanitary sewer systems and, in the best case scenario, those two never meet.

While sanitary sewer and storm sewer systems both deal with water leaving a premises, they are not connected in any way. That said, it helps to think of sanitary being indoors and storm being outdoors.

Think INDOOR...

Sanitary sewer systems take water generated from residential and commercial/industrial properties and channel it to sewer treatment plants. For example, anything that goes down an indoor drain (from a sink, washing machine, toilet, bathtub, or even a commercial car wash) enters the sanitary sewer system. That water (referred to as wastewater), along with whatever is in it, journeys through a branching network of pipes and manholes that ultimately deliver it to a wastewater treatment plant. There the water is treated and disinfected before it is discharged into the Mississippi

River. Because of the costs involved in treating wastewater, it's very important that clean water (see below) is kept out of the sanitary sewer system. See the article on pages 8-9 for more information.

Golden Valley's gravity-flow sanitary sewer system features 120 miles of pipe that connects to Metropolitan Council trunk lines. The system includes gravity pipes (trunk lines and lateral lines), force mains (lift station discharge pipes), and lift stations. Each year the City cleans approximately 40 miles of its sanitary sewer, completely cleaning the entire system every three years.

...AND OUTDOOR

The sole purpose of the storm sewer system is to prevent flooding of streets, highways, and buildings by quickly and efficiently transferring run-off into area waterways. Such run-off typically results from rain, melting snow, and other precipitation coming off streets, roofs, parking lots, lawns, driveways, and other surfaces. It is directed to the storm sewer system through storm drains in and under the catch basins (see sidebar) of the street system. This water (referred to as storm water) receives no chemical treatment of any kind before it is discharged from the storm sewer system into a water body, such as Bassett Creek.

Golden Valley's storm sewer system has 90 miles of man-made channels and underground pipes (storm drains) that transport run-off to minimize flooding and soil erosion. Along the way, the storm water picks up pollutants found on surfaces it runs over (hence the term run-off). Pollutants include oil leaked from vehicles parked in driveways or on the street, trash on the ground, fertilizers, pesticides, animal feces on lawns, and lawn clippings or leaves raked into the street. In some cases storm water ponds help filter sediment and pollutants before the run-off reaches natural waterways; however, much of run-off discharges straight into area waterways. That's why nothing but uncontaminated rain water should enter the storm sewer system (including the streets and catch basins). For more information, see the sidebar on page 4.

For more information on these two systems, contact Utilities Maintenance Supervisor Bert Tracy at 763-593-8075 or visit www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/streets/stormwater.htm.



Are Parents A Driving Hazard At Schools?

Most parents are concerned about safety as their children travel to and from school. They worry about bus stop locations, crossing at intersections, or nearby traffic. Many parents drive their children to school rather than expose them to these “dangers.” In reality, having children walk through other traffic to enter or leave a parents’ vehicle at the school may be more hazardous than virtually anything found on a normal walking route to school.

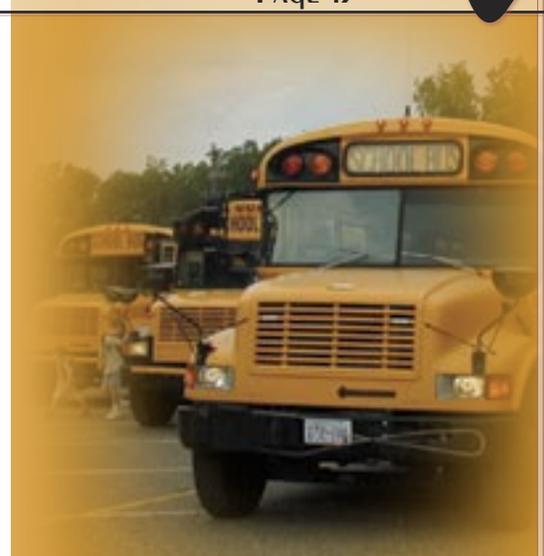
Observations of traffic at many schools indicate parents often create traffic hazards for children. For example, at one Golden Valley school, video cameras recorded a parent backing onto a grass median and driving out the wrong way of a one-way entrance. Parents regularly stop to pick-up or discharge children in traffic lanes. Disregard for parking regulations is frequent, and some parents merely slow down for school area stop signs.

Parents need to put safety first when driving in a school area, especially on school property. Walking students may be talking with friends and not focus on traffic, especially traffic that disregards the rules. Add parents who are more focused on conversations with their children than on driving, and the combination could be deadly.

The following tips can help keep school zones safe:

- Slow down. A few extra seconds spent driving slowly or obeying regulations has little impact on schedules and a great impact on safety.
- Pay attention to buses (see sidebar), other traffic, and especially children. Scan between parked cars and other objects for children who might dart out.
- Save the after-school talk for home, and stay off the cell phone. If you are focusing on conversation you are not observing adjacent traffic or other children.

Both the City of Golden Valley and local schools have been working to establish smooth traffic patterns in and around school grounds to minimize safety hazards, but only safe driving habits by parents can truly make the system safe. If you have questions about safe driving in school zones, contact the Golden Valley Police Department at 763-593-8079. 



School bus stop-arm violations carry heavy penalties.

Avoid School-Related Traffic Violations

Every year dozens of school-related traffic violations are reported, and many of the violators are parents driving their kids to school (see article at left). Some of these violations carry heavy penalties:

Misdemeanor stop-arm violation—Passing a bus when the red lights are flashing, the stop-arm is extended, but no children are present can result in up to a \$1,000 fine and/or 90 days in jail.

Gross-misdemeanor stop-arm violation—Passing the bus when the red lights are flashing, the stop-arm is extended, and children are present, or passing the bus on the right side, can result in up to a \$3,000 fine and/or one year in jail.

Misdemeanor crosswalk violation—Neglecting to stop for a crosswalk patrol that is extending the stop flag can result in up to a \$1,000 fine and/or 90 days in jail.

With the arrival of a new school year, the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) will have an increased presence around school zones. For more information, contact the GVPD at 763-593-8079. 

Boot Up COMMUNITY IMAGE WITH YOUR IDEAS ON BANNERS AND WEB

If you live or work in Golden Valley and know what you like, then the City wants your input on two upcoming projects—new street banners and redesign of the City Web site.

The City banners that line Winnetka Ave N and Golden Valley Rd near City Hall need to be replaced. The City Web site, online since 1999, needs to be updated. Your input is extremely valuable in portraying the City’s image and helping ensure the City serves you well.

City staff will conduct several focus groups in the coming months to gather community input. Each session would be about one hour long and would include segments on aesthetics and Web site usability. Results will be used to determine a design for new street banners as well as design and structure for an updated City Web site.

If you’re interested in participating, please contact Golden Valley Communications Coordinator Cheryl Weiler at 763-593-8004 or at cweiler@ci.golden-valley.mn.us. You will be contacted with dates and times to choose from. 



HOME UPKEEP CHECKLIST

Falling leaves and school buses signal the end of summer. Here's a checklist to help prepare your house for the cold season.

Inside

- Check all door and window hardware. Replace as needed.
- Replace loose and missing glazing putty and deteriorating weather-stripping and caulking around doors and windows.
- Have heating systems serviced and clear debris away from heating and cooling equipment.
- Clean and change furnace filters every month or as recommended by the manufacturer. For forced air systems: check fan belt tension and lubricate fan and motor bearings. For steam systems: check shut-off valve for leaks and drain low water cut-off per manufacturer's instructions. For hot water systems: top off water, bleed radiators, and bring up to recommended pressure.
- Check boiler pressure relief valve.
- Check pressure and temperature relief valve on water heater.
- Have fireplaces professionally cleaned.
- Change smoke detector batteries during daylight savings time.

Outside

- Trim tree limbs that hit the roof or house. If needed, arrange to have trees pruned this fall or winter.
- To ease raking, cut grass shorter and mow over leaves. Use chopped leaves for mulch. Never rake leaves or grass into streets or storm sewer openings.
- If needed, fertilize your lawn in mid-September and again in early October. Also, consider lawn aeration.
- Deeply water trees and shrubs, and then shut off and drain outside faucet(s).
- Consider planting bulbs to enjoy next spring.
- Check underground lawn sprinkler systems for leaky valves, exposed lines, and back-flow protection.
- Repair damage to roof and valleys.
- Seal driveway and sidewalk cracks.

Plumbing Permits Protect Potable (Drinking) Water

According to the Golden Valley Inspections Department, bathroom additions are very popular remodeling projects. Whether it's part of a larger project, a new installation by itself, or replacement of fixtures (sink, toilet, shower stall, bathtub, or any device or appliance connected to the water supply), a plumbing permit is required to protect residents and the City's water system.

"Unlike other permits, the plumbing permit has no exemptions or even a minimum dollar value," explains Golden Valley Building Inspector Joe Kauth. "Residents may or may not be aware that the water that comes out of their faucets is protected from contamination [see box below]. It's our job to enforce the Minnesota State Plumbing Code, which requires a permit for all new installations and replacement, as well as repairs to existing fixtures."

When residents pull a permit, the City inspects the installation following State Plumbing Code requirements to assure everything is done correctly. If the home is later sold, the inspection assures the buyer that the work met existing standards and was approved.

Protecting DRINKING WATER

People trust that water from a faucet is clean enough to drink and it is, with the exception of inadequate plumbing.

If plumbing is not installed correctly, water can backflow or be siphoned back into the plumbing system when water pressure suddenly drops for any reason. But before backflow or siphonage occurs, the water is exposed to the possibility of contamination. If water returns to the water system without being treated (see article on page 12) and is contaminated, it can contaminate all the water in the system.

Plumbing permits and inspections are a safeguard to ensure this type of water contamination does not occur. Hindering water contamination may involve something as simple as an air gap, which raises the faucet more than one inch above the sink, or by a more elaborate system, such as a Reduced Pressure Backflow Preventer (RPZ). The professional staff at the City of Golden Valley are available to help you. If you have questions, contact Inspections at 763-593-8090.



INSPECTIONS ENSURE PROPERLY INSTALLED PLUMBING AND WATER THAT'S SAFE TO DRINK.

Permits that are overlooked, forgotten, or ignored can result

in huge problems, considering most plumbing is hidden inside floors and walls. "Imagine the disappointment of home buyers who discover the plumbing doesn't work right," says Kauth. "They are faced with opening walls, or worse, concrete floors, to find and correct the problems. It's much easier to install it right the first time."

Kauth's advice to residents is to play it safe, for themselves and the City, and get a permit. Be sure any professionals you hire also pull their permits. The City requires all professional plumbers to be registered in Golden Valley. This ensures they are licensed by the State, carry the required bond (to protect the permit holder), and have insurance coverage for liability and their employees.

For more information about plumbing permits, call Golden Valley Inspections at 763-593-8090. 

Vote On November 8

Polls in Golden Valley open at 7 am Tuesday, November 8 for the municipal general election (see page 16 for details). You may only vote in person at your assigned polling place but may vote absentee ahead of time if conditions warrant.

ABSENTEE VOTING

Absentee voting is available for those who can't get to their polling place on election day because of illness or disability, absence from the precinct, religious observance, or service as an election judge in another precinct. There are two ways to do this:

VOTE IN PERSON Vote at Golden Valley City Hall during regular business hours, 8 am to 4:30 pm. Extended absentee voting hours will be available Saturday, November 5, from 10 am to 3 pm and Monday, November 7 until 5 pm.

VOTE By Mail If voting by mail, remember your voted ballot must arrive at City Hall by election day for the vote to count, so allow enough time for postal service delivery.

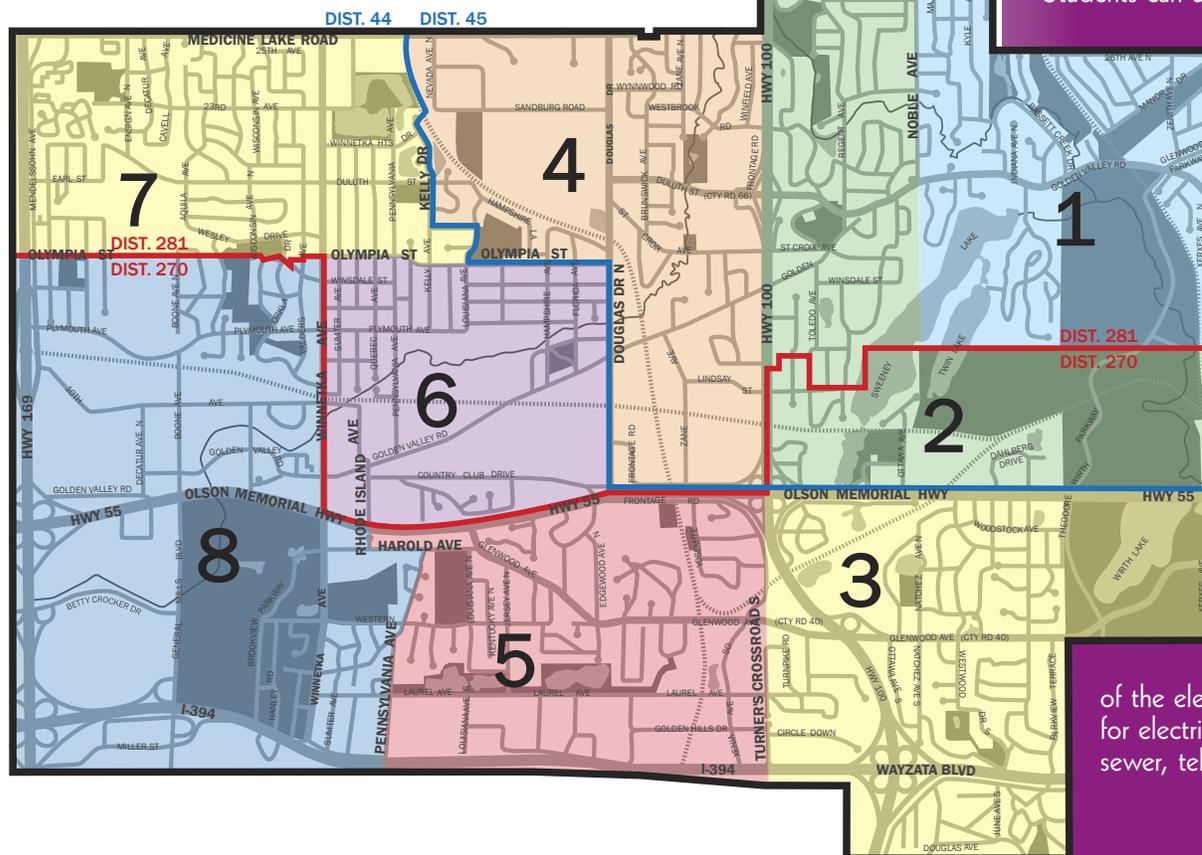
If you have questions about absentee voting, contact Edie Ernst at 763-593-8017.

VOTER REGISTRATION

Minnesota allows voters to register to vote at the polls on election day (see sidebar for required identification). You will need to register if you have never registered to vote, if you have changed your name or address since you last voted (including moving to another apartment in the same building), or if you have not voted in four years.

If you have questions about elections or voting in Golden Valley, contact Election Official Jean Ewald at 763-593-8029.

Golden Valley VOTING PRECINCTS



REGISTER ON ELECTION DAY

Golden Valley residents who register to vote at their polling places (see sidebar on page 16) on election day will need to verify residence with one of the following:

- Minnesota driver's license, learner's permit, identification card, or receipt for one, with your current address
- Minnesota Tribal ID

Thank You, Election Judges!

The City plays a key role in the election process, recruiting and training election judges, providing polling place supplies, answering questions, and ensuring voter results are tabulated. Thanks to Golden Valley's excellent and dedicated election judges, the process goes smoothly. Hats off!

- recent utility bill* with your current address (if your Minnesota license, Tribal ID, or MN State ID has a former address)
- "Notice of Late Registration" letter
- US passport with utility bill*
- US military photo ID card with utility bill*

- prior registration listed on roster at former address in precinct
- oath of a registered voter in precinct ("vouching")

Students can use:

- student ID, registration, or fee statement with your current address
- student photo ID with utility bill*
- student ID if you are on a student housing list on file at the polling place
- someone who is registered in the precinct where you live who will vouch for your residence

*Note: The utility bill must have your name, current address, and be due within 30 days of the election. Utility bills may be for electric, gas, water, solid waste, sewer, telephone, or cable TV.

VOTING LOCATIONS

For the November 8 municipal general election, you must vote in your own precinct between 7 am and 8 pm.

Precinct 1

NE Fire Station
3700 Golden Valley Rd

Precinct 2

Valley Presbyterian Church
3100 North Lilac Dr

Precinct 3

Meadowbrook School
5430 Glenwood Ave

Precinct 4

Sandburg Middle School
2400 Sandburg Lane

Precinct 5

SE Fire Station
400 Turners Crossroad S

Precinct 6

Golden Valley City Hall
7800 Golden Valley Rd

Precinct 7

Emmaus Baptist Church
8025 Medicine Lake Rd

Precinct 8

Brookview Community Center
200 Brookview Pkwy

Five File For City Council

Five Golden Valley residents will be on the ballot November 8 for three Golden Valley City Council seats. The two-year term of Mayor Linda Loomis is up Dec. 31, 2005, as are the four-year terms of Council members Scott Grayson and Paula Pentel.

City Council CANDIDATES

For candidate Web sites and email addresses, go to www.lwvmn.org.

City Council

Brian Bursch

8101 Plymouth Ave N
763-545-5785 (h)

Paula Pentel

941 Angelo Dr
763-522-6628 (h)

Joanie Stockman Clausen

2516 Lee Ave N
763-535-1212 (w)

DeDe Scanlon

7315 Olympia St
763-545-0669 (h)

MAYORAL

Linda Loomis

6677 Olson Memorial Hwy
763-545-4659 (h)

Loomis is the only candidate for the mayoral seat. Pentel (who was appointed in 2004 to fill the Council seat vacated by Blair Tremere) joins Brian Bursch, Joanie Stockman Clausen, and DeDe Scanlon in the race for the two council seats. Incumbent Grayson, who began his service on the City Council in 2001, is not seeking re-election.

For more information about the election see the article on page 15 or click to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citygovernment/voting.htm. Official election results will be posted on the City Web site as soon as they become available.

www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us

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