



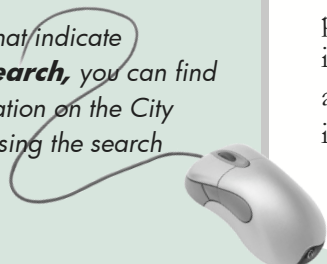
News for the community

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Sign up to receive City news through **Be Notified** on the City website. Receive emails or texts about current news, City meetings, recreational opportunities, police news and more.

For articles that indicate **Website Search**, you can find more information on the City website by using the search function.



Brooklyn Center Delegates Visit Sister City
Spirit of hope and rebuilding alive in Voinjama



Residents of Liberia provide a warm welcome to Brooklyn Center delegates.

A Brooklyn Center delegation including Mayor Tim Willson, Council Member Lin Myszkowski, City Manager Curt Boganey, Community Liaison Monique Drier, and her 17 year old son Treigh visited Voinjama, Liberia January 18-27, 2014. The trip was funded privately without the use of City funds. The Brooklyn Center delegation was greeted by Liberian Vice President Joseph Boakai and Voinjama Mayor Younger Sherman among several other political figures. The trip's itinerary included visits to local establishments and community service locations including the national police force, local

schools, medical facilities, and other community organizations.

In 2012, the City of Voinjama, Liberia was formally established by City Council as Sister City to the City of Brooklyn Center. The Sister City Program has been in existence since 1956 when U.S President Dwight D Eisenhower proposed a People-to-People citizen diplomacy initiative. The City of Brooklyn Center was asked to establish a Sister City Relationship by the Vice President of Liberia, His Excellency Joseph N. Boakai as well as the Voinjama -Brooklyn Center Sister City Committee led by Pastor Alexander B. Collins. Sister City partnerships provide benefits of

Continued page 8...



Brooklyn Center Mayor Tim Willson and Voinjama Mayor Younger Sherman exchange greetings in front of the Tubman Unification Monument with Lofa County Superintendent George Dunor pictured at the right.

These City briefs provide short updates about current City activities up to March 22 (print date). For more information about events or activities, visit the City website or call City Hall.

Shingle Creek Crossing

Construction continues in the Shingle Creek Crossing Development. Demolition has begun on the former Brookdale Mall food court to make way for new development. The Sears building will remain. Construction will follow for 92,000 sq. ft. of retail space scheduled to be completed in fall for tenant occupancies. The approved site plan indicates four junior box retailers locations. (13,000 to 24,000 sq. ft.)



Plan approved 11/25/2013 showing proposed buildings at former food court

Approved plans also include construction of a 7,100 sq. ft. Discount Tire Shop (Building B) and an 11,200 sq. ft. multi-tenant retail building (Building D).

Gatlin Development is looking for a tenant to occupy the Kohl's store. Kohl's did not exercise their option with Gatlin Development for a 5-year renewal of their current lease that expires in 2015. On March 1, Kohl's opened a new store in Plymouth and

closed the Brooklyn Center store.

Former Howe Fertilizer Site

After several years of environmental contamination testing for the five-acre site located at Brooklyn Boulevard and 49th Ave, a Remedial Investigation Report and Corrective Action Plan has been submitted to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture for approval. The approval of this plan is the next step in the development of this site, which includes plans to build a 60,000 sq. ft. industrial building.

Opportunity Site

On December 20, 2013, the EDA acquired the Brookdale Square Center, a 23.2 acre site, located on the Northwest corner of Bass Lake Road and Highway 100 for \$3,900,000. This purchase is part of an overall strategy to promote redevelopment opportunities for market rate residential apartments that include the type of units and amenities associated with residents seeking move up housing options.

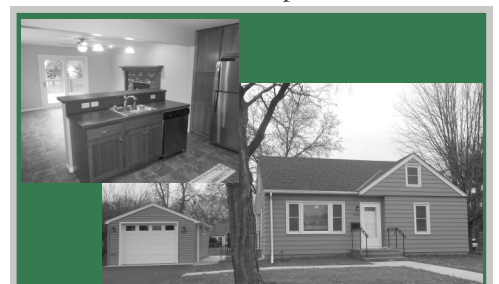
The EDA has retained the architectural firm of ESG Architects, to conceptually illustrate a potential mixed use development that complements a 2013 Housing Market Demand Study (2015-2035) and would be distributed to solicit potential interest and input from the development community. The City Council, Planning Commission and Housing Commission have provided input regarding the concept.



01/13/2014 Concept Plan for Opportunity Site showing mixed housing— higher market apartments and townhomes (B-E), with some retail/office (A).

Additional Remodeled Homes For Sale in 2014

Additional remodeled houses will become available for purchase. As part of the federally funded Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), fifteen houses throughout the city are under various stages of renovation. These previously foreclosed, vacant homes will feature improved floor plans and green building aspects, and are sold to qualifying owner-occupants. Some neighbors recently toured remodeled homes. Please visit the City website to view property information on the website *Real Estate Locator* as they become available for purchase in 2014.



Local Chefs Compete in Culinary Challenge at EBHC American Liver Foundation Wins



Best Table awarded to EBHC Chef Steve Gustafson and team Cedrick Simpson, Bruce Austin, and Jeremy Kelly (left to right) incorporating a "Think Spring" theme.

On March 9, 2014, Earle Brown Heritage Center (EBHC) Chef Steve Gustafson and his team Cedrick Simpson, Bruce Austin, and Jeremy Kelly competed with other local celebrity chefs in a culinary challenge to benefit the American Liver Foundation. The challenge was to cook tableside for 10 to 12 guests, featuring their favorite

cuisine. EBHC culinary team won the "Best Table" award and the chef auctioned his services for \$1,900 for the foundation. As a result of this event, \$65,000 was raised for the American Liver Foundation.

Major Rehab for Brooklyn Center Hotel Floor to Ceiling Upgrades for Best Western Plus

In February, the new owners of the **Best Western Plus** held a grand opening to showcase the \$2 Million rehabilitation of the hotel. Each one of the 83 rooms and suites has been restyled with contemporary decor and the most up-to-date amenities including new carpet, paint, furniture, and technology. The traveler can relax watching movies on a 40-inch flat screen television, exercising in the fitness center, or using the heated indoor swimming pool and spa. In the morning, a complimentary hot breakfast buffet is available.

While the hotel is family-friendly, it also focuses on business travelers. Nearly every room and suite has a spacious workstation/desk and superior internet connectivity. A boardroom is also available for meetings.

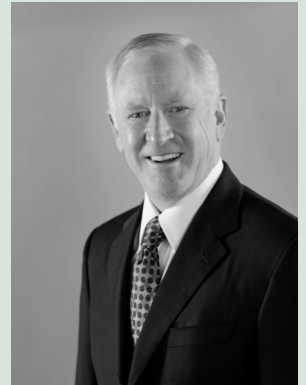
For more information, visit www.bestwestern.com destination Brooklyn Center, Minnesota.



Best Western Ribbon Cutting & Grand Opening (Left to Right) Sukhi Singh, Metro Area Sales; Stephen Erickson, Executive Director North Hennepin Chamber of Commerce; Prince Singh, General Manager, Quality Inn & Suites Mankato; David Biro, Manager; Gary Singh, President American Hospitality LLC; Mayor Tim Willson, Brooklyn Center; Vanay Zore, VP Operations American Hospitality LLC

TIME Magazine Recognizes Brooklyn Center Businessman Commitment to Business & Community

Congratulations to 2014's TIME Dealer of the Year Regional finalist David Luther, President and CEO of Luther Automotive Group. "This award recognizes the best of the nation's dealers,



David Luther, President Luther Companies LLC

not only for their business successes, but for their extraordinary commitment in giving back to their local communities," said Tim Russi, President of Auto Finance for Ally Financial.

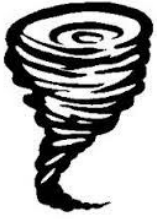
Luther represented the Minnesota Automobile Dealers Association in the national competition.

The Luther family has supported many organizations including MN Adult & Teen Challenge (addiction recovery), N.C. Little Memorial Hospice, Gilda's Club, Metro Hope Ministries (recovery center), Angel Foundation (aiding cancer patients), Make-A-Wish, Salvation Army, American Cancer Society, American Red Cross, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and World Vision, and Drive to Serve program (local food shelves). Luther donated funds towards the Brooklyn Center Little League's building and the Centennial Civic & Veterans Memorial Amphitheater.

Luther Automotive Group opened two new automobile dealership stores in Brooklyn Center in October 2012. More information can be found in the February 10, 2014 edition of Time Magazine.

Find more things to do and know
on the City Calendar at
www.cityofbrooklyncenter.org.

Save the Dates—Things to Do and Know



Wednesday April 22
Skywarn Class. 5:30 pm-8 pm. West Fire Station, 6250 Brooklyn Blvd. Brooklyn Center Emergency

Management will be hosting a Skywarn class for the community. Skywarn introduces the National Weather Service (NWS) warning system and shows the hazards associated with severe thunderstorms. Participants will learn what to look for when observing thunderstorms and how to report their observations to the NWS. The class lasts two hours and features slides and videos. The class is free including class materials. Refreshments provided.

Saturday April 26

Great Shingle Creek Clean-Up. 9 am-Noon. Community Center. See article in City Watch Spring 2014 Edition for more info. Trash bags and cotton gloves will be provided the day of the event at the Community Center, 6301 Shingle Creek Parkway. If you are interested in participating either as a group or as an individual, please call Jenny Whiting at (763) 585-7106.

Saturday April 26

Brooklyn Center EarthFest. Activities 1 pm-4 pm. Visit the City Booth at the community-sponsored Earth Day activities at Brooklyn Center Community Center. Increase awareness and appreciation of the Earth's natural environment. For more information, check the EarthFest Facebook page.

May 1 - September 30

Annual Odd-Even Water Sprinkling Restrictions go into effect. This means properties with odd number addresses may water lawns on odd calendar days, and even address numbers on even calendar days. Private wells are excluded. During droughts or low water levels, a watering ban may be announced. For more information, visit the City website, **Search** *water restriction* or call Utility Billing at (763) 569-3390.

May 4 - May 31

Step To It Challenge. If you live or work in Hennepin County, you're eligible to participate. Record the number of steps you walk. Apply at the Community Center. See page 31 for more information.



Tuesday May 13
Raingardens & Beyond. 6 pm-9 pm. Healthy Yards, Clean Water.

You can help keep our lakes, rivers and streams clean by making simple changes in your yard care practices. This workshop offers the latest information about healthy yards and combines a do-it-yourself approach, with expert help to assist in designing your own rain garden. Workshop is \$15 and is located at the Brooklyn Center Community Center Register at www.metroblooms.org or (651) 699-2426.

Tuesday June 17 - Thursday July 31

Puppet Playhouse. Various Brooklyn

Center Parks on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays. Puppet shows are 30 minutes. Free. (No shows July 2-4). See Page 23 for more info.

Friday June 20 - Sunday June 22

Dudley/Budweiser Minnesota Classic. Centennial Park. Admission: \$3/day. Watch state softball teams compete against national powers for a berth in the USSSA World Series.

Saturday June 21

1st Annual Run, Jump or Fly 5K Fun Run.

Registration starts at 6 am -7:30 am. Location is West Palmer Lake Park. 1K for youth, 5K for everyone. Fee is \$25 to participate. Proceeds benefit Special Olympics Minnesota. All participants receive a 2014 Law Enforcement Torch Run short sleeved shirt, race bib, and hot dog and chips after the race. For race details and to register, visit www.runjumpfly.kintera.org. If questions, contact Kate Deering at kdeering@ci.brooklyn-center.mn.us or Kris Knodle at kknodle@ci.brooklyn-center.mn.us.



Thursday June 26 - Saturday June 28

Earle Brown Days Festival. Most events in Centennial Park. Parade, Fireworks, Craft & Business Expo, Kids' Fishing Contest, Family Fun & Games, Golf Tournament, Capri Big Band, and Petting Zoo. See back page for more info.

Volunteer Opportunities Available Make a Difference in Brooklyn Center

The following volunteer commission opportunities are available. Join a commission and help make a difference in Brooklyn Center.

Charter Commission

The Commission meets quarterly, generally the fourth Wednesday at 7 pm at City Hall. The Charter Commission reviews the City's Charter, the governing constitution of the City. Final appointment is made by the Fourth Judicial District Court.

Financial and Planning Commissions

To qualify for membership, you must be a Brooklyn Center resident while serving on the Commission and be able to attend meetings. For the Planning Commission, you must also be a resident for at least one year prior to appointment. The general purpose of the Commission is to act in an advisory capacity to the City Council on issues. Final appointment is made by the Mayor and City Council.

- ◆ **Financial Commission** is seeking two members. The general purpose of the Commission is to review financial issues. The Financial Commission meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm, as well as in joint session with the City Council during the budget planning process.
- ◆ **The Planning Commission** is seeking two members. The general purpose of the Commission is to review issues related to planning, zoning, sign, and subdivision matters. The Planning Commission meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm.

For more information about these volunteer opportunities or to obtain an application packet, visit the City website, visit City Hall, or call the City Clerk at (763) 569-3306.



City Council, Commissioners and staff meet in 2013 to discuss city goals and progress

Mayor and Council Member Filings Filings Open May 20

Affidavits of candidacy for Mayor and two Council Members will be accepted in the City Clerk's Office at City Hall beginning at 8 am Tuesday, May 20, 2014, through 5 pm Tuesday, June 3, 2014. The Mayor and Council Members serve a four-year term beginning January 5, 2015.

Qualifications for Filing Affidavit of Candidacy

An Affidavit of Candidacy must state the name of the office sought and that the candidate:

1. is an eligible voter;
2. has no other Affidavit on file as a candidate for any office at the same primary or next ensuing general election; and
3. is, or will be on assuming office, 21 years of age or more, and will have maintained residence in Brooklyn Center for 30 days before the general election (MS 204B.06, subd. 1).

An individual who is eligible and desires to become a candidate for the office of Mayor or Council Member, to be voted for at the November 4 municipal general election, must file an Affidavit of Candidacy with the City Clerk. If more than two individuals file for Mayor or four individuals file for Council Member, a municipal primary election will be held on August 12 to nominate candidates for the November 4 municipal general election.

The City Clerk will certify the eligibility of the candidate and place the name of the candidate upon the election ballot without partisan designation after receiving a completed Affidavit of Candidacy, along with one of the following:

- a. the payment of a filing fee of \$25.00; or
- b. the filing by the petition of 50 registered voters on behalf of the candidate.

Petition In Place Of Filing Fee

If a Petition In Place Of Filing Fee is obtained from and filed with the City Clerk, the City Clerk will inspect the Petition to determine whether it has been signed by the required number of signatories and whether the signatories are registered voters in the city of Brooklyn Center.

Questions regarding filing for office may be directed to the City Clerk at (763) 569-3306 or e-mail cityclerk@ci.brooklyn-center.mn.us.

Water Treatment Plant Planning Underway—Ensuring Safe & Quality Drinking Water

Steps are underway to construct a new water treatment plant that will treat and filter drinking water. In January 2013, the City Council directed staff to develop an action plan to address manganese levels in the City's drinking water. This was in response to a health advisory issued by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) regarding potential health risks associated with high levels of manganese.

The plan's short-term actions included reducing the amount of water being pumped from the wells with elevated manganese levels and increasing public outreach efforts relative to the health risk. The long-term solution to reduce the potential manganese health risk in the City water supply is to construct a water treatment plant.

Planning and design efforts are currently underway for a new water treatment plant that will filter and remove manganese from the drinking water. The estimated cost of the water treatment plant is \$18.2 million. The future plant will be located on City property near the City's well field between Camden Avenue and Highway 252, east of the Evergreen school and park. Construction is expected to begin in the summer 2014 with completion anticipated by fall 2015.

Funding and financing options for the plant are being evaluated. Currently, Brooklyn Center has one of the lower water rates compared to other cities. However, many cities have water treatment plants. An application has been made to the Minnesota Public Facility Authority loan program for a Drinking Water Revolving Fund (a low interest loan program). Typically, the water supply system is funded by water utility rates. A water utility rate study is being

conducted in order to evaluate alternate funding sources and the impact on water rates. More information will be provided in the future pertaining to funding and water rates.



Reducing Manganese

In the meantime, for households where infants less than one year old will be regularly drinking formula mixed with tap water or drinking plain tap water, the **MDH health advisory recommends the following precautions to reduce manganese exposure:**

- Use a proper filter. Carbon filters (that may also contain an ion exchange resin) used in common pitcher or faucet filter systems (found at grocery and home stores) can remove approximately 50 percent of manganese from drinking water.
- Use bottled water only if the bottled water has been tested for manganese. Otherwise bottled water should not be considered safer than tap water.
- Consult with your physician if you have health questions.

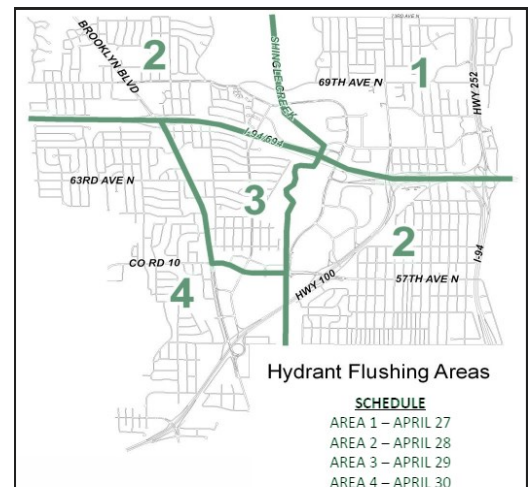
If residents use well water for drinking and have concerns, the water should be tested for manganese levels at an accredited laboratory.

For more information, visit the City website **Search Manganese** or contact the Public Works Department at (763) 569-3340 or publicworks@ci.brooklyn-center.mn.us.

Waterline Flushing- Schedule & Map

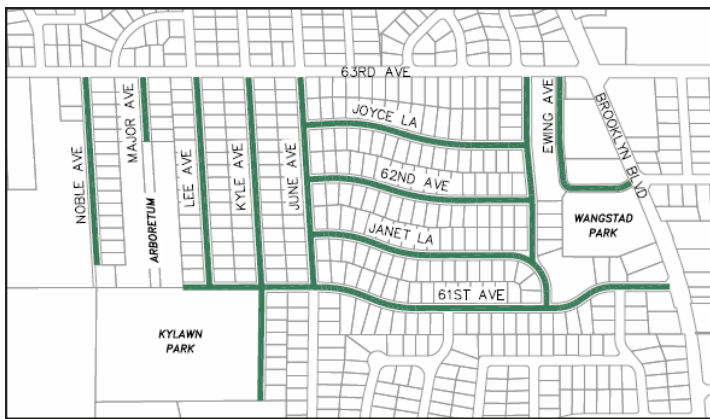
Utility crews will flush water lines beginning Sunday, April 27, 2014. The process will occur for four consecutive nights beginning at 9:00 pm and continuing until 7:00 am.

While the flushing is not harmful to health, flushing may loosen rust in the pipes that could stain laundry. Residents are encouraged to check their water before doing laundry and to delay doing laundry, especially whites, until the process is completed in their area (see map). Visit City website **Search Flushing**.



Summer Street Construction Projects— Short Term Pains For Long Term Gains

Just as homeowners undertake many home maintenance projects in the summer months, the City of Brooklyn Center also takes care of many infrastructure projects. This year's projects include neighborhood street and utility reconstruction, annual street chip sealcoating and bridge re-decking. The following is an overview of these major capital improvements planned for 2014. We work hard to reduce inconveniences and appreciate your patience throughout these projects as we work on our plan to maintain the city's infrastructure for the long-term.



Wangstad Area Map

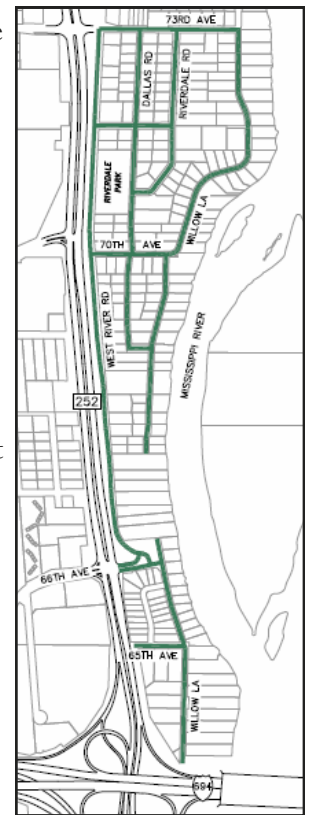
Wangstad Area Reconstruction Project

For the past 20 years, the City has conducted a program to reconstruct aging streets throughout the community. The attached map identifies the residential streets that are scheduled for reconstruction in 2014. The proposed roadway and utility improvements include full street reconstruction of all streets (except Ewing Avenue/62nd Avenue) consisting of bituminous paving, new concrete

curb and gutter, replacement of the sanitary sewer, partial replacement of the watermain, storm sewer upgrades and street light replacements. Partial street reconstruction of Ewing Avenue/62nd Avenue includes bituminous paving and miscellaneous repairs of concrete curb and gutter and driveway aprons. Work is expected to begin near the end of May on this project and completed by fall 2014.

Sealcoating

Sealcoating is scheduled to be completed along City streets identified in the Riverwood area as indicated on the map. Additional areas to be sealcoated include: Unity Avenue from 63rd Avenue to 65th Avenue; 65th Avenue from Unity Avenue to Brooklyn Boulevard; Palmer Lake Circle and 53rd Avenue from Russell Avenue to Humboldt Avenue. Sealcoating is routinely completed each year to preserve the pavement and extend the service life of the roadway. Public Works crews will complete crack sealing and pothole patching prior to applying a chip seal to the road surface.



Riverwood Area Map

During construction, regular updates about City street projects will be posted on the City website at www.cityofbrooklyncenter.org.

Highway 100 Bridge Deck Replacement at Brooklyn Boulevard

The Minnesota Department of Transportation in partnership with Hennepin County and the City of Brooklyn Center will be replacing the bridge deck over Highway 100 at Brooklyn Boulevard this summer (2014). The project is a standard bridge re-decking project but also includes new street lighting and other aesthetic features that will be incorporated into the bridge to match the

architectural theme of the recent Bass Lake Road bridge project that occurred in 2013. The project is expected to begin spring/early summer and be completed by the end of the summer. The bridge will be closed during the duration of the project with detours posted. Information will be provided on MnDOT's website as the project proceeds.



Celebrate Diversity May is Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month

Over 15% of Brooklyn Center's population reported as Asian alone or in combination with one or more other races in Census 2010.

Throughout our history, Asian/Pacific Americans have made great contributions to our heritage and prosperity. Asian/Pacific American is one of the fastest growing ethnic groups in the United States. During the observance of Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month, we celebrate the cultural traditions, ancestry, native languages, and unique experiences represented among the ethnic groups from Asia and the Pacific Islands. We also recognize Asian/Pacific Americans whose love of family, hard work, and community has helped unite and sustain us as a community.

Sister City Voinjama continued...

inclusion, sharing of best practices, and transformational experiences. Many Liberians call Brooklyn Center, as well as Minnesota, their home.

Voinjama is the capital city of Lofa County and is located on the upper northern part of Liberia. The population is 26,594



Brooklyn Center delegation members Councilmember Lin Myszkowski, City Manager Curt Boganey, Mayor Willson, and Pastor Alexander Collins pose in front of historical wall.

as last recorded in 2008. Before the Liberian civil war, Voinjama had a growing economy with rice farming the main staple. After enduring two civil wars from 1989-2003, Voinjama is rebuilding infrastructure (roads, water, electricity,

2013 Property Appraisal Area City Appraisers to Visit Properties

Your property value changes annually based on market information, but Minnesota State Statute requires the Appraiser to physically review the property characteristics every five years. The inspection process takes approximately fifteen minutes and involves an exterior photo, exterior measurement review and an interior inspection of the property. Appraisers drive a City vehicle and carry a photo identification card.

The Assessor's Office will be starting the yearly quintile inspection of residential single family, duplex, triplex, condominium, and townhome properties in May 2014. The 2014 property review area includes properties located west of Penn, south of 61st Ave N to the city limits to the south and west. In addition to residential properties located in the review area, a portion of commercial, industrial, and multi-family will also be reviewed. The summer inspection area includes approximately 1,650 parcels. Quintile inspections are expected to be completed by the end of October.

etc.) in addition to health care and education systems. The delegation members expressed that many of the people they met were hopeful and optimistic about the country's future even though there remains a good deal of rebuilding work to do. The legislature is considering adoption of legislation to decentralize and devolve certain responsibility to the County and City level. Those who support this legislation hope that greater authority at the local level will be more responsive to community needs and will stimulate greater local development. For more information and pictures, please view the City website [Search Voinjama](#).



Other Brooklyn Center delegation members Community Liaison Monique Drier and her son Treigh, along with Mayor Willson watch Voinjama Mayor Younger Sherman sign the Memorandum of Understanding.



Meet the Investigative Team Brooklyn Center Detectives

Police work is one of the most popular subjects in television, movies, and books and detectives are among the world's greatest cultural icons in the ongoing rivalry of good versus evil. While the arts may exaggerate current police science, advanced technology along with proactive methods have contributed to Brooklyn Center's ongoing success in reducing and preventing crime. This article provides an introduction to the Investigative Division of the Brooklyn Center Police Department.

Role of Detectives

While the majority of crime reports and proactive arrests are made by the Department's 39 Patrol Officers and Sergeants, more than 1,200 cases were assigned to the Investigation Division in 2013 for resolution. Detectives generally respond with Patrol Officers to calls that require immediate and significant investigative expertise. One Detective is on-call at all times, which is uncommon in Minnesota policing. This advanced investigation focus has been successful in solving cases and reducing crime.

The first 48 hours is crucial in the investigation and solving of serious crimes. Investigators will work in teams and often long hours during these types of investigations. For other crimes, such as property crimes, the proper gathering of evidence is important since some cases may be solved years later based on new information or technology. For example, advances in DNA technology has been instrumental in solving old cases with a DNA match. Information sharing among police agencies is another tool used by Investigators to gather evidence and build solid cases.

Division Members

The Investigative Division is supervised by Commander Brian Peters and staffed with five promoted Detectives- Corinne Becker, John Ratajczyk, Mona Pearson, Chuck Valleau, and Terry Olson. All these detectives began their careers as Patrol Officers and worked outside of law enforcement prior to initiating careers in policing. A majority has worked for other law enforcement agencies prior to being hired by the City of Brooklyn Center; and has worked specialized street-level and undercover investigative assignments prior to their promotions.

The Investigative Division also includes Officer Troy Peasley, an Investigator in Auto Theft Prevention; an officer assigned as an Investigator with the Northwest Metro Drug Task Force; and another officer assigned as an Investigator with the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Violent Offender Task Force.

Clogs & Backups Important Sanitary Sewer System News

The Brooklyn Center Public Utilities Division responds to many after-hour emergency calls related to pump failures at lift stations. Some of these alarms are caused by items tangled or stuck in pumps. Another culprit in clogging pumps is grease. When a pump fails, a sewer backup could occur and affect many properties. Sewer backups are costly and pose a serious threat to public health and safety.

Residents and businesses play an important role in preventing clogged sewer drains. Please do not flush anything down the toilet that could clog the sewer collection system or damage the wastewater treatment facility. Prohibited items include disinfecting wipes, Swiffers, disposable diapers, paper towels, feminine products and other bulky so-called "disposable" products; fats, oils or greases; flammable or explosive liquids, solids or gases; garbage, sand, metals, wood, straw or grass, wastepaper, plastics, glass, cat litter (including so-called "flushable" cat litter); corrosive substances; dye wastes or tanning solutions; or anything radioactive. These products should be disposed of properly.

If you experience a sewer backup, call the Public Utility Division immediately at (763) 585-7100 Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm. After hours, weekends and holidays, call 911 to dispatch Public Utility personnel. City personnel will determine if the blockage is in the City sewer line or your private sewer line at no charge to the resident.

If you hire a private sewer cleaning service to remove tree roots, please notify the City. Secondary backups can occur when roots from private sewer lines lodge in the main City sewer line. This could result in a sewer backup in your basement, as well as your neighbor's.





Proper Tree Care Tips For Choosing a Contractor

All trees, whether new or older, need proper care to maintain their health and not become a nuisance to you and your neighbors. Before hiring a tree contractor, carefully consider the company and services offered. A good choice can assure a healthy, beautiful tree for many years or successful removal of a diseased or dead tree. The price of tree maintenance services can vary greatly depending on the degree of difficulty and the methods used by the contractors. Before hiring a tree contractor, at minimum:

- Verify the company is registered with the City. All tree maintenance services in Brooklyn Center must be registered with the City. Registration requires specific insurance requirements including proof of liability for personal and property damage (such as your house and your neighbor's) and workers' compensation. Check their reputation with the Better Business Bureau and check their references and work.
- Obtain multiple bids and compare the estimates carefully.
- Receive a written contract with specific service expectations. I.e. Dates, cleanup, total costs, etc.

For more suggestions or for a list of registered tree contractors, visit the City website **Search Tree** or call the Public Works Department at (763) 585-7100.



Got Flowers? Show and Share

Show off your hard work! If you have a beautiful or unique garden or landscaping (front or side yard), or know of a neighbor deserving recognition, please call the Engineering Division at (763) 569-3340 or email publicworks@ci.brooklyn-center.mn.us. More information is available on the City website **Search Landscape**. If your garden is identified, you will be contacted for permission prior to taking and publishing of any photographs.

De-clutter Your Home This Spring Special Material Drop-off Is April 26, 2014

The annual Spring Special Material Drop-off provides an opportunity for residents to get rid of certain unwanted or unneeded items. Eliminate clutter inside and outside your home to promote a more calming environment.

Spring Special Material Drop-off
Saturday, April 26, 2014 at 8 am to 3 pm
Brooklyn Park O & M Facility
8300 Noble Ave N, Brooklyn Park

Some items such as electronics, clean scrap metal, antifreeze, oil and filters, and household batteries may be disposed of free of charge. There is a charge for other items such as appliances, tires, mattresses, carpet, and tires. Vietnam Vets of America will accept certain clothing and household items if in good, usable condition.

For a complete list of disposable items and costs, please call the HRG Recycling Coordinator at (763) 493-8006 or view the event flyer on the City website, **Search Drop-off**.



Tip: Many usable household items can be disposed/exchanged for free through an online bulletin board at www.twincitiesfreemarket.org.

Free Free Free... Woodchips For Your Landscaping

Free wood chips are available for Brooklyn Center residents in the south parking lot at City Hall from May thru September, while supplies last. Please do not dump debris, wood chips, or other lawn waste at this location.

Safe Sleep Initiative— Preventing Infant Deaths

Tragedy struck four families in Brooklyn Center in the summer of 2013 with the loss of their infants during sleep time. After responding to these calls, Police Department staff researched ways to help prevent these types of infant deaths from occurring. Children’s Hospital provided safe sleeping guidelines for infants.

- Infants need to be placed in an approved crib, play pen or basinet with no additional items in the sleeping area with them.
- Babies need to be placed on their backs when sleeping.
- When babies are awake, they also need “tummy time”.



Good Neighbor Standards— More than just meeting codes

Brooklyn Center has many nice neighborhoods.

Keeping

neighborhoods clean, safe and attractive builds pride and creates a community where people want to live and do business.

Responsible and informed residents and business owners take actions to reduce neighborhood nuisances and deter crime. In addition, well-cared for properties maximize property values and attract responsible homebuyers and businesses. The following are a few things that you can do to be a good neighbor.

- Know your neighbors and who is supposed to be in your neighborhood. Call 911 if you notice a suspicious activity.
- Be knowledgeable about property security and safe practices such as Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and Watch programs.
- Drive safely and follow speed limits and traffic laws.
- Avoid loud noises such as loud parties, yelling, loud talking especially at night.
- Mow and trim your lawn, and maintain landscaping on a weekly basis or more often as needed.
- Keep your property neat and clean by properly

Several events and speaking engagements have been held to get this message out. Please help spread the message about infant sleep safety. For more information, please view the Children’s Hospital flyer on the City website **Search *Infant***.

If you have questions or do not have access to the internet and would like a copy of the flyer, please contact Crime Prevention Specialist Becky Boie at (763) 503-3272 or bboie@ci.brooklyn-center.mn.us.

disposing of garbage, junk, and yardwaste. Except on the day of pickup, store garbage/recycling containers in the garage or behind the front of the house.

- Park vehicles on driveways and approved parking pads.
- Locate junk, unlicensed, or inoperable vehicles inside a garage or off-site at a storage locker.
- Paint, repair or replace surfaces that are peeling, deteriorated or otherwise in poor condition on the house, garage, shed, fence and other structures.
- Ensure address numbers are at least 3 inches high, contrasting color and clearly visible from the street.
- Control your pets at all times, clean up after them, and keep them quiet.
- Address disagreements with your neighbors promptly and respectfully. Unresolved conflicts may escalate and reduce your quality of life. Mediation services are available free of charge to help community members resolve these conflicts.
- And— Help your neighbors when possible and thank them when they do something kind.

Whether a homeowner, tenant or property owner— having pride in the community and pride in your home or business is the foundation of a great city. For more information about these topics, please visit the City website or call City Hall. **Thank you for being a good neighbor!**

Water System Maintenance Year Round Efforts Keep It Flowing

Do you think about the safety of your water when you turn on your faucet? City employees do. The city has nine operable water wells that provide water service to the community. As part of the planned maintenance program, Well Nos. 2 and 3 were rehabilitated in 2013. Well No. 2 is capable of running consistently at 1200 GPM while Well No. 3 consistently runs at 800 GPM. Both wells are primarily used during peak demand in the summer. In 2014, Well No. 5 will go through a similar maintenance process.

Other maintenance activities included exercising (turning on and off) 1,802 water system valves, which included approximately 425 service fire line valves to make sure they operate properly, especially in case of emergencies. Yearly preventative maintenance was also completed on all 1,105 fire hydrants in the city.

The Utility Division also responds to requests for service. In 2013, 2,660 calls for service were made including 337 meter changes, 65 sewer calls, and 43 water quality/pressure inquiries. Residents and businesses were also busy in 2013 with construction projects, resulting in 2,601 Gopher State One Call water utility locates.



Stormwater pollutants find their way into what we drink, where we fish, and where we swim. Everything that goes into the storm drains—grass clippings, soap, pesticides, fertilizers, pet waste, etc.—makes its way to our streams. Stormwater pollution is our biggest source of water pollution. You are the solution!

By following the practices below, you can help reduce the amount of pollutants making their way into storm sewers.

- **Bag or compost leaves and grass clippings.** Use zero phosphorus fertilizer and follow proper application procedures. Sweep spilled fertilizer off of paved surfaces.
- **Dispose of pet waste** in the garbage or sanitary sewer system.
- **Clean up oil leaks or spills** from your vehicle from paved surfaces and dispose of automotive fluids, paint, and other hazardous materials properly.
- **Avoid using pesticides and other lawn chemicals** or use them responsibly. Keep chemicals off of paved surfaces.
- **Report any suspicious illegal dumping** to the proper authorities.

For materials that require special disposal, several options are available to residents. A few options are listed below.

- **Hennepin County Drop-off Facility**, 8100 Jefferson Hwy, Brooklyn Park. Phone (612) 348-3777.
- **Maple Grove Yard Waste Site**, 14796 101st Ave N, Maple Grove. Phone (763) 420-4886.
- **For Used Motor Oil**
 - ◇ AutoZone, 6300 Brooklyn Blvd, Brooklyn Center (763) 561-9287
 - ◇ Pep Boys Auto, 5900 Shingle Creek Pkwy, Brooklyn Center. Phone (763) 566-6100
 - ◇ Christy's Auto Service, 5300 Dupont Ave N, Brooklyn Center. Phone (763) 560-9984

For more information about recycling and waste disposal, view the ***2014-2015 Recycling and Materials Management Guide*** at www.cityofbrooklyncenter.org **Search** *Recycling*.

Wellhead Protection

Protecting Groundwater From Contamination

What is wellhead protection?

Wellhead protection is a program to protect public water supply by preventing contaminants from entering public supply wells. The area surrounding the public wells is called the wellhead, which contributes water to the well or well field over time.

The wellhead protection area is determined by using technical criteria, such as the physical characteristics of the aquifer and the effects which pumping has on the rate and direction of groundwater movement.

Why is protecting groundwater important?

Groundwater may be contaminated by surface contaminants such as microorganisms and chemicals. Although the City of Brooklyn Center wells are 300 feet deep, contamination of ground water could eventually affect the water quality. Because we use it for drinking water, if it is contaminated we would need to find alternative sources for drinking. Cleaning up the groundwater is very expensive and inefficient. Therefore, it is better to prevent the pollution in the first place!

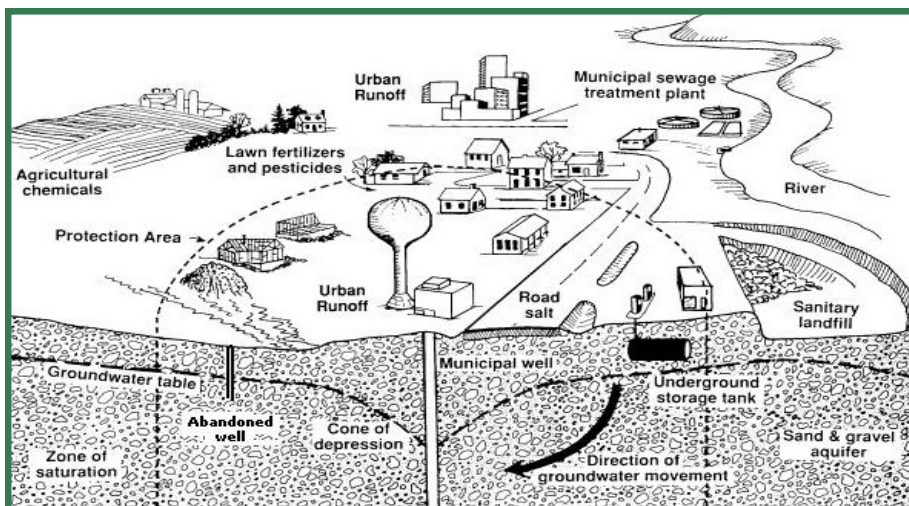
Why is wellhead protection required and who administers it?

The 1986 Amendments of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act requires states to implement drinking water protection programs for public water wells. The Minnesota Groundwater Protection Act of 1989 designated the Minnesota Department of Health as the lead agency for wellhead protection.

What is the City doing to protect groundwater?

The City of Brooklyn Center has developed a Wellhead Protection Plan, which was approved by the Minnesota Department of Health. The plan focuses on preventing contamination through the following actions:

- Determining where the drinking water comes from, how vulnerable it is to potential contamination, and establishing the wellhead protection zones, which was completed in Phase I of the plan in 2005. Phase II is the ongoing initiative focused on protecting the wellhead area.
- Complying with state and federal requirements.
- Educating residents and businesses about our water



supply and management of hazardous materials.

- Monitoring drinking water and routinely testing for contaminants.
- Watching for illegal activities that may pose a significant hazard to groundwater.
- Monitoring environmental investigations, cleanups and construction activities to minimize impact to groundwater.

Sealing Unused Wells

Unused or “abandoned” wells must be sealed according to Minnesota State Law. Sealing is the process of filling the well with a special grout. Well sealing work must be completed by a well contractor licensed by the State of Minnesota. Unused wells can become a direct “pipeline” for contamination into the groundwater system. Although most wells in Brooklyn Center are four inches or smaller in diameter, larger-diameter wells can also pose a safety hazard for children and animals who may fall into them. By Minnesota State law, a well must:

- Be in use and operating properly, or
- Have a *Maintenance Permit* from the MDH if it will be used in the future *The well must meet sanitary requirements and an annual fee is required, or
- Be properly sealed.

The complete “Drinking Water Quality Report-Consumer Confidence Report” can be viewed on the City website **Search Consumer Confidence** or at the Engineering Division at City Hall.

For More Information, Please Contact:

- Brooklyn Center Public Utilities Division at (763) 569-3380.
- MDH Drinking Water Protection at (651) 201-4700 or www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/.



2013 Consumer Confidence Report— Analyzing Your Drinking Water

The Brooklyn Center 2013 Consumer Confidence Report will be available May 1, 2014. This report contains the results of the monitoring performed of the drinking water for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2013. The purpose of this report is to advance consumers' understanding of drinking water and heighten

awareness of the need to protect precious water resources.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. For bottled water, the Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which provide the

same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.

The full 2013 Consumer Confidence Report for Brooklyn Center will be available on the City's website beginning May 1, 2014, **Search** *Consumer Confidence Report*. If you do not have access to a computer or would like a paper copy provided to you, please call (763) 585-7100 or email publicworks@ci.brooklyn-center.mn.us. A computer kiosk is also available at City Hall.

Critter Corner- Living with Mosquitoes

Don't become a meal for a hungry mosquito. As the weather warms up, the presence of mosquitoes also increases. Besides being annoying, some mosquitoes can transmit diseases. You can help protect yourself by taking some preventative measures.

Reduce mosquito harborage areas by eliminating standing water sources such as holes in trees, buckets, and unmaintained swimming pools. Repair window and door screens, mow regularly, and keep shrubbery trimmed.

Since mosquitoes cannot be eliminated completely, it is important to take measures to **prevent** mosquito bites by avoiding outdoor activities when mosquitoes are more active, wearing light-colored long sleeve shirts and pants, and/or applying repellent. Be sure to follow manufacturer instructions for any repellent, or pesticide that you use around the yard.

More information about mosquito precautions can be found on the Mayo Clinic website at www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/mosquito-bites/basics/prevention/con-20032350.



The Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (MMCD) conducts region-wide larval and adult control activities for mosquitoes and biting gnats to help reduce the numbers, as well as reduce the risk of disease. In Brooklyn Center, more than 1,700 acres and 1,000 catch basins may be treated for larval mosquitoes in the summer. You may see a MMCD helicopter or truck in your neighborhood.

To find out if pest control activities are occurring in your neighborhood and what types of products are being used, please visit the MMCD website at www.mmcd.org or call (651) 645-9149.



City of Brooklyn Center Quick Reference Contact Guide



The City receives a wide variety of calls from residents and businesses requesting information. This Quick Reference Contact Guide includes phone numbers for the most commonly requested services, agencies, and organizations. More information about City services and frequently asked questions can be obtained through the City website at www.cityofbrooklyncenter.org.

Who to Call

Info updated March 2014

City Services

Administration	(763) 569-3300
Brooklyn Center Liquor (Xerxes Avenue)	(763) 549-3700
Brooklyn Center Liquor (Brooklyn Boulevard)	(763) 549-3700
Centerbrook Golf Course	(763) 549-3750
Community Center (Recreation)	(763) 569-3400
Sports Weather Line	(763) 569-3442
Building & Community Standards	(763) 569-3330
Permit Inspection Scheduling	(763) 569-3344
Code Enforcement/Property Codes	(763) 569-3473
Business & Development	(763) 569-3335
Assessing	(763) 569-3310
Earle Brown Heritage Center	(763) 569-6300
Engineering	(763) 569-3340
Finance	(763) 569-3320
Utility Billing	(763) 569-3390
Fire	(763) 549-3600
Police (General Information)	(763) 569-3333
(Emergency or Officer Assistance)	911
Recycling (Hennepin Recycling Group)	(763) 493-8006

Utility Companies

Telephone Service

Century Link:	Main	1(800) 244-1111
	Repair	1(800) 573-1311

Natural Gas Service

CenterPoint Energy:	Main	(612) 372-4727
	Immediate Gas Leak	(612) 372-5050

Electric Service

Xcel Energy:	Main	1(800) 895-4999
	Immediate Power Outage	1(800) 895-1999

Cable Television Service

Comcast	1(800) 266-2278
	(651) 222-3333

Water and Sewer Service

City of Brooklyn Center	(763) 569-3390
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Waste Removal Service

Aspen Waste	(612) 884-8000
Republic Services (former BFI/Allied)	(763) 784-2104
Garbage Man, Inc.	(763) 230-7499
Randy's Sanitation	(763) 479-3335
T & L Sanitation	(763) 560-3610
Walter's	(763) 780-8464
Walz Brothers	(763) 493-3474
Waste Management	(952) 890-1100

School Districts

Brooklyn Center School District No. 286	(763) 561-2120
Osseo School District No. 279	(763) 391-7000
Robbinsdale School District No. 281	(763) 504-8000
Anoka-Hennepin School District No. 11	(763) 506-1000
Odyssey Academy	(763) 971-8200

Other Services

Hennepin County Regional Service Center

6125 Shingle Creek Parkway, Brooklyn Center	
General Information; Driver & Vehicle	(612) 348-8240
Licenses; Birth, Death, Marriage Certificates	
Clerk of Court	(763) 569-3700
Court Dates and Other Information	(612) 543-2150
Library	(612) 543-5600

United States Post Office-- General	1(800) 275-8777
6848 Lee Avenue North, Brooklyn Center	(763) 561-3995

Social Security Administration

3280 Northway Drive, Brooklyn Center	1(800) 772-1213
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United Way-- Crisis, Counseling, Help	211
Calling from Cell Phone	(651) 291-0211

Better Business Bureau	(651) 699-1111
CAPSH (Foreclosure Prevention Info)	(952) 697-1302
Hotline	(952) 933-1993

CEAP (Community Emergency Assistance Program)	(763) 566-9600
Community Mediation & Restorative Services	(763) 561-0033
Gopher One Call (Digging Information)	(651) 454-0002
Hennepin County (Food, Beverage, Lodging	(612) 543-5200
Daycare Inspections)	

Hennepin County Tax Information	(612) 348-3011
Hennepin County Recycling & Transfer	(612) 348-3777
Station	

Hennepin Recycling Group (HRG)	(763) 493-8007
Home Line (Tenant Info & Advice)	(612) 728-5767
Housing Resource Center (GMHC)	(612) 588-3033
Maple Grove Yard Waste Site	(763) 420-4886
Metro Transit Route Information	(612) 373-3333
Metro Mobility	(651) 602-1111
Metro Council HRA (Section 8)	(651) 602-1428
MN Attorney General	(651) 296-3353
MN Dept of Public Serv. (Energy Assist.)	1(800) 657-3805
MN Dept of Agriculture	(651) 201-6000
Northwest Family Services	(763) 561-0543
Senior Community Services (HOME Chores)	(952) 746-4046



City of Brooklyn Center

Where to Learn About City News

More City Contact Information

City of Brooklyn Center

6301 Shingle Creek Parkway
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430-2199
www.cityofbrooklyncenter.org
e-mail: info@ci.brooklyn-center.mn.us

City Hall (763) 569-3300

Recreation (763) 569-3400

Police Emergency & Officer Assistance 911
General Information (763) 569-3333

Job Information Line (763) 569-3307

Persons with hearing or speech impairment are served by the MN Relay Service 711 (TTY/Voice)

Council Members

Mayor Tim Willson

Voicemail: (763) 569-3450
e-mail: mayorwillson@ci.brooklyn-center.mn.us

Councilmember Carol Kleven

Voicemail: (763) 569-3446
e-mail: councilmemberkleven@ci.brooklyn-center.mn.us

Councilmember Kris Lawrence-Anderson

Voicemail: (763) 569-3444
e-mail: councilmemberlawrence-anderson@ci.brooklyn-center.mn.us

Councilmember Lin Myszkowski

Voicemail: (763) 569-3447
e-mail: councilmemberlmyszkowski@ci.brooklyn-center.mn.us

Councilmember Dan Ryan

Voicemail: (763) 569-3445
e-mail: councilmemberryan@ci.brooklyn-center.mn.us

City Manager

Curt Boganey
(763) 569-3300

City Council Meetings

City Council Regular Session meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 7 pm.

Informal Open Forum is held at 6:45 pm before Council meetings for persons who wish to address the City Council about issues not scheduled on the agenda.

City Council **Work Sessions** are held immediately following the Regular Session City Council meetings.

City Council meetings are broadcast live on cable Channel 16. Replays shown Tuesdays at 6:30 pm and Wednesdays at 2:30 am and 10:30 am. You may also watch City Council meetings on-line, on demand at your convenience through a link on the City website.

Call City Hall to verify meeting dates (763) 569-3300 or visit the City's web site www.cityofbrooklyncenter.org.



We want to hear from you. If you have important community news or ideas to share, please contact City Hall Communications at (763) 569-3309.



The City has many methods of getting information to residents and businesses. Whether you call city staff, visit city offices, attend meetings, visit the website, listen, watch or read- our goal is to keep you informed about important community issues. A few sources for your City News are listed below.

City Website

Visit www.cityofbrooklyncenter.org where you can find answers to *Frequently Asked* questions; make suggestions or request certain types of services through *Notify the City*, and receive email or text messages of current news, meetings, events and more through *Be Notified*. You can also obtain construction permits, register for recreation classes and pay your water bill online. Use keywords to *Search* the site and *Site Tools* to translate pages in multiple languages, enlarge font size, share the page and more.

City Watch

The City newsletter brings you city news, notifications and information; and provides answers to consumer questions.

Sun Post—Official City Newspaper

The Brooklyn Center Sun Post is designated as the City's official newspaper to publish the City's legal notices, ordinances, financial information, public hearing notices, and other official information. The Sun Post newspaper is delivered to most residences at no charge or by voluntary subscription. If you would like the newspaper delivered to your home, please call MN Sun Publications at (952) 392-6860. Find local news on their website, www.mnsun.com.

Cable Channel 12—Northwest Community Television

Provides local news, programs and the community journal highlighting businesses for the Northwest Suburbs. Find more local news on their website, www.twelve.tv.

Star Tribune Paper- North Metro Section

Offers news and events for North Metro communities. Register on-line for an email newsletter at www.startribune.com.

Cable Channel 16—Brooklyn Center Access

Replays City Council Meetings. Alternates with the Community Billboard, advertising special events, recreational opportunities, and city messages.

City Commissions

Resident volunteers serve on the following advisory commissions: Financial, Housing, Park and Recreation, and Planning Commissions. Other commissions that appoint citizen representatives include Charter, Northwest Hennepin Human Services Council Advisory, Northwest Suburbs Cable Communications, and Watershed. If you would like to apply for a commission, please visit the City website or contact the City Clerk at (763) 569-3300.