

# BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



APRIL 2024



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## PIONEERS AND CHANGEMAKERS CELEBRATED

More than 120 people gathered at Zawadi Center, 1701 American Blvd. E., in February to celebrate the 2024 Bloomington Pioneers and Changemakers and previous year's honorees. In celebration of Black History Month, the series features Black leaders who have a connection to Bloomington and who have worked to advance civil rights and remove barriers to equity.

Ten community members—Teron Buford, Kenny White, Chris Peterson, Ifeanyi Howard Odor, Tynika Smith, Tiffany Blackwell, Wendy Puckett, Lee Davis, Timmy Nguyen and Bloomington's HRA Administrator Aarica Coleman—were honored as either a Pioneer or a Changemaker this year. Two groups were also honored as Pioneers for their work on the On the One Music Festival and the City's Juneteenth event. During the event, former Bloomington Community Development Director Karla Henderson was named a 2024 Pioneer and Changemaker. You can watch video features of past years' honorees on the City's YouTube channel at [blm.mn/pioneers](https://blm.mn/pioneers).

Find us online  
BLOOMINGTON [MN.gov](https://mn.gov)



## HATCH BLOOMINGTON: A \$100,000 COMPETITION ENCOURAGES INNOVATIVE BUSINESS IDEAS

In the spirit of fostering local entrepreneurship and investing in small businesses, the City and the Minneapolis Regional Chamber announced the launch of Hatch Bloomington in March. Hatch Bloomington is a dynamic business competition aimed at spurring economic growth, revitalizing commercial corridors, and empowering innovative minds to bring their small business dreams to life.

Hatch Bloomington offers entrepreneurs the opportunity to pitch their business ideas and compete for a chance to receive \$100,000 in financial assistance to kick-start a brick-and-mortar business in Bloomington. The competition is part of a strategic effort to support the small business community and attract fresh investment into Bloomington, positioning it as a hub of economic activity and innovation in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

Ideal contestants for Hatch Bloomington are those who envision a storefront presence in the community that contributes to the vibrant and dynamic fabric of Bloomington's business landscape.

"We are thrilled to launch Hatch Bloomington and invite entrepreneurs who share our vision for a thriving local economy to participate," said Bloomington Mayor Tim Busse. "This initiative is more than a competition; it's a platform for innovation, growth, and community engagement."

Applications will be accepted from April 3 to May 3. During this period, individuals may submit a proposal. In addition to the \$100,000 in financial assistance, competitors will gain significant exposure and access to tools and connections to help them succeed. Visit [blm.mn/hatch](https://blm.mn/hatch) for more information.



From left top right, Mayor Tim Busse, former Community Development Director Karla Henderson and Minneapolis Regional Chamber CEO and President Jonathan Weinhagen launched Hatch Bloomington at The Depot Minneapolis.

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**Website: [BloomingtonMN.gov](http://BloomingtonMN.gov)**

**BLOOMINGTON CITY COUNCIL**



**Mayor**  
Tim Busse  
952-563-8782 (w)  
952-457-7506 (c)  
[tbusse@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:tbusse@BloomingtonMN.gov)

**Councilmember At Large**  
Chao Moua  
763-229-7582  
[cmoua@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:cmoua@BloomingtonMN.gov)



**Councilmember At Large**  
Jenna Carter  
612-284-8751  
[jcarter@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:jcarter@BloomingtonMN.gov)

**Councilmember District I**  
Dwayne Lowman  
952-270-2377  
[dlowman@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:dlowman@BloomingtonMN.gov)



**Councilmember District II**  
Shawn Nelson  
952-479-0471  
[snelson@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:snelson@BloomingtonMN.gov)

**Councilmember District III**  
Lona Dallessandro  
612-231-6824  
[ldallessandro@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:ldallessandro@BloomingtonMN.gov)



**Councilmember District IV**  
Victor Rivas  
952-255-9570  
[vrivas@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:vrivas@BloomingtonMN.gov)

*Elected officials presented for informational purposes.*

**COUNCILMEMBERS**  
[council@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:council@BloomingtonMN.gov)

**EXECUTIVE STAFF**

Jamie Verbrugge, <i>City Manager</i>	952-563-8780
<a href="mailto:citymanager@BloomingtonMN.gov">citymanager@BloomingtonMN.gov</a>	
<i>Assistant City Manager</i>	952-563-8780
<a href="mailto:citymanager@BloomingtonMN.gov">citymanager@BloomingtonMN.gov</a>	
<i>Community Development</i>	952-563-8947
<a href="mailto:communitydevelopment@BloomingtonMN.gov">communitydevelopment@BloomingtonMN.gov</a>	
Diann Kirby, <i>Community Services</i>	952-563-8717
<a href="mailto:communityservices@BloomingtonMN.gov">communityservices@BloomingtonMN.gov</a>	
Lori Economy-Scholler, <i>Finance</i>	952-563-8791
<a href="mailto:finance@BloomingtonMN.gov">finance@BloomingtonMN.gov</a>	
Ulie Seal, <i>Fire</i>	952-563-4801
<a href="mailto:fire@BloomingtonMN.gov">fire@BloomingtonMN.gov</a>	
Amy Cheney, <i>Information Technology</i>	952-563-4885
<a href="mailto:it@BloomingtonMN.gov">it@BloomingtonMN.gov</a>	
Melissa Manderschied, <i>Legal</i>	952-563-8753
<a href="mailto:legal@BloomingtonMN.gov">legal@BloomingtonMN.gov</a>	
Ann Kattreh, <i>Parks and Recreation</i>	952-563-8877
<a href="mailto:parksrec@BloomingtonMN.gov">parksrec@BloomingtonMN.gov</a>	
Booker T. Hodges, <i>Police</i>	952-563-4900
<a href="mailto:police@BloomingtonMN.gov">police@BloomingtonMN.gov</a>	
Karl Keel, <i>Public Works</i>	952-563-8731
<a href="mailto:publicworks@BloomingtonMN.gov">publicworks@BloomingtonMN.gov</a>	
<b>General phone number</b>	<b>952-563-8700</b>

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**MAYOR'S MEMO**  
**STATE OF THE CITY: MOVING BLOOMINGTON FORWARD**

*By Mayor Tim Busse*

Last month, City Manager Jamie Verbrugge and I presented the 2024 State of the City at the Zawadi Center, 1701 American Blvd. E. We had our focus on the future with the theme of Moving Bloomington Forward. If you couldn't make it to the event, check out the recording on the City's YouTube page at [blm.mn/youtube](http://blm.mn/youtube). We covered many big upcoming priorities, including the three Bloomington Forward projects. Read on to learn about what stage each of the projects is in now.

**WORK BEGINNING SOON**



**BLOOMINGTON ICE GARDEN**

The first project slated to break ground is the Bloomington Ice Garden renovation. Work is beginning in early 2024 to prepare for new refrigeration equipment. Major construction is tentatively scheduled to begin spring 2025. The facility will close mid-March of that year with the goal of reopening at the end of 2025, in time for the next hockey season.

**ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES COMING SOON**

**COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER**

The City will start community engagement on this project during summer 2024 to determine what programming and amenities a new center should include. Engagement activities and the design process will continue into 2025. The end goal is for the new center to open in 2027.



**NINE MILE CREEK CORRIDOR**

Spanning 240 acres, the Nine Mile Creek corridor is a beautiful slice of nature, featuring trails and many outdoor amenities that residents enjoy. The next step for the Nine Mile Creek corridor will be community engagement. Parks and Recreation leadership will begin this process this year.



**STAY TUNED**

Once dates for community engagement opportunities are set for these projects, we'll share that information online at [bloomingtonforward.org](http://bloomingtonforward.org), City social media channels and cable television, and in the *Briefing*.





Bloomington Public Health staff protect, connect and serve our community.

## THANK A PUBLIC HEALTH WORKER THIS APRIL

National Public Health Week is April 1-7. To highlight the interconnectedness of public health work, this year's theme is "Protecting, Connecting and Thriving: We Are All Public Health." Bloomington Public Health works with the community to provide direct services to individuals and families and to promote data-driven policy and systems change that supports community wellbeing.

Every year, BPH serves nearly 180,000 residents in Bloomington, Edina and Richfield. Our passionate public health workers make this work possible through strong community connections.

Please take a moment this April to thank a local public health worker—who are your neighbors, family members, friends and coworkers—for all that they do to protect and connect our community and how they strive for us to thrive.

For more information about public health services in Bloomington, call 952-563-8900 or visit [blm.mn/PH](http://blm.mn/PH).

### AT YOUR SERVICE: PATRICK WILLSON, BCAT PRODUCTION SPECIALIST

Patrick Willson BCAT's production specialist, teaches technical classes and creative skills to community members, programs Cable Channel 16, maintains the online video-on-demand library, and handles administrative equipment maintenance and other duties.

"I am here to help community members create programming to share with their community and beyond." Willson said.

Willson's career began in high school in 1988, followed by a diploma in television production from Hennepin Technical College. Since then, Willson has held many positions in the field, including more than a decade at Burnsville/Eagan Community Television.

"Working with community members in the creative process of media production is the best part of my job," Willson said. "And I hope to recruit some more volunteers. It is a great way to be active in the community."

To learn more about BCAT, visit [bcat16.org](http://bcat16.org), email [BCAT@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:BCAT@BloomingtonMN.gov) or call 952-563-4980.



### HYLAND GREENS OPERATIONS TURNED OVER TO THREE RIVERS

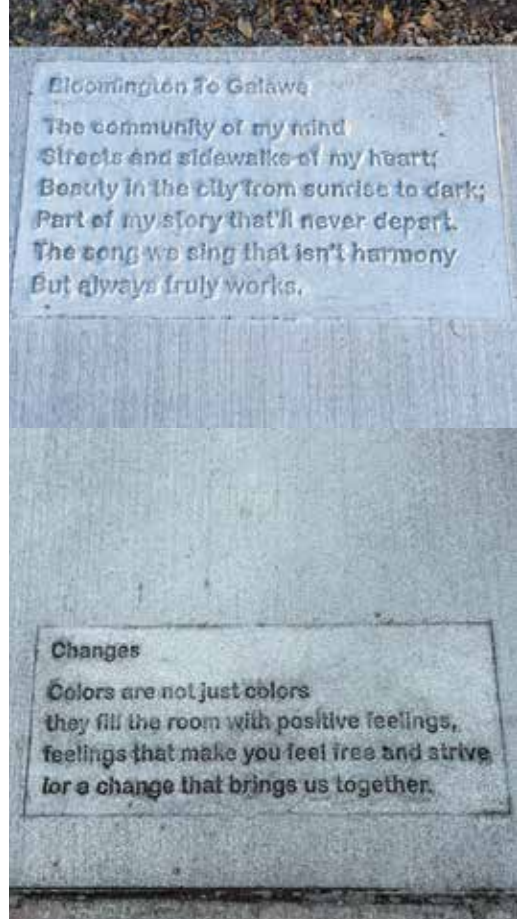
In February, the City of Bloomington held a public meeting about the transfer of Hyland Greens Golf Course to the Three Rivers Park District. With conditions surrounding usage and strong support by residents who commented, the Council approved an ordinance to support the transfer.

Three Rivers has managed the course with great success over the past three years, increasing revenue, rounds played and improved user experience levels. Three Rivers will also address some of the capital investments the course needs, such as a new HVAC system, irrigation system improvements, accessibility improvements and removal of the dilapidated fence along Normandale Boulevard.

#### HYLAND HISTORY

Hyland Greens was purchased by the City in 1974 as an 18-hole golf course. In 2012 it was converted to a nine-hole course. In 2015, a task force recommended the City partially develop the east side of the Hyland Greens' site while maintaining the golf course. However, the City did not sell the property and continued operating the course with a taxpayer subsidy.

The COVID-19 pandemic closed the golf course in 2020. In 2021, Three Rivers began a three-year agreement (scheduled to end this year) to operate Hyland Greens.



### MORE SIDEWALK POETRY COMING SOON

Ten poems by Bloomington residents were stamped into sidewalks last year as part of the Hometown Poetry project. At least four more sidewalk poems are coming in 2024.

The goal of Hometown Poetry is to celebrate art and literature and integrate it into our communities, highlight the talent of Bloomington writers, and bring a sense of surprise, delight, and contemplation to pedestrians.

In 2022, 14 poems were selected to be stamped into new sidewalks and four were selected to be displayed on creative sign installations in parks, including Effa Playlot, Fenlason Park and Valley View Park.

Get to know two of the poets in a video at [blm.mn/poetryvideo](http://blm.mn/poetryvideo). Learn more about Hometown Poetry and see a map of poems at [blm.mn/hometownpoetry](http://blm.mn/hometownpoetry).

### PARTICIPATE IN THE CITY'S COVID-19 ART MEMORIAL

Bloomington Public Health recently received funding from a federal COVID-19 grant through the Minnesota Department of Health to commission a COVID-19 memorial art sculpture.

This artwork is meant to serve as a memorial to those who lost their lives to COVID-19, and as a reflection on this time in history and the resiliency of the city's residents and employees over the course of the pandemic. Artists Aaron Squadroni and Leah Yellowbird invite community members to participate in the creation of sculpture elements.

Various opportunities for the community to participate will take place in April, including with Valley View Middle School students, City staff, and Martin Luther Campus residents, family and staff. The public is invited to participate on April 4, 2 p.m., at Creekside Community Center. For more information, visit [blm.mn/covidmemorial](http://blm.mn/covidmemorial).





## MONTHLY BULKY ITEM PICKUP FOR REUSE AND RECYCLING

The City is partnering with Better Futures Minnesota to collect certain bulky reusable and recyclable items at the curb to reduce the number of these items that end up in a landfill. Households with City garbage and recycling service can schedule a monthly pick up of reusable and recyclable items. The pickup weeks are identified with a blue outline on the 2024 garbage and recycling calendar at [blm.mn/2024garbage](http://blm.mn/2024garbage).

### HOW TO SCHEDULE A PICKUP

Pickup must be scheduled by 4 p.m., at least two business days ahead of your regular monthly pickup day. You can schedule by phone at 612-353-5400, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., or online at [betterfuturesminnesota.com/curbside-collections](http://betterfuturesminnesota.com/curbside-collections). There is no extra cost for these items to be picked up. Service is included in the monthly Bulky Item Management fee on your utility bill.



### WHAT'S ACCEPTED?

Reusable or recyclable large- and medium-sized items like mattresses, box springs, large appliances, furniture, bicycles and more are accepted. Items that do not follow acceptability guidelines will not be picked up and it will be the resident's responsibility to dispose of those items. To learn more and see the full list of accepted items with quantity limits, visit [blm.mn/bulkies](http://blm.mn/bulkies).

## GET TO KNOW YOUR OPTIONS FOR DISPOSING OF LARGE ITEMS

Last year, the City debuted a new program for monthly reusable and recyclable bulky item pickup. The goal of the new program is to reuse and recycle more, and put less in the landfill. This monthly service is a great way to dispose of bulky items that can be recycled or are in good enough condition to be reused. To learn more about this service, see the column on the left. Another option for disposing of bulky items is Curbside Cleanup, which now takes place every other year on even years. Curbside Cleanup will be held this spring. Items picked up during Curbside Cleanup go to the landfill. Read this page to learn more about two of your options for disposing of bulky items.

### CURBSIDE CLEANUP STARTS IN APRIL

This year, Curbside Cleanup will happen between April and May. After that, the next Curbside Cleanup will happen in 2026. To prepare for your Curbside Cleanup day, set your materials at the curb before 7 a.m. Be ready—collection trucks pass by one time only.

Large appliances and brush are collected for recycling in separate trucks and any remaining items are collected and disposed of in a landfill. Please consider only setting out items that can't be reused or recycled elsewhere. The Curbside Cleanup program is available to residents in the City's garbage and recycling program and certain townhomes and apartments that have opted into, and pay for, Curbside Cleanup services.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For questions about Curbside Cleanup, visit [blm.mn/curbside](http://blm.mn/curbside) or call 952-563-8760. To find tips about how to dispose of items not accepted at the curb, check out the Hennepin County Green Disposal Guide at [blm.mn/green-dispose](http://blm.mn/green-dispose) or call 612-348-3777.

### WHAT IS ACCEPTED AT THE CURB



**Appliances:** Limit of two. Water heaters and softeners, microwaves, washers, dryers, stoves, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, freezers, dishwashers, trash compactors, garbage disposals, water coolers, refrigerators (remove door or tie securely shut). Do not set out until the morning of your pickup date.

**Unusable furniture:** Limit of two items. Tie down or disassemble hide-a-way sofa beds so they cannot open when handled.

**Mattresses or box springs:** Limit of two items.

**Household building materials:** Pile size is limited to what fits in one level, standard-size pickup truck bed. Includes building materials such as flooring, drywall, sheetrock, siding and untreated lumber. Lumber must be stacked and no longer than five feet.

**Bundled brush:** Branches must be smaller than three inches in diameter and three feet in length, tied with twine and put in bundles light enough for one person to carry. Bundled brush piles must be no more than what can fit in a standard pickup truck bed.

**Other bulky items:** Limit of four "other" items. This includes any other bulky item not listed in categories above or to the right that cannot fit in a small garbage cart, including:

- Doors, windows, screens, cabinets.
- Large metal items like bikes, grills, lawn mowers, snow blowers, swing sets, treadmills; drain all fluids and remove tires.
- Carpet and pads: Roll and securely tie with twine. Keep under five feet in length and one foot in diameter.
- Garden furniture and décor that cannot fit in a small garbage cart.
- Home décor items like mirrors, lamps.
- Children's items like toys, sporting goods, car seats, strollers and furniture that **cannot fit in a small garbage cart**.

## 2024 CURBSIDE CLEANUP SCHEDULE

WEST OF NORMANDALE (FRIDAY HAULING DISTRICT)	APRIL 6
NORMANDALE TO FRANCE (THURSDAY HAULING DISTRICT)	APRIL 13
FRANCE TO PENN (WEDNESDAY HAULING DISTRICT)	APRIL 20
PENN TO PORTLAND (TUESDAY HAULING DISTRICT)	APRIL 27
EAST OF PORTLAND (MONDAY HAULING DISTRICT)	MAY 4

### WHAT IS NOT ACCEPTED AT THE CURB



**No tires or batteries.**

**No tubs, sinks or toilets.**

**No extra heavy or bulky items:** Pianos, organs, etc.

**No electronic items:** Cell phones, computers, stereos, printers or TVs.

**No hazardous waste:** Fluorescent tubes, motor oil, paint, propane, solvents or other household chemicals. Take these items to the South Hennepin Recycling and Problem Waste Drop-Off Center, 1400 W. 96th St.

**None of the following building items:** Contractor materials, bricks, concrete, railroad ties, shingles (asbestos) or treated wood.

**No organic materials:** Food waste, grass clippings, leaves, logs, sod or stumps.

**No loose cardboard:** Extra cardboard that can't fit in your recycling cart can be bundled and placed next to your recycling cart for pick-up.

**No recyclable materials:** Boxboard, cans, newspapers or plastic bottles.

**No small appliances like radios, clocks, coffee makers, or hair dryers.**

**No small metal items.** Take smaller items to the South Hennepin Recycling and Problem Waste Drop-Off Center, 1400 W. 96th St.

**NEW! No small items that can fit in a small garbage cart.** These items should be disposed of throughout the year in the regular garbage that is processed at a waste-to-energy facility instead of landfilled during curbside cleanup.

This includes:

- Clothing, textiles, linens, bedding or pillows.
- Broken toys.
- Books and other entertainment.
- Other home and garden décor that can fit in a large garbage cart.





Commuter Services' Michelle Leonard, *left*, and Kate Meredith, *right*, handing out information on alternative commuting options.

## PRACTICE SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL WITH RESOURCES FROM COMMUTER SERVICES

**E**arth Day is every day when it comes to efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation. Commuter Services offers tools to help commuters and residents reduce their carbon footprint.

As a transportation management organization serving Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina, Minnetonka and Richfield, Commuter Services provides free resources to help employers, commuters and residents make conscious, sustainable decisions about the way they travel every day.

Commuter Services' resources give people the tools they need to start and continue sustainable travel or commuting habits through bus or train transit, riding bike, carpooling or vanpooling, walking, or working from home.

Visit the Commuter Services website, [494corridor.org](http://494corridor.org), for more information including tools to create a personalized commuting plan. Free resources are available by request at [494corridor.org/commute-planner.php](http://494corridor.org/commute-planner.php).

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency cites transportation as the state's largest source of greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for 25 percent of annual emissions. More than 70 percent of those emissions come from passenger vehicles, light-duty vehicles including SUVs, and medium- to heavy-duty trucks.

## TELL US ABOUT YOUR GARBAGE AND RECYCLING HABITS

**T**he City would like to hear from you regarding your current waste generation behaviors and what would motivate you to reduce waste. The feedback collected will be used in the Solid Waste Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) Rate Study that is currently underway.

With PAYT, residents would pay for trash collected based on the size of their trash containers. The City already has a minimal PAYT rate structure with a small difference in price for different garbage cart sizes. A Pay-As-You-Throw rate structure with larger differences in price between garbage carts could better reflect the amount of use that residents make of our solid waste programs and incentivize increased recycling, composting and waste reduction. The study results may be considered as part of the City's 2025 solid waste rate setting process. You can find more opportunities to engage in the study at [blm.mn/solid-waste-study](http://blm.mn/solid-waste-study).

### TAKE OUR SURVEY

The survey is available at [blm.mn/PAYTSurvey](http://blm.mn/PAYTSurvey).

### ATTEND A VIRTUAL LISTENING SESSION

Register for the listening session which will take place on **Tuesday, April 23, 12:30-1:30 p.m. or 6:30-7:30 p.m.**, and learn more on the project's Let's Talk Bloomington page at [blm.mn/solid-waste-study](http://blm.mn/solid-waste-study).



## RESIDENTS HELP BUILD BLOOMINGTON'S URBAN FOREST

**W**ith all the stresses on our urban trees, it takes an engaged community to maintain a healthy forest. For 17 years, residents of Bloomington have helped the cause by purchasing and planting a wide variety of tree species during the City's annual Arbor Day tree sale. This year, all 315 affordable, bare-root trees, including spruce, crab apple, maple, birch and more, were sold out before the end of March. Trees are usually delivered in the first week of May.

Since its inception, this effort has added more than 3,000 trees to Bloomington's urban forest and helped Bloomington maintain its Tree City USA designation. Celebrate Arbor Day on April 26 by planting a tree.

Learn more about the benefits at [arborday.org](http://arborday.org).



## UNDERSTANDING THE EPA'S REVISED LEAD AND COPPER RULE

**B**loomington Utilities is working to complete an inventory on water service lines as part of the Minnesota Department of Health's new federal requirements for public drinking water systems. Staff also plan to incorporate material verification into everyday operations moving forward.

**New requirements:** The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) new requirements aim to address lead in drinking water by identifying all public and private service pipe materials and replacing any lead and certain galvanized pipes found. A service line is a pipe that connects buildings to the City-owned water main located below the street.

**Current City ordinance:** Bloomington passed an ordinance in February 1960 requiring copper pipe for all service lines two inches in diameter and smaller. Since lead was never used for larger service lines, and most of Bloomington's drinking water system was built after 1960, Utilities is not aware of any lead or galvanized lines that require replacement.

**Notification, if needed:** Property owners will be notified in 2024 only if their service line material is unknown or requires replacement.

## TREE REMOVAL AT DWAN FOCUSES ON URBAN FOREST HEALTH

**W**hen Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was discovered in Bloomington in 2014, City staff surveyed the ash trees at Dwan to identify trees with signs of infestation. To strengthen resistance, ash trees that were obstructing the course or storm damaged were removed. Dwan had 207 ash trees on the course at the time. By 2021, approximately 100 ash trees were removed.

Even with those proactive efforts, the first signs of EAB were discovered at Dwan in 2022. City forestry crews surveyed and tagged the trees and Dwan management developed a plan identifying which trees were healthy enough to treat and which should be removed.

Removing infested or unhealthy trees susceptible to infestation is vital in maintaining a healthy urban forest, and so is replacing trees. In 2015, the City launched an Ash Tree Replacement Plan and has planted more than 40 trees on the Dwan course.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

Residents and organizations can help by making a memorial tree or general tree donations. For more information visit, [blm.mn/memorials](http://blm.mn/memorials).





## IT'S TIME AGAIN TO STEP TO IT

Each May, Bloomington partners with Hennepin County and the Minnesota Twins to participate in the Step To It program that encourages residents to log their physical activity during the month of May and compete with others to see which community comes out on top.

Registration starts April 1. Be sure to select the City of Bloomington when you register so the steps are credited to our community. Steps between May 1-May 28 are the ones that count.

Individuals with the highest number of steps in each age category from each community will be notified by June 6. The winners will be posted on the Step to It website by June 9.

Participants are eligible to win Minnesota Twins tickets. For more information and to register, visit [step toit.org](http://step toit.org).



(Source: Minnesota Wildflowers)

## WHAT'S BLOOMING AMERICAN PASQUEFLOWER

The first of the season to bloom is the American Pasqueflower (*Anemone patens*). The pasqueflower is one of the first flowers to bloom in the spring, often coming up while there is still snow on the ground.

Look for it on south facing slopes in dry to average sandy soil, typically in scattered clumps. It does very well as a garden plant.

### Characteristics:

- Blooms: March-May.
- Sun exposure: Part shade, sun; dry sandy soil; prairies, open woods.
- Height: 3-18 inches.
- Native range: Northern states from Wisconsin to Montana, following the Rockies south to New Mexico.

Bloomington's flowered landscapes show a care for beauty and for the ecosystem. Ever-changing blooms provide habitat and food for myriad bees, birds and butterflies.

This work is made possible by the efforts of the City's Park Maintenance staff who are also responsible for bringing beautiful native landscaping to Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, and the city.

Take a moment to behold what's blooming in Bloomington.



Youth archery can not only reduce screen time, it has also been shown to be good exercise, decrease stress, and increase both control and coordination.

## YOUTH ARE INVITED TO EXPERIENCE ARCHERY

Youth ages 9-14 are encouraged to check out archery, one of the oldest sports in the world. Archery is the sport of shooting a bow and arrow. This low-cost program offers participants an opportunity to learn the basics of archery safety, equipment and shooting form from certified instructors.

No bow? We got you covered. All the equipment is included.

**Who:** Youth ages 9-14.

**When:** Three. one-day sessions. April 20, 27, and May 4, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

**Where:** Marsh Lake Archery Range, 9401 France Ave. S., Bloomington's archery range. It was renovated in 2017 to create a safer, more accessible and equitable archery experience.

**Cost:** \$25 per person.

Sign up began March 27. Registrations will be accepted until full.



## WALKING CLUB STEPS UP EXERCISE AND FUN

Bloomington Parks and Recreation is offering a free walking club Tuesdays, 10 a.m., beginning in May. Along with all the benefits of walking, club participants can socialize, learn more about Bloomington parks and enjoy nature.

The walking club is geared towards active seniors, but everyone is welcome! A staff member will guide participants on one-to-three-mile walks of varying intensity. Participants set their own pace.

Registration is required at [blm.mn/webtrac](http://blm.mn/webtrac). A detailed map and trail description will be provided in advance. For more information, call Creekside Community Center at 952-563-4944.

### BENEFITS OF WALKING

Walking offers health benefits to people of all ages, including:

1. Strengthening your heart.
2. Lowering blood sugar.
3. Easing joint pain.
4. Boosting immune function.
5. Burning calories.
6. Improving mood.
7. Extending life expectancy.
8. Toning legs.
9. Enhancing creative thinking.

Source: [Healthline.com](http://Healthline.com).



# BLOOMINGTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS



## VEAP PROVIDES NEEDED RESOURCES

The number of working individuals and families living in poverty in suburban communities like Bloomington has increased sharply in the past decade, and Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People (VEAP), is there to help.

Since 1973, VEAP has been helping low-income individuals and families meet their immediate needs and move toward stability. Today VEAP operates one of the largest food pantries in Minnesota.

As a direct service agency, VEAP operates a food pantry available to local individuals and families. VEAP purchases food at a deep discount from Second Harvest, a food bank that distributes food donations from corporations and food companies to food pantries.

**Need services?** Most VEAP visitors usually fall below the federal poverty guidelines, but this is not a requirement. Everyone is welcome, though an appointment is required. Call 952-888-9616.

**Want to help?** VEAP relies on the community to provide money and goods, and to volunteer time.

**Want to hold food and fund drives?** You can email VEAP for opportunities to help at [info@veap.org](mailto:info@veap.org).

## SPRING/SUMMER PERFORMANCE SERIES

The Bloomington Center for the Arts Performance Series includes awe-inspiring live theater, dance, choral and instrumental concerts. Performances are held in the Schneider or Black Box theaters, located in the Bloomington Center for the Arts at 98th Street and West Old Shakopee Road. Free parking is available on site.



**BLOOMINGTON BOX OFFICE**



**ARTISTRY BOX OFFICE**

**BLOOMINGTONMN.GOV/BCA**



### BLOOMINGTON CHORALE: "TOGETHER WE ARE ..."

A choral performance highlighting community, friendship, family, and unity. Selections include: "We Are Family," "Bridge Over Troubled Waters," "We are the World," "Brothers Sing On," "We Are the Champions," and many more.

MAY 17, 7:30 P.M., MAY 18, 4 P.M.

TICKETS \$25 ADULT, \$20 SENIOR (60+), \$20 STUDENT



### CONCERTO DANCE: "THE ADVENTURES OF PEER GYNT"

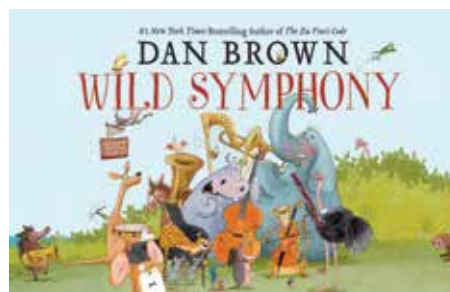
Using their signature blend of theatrical and classical jazz dance styles, Concerto Dance presents "The Adventures of Peer Gynt," a new jazz dance work set to Duke Ellington's arrangement of Edvard Grieg's "Peer Gynt Suite."

MAY 16, 7:30 P.M. (PAY WHAT YOU CAN)

MAY 17, 7:30 P.M.

MAY 18, 2:30 P.M. AND 7:30 P.M.

TICKETS \$30 ADULT, \$25 SENIOR (60+), \$25 STUDENT



### MEDALIST CONCERT BAND: "WILD SYMPHONY"

A youth-oriented option, this concert features the music from the children's book, "Wild Symphony," by Da Vinci Code author Dan Brown. Guest soloist: 2024 Concerto Competition winner.

MAY 19, 4 P.M.

TICKETS \$17 ADULT, \$15 SENIOR (60+), \$15 STUDENT



### NOTEABLE SINGERS: "ELEMENTS OF NATURE!"

Join the NOTEable Singers as they celebrate their 50th season. Enjoy songs about the elements, and experience weather and seasons in a whole new way.

JUNE 1, 5 P.M.

TICKETS \$20 ADULT, \$17 SENIOR (60+), \$17 STUDENT, KIDS UNDER 5 FREE



### ALIVE & KICKIN "THE 70'S—CAN YOU DIG IT?"

The Rockin Seniors of Alive & Kickin are thrilled to be back in Bloomington presenting: "The 70's—Can You Dig It?"

JUNE 6, 4PM, JUNE 7, 6PM

JUNE 8, 7:30PM, JUNE 9, 2PM

TICKETS: \$50 AFTER-PARTY, \$40 GENERAL, \$35 SENIOR (60+), \$35 STUDENT



### ARTISTRY: "NEWSIES"

"Newsies" is a rousing tale of Jack Kelly, a charismatic leader who rallies other New York City newsies to strike against unfair conditions and dream of a better life.

JULY 18-AUGUST 24

SHOW TIMES VARY

TICKETS \$26-56 (INCLUDES FEES)

## BABY RESOURCE FAIR SET FOR MAY 4

The City and Bloomington Public Schools' Early Learning Services have teamed up to host a free and fun educational event for parents and caregivers who are expecting a baby or have infants up to 12 months old.

The baby resource fair will take place on Saturday, May 4, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at Pond Early Learning Center, 9600 3rd Ave. S.

Learn about baby CPR, immunizations, what to look for in a daycare, choosing a pediatrician, recognizing signs of concern and more. There will also be door prize drawings, giveaways and refreshments provided, while supplies last.

One Bloomington parent who attended the fair last year said, "This event is needed but it hasn't been a common thing. I am so glad Bloomington is making this happen and focusing on young kids."

For more information, visit [blm.mn/baby](http://blm.mn/baby) or contact Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator Amanda Crombie at [acrombie@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:acrombie@BloomingtonMN.gov).

## SUICIDE AWARENESS MEMORIAL EVENT

Suicide Awareness Voices of Education (SAVE) is hosting a Suicide Awareness Memorial event, May 18, 9-11 a.m., at Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road. This will be a unique opportunity for suicide loss survivors to gather as a community to pay tribute to loved ones lost to suicide and to support one another in their journey.

The memorial event will include personal stories by suicide loss survivors, a reading of the names of loved ones lost to suicide, a presentation of pictures of loved ones lost to suicide, and an opportunity to connect with local mental health resources. Visit [save.org/sam](http://save.org/sam) for additional information.

SAVE is a national suicide prevention nonprofit working to end the tragedy of suicide through education, training, advocacy, and support of suicide loss survivors. Learn more about SAVE at [save.org](http://save.org).





## NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK, APRIL 14-20

Who picks up the phone when you call for help? Public safety telecommunications professionals.

Public safety telecommunicators serve as the first point of contact during an emergency, gathering vital information, maintaining composure, calming distressed individuals and sending the right help to the right location.

To staff this critical position, Bloomington employs 12 public safety telecommunicators, a radio communications technician and a training and quality assurance coordinator.

“The work our telecommunicators do every day is invaluable to our city and its police and fire departments,” said Bloomington Police Chief Booker Hodges. “I am grateful for their professional service. Our community can be assured they are being served by the very best.”

So, give a shout-out to the public safety telecommunicators this April, and throughout the year. Hopefully, you never need to call them but, if you do, know that a skilled and proficient professional will answer the call.

## NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK HIGHLIGHTS SUPPORT FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

National Small Business Week is Sunday, April 28 through Saturday, May 4.

This annual effort honors entrepreneurs who bring new ideas to life and grow our economy. It also highlights small businesses and encourages our community to shop and support small businesses not only during this week, but throughout the year.

The City of Bloomington assists small businesses through programs, partnerships and policy initiatives. Community Development and other City departments work to serve small business success. In 2023, the City's Port Authority created a business assistance team to provide assistance and resources to Bloomington's small business community.

For more information or to connect to resources and staff, visit [blm.mn/business](http://blm.mn/business).



## HOCKEY GAME SCORES FOR FUN AND DONATIONS

Bloomington's public safety departments took to the ice March 10 for a friendly faceoff in their second annual Fire versus Police hockey game at the Bloomington Ice Garden. Donations were encouraged for the Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People's (VEAP) food pantry and for Burnsville Fallen Heroes: Officer Paul Elmstrand, Officer Matthew Ruge and Fire Fighter/Paramedic Adam Finseth. Police took home the victory with a final score of 3-2.

Community support for the event was huge. Nearly 1,000 people attended, and Reserve Officers collected 1,079 pounds of food, assorted items and a \$50 check donation for VEAP.

Donations were also accepted for [lels.org/benevolent-fund](http://lels.org/benevolent-fund), a site coordinated by Law Enforcement Labor Services. Those contributions will go to the families of the Burnsville Fallen Heroes. The fundraising efforts of Bloomington Fire and Police have raised a total of \$19,534.

Stay tuned for the next time Police and Fire meet on the ice, March 9, 2025.



Stakeholders celebrate an award of excellence for the Bloomington Fire Station 4 construction project. Left to right: Assistant Fire Chief Jay Forster, Deputy Fire Chief Tim Barrett, Terra Construction Field Superintendent Braden Koepp, Terra Construction Project Manager Anya Beck, Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Deb Williams, CNH's Quinn Hudson, Mayor Tim Busse and Terra Construction Project Executive Ben Newlin.

## FIRE STATION 4 RECEIVES CONSTRUCTION AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

The new Fire Station 4 at 4201 W. 84th St. recently received an award of excellence from the Minnesota Construction Association, a nonprofit organization that provides opportunities for the construction industry.

CNH Architects's design for the new 25,000-square-foot fire station includes living accommodations. Terra Construction oversaw the building of the station and submitted the project for consideration in MCA's award contest.

“Since it opened in August, Station 4 crews have responded to about 2,100 calls, including one nearby,” said Jay Forster, Bloomington's Assistant Fire Chief. “With the station now staffed 24-hours by full-time and part-time firefighters, the crews arrived on the scene quickly and rescued two people with disabilities. This is just one example of the benefits of the newly constructed fire station.”

Like most of the City's six fire stations, the previous Fire Station 4 was constructed more than 50 years ago. When Bloomington performed a space needs study for each station. Station 4 became the first for renewal.

For more information about the fire stations in Bloomington, visit [blm.mn/fire-stations](http://blm.mn/fire-stations).