

# PARK PAGES

The People, Places and Events of Brooklyn Park

November/December 2009

## Brooklyn Park Kids Visit The Vikings

It was an exciting Saturday in late September for nine lucky Liberian children. The kids are all part of Brooklyn Park's A-Mon-Nue Sport and Social Association Inc. (ASSA) and were personally invited by the Minnesota Vikings organization to come watch the team practice. The Vikings heard about the great work ASSA does with young people!

The youngsters, who all play soccer and range in age from 9 to 14, got a tour of Winter Park, headquarters for the NFL football team. When they arrived, Brad Madson, Director of Community Relations, took them around the building and introduced them to Vikings employees who don't play football.



They met Bob Hagan, Director of Public Relations, Geji McKinney, the team's chef, and Luther Hippe, who's in charge of team travel. It was the hope of Vikings leadership to show the kids there are many important jobs in pro sports that don't involve being an athlete. The kids were most impressed with McKinney. They asked her what kinds of food the players eat, and she told them "lots of fruits and vegetables. All foods they should eat as well."

After seeing the facility, they went to the field where the Vikings players were practicing. The kids saw everyone, from

Kids Viking Visit continued on page 3...

## Seyon Nyanwleh City volunteer on the move

One wonders when Seyon Nyanwleh finds time to sleep. In addition to working, attending graduate school, raising a family and coaching soccer and basketball, he is an active volunteer with two community advisory councils in Brooklyn Park. When asked about all his commitments, Seyon simply responds that it's what he believes in. "I feel a responsibility to ensure where I live is a good place to live," he says. "I enjoy it. It's a challenge."



From an early age, Seyon learned the value of being involved in his community. He hails from Liberia. "My parents taught

me that we have a duty to contribute, to be involved and to take responsibility for our community," Seyon says. He moved to the U.S. in 1999 to start a life away from the decades-long Liberian civil war.

With a heartfelt desire to make a difference, Seyon takes pride in doing what he can to make his adopted home of Brooklyn Park a safe place for all children and one where everyone has equal access to opportunities. "I believe in the concept of ownership," says Seyon. "As a member of this community, I want to ensure where I live is not only a livable place for me and my family, but for my friends, neighbors and coworkers and their children, too."

Volunteer on the Move continued on page 3...

3

City's Pandemic Flu Plan:  
Working to keep you healthy

4

Cassidy and Caitlyn Gunderson  
Fire Chiefs for a day

6

Get Up & Go!  
Holiday fun for everyone

8

'Tis the Season!  
Ways to help this holiday season



# PARK PAGES

PARK PAGES is produced by Brooklyn Park city staff, published every other month and distributed to residences and businesses.  
Editor: Mary Tan, Communications Coordinator

### City of Brooklyn Park Information Contacts

General Information ..... 763-424-8000  
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 WEBSITE: [www.brooklynpark.org](http://www.brooklynpark.org)

### 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 Hall Office Hours

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

### Licensing Division Hours

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

Mayor Steve Lampi: Email: [steve.lampi@brooklynpark.org](mailto:steve.lampi@brooklynpark.org) Voicemail: 763-493-8010

City Manager Jamie Verbrugge: Email: [jamie.verbrugge@brooklynpark.org](mailto:jamie.verbrugge@brooklynpark.org) Voicemail: 763-493-8001

### EAST DISTRICT

Jeff Lunde: Email: [jeff.lunde@brooklynpark.org](mailto:jeff.lunde@brooklynpark.org) Voicemail: 763-493-8097

Peter Crema: Email: [peter.crema@brooklynpark.org](mailto:peter.crema@brooklynpark.org) Voicemail: 763-493-8146

### CENTRAL DISTRICT

Rich Gates: Email: [rich.gates@brooklynpark.org](mailto:rich.gates@brooklynpark.org) Voicemail: 763-493-8372

Mike Trepanier: Email: [mike.trepanier@brooklynpark.org](mailto:mike.trepanier@brooklynpark.org) Voicemail: 763-493-8040

### WEST DISTRICT

Dean Heng: Email: [dean.heng@brooklynpark.org](mailto:dean.heng@brooklynpark.org) Voicemail: 763-315-8496

Jeanette Meyer: Email: [jeanette.meyer@brooklynpark.org](mailto:jeanette.meyer@brooklynpark.org) Voicemail: 763-315-8442

### Proudly Serving the North Hennepin Area!

North Hennepin Area Chamber of Commerce

229 1st Avenue NE Osseo, Minnesota 55369

Phone: 763-424-6744 Fax: 763-424-6927

Email: [info@nhachamber.com](mailto:info@nhachamber.com) Website: [www.nhachamber.com](http://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: [bruce@twinwest.com](mailto:bruce@twinwest.com) Website: [www.twinwest.com](http://www.twinwest.com)

### 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:** 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 Rights 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 Thursday, 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: Brooklyn Park Now!

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: Brooklyn Park Now!

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

#### Channel 19

8:30 p.m. - Monday: Brooklyn Park Now!

4:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. - Tuesday:

Brooklyn Park Now!

Times and dates subject to change.  
Contact 763-424-8000 or  
[custserv@brooklynpark.org](mailto:custserv@brooklynpark.org)  
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, townhomes and condos.

Volunteer on the Move continued from cover...

Seyon understands the unique challenges of living in a culturally diverse environment. A graduate of the University of Minnesota with a BA in political science and global studies, Seyon has worked to organize projects to address social justice issues such as immigrants' rights awareness, immigrant/police relations, and immigrant community relations. In 2007, he completed a three-month fellowship with the Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights where he worked on the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). The commission carries out a variety of outreach activities to raise awareness of Liberia's human rights violations. Seyon helped gather the personal statements of those impacted by the civil war.

During his studies at the U of M, Seyon was introduced to Brooklyn Park's Multicultural Advisory Commission (MAC), designed to enhance and improve communications and understanding between law enforcement officers and the minority community. "The mission of MAC really appeals to me," says Seyon, "there is a gap in cultural awareness that needs to be minimized and we can do that by working together." Today, Seyon serves on the MAC to increase understanding between Liberian and American cultures. "We can all take pride in where we live," he says, "we have already seen results in building the community but there is more to do."

In addition to his service with the MAC, Seyon is a member of the City's Recreation and Parks Advisory Commission and shares his perspective as a resident to advise the City Council on park use issues and maintenance.

As a parent, Seyon is particularly concerned about helping the next generation achieve success. He co-founded A-Mon-Nue Sport and Social Association Inc. (ASSA), a nonprofit organization that works with kids to teach sports, leadership, and social skills building. Since 2007, the group has worked with approximately 170 kids ranging in age from 7 to 18 who come from the Brooklyn Park area and surrounding neighborhoods. "In addition to learning basketball and soccer skills, we provide kids with unique opportunities to meet with leaders in the community and learn about civic engagement." The group has visited with Brooklyn Park police officers to learn about their work and recently met with players from the Minnesota Vikings football team.

Currently, Seyon is attending Capella University where he is working toward a master's degree in human services. He also works through AmeriCorps at Project for Pride in Living (PPL). What are his goals for the future? "It is my hope and prayer to see that everyone has equal opportunity to access the resources available to them. I would like to see minority-owned businesses compete and produce. I want to see a community that is safe for everyone and a good place for all our children." To learn more about ASSA, visit [www.assainc.com](http://www.assainc.com) or call 763-493-8154.



## City Pandemic Flu Plan

**We're working hard to keep you and Brooklyn Park healthy**

It's all over the news, H1N1...it's out there and spreading fast. That's why Emergency Management Director and Fire Chief Ken Prillaman has formed an H1N1 team of city staffers to deal with a possible mass outbreak. The City is currently in the process of updating our plan that will, among other things, designate succession plans for each department during a full scale pandemic. Additionally, department directors have worked together to identify services that could be temporarily eliminated or postponed in the event of wide-scale absenteeism due to the flu. The goal is to keep the City running with the minimum amount of people and to stop the spread of infection.

Besides the plan, all city firefighters and police officers have been outfitted for proper masks. If the first responders notice during a 9-1-1 call that folks are sick, they are being required to wear the masks. So please don't be offended if you see a police officer, firefighter or paramedic at your door with a covered nose and mouth. They're not overreacting, they're just keeping safe.

When you come to city buildings, like City Hall, the Police Department or the Community Activity Center, please use the hand sanitizers that are on the counters right away. Hundreds of adults and children touch the doors at these public buildings and there are thousands, maybe even millions of germs and bacteria on them. This is to keep you and your family flu free.

City employees are also being required to sanitize and disinfect all public areas. They are also being urged not to come to work if they have flu like symptoms, something you should do as well. All of these strategies are part of our goal to keep you healthy. For more information about H1N1, check out: [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov) or [www.mdhflu.com](http://www.mdhflu.com).

Kids Viking Visit continued from cover...

superstar quarterback Brett Favre to running back Adrian Peterson. After practice, the entire team came over to meet the kids and sign autographs. Peterson and head coach Brad Childress spent an extra half an hour with the kids, as well as tight end Visanthe Shiancoe, who is also of Liberian ancestry. The three said they hope to see the kids again and Shiancoe even told them he would like to come to Brooklyn Park.

The kids were chaperoned by Lt. Todd Milburn and Robin Martinson of the Brooklyn Park Police Department, as well as Seyon Nyanwle, an active city volunteer who started the Liberian sports club several years ago.

## Brooklyn Park Twins Named Fire Chiefs for a Day Meet Cassidy and Caitlyn Gunderson

Cassidy and Caitlyn Gunderson are fourth graders at Edinbrook Elementary who always take advantage of opportunities. So when they both received a flyer asking Brooklyn Park fourth, fifth and sixth graders to compete in the Fire Department's Fire Chief for a Day Essay Contest, they jumped at the chance.

The nine year olds spent a few hours working on their essays, answering the questions, "Why do you want to be Fire Chief?" and "How would you teach other kids fire prevention tips?" Cassidy wrote that "she'd be honored to have the chance and would take the job seriously." Her sister Caitlyn chose a different route, choosing to draw pictures to accompany her text.

When the judges completed the judging, they discovered one sister was in first place and the other was in second place. Realizing that, the fire staff decided to award the prize to both sisters.

Fire Chief Ken Prillaman surprised the girls at school where he told them in front of their classmates that they were the winners. Then two days later, Mayor Lampi officially swore them both in as Fire Chiefs for a Day. The twins rode around with Chief Prillaman, going on real 9-1-1 calls. They also got the opportunity to ride in one of the Department's big fire trucks. The day ended with lunch at Edinburgh USA, where the girls told the chief "it was the most fun day they've ever had."



## Operations and Maintenance Winter Reminders



### Snow and Ice Control

Our early October snowfall reminded us that winter is coming (or here)! Your street maintenance staff makes every effort to clear all streets within 24 hours of a two to six inch snowfall, beginning with collector streets and continuing on to residential streets and cul-de-sacs. Ice control is ordered as conditions warrant. The City plows snow from a designated arterial sidewalk system as approved by the City Council, but this system does not include all sidewalks. City code requires an owner/occupant of any property adjacent to a public sidewalk to keep sidewalks free from snow. Please call the Operations and Maintenance Department at 763-493-8007 if you have any questions.

### Parking

Parking is prohibited on city streets between October 15 and April 15 from 2 to 5 a.m. and any time after a two-inch snowfall, until the street has been plowed from curb to curb. If your vehicle is towed, please call the Police Department at 763-493-8222 for instructions on getting your vehicle back. Move your cars everyone!



### Safety

State law prohibits plowing, shoveling, blowing or placing any material or snow in public roadways. Please stay a safe distance from maintenance and snow plow equipment and remind kids that playing in snow banks could be dangerous!

### Mailboxes

Residents are responsible for clearing snow from their mailbox and keeping the mailbox accessible for mail delivery. During plowing, if a properly positioned mailbox is tipped or knocked over by the weight of snow, it is the responsibility of the property owner to repair the mailbox. The city reimburses up to a maximum of \$30 for material to repair or replace an individual residential mailbox that has been directly hit by a city snowplow. Installation and labor to repair or replace the mailbox is the responsibility of the resident or property owner.

### Fire Hydrants

A snow-buried fire hydrant is a public safety concern. The City attempts to clear hydrants, but your help is encouraged. Clearing snow within five feet of the fire hydrant near your home is an added way to ensure the safety of your neighborhood in times of emergencies.

### Sewer Problems

Something you never want to have to deal with is a messy basement from a sanitary sewer back up, but if this ever happens to you, call the City immediately at 763-493-8007 during business hours or 763-493-8222 after hours. We will determine if the problem is the City's responsibility or if you need to contact a sewer maintenance company.

# Expanded Shopping, Restaurants and Offices Coming to the City

## Shops at Village Creek

A groundbreaking event was held on September 24 for the Shops at Village Creek, a signature office and retail building on the southeast corner of Zane Avenue and Brooklyn Boulevard. Construction is expected to be complete by mid-summer 2010. A Hennepin County Medical Center clinic will be the primary tenant of the new building.

The Shops at Village Creek is part of the Beard Group's Village Creek Master Site Plan, which is creating a mixed-use area on the former Village North Site. The overall Village Creek plan features housing, retail, and office space along with new roads, paths and park features. New public streets guide people from Brooklyn Boulevard and Zane Avenue to Village Creek Park, the linear public park along Shingle Creek between Zane Avenue and Regent Avenue.



## La Fogata Mexican Restaurant

Experience the taste of Mexico without ever leaving the City. La Fogata Mexican Restaurant recently opened its doors and is located at 9660 Colorado Lane North in the Park Place Promenade. Open daily from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Owner Juan Valencia is opening his third restaurant in Minnesota to complement the other two he currently has in Prior Lake and Savage. You can call them at 763-657-0277.

La Fogata's menu offers a wide range of fresh and authentic options that are all made from scratch. As a customer, don't be surprised if you see the owner and his brother preparing your meal. The restaurant is all in the family. The business will feature a bar and both indoor and outdoor seating. All of beautiful artwork and décor inside the restaurant was sketched by hand, carved and painted.



## Highway 610: It's getting longer!

Dozens of dignitaries recently gathered in Maple Grove to celebrate the groundbreaking for the extension of Highway 610. The busy road will be lengthened from Highway 169 in Brooklyn Park to County Road 81 in Maple Grove. The \$56 million project is being funded by federal stimulus money and will provide more than 200 construction jobs. It's expected to be completed in July 2011 and is the largest federally funded stimulus project in the state. But once this extension is completed, the road will still not be complete. The next phase involves extending the highway to Interstate 94, which is

only another two miles. So far, that part of the project has no funding, but city and state transportation officials are optimistic that phase will someday be completed.

## Celebrating the Many Faces of Brooklyn Park

**Saturday, January 16, 2010, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

We have amazing residents and community groups, who come together every year to celebrate what makes Brooklyn Park a great place to live, work and play. Come join us at our fun-filled family event! There will be games, food, fun and entertainment from many Brooklyn Park residents. The Human Rights Commission along with the Joint Community Police Partnership will be on hand to explain our new Victim Response Team and the process for accessing those services. The event will take place at the Community Activity Center Armory Gym, 5600 85th Ave. N. Please go to the city's website at [www.brooklynpark.org](http://www.brooklynpark.org) or call 763-493-8154 for more information. The event is hosted by the city's Human Rights Commission and the Joint Community Police Partnership.



## The Many Faces of Brooklyn Park Registration

Groups and businesses can also participate in this event. Participating groups and businesses must have an interactive or educational component to their display and items cannot be sold. The cost for a table is free to community groups, and the cost for businesses is \$75 per table.

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

(circle one)

Community group or Business? \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

(circle one)

Table or Entertainment? \_\_\_\_\_

**Our focus**

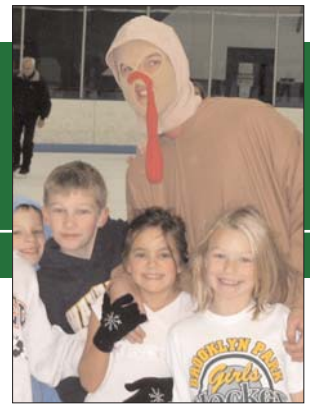
**Youth Community Health Seniors Recreation Families Immigrants**

We would like to provide these items for the door prizes:

Registration deadline is January 6, 2010. Send registration and payment to: City of Brooklyn Park Special Events, 5200 85th Ave. N., Brooklyn Park, MN 55443. Questions? Call 763-493-8154.



# PARK PAGES



## Get Up & Go!

### Fun stuff to do in Brooklyn Park

The Brooklyn Park Recreation and Parks Department offers a wide variety of recreational activities for all ages. Youth scholarships are available for children's programs. Call 763-493-8333 to inquire about classes or pick up a brochure at the Community Activity Center, Zanewood Recreation Center or City Hall. You can also go online at [www.brooklynpark.org](http://www.brooklynpark.org) to find out more about activities and register!

#### Skate and Jazzercise with Tom Turkey

Thursday, November 26, 9 to 10:30 a.m.  
Community Activity Center 5600 85th Ave. N.  
Skate with Tom Turkey before your feast. \$1 off admission with a non-perishable canned good donation to local food shelf.

#### Jamboree Days at Zanewood

Various dates  
Zanewood Recreation Center 7100 Zane Ave. N.  
Looking for something fun to do during winter break? All activities are led by our fantastic Jamboree crew. This program is for children ages 6-12. Visit [www.brooklynpark.org](http://www.brooklynpark.org).



#### Norwegian Christmas

Saturday and Sunday,  
December 5 and 6, 1 to 4 p.m.  
Eidem Farm 4345 101st Ave. N.  
Celebrate Norwegian traditions at the Eidem Homestead. Dancing, carolers, gift making, kick sleds, cooking, hayrides, bonfires, children's activities and a visit from St. Nick. \$5 for adults, \$3 for children 3-12 years old.

#### Holiday Concert and Toys for Tots Toy Drive

Monday, December 7, 7 to 8 p.m.  
Community Activity Center  
5600 85th Ave. N.  
Come enjoy a free holiday concert performed by our very own community band. Bring a toy for the Toys for Tots Toy drive and get your picture taken with a very special guest.

#### Family Fun Night at the CAC

Friday, December 11, 7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Community Activity Center  
5600 85th Ave. N.  
Make fun holiday art projects and play reindeer games with your family. Pre-register \$3/person, \$4/person at door and free for children 2 and under.

#### Adult Winter Night Lights Trip

Tuesday, December 15, 3:30 to 8:15 p.m.  
Join us for an enjoyable dinner at Casper's Cherokee Sirloin Room. We are then off on a guided tour of Christmas lights in St. Paul. You will see light displays, hear stories and sing carols as we jingle through the streets of St. Paul. Call 763-493-8333 to register. Registration deadline is November 30. \$57/person



#### Skate with the Jolly Fellow

Saturday, December 19, 2:15 to 3:45 p.m.  
Community Activity Center 5600 85th Ave. N.  
Get into the holiday spirit and come enjoy an afternoon of ice skating while listening to festive music. \$1 off admission with a non-perishable canned good donation to local food shelf.

#### New Year's Eve Family Event

Thursday, December 31, 6:30 to 9 p.m.  
Community Activity Center 5600 85th Ave. N.  
Balloon drop, hayrides, dancing and skating. \$7 per person, pre-register please.

#### The Blue Jean Ball Gala Fundraiser for Youth

Friday, January 22, 6 to 9 p.m.  
Embassy Suites, Brooklyn Center  
Co-sponsored by Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park and the Brooklyn Bridge Alliance for Youth. For more information, call 763-488-6388.

#### Winter Family Fun Day

Saturday, January 23, 12 to 2 p.m.  
Eidem Homestead 4345 101st Ave. N.  
Join us at the Eidem Homestead as we celebrate winter with ice skating, a bonfire, sleigh rides and more! Bring your mom, dad, grandparents and friends and be sure to dress warm and bring your ice skates (we will have some skates available). This event is free and open to residents and non-residents. You must pre-register for this event by Friday, January 15.



#### Edinburgh USA Clothing and Equipment Holiday Shopping Sale!

Edinburgh USA Golf Course Pro Shop, located at 8700 Edinbrook Crossing, will have special holiday shopping hours from December 9 through 23 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Golf clothing and equipment have been marked down 20 to 50% off of selected items! Our professional staff can help you fit all the golf equipment needs you may have. Choose from the highest quality brand and logo equipment. Gift certificates will also be available at the Pro Shop!

# Police Department Celebrates Diversity

## Joint Community Police Partnership Wins IACP Award

The Joint Community Police Partnership (JCPP), which is a collaborative effort between four cities, including Brooklyn Park, has won the 2009 Civil Rights Award by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. The award was given to the organization for exemplary activities to enhance civil and human rights through community engagement. JCPP holds many events throughout the year, including the New American's Academy, which teaches immigrants about the justice system in Minnesota.



## Liberian Kickball Game

The JCPP also sponsors other activities, such as the annual kickball game between Liberian teenagers and female employees in the Brooklyn Park Police Department. As usual, the teens blew away police staffers. Members of the City's Recreation and Parks Department were even recruited. But that didn't help. The police women lost 23 to 7.



## Talkin' Trash with Dan the Recycling Man

Happy Holidays Brooklyn Park residents!

It's that busy time of the year again—turkeys, cookies, presents, and lots of tin and foil!

But don't forget this is also the perfect time to help save the planet. So I've got a few tips just for you:

- Re-use gift bags or wrap presents with the comics section of the newspaper
- Bring your own bags when shopping
- Shop online - it saves time in line and at the gas pump
- Turn down the heat a few hours before guests arrive - you won't have to open a window when everyone is warm later on
- Buy LED Christmas lights, they cost more up front but pay for themselves quickly. One 50-light strand of LED lights costs approximately \$0.06 in energy costs for the holiday season (5 hours per day for 30 days). One 50 light strand of regular lights is approximately \$4.50 in energy costs for the season. So when you add it all up...energy costs for ten strands of lights would be \$45 for regular lights and only \$0.60 for LED.



## 2010 Recycling Calendar

A new 2010 recycling collection calendar will be mailed out to all residents at the end of December. If for some reason you don't get one or need an additional copy, please call 763-493-8007 or stop by City Hall.

## Now, let's switch gears for those of you who still have yard work to do...

### Yard Waste Reminders

The Maple Grove Yard Waste site is open through the end of November. You should also know that starting in 2010, the State of Minnesota passed a law banning the use of regular black plastic bags for leaves and grass picked up by garbage haulers. You may use them to bring the material to the yard waste site, but you have to take them back and throw them away. If you want to place leaves and grass bags out for pick up by your garbage hauler, you must use a paper bag or an approved compostable bag. Most compostable bags have a label of authenticity from the U.S. Composting Council. Most home improvement, grocery and hardware stores now carry them. Some garbage haulers may also provide yard waste carts. For more specific information, call your garbage hauler. For more information about the yard waste site visit [www.mgyardwaste.com](http://www.mgyardwaste.com) or call 763-420-4886.

Speaking of leaves, now that it's getting colder, many leaves end up frozen along the curb and make their way into the storm sewer system. If the leaves build up in front of your property it may cause water to back up and freeze during the winter season, which causes slippery conditions. Would you help the City out by raking up the leaves in front of your property to prevent this from happening? We'd sure appreciate it!

### Recycling and Garbage Carts

Speaking of waste on your street, correct recycling and garbage cart placement in the winter is important! Please be sure to keep recycling and garbage carts out of the street, so they are not tipped over or broken from snow plowing operations. Thanks for your help!

That's all I have for now, Happy Holidays and Happy Recycling!

*Dan*





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

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO 481  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN

## ECRWSS Postal Customer

## 'Tis the Season to Give



**Toys for Tots and Food Drive for CEAP  
November 16 to December 31**

The Community Activity Center (CAC)  
located at 5600 85th Ave. N. is a drop off

site to accept Toys For Tots. You can bring new unwrapped toys and/or non-perishable donations to the CAC, which will be delivered to the Community Emergency Assistance Program (CEAP) to help Brooklyn Park families in need this holiday season. The CAC will accept donations from November 16 to December 31.

**Magical Season of Giving  
November 14 - December 13**



The City of Brooklyn Park Special Events Division, which includes the Tater Daze Festival, the Ambassadors, National Night Out and more are participating in Northtown Mall's Magical Season of Giving, a promotion that lets non-profit organizations compete for cash prizes. The group with the most points receives \$4,000! Groups coming in from second to fifth place also receive cash prizes.

### **How do we accumulate points?**

Every dollar you spend at a Northtown Mall retailer counts as one point for our group. All

you have to do is take your receipts to Guest Services and our group will receive one point for each dollar spent. They will mark your receipt and give it back to you. Receipts from the following retailers also count: The Home Depot, Buffalo Wild Wings, Old Chicago, Potbelly Sandwiches, FedEx Kinko's, Game Stop, Verizon and Applebee's.

There are also bonus opportunities:

- **Northtown Mall Gift Cards** Purchase Northtown Mall Visa Gift Cards any time during the promotion and your points will be automatically doubled
- **Photos with Santa** will also be awarded double points
- **Bonus Days** Shop on Wednesdays and our group will receive double points

Help us win a cash prize by spreading the word to everyone you know! You can drop off receipts at city hall, and we will turn them in for you. Or just stop by and do it yourself. Questions? Please call 763-493-8154.

## Community Café

### Changing our community one resident at a time

We're trying something new here in Brooklyn Park to encourage more of you to get involved with your neighbors. On December 5, we're holding the first of several community cafés. There will be three sessions that day: one from 9 a.m. to noon, another one from 1 to 4 p.m. and for those of you who work all day, a session from 6 to 9 p.m. The meetings will be held in the City Hall Council Chambers. There will be free transportation and daycare available. Please RSVP by November 30 by calling 763-493-8154.

During the event you'll be in informal, small group conversations where we'll discuss the future of Brooklyn Park, and how we can make our community even better.

## Be a Part of City Government. Speak Out on the Issues!

### Join a city commission

Do you want to be a leader in Brooklyn Park? Do you wish you had more to say about the way your city is run? Why not do something about it and volunteer for a city commission!

We're beginning our annual recruitment process to fill upcoming openings on our commissions. No experience is necessary—only your commitment to building a strong, vibrant Brooklyn Park. Applications for the annual recruitment will be accepted through January 31, 2010. Fill out your application now to serve on the Citizen Long-range Improvement Committee (CLIC), Human Rights Commission, Planning Commission, Recreation and Parks Advisory Commission or the Northwest Suburbs Cable Communications Commission.

The time commitment is usually one meeting per month, but it varies between commissions. Commission meetings are open to the public so you may stop by and see what a commission meeting is like before applying.

Applications are available on the city's website [www.brooklynpark.org](http://www.brooklynpark.org), or at the City Hall customer service desk. You may also call 763-493-8001 to request an application or get additional information.