

PARK PAGES

A Newsletter Published for the Brooklyn Park Community

March/April 2007

City Launches Neighborhood Action Program

Crime is on the rise throughout the country. Unfortunately, Brooklyn Park is no exception to this trend. Although final figures for 2006 are not in yet, we know that violent crime and other crimes that affect quality of life have increased in Brooklyn Park. To confront and challenge the conditions that contribute to crime, the City Council has invested in a new crime-fighting and quality of life improvement initiative called the Neighborhood Action Program (NAP). Launched in December 2006, this multi-department partnership includes police, rental housing inspections, business licensing, code enforcement and public health (CEPH), economic development, and recreation staff.

The goal of NAP is to reduce crime and improve the livability of single-family neighborhoods and the community by creating a new problem-solving collaborative effort by city departments and other governmental and private organizations.

New crime-fighting and quality of life improvement strategies are being developed and implemented:

- Increased information exchanges by police, CEPH, rental housing inspections, economic development and recreation staff with neighborhood residents, property owners, homeowner associations and rental management companies. The purpose of this coordinated effort is to enforce rental standards that encourage, and if necessary, compel landlords to be good stewards of rental properties in the community.
- Enhanced law enforcement presence focusing on repeat criminal offenders who negatively affect the safety of this community
- Increased frequency of rental property maintenance inspections to ensure compliance

with state building codes and improve the quality of life in all neighborhoods

- Enhanced partnerships and communication sharing between citizens and city departments to actively involve citizens in problem solving efforts

Some initial successes of NAP have already been realized:

- The creation of databases to identify, track, and arrest repeat criminal offenders
- New analysis methods to measure the effectiveness of crime fighting and code enforcement strategies
- Increased enforcement of rental licensing policies that revoke, suspend or deny a license for problem property owners
- Procedures to handle the significant number of unlicensed rental properties are being implemented and coordinated between business licensing and the police department

The progress and results of NAP's important efforts will be communicated on a regular basis to the community.



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PARK PAGES

PARK PAGES is produced by Brooklyn Park city staff, published every other month and distributed to residences and businesses.
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North Hennepin Area Chamber of Commerce
229 1st Avenue NE Osseo, Minnesota 55369
Phone: 763-424-6744 Fax: 763-424-6927
Email: dave@nhachamber.com Website: www.nhachamber.com

TwinWest Chamber of Commerce
10700 Old County Rd 15 Suite 170 Plymouth, Minnesota 55441
Phone: 763-450-2220 Fax: 763-450-2221
Email: barbara@twinwest.com Website: www.twinwest.com

Proudly Serving the North Hennepin Area!

City Services: 763-493-8166

- Vehicle title transfers
- License plate tab renewals
- Registration for out-of-state vehicles

- Fishing and hunting licenses
- Registration for snowmobiles, boats, ATVs
- Pet licenses

Hennepin County Services: 612-348-8240

- Driver's license renewals

State of Minnesota Services: 952-476-3042

- Driver's license testing

CITY SERVICES

City Hall Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Licensing Division Hours

Monday - Friday 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturdays 9 a.m. - Noon

Information Contacts

Emergency Assistance 911
City Hall 763-424-8000
Community Activity Center 763-493-8333
Recreation & Parks 763-493-8333
Operations & Maintenance 763-493-8007

Fire Administration 763-493-8020
Police Administration 763-493-8222
Recycling 763-493-8006
Utility Billing 763-493-8185
Yard Waste Site 763-420-4886

Official web site: www.brooklynpark.org

REGULAR MEETINGS

City Council: The 1st, 3rd and 4th Mondays of each month, 7 p.m. Each meeting will begin with an Open Forum of up to 15 minutes.

Budget Advisory Commission: 2nd & 4th Tuesday, 7 p.m.

Economic Development Authority:
2nd Monday of each month, 7 p.m.

Planning Commission: 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Charter Commission: 2nd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

Citizen Long-range Improvement Committee:
2nd Thursday, 7 p.m.

Human Relations Commission: 3rd Thursday, 7 p.m.

Recreation and Parks Advisory Commission:
3rd Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Brooklyn Park Firefighters Relief Association Board of Trustees: 3rd Wednesday, 7 p.m.

ON AIR

Channel 16

7 p.m. - 1st thru 4th Monday: Council & EDA, Live

7 p.m. - 2nd Wednesday: Planning Commission, Live

6:30 p.m. - Thursday: Police in the Park

7 p.m. - 2nd Monday: Economic Development Authority, Live

7 p.m. - 2nd thru 5th Thursday: City Council, Replay

2:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. - Friday: Police in the Park

3 a.m. & 11 a.m. - Friday: City Council, Replay

Channel 19

8:30 p.m. - Monday: Police in the Park

2:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m. & 2:30 p.m. - Tuesday:

Police in the Park

*Times and dates subject to change.
Contact 763-424-8000 or
custserv@ci.brooklynpark.mn.us
to confirm.*

NEWSPAPER OF RECORD

Residents interested in receiving the Brooklyn Park Sun-Post or those who are having delivery problems should contact the paper's circulation department directly at 952-392-6860. Messages should include a delivery address and return phone number. Please note the paper cannot be delivered north of 101st Avenue and distribution is limited in apartments, town homes and condos.

3rd Annual Public Safety Open House!

Free Event - Open to the Public - Free Refreshments!
Sunday, May 20, 2007 1-4 p.m.

Open House Highlights

- Canine Demonstration
- Taser Demonstration
- SWAT Team Demonstration
- Meet McGruff the Crime Dog & Sparky
- Fire Truck Tours
- Safety Hopper
- Visit with Police Officers & Firefighters!

For more information contact:
Lorelei Meyer at 763-493-8205



Personal Safety at Home

We often think about our personal safety when we leave home to go for a walk or on a trip. It is equally important to think about personal safety while at home. Precautions you can take to be safer in your home:

- ✓ Be aware of your neighbors; know who is coming and going, who belongs and who doesn't
- ✓ Keep entrances and garages well lit
- ✓ Lock exterior doors of your home
- ✓ Check the ID of home repair contractors, service people and vendors when they come to your door, verify their ID with a phone call
- ✓ Always close and lock the garage door
- ✓ Don't leave notes on the front door; they advertise your absence
- ✓ Upon return, if you suspect your home has been broken into, call 911 immediately
- ✓ Only list your first initial and last name in the phone book and on your mailbox
- ✓ Take an active interest in your neighborhood and form a neighborhood crime watch

These are just a few tips. For further information, contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 763-493-8035.

Environmentally-Friendly Lawn Care Tips

Everyone must do their part to prevent pollution and conserve resources.

Here's a list of environmentally-friendly lawn care tips:

- ✓ Leave grass clippings on your lawn as a natural fertilizer
- ✓ Keep fertilizer, grass clippings, and garden debris off hard surfaces where they can easily be carried into storm sewers, ponds, and other bodies of water
- ✓ Water early in the morning to avoid evaporation and adhere to the posted watering restrictions
- ✓ Test soil before drowning it with fertilizer. Call 612-624-4771 for a soil testing kit.
- ✓ Mulch around trees, shrubs, and flowerbeds to help retain moisture

**Metro Transit Launches New Express Service
63rd Avenue Park-and-Ride
Now Open!**

Located at 63rd Avenue North & County Highway 81

Community Development

Northwest Suburban Remodeling Fair

Saturday, March 31, 2007 9 a.m - 3 p.m.
Crystal Community Center
4800 Douglas Drive, Crystal

**FREE
EVENT!**

Attend "Do-It-Yourself" workshops scheduled throughout the day. Visit with over 85 local exhibitors. Bring your house plans to the "Ask the Experts" booth hosted by AIA registered architects. Question city fire and building experts about local codes/ordinances and general contracting information.

Comprehensive Plan Update

The Comprehensive Plan is the document that guides the growth, development and redevelopment of the city. It includes information about the city, its infrastructure and land uses. All metropolitan area cities are required by state law to update their plan every 10 years.

The City of Brooklyn Park has begun the process of updating the plan. The Planning Commission will host meetings to review the plan by chapter. The meetings are an opportunity for residents to provide input and be a part of shaping the city's future. The updated plan will be reviewed by the Metropolitan Council, the regional planning agency serving the Twin Cities seven-county metropolitan area.

Meetings will be held on the following dates:

Land Use/Inventory/Intro	February 28
Land Use/Housing	March 28
Transportation/Utilities	April 25
Public Facilities/Environmental Protection	May 23
Implementation/Policies	June 27

Meeting times and locations will be posted on the website and at City Hall.

Please contact Cindy Sherman at 763-493-8051 or cindys@ci.brooklyn-park.mn.us if you have any questions about the Comprehensive Plan and the update process.

City to Sell 550 Trees at Cost!



Order yours today! To celebrate Arbor Day, the city will offer eight species of bare root trees to residents at wholesale prices. The trees range in height from six to nine feet and are priced \$19.50 - \$44.75. The trees will be available for pickup from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 5. Limit three trees per resident.

These trees do not meet minimum new home landscape requirements.

Advanced orders and payment are required. The first 550 orders are guaranteed. Refunds will not be issued for trees not picked up on May 5. To order, visit our website at www.brooklynpark.org or call 763-493-8333.

Bare root trees have a short shelf life and must be planted on the same day. Call Gopher State One Call at 651-454-0002 to mark underground utilities at least one week before tree pickup. The city does not assume responsibility for successful transplanting of trees. Weather conditions, methods of handling and aftercare govern the results. No refunds or replacements will be offered for trees that do not transplant successfully.

An order form can be found on the back page of this newsletter!

Learn About Your City on "NorthWest Cities"

A great way to learn more about what is going on in Brooklyn Park is by watching "NorthWest Cities" on Channel 12. "NorthWest Cities" is a weekly show that highlights local topics for residents of the northwest suburbs.

In recent months, "NorthWest Cities" has focused on year-end issues for Brooklyn Park such as Truth-in-Taxation hearings and the city budget approval. Recently, Brooklyn Park's Neighborhood Action Plan and Human Relations Commission were featured.

Each northwest area community is featured approximately every nine weeks. Many topics from neighboring communities may be of interest or have an impact on Brooklyn Park residents. Watch "NorthWest Cities" at 22 & 52 minutes after the hour following Cable 12 News.

Yard Waste Site Opens April 1

The Maple Grove Yard Waste Site reopens on April 1. Residents can drop off leaves, grass, brush, and tree branches up to 10 inches in diameter with no charge at the gate. The site is funded through your recycling utility fees. Hours are Monday-Saturday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday noon to 7 p.m. The site is located at 14796 101st Avenue North, Maple Grove. Drive northwest on County Road 81 past Osseo to County Road 121/Fernbrook. Turn left across the railroad tracks to 101st Avenue North. Turn right and follow 101st about one block to the site entrance. The information line is 763-420-4886.

Water Main Flushing Begins April 23

The city will begin flushing fire hydrants on Monday, April 23. Crews will work from 6 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. each day through Saturday, April 28.

Residents are reminded to not do laundry while the process is underway in their neighborhood. If discolored water enters your plumbing system, bypass your water softener and open the faucet in the laundry tub or a sink in the lowest area of your home. Let the water run until clear. We regret any inconvenience caused by this necessary maintenance operation and ask parents to ensure their children are aware of the utility crews in your area.

Wanted: More Recycled Paper!

It's time to rethink recycling. You can recycle more kinds of paper than you think. Approximately 21% of household garbage in the Twin Cities metro area is recyclable paper. This includes items such as unwanted mail, office and school paper, phone books, magazines, catalogs, cardboard and other boxes, and newspapers.

Why does paper recycling matter?

The demand for recyclable paper is greater than the supply. Recyclers and manufacturers in Minnesota and the Midwest are looking for more paper because they can't get enough of it! Demand for recycled paper is high for several reasons:

- We're using more than ever. Global paper use is over six times greater than in 1950.
- Paper mills need recycled paper to produce new products. Recycled paper supplies more than 37% of the raw materials used to make new paper products in the U.S.
- Paper is a valuable export. In 2003, more than 25% of U.S. recycled paper was exported, much of it to China. It is expected that by 2007, one-third of recycled paper will be exported.

So why can't the supply keep up? Collection rates in the Twin Cities have been flat since 1998. There are many contributing factors, but primarily people are uncertain of what is recyclable.

Rethink recycling. You can recycle more kinds of paper than you think. To learn more, call 763-493-8006.



Operations & Maintenance



Street Sweeping

All arterial/collector streets in the city will be swept at least three times and all residential streets will be swept at least two times this spring/summer/fall beginning when weather permits, typically the end of March.

Sewer Problems? Call the City First!

Sanitary sewer backups are not fun. In case of a backup, first call the city to determine if the problem is the responsibility of the city utility department or if a sewer maintenance company is needed. Call 763-493-8007 during business hours or 763-493-8222 after business hours.

Basement Water Valves

The maintenance of interior water shut off valves is the homeowner's responsibility. Residents should be careful when attempting to turn off water service near the meter in the basement. If the valves do not operate correctly, call the city at 763-493-8099/8185 to schedule the water to be turned off at the curb valve near the street.

Spring Special Material Drop-Off Day!

Saturday, April 28
8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
O&M Facility
8300 Noble Avenue North
Phone: 763-493-8007

Please visit www.brooklynpark.org for
additional information



PARK PAGES

Recreation & Parks

Our mission is to meet the diverse social and recreational needs of residents by providing quality recreation facilities and programs. We are proud to offer a wide variety of programs for kids, teens, adults and families. Fee assistance and scholarships for youth programs are available to qualifying families. For more information or to register, call 763-493-8333, or go to www.brooklynpark.org and click on "Recreation and Parks."



Art, Recreation, Spring Break Activities & More!

Step Up to Health in 2007

Step Up To Health in Brooklyn Park is about improving your health. Regular physical activity not only helps you live a longer, healthier life, it can be a lot of fun too! Whether it's walking in the park, swimming, playing sports, walking the dog, gardening, dancing, or joining a fitness program, **Brooklyn Park Recreation and Parks** offers enjoyable alternatives to a sedentary lifestyle.

It's never too late and you're never too young to think about preventing obesity and heart disease. So, join us in this national movement to reclaim your health and fitness and Step Up to Health! Get moving with the **Passport to Health** program and earn a free t-shirt or water bottle by attending a fitness class or participating in the 12 Punch Pass Program and exercising regularly.

Egg Hunt for Kids 10 & Under

Community Activity Center
\$4 for children (adults free) - bring a basket!
March 31, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Summer Adult Softball Leagues

Call for registration information.

Golf in Brooklyn Park!

Play at Edinburgh USA, voted one of the top 50 public golf courses in the country. For rates and tee times call 763-493-8098 or go to www.brooklynpark.org for more information.



As a resident of Brooklyn Park, take advantage of our first class public golf

facilities. See your neighbors and meet new friends as a member of the Edinburgh Men's and Edinburgh Women's Golf Association. The men's association hosts 14 golf events each year for players at all levels. The women's association offers Tuesday, Thursday and alternating Saturday leagues. Go to www.mnewga.com to get information about women's leagues and www.emgagolf.com for information on men's leagues at Edinburgh. League play begins in April, so sign up now!

Brookland Golf Course is a nine-hole course designed for the new golfer, yet a challenge for experienced players. Call 7693-561-3850 for a tee time or more information. Women's leagues meet at Brookland on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Red Cross Swim Lessons are offered year round! Call for a current class listing!

www.bpaasports.org

Check out the **Brooklyn Park Athletic Association** website at www.bpaasports.org for the latest information about softball and baseball registration this March.

Spring Break Week Activities for Kids

April 2-6 School's out - no problem! Join the gang for the Vacation Day Jamboree at the Zanewood Recreation Center from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Fee is \$28 per day.

Spring Ice Show at Brooklyn Park Ice

Arena April 27-28 Come and see all the hometown skaters show their stuff at the annual ice show. Call for show times and ticket information.



Make Summer Picnic Reservations Now!

Picnic shelters are available in many city parks and can be reserved by individuals or groups for a rental fee. Park shelters can accommodate groups from 40 to 150 people. Reserve one for your 2007 family reunion or large group picnic by calling 763-493-8333. Visit us at www.brooklynpark.org/recreation&parks to view picnic shelter photos.



2006 Volunteer Appreciation Event

Annual Recruitment for Budget Advisory Commission

Deadline March 31

Join the Budget Advisory Commission (BAC) and propose budget suggestions to the City Council that reflect the priorities of Brooklyn Park residents. The BAC is a nine member, citizen-led commission.

The BAC meets at 7 p.m. the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month from January through May, and the 4th Tuesday of the month August through November. If you are interested in learning more about the BAC or any of our volunteer commissions and committees please call 763-493-8001. Applications can be found on the city website at www.brooklynpark.org.

Volunteers Wanted!

2nd Annual Clean Up the Park: April 15-21

Does your family, neighborhood or organization wish to adopt a park or trail, or help remove litter along streets or in natural areas? We have a great opportunity for you to get involved in your community. Volunteer for the 2nd annual Clean up the Park. Last year, hundreds of volunteers participated to make Brooklyn Park more beautiful by cleaning up public areas. Please call for more information about ways you can participate.

Parks/Trails/Natural Areas

Recreation & Parks Dept
763-493-8333

Streets

Operation & Maintenance Dept
763-493-8007

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo in Brooklyn Park!

The city will host its first Cinco de Mayo Celebration from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on May 5 at the Zanewood Recreation Center, 7100 Zane Avenue North. Cinco de Mayo is Spanish for "Fifth of May" and is a national holiday in Mexico. The event is growing in popularity around the United States. Some describe the celebration as St. Patrick's Day with spicier food! Cinco de Mayo commemorates the victory of Mexican forces led by General Ignacio Zaragoza over the French occupational forces in the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862.

This is a free event sponsored by the City of Brooklyn Park.

Volunteers: The Treasure of Our City

Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event April 5!

All community volunteers are invited to the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event scheduled for Thursday, April 5, 2007.

The annual event honors and celebrates our community volunteers who share their time and talents to make Brooklyn Park a great place to live, work and play. This year's theme is **The Treasure of our City**. The event will be held from 6-9 p.m. at the Community Activity Center. Please call 763-493-8013 to RSVP by March 30 or email your intentions to volunteer@brooklynpark.org.

Tater Daze

"Viva La Potato" June 14-17, 2007

Visit the website for a complete schedule!
www.taterdaze.org
763-493-8013



Community Calendar

March

- March 20 Minnesota Department of Human Rights
Know your Rights Forum, 5:30-7 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers
- March 28 Planning Commission Comprehensive Plan
Land Use/Housing Meeting
- March 30 RSVP for Volunteer Appreciation Event (April 5)
- March 31 Budget Advisory Commission recruitment deadline
Northwest Suburban Remodeling Fair
Crystal Community Center, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

April

- April 1 Yard Waste Site opens
- April 5 Volunteer Appreciation Event, 6-9 p.m.
Community Activity Center
- April 15-21 Clean up the Park

- April 17 Family Safety Night - Internet Safety
Brooklyn Park Armory 6:30-8 p.m.
RSVP at 763-493-8333
- April 25 Planning Commission Comprehensive Plan
Transportation/Utilities Meeting
- April 23-28 Water Main Flushing
- April 28 Spring Material Drop-off, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

May

- May 5 Arbor Day Tree Sale/Tree Pickup
Operations & Maintenance Facility, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Cinco de Mayo Celebration, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Zanewood Recreation Center
- May 20 Public Safety Open House, 1-4 p.m.
Brooklyn Park Police & Fire Department
- May 23 Planning Commission Comprehensive Plan
Public Facilities/Environmental Protection Meeting

City of Brooklyn Park

Arbor Day 2007 Order Form

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: (____) _____

Notice: The information requested on this form is classified as either public or private pursuant to the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The information is requested to process the registration and for notification of updated program information. You are not legally required to provide this information. However, failure to comply may result in a rejected application/registration or the inability to notify applicants/registrants of program or schedule changes. Private data will only be used by city staff or officials designated to the program for the purpose of administering the activity. Private data cannot be released to the public without your consent.

Tree (limit three trees per family)	Cost Each	Quantity	Total
Ash Autumn Blaze (588017.01)	\$34.00		
Birch River (588017.02)	\$27.00		
Crab Prairefire (588017.03)	\$19.50		
Lilac Japanese Tree (588017.04)	\$27.00		
Linden American Sentry (588017.05)	\$27.50		
Maple Sugar Fall Fiesta (588017.06)	\$44.75		
Maple Sienna (588017.08)	\$37.00		
Oak Swamp White (588017.07)	\$40.00		
Donation to Arbor Day Efforts			
TOTAL			

Please fill out if paying with Visa or MasterCard (circle one)
 Name as appears on the card: _____
 Card Number: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Exp. Date: ____/____
 If you have any questions please contact the special events coordinator at 763-493-8154

Send this form and payment to:
 City of Brooklyn Park
 Special Events- Arbor Day
 5200 85th Avenue North
 Brooklyn Park, MN 55443



City of Brooklyn Park
 5200 - 85th Avenue North
 Brooklyn Park, MN 55443-4300

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