YOUR VOICE MATTERS
-A Message from the City Manager

In the book The One Minute Manager, authors Kenneth Blanchard and Spencer Johnson said, "Feedback is the breakfast for champions." I believe this statement is true. In order to help Brooklyn Center be a champion community, we recently conducted a citywide survey. The survey was an opportunity to hear from residents regarding their perspectives, insights, and stories about their experiences as residents, and their opinions about city services and governance. The City Council and staff uses the information gathered from the survey to guide the direction of the city, highlight areas in need of adjustment, and evaluate progress made in key strategic areas.

The survey involved talking with 400 randomly selected household residents. The 400 residents provided results that were reflective of the entire city adult population within ±5.0 percent in 95 out of 100 cases.

In 2017, the city survey had a very representative group of participants (i.e. age, homeowners and renters, ethnicity, economic status, gender and residency tenure). For example, the ethnic distribution among the sample pool was comprised of: 24% African-American, 14% Asian-Pacific Islander, 48% Caucasian, and 11% Hispanic-Latino. Women outnumber men by 2%. Eighty-three percent of the residents are native-born citizens, while three percent have been in the United States for three years or less. Residents shared their insights about the quality of life here in Brooklyn Center. Quality-of-life related topics included: things liked most about the city, issues of concern, sense of pride in neighborhoods and in the city in general, sense of belonging and feeling welcomed, and having a "say or voice" in the direction of the city. Based upon the survey results 86% of residents take "pride" in their neighborhoods and 89% of residents are "proud" to live in Brooklyn Center. Residents rated the overall "quality of life" for the city favorably at 87%.

In addition, resident rated the quality of services provided by the City; this included: police and fire protection, recycling pick-up, storm drainage and flood control, park and City building maintenance, recreation programs, animal control, emergency medical responses, City drinking water, property maintenance, and building and construction inspections. Five City services received positive ratings by residents above 90%. The overall average rating for City services was favorably at 86.7%, which is one of the highest in the metropolitan area according to the research firm that conducted the city survey. The City received positive ratings of 93% for the speed of time to serve customers, 94% for courtesy, and 93% for customer's ease of obtaining services needed.

Residents provided a favorable rating to governance of the city including the Mayor and City Council and staff. The Mayor and Council received a favorable rating of 83%, while city staff received a favorable 85% rating of its job performance. Customer service is very important to the city. Residents rated the speed in which they received service from receptionists at the City at 93%, the courtesy of staff at 94% and the ease of obtaining the services needed at 93%, respectively.

Over the coming months, the City will be sharing the full report of all the findings with you via future newsletters, media stories, the City website, and community dialogue. Stay tuned and be on the lookout for more information on the 2017 Brooklyn Center City Survey results.

We take great pride in listening to and serving you. We appreciate your honest and candid feedback.

Curt Boganey, City Manager

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A great place to start, a great place to stay
2016 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT
Analyzing Your Drinking Water

The Brooklyn Center 2016 Consumer Confidence Report will be available May 1, 2017. This report contains the results of the monitoring performed of the drinking water for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2016. 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 EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

The full 2016 Consumer Confidence Report for Brooklyn Center will be available on the City’s website beginning May 1, 2017. Go to: www.cityofbrooklyncenter.org/DocumentCenter/View/5442 or you can Search Consumer Confidence Report on the City’s website. Once available, 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.

In addition to the standard annual reporting, the City is providing the following update pertaining to nuisance drinking water quality issues that some may be experiencing as part of the continued transition to the new, cleaner water that is filtered through the City’s water treatment plant that came on-line in January 2016. While recent survey results demonstrated mostly positive results about the quality of the City’s drinking water, there continues to be reports of aesthetic issues of a chlorine/ammonia smell and taste, and also reports of black (manganese) specs in the drinking water, most notable in toilets.

While we expect some of these issues to subside over time with the water system continuing to stabilize and clean itself out, the City is taking efforts to improve the quality even further. These efforts include evaluating possible chemical treatment changes, additional distribution and water tower flushing this spring and encouragement of individual residence/business flushing. As with any change, getting used to the new drinking water over time is also a component to some people’s acceptance of the aesthetics of the water. In the meantime, we ask for your continued patience and that you report all issues so we may systematically evaluate these issues on a case by case basis. Please contact us at (763) 585-7100 to report any drinking water issues.

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

Brooklyn Center utility crews will be flushing water lines beginning Monday, April 24, 2017. The process is scheduled to occur for five consecutive days beginning at 7:00 a.m. and continuing until approximately 5:30 p.m.*

*Due to the nature of hydrant-flushing, the number of hours per day or the number of consecutive days needed to complete the flush are subject to change. However, City staff will do their best to adhere to the posted schedule.

Please note that 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).

Please be aware this work is in progress and help keep our workers safe. When you see City crews operating hydrants throughout the community, drive with caution.

WATER LINE FLUSHING
(In Your Own Home or Business)

Because flushing out the City's main lines in the street can stir up sediment in homes, residents are encouraged to perform their own "annual maintenance" after the crews have left the neighborhood. Here are some tips for your own household or business flush:

- If you have a softener, put it on bypass for the duration of the flush.
- Remove aerators and mounted filters from faucets.
- Start by completely turning on both outside faucets (be sure to run hoses out away from the house to avoid any problems near the foundation) and follow with the laundry tub, kitchen sink and then bathtub.
- Run cold water only through each area on full for 15-20 minutes or until water runs clear of rust or manganese (gray or blackish sediment).
- Replace aerators on faucets and take softener off bypass. Other recommended routine maintenance: Perform a hot water heater flush. Check all water hoses leading to sinks, washing machines, or dishwashers for leaks, rust and corrosion and repair/replace as necessary. Remove toilet tank lids and check rubber flapper for leaks or damage.
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 No. 7 was rehabilitated in 2016.

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 City also conducted a water main leak detection survey. There were 15 various water leaks found in the system that were repaired. These repairs resulted in the conservation of thousands of gallons of drinking water.

The Utility Division also responds to numerous requests for service which include meter changes, sewer calls and water quality/pressure inquiries. Residents and businesses were also busy in 2016 with construction projects, resulting in 3,109 Gopher State One Call water utility locates.

The new Water Treatment Plant has been on-line since January of 2016. The City continues to improve the operation and quality of our drinking water and is working hard to minimize any issues. Please contact the Public Works Division with any issues or concerns about your drinking water at (763)585-7100.

HELP PREVENT SANITARY SEWER BACKUPS

Recently, staff members in the Utilities Department have been experiencing pump failures in the City’s sanitary sewer system due to clogging by items not meant to be disposed of either by flushing or in drains. In order to minimize the risk of a sewer backup, it is important for property owners to be careful about items they flush and put down drains.

Property owners and managers must remember that just because it is possible to get an item down a sink or toilet doesn’t mean it should be put there. Please adhere to proper disposal methods. When excessive amounts of grease or other inappropriate waste are put into the sanitary sewer system, they can cause sewer lines to plug and pumps to fail. This can lead to sewers backing up into homes and businesses, possibly causing serious property damage.

How Residents and Businesses Can Help

Property owners can help keep sanitary sewer lines clean by only disposing of appropriate waste in the sanitary sewer system. Some items that cause backups are diapers, shop towels, fats, oils, grease, cloth rags, baby wipes, cleaning wipes, bandages, feminine products, prophylactics and stringy material such as floss or hair. Please dispose of these items in the trash so the system continues to flow properly and your basements and businesses remain dry. Also, remember that even though some products such as baby wipes are labeled as “flushable,” it is not appropriate to flush them.

If your sanitary sewer backs up, the Brooklyn Center Utility Department may be your initial source of help. If the problem is in the main sewer line, City employees will come out to solve the problem. This service is available day or night, seven days a week (including holidays) and there is no fee for this service.
Street Light Outages

There are more than over 1,600 street and park lights located in Brooklyn Center. Some lights are City owned and operated and some are owned and operated by Xcel Energy.

To report a street light that is out, please see the City's website at: www.cityofbrooklyncenter.org and Search Keywords: street light.

Follow the link to the webpage which has a map regarding City-owned versus Xcel Energy-owned street light locations, or call the Public Works Department at (763)585-7100 for assistance.

The City is not responsible for problems in the house or the sewer line between the main sewer and the house. Problems in these areas are the responsibility of the property owner. Before you call the City, try to determine where the problem lies. This can be done by checking to see if the neighbor directly across the street is also having a problem. If the neighbor does not have a problem and the water backs up when you use it, the problem is likely in your system. To repair these problems, call a plumber or a sewer cleaning company. If water is coming up in the house when no water is being used, the problem is most likely in the City's main sewer line.

Contact the Public Works Department at (763) 585-7100 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. During other times, emergencies can be reported by calling 911 at the Hennepin County Sheriff’s Office. The Sheriff’s Office will contact one of the City’s public works employees to resolve the problem.

Preventing Sewer Backups

Many residential sewer problems can be avoided by having your sewer line cleaned periodically and taking care of what goes into your sewer system. These are the most common causes of blocked sewers:

- Grease and Oils – Store grease in a container and dispose of hardened grease in the trash. Use garbage disposal sparingly and flush with plenty of water.
- Paper Products (tissues, paper towels, “flushable wipes”, etc.) – Put in the trash, not the toilet. These items do not dissolve.
- Lint and Hair – Screen all drains and use a lint trap on your laundry hose.
- Tree Roots – Avoid planting trees or shrubs over your sewer line. Roots are the number one problem in residential sanitary sewer systems.

If you hire a private sewer cleaning service to remove tree roots, please notify the City as soon as possible. A secondary backup could occur when the roots from the private service become lodged in the City sewer line resulting in either a backup into either your house or a neighbors’ house. Thank you for helping to keep our sewer lines moving in the right direction!

"OPT IN FOR KIDS!"

Give a little extra for kids through your utility bill.

The City’s Opt In for Kids! Program raises support from Brooklyn Center and Brooklyn Park residents to give kids in their community access to more afterschool activities and summer programs. Residents will be able to contribute $2, $5, $10 or $20 each quarter on their utility bills, which will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to $5,000 by United Way in year one of the program.

Opt In for Kids is coordinated by the Brooklyn Bridge Alliance for Youth, an inter-governmental organization that brings community resources together so young people will have more opportunities to succeed. You may register on-line through the Utility Billing web page at the cityofbrooklyncenter.org
Community Safety

POST Board Audit

On January 18, the MN Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) Board completed a compliance audit of the police department and some of its records. This audit consisted of a review of several state mandated policies, use of force training records and lesson plans and a review of two completed employee background packets. Each department across the state must complete one of these audits every five years. We are pleased to announce that the police department passed the audit with high marks. This success was due to the department's training instructors who, among their other duties, develop lesson plans consistent with POST-mandated learning objectives and investigators who conduct thorough backgrounds on both sworn and non-sworn applicants. Finally, several years ago the police department transitioned its policy manual from being operated in-house to the public safety policy management company Lexipol. This has allowed the department to keep its policies up to date with state and federal legislative updates as well as best practices nationwide. Our policy manual can also be found online on the Police Department's website.

Red River Regional Dispatch

In March of last year, Morgan Henjum of Red River Regional Dispatch decided to make a quilt for fallen Fargo PD Officer Jason Moszer's family. In doing so, he requested three patches from agencies throughout the country. The quilt was be a token for them to have for the rest of their lives to remind them of the support they have throughout the country. The response was so great, he was able to make quilts, for each member of the Moszer family.

In his letter thanking those who contributed to the project Henjum wrote, "It took several months and a broken sewing machine but they are finally complete! Words cannot express my gratitude for participating. It was overwhelming to see so many agencies responding (67%). This gift will be given anonymously to the family as well as the kind letters and tokens that were sent. I am sure they will cherish it for many years to come."

Brooklyn Center PD was proud to support this effort and the thoughtful gift that given to the family of Officer Jason Moszer.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
Make a Difference in Brooklyn Center

Volunteers are being sought for Brooklyn Center's Financial Commission. This is a voluntary position of civic participation. Members must be a Brooklyn Center resident while serving on the Commission. The Financial Commission assists the City Council in evaluating and developing fiscal policies, fiscal procedures, Mayor and Council Member total compensation, budgetary and capital matters. The Financial Commission meets at City Hall the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m., as well as in joint session with the City Council during the budget planning process. Final appointment will be made by the Mayor and City Council.

Interested persons can obtain information and an application on the City's website at www.cityofbrooklyncenter.org or call the City Clerk at (763)569-3306.

The City of Brooklyn Center extends our heartfelt appreciation to all the current and past participants of the Adopt-a-Park/Trail/Street or Flower Garden for their effort and dedication toward making Brooklyn Center a nicer place to live, work and play. The city comprises approximately 600 acres of green space as well as about 20 miles of trails for residents and visitors to enjoy. The program consists of voluntary agreements between the City and organizations, businesses, groups or individuals to assist in the preservation and maintenance of clean, safe parks and trails.

For more information about this program please contact:
- Renee Anderson (Public Works) at (763)585-7100 to adopt a park, trail, street, rain garden, or flower garden around Brooklyn Center.
- Rebecca Crass at (763)569-3400 to adopt a flower garden in Centennial Park.
Fix Up Fund

Thinking about home improvement projects around your home this spring or summer? Would you like help funding your project? Consider applying to participate in the Fix Up Fund Program, offered and managed by the Housing Resource Center available to Brooklyn Center residents. Please see below for more information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERMS</th>
<th>Unsecured home improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home improvement loan secured by a mortgage</td>
<td>Homeowners may borrow between $2,000-$50,000, at a 3% interest rate, up to 20 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeowners may borrow between $2,000-$10,000 at a 6.99% rate up to 10 years</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner-occupied properties only</td>
<td>Funding cannot be provided for work in progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single family homes, duplexes, triplexes, and fourplexes are eligible</td>
<td>Complete the Fix Up Fund Loan application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decide on your project (i.e. sliding, roof replacement, new windows, kitchen remodel, etc.)</td>
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</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>ELIGIBILITY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Submit all requested documents. For detailed information on how to apply, visit <a href="http://www.gmichousing.org">www.gmichousing.org</a> or contact them directly at (612) 588-3033</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terms and funding are subject to change and dependent on availability of funds.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Join us at the City of Brooklyn Center’s Public Works Maintenance Facility on April 22, 2017 from 8 a.m. to noon for the 16th Annual Great Shingle Creek Clean Up and Public Works Open House

With the addition of a Public Works Open House this year, you will be able tour the City’s maintenance facility, get an up-close look at the vehicles and equipment, learn about the benefits of rain gardens and visit exhibits from local groups to learn about protecting our state’s water resources. After touring the facility, we invite residents and visitors to assist in collecting trash from around the area. Access to the city’s trail system is right outside our back door.

May is Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month

More than 15% of Brooklyn Center’s population reported as Asian alone or in combination with one or more other races in U.S. Census Bureau’s, 2010-2014 ACS Estimates. This is a higher percentage of the total population than both Hennepin County and the State of Minnesota. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are the fastest growing racial group in the country, growing more than four times as rapidly as the population of the United States, according to the White House Office of the Press Secretary, April 2016.

Throughout our history, Asian-Pacific Americans have made great contributions to our heritage and prosperity. 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.

If you have questions, contact Public Works at (763)585-7100.
Construction Projects

In 2017, the City of Brooklyn Center will be making the most of the spring and summer months to accomplish several projects. Included in the Public Works Department’s “to-do list” this year is a neighborhood street and utility reconstruction project, three street rehabilitation projects, an annual street chip sealcoating project and regional trail improvements. The following is an overview of these major capital improvements planned for 2017.

Street Reconstruction Projects: For the past 23 years, the City has conducted a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to reconstruct aging streets and maintain the public infrastructure throughout the community. The CIP is a planning document that presents a fifteen-year overview of potential capital improvement projects and is available for review on the City’s website at www.cityofbrooklyncenter.org. The map below identifies the residential streets that are scheduled for improvements in 2017 as follows:

1. **Evergreen Park Area Reconstruction Project and Safe Route to School Improvements**
   
   The proposed roadway and utility improvements include full street reconstruction of all streets, except 69th/70th Avenues, consisting of new concrete curb and gutter, bituminous paving, complete replacement of the sanitary sewer, partial replacement of the watermain, storm sewer upgrades and street light replacements. Partial street reconstruction of 69th/70th Avenues includes replacement of bituminous paving and miscellaneous repairs of concrete curb and gutter, sidewalks and driveway aprons. The project also includes replacement of the existing sidewalks in the project area, replacement of the trail on 69th/70th Avenues and installation of new sidewalks and trails at specific areas along 70th, 72nd and Camden Avenues. Park improvements consist of replacing the trail and parking lots within Evergreen Park and miscellaneous concrete curb and gutter repairs. Work is expected to begin in April/May and be completed by fall 2017. Weekly progress reports will be available on the City’s website at www.cityofbrooklyncenter.org.

2. **57th Avenue Regional Trail and Street Rehabilitation (Logan Avenue to I-94)**
   
   Proposed improvements include the conversion of the existing sidewalk to a 10-ft. regional trail along the south side of 57th Avenue/CR57 from Logan Avenue to the Regional Mississippi River Trail near I-94. This is a joint project between the City, Hennepin County and Three Rivers Park District. The park district received a federal grant for this project and will also fund the remaining portion of the project. The regional trail project construction is expected to occur in early summer 2017. Additional roadway improvements include rehabilitating 57th Avenue (between Humboldt Avenue and I-94) consisting of miscellaneous concrete curb and gutter replacements, minor utility repairs and a two-inch mill and overlay. The roadway project is expected to be completed in fall 2017 after the completion of the planned 57th Avenue Twin Lakes Regional Trail Project.
69th Avenue Street and Trail Rehabilitation

The proposed roadway improvements include street rehabilitation of 69th Avenue (between Shingle Creek Parkway and Dupont Avenue) consisting of a two-inch mill and overlay of the bituminous pavement and spot repairs of the curb and gutter, sidewalk and minor utility repairs. This project also includes replacing the trail along 69th Avenue from Shingle Creek Parkway to Dupont Avenue with a nine-ft. wide trail section including new concrete pedestrian curb ramps that will meet the requirements per the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). Work is expected to begin in the summer and completed by fall 2017.

4 France Avenue Street Rehabilitation

The proposed roadway improvements include street rehabilitation of France Avenue (between 69th Avenue and the City Limits) consisting of a two-inch mill and overlay of the bituminous pavement and spot repairs of the curb and gutter, sidewalk, minor utility repairs and the rehabilitation of the traffic signal system at the intersection of France and 69th Avenues. Work is expected to begin in the summer and completed by fall 2017.

5 Chip Sealcoating

Chip sealcoating is scheduled to be completed along City streets identified in the Willow Lane area as identified on the map and generally summarized as follows: 70th Avenue from Lee Avenue to Major Avenue; Lee and Major Avenues from 69th Avenue to 70th Avenue; Unity Avenue from 69th Avenue to 73rd Avenue; and the area bounded by Noble Avenue to Vera Cruz Avenue from 67th Avenue to 69th Avenue. Additional areas to be sealcoated include: 69th Avenue from Brooklyn Boulevard to the bridge over Shingle Creek and Humboldt from Freeway Boulevard to 69th 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. Expect minor traffic delays and be aware of workers in the roadway during this two day project.

This information can also be accessed on the City’s website at www.cityofbrooklyncenter.org with progress on these projects updated regularly.

5-year Capital Improvement Plan

The City’s Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is a planning document that presents an overview of scheduled capital projects to address the City’s goals for maintaining public infrastructure. The CIP includes a long-term financing plan that allows the City to allocate funds for these projects based on assigned priorities. Part of the financing plan includes a portion of the roadway and storm sewer utility projects that are assessed directly to adjacent property owners. The typical 2017 assessment rate for a single-family home for a full reconstruction project is $5,504 and $2,000 to $3,176 for a pavement rehabilitation project. Once assessed, payment can be made upfront in full or in installments with property taxes over a 10-year period. Included is a map of the city showing the upcoming 5-year CIP. If your street is highlighted, you should expect a project in your neighborhood as indicated.
**Wellhead Protection:**

**KEEPING THE GROUNDWATER CLEAN**

**What is Wellhead Protection?**

The Wellhead protection program protects the public water supply by preventing contaminants from entering supply wells. The area surrounding public wells is called the wellhead, which contributes water to the well or well field. 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 groundwater movement.

**Why is Protecting Groundwater Important?**

Groundwater may be contaminated by surface contaminants such as microorganisms and chemicals. Although the City's 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 groundwater is expensive and inefficient. Therefore, it is better to prevent the pollution in the first place.

**What is the City Doing to Protect Groundwater?**

The City’s Wellhead Protection Plan was reviewed and approved by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) in 2015. The plan focuses on preventing contamination through these actions:

- Determining where the drinking water comes from, how vulnerable it is to potential contamination and establishing wellhead protection zones. The plan also focuses on the ongoing initiatives of 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. 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.

**By 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” can be viewed on the City website (Search Consumer Confidence) or at the Public Works Engineering Division at City Hall.

For more information, please call: Brooklyn Center Public Utilities at (763) 585-7100

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**Reporting Soil Erosion at Construction Sites**

When storm water drains off a construction site, it carries sediment and other pollutants that harm our local water resources. The State of Minnesota requires that contractors implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) on construction sites to prevent polluted runoff and eroded soil from entering storm drains. Common BMPs used on construction sites include silt fence, storm drain inlet protection, stabilized construction exits, stockpile placement and protection and temporary rulching and seeding.

**Signs that BMPs are not working:**

- Sediment tracking in the road
- Muddy water flowing off the construction site
- Dirt piled up around storm drains

Citizen reporting can be a highly effective tool for finding and stopping pollutant discharge. If you have any construction site or erosion control concerns, please contact the Engineering Division at (763) 569-3340 or publicworks@ci.brooklyn-center.mn.us.
Stay out of the Weeds!

Summer is upon us and that means longer walks with our four legged friends around the neighborhood, grilling, various gatherings with the family and friends, and the inevitable yard work. Here at Brooklyn Center, our residents take pride in their homes, neighborhoods, and community. The City's Tall Grass and Weed Program's purpose is to help support that vision. It is also in place to prevent unwanted rodents, pests, and unpleasant sights. The City's grass inspectors are proactive and conduct City sweeps to assist with keeping tall grass and weeds to a minimum. Grass and weeds per City Code 19-1601, "must be mowed or trimmed to a height of eight inches or less. Noxious weeds must be destroyed or eradicated. Noxious weeds include thistle, poison ivy, poison oak, etc."

If you are a senior citizen and would like assistance with light housekeeping and yard work duties, Resources may be available from Senior Community Services (HOME Program). This program is available to senior citizens living in the Hennepin County area. You may contact them directly at (952)746-4046 and they will send you more information on how to sign up. The program is based on a sliding fee scale and some services may have a waiting list.

Thank you for doing your part for the betterment of the community. Let's keep the community looking beautiful and a great place to live!

Maintaining your Trees

Hiring a tree maintenance service deserves careful consideration and caution. While City staff is not authorized to recommend a specific contractor, residents are urged to consider the following when selecting a service:

- Most reputable companies have all the work they can handle without going door-to-door and generally, door-knockers are looking to earn quick money. Beware!
- Verify the company is registered with the City. All tree maintenance services in Brooklyn Center must be registered. 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.
- Don't be rushed to make a decision and never pay in advance.
- Obtain multiple bids, compare estimates and always ask for references. You can also contact the Better Business Bureau to check the company's reputation.
- Make sure you receive a written contract that outlines expectations such as dates, work to be performed, clean-up details, total cost, etc.

Visit the City's website at www.cityofbrooklyncenter.org and Search "tree" for a list of registered tree contractors or call Public Works at (763) 585-7100 for more information.

Busy as a Bee?

SHOW OFF YOUR HARD WORK!

Do you have a beautiful or unique garden or landscaping (front or side yard); or do you know of a neighbor deserving recognition. If so, please contact the Engineering Division at (763) 569-3340 or email us as we would like to recognize you or your neighbor! More information is available on the City website at: publicworks@ci.brooklyn-center.mn.us/landscape. If your garden/landscaping is identified, you will be contacted for permission prior to taking and publishing any photographs.
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
Job Information Line (763) 569-3307

City CONTACTS
City Manager
Curt Boganey (763) 569-3300

Council Members
Mayor Tim Willson
Voicemail: (763) 569-3450
mayorwillson@ci.brooklyn-center.mn.us

Councilmember Marquita Butler
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councilmemberbutler@ci.brooklyn-center.mn.us

Councilmember April Graves
Voicemail: (763) 569-3448
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Councilmember Kris Lawrence-Anderson
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councilmemberlawrence-anderson@ci.brooklyn-center.mn.us

Councilmember Dan Ryan
Voicemail: (763) 569-3445
councilmemberryan@ci.brooklyn-center.mn.us

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 are 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 or visit the City’s website at www.cityofbrooklyncenter.org.