

PARK PAGES

A THRIVING COMMUNITY INSPIRING PRIDE WHERE OPPORTUNITIES EXIST FOR ALL



NEWS ABOUT THE BROOKLYN PARK COMMUNITY

MAY/JUNE 2016

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Save the DATES!



The 2016 Tater Daze festival is right around the corner! Event schedule and all the details begin on page 7!



Providing a Vision for the Community: **BROOKLYN PARK 2025 THE ASANTEMAN ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA**

Did you know there are about two hundred members who are part of the Asanteman Association of Minnesota? It's a group of folks who all hail from Ghana and are united in the mission to give back to their community. They believe in a planned future and having opportunities so everyone can prosper and live well in Brooklyn Park.



While the group works to foster the Asante culture, tradition and values, they also believe in dedicating their talents and passion for the benefit of the entire community. As a group, they provide educational opportunities for folks of all ages, including ACT and SAT tutorials for high school juniors and seniors, and classes for those young-at-heart on how to use computers so they aren't left behind in this digital age.

The Asanteman Association continued on page 2...

Spotlight on FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION

Introducing Captain E3! **SNUFFING OUT POTENTIAL FIRES BY HELPING BROOKLYN PARK KIDS STAY SAFE**

Stop, Drop and Roll! Those three words are a life-long lesson often taught by firefighters to teach children how to get out of a fire safely. While it's still an important part of the Brooklyn Park Fire Department's public education program, Fire Chief Ken Prillaman thought the educational effort needed a makeover. "As we looked at elementary school public education programs across the country, we saw fire prevention messages delivered in ways children were used to. I felt like we needed to change our approach to be more in line with current popular culture," the Chief said recently.

So a few months ago, the Fire Department bought Captain E3, a seven foot robot. He looks similar to a transformer and has a built in chest plate that holds the iPad, which allows for automated graphics and messaging. E3 stands for enhanced education and engagement and he is painted the

Introducing Captain E3 continued on page 3...



2015 Annual Water Quality REPORT IS AVAILABLE!

Drinking water has been in the news lately with places such as Flint, MI having some serious problems. So you'll be glad to know that **repeated testing of Brooklyn Park's water supply shows our water is safe to drink and meets state and national standards.** If you'd like to know more about our water, the 2015 water quality report is available on our website at www.brooklynpark.org/waterreport. You can also get a copy sent to you through the mail, just call 763-493-8007.

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City Contacts AT A GLANCE

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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.

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

Official meeting schedules and additional City department contacts can be found easily at: www.brooklynpark.org

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Continued from cover...

The Asanteman Association OF MINNESOTA



They also participate in community programs. In April of 2015, the group adopted part of Highway 610 as part of the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Adopt-A-Highway Program. At least twice a year, members of the group and their parents go along Highway 610 between Zane Avenue and Highway 252 and pick up trash. While the young people aren't always excited about it, the adults in the group feel it's important to instill the spirit of volunteerism and public service in their children.

For other members of the organization, the Asanteman Association provides \$200 grants to their folks who take part in community engagement projects. The application process is rigorous and applicants must demonstrate how their projects will benefit others.

The group is thrilled to be part of the Brooklyn Park community and is just one group taking part in the city's effort to create goals for the year 2025. It's called Brooklyn Park 2025 and it's all

about creating a new strategic plan for the community. Just like members of the Asanteman community, we're inviting all Brooklyn Park residents to attend an **upcoming community cafe event.** It will be held on **Tuesday, June 7, at 7 p.m. at Monroe Elementary**, located at 901 Brookdale Dr. N.

There will also be activities for children ages five and up and refreshments will be served. Look for some awesome door prizes too, including an autographed jersey signed by Vikings Running Back Adrian Peterson and an autographed hat by Vikings Safety Harrison Smith. Translation and interpretation and other accommodations are available upon request. For more information and to RSVP, go to www.brooklynpark.org/BP2025. You can also go to the website and do an online questionnaire if you are unable to make the community cafes in person.

Members of the Asanteman Association are doing their part to help the community. Now it's your turn. Whether you give your input online or in person, please help us make our community the best it can be!



Council Votes to Keep 2016 Water Rates Stable, INCREASE SEWER RATES MODESTLY

The City Council recently voted to not increase water rates in 2016, and to review them again as part of the 2017 budget.

They also voted to increase sewer rates as recommended by staff, which is an average increase of 6.4 percent. The changes in sewer rates are necessary to keep pace with inflation costs for operations and maintenance, particularly because of the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services charges for sewage treatment.

Help Create Our New Community Plan! BROOKLYN PARK 2025

Tuesday, June 7 at 7 p.m.

Monroe Elementary
901 Brookdale Dr. N.

For more information
and to register go to:

www.brooklynpark.org/bp2025

or scan the QR code here
with your smart phone:





Continued from cover...

Introducing **CAPTAIN E3!**

same black and red colors as the city's fire trucks.

Since Captain E3's unveiling, the reviews about the new updated program from kids, teachers and parents have been amazing. School administrators have told the Chief "they've seen fire education for 28 years and this is the best one yet." Teachers have commented how they've never seen their children so attentive and engaged.

But the best part is the reaction of the children, whose eyes have lit up with delight at seeing the dynamic mascot. Chief Prillaman is adamant he's not just another superhero for children. "If we are able to keep just one child from lighting a fire or from being drawn into other mischievous behavior, it's a win both emotionally and financially. And who knows, maybe Captain E3 will motivate our young people to serve our community and be a firefighter."

The robot was paid for with money the Fire Department received through donations, no tax payer dollars were used. But since acquiring the costume the Department has been able to replace almost half of the original costs in new donations from individuals and organizations who believe investing in kids is great for the entire community.

Look to see Captain E3 at events, such as Tater Daze, National Night Out and dozens of other city events. **For more information on having Captain E3 visit your Brooklyn Park event, call 763-493-8020.**

Election 2016: **WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!**



Polling place changes for some East District voters!

The following polling places have changed for the 2016 elections:

- Voters who live in **Precinct E1-A in the East District** will be voting at the Monroe Elementary School at 901 Brookdale Dr. N. instead of Vertical Life Church.
- Voters who live in **Precinct E-2 in the East District** will be voting at the Way Cross Evangelical Church at 7733 West River Rd. instead of Monroe Elementary School.
- Voters who live in **Precinct E-5 in the East District** will be voting at the Riverview Early Childhood Center at 1400 93rd Ave. N. instead of West River Road Baptist Church.
- Voters who live in the **Precinct E-6A in the East District** will be voting at 9500 West River Rd. instead of Riverview Early Childhood Center

Want to run for office in 2016? File by May 31!

Eligible residents who want to become a candidate for Council Member for the Central, East or West District, must **file an affidavit of candidacy and nominating petition** with the City Clerk. This **paperwork will be accepted beginning 8 a.m. Tuesday, May 17, through 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 31.** Council members will serve a four-year term beginning January 3, 2017. If more than two residents file to be elected as council member for each district, a municipal primary election will be held on August 9 to nominate candidates for the November 8 general election.

For more detailed information on how to run for a seat on the Brooklyn Park City Council, contact City Clerk Devin Montero at 763-493-8180 or email him at devin.montero@brooklynpark.org.

Election Judges

The City of Brooklyn Park needs you! Are you interested in being an election judge for the general election on November 8?

If you're eligible to vote and can read, write, and speak English and are not a candidate or closely related to a candidate, you may be eligible to be a judge. We are also in need of bilingual judges. Working as an election judge is a great way to serve your community. This is a paid position and with proper written notice, you may be absent from your job without penalty.

Email deloris.taku@brooklynpark.org to apply and join the mailing list to keep up-to-date on information and training opportunities. You can also visit the city's website, www.brooklynpark.org to apply.

New Electronic Poll Books

This year the City of Brooklyn Park will be using new electronic poll books. In 2014, the state legislature authorized the use of these devices. They will replace the current voter check in process and will:

- Speed up lines at the polls
- Help election judges through each step of the process, including election day registration
- Allow instantaneous absentee ballot updates to be received wirelessly
- Provide cities data on polling place activity and election judge performance
- Enable cities to hire fewer election judges



News Off the Street

CITY OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE UPDATE

Summer maintenance work is about to begin!

The weird weather has many of us checking the calendar to make sure what season it is. Rest assured summer will soon be here. For the city's public works staff that means lots of street maintenance.

Striping and Marking

City staff applies traffic marking paint on the centerline of more than 90 miles of streets and to more than 2,000 traffic symbols (turn arrows, etc.). Centerline striping goes quickly because that piece of equipment can carry hundreds of gallons of paint at a time. Painting traffic symbols involves a lot more handiwork and typically takes a month or so to complete.

Seal Coating

Applying oil and rocks is a very effective treatment to extend the life of a street, although it's understandable that the loose rocks that go along with a chip seal project can be a temporary annoyance. Once the oil and rocks are applied, the streets will be swept within a week to pick up the majority of that loose rock. Then we'll sweep the streets again a second time later in the year to get the ones that came loose after the first sweeping. This year we'll be seal coating approximately 22 miles of streets in the central part of the city and three parks parking lots. This work is scheduled to begin in mid-July and should last less than two weeks.

Maintenance Overlays

This involves milling off the top two inches of asphalt and replacing it with two inches of new asphalt. Twelve miles of residential streets are scheduled for this repair this year. This is the second year of a 14-year plan to mill and overlay approximately 200 miles of streets.



The work will be done in the central part of the City south of 85th Avenue North. Work is tentatively scheduled to begin in mid-July and will take two months to complete.

For maps of the areas scheduled for seal coating and mill and overlay work visit www.brooklynpark.org/city-government/public-works/street-maintenance-projects/.

Baby Duck Rescue

Though not an official job duty, we perform this task on a regular basis. **We rescue approximately 80 baby ducks from our storm sewer system every summer.** This is met with obvious approval from both the mother ducks and Brooklyn Park residents who alert us about the stranded ducklings.



Tales from Tim's **RECYCLIN' BIN!**



Recycling tips and more!

It's the season of graduations, family reunions and other big get-togethers. Typically these events include plenty of food and beverages. So when you're celebrating:

- Make the recycling container a different color, shape and/or size than the trash container. This helps catch people's attention.
- Use clear signs that incorporate photos or drawings and few words because your busy guests don't have time to read small print. Something like the recycling symbol and a drawing of a bottle and a can will do.
- Place the signs above the containers. Again busy guests will not be looking at the sides of your container.
- If you don't have extra containers, borrow some for free from Hennepin County. They even come with clear plastic bags that allow your guests to see the bottles and cans. This serves as another visual clue to put your recycling in the proper place. Reserve your containers at www.hennepin.us/business/recycling-hazardous-waste/recycling-at-events.

If you're planning on hanging out in our city's parks, you can now recycle there as well. After you polish off your pop in the park, you can now put your bottle or can in a recycling container. That's because Brooklyn Park received a grant from Hennepin County to add recycling containers in seven of the busiest parks: Noble Sports Park, Zane Sports Park, Northwoods Park, Central Park, Oak Grove Park, River Park and Willowstone Park. It's anticipated that additional parks will be added in future years. Drop off your bottles and cans in the square blue recycling containers next to the blue garbage carts.



Recycle on my friends! **Tim**



Summer has returned...it's a great time to **GETUP&GO!**

The Spring/Summer GetUp&Go brochure is coming soon! The Brooklyn Park Recreation and Parks Department offers a wide variety of recreational activities for all ages. Youth scholarships are available for enrolling in 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 access the brochure online at www.brooklynpark.org/recreation to find out more about activities and to register.



Walk the Park Trinity Gardens 2016—A Neighborhood Event
Saturday, June 4,
from 9 to 11 a.m.
Community Activity Center
5600 85th Ave. N.

Welcome the return of summer and meet some of your neighbors at the 2016 Walk the Park neighborhood event on Saturday, June 4, hosted by the Trinity Gardens neighborhood. Come enjoy a one or two-mile walk. Join in at any point along the route, anytime during the event. Make sure you stop at one of the check-in tents before 11 a.m. to sign up for the chance to win great prizes. For more information, please call Carrie Scully at 763-493-8174.



2016 Summer Blossom Award

NOMINATE YOURSELF, YOUR NEIGHBOR OR A BUSINESS

This competitive garden and landscape recognition program annually recognizes and rewards residents and businesses that strive to improve the city's landscape. Grand winners in each category will receive a \$250 gift card, an engraved garden paver and formal recognition from the Brooklyn Park City Council. **Entries accepted between May 27 and July 6, 2016!** For more information go to www.brooklynpark.org/summer-blossom.



Farmers Market Wednesdays!

June 22 to October 12,
from 2 to 6 p.m.
Zane Sports Park,
8717 Zane Ave. N.

Get fresh fruit, vegetables and baked goods all under the sun at Zane Sports Park!



Free Renters Rights and Responsibilities Workshop

Various dates,
from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Brooklyn Center Family
Resource Center,
500 69th Ave. N.

Learn lots of important information on how to communicate with your landlord, how to file a complaint, learn laws that apply to renters, how to lease with poor credit or rental history and renter's and landlord's responsibilities. Go to: www.brooklynpark.org/rentersworkshop for more information and dates.

Free Movies in the Park!

Jurassic Park (1993)
Friday, July 8 at dusk
River Park 101 83rd Ave. N.
Inside Out (2015)
Friday, July 29 at dusk
Central Park 8440 Regent Ave. N.



Community Engagement Gathering and Dinner

Thursdays, May 26 and June 23,
from 5:45 to 7:30 p.m.
Brooklyn Park City Council Chambers
5200 85th Ave. N.

Come meet new friends and neighbors and learn more about what is going on in your City! Each month a new topic is discussed that affects the community as a whole. Everyone is invited and a free dinner is served!



2016 Summer Blossom Awards—Nomination Entry

Circle one: **Single Family** **Townhome** **Neighborhood Garden** **Commercial**

Name of Gardener: _____

Address of Property: _____

Nominator: _____

Nominator's Address: _____

Significance of garden/landscaping to the neighborhood: _____

Entries must be submitted between May 27 through July 6, 2016. Submit two photos with entry form to: Brooklyn Park Summer Blossom Awards, 5200 85th Ave. N., Brooklyn Park, MN 55443. More than one property may be nominated. For more information go to: www.brooklynpark.org/summer-blossom.





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Brooklyn Park Community Activity Center



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