



BRAINERD CITY NEWS

APRIL — MAY — JUNE 2014

Miracle League Field Grand Opening Saturday, May 31st



It won't be long and the Brainerd Parks and Recreation Department's summer programs will be in full swing.

This summer will be highlighted by the opening of the Miracle League field at Bane Park. Miracle League fields are designed for physically and mentally disabled individuals to give them the chance to play baseball. The Miracle League has an artificial turf surface to allow wheelchairs and other mobility devices to easily navigate on the field.

There will be a grand opening of the Miracle League field at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 31. Everyone is welcome and users of the field will be able to get a chance to hit the ball and go around the bases.

The regular season will begin on Monday, June 6. Age groups include: ages 5-11 on Mondays, ages 12-19 on Tuesdays, ages 20 and above on Wednesdays, and disabled veterans on Thursdays. Game times are tentatively set for 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. each evening. The times may change slightly depending on registration numbers.

Players will either hit off a tee or have a pitched ball, depending on their abilities. The basic rules of Miracle League baseball is everyone gets a hit, everyone scores and at the end of the game, both teams win.

Volunteer "buddies" are needed. Buddies help each player bat, round the bases and play in the field. Businesses and service groups should call the Parks and Recreation office at 828-2320 to schedule a night or two during the summer to help as buddies. This allows the parents or guardians a chance to sit in the stands to cheer on the participants.

Registration deadlines

The deadline to register for non-competitive activities (t-ball, soccer and kickball) is May 23. The seasons begin June 9 or 10, depending on the league. All of the non-competitive programs during the day will take place at the Miracle League field. The evening non-competitive programs will be either at Gustafson Park or Gregory Park.

The registration deadline is May 23. Cost is \$35 per player. Miracle League T-shirts will be provided to all registered participants. Persons may register at the Brainerd Parks and Recreation office in Lum Park during regular business hours, or print off a mail-in registration form at www.ci.brainerd.mn.us/parks.

Celebrate Brainerd History Week June 16-22

Mary Koep Committee co-chair, Brainerd History Week

Exciting ideas and suggestions have come forth and are being planned for a week of celebration with emphasis on our railroad history and interaction with Native Americans. For example, a gala event is being planned for the Northern Pacific Center with music and dinner, tours and boards of history. Also, a day of reconciliation with our Native American neighbors and perhaps a genuine Indian powwow! Of course there will be a celebration of the centennial of City Hall. A "time capsule" will be preserved. What are your ideas for its contents? Yes, there will be daily tours, games, a downtown event, among other things.

We would like to have neighborhood events. We need your help. Ideas? A neighborhood picnic? Walk about? Game day? A debate event? Neighborhood history? Please share your ideas and volunteer to help. We need you. We will continue to provide information and invite your ideas. You may call me at 829-9793, e-mail Carl Faust at fertfaust@msn.com. or visit <http://www.brainerdhistoryweek.com>.

City Hall HVAC system needs replacement

This is the second of three articles about capital improvement projects scheduled for funding by issuing capital improvement bonds. Funding that was stopped by a valid city petition. The improvement projects are:

- Emergency preparedness upgrades
- Upgrade HVAC systems in City Hall, Police Department, and Fire Department and upgrades for the main entrance and façade at City Hall
- Salt and sand storage building

This article will focus on the City Hall HVAC upgrades.

Last fall, the City Council attempted to issue Capital Improvement Bonds to fund several improvements to city facilities, including the replacement of the HVAC system in City Hall. (cont. pg. 2)

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(218) 828-2309
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Police
(218) 829-2805
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Public Utilities (BPU)
(218) 829-8726
email@bpu.org

Public Transit
(218) 825-7433
transit@ci.brainerd.mn.us

2014 is an Election Year

In March the City Council appointed Dolly Matten to fill the open at-large council seat that was open due to the sudden passing of Bonnie Cumberland.

This year the City of Brainerd will have a primary election for its City Council seats. The following positions are up for election this year:

Mayor (Incumbent – Wallin)
Alderman Ward 2 (Incumbent – Bevans)
Alderman Ward 4 (Incumbent – Parks)
Alderman at large (Incumbent – Matten)

Each position is for a term of four years.

Filing for open Council seats is from May 20 – June 3.

The Primary election will be August 12.

The General Election will be November 4.

Election Judges Needed

Election Judges are needed. Please contact City Hall for information relating to paid training and hours of work on election days.

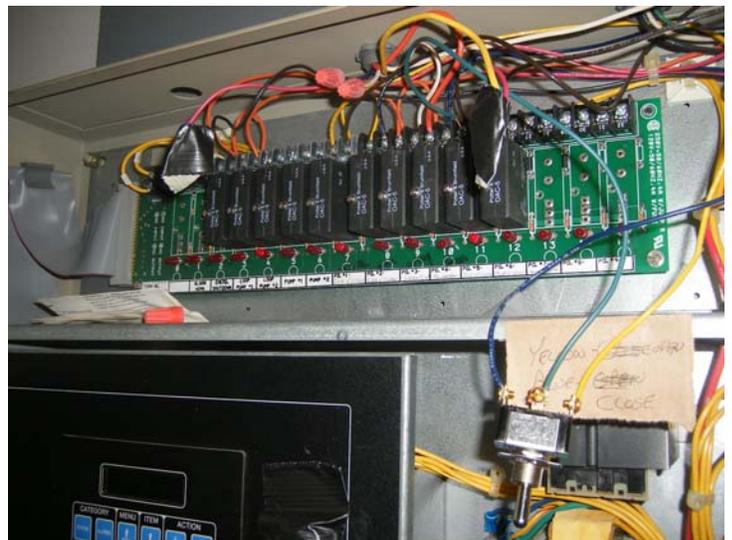
City Hall HVAC system needs replacement cont.

Due to a petition process, the Council was unable to utilize the Capital Improvement Plan approach to fund these improvements, which leaves the city with unresolved and ongoing issues with the City Hall heating, ventilation, air conditioning and lighting systems.

A few of the reasons why the system needs replacing are:

- The heating system in City Hall is old technology that has reached the end of its life expectancy; has high energy consumption and associated costs; and some of the units are inaccessible for compressor repairs.
- Eleven of the original 16 heating units are still operating, 3 have been replaced with gas fired alternatives and 2 have been abandoned.
- The system provides very poor control for heating and cooling perimeter workspaces. To cool perimeter workspaces with a southern exposure in the summer, the central office areas, where the thermostats are located, become quite frigid. To heat the perimeter workspaces in the winter, we need to keep the central office areas cold enough to engage the auxiliary hot water baseboard heat.
- System controller critical failures – the controller that regulates the heating system is experiencing 2 critical failures. Manual bypasses have been made to keep the system running.
- Heating – temperatures frequently fall outside the allowable range causing the heat pump compressors to shut down which then requires that they individually be manually reset, typically by climbing into the ceiling to cycle the power by turning each unit off and then back on.
- Makeup Air Unit – the makeup air unit shuts down frequently but there are no controls to shut down the bathroom exhaust fan, which runs 24/7. This combination creates a negative pressure in the building and results in sewer gases being pulled back into the building causing a foul odor.
- Humidity Control – there is no humidity control. During periods of high humidity during the summer, it is common for many of florescent tube lights in the building to fail to illuminate during the morning hours.
- Cooling Tower – due to age, the system cooling tower shell and moving parts are in need of replacement, which essentially means replacing the entire unit.
- Thermostat Controls – over the past 20 years, many of the thermostats have been replaced with different models, all of which have different programming features and require different processes to reset.
- Updated, more energy efficient lighting was included in the cost of the City Hall HVAC system. It is estimated that the updated lighting would have an estimate payback period of 18 years.

Photo depicts the McQuay control panel which regulates loop pump operation and loop water temperature (essential for heating and cooling City Hall). The Loop pump operation has been hard wired (see duct tape) to bypass the controller because of false pump failure signal. A toggle switch (silver switch in foreground) was installed to bypass the controller to manually operate the boiler valve feeding the loop water heat exchanger. Note handwritten instructions on scratch paper.



Upcoming Parks and Recreation Department special events

A number of free special events are scheduled this summer. No registration is required for any of the listed events. They include:

Bicycle Safety Clinic: 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 10, at the Brainerd High School lower parking lot. The clinic is open to boys and girls of all ages and consists of helmet fitting and giveaways, bicycle safety checks, bike rules and the riding course.

Free Fishing Clinic: This year the Brainerd Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting its free fishing clinic from 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 31, at Brainerd's Lum Park. Not only is this a fishing experience but also an educational opportunity for the children. We are planning several instructive stations which include: fishing safety and regulations, fish locating, pollution of lakes, invasive species, knot tying, fish identification, casting, and more. Additionally, there will be several giveaways and prizes that will help children develop their fishing skills in the future. This is fun family event you won't want to miss, see you there!

Minnesota Twins youth baseball clinic: This clinic will take place at Bane Park on Saturday, June 28. The clinic for youths ages 6-9 will be from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and for ages 10-16 will be from 10:30 a.m. to noon.



Brainerd HRA investing in neighborhoods

In 2011, the Healthy Community Partnership Housing Task Force and the Brainerd Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) created a Scattered Site Replacement Program (SSRP) in which they purchase on a voluntary basis, property with a dilapidated house, demolish the house and work with a non-profit or for profit builder to construct a new house on the lot. The program's purpose is to eliminate the influence of substandard housing on neighborhoods and increase the availability of new quality housing for families in Brainerd.

The HRA was able to secure grant funds from several sources including the Initiative Foundation, Great Lakes Association of Realtors, Greater Minnesota Housing Fund and the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency to purchase and demolish these homes.

The HRA purchases from willing sellers, property with houses that are beyond repair or the cost to rehabilitate the house will cost more than the house is worth. The first property purchased in 2012 under this program is located at 509 E Street. The house was demolished as it had rehabilitation needs that made it cost prohibitive to improve. They included a literally crumbling foundation and windows, roof, electrical and plumbing systems each of which needed significant work. The cost alone to repair the foundation made it cost prohibitive for rehabilitation. In 2013 following demolition, the property was sold to the Lakes Area Habitat for Humanity (LAHFH). In January 2014, LAHFH constructed the house pictured below and sold the property to an eligible family under their program.



In March, the HRA purchased 1321 Norwood and 614 Tamarac. The houses will be demolished once the frost is out and the property will be sold to either a non-profit or for-profit developer to construct a new single family house.

If you have any questions about this program or other programs administered by the Brainerd HRA, please contact Jennifer Bergman at (218) 824-3425.

35 years of dependability - Brainerd Public Transit

By Transit Coordinator Tom Jay

Since 1980 and nearly 400 times each day the residents of Brainerd are using public transit to meet their transportation needs. The white and green buses are a regular sight traveling the streets of Brainerd and ensuring that residents get to their destinations. While highly visible, Brainerd's bus service is still a mystery to many residents. We often get questions such as: "How do I ride the bus?" "What does it cost to ride?" and "Where will the bus take me?"

There are two ways to ride public transit in Brainerd. "Dial a Ride" is our most popular service with buses picking you up at your home and dropping you at your destination. This curb to curb service offers driver assistance when requested and the clean, comfortable and Handicap accessible buses make public transit available to all residents. Cost to ride the bus ranges from \$1 to \$2 depending on your destination. Just call us @ 825-7433 to schedule your trip. It's that easy.

Secondly, the Brainerd transit system offers "Express Bus" service as part of its regular schedule. Since 2011 residents have enjoyed the convenience and reliability of scheduled bus stops. There is no need to phone ahead or schedule a return trip, just be ready as the bus approaches. A quick trip to the grocery store or post office simply requires folks to catch the bus at a stop or along the route. Express Route fares are always \$1.

Where you want to go is up to you. Buses can take you anywhere in Brainerd and Baxter and the service is available to everyone. Give public transit a try. Brainerd Public Transit is the most economical way to travel throughout the community and find out why hundreds of your neighbors think that the safety, convenience and friendly drivers of the Brainerd Public Transit system is the best deal in town.

Public Transit Service in Brainerd is available Monday thru Friday between the hours of 7:15am and 4:30pm. Schedules and information are available at Brainerd City Hall and the Brainerd Public Library or by calling 825-7433. Information is also available on-line at www.brainerdcitybus.com



City Code requirements you need to know

Warmer weather has us all thinking about spring and being outdoors. This is also when we start thinking about outdoor projects, storing winter recreational equipment using the boat and motor home, having a garage sale and mowing the grass. The City of Brainerd Building Safety Department and Planning Department would like to remind our residents there are City Code requirements for the following:

- Accessory buildings
- Swimming pools
- Fences
- Outdoor storage
- Recreational vehicles including boats
- Tarps and coverings
- Fish house storage
- Garage sales and signs
- Junk
- Unlicensed vehicles
- Long grass and weeds
- Vehicle parking

The City's website home page has a link titled "City Regulations All Residents Should Know." This link will take you to detailed information about the requirements for each of the above items. You are also encouraged to call the Building and Planning Departments for a copy or to discuss the require-



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2nd Annual Walk and Wheel Night Thursday, May 15th

Spring is here. FINALLY! Which means it's time to get outdoors for exercise and fun. Join the City Council and the Walkable Bikeable City Committee at the 2nd annual Walk and Wheel Night at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 15th at Gregory Park by the bandstand. Walkers, bicyclists, in line skaters and skateboarders of all abilities are welcome. Bring your wheels for an organized neighborhood and community ride or skate. For those that prefer, an organized neighborhood walk is also planned. Then return to Gregory Park to enjoy snacks and fun.

The History Corner

In the **Jan/Feb/Mar Newsletter** we asked "*Who is the man in this portrait.*" It is Lyman P. White, age 60, a successful Vermont legislator and railroader, came to Brainerd via stage coach from St. Cloud in 1870. White was an agent for the Lake Superior and Puget Sound Land Company, which specialized in platting towns and selling lots for the Northern Pacific Railroad. He was often called the Father of Brainerd. He had a saw mill on the river bank south of the tracks and a small planing mill on South 5th St. He built the first frame house in the town, was first city council president and second mayor. He helped organize the First National Bank, first school district and the Episcopal Church. White died in 1902 at 91 and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

There are some city buildings and structures turning one hundred years old next year. It's time for a Centennial birthday celebration this summer! We found 2 major buildings and one VERY prominent and familiar structure built in 1914.

Q.: Can you find these 3 locations (2 of the 3 are even dated)? Of course, we cannot provide photos as clues...that would be too easy! Can you find us more? Are there any 1914-built residences? Does your house turn 100 this year? But, you can find a lot of research tools here: [http://www.crowwinghistory.org/Crow Wing County Historical Society](http://www.crowwinghistory.org/Crow-Wing-County-Historical-Society) (Answer in the next Newsletter.)