# Park Pages • May / June 2022 **City of Brooklyn Park Newsletter**

**Brooklyn Park Business Center** 

# Senator Klobuchar and Congressman Phillips celebrate bringing \$1 million to Brooklyn Park

Small businesses, startups, and local entrepreneurs have something special to loc forward to thanks to a new project in the works. U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar and Congressman Dean Phillips celebrated bringing \$1 million to Brooklyn Park to aid in the development of the Small Business Development and Acceleration Center, which is being constructed in the Northwind Plaza mall near the intersection of West Broadway and Brooklyn Boulevard. Once built, the facility will have a variety of spaces including office, retail, and drop-in space with room for up to 60 businesses.

Continued on page 5

IN THIS ISSUE:

**Brooklyn Park has new Council Districts** 

**How to file for Mayor or Council** 

Summer programs are open for registrations!

"You can't tell right now, but what's behind us is going to turn into something really amazing for many individuals, small businesses...many people who don't even know yet that they're going to become a business owner," said Mayor Lisa Jacobson at the March press event.

























# **BROOKLYN** COUNCIL



LISA JACOBSON, MAYOR 763-493-8146 voicemail lisa.jacobson@brooklynpark.org (Elected through 2022)

#### **EAST DISTRICT**

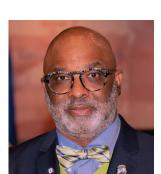


**XP LEE** 763-493-8010 voicemail xp.lee@brooklynpark.org (Elected through 2024)



**TERRY PARKS** 763-493-8097 voicemail terry.parks@brooklynpark.org (Elected through 2022)

#### CENTRAL DISTRICT



**BOYD MORSON** 763-493-8040 voicemail boyd.morson@brooklynpark.org



**TONJA WEST-HAFNER** 763-493-8372 voicemail tonja.west-hafner@brooklynpark.org (Elected through 2022)

#### **WEST DISTRICT**



**SUSAN PHA** 763-315-8496 voicemail susan.pha@brooklynpark.org (Elected through 2024)



**WYNFRED RUSSELL** 763-315-8442 voicemail wynfred.russell@brooklynpark.org (Elected through 2022)

### **Meet Marcus Hill**

#### **Brooklyn Park's new Parks and Facilities Manager**

Marcus Hill joined the Brooklyn Park Recreation & Parks team in February. He was most recently working for the City of Saint Paul as the Facility Director of five recreation centers and program supervisor for youth and teen programs for the past five years. Marcus graduated from Minnesota State University–Mankato where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in Parks and Recreation. Marcus also played four years of college basketball while at Mankato and later went to play professional basketball for three years. Marcus was born and raised in Brooklyn Park and is



currently a resident. As Parks and Facilities Manager, Marcus will oversee operations of the special use recreation facilities in the City of Brooklyn Park as well as the operation of its parks and trail system. The Recreation and Parks Department is excited to add his experience, knowledge and passion for Parks and Recreation to the Brooklyn Park team.

# **Emerging leaders on commissions**

This year, the city is adding seats to city commissions for an historically under-represented demographic: young adults ages 18–24. To learn more about commissions and to apply, please go to: www.brooklynpark.org/volunteer/commissions/emerging-leaders.

# IT Tech Training program

In 2021, The MN IT Center of Excellence in partnership with BrookLynk, Teamsters Service Bureau and American Indian OIC created the IT Tech Training program to assist individuals in understanding the IT career pathways available to them. This training is offered multiple times throughout the year. It is funded by DEED focused primarily on recruiting BIPOC individuals between the ages of 18-30 to complete IT certifications and to gain full-time employment after completion.

Individuals who wish to participate in the program must be:

- Between the ages of 18–30
- BIPOC Live in Brooklyn Park / Brooklyn Center.

For more information or for questions. Contact BrookLynks Program Manager, Naweed Ahmadzai at Naweed.ahmadzai@brooklynk.works

# PATHWAYS INTO IT CAREERS



**PROGRAM** DATES (6 WEEKS)

**ELIGIBILITY** 

COMPTIA FUNDAMETALS | COMPTIA A+ | COMPTIA NETWORK-



Are you interested in a career in IT?

BrookLynk and partners are excited to offer youth/ residents that are eligible the opportunity to complete a FREE 6-WEEK IT certification to help them launch a career in Information Technology.

The program participants reffered from the Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center will receive ongoing support such as but not limited to: resume writing, loaner laptop,





LOCATION

**REGISTER** &

# **Shop Citywide Garage Sales**

Meet your neighbors and score some deals at the ANNUAL CITYWIDE GARAGE SALES **MAY 19-MAY 21** 

Printed maps will be available beginning May 9th at Brooklyn Park City Hall, the Community Activity Center, the North Precinct Police Department, Zanewood Recreation Center, and the Brooklyn Park library. The online maps will be available after May 9th and can be found at: https://www.brooklynpark.org/event/2022-citywide-garage-sale/ Questions? Contact Shanna Woods, Neighborhood Relations Specialist, at shanna.woods@brooklynpark.org or call 763-238-5216.

#### Native American Heritage event

Saturday, May 14, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Brookdale Park This is a free event; all are welcome. Join us for this health fair to honor Native American Heritage month with mostly Native American organizations sharing health resources with the community. Enjoy an opening ceremony, teepee with storytelling for the kids, Native American book giveaway, and a drum instructor with dancers. There will also be dental, diabetes and blood pressure screenings.

### Council approves new city districts

After seven months of hard work, Brooklyn Park has new Council Districts! On March 28, the Brooklyn Park City Council formally approved the 2022 redistricting ordinance. The city will keep its three districts: West, Central and East, but the boundaries between them have shifted in order to balance the resident populations within them and to align with school districts and new state legislative lines.

A notable guideline the Brooklyn Park Charter Commission used during the redistricting process was to consider communities of interest. Redistricting is about community representation; it determines what what voices are heard and whose policy interests are served. According to the 2020 Census, Brooklyn Park's population is 39% white and 61% Black, Indigenous, Hispanic and other people of color (BIPOC). When redistricting, the Commission worked to ensure that each new Council district's population was as close as possible to being representative of Brooklyn Park's population as a whole.

#### WHAT'S CHANGING IN THE **LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS?**

Brooklyn Park was formerly in Senate Districts 36 and 40 but are now Senate Districts 34 and 38. What was formerly Brooklyn Park House Districts 36B, 40A and 40 are now 34B, 38A and 38B.

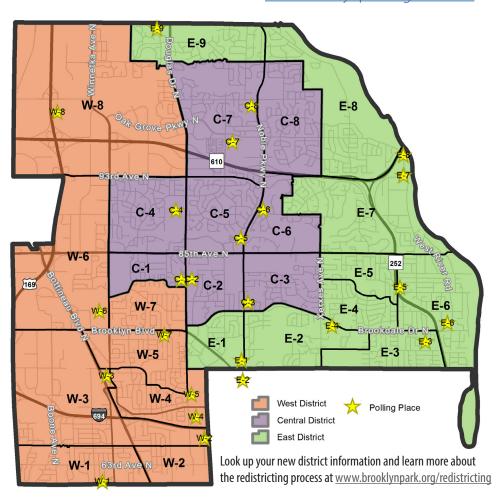
#### **Council Members moving districts:**

Tonja West-Hafner moves from Central to West District Wynfred Russell moves from West to Central District **Boyd Morson** moves from Central to East District (Note: The council members will continue to represent their districts until their terms end.)

#### Polling places changing:

As a resident, your new Council District is in effect now! Make sure you confirm your election precinct and polling place ahead of the next election. (Note: Registered voters impacted by these changes will receive a postcard)

Find out where to vote at: www.brooklynpark.org/elections



**Interested in running for Mayor or City Council?** 

**Candidate filing dates/packets** 

Eligible residents who desire to become a candidate for Mayor or Council Member for the Central, East or West District, must file an affidavit of candidacy and nominating petition with the City Clerk. Affidavits of candidacy and nominating petitions will be accepted beginning at 8 a.m. Tuesday, May 17, 2022 through 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 31, 2022. Voting will be held at the November 8, 2022, municipal general election.

The Mayor and Council Members will serve a four-year term beginning January 9, 2023. 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, 2022, to nominate candidates for the November 8, 2022, municipal general election. For Mayor, an Affidavit of Candidacy, a \$75 filing fee, and nominating petitions signed by 75 registered voters who live in the city is required.

For Council Members, an Affidavit of Candidacy, a \$25 filing fee and nominating petitions signed by 25 registered voters from the representative district is required.

All candidates must file in the City Clerk's Office at City Hall, 5200 85th Avenue N. Candidate packets will be available from the City Clerk's Office prior to the filing dates. Questions regarding filing for office may be directed to the City Clerk at 763-493-8180 or email <a href="mailto:devin.montero@brooklynpark.org">devin.montero@brooklynpark.org</a>

\*Note: Nominating Petitions must be signed during the filing period of May 17, 2022 to May 31, 2022 and signed by registered voters who live in the City of Brooklyn Park. Signatures must only appear on the Nomination Petition Form.

#### **Qualifications for Filing Affidavit of Candidacy**

Affidavits of candidacy for municipal office are obtained from and filed with the City Clerk. An affidavit of candidacy shall state the name of the office sought and shall state the candidate:

- Is an eligible voter\*;
- Has no other affidavit on file as a candidate for any office at the upcoming primary or general election;
- Is, or will be on assuming office 21 years of age or more;
- Has been a resident of Brooklyn Park for at least 30 days before the general election

\*eligible voter" as defined in MS 201.014, subd. 1 is an individual who meets the following requirements at the time of election:

- be 18 years of age or older;
- be a citizen of the United States; and
- maintain residence in Minnesota for 20 days immediately preceding the election.

#### **Withdrawal from Election**

A candidate may withdraw from the election by filing an affidavit of withdrawal with the City Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. Thursday, June 2, 2022. Thereafter, no candidate may file an affidavit of withdrawal. (MS205.13, subd.





#### Where do I vote?

municipal general election.

To find out where you vote on election day visit: <a href="https://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/">https://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/</a>

#### **Early voting**

In person early voting begins June 24, at City Hall in the Council Chambers, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through August 8. On Saturday August 6, in person early voting will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

#### How to get an absentee application

You can download a copy of the Absentee Ballot Application at <a href="https://www.brooklynpark.org/elections/voting/#early-voting">https://www.brooklynpark.org/elections/voting/#early-voting</a> or call 763-493-8119 or 763-493-8180 and have it mailed to you.

Once completed and signed, return your absentee ballot application as soon as possible by mailing to: Hennepin County Elections, 300 S. 6th Street, MC 012, Minneapolis, MN 55487-0012 or by email to <a href="https://hc.vote@hennepin.us">hc.vote@hennepin.us</a>

#### **ELECTION CALENDAR**

June 24	Absentee voting begins for the Primary Election
July 19	Last-day for voters to pre-register for the Primary Election Note: Voters can still register through the absentee voting process or on Election Day.)
August 2	Direct Balloting period begins (voters can submit ballots in the ballot counter)
August 6	Open Saturday for absentee voting, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
August 8	In-person absentee voting for the Primary Election closes at 5 p.m.
August 9	Primary Election Day, polls open, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
September 23	Absentee voting begins for the General Election
October 18	Last-day for voters to pre-register for the General Election (Note: Voters can still register through the absentee voting process or on Election Day.)
November 1	Direct Balloting period begins (voters can submit ballots in the ballot counter)
November 5	Open Saturday for absentee voting, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
November 7	In-person absentee voting for the General Election closes at 5 p.m.
November 8	General Election Day, polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For any questions, please contact City Clerk Devin Montero at 763-493-8180 or email devin.montero@brooklynpark.org

### **ELECTION JUDGES NEEDED**

The City of Brooklyn Park is looking for Brooklyn Park residents interested in assisting at the polling place for the upcoming August 9 and November 8 elections. An hourly wage is paid and training is provided. Individuals may be absent from a place of work after giving an employer at least 20 days written notice for the purpose of serving as an election judge without penalty. If you are eligible to vote and can read, write and speak English and you are not a candidate in the election or closely related to a candidate, you can be an election judge. Bilingual judges are needed at the polling places. If you are interested in helping your community while enjoying the camaraderie of your fellow citizens, please call 763-493-8119 or 763-493-8180. For more information please visit our website at <a href="https://www.brooklynpark.org/elections/election-judges">https://www.brooklynpark.org/elections/election-judges</a>

The City of Brooklyn Park is an equal opportunity employer.

# Celebrate Brooklyn Park 2022 event series kicks off this spring!

The Celebrate Brooklyn Park series is a mix of traditions and new opportunities to celebrate the vibrant culture of Brooklyn Park through music, art, food, and fun. There is something available for all ages and abilities!

The Tater Daze Parade will be back after a 2-year hiatus on Saturday, June 4 beginning at 11 a.m. New in 2022, the parade will end with a Community Market at Noble Sports Park that will showcase food, music, vendors, and cultural organizations from the Brooklyn Park community.

A full listing of events is available online. Performers, artists, vendors, food trucks, and sponsors needed. For more information about events or vendors, please visit <a href="https://www.brooklynpark.org/celebrate">https://www.brooklynpark.org/celebrate</a>

### **Fee Assistance for Recreation Programs**

The City of Brooklyn Park provides fee assistance for all residents of Brooklyn Park to participate in recreation programs. Fee assistance is available to current residents of Brooklyn Park of any age, including adults. Assistance will reduce fees up to 75% based on income and household size. Additional fee reduction may be available for families experiencing homelessness or for children that are considered wards of the state. Scholarships are not available for facility use fees, athletic leagues, private lessons, or trips.

#### How to access scholarships?

Beer and wine

Food trucks

Scholarships can be requested in person, over the phone, or online at the time of registration. Call 763-493-8333 or visit us online at <a href="https://www.brooklynpark.org/recreation">https://www.brooklynpark.org/recreation</a>

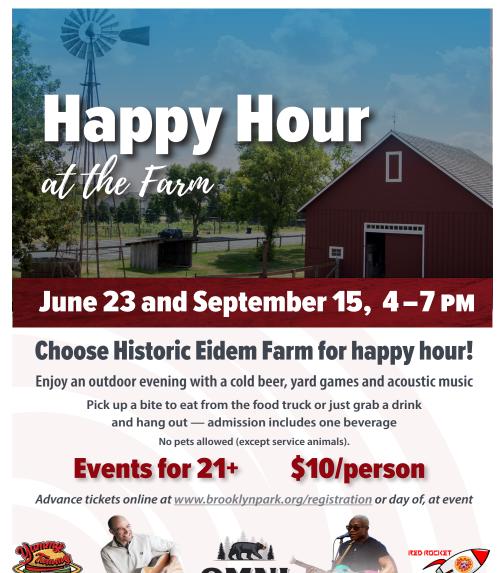
### **Enjoy the Game of Golf**

Edinburgh USA and Brookland Golf Park are open for the season. No matter your skill level, there is an opportunity to enjoy the game of golf. Lessons, leagues, and practice greens are available at both courses. In 2021, Edinburgh USA was named the "2021 Midwest Golf Course Owners Association Award" winner. www.edinburghusa.org

#### You can also play golf with a soccer ball or a frisbee!

Foot Golf combines soccer and golf by using a soccer ball on a traditional course. To make a tee time, call Brookland Golf Park at 763-488-6497 or visit <a href="https://www.brooklandgolfpark.org">www.brooklandgolfpark.org</a>

Frisbee Golf is available next to Brookland Golf Park at Central Park; bring your own equipment or rent some at the Brookland Pro Shop.



Live music

**Bonfires** 

Sesay September 15

**Board** games

**Yard Games** 

#### **Spring and Summer Recreation Programs**

The Recreation and Parks Department has a full complement of programs and services for preschoolers through older adults to stay active and engaged. Learn to swim, take a fitness class, or try a new sport. For families looking for a full summer of fun for kids age 5–12, check out Rec on the Go, Summer Camp, and Summer Fusion. Teens can explore their interests and learn to serve others at Zanewood Recreation Center. Check out all the program offerings on https://www.brooklynpark.org/recreation. Registration is open now!





# **Business space**

(continued from page one)

In addition to space for businesses, entrepreneurs will be able to access individualized support, training and technical assistance.

Brooklyn Park's Economic Development
Authority purchased the space and the
adjoining strip mall in October 2021 and has
been working to identify other partners to
contribute to the cost to purchase and renovate
the space. Receiving grant funds such as the
\$1 million secured in Congress helps keep the
space affordable and accessible both to new
businesses and businesses looking to find a
small space in which to operate. Construction
is expected to begin by early June 2022 with
an anticipated 2023 completion.

https://www.brooklynpark.org/businesses/small-business-center/#apply-for-space

### Call before you dig

Now is the time of year many of us are anxious to do yard projects that involve digging such as planting trees and shrubs or installing fences and mailboxes. Before beginning any work, contact Gopher State One Call a few business days before you begin. They will mark all underground installations so you can avoid them when you dig.

Submit a request by calling 651-454-0002 or at: <a href="https://www.gopherstateonecall.org/homeowners">www.gopherstateonecall.org/homeowners</a>



# Help to protect your ash tree

# Brooklyn Park can help you protect your ash tree from the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB).

EAB larvae feed on the inner bark of ash trees. Once an ash tree is infested, it has almost zero chance of survival. The only way to protect your tree is with treatment and the cost of treatment is often less expensive than the cost to have the tree removed.

Brooklyn Park has contracted with Rainbow Treecare to treat ash trees growing along streets and in the parks. You are now able to take advantage of a bulk pricing deal negotiated by the city and have your ash tree treated for a reduced price.

For more information go to: www.brooklynpark.org/emerald-ash-borer

# 2021 Annual Water Report is available

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, the latest Water Quality Report will be available on the city website at <a href="https://www.brooklynpark.org/waterreport">www.brooklynpark.org/waterreport</a> after June 1. You may also request a hard copy by mail; please call 763-493-8007.

### **Property tax programs**

The programs listed below help reduce property taxes for various types of property and owners across Minnesota. In some cases, you will automatically receive a benefit if you qualify, without needing to apply. Others require you to file an application, usually with your county assessor.

Market Value Exclusion for **Disabled Veterans**  This program provides an annual market value exclusion of up to \$300,000 to help lower property taxes for qualifying disabled veterans, their caregivers, and their surviving spouses.

**Blind/Disabled** Homestead Classification This classification provides a reduced classification rate on the first \$50,000 of taxable market value for qualifying blind or disabled persons.

**Senior Citizen**Property Tax
Deferral

This program helps senior citizens who are having difficulty paying their property taxes. To qualify, you must be 65 or older and your household income must be less than \$60,000.

**Homestead** Classification

The homestead classification applies to properties that are physically occupied by the owner(s) as the principal place of residence. Classification as a homestead may qualify a property for a reduced classification rate, a reduced taxable market value, a property tax refund, and/or other special programs.

www.revenue.state.mn.us/property-tax-programs

If you have questions, contact your local assessing office: Brooklyn Park City Hall, 5200 85th Ave N 763-493-8175, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Want to know more about what is happening in Brooklyn Park?
Find out on the city website!

www.brooklynpark.org

# **Community Engagement**



Enjoy the benefits of being active and feeling better!

# Step To It with your community this May

Build healthy habits by tracking your activity through the Step To It Challenge, a fun, free program that encourages people of all ages and abilities to become more active.

Join the Challenge this May on behalf of the City of Brooklyn Park. The Challenge is not just about walking; almost any activity counts, including running, cycling, dancing, manual wheelchair use, or many others.

Participate in the Challenge for a chance to win Minnesota Twins tickets or other prizes. Get inspired, find more information, and register for the Challenge by visiting <a href="https://www.steptoit.org">www.steptoit.org</a>.

# Plan a neighborhood event or activity!

Residents play a key role in improving the quality of life in their neighborhoods. Brooklyn Park is offering funds to support and encourage our community members to get to know their fellow neighbors, build relationships, and work together to make their neighborhoods united, healthy and thriving.

Anyone with an idea for a project or event to improve their neighborhood should considering applying for this fund. Up to \$250 for a limited number of neighborhood projects per year. Additional supports are available. From pet parades, cultural potlucks, neighborhood clean ups and more, we encourage you to be creative! Learn more here: <a href="https://www.brooklynpark.org/neighborhoods/neighborhood-activity-fund/">https://www.brooklynpark.org/neighborhoods/neighborhood-activity-fund/</a>

Questions? Contact Shanna Woods, Neighborhood Relations Specialist, at <u>shanna.woods@brooklynpark.org</u> or call 763-238-5216.

# Walk the Park

Saturday, June 11

#### 9 – 11 a.m. at Trinity Gardens Park

Join us for Walk the Park, a neighborhood walk and play event, hosted by Trinity Gardens neighborhood. Welcome the return of summer, meet your neighbors and enjoy the park and trails of the Trinity Garden neighborhood. This is a non-competitive, family-friendly neighborhood walk and play event.

#### One and two-mile marked circular route

- Join in at any point along the route and at any time between 9 and 11 a.m.
- Accessible for strollers, wagons and wheelchairs
- Walk at your own pace
- Bring your dogs, kids, neighbors and quests
- Win great prizes in our drawing like gift cards to local restaurants
- Visit with the Fire and Police Departments, Rec on the Go, scavenger hunt, trail trivia, face painting, ring and bean bag toss, selfie station, candy, water and more!

For more information, to reply you're attending or to volunteer, please email <u>walkthepark@mail.com</u>

# **NORTH HENNEPIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Proud recipient of the 'HEED' National Diversity Award for our commitment to racial equity.

# Introducing Weekend College, for busy people like you!

We created Weekend College with busy adults in mind, creating a path so you can earn an associate degree in Business, Computer Science, or Human Services in two years. Courses are offered Friday nights, Saturday mornings, and with online and hybrid formats. Start planning your future today!

Learn more at nhcc.edu/weekendcollege or contact Admissions, 763-424-0724.



# "...NHCC was really flexible."

"When I went in-person, I was so paranoid. I was like a little kid on my first day of kindergarten. I worried, 'What if I'm not smart?' and 'What if I say something dumb?' But once I got in the classroom not only did I learn that the new traditional college student is me – mid-twenties, early thirties – I think I only had a couple classes with the traditional college students who were straight out of high school. I think being with a wide range of people fosters that environment of adult learning and it makes it more comfortable to know that 'Oh, I'm not the old guy.' I would encourage prospective adult students, because NHCC was really flexible. I didn't have many teachers who weren't willing to meet me where I was at." — *Maurice O'Bannon ('19)*, *Human Services* 

# We're giving away free money!



NHCC is giving away \$250,000 in scholarships for the 2022-2023 academic year, including \$2,500 Workforce Development Scholarships for students pursuing degrees in high-demand occupations in health care and information technology. Visit **nhcc.edu/scholarships** to learn more and apply by May 13.

#### "This scholarship was a major contribution to my success."

"I chose NHCC for its low tuition, location, and reputation for high pass rates for the NCLEX (nursing exam). It was hard. I relied on student loans, grants, and scholarships to pay for tuition. This scholarship was a major contribution to my success. I was able to cut down to casual hours at work in the last semester and finish strong. Without it, my grades would have suffered, and I would have had to work more to ensure my daughter and I had basic human needs. I'm proud to say that in 2022 I passed my boards and began my career as a nurse. I can't express my gratitude enough for the help I received from NHCC and the financial contributions from generous donors." — Emily Anderson ('21), Nursing



# Golf FORE NHCC Students



NHCC President Rolando García and the NHCC Foundation invite you to participate in the 5th Annual President's Cup Golf Classic on June 13. Held at Brooklyn Park's own Edinburgh USA, it is a fun-packed day of golf raising money for NHCC students. Learn more at **nhcc.edu/golfclassic**.

Event sponsorships ranging from \$350 to \$5,000 are another great way to show your support of NHCC students. (And you don't have to play golf!) Learn more at **nhcc.edu/golfsponsor**.



# **UPCOMING FINE ART EVENTS**

#### Visit nhccfinearts.org for more information

Orchestra Concert

May 2

Jazz Ensemble Concert

May 3

**Concert Band Concert** 

May 4

**Choir Concert** 

May 6

# **UPCOMING DEI EVENTS**

#### Visit nhcc.edu/diversity for more information

**Asian Heritage Month feat. Chrysanthemum Tran** May 11 Safe Zone Trainings on LGBTQ+ Awareness

June 10, 17











NorthHennepin



