

# Park Pages

## Brooklyn Park Police: Focusing on mental health

Also in this issue:  
Restaurant Week recap  
LRT extension update  
Winter tips



# Brooklyn Park Police: Focusing on mental health

Brooklyn Park Police Department launched their new Mental Health Unit in June. Detective Samantha Brown, Senior Licensed Social Worker, Erin Buller and a part-time paid intern have been busy looking through cases and following up. So far this year they have averaged 84 mental health related calls per month.

“These calls for service are often time-consuming and difficult to resolve, and, on relatively rare occasions, result in tragic injuries or deaths,” said Detective Brown.

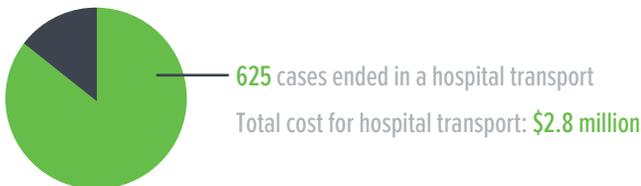
Back in 2016, the Brooklyn Park Police Department started working on a plan to create a Mental Health Unit to address the drastically increasing need to help people suffering with mental health concerns in our community.

*“Innovation has become increasingly important in addressing public safety issues.”*

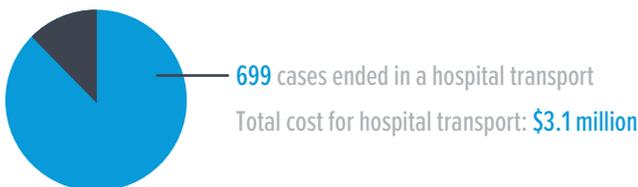
Some of the goals of the Mental Health Unit are to:

- Provide better service to those suffering from mental illness
- Lower police conflict with a person suffering with mental illness
- Decrease the community impact of untreated mental illness

## 2017 mental health cases (736 total)



## 2018 mental health cases (836 total)



“There is a population of people who either don’t have access to services or are not aware of services,” said Buller, whose salary is split 50/50 with Hennepin County. “Without these services, there is an increased likelihood that these individuals will continue to have frequent police interaction.”

Detective Brown hopes to keep individuals living with mental illness from the cycle of entering the criminal justice system by offering them support services.

“While we would like to provide outreach to everyone, there is no way we will be able to accommodate working with every person. Therefore, we will be prioritizing people who are repeat callers or that that have engaged in violence,” said Detective Brown.

The Brooklyn Park Mental Health Unit hopes to improve outcomes for those living with mental illness and improve the overall sense of safety in the community.



Detective Samantha Brown and the Mental Health Unit

## Recidivism in 2017

Repeat offenders **102** Highest calls for one person: 9

Repeat calls to location **108** Highest calls for one location: 22

## Recidivism in 2018

Repeat offenders **106** Highest calls for one person: 7

Repeat calls to location **117** Highest calls for one location: 10

## Exciting things in our community!

### Brooklyn Park celebrates its first ever Restaurant Week

In September, five restaurants plus the city's newest restaurant, The Brooklyn, were spotlighted on social media throughout the week to highlight the wide variety of foods that can be found in the city. Other restaurants will be featured in other ways such as in this newsletter and city website.

"Brooklyn Park wants to support our independently owned restaurants. Many do not have a budget for fancy commercials or advertising, so the city tries to help with marketing. We want them to grow and stay in the city they love," said Mayor Jeffery Lunde. "We plan to spotlight many of our other restaurants in a different way."

The city will work on expanding and making restaurant week even more interesting next year.

*Camille Hepola, Brooklyn Park communications manager, appeared on KARE 11 and Fox 9 cooking segments with Chef Josh Brown from The Brooklyn.*



### Employment and training opportunities for youth

BrookLynk equips emerging young professionals between the ages of 14-21 with essential job skills while building long-lasting relationships and expanding their professional social networks. Available in both Brooklyn Center and Brooklyn Park, BrookLynk connects youth with paid summer internships and local professional development opportunities.

Over the course of five years, BrookLynk has provided pre-employment training for 879 young people and coordinated 397 professional internships.

Come and discover your career pathway with BrookLynk! Applications for summer interns will open in January 2020. To learn more, visit the BrookLynk website:

<https://www.brooklynk.works/>



### Coming soon: a visual arts and cultural destination

CITA will be a dynamic and inclusive center featuring:

- Accessible and affordable arts education for elementary through post-secondary
- Premier destination for performing and visual arts
- Cross-cultural programming for community members of all ages

Visit [nhcc.edu/cita](https://nhcc.edu/cita) for more information



## Summer Blossom winners recognized

This was the 20th year of the Summer Blossom garden & landscape recognition program. The purpose of the program is to highlight attractive gardens and landscaping in Brooklyn Park and recognize citizens and businesses that strive to improve the city's landscape. Nominations were received from gardeners, neighbors or friends from May 27 through July 1, 2019.

At the September 9 City Council Meeting, grand winners in single family, townhome neighborhood and commercial categories each received a \$250 VISA gift card and an engraved Summer Blossom Paver. First place single family winners each received an engraved Summer Blossom paver. The 2019 winners are:

- |                                    |   |                     |
|------------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| • Single family grand (District 3) | 1709 - 89th Ave. N.                                 | Carmen Teisanu      |
| • First place district 1           | 6657 Hillsboro Ave. N.                              | Myrna Dahl          |
| • First place district 2           | 8431 Queen Ave. N.                                  | Michael Goetz       |
| • First place district 4           | 9702 Linden Ave. N.                                 | Stanley Walton      |
| • Grand townhome                   | 7190 72nd Lane                                      | Jorge Adamson       |
| • Grand neighborhood               | Willows of Aspen Villas,<br>Ladyslipper Lane Circle | Tony & Pat Bianco   |
| • Grand commercial                 | 3100 85th Ave. N.                                   | Realife Cooperative |

Photographs of the gardens can be found at the city's web site: <https://www.brooklynpark.org/summer-blossom/>.



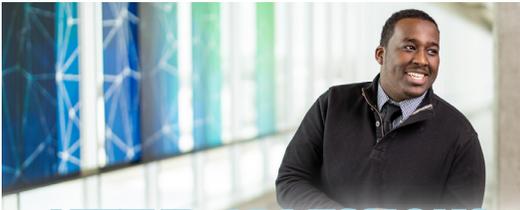
## Photography rentals

Book your next photography session at Historic Eidem Farm! Whether its family photos, senior pictures or a photography class, we've got something for you.

Our country farm with its old buildings, fields and trees create the backdrop for that perfect photo. Available mid-January through mid-February, bookings can be made year-round with a three-week advance booking.

Call 763-493-4604 or email [eve.ericson@brooklynpark.org](mailto:eve.ericson@brooklynpark.org) to book now.





### ATTEND ADMISSIONS FAST TRACK

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4**

**At Fast Track, you will be able to:**

- Apply for free
- Complete orientation
- Take placement tests
- Register for classes

For more information, please visit  
**[nhcc.edu/fasttrack](https://nhcc.edu/fasttrack)**



**North Hennepin  
Community College**  
A member of Minnesota State

# Metro Blue Line Light Rail Transit (LRT) extension project



The planned METRO Blue Line LRT Extension project will bring light rail transit to the region's northwest communities as early as 2024. Construction on the METRO Blue Line Light Rail Transit extension is scheduled to begin in 2020. The line, also called the Bottineau LRT, will run from downtown Minneapolis to Brooklyn Park through Golden Valley, Robbinsdale and Crystal.

The 13-mile route has five planned stations in Brooklyn Park. The line enters the city running on the existing railroad corridor next to Highway 81. At 73rd Avenue, the line swings east to connect with West Broadway Avenue. It continues up West Broadway before crossing Highway 610 with passenger service ending at Oak Grove Parkway.

Currently, the project still has a major hurdle to clear in that the Metropolitan Council has to come to agreement with the BNSF Railroad on sharing a portion of the railroad's right of way along Highway 81. Metropolitan Council staff met with BNSF staff in February 2019 to discuss the project but no progress has been made to date on an agreement. As a result, right of way acquisition activities along the corridor are on hold.

## Planning beyond the rails

### Temporary plaza at West Broadway and 85th Avenue

Local artists funded through McKnight Foundation's Cultivate arts initiative are helping the City of Brooklyn Park make the temporary plaza at West Broadway and 85th Avenue a cool and inviting place. Mike Klein fabricated a canoe-inspired seating piece called 'In The Same Boat' for the nature-based play area that will be installed on the west side of the plaza. Nick Knutson crafted robot-inspired elements called 'Robot Park' that include a movable stage, seating, and a unique nook that will be installed on the east side of the plaza.

- 1 Canoe-inspired seating, 'In The Same Boat', fabricated by Mike Klein
- 2 'Robot Park', crafted by Nick Knutson

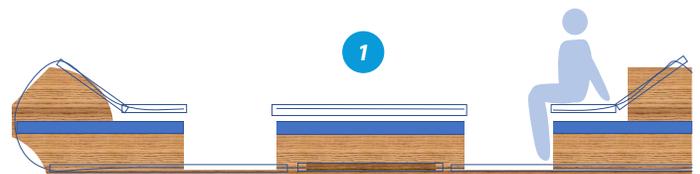
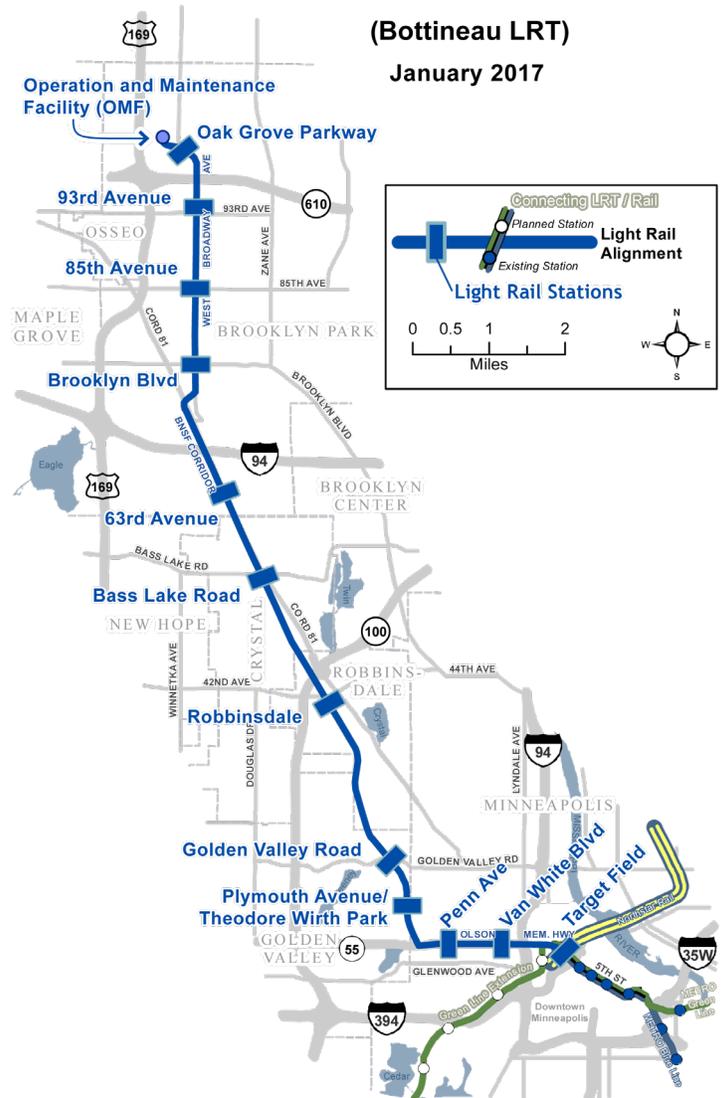
### Bottineau Corridor wayfinding

Hennepin County and Bottineau Corridor communities are working on a wayfinding plan to better connect residents from METRO Blue Line Extension LRT stations to key community destinations and trail connections. From August to October 2019, SRF Consulting attended public events, placed input boards at key locations and held stakeholder meetings with residents, employers, employees, students and city staff to learn about issues and barriers. A draft plan is expected later this fall.

## METRO Blue Line Extension

(Bottineau LRT)

January 2017



# Fall is coming

## Last call for leaves

By law, leaves and other yard waste cannot go in your trash or recycling containers.

Drop off leaves, grass, brush and garden waste for free at the **Maple Grove Yardwaste Site: 10300 Maple Grove Parkway North, Maple Grove, MN 55369**. The site closes for the year after Nov. 30. It will reopen April 1, 2020.

For directions and hours please visit:  
<http://www.mgyardwaste.com/>

## Pumpkin disposal

Did you know pumpkins can be placed in your backyard compost bin? If you don't have a bin, use the free drop off container in Central Park across the street from the Operations & Maintenance facility, 8300 Noble Avenue North between Friday, Nov. 1 and Sunday, Nov. 10. Please remove all candles, candle wax and decorations before disposal.

## Free walk ups for recycling

Free walk up service for your recycling cart.

Residents with mobility concerns just need to get their cart outside their garage or by their stoop. Garbage companies may offer this service for a fee. Check with your hauler.

Call 763-493-8006 or email [bpom@brooklynpark.org](mailto:bpom@brooklynpark.org) to request temporary or permanent walk up service for recycling.

## Use a low-salt diet on your driveway

Just one teaspoon of salt permanently contaminates five gallons of fresh water. So do your part to cut down on salt use this winter.

Shovel snow first, apply salt only to ice patches, use as little salt as possible and sweep up leftover salt when ice is gone.

**Remember:** More isn't better and sodium chloride, the most common deicer, stops working below 15° F.

## What you need to know about the snow and parking

- No on-street parking 2–5 a.m., Oct. 15–April 15
- **No on-street parking when a snow emergency is in effect**
- Free 'snow emergency' parking is available at local parks

Find more information at  
[www.brooklynpark.org/snow](http://www.brooklynpark.org/snow)

Sign up for email alerts from the city!  
[www.brooklynpark.org/subscribe](http://www.brooklynpark.org/subscribe)

It's not just what they know.  
It's who they become.



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# Activities

## Make a Splash!

Brooklyn Park is proud to be part of Hennepin County Government's Make a Splash initiative, which offers free or low-cost swim lessons to children in the community.

As part of the Kid Zone Summer Camp program, participants received swim lessons at Jackson Middle School pool led by Brooklyn Park Recreation aquatics staff.



## Calendar of events

For more information go to [brooklynpark.org/events](http://brooklynpark.org/events)

### Eidem at Night

Friday, Nov. 1, 7 p.m. and 8 p.m.  
Friday, Nov. 8, 7 p.m. and 8 p.m.

### CEAP food and toy drive (new, unwrapped toys please)

Nov. 1–Dec. 11

### Skate with Tom Turkey

Thursday, Nov. 28

### A Norwegian Christmas

Saturday, Dec. 7, 1–4 p.m.  
Sunday, Dec. 8, 1–4 p.m.

### A gift on canvas

Thursday, Dec. 19, 5:30–7 p.m.

### Skate with Santa

Saturday, Dec. 21, 2:15–3:45 p.m.

## Providing MORE for the 50+ community!



### New monthly speakers!

**Fridays, 10–11:30 a.m.**

Join us once a month for our new Adults in the Know program. Each event will take place at the Community Activity Center. *Register by the Wednesday prior to program date (fee \$5).*

**Friday, Nov. 1**

Veteran's Day with historian Dan Hartman...#144001.73

**Friday, Dec. 6**

AAA–Safe Driving...#144001.74

### Day trips

**Holiday lights tour of St. Paul**

Begin the holiday season viewing the beautiful light displays of St. Paul!

Before the lights turn on enjoy an early dinner at the Cherokee Tavern. *Register by November 4.*

**Wednesday, Dec. 4**

3:15–8:30 p.m...\$70...#141012.71

**Como flower show and winter carnival**

Begin this winter day inside the historic 1915 Marjorie McNeely Conservatory. Then enjoy lunch at the St. Paul Hotel's M St Café with the Sideboard Buffet featuring hot entrees with side dishes, salad, soup, coffee or tea. After lunch a local guide will give a riding tour of the St. Paul Winter Carnival. *Register by Dec. 30.*

**Thursday, Jan. 30**

9:15 a.m.–3 p.m...\$78...#141001.11

### Luncheons

Mark your calendars for the holiday senior luncheons located at the Community Activity Center. *Register one week prior to event.*

**Veteran's/Thanksgiving Luncheon**

**Thursday, Nov. 14**

11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m...\$15...#143011.71

**Holiday Luncheon**

**Thursday, Dec. 12**

11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m...\$15...#143012.71

Check out our evening fitness classes at the Community Activity Center! Register by phone (763-493-8333), in person at the CAC or online at [www.brooklynpark.org/registration](http://www.brooklynpark.org/registration).



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# Tales from Tim's Recycling Bin

## A single solution

by Tim Pratt

I was excited to hear about a campaign by a beer company that was giving out free six-packs if you collected bags of plastic litter removed from waterways. Alas, the campaign was limited to areas near the oceans.

Don't they know Minnesota has Lake Superior which is like an inland ocean? Heck, we have more than 10,000 lakes –that's a lot of water. But my obsession with getting free suds is distracting us from the main point. There's plastic in our waters and it's getting worse.

What are these plastics? The number one litter item found during beach cleanups is cigarette butts. Yes, they look like paper, but they're actually a composite of paper and plastic. Then food wrappers, bottle caps, beverage bottles and rounding out the top five: plastic bags.

What do these things have in common –other than being made from plastic? These are products that are designed to be used only once and then discarded. It's a category called single-use items.

In baseball a single is a good thing. But in the environment single use is becoming a bad thing. Because we have switched from things that we reused to disposable products and packaging we have lots

more waste to deal with. We can recycle some of it. But more and more of it is ending up in our ditches, our waterways and even in our wildlife. Dealing with the proliferation of plastics is the hottest topic in recycling circles. So much so that the European Union voted to ban single-use plastics by 2021.

And I'm trying to do my part by doubling down on alternatives to single-use items.

At the restaurant I now tell my server to skip the straw in my drink. I bring my reusable shopping bags to the store. For my morning coffee I brew it at home using a stainless-steel filter. These are all small steps, but they're steps. And if we all take a few steps, we'll end up going a long way toward protecting the environment.

Until next time, see what you can do to skip the single-use items my friends.

*Tim Pratt—Recycling Manager, Operations and Maintenance*

## Your Brooklyn Park City Council

For information regarding City Council meetings and contact information for City Council members, please visit [www.brooklynpark.org/city-government/city-council/](http://www.brooklynpark.org/city-government/city-council/).

From left to right: Terry Parks, Lisa Jacobson, Mark Mata, Susan Pha, Mayor Jeffrey Lunde, Wynfred Russell, Tonja West-Hafner



## Brooklyn Park receives Founders Award

In August, Mayor Jeffrey Lunde took part in the sixth annual convening of the national Cities United conference where he gave a speech as a new advisory board member. The city was recognized for its efforts to build trust and relationships with its youth while constructing a new comprehensive public safety plan.

