

July August
2007

Golden Valley

CityNEWS



Has Your House Had Its SEWEROSCOPY?

In humans or houses, a healthy plumbing system can make life easier. For houses, this is now more important than ever because of Inflow and Infiltration (I/I). I/I is the flow of clear water into the sanitary sewer system. Inflow is caused by illegally connected sump pumps, foundation drains, and roof gutter downspouts. Infiltration is caused by leaky pipes and pipe joints. I/I costs the City (and its citizens) \$380,000 a year in additional wastewater treatment fees. Learn more about this problem and how you can help at the upcoming *SewerFest* (see sidebar at right).

Each year the City does a seweroscopy (televised inspection) on about five miles of public sanitary sewer pipes to detect defects and problems, and cleans another 40 miles, completely cleaning the entire system every three years. Property owners are responsible for cleaning their private sewer pipes, which run from their house to the connection at the main line under the street (see story on page 12). Property owners are also responsible for making sure sump pumps, foundation drains, and roof gutter downspouts are not connected to the sanitary sewer system. To monitor this, the City requires a sanitary sewer inspection before a home goes up for sale.

This Point of Sale I/I Compliance Inspection includes a televised observation of the sanitary sewer service and inspection of the sump pump discharge. If the inspector notes any improper connections or significant I/I defects in the sanitary sewer service pipe, the City will issue a correction notice. If no problems exist, or once problems are corrected, the City issues a Certificate of I/I Compliance, which means subsequent sales or title transfers will require an inspection of the sump pump discharge only. Initial inspection fees are \$200 for residential properties and \$500 for non-residential properties. Subsequent sump pump discharge inspection fees are \$75.

For more information, contact Golden Valley Public Works at 763-593-8030 or go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us and click the green Point of Sale Inspection box. 

SEWERfest

A Closer Look At
Inflow & Infiltration

Wednesday, August 15

5 - 7:30 pm

Golden Valley City Hall

Exhibits

Presentations at
5:30 and 6:30 pm

Refreshments



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Get Informed ABOUT FILING FOR CITY OFFICE

If you're a Golden Valley resident, chances are you're eligible to run for office to become a City policy maker. But don't lose out by being under-informed. The following facts on this year's elections should help you out.

GOLDEN VALLEY CITY OFFICES ON THE BALLOT:

- Mayor (four-year term)
- Two Council Members – At Large (represent entire city, four-year term)

All offices are non-partisan (don't represent political parties). Candidates who are elected take office in January 2008.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY TO HOLD OFFICE:

- Must be an eligible voter
- Must be at least 21 years old
- Must reside in the district 30 days previous to the General Election

FILING DATES:

Aug 28 through Sept 11, 8 am to 4:30 pm. Offices are open until 5 pm Sept 11. Candidates who will be absent from Minnesota during the filing period may arrange with Golden Valley Elections to file before departure (763-593-8017).

WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE:

Sept 13 at 5 pm

FILING LOCATION:

City of Golden Valley
General Services
Department (second floor
of City Hall), 7800
Golden Valley Rd

FEE:

\$5

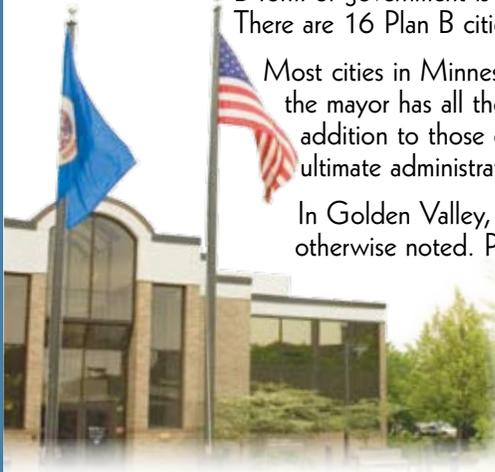
FOR MORE INFORMATION:

City of Golden Valley Elections
763-593-8017
www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us

Before You Vote Or File, Learn Your Government

If you're voting or running in the upcoming City elections, you should be aware of the City's approach to local government. Golden Valley is a Statutory "Plan B" city with a part-time Mayor and City Council and a full-time City Manager who serves as the chief executive officer. The City Council and Mayor are elected "at large" to represent the entire community and are empowered by law to legislate city-wide policy.

The City Council appoints the City Manager who, as the executive officer, is responsible to the Council for day-to-day administration of City matters and implementation of Council policies and directives. The City Manager appoints the City Attorney, who advises and represents the City and Council in all legal affairs. The City Manager also appoints the City's department heads and members of the management team. The plan B form of government is often referred to as the "council-manager" plan. There are 16 Plan B cities in Minnesota.



Most cities in Minnesota have weak mayor-councils, meaning that the mayor has all the powers and duties of a council member in addition to those of the mayor. The council as a whole retains ultimate administrative and legislative responsibilities and authority.

In Golden Valley, all City meetings are held at City Hall unless otherwise noted. Public participation is welcome; agendas are available for review before the meetings at City Hall, the Golden Valley Library, and www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us, where you can also join a list serve for City meeting agendas through *GV DirectConnect*. For more information, call the City Manager's Department at 763-593-8006.

City Council Approves Four-Year Mayoral Term

At its July 3 meeting, the Golden Valley City Council approved a new ordinance providing for a four-year mayoral term, which is a change from the current two-year term. The change was made after the Council carefully considered recommendations by the Election Task Force, which strongly supported moving to the four-year term. The new four-year mayoral term takes effect in January 2008.

In 2006, the City Council formed a nine-member Election Task Force to study the City election process and determine how it

encourages participation in civic affairs and voting. After meeting several times and hosting a Voter's Fair to gather public input, the Task Force presented its findings to the City Council late last year. Major recommendations in the Election Task Force Report included changes to the mayoral term, updates to the Council Code of Ethics, and discussion of Council salaries. The report also recommended making greater efforts to increase voter awareness and turnout. (See the report at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us, under "City Government," then click on "Election Task Force.")

Questions? Contact City Clerk Sue Virnig at 763-593-8010 or svirnig@ci.golden-valley.mn.us.



**Get Out
& Vote!**

The 2007 Local General
Election is Tuesday, Nov 6.
Polls are open from 7
am to 8 pm.

11th Annual Golf Classic Benefits Local Charities

Grab your clubs and tee up for a charity drive this fall. Join the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF) at the 2007 Golden Valley Golf Classic, set for Friday, September 21, at Brookview Golf Course. The GVHSF hosts the annual event to benefit local charities, and it distributes 100% of funds raised to causes directly serving the Golden Valley community (see sidebar).

Two Ways To Participate

If you play, sign up for the tournament and begin a day of fun with an 8 am shotgun start. The fee for foursomes is \$280 before September 7 or \$320 after, which includes fees, cart, continental breakfast, lunch, and a chance to win prizes.

If you prefer the role of booster, you can support the GVHSF and this event in several ways:

- Corporate Sponsor (\$1,000)
- Golf Hole Sponsor (\$500)
- Prizes and Awards: Contributions of cash, merchandise, and in-kind items or gift certificates are welcome for hole contests, prizes, and drawings at the conclusion of the tournament.

For their donations, corporate and hole sponsors receive green fees, cart, continental breakfast, lunch, gift packs for four golfers, and their company name displayed on a tee marker. All sponsors will be acknowledged in pre- and post-tournament publicity.

Last year's event drew 72 golfers from Golden Valley and the surrounding area who, with corporate and individual sponsors, helped the Golf Classic raise \$5,235 for local human service organizations. For more information about the Golf Classic or the GVHSF, contact staff liaison Jeanne Fackler at 763-512-2340 or jfackler@ci.goldenvalley.mn.us.

GV Foundation Taking Funding Applications

The Golden Valley Human Services Foundation, which is comprised of community volunteers, helps fund several nonprofit agencies that serve Golden Valley residents in need (see sidebar). In 2007, the Foundation contributed \$48,000.

The deadline for 2008 funding applications is August 31 at 4:30 pm. The Foundation will review funding requests and allocate available funds using the following guidelines:

- The services must not be duplicated by a level of government.
- The service provided is for Golden Valley residents at a time of crisis.
- The service must include cooperation or collaboration between organizations.
- Foundation funding should be a "last resort" source for funding the services.
- The organization should use the funds granted by the Foundation to serve Golden Valley citizens.
- Funding shall be granted to human service organizations and not to an individual or individuals.
- Funding will not be granted to any organization licensed in the City of Golden Valley for lawful gambling operations.

Pick up applications at City Hall or Brookview Community Center. If you want more information or would like to make a tax deductible contribution, call 763-512-2340.



GVHSF GIVES Local Support

The Golden Valley Human Services Foundation helps fund several nonprofit agencies that serve Golden Valley residents in need.

- *Community Mediation Services* provides residents and businesses with respectful, confidential, and accessible mediation services.
- *Crisis Connection* provides mental health telephone counseling to people with personal and family problems and crisis.
- *Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery* provides shelter care for children up to age six for families dealing with stress or crisis that need time away from children to stabilize themselves. Advocates also help the family find resources.
- *Home Free Domestic Assault Intervention Project* responds to victims 24 hours a day by phone or via home or hospital visit to offer support and information, including assistance in court proceedings.
- *Northwest Suburban Dinner At Your Door* provides nourishing meals to homebound people unable to afford a home-cooked meal.
- *Northwest YMCA Youth Outreach Program* helps troubled youth by working to identify problems before they escalate to a crisis level.
- *PRISM* offers emergency and supplemental food, financial assistance, clothing, senior transportation, and case load work to low-income residents.
- *Senior Community Services HOME Northwest* helps Golden Valley, Robbinsdale, Crystal, and New Hope seniors with home maintenance.
- *Senior Community Services OUT-REACH* helps seniors in suburban Hennepin County remain independent by linking them with a broad range of services and programs. Staff meets with seniors (and often families) in their own homes to explore available options.



CLEAN UP YOUR ACT, HERE COMES MIGHTY TIDY DAY!

Old mattresses and sofas, broken bicycles, ancient appliances, unwanted tires, and outdated computers and televisions — now's your chance to get this junk out of your home. For yourself, and for the community, unload your unsightly messes at Golden Valley's fourth annual Mighty Tidy Clean-Up Day Saturday, October 13, 8 am–1 pm, at Brookview Park (south of Hwy 55 at Winnetka Ave).

Golden Valley's Mighty Tidy Clean-Up Day provides a monitored site to dispose of items residents no longer use, that cannot be donated, and that can litter homes and yards and become a nuisance. However, hazardous waste (used motor oil, asbestos, cleaning solvents, pool chemicals, etc) are not accepted. Sorry.

To participate in this event, you must be a Golden Valley resident (proof of residency will be required at the entrance). Fees apply.

According to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MnPCA), Minnesota leads the country in diverting solid waste from landfills to resource recovery facilities. Still, the Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance (MOEA) reports solid waste generation in the Metro region will increase from 3.3 million total tons in 2000 to 4.5 million tons by 2010 and 6 million tons by 2020. MOEA also reports that much of the discarded materials contain toxins that threaten public health and the environment.

Watch the September/October *CityNews* and the City Web site (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us) for more information on Mighty Tidy Clean-Up Day.

For more information on any of Golden Valley's numerous recycling programs, visit the City Web site at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/environment/RecyclingPrograms.htm.

Curbside Recycling Reaches 20th Anniversary

It's easy these days to take curbside recycling pick up for granted. But it wasn't long ago when the service wasn't even offered. In the mid-'80s, Golden Valley residents had to bring their recyclables to a designated area behind City Hall.

In 1987, the Golden Valley League of Women Voters conducted a study examining the need and practicality of curbside pick up. Few cities were providing that service at the time, said Peggy Leppik, a then-member of the League and co-chair of the study. In the late '80s, recycling laws were barely catching on, she said. But "recycling was one of those things that just seemed to be a growing issue."

Something needed to be done. The City drop-off point was becoming a problem, Leppik said, with people mixing garbage in with their recyclables and leaving the City to deal with what was turning into a big mess. So the League took its study findings and testified before the City Council. Around this same time, Hennepin County was beginning to enforce stricter recycling laws for area cities. So it wasn't hard convincing the Council to support the curbside program. Once the law passed, it caught on quickly.

"I think there was more participation than anybody initially expected," Leppik said. This showed Golden Valley residents really cared about recycling.

In light of the 20th anniversary of Golden Valley's curbside program, Leppik, now Golden Valley's representative to the Metropolitan Council, said she hopes area groups continue pushing for environmental reforms and stay proactive when it comes to recycling. Golden Valley and its residents have always done a good job being environmentally conscious, she said. But some things shouldn't be taken for granted.

For more on Golden Valley's curbside pick-up program, visit www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/environment/curbsiderecycling.htm.

Golden Valley Recycles

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

Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
Labor Day	Sat, Sept 8
Thanksgiving	Sat, Nov 24
Christmas	Sat, Dec 29
New Year's '08	Sat, Jan 5
Memorial Day '08	Sat, May 31
July 4 '08	Sat, July 5

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.

1967

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is created to protect Minnesota's air and water quality and oversee waste management.

1969

Minnesota prohibits the open burning of garbage and upgrades landfill requirements.

1973

Minnesota passes recycling legislation, making it state policy to encourage waste reduction and recycling.

1980

The Minnesota Waste Management Act passes, requiring solid waste planning and creating the Waste Management Board and the Legislative Commission on Waste Management.

1987

Curbside pick up begins in Golden Valley.

1989

Statewide Committee on Recycling and the Environment (SCORE) Legislation passes, mandating county programs, establishing funding for recycling, and creating programs to develop markets for recycled material.

1994

The Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance is created, replacing the Office of Waste Management.

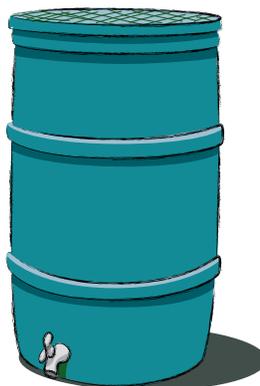
Recycling Timeline

Six Often Overlooked H₂O-Saving Methods

Day-to-day water conservation in Golden Valley not only saves you money, it also keeps the Mississippi River levels higher, making the water cleaner, the fish healthier, and the currents easier to navigate. And it helps guarantee a sufficient amount of water for future use in the long term, said Joe Richter, hydrologist with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

That's why, he said, even when there's not a drought, it's smart to develop sound conservation practices. An article in the last *CityNews* listed several popular techniques for saving water (watering lawns at night, repairing leaks, taking shorter showers), but a number of other techniques are often overlooked. Consider the following tips:

1 INVEST IN A RAIN BARREL
One inch of rain falling on a 1,000-square-foot surface adds up to more than 600 gallons of water. Rain barrels are one of the simplest ways to collect this water for later use. They've been used for centuries but are now more efficient than ever and can be purchased from most home improvement stores. Today's rain barrels come with attached hoses that make it easy to reuse the water collected from gutters. Investing in rain barrels is worthwhile, Richter said, as they come in handy for watering flowers and small gardens at no cost to you or the environment.



2 PLANT MORE TREES
The idea is simple—more shade in your yard means less water evaporates. Planting more trees is a great way to help maximize the amount of water that actually reaches grass roots, reducing the number of times you'll need to water, Richter said.

3 USE RICHER SOIL
When landscaping, consider putting more organic material in the soil of your lawn to help it absorb water and prevent water runoff. It even helps to spread a light layer of peat across the surface of your yard, Richter said.

4 BUY A RAIN SENSOR
Minnesota law requires rain sensors on all newly installed automatic sprinkler systems. Most home improvement stores sell rain sensors that can be installed on older systems without much hassle, Richter said. Sensors turn off sprinklers when it rains, cutting down on wasted water (and wasted money).

5 TEST YOUR SOIL MOISTURE
Not all lawns are alike. Some absorb and retain water better than others. Your lawn might need watering only once a week. To find out when and when not to water, give your lawn a quick soil test with a moisture meter. Moisture meters, which can be purchased for less than \$15, also help prevent over-watering.

6 USE SEDIMENTATION PONDS (COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES)
Water in sedimentation ponds on commercial properties can be reused to water the surrounding lawn, Richter said. This means a lawn could be watered without using any City water at all. Just make sure the pump system used to collect the storm water is not cross-connected with the fresh water system.

For a list of specific ways to reduce water in every area of your home, visit www.h2ouse.org.

FIVE BEST WAYS TO SAVE WATER

The American Water Works Association, an international nonprofit and educational society dedicated to the improvement of water quality and supply, offers several conservation tips on its Web site, www.waterwiser.org or h2ouse.org. It also boils down the list to the five best actions to take:

1 STOP THOSE LEAKS
Check your indoor water-using appliances and devices for leaks. Many silent leaks allow water and your money to go down the drain. Pay attention to your water meter. Irrigation system leaks also waste large amounts of water. Inspect and fix your sprinklers and drip sprayers regularly. With older irrigation systems, more than 50% of the water can be lost to leaks.

2 REPLACE YOUR OLD TOILET, THE LARGEST WATER USER INSIDE YOUR HOME
If your home was built before 1992 and the toilet has never been replaced, then it probably isn't a water efficient 1.6-gallon-per-flush toilet. Check the date stamp inside the toilet by lifting the lid and looking at the back of the toilet at the manufacturer's imprint.

3 REPLACE YOUR WASHER, THE SECOND LARGEST WATER USER IN YOUR HOME
Energy Star™ rated washers that also have a "water factor" at or lower than 9.5 use 35–50% less water and 50% less energy per load than normal washers.

4 PLANT THE RIGHT PLANTS
Whether you are putting in a new landscape or slowly changing the current landscaping at your home, select plants that are appropriate for our climate. Also consider the trend towards a more natural landscape or wildscape.

5 WATER ONLY WHAT YOUR PLANTS NEED
Most water is wasted in your garden by watering when your plants do not need the water or by not maintaining the irrigation system. If you are manually watering, be attentive and move the sprinklers around.

Recreation OPPORTUNITIES

FREE CONCERTS

Remaining concerts are Mon, Aug 6 — Sentimental Swing; Mon, Aug 13 — Jolly Czechs. Concerts start at 7 pm at Brookview Park's large picnic shelter. Bring a lawn chair or blanket.

TENNIS

Tennis camps run every week through Aug 24, Mon—Fri. Youth ages 4–7 attend the Brookview morning program 9–11 am. Juniors 6–14 attend the Brookview full day program 11 am–3 pm. High School Training Camps are offered 3–6 pm. Adult Drills are available at 4 pm or 6 pm.

AIRPLANE ANNIE SHOW

Airplane Annie is flying in "Fun Country Airlines" to do a special show for children of all ages with songs, games, balloons and magic tricks. All children must be registered. Tues, Aug 14, 1–2 pm, Brookview Community Center, \$3/child, adults/free.

ADULT FALL SOFTBALL

Registration is open for fall adult softball teams. Men's leagues play Mon, Tues, or Wed; Co-Rec leagues play Thur or Fri. All leagues play doubleheaders at Schaper Park for five weeks beginning the week of Aug 20.

OPEN GYMS

Open gyms continue at Davis Community Center from 8–10 pm on Mon for Over 40 Basketball, Tues for Adult Volleyball, and Wed and Sat (8–10 am) for Adult Open Basketball. Drop-in fee is \$3.

For more information, contact:

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

Soccer Program Sparks Community Bonds

Photo by Susan Walto, 2007 Views of the Valley

It was 1993 when several neighbors were inspired to get together and form a squad to play in Golden Valley's Adult Fall Soccer Program. More than 40 people from the Medley Hills Neighborhood signed up to participate, even though only two had soccer experience.

"I don't think we won a single game that season, but we had more fun than all the other teams for sure," said Doug Hubred, an original team member, occasional team manager, and a coach of soccer program youth teams.

"I remember when we got our first goal," he said. "It took a few games. We might have been losing five-nothing, but when they finally got the ball into the net, it felt like a win."

The neighborhood team (now called the Schuller's team and managed by Darrick Olson) is an adult squad with members' ages ranging in their 20s to their 60s. It's one of 16 teams to sign up for Golden Valley's adult soccer program last year and an apt example of how the program sparks community connections among Golden Valley residents. Hubred said he's made life-long friends through his involvement. It's as much a social activity as it is an athletic one, he said.

Golden Valley's adult co-ed soccer league features three competitive levels: A (more aggressive teams with experienced players), B (moderately experienced teams), and C (a fun, recreational opportunity for neighborhood and company teams). Golden Valley's soccer program also offers youth divisions (see box at left).

Several adult teams, like Schuller's, have been involved since the beginning. And it's a family affair for many participants, like Hubred, whose two children, Clayton, 10, and Henry, 6, are part of the youth soccer program (see box). Clayton, like his dad, emphasized the social benefits.

"I've made a lot of friends through the program," Clayton said, recommending that kids join up because, "they'll make friends and get a great new experience."



A FAMILY AFFAIR: BOTH OF DOUG HUBRED'S CHILDREN PARTICIPATE IN YOUTH SOCCER, WHILE HE'S PLAYED ON A NEIGHBORHOOD TEAM FOR 14 YEARS.

Sign Up FOR GV FALL SOCCER

If you're looking for a way to get exercise and boost camaraderie among your neighbors or co-workers, look no further than Golden Valley's Park and Recreation Fall Soccer Program.

The program offers inclusive play at all soccer skill levels for juniors (grades K and 1), youth (grades 2–6, and 7–8), and adults. This fall, most youth games run from Saturday, Sept 8 through Oct 27. Practices generally begin a couple of weeks before the first game. The registration deadline is Aug 10; registration forms are posted online at ci.golden-valley.mn.us and are accepted in person, by e-mail, mail, or fax (see sidebar for contact information). The fee is \$30 and the T-shirts are \$12.

While Park and Rec soccer is open to all who want to play, kids ages 9 to 19 who have mastered soccer basics and want a more competitive atmosphere might want to check out the Phoenix Soccer Association. During the spring and summer, Phoenix offers both in-house and traveling leagues, which kids try out for to show their dribbling, passing, and header skills.



Get Engaged To GOLDEN VALLEY

A community is more than the sum of its physical environment. A sense of safety, good architecture, and beautiful homes, parks, and natural spaces set the stage for great living, but it's what people do in these spaces that is the real nature of community.

All over the country, people are looking for ways to connect with neighbors and others who share their interests, and Golden Valley is on the cusp of the trend. During *Envision Golden Valley*, citizens identified community engagement as one of six key categories for their future. It turns out that community engagement can cover a lot of ground.

The Corporation for National and Community Service recently reported that 40 percent of adults in the Twin Cities volunteer. While there are no statistics regarding volunteering on the local level, Golden Valley folks are helping and working with others in many ways:

- Local schools use volunteers to help bring individualized learning to students.
- Civic organizations, such as the Golden Valley Historical Society (see page 16) and Federated Women's Club, take on community projects.
- Institutions in the community, such as the Courage Center and PRISM, ask volunteers to help accomplish their mission. The Golden Valley Human Services Foundation offers further support (see page 3).
- More than 160 Golden Valley Neighborhood Watch Groups help the police and neighbors look out for the well-being of other residents (see page 10).
- Many Neighborhood Associations have fun and further neighborhood goals by getting together.
- The City of Golden Valley works with other communities and jurisdictions for the good of all (see pages 1, 4, and 13-15).

The *Envision Connection Project* is a group of citizens developing a framework to encourage ongoing community engagement. If you're looking to engage, it has options:

- Join the Board of Directors and think big about community engagement.
- Learn about existing community groups working in areas that concern you.
- Get help starting a new initiative that piques your interest (eg, a cycling group to plan excursions and raise awareness about community bike racks and trails, a book club to discuss books of your favorite genre, a knitting group to socialize and swap materials and skills, joining with others to plant lilacs along Hwy 55, etc).

What are your ideas for community engagement? If you'd like to know more about the *Connection Project*, identify ways to engage and socialize in your community, come to the Ice Cream Social on August 13 (see below). For more information, contact Assistant City Manager Jeanne Andre at 763-593-8014.

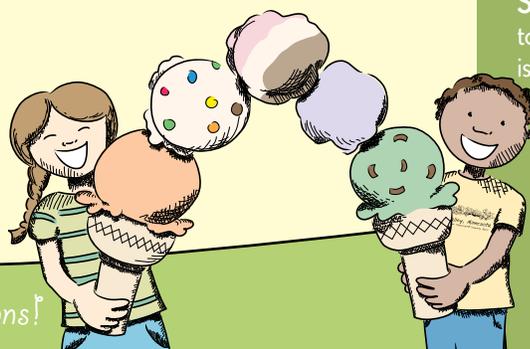
GOLDEN VALLEY

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

MONDAY, AUG 13
@ BROOKVIEW PARK

- 7 pm:** Jolly Czechs in Concert
- 8 pm:** Golden Valley Connection Project
"Build Bridges With Your Neighbors"
- 8:15 pm:** Ice Cream Social — Free!

FREE EVENT!
ALL WELCOME!



Concerts.....Cones.....Community Connections!

SENIOR *Stuff*

Unless noted otherwise, most activities are at Brookview Community Center and require advance registration.

HEALTH INSURANCE/MEDICARE Help
Aug 14, appointments at 9, 10, and 11 am: One-on-one help with forms, plus information about Medicare supplemental, long-term care insurance, and Medicare Part D.

MONEY MATTERS
Aug 16, 10-11 am: "What You Need to Know About Credit Reports" (Pre-registration not necessary. Donation for refreshments.)

COFFEE TALK
(Juice, coffee, and sweet rolls, followed by a speaker.)
Aug 22, 9:45-11 am: **Apartments, Condos and Co-ops, Oh My!**—There are many housing choices, so what is the difference between a condominium and a cooperative? What are the advantages of owning vs renting? These and other questions will be addressed by Mike Samz, Manager of Calvary Cooperative. Call 763-512-2339 to register at least two days in advance. Fee: \$2, payable at door.

UPCOMING TRIPS (REGISTER EARLY)
Aug 24: **St Paul Market**, \$5.50/person for bus, other costs on your own. Register by Aug 17.

Sept 14: **Alexis Bailly and Cannon River Winery**, 8:30 am-3 pm, \$42 (includes tours, lunch, and transportation). Winery tours and wine tasting, lunch at the Stone Mill Eatery, and a bakery stop. Register by Aug 27.

Sept 27-26: **Green Bay Wisconsin**, \$295-335 (includes all meals, tours, lodging). Lambeau Field tour, Fox River cruise, and National Railroad Museum tour and train ride. Final payment due by Aug 17.

Seniors Program: Send a \$5 donation to the Seniors Program and receive six issues of the senior newsletter by mail.

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

15th Annual Photo Contest Draws 56

This year marked the 15th anniversary of Golden Valley's *Views of the Valley* photo contest, which is meant to celebrate the city's beauty, uniqueness, and quality of life as viewed by citizens through their camera lenses. Of the 56 entries, judges chose the photos on this page as the best of the bunch.

Participants could enter up to three photos total in any of three categories: "Natural Golden Valley" (landscapes, flora, fauna, etc), "Golden Valley Lifestyle" (cityscapes, buildings, people, and activities), and "Enhanced Golden Valley" (photos significantly altered by editing software). All winners receive a cash prize, certificates of recognition, and publication of their photos in various City public information pieces.

Overall grand prize was awarded to Janice Laulainen for "The Beauty of Bassett Creek." That photo also won first place for Natural Golden Valley and the People's Choice award. These three prizes make Laulainen a 12-time winner in *Views of the Valley*. She previously won second prize in Golden Valley Lifestyle in 2005, People's Choice in 2004, a first prize in 2002, second in 2001, first prize and People's Choice in 2000, third prize in 1999, second in 1996, and first prize in 1993, the contest's inaugural year.

First place for Golden Valley Lifestyle was awarded to Ashley Ilvonen for "Bike Parade."

In the Enhanced Golden Valley category, first place was awarded to Peter Knaeble for "Golden Valley Days #1."

Judges for 2007 were Ann Gallagher, Cable 12 TV and host of the Northwest Cities news magazine program; Margie Vigoren, City of Plymouth Communications Specialist; Pat Brink, Brink Public Relations; and Sarah Larson, an administrative captain with the West Metro Fire-Rescue District and a former professional photographer.

To view all photo entries, as well as entries and winners from past years, go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us, click on "Community," then select "Views of the Valley Photo Contest." Next year's contest deadline will be June 6, 2008.

Golden Valley Days
Richard Gunderson

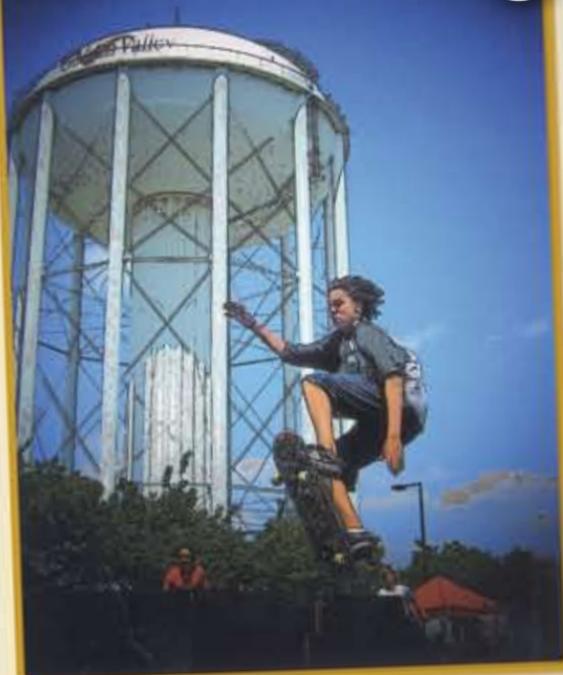
2nd



Enhanced

Golden Valley Days #1
Peter Knaeble

1st



3rd

Dreaming Of A Simpler Time
Rich Smith

Lifestyle

1st



3rd

Looking For Gold?
No, It's Public Works
Gloria Johnson

Bike Parade
Ashley Ilvonen

2nd



Golden Valley Fountain
Richard Gunderson



The Beauty of Bassett Creek
Janice Laulainen

1st

1st Overall

People's Choice

Natural

2nd



3rd

Winnetka Wetlands
Richard Gunderson

Here Comes The Sun
Kalin Kauppila

MARK THE DATE FOR NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Neighborhoods throughout Golden Valley are invited to join forces with communities across the nation for the 24th annual National Night Out (NNO) Tuesday, August 7.



National Night Out, "America's Night Out Against Crime," was introduced in 1984 by the National Association of Town Watch. The 23rd Annual NNO last August involved more than 34 million people in 10,000 communities from all 50 states, US Territories, and military bases worldwide.

SENDING A MESSAGE TO CRIMINALS

National Night Out is designed to:

- heighten crime prevention awareness
- generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs
- strengthen neighborhood spirit and police/community partnerships
- send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back

In the past, Golden Valley neighborhoods have come together for potluck dinners, ice cream socials, lemonade parties, barbecues, bike parades, swimming pool parties, etc. Use your imagination and plan something fun! The Golden Valley Police Department and the Golden Valley Crime Prevention Fund also provide raffle kits so kids and adults can register for more than \$1,200 worth of great prizes.

A NNO planning kit was mailed to block captains in early June. For more information, contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 763-593-8058 or jpaul@ci.golden-valley.mn.us.

Best Defense In Public Safety: *Neighborly Ties*

These days, phrases like "community engagement" and "sense of community" dribble from people's lips like watermelon juice at a picnic. They express a longing to connect with neighbors or unite for a common goal, and they were frequent buzzwords during *Envision Golden Valley* (see page 7), but who knew they are also key tools in fighting crime?

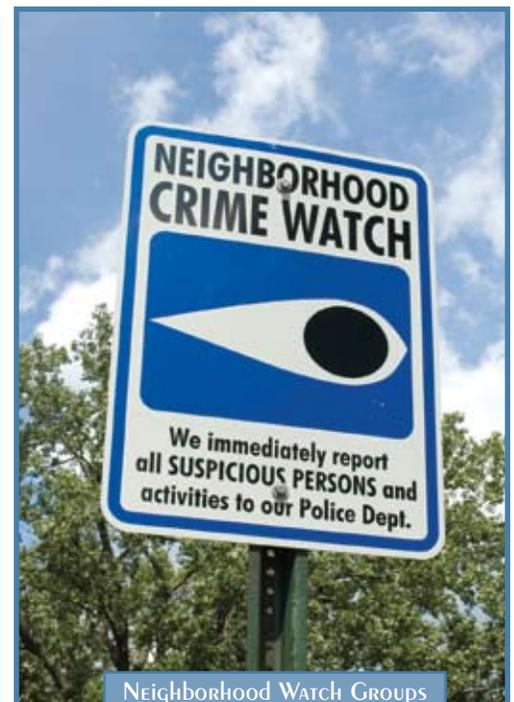
Golden Valley Police Chief Stacy Altonen says community engagement is the top priority for the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD). "We are a professional, progressive organization full of talented employees, and we can be even more effective and successful if we engage the community in public safety plans and have a regular dialogue with residents and business owners," she explains.

Altonen says this means getting feedback from residents and businesses about crime and livability concerns, using public input to develop policing strategies, opening communication with citizens whenever possible, and, perhaps most importantly, encouraging residents to work with each other and police to keep their community safe.

While increased community outreach by police can positively affect public safety, adds Altonen, it's increased connections between neighbors and neighborhoods that positively affects the City as a whole.

For example, events like National Night Out are great for bringing neighbors together even for short periods, to both make new acquaintances and strengthen existing relationships. When neighbors know each other, and look out for each other's property, they'll be much more secure and enjoy peace of mind they would otherwise lack.

Neighborhood Watch groups provide an outlet for residents to get to know their neighbors and form bonds to make the neighborhood not only safer, but more cohesive.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUPS
Help Keep Criminals Away.

Neighborhood Watch

For more information about Golden Valley's Neighborhood Watch program, go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/publicsafety/neighborhood-watch.htm. If you're interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch in your area, contact Crime Prevention Specialist Joanne Paul at 763-593-8058 or jpaul@ci.golden-valley.mn.us.

"The City hopes residents will not only take advantage of established community events, but will also organize new events and traditions within the neighborhood to keep residents connected," says Altonen. "Safety benefits aside, when neighbors are connected every day of the year, as a matter of habit, it creates a sense of family among the community."

Altonen wants people to take a moment to think of even a small way they can connect with their neighbors, and then make it happen today.

"You'll make a long-term investment in yourself and your community," she says.

For more information, Altonen can be reached a 763-593-8059 or saltonen@ci.golden-valley.mn.us.

Mismanaged Recreational Fires Unsafe, And Rude

Those planning to relax around a recreational fire this summer could spark hot tempers if they're not careful.

Poorly managed and non-permitted bonfires not only pose a public safety threat during the dry season, but they can also cause bad relations among neighbors, says Golden Valley Fire Chief Mark Kuhnly. A recreational fire, even a legal one, can be inconsiderate to those living nearby. So use common sense. If the wind is blowing the smoke toward another's house, for example, pick another day to have a fire, Kuhnly says. It's basic etiquette.



THIS RECREATIONAL FIRE IS UNLAWFUL BECAUSE ITS FLAMES REACH HIGHER THAN THREE FEET.

PERMIT REQUIRED

Outdoor fire pits are a popular feature for Golden Valley homes. Construction of permanent fire rings and sales of manufactured fire pits have been on the rise. In response, the Golden Valley City Council passed an upgraded ordinance about two years ago that restricts how recreational fires are managed.

A City permit is required before starting any recreational fire. There's no fee, Kuhnly says. It's just to make sure people are being responsible in terms of safety and neighborly etiquette. Recreational Fire Permits are valid for one calendar year and expire annually December 31. Lawful fires must:

- be constantly attended by a responsible person age 18 or older until extinguished. (Whenever a recreational fire is burning, this person must have the Recreational Fire Permit available upon request by the City.)
- not be used to burn yard waste, construction materials, or common household trash (clean, dry wood is the only acceptable fuel).
- remain within an approved outdoor fireplace that is at- or below-grade and doesn't exceed 7.5 square feet with a perimeter not exceeding 10 feet. The outside edge must be ringed with brick, rock, or other non-combustible material to prevent fire spread.
- not be allowed if wind speeds exceed 10 miles per hour.
- not exceed three feet in height as measured from the base of the fire.
- remain a safe distance from any structure or combustible materials.

A garden hose or other adequate means of extinguishment must be available for emergency purposes. Violations result in a one-year revocation of any Recreational Fire Permits.

Be safe and be respectful. Recreational Fire Permits can be obtained from the Fire Department at 763-593-8065 or online at www.ci.golden.valley.mn.us/permits/recrefirepermit.htm. For more information, contact the Golden Valley Fire Department at 763-593-8065. 

City SEEKS FIREFIGHTERS

The Golden Valley Fire Department (GVFD) is seeking men and women interested in serving their community by becoming paid, on-call firefighters.

Paid, on-call firefighters must:

- be at least 18 years old with a high school diploma or equivalent
- have a valid Minnesota Class D driver's license (with a good driving record)
- have a positive, constructive image and attitude
- live or work within six minutes of a fire station and have dependable transportation
- be in good health and pass physical and psychological exams, a physical abilities test, a background investigation, and a written exam
- complete an oral interview, a probation period, basic recruit training, and requirements for first responder training
- wear a pager while on call and be available for a reasonable number of fire calls, drills, and meetings
- be available for work detail once every two months
- be able to make decisions regarding the safety of other firefighters and yourself
- work as a team member under extremely stressful conditions

Along with a pension plan and disability benefits, GVFD firefighters receive the following hourly wage:

- probationary firefighter (\$8.19/hr)
- apprentice firefighter (\$10.89/hr)
- firefighter (\$12.93/hr)

Besides the satisfaction they get from helping others, firefighters also reap other benefits from the job, including increased self-confidence, experience, responsibility, social connections and events, fun and friends, and the chance to be a positive community role model.

INFORMATION MEETINGS

To learn more about Golden Valley's paid on-call fire department, attend an information meeting Aug 14 at 9:30 am or 6:30 pm. For more information, go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us, or call 763-593-3977. 

If A Backup Occurs...

Begin clean-up immediately: For health and safety reasons, first carefully evaluate the situation. If there was even a minor sewer backup, you may want to hire a commercial cleaning service rather than do the work yourself.

Contact the City of Golden Valley: Public Works personnel will respond 24 hours a day to make sure the City sewer line is clear and the backup is not being caused by a City oversight. Call 763-593-8030 between 8 am and 4:30 pm; after hours call 911.

Locate and clear blockage: To find a company that will locate and clear your sewer blockage, look in the Yellow Pages under "Sewer Cleaning."

Notify your insurance company: Notify your insurance company as soon as possible so an adjuster can quickly examine any damages. Some (but not all) homeowners' or other insurance will cover some or all of the costs associated with damage caused by a sewer backup.

List all damaged or destroyed items: This list will help your insurance company determine the extent of damages.

Prevent Sewer Backups, Watch What You Drain

With a sewer backing up and sewer water slowly rising in your basement, your first instinct may be to call City workers to undo the damage. Do call them first (see sidebar), but chances are it's not their damage to undo, meaning the repair costs will come out of your pocket.

Because the City performs regular sewer pipe maintenance, only a small percentage of sewer backups in Golden Valley are caused by problems in City sewer lines (such as tree roots growing into the sewer). The City of Golden Valley is not responsible or liable for a sewer blockage unless there is a clear demonstration of negligence on its part (though it's still important to notify the City when a backup occurs, so workers can check if it's a problem on the City's end). It's the resident's responsibility to clean and repair sewer service from their homes or businesses to the sewer main, including the connection at the main. Property owners are also responsible for making sure sump pumps, foundation drains, and roof gutter downspouts are not connected to the sanitary sewer system (see story on page 1).

The No. 1 way to avoid sewer backups is by simply watching what you put down the drains, says Bert Tracy, Public Works maintenance manager. Pipes are like arteries. Grease and soap residue build up over time and lead to clogs. If you've had a history of backups, Tracy says, a routine sewer cleaning is recommended. In any case, a sewer check-up once every two years doesn't hurt. Think of it as a seweroscopy.

If you have specific questions about the sanitary sewer system, contact the Golden Valley Public Works Utilities Division at 763-593-8075. 

SEWERfest

What: An informational gathering regarding Inflow and Infiltration and why it's an important issue for the community (see page 1).

When: Wed, Aug 15, 5–7:30 pm

Where: Golden Valley City Hall

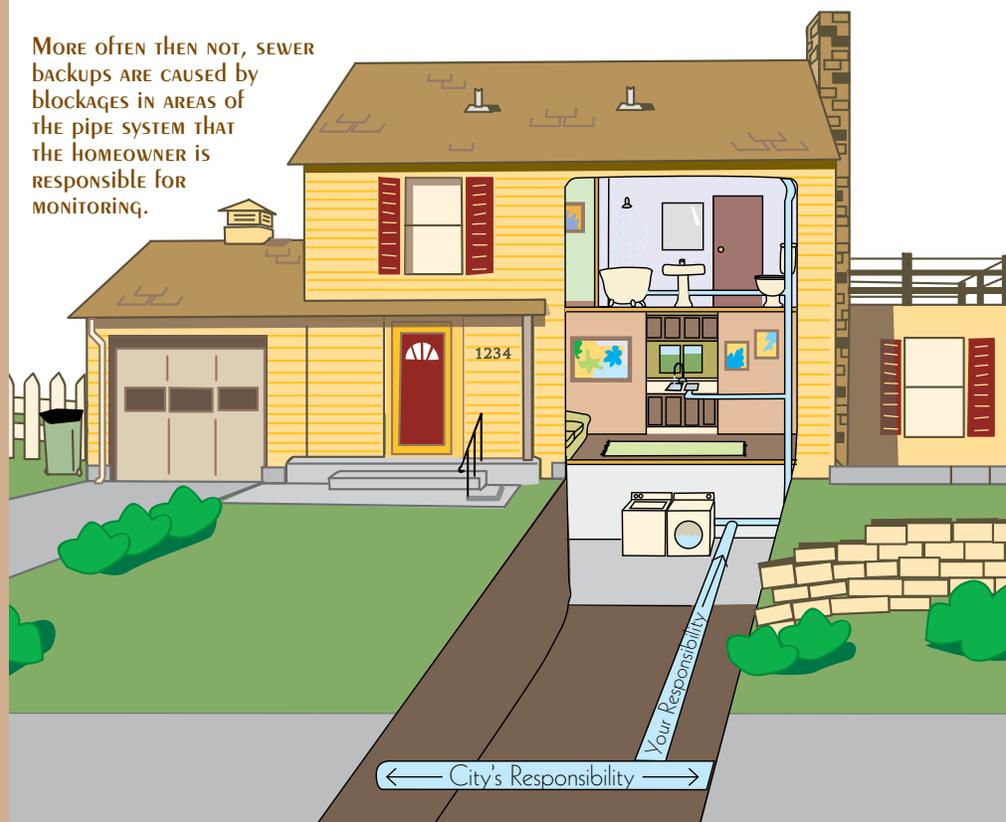
Cost: Free

Common Sewer Blockers

Many residential sewer problems can be avoided by having your sewer line cleaned periodically and taking care about what goes into your sewer system. The following items are the most common causes of blocked sewers.

- **Grease and Oils** Store grease in a container, and dispose of hardened grease in the trash. Use the garbage disposal sparingly, and flush with plenty of water. When possible, put food scraps in the garbage or compost.
- **Paper Products** Put in the trash, not the toilet. These items do not dissolve.
- **Lint and Hair** Screen all drains and use a lint trap on your laundry hose. Accumulated lint and hair can clog the line.
- **Roots** Avoid planting trees or bushes over your sewer line. Roots seek water in dry years by breaking into the sewer's clay tile pipes, causing blockages.
- For safety's sake, never put **medicines or hazardous materials** down the drain. Dispose of them at a household hazardous materials site.

MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, SEWER BACKUPS ARE CAUSED BY BLOCKAGES IN AREAS OF THE PIPE SYSTEM THAT THE HOMEOWNER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MONITORING.



Trail Through Golden Valley Makes Connections



When completed in fall 2008, the LUCE LINE REGIONAL TRAIL will connect the east and west side of Golden Valley.

Construction is under way in Golden Valley this summer on the final link in a Three Rivers Park District Trail. When completed, the new section of trail will be 10 feet wide and about 4.5 miles long. If all goes well, it should open by fall 2008, says Boe Carlson, governmental relations administrator for the Three Rivers Park District.

The long-awaited trail segment will connect the Minnesota DNR-owned Luce Line Regional trail in central Minnesota and the western metro area to the Grand Rounds trail system at Theodore Wirth Park in Minneapolis, just north of Highway 55.

The Golden Valley trail segment will also help improve connectivity between all other regional and local pedestrian trails and parks in the area, Carlson adds. The idea is to foster a network of Minnesota trails reminiscent of its network of highways.

While recreation is the trail's number one purpose, says Carlson, the trail will also be handy for alternative transportation, providing Golden Valley residents and those who work or study in Golden Valley an easier way to bike in and out of the city.

Constructing a paved recreation trail through Golden Valley has been discussed for nearly 20 years, says Carlson. In the mid 1990s, the Three Rivers Park District secured some right-of-way along the Union Pacific Railroad. Over the last few years, the Park District and the City of Golden Valley have been tweaking the trail alignment and finalizing plans. While the trail will primarily run along the Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way, some sections will veer away for logistical purposes.

Phase I of the project—located between Highway 169 at Plymouth Ave and Douglas Dr just north of Highway 55—began construction this spring and should be finished by this fall, Carlson says. Construction on Phase II—located between Douglas Dr and Theodore Wirth Park—will begin in 2008.

The Three Rivers Park District, an independent governmental agency, provides about 65 miles of regional trails, with a goal to construct another 85 miles, says Carlson. For more information, call the Three Rivers Park District at 763-559-9000.

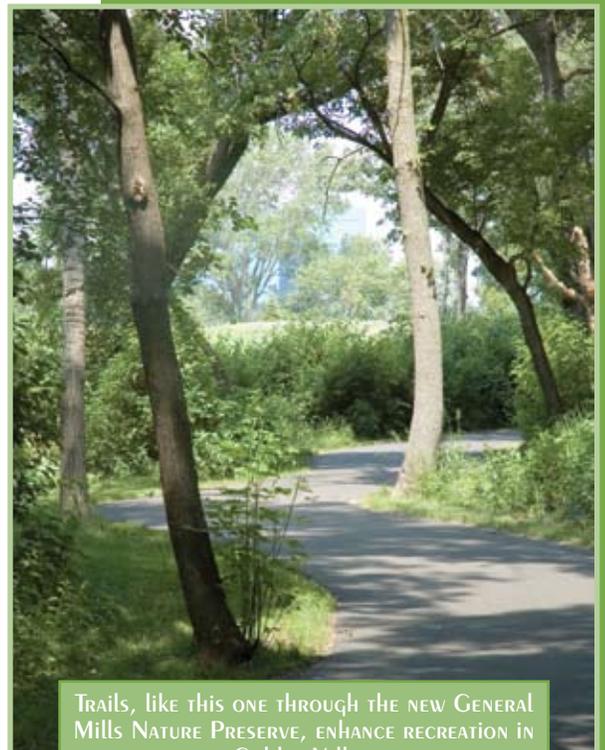
THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT

The mission of Three Rivers Park District is to promote environmental stewardship through recreation and education in a natural resources-based park system.

The District is an independent, special park district established by the State Legislature in 1957. As a special park district, it's charged with the responsibilities of acquisition, development, and maintenance of large park reserves, regional parks, and regional trails for the benefit and use of the citizens of suburban Hennepin County, Scott County, the metropolitan areas, and greater Minnesota.

The Park District works cooperatively with the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission, Metropolitan Council, and State Legislature as one of 10 implementing agencies of the Metropolitan Regional Park System. This system of parks was established in 1974 by the Minnesota State Legislature and collectively serves about 30 million park guests per year in the seven county metro area, providing outdoor education/recreation facilities, services, and programs.

The Park District operates nearly 27,000 acres of park reserves, regional parks, and special-use areas.



Trails, like this one through the new General Mills Nature Preserve, enhance recreation in Golden Valley.

SEVEN Days Of SPEED

Now is a better time than ever to realize that speeding isn't worth it. The Golden Valley Police Department will accelerate patrols to catch speeding motorists during a select number of days this summer.

As part of a Safe & Sober education and enforcement campaign, "Seven Days of Speed" is funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and designed to reduce the number of traffic crashes and injuries. The effort includes hundreds of law enforcement agencies partnering statewide throughout the summer.

Under the program, each police department is asked to pick seven days to increase speeding enforcements. Golden Valley selected July 11, 24, 30, and Aug 2, 10, 14, and 22.

Speeding is the most commonly reported factor in fatal crashes—especially during the summer, the deadliest period on Minnesota roads, according to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety. In Minnesota, speeding fines are doubled if a motorist is caught speeding 20 mph or more over the limit, and drivers traveling 100 mph or more are subject to a six-month license revocation.

For more information, visit www.dps.state.mn.us and click on "Office of Traffic Safety."

SPEEDING: Not Worth The Risk

Many of us have been "tailgated" by drivers who obviously wanted us to go faster. Or, we've been passed on freeways by vehicles greatly exceeding the speed limit. Do these drivers get to their destinations faster than we do and, if so, is it really worth the risk?

The logical answer to both questions is no, says Mike Kotila, a consulting transportation engineer to the City of Golden Valley. Speeding may result in small time gains, but it costs more, especially with a ticket, and has proven over and over to decrease safety for everyone.

HAZARDS Of SPEEDING

Speed limits are set to reflect a safe speed that most drivers will adhere to, Kotila explains, and often they reflect the characteristics of the street. For example, drive 40 mph on a residential street and you need 325 feet to stop. If a bike rider pulls into the street four houses ahead (280 feet), you can't stop in time. But at 30 mph, you need only 200 feet (or about three houses) to react and stop.

Speeders also have what's called a "differential" from the speed of other vehicles, says Kotila. Other drivers assume you are traveling near the speed limit and may pull out in front of you from a cross street or when changing lanes. Your additional speed increases the distance it takes you to react and slow down. Speed differential is another major cause of crashes.

Curves on roads are engineered to keep vehicles on the road at a selected design speed. Exceed the design speed and you greatly increase your chances of running off the road, says Kotila. Hills complicate things further. Go too fast and you could run into something over the top of a hill. Even objects along the side of a road generally relate to the design speed of the road, he adds. That's why we read about accidents involving a speeding car hitting a tree or other object on a residential street. Speed contributes to a driver's loss of control and then significantly increases the severity of impact.

WHAT IS IT WORTH?

Kotila says speeders don't get to their destination much more quickly. "A trip across Golden Valley at 35 instead of 30 miles per hour, IF there are no stops, gives you a maximum gain of a little over one minute," he explains. "Add a half dozen stops, and the deceleration and acceleration associated with each, and your gain is reduced to less than 15 seconds. If it involves waiting at a traffic signal, the potential gain is even less."

"Travel to Duluth at 75 miles per hour instead of 70, and you gain eight and a half minutes if there is no other traffic, says Kotila. "With 20 percent of the trip in slower traffic, your gain drops to about six minutes. But you spend about \$2.70 more on gas."

Questions about speed limits on Golden Valley streets? Contact City Engineer Jeff Oliver at 763-593-8030.



Police officers from multiple jurisdictions work together to control speeding on metro area highways. (L to R): Lance Evans, City of Golden Valley; Ryan Carroll, Minnesota State Patrol; and Felicia Chesmer, Hennepin County Sheriff's Office

Legal SPEED LIMITS

Most speed limits are based on the concept that uniform categories of highways can operate safely at certain preset maximum speeds under ideal conditions. These "statutory" speed limits are set by Minnesota state law and are in effect whether or not speed limit signs are posted. The following are maximum speed limits under normal driving conditions:

- 10 mph in alleys
- 30 mph on streets in urban districts
- 65 or 70 mph on interstate highways
- 65 mph on expressways
- 55 mph on other roads

Drivers who exceed maximum speed limits may be charged with speeding. According to state law, driving speeds must always be reasonable for existing conditions and surroundings (such as weather, visibility, other traffic, and the safety of persons or property), regardless of the posted maximum speed limit.

Comprehensive Plans Boost Cooperative Efforts

With the metro area expected to grow by a staggering 1 million people in the next 22 years, it's important that cities work cooperatively now to effectively handle the increased demands of the future, says Golden Valley Planning Director Mark Grimes. It's community engagement at a regional level, and it is the most compelling reason for cities to update their comprehensive plan, he said.

The 1976 Metropolitan Land Planning Act (amended several times since) requires local governments in the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area to develop comprehensive plans every 10 years (see box below). These plans help coordinate investments and improvements at many levels of government, says Grimes. "By cooperating with the Met Council and surrounding cities, we use our systems more efficiently."

So as Golden Valley prepares its comprehensive plan for 2008, officials not only look at how the City can improve itself, but also at how it can best fit into the urban network and improve the metro area as a whole. Golden Valley has already established cooperative efforts with surrounding cities, Grimes explains. The Joint Water Commission (Golden Valley, Crystal, and New Hope) is one example. The City's recycling program is another (see page 4).

For the future, Golden Valley looks to boost its urban connections by helping plan and maintain alternative transportation routes, such as the Three Rivers Trail (see page 13), and improve the metro area's aesthetics by monitoring development along I-394. The I-394 focus is just one example that stemmed from the City's

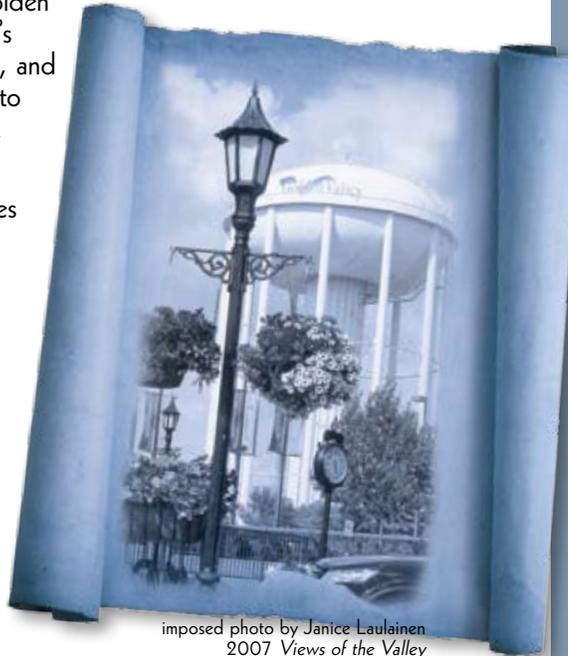
basics COMPREHENSIVE PLANS

City comprehensive plans, in addition to looking at cooperative opportunities, must contain a number of other elements, among them:

- maps and data showing current and future land use
- a plan for staging development
- a housing plan
- a surface water management plan
- plans for public facilities, like transportation, sewers, and parks

After communities submit their plans, the Met Council determines if the local plans:

- conform to metropolitan system plans
- are consistent with other adopted plans of the Council
- are compatible with each other



imposed photo by Janice Laulainen
2007 Views of the Valley

Envision Golden Valley efforts, which reported "Golden Valley's location at the axis of urban density and suburban tranquility makes us acutely aware of our connections to a greater whole."

City staff, volunteer commissioners, and City consultants have been working for the past year to develop a final draft of Golden Valley's 2008 Comprehensive Plan. The goal is to have a draft ready for community review by fall. For more information, contact Planning Director Mark Grimes at 763-593-8095. 

City Factors In ACTIVE LIVING BY DESIGN

Golden Valley is one of a handful of Minnesota cities taking part in a national program designed to establish and evaluate innovative ways to support active living. The objective: find methods to make activity more accessible by giving people opportunities to exercise through day-to-day errands. That way active living occurs in the community at large, instead of at the gym.

One way a city can promote active living is to get people out of cars by providing alternative transportation, such as bike trails or better sidewalks. Golden Valley is looking at placing signs on pedestrian trails to direct people to local landmarks, like the library, reminding people that trails are a great way to get around.

ACTIVE LIVING BY DESIGN is a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and is a part of the University of North Carolina School of Public Health in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. The program set out to use community design, public policies, and communications strategies to encourage citizens increased their activity levels. The program's Web site states, "Physical activity has been engineered out of the built environment over the last fifty years and as a result, seventy percent of Americans do not achieve the US Surgeon General's recommendation for physical activity."

Hennepin County was selected last year to analyze the feasibility of the program's goals. The County then selected three "pilot" cites to participate (Golden Valley, Brooklyn Park, and Independence).

Golden Valley will include its assessments of how to incorporate active living in the community in its 2008 Comprehensive Plan. Under the Plan, the City has listed three active living objectives: improve sidewalks and trails, incorporate zoning practices that allow mixed use development and promote walking, and seek funds through local grants to incorporate pedestrian-oriented infrastructure in existing development.

For more information on this program, visit www.activelivingbydesign.org. 



To Honor The Past

Knowledge about our history gives us a richer perspective of modern life. It opens our eyes to our origins and brings us insight into the progress and struggles of our ancestors, our culture, and our community. Simply put, knowledge about our history helps preserve our identity. And preservation is the key for the Golden Valley Historical Society (GVHS), says Don Anderson, GVHS secretary/treasurer.



History Through The Ages

In 1997, the Golden Valley Historical Society bought the former Christian Science Society church building at 6731 Golden Valley Road for use as a city museum, educational center, historical wedding chapel, and meeting hall. Efforts are underway to raise funds for renovation and restoration.

Originally established as an interdenominational church by early residents of Golden Valley, it's the oldest church in the city and an ideal base for the Historical Society, whose mission is to discover, preserve, and disseminate historical knowledge about Golden Valley.

For information regarding membership with the Historical Society, call Secretary Don Anderson at 763-588-8578 or email him at maryand-don3030@aol.com.

It was the drive to preserve Golden Valley's heritage that inspired a group of about 90 people to create a historical society 33 years ago, and it's that drive that sparked the purchase of the "little white church" on Golden Valley Rd in 1997 (see sidebar). The building cost \$86,000, a sum provided anonymously by a member of the GVHS. Purchase of the building, itself a historic Golden Valley marker, gave the group a home base and heightened visibility, Anderson says, boosting GVHS membership by about 25 percent, to 250 members.

On July 15, the GVHS celebrated the 10th anniversary of moving into its new home by holding an open house. Guests enjoyed refreshments, music, clowns, and face-painting, and a kids' coloring contest drew 97 entries. GVHS members set up exhibits displaying turn-of-the-century children's toys, maps of old Indian trails through Golden Valley, and dozens of photographs depicting the City's quaint past. These displays, however, were only a hint of what the GVHS hopes to offer in the future.

The GVHS building has been under renovation since its purchase. Anderson said members want to turn it into a full-fledged museum, complete with an addition at the back and overhaul of the basement. Since the Society relies on donations and volunteers, the viability and speed of the project (which will cost up to \$1.7 million) depends on community interest, he said. If people see importance in the GVHS' mission, the future will look bright for preserving Golden Valley's past.

City of Golden Valley

763-593-8000 TTY: 763-593-3968

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