

# PARK PAGES

The People, Places and Things of Brooklyn Park

March/April 2008

## Luis Salado A Brooklyn Park Teen Making a Difference

Ask anyone, and they will say **Luis Salado** is a breath of fresh air. At 14 years old, he's already considered a role model to his peers, and a future leader of Brooklyn Park.

Luis is a student at Northview Junior High School who believes in being active in both his school and community. At such a young age, he's already developed opinions on what can be done to solve some of the problems the city has with juvenile crime. "I think more parents need to be involved with their children. I see kids who have no one to come home to after school," Luis said recently. The ninth grader thinks "the city needs to do a better job letting parents know what's available for kids to do after school."

Luis is much like other city kids, he lives with his parents, Enrique and Lucero, and two little brothers, Salvador, 9, and Daniel, 6. The family moved to Brooklyn Park after emigrating from Mexico. They strongly believe in doing activities as a family. They go to church every week and try to take as many walks together to get healthier and spend quality time together.

Of course, family activities have to fit in Luis' very busy schedule. He is a key youth leader and is often called upon by Recreation and Parks staff to attend city meetings. They first met the young man when he started attending after school programs at Zanewood Recreation Center with his friends. Loving basketball, the 14-year-old was a frequent visitor.



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Michael Davis  
New Brooklyn Park Police Chief

## Protecting & Serving Brooklyn Park City welcomes new police officers & Police Chief Michael Davis

You asked for more police officers, and you got them! Listening to city residents, City Council members approved the hiring of six new officers this year.

To start 2008, the Brooklyn Park Police Department welcomed five new officers. Officers **Paul Donahue**, **Gavin Johnson**, **Michael Nordin**, **Emily Johanson** and **Robert Anderson** are newest men and woman in blue. They are a bright group of folks, who have a wide range of experience and come to the department from as far away as North Dakota, and as close as the south side of the city. If you see them on the street make sure you say hello!

They will all report to a new chief as well.

**Michael Davis** is Brooklyn Park's new top cop. He comes to our city from the Minneapolis Police Department, where

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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.  
Editor: Mary Tan, Communications Coordinator

Mayor Steve Lampi: Email: [steve.lampi@brooklynpark.org](mailto:steve.lampi@brooklynpark.org) Voicemail: 763-493-8010  
City Manager Douglas Reeder: [douglas.reeder@brooklynpark.org](mailto:douglas.reeder@brooklynpark.org) 763-493-8001

### EAST DISTRICT

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

Terry Gearin: Email: [terry.gearin@brooklynpark.org](mailto:terry.gearin@brooklynpark.org) Voicemail: 763-315-8496  
Jeanette Meyer: Email: [jeanette.meyer@brooklynpark.org](mailto:jeanette.meyer@brooklynpark.org) Voicemail: 763-315-8442

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)

### 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 website: [www.brooklynpark.org](http://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:** 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 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: 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

2:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m. & 2:30 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.





Salado continued from cover...

But within months, Luis showed his leadership skills. He became a volunteer in the Leader in Training Program, or LIT as it is commonly known. Now, the teen assists with younger children's recreation programs at Zanewood. "Little kids need to have good positive role models in their life. I am patient, I listen to them and I act positive so they can get good qualities from me," said Luis.



## Make a Difference! Serve on a City Commission

Would you like to have a voice in city government?  
Then now is the time to apply to serve on city commissions!



Interested in finance? You should advise the city on budgeting, by serving on the Budget Advisory Commission (BAC).

The nine-member Budget Advisory Commission is an ongoing, citizen-led commission called to design and make budgetary suggestions to the City Council. It meets at 7 p.m. on the 4th Tuesday of the month January through May, and August through November. BAC members serve for three years. Typical time commitments are two to three hours per month. However, during budget preparation from August through November, members put in more time, up to ten hours a month.

If you're interested in constitutional law or issues, the Charter Commission may be a good fit. Its 11 members meet the second Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. The monthly time commitment is usually two to three hours.

The Charter Commission reviews and makes recommendations on the city's legal framework, called a charter. The Hennepin County Chief Judge makes all Charter Commission appointments.

**The deadline for submitting an application to serve on either of these commissions is March 31.**

Applications are available on the city 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 to get additional information on serving on a commission.

Protecting & Serving continued from cover...

he was a sector lieutenant and shift commander. He worked in the Phillips Community, an area south of downtown Minneapolis, which is also diverse like Brooklyn Park. He believes in community policing and hopes to make a difference.

Davis already knows this city well. He and his family have been residents of Brooklyn Park for the past 13 years. He was a member of the city's Charter Commission and coaches area basketball teams.

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## Election Judges

Want to make new friends and serve your community? Become an election judge! Elections will be held September 9 and November 4. You get paid an hourly wage and training is provided.

So what are the requirements? If you're eligible to vote, and can read, write, and speak English, you're the perfect candidate! We do ask, however, that you have no personal ties to those running for public office. If you're interested in helping your community while enjoying the camaraderie of your fellow citizens, please call 763-493-8183 or 763-493-8180. Come help guarantee voting rights are protected on election day!



## The City Wants Your Input!

Last year the city purchased the Huntington Pointe Apartment complex to reduce the number of one bedroom apartments in the Zane Avenue corridor. The buildings will soon face the wrecking ball, but what should be built in its place? Come explore development ideas through the innovative Corridor Housing Initiative process. Two workshops will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on March 25 and April 15 at the Zanewood



Recreation Center. The workshops are free and open to the public. For more details see [www.brooklynpark.org/CHI](http://www.brooklynpark.org/CHI) or call 651-265-2280.



## Talkin' Trash with Dan the Recycling Man

Hi Brooklyn Park Residents!

My name is Dan Ruiz and I'm the Recycling Division Manager in the city's Operations and Maintenance Department. Part of my job is to organize those special collection days so you can get rid of your stuff.

We're having our annual Special Material Drop-Off Day on Saturday, May 3, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Operations and Maintenance Facility located at 8300 Noble Avenue North. You can drop off just about anything. Things like antifreeze, motor oil, oil filters, household and vehicle batteries and scrap metal (remove non-metal parts) can be dumped for free. Want to bring electronics, air conditioners, tires, cell phones, etc.? Then there's a small charge that ranges from \$1 to \$15, based on size. The Vietnam Vets of America will also be at the drop-off site to accept working items at no charge. They're looking for things like holiday decorations, small appliances, clothing, shoes, jewelry, etc.

It may not seem like it, but spring will be here soon. When it does arrive we all know you'll be out raking leaves and trimming your hedges. Where should you take your yard waste? Beginning April 1, the Maple Grove Yard Waste Site will open for the season. 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 in Maple Grove. The best part, it's free at the gate! The information line is 763-420-4886.

As the recycling guru for the city, it's my job to also get the word out recycling is important.

### Did you know?

- Clothing: 14 20-ounce green soda bottles can make one extra-large T-shirt
- Sleeping bags: 85 20-ounce soda bottles can make the filling for one sleeping bag
- Patio decks and park benches: 96 one-gallon milk jugs can make one six-foot-long piece of 2x4 lumber
- Railroad ties: 1,200 plastic bottles can make one 200 pound railroad tie



One more tidbit: If every American home replaced just one light bulb with an ENERGY STAR qualified bulb, we would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes for a year, more than \$600 million in annual energy costs, and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of more than 800,000 cars. **Do it!**

For more information on the Special Material Drop-Off Day or the Maple Grove Yard Site, please check out our website at [www.brooklynpark.org](http://www.brooklynpark.org).

Okay, so can't get enough of all my helpful information? Watch my monthly segment on Brooklyn Park Now!, the city's cable news show that airs on cable channels 16 and 19. We'll give you the scoop on what's happening in the Operations and Maintenance Department and talk trash!

Happy recycling everybody!

*Dan*

Dan Ruiz



## Be a Part of a North Metro Wide Garage Sale Sell Your stuff!

Planning on holding a garage sale? Why not hold it this year with hundreds of other families, organizations and religious groups?

Plans are in the works for the first-ever Bargain Hunter's Opener, scheduled for May 1-4 ~~p.m.~~. The idea is to attract visitors to the area for sales in almost a dozen north metro cities, including Brooklyn Park. Businesses are also asked to hold special sales during that weekend.

If you are interested in participating, logon to [www.visitminneapolisnorth.com](http://www.visitminneapolisnorth.com) or call Brent Haugen at 763-566-7722.



## Celebrate Cinco de Mayo in Brooklyn Park!

Get ready for a fabulous fiesta! The city will host their 2nd Annual Cinco de Mayo Celebration from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on May 3 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. Cinco de Mayo commemorates the victory of Mexican forces led by General Ignacio Zaragoza from over the French occupational forces in the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862. This victory stopped the French from providing supplies to the Confederate army, assisting in the ending of the civil war.

There will be singers, dancers, face painting, free food and piñatas every half hour.

This is a free event sponsored by the City of Brooklyn Park and the Joint Community Police Partnership. Last year almost 500 people showed up at the event, and all agreed it was a great time!

## Operations & Maintenance News Flushing hydrants, sewer safety & an Arbor Day Tree Sale

Don't be surprised if you see water pouring out of fire hydrants the week of April 21-29. City crews will be flushing fire hydrants to make sure they're all working and to get rid of some of the sediment that builds up.

As in the past, make sure you don't do laundry while the flushing process is underway in your neighborhood, or your clothes may take on a whole new color! If discolored water enters your plumbing system, please bypass your water softener and open the faucet in the laundry tub or in a sink in the lowest area of your home and let the water run until it clears. Call 763-493-8007 if you have any questions.



Did you know that the maintenance of interior water shut off valves in your basement is your responsibility? Residents should be careful when trying to turn off water service near the meter in the basement. If valves don't operate correctly, call the city at 763-493-8099 or 763-493-8185 to schedule a time when water can be shut off to your home.

Sewer problems are always a pain, but please call us first when you have a sewer backup. We can help determine if this is a city problem or if you should call a sewer maintenance company. During business hours, call 763-493-8007. After business hours call 763-493-8222.

City workers will be pruning boulevard trees in the next few weeks and months. It's a big task because there are more than 15,000 trees in the city. We want to make sure trees are healthy and beautiful and not a sight impediment for motorists.

Finally, would you like a few new trees to put in your front yard or backyard? It's time for the 2008 Tree Sale! You can buy bare root trees at wholesale rates. This year the city is offering six species of trees. **Trees are on a first order basis and must be pre-paid.**



The greenery will be available for pickup at the Operations & Maintenance Facility, located at 8300 Noble Parkway from 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 26. **There will not be refunds for trees not picked up on April 26.** Trees may be ordered and paid for on-line at [www.brooklynpark.org](http://www.brooklynpark.org), by calling 763-493-8333 or by mailing in an order form.



# PARK PAGES

## Fourth Annual Public Safety Open House!

Sunday, May 18, 1-4 p.m.

Want to meet new Brooklyn Park Police Chief Michael Davis in person? Then come to the Fourth Annual Public Safety Open House on Sunday, May 18, from 1-4 p.m.

This free event will be held at the Police Department and the Central Fire Station. In addition to meeting your police officers and firefighters, you can watch canine, SWAT and taser demonstrations, visit with McGruff the Crime Dog and Sparky, and jump in a fire truck or squad car. If you'd like more information, call Lorelei Meyer at 763-493-8205.



Saturday  
March 15  
10 a.m. - noon

## Eggs, Wine, Chocolate & Shopping Fun for all ages!

It's back by popular demand! The city's well-known egg hunt will take place Saturday, March 15, from 10 a.m. - noon. Bring your basket for the eggs, your camera for the big bunny and smiling faces, and don't forget your dancing shoes!

The event is \$5 for kids ten and under, everyone else is free. Children should bring Mom, Dad or another adult with them. Pre-registration is necessary, preferably by March 12. The event fills up fast.

So what if it rains that day? Don't worry it's inside the Community Activity Center at 5600 85th Avenue North.

So we know the Easter Egg Hunt may not be for you, that's why the Recreation and Parks Department is also offering a Wine, Chocolate and Shopping Day! It's a girlfriends day trip on April 8 from 9:15 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

It starts in Stillwater, where you will tour the Northern Vineyards Winery and take time for wine tasting. Then, it's time for the chocolate tour which features bed and breakfast inns of the St. Croix Valley. As you tour at each stop, enjoy the creativity that's reflected in the décor, furnishings and personality of each inn. The presentation of chocolate is just as varied. Some serve homemade recipes while others present treats from notable chocolate companies. This is a fun, high energy trip. Energetic walking and steps are involved.

Cost is \$65 (includes lunch) and the registration deadline is March 24.

For more information or registration for both events, logon to our website at [www.brooklynpark.org](http://www.brooklynpark.org) or call 763-493-8333.



## Volunteers: A Vital Piece of the Puzzle

### Come celebrate community activism

The City of Brooklyn Park invites everyone who makes a difference in Brooklyn Park to the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner scheduled for Thursday, April 3, from 6-9 p.m. It will be held at the Community Activity Center at 5600 85th Avenue North.

The annual event honors and celebrates our residents who share their time and talents to make Brooklyn Park a great place to live, work and play.

Please call 763-493-8013 to RSVP by March 30, or email the city's Special Events Coordinator for more information at [volunteer@brooklynpark.org](mailto:volunteer@brooklynpark.org).



## Brooklyn Park Now!

### City cable news you need to know

Want more information about what's happening at City Hall? Are you interested in knowing what some of your fellow residents or businesses are up to? Then watch Brooklyn Park Now, a cable news show that will be aired on cable channels 16 and 19.

The show is hosted by the city's communications coordinator, Mary Tan, and Steve Pearson, a lieutenant in the police department. The two will be joined by other city staff members. The goal is to provide residents with a monthly newscast that's not only informative, but interesting and fun as well.

The show airs on channel 16 every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. It will repeat on channel 19 on Monday nights at 8:30 p.m. and Tuesdays at 2:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

## Tater Daze 2008

### Where Brooklyn Park Comes Together!

The 44th annual Tater Daze Festival is just around the corner. The city's official party will be held June 19-22. It all kicks-off with the Anderson Automatics Tater Daze Parade on that Thursday night, which features some of the best high school marching bands in the state. This year the parade's grand marshal is the community as a whole. The Tater Daze Team would like every community group to provide one person to ride the tater train.

Please call 763-493-8013 to provide the name of your community group's grand marshal or go online at [www.taterdaze.org](http://www.taterdaze.org) to register your representative.

## Free Foreclosure Prevention Workshop

The Minnesota Home Ownership Center is offering a free workshop for homeowners who are worried about foreclosure. The Foreclosure Prevention Workshop will take place on Tuesday, April 1, from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Brooklyn Park Junior High, 7377 Noble Avenue North.

Stop in anytime during the workshop hours to find out what happens during foreclosures, homeowners' rights, and solutions for long-term housing needs. Participants will be able to ask questions and get free advice - confidentially - from mortgage lending and foreclosure specialists. No appointments are necessary.

The Minnesota Home Ownership Center urges all homeowners facing foreclosure to attend this workshop. The most important thing a troubled homeowner can do is to begin working with their lender or foreclosure specialist early. The earlier homeowners act, the more options they have.

If you can't attend the workshop and want to learn more, call the Minnesota Home Ownership Center at 651-659-9336. The Center works with a network of community-based organizations in the Twin Cities that can help with free, confidential advice.

Tater Daze Team



**FREE WORKSHOPS!** **FREE ADMISSION!**

# northwest suburban REMODELING FAIR

**Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**  
**CRYSTAL COMMUNITY CENTER**  
 4800 Douglas Drive, Crystal, MN

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.

**Brought to you by the cities of:**  
 Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Maple Grove, New Hope, Osseo, Plymouth, and Robbinsdale

Window Replacement  
 Kitchen Cabinet Refacing  
 Adding a Porch to Your Home  
 Financing Your Remodeling Project  
 Update Ideas for Bathrooms  
 New Kitchen Remodeling Ideas  
 Edible Landscaping  
 Perennial Flower Gardening  
 Ornamental Grasses  
 and **MORE!**

## Totally Rehabilitated City Twin Homes for Sale

The city, in partnership with Northwest Community Revitalization Corporation (NCRC), has a number of two and three bedroom totally rehabilitated twin homes for sale to income eligible buyers. An example would be a family of three making an annual income less than \$53,650 or a family of four making less than \$56,600. To learn more about purchasing one of the homes call Kris at NCRC at 763-533-5114.



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

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