

In-person class

Teachers at Edinbrook Elementary welcome students back to in-class learning.
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Wrestling wins

Park Center's wrestling team wins twice and ties Maple Grove for a record of 2-1-1 in weekend matches.
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Thursday, Feb. 18, 2021

Blue Line leaders aim to identify new route by end of year

Bottineau Boulevard a potential route in Robbinsdale and Crystal

By **KEVIN MILLER**
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After stepping away from a former route design, leaders of the Bottineau Blue Line Light Rail extension project are going back to drawing board in hopes that a new route can be agreed upon by the end of 2021, the project office announced at the Feb. 11 Corridor Management Committee meeting.

While new plans to relocate the line are still in their early stages, project officials are considering the viability of moving a portion of the track in Robbinsdale and Crystal onto Bottineau Boulevard/County Road 81, rather than parallel to it in the freight rail corridor.

Previously, approximately eight miles of track on the 13 mile line were designed to run in Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway's right-of-way. After the railway refused to negotiate with

the project office in Jan. 2018, the project office decided to redesign the line without BNSF right-of-way in summer 2020.

As a result, the project office is beginning the process of identifying a new route connecting downtown Minneapolis with northern Brooklyn Park.

The original design for the line included 11 stations with stops in Minneapolis, Golden Valley, Crystal, Robbinsdale and Brooklyn Park.

"Part of what we need to accomplish, hopefully by the end of the year, is to see if we can't develop as a group here – and as this team – a community supported route to build the Blue Line extension LRT project from the Target Field station to north Brooklyn Park without using Burlington Northern right-of-way," said Dan Soler, senior

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(SUBMITTED IMAGE)

A Brooklyn Center plow cleans the roadway after a snow fall. Mayor Mike Elliott has suspended towing during three of the city's four snow events this year. The council said it would support amending the city's towing ordinance to suspend towing for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic, if not longer.

No more towing: BC looks to modify snow emergencies

Citing COVID-19 impact, mayor's proclamations have halted towing this winter

By **KEVIN MILLER**
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After Brooklyn Center Mayor Mike Elliott suspended towing during snow emergencies several times this winter, the City

Council said it was willing to consider either a season-long suspension of towing or a permanent end to the practice at its Feb. 8 work session.

Per the city's snow emergency policy, which

was adopted in 2018, any vehicle parked on public streets during a snow emergency before streets are plowed can be subject to ticketing and towing.

Elliott has used his power as mayor to issue

proclamations suspending the city's towing powers during three of the city's four snow emergencies this year.

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