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## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Whether you celebrate Kwanzaa, Hannukah, Yule (the winter solstice), Christmas, Las Posadas or Feast Day of Our Lady Guadalupe, the City wishes you and yours a joyful holiday season.

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### BLOOMINGTON VOTERS ELECT COUNCIL, APPROVE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX

Bloomington voters went to the polls this year to weigh in on an impactful election. Results show six returning members and one new member will serve on the city council starting in 2024. Bloomington residents also approved a local options sales tax to fund \$155 million in community investments. Voter turnout was high for the 2023 election. Numbers show that overall, 35.91% of voters cast ballots in this year's election.

"This is the highest turnout for a regularly scheduled city election in 20 years," City Clerk Christina Scipioni said.

#### CITY COUNCIL RESULTS

For the first time in the city's history, all City Council seats, including the mayor, were up for election. Bloomington voters returned Tim Busse as mayor. Jenna Carter and Chao Moua will return to their seats as at-large council members. Dwayne A. Lowman will again represent District 1. Shawn Nelson was reelected as District 2 council member. Lona Dallessandro will return to represent District 3. And Victor Rivas was elected to his first term representing District 4.

#### BLOOMINGTON FORWARD RESULTS

During this year's election, Bloomington voters also approved a new half-percent sales tax to provide \$155 million for a new community health and wellness center, renovating the 50-year-old Bloomington Ice Garden, and enhancing and protecting the Nine Mile Creek Corridor, and Moir and Central Parks.

"Our residents understand that when we invest in public health and wellness, recreation and natural resources, we are investing in Bloomington's quality of life and the local economy," Mayor Tim Busse said. "By using a local sales tax, nonresidents will contribute approximately 65% toward the cost of these projects."

Bloomington voters considered three ballot questions that would be supported by the local sales tax. Question one requested \$100 million to replace the Creekside Community Center and Public Health buildings with a new community health and wellness center. According to unofficial election results, this question passed with 56.18% voting yes. Question two requested \$35 million to modernize and update the Bloomington Ice Garden, which was approved by 53.05% of voters. Question three requested \$20 million to restore more than 100 acres of prairie, creek and woodland habitat and other outdoor park amenities in the Nine Mile Creek Corridor. This question passed with 52.30% voting yes.

In total, the City will invest \$159 million to complete the three projects outlined in its Bloomington Forward investment plan. The sales tax will generate \$155 million to finance the projects over a 20-year period. The remaining \$4 million will be provided by the State of Minnesota.

Detailed election results have been posted on the City's website at [blm.mn/vote](http://blm.mn/vote). More information about the projects included in the Bloomington Forward investment plan is available at [bloomingtonforward.org](http://bloomingtonforward.org).



BLOOMINGTON  
Forward  
INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

The *Briefing*, published monthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to residents and businesses. Direct your comments and requests for Braille, larger print or computer file to Communications Administrator Janine Hill, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3071; PH 952-563-8819; MN Relay 711; FAX 952-563-8715; Email: [jhill@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:jhill@BloomingtonMN.gov)  
**Website: [BloomingtonMN.gov](http://BloomingtonMN.gov)**

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*Elected officials presented for informational purposes.*

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A winter scene at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

## MAYOR'S MEMO

### COUNCIL TO VOTE ON FINAL 2024 BUDGET THIS MONTH

By Mayor Tim Busse

The City Council will vote to adopt a final 2024 budget this month. In September, the Council approved a preliminary 2024 property tax levy increase of 9.49%. The preliminary tax levy can be reduced, but not increased, before final adoption.

This budget continues community investments in public safety. Police and Fire account for 50% of the City's 2024 proposed tax levy request.

This levy would fund 70% of the City's 2024 general fund budget. The remainder of the proposed budget would be supported by lodging and admission taxes, license and permit fees, grants and program revenues.

The City Council will hold a truth-in-taxation public budget hearing Monday, December 4, 6:30 p.m., at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. Instructions on how to participate in person or by phone are available online at [blm.mn/cc-1204](http://blm.mn/cc-1204).

For more information, including links to Council presentations and discussions on the budget, related Council Minute segments and information on community outreach surrounding the budget visit [blm.mn/budget](http://blm.mn/budget).

## CITY AND MAYOR RECOGNIZED AS INNOVATORS

The City was recognized as a regional leader and innovator by the Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce during its first annual Regional Leaders and Innovators Award presentation in September. The Chamber honored municipal leaders throughout the Twin Cities who exemplify innovation, excellence and commitment to the long-term economic success of their respective communities. Mayor Tim Busse and two of the City's programs received awards.

Bloomington received the award for **Innovation in Public Safety** for the Bloomington Police Department's Shared Community Values initiative and for **Innovation in Sustainability** for its new Curbside Cleanup program.

The Chamber's **first-ever Bold North Award** was presented to Mayor Tim Busse. Jonathan Weinhagen, president and CEO at Minneapolis Regional Chamber, said the award is about honoring an individual who espouses the Bold North mentality and who is willing to champion the region no matter the circumstances.

"I can think of no better individual to receive this inaugural award than Mayor Tim Busse. While our expo bid may not have been successful, our region and state were extremely well received on the world stage and this effort only served to strengthen our region's strong public-private partnerships," Weinhagen said. "Mayor Busse's leadership and efforts in helping us carry this bid show that Minnesota is worthy of the global spotlight. We made global connections that will continue to highlight our state as a desirable destination for tourism, business and investment."

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICES UNDER CONSTRUCTION, ACCESS SERVICES ONLINE

Construction is scheduled from December 11, 2023 – February 12, 2024 in the Community Development Department at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. There will be limited staff available on-site. To reduce foot traffic, the City encourages residents to reach out by phone, email or virtual meetings for any inquiries during this time. Visit [blm.mn/remodel](http://blm.mn/remodel) to see services available online.

The Community Development Department is comprised of the following divisions: Assessing, Building & Inspection, Environmental Health, Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), Planning and the Port Authority. Visit [blm.mn/remodel](http://blm.mn/remodel) for guidance on contacting division representatives for any resident services needed or call 952-563-8920.



Left to right: Deputy Public Works Director Ellen Biales, Deputy Chief Kim Clausen, Chief Booker Hodges, City Manager Jamie Verbrugge, Sergeant Aaron Paul, Mayor Tim Busse and Public Works Project Coordinator Laura Horner.



## WHAT'S DEVELOPING

### GYROPOLIS EXPANSION KICKS OFF WITH DEMOLITION OF VACANT GAS STATION

**A**n old vacant gas station at 90th Street and Penn Avenue has been torn down. The demolition of the empty gas station makes way for the expansion of a Bloomington favorite, Gyropolis, a locally owned Greek restaurant that has operated in Bloomington since 2005. The expansion will nearly triple the size of the restaurant. Additions will include an expanded kitchen, a pick-up window and a new patio.

### OXENDALE'S OPENS IN SOUTH LOOP

There's now a grocery store in South Loop. Oxendale's Bloomington Market, a locally owned grocery store, occupies the main floor of the Carbon31 building. Located in Bloomington Central Station (BCS), this development sits west of BCS park and the Blue Line transit stop. The grocery store opened November 1.

### SICK EXPANSION

A new office complex is being considered in Bloomington by SICK, one of the world's leading providers of sensor-based applications in the industrial sector. If plans move forward, this will mark the first office complex to be built in the city in more than three years.

The 144,000-square-foot complex would be a huge investment by SICK for Bloomington and South Loop. SICK will retain approximately 170 jobs and create 80 full-time-equivalent jobs as part of the office development. The jobs would have a median annual salary of \$94,500.

To stay up to date on developments in Bloomington, visit [blm.mn/planning](http://blm.mn/planning).

## BLOOMINGTON.

tomorrow. together.



### BLOOM IN BLOOMINGTON APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR 2024

**B**loom in Bloomington is a youth workforce program offering summer intern experiences to young people age 16 to 24 who live or attend school in Bloomington. Participants will have an opportunity to explore career paths from a wide variety of employers including the City, build valuable work experience and develop leadership skills. Applications are open for 2024, the program's second year.

"I will never forget this experience and I want to thank everyone for allowing me to learn and grow, for teaching me more than I could ever ask for," 2023 Bloom in Bloomington intern Weemon Yeakehson said, *pictured above fourth from right*. "I will become somebody one day. And I'll tell them that my journey began right here in the middle of Bloomington at City Hall surrounded by people who saw potential in me."

#### HOW TO APPLY

Bloomington employers are invited to participate. Apply by December 29 at [blm.mn/bloom](http://blm.mn/bloom). Interns can also apply online. View the job postings at [blm.mn/jobs](http://blm.mn/jobs).

Questions? Contact Community Development Project Facilitator Hillary Benson at [hbenson@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:hbenson@BloomingtonMN.gov) or visit [blm.mn/bloom](http://blm.mn/bloom).



### IN MEMORIAM: LYLE BERG

**L**ongtime City Traffic and Transportation Engineer Lyle Berg, 90, of Webster, South Dakota, died September 7, 2023. Berg began working for the City of Bloomington in 1964.

In his role, Berg led the development of many major infrastructure improvements that supported growth of the partly rural village that was Bloomington to what it is now Minnesota's fourth largest city. One of Berg's many accomplishments was the development of American Boulevard, which culminated in a bridge over I-35W named in his honor in 2005. Berg retired twice—the first time in 2000 and the second time in 2003.



### SPEED LIMIT CHANGES AHEAD FOR LOCAL STREETS

**I**n September, the Bloomington City Council approved a speed limit reduction from 30 miles per hour to 25 for local, neighborhood streets. Staff are also proposing changes for larger city streets.

All proposed speed limit changes are informed by roadway conditions, feedback received through Neighborhood Transportation Management Plan engagement, studies regarding effective speed limits and engineering best practices.

Speed limits on collector streets such as 106th Street, 102nd Street, and Xerxes Avenue are proposed for 30 miles per hour. Speed limits on arterial streets, such as American Boulevard and portions of 98th Street will be set at 35 miles per hour. Both collector and arterial streets are wider than local streets and designed to accommodate slightly higher speeds.

For more information about approved and proposed speed limit changes, visit [letstalk.blm.mn/speed](http://letstalk.blm.mn/speed).



## 2024 GARBAGE AND RECYCLING CALENDAR

January						
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- RECYCLE WEEK
- REUSE/RECYCLING BULKY ITEM PICKUP WEEKS
- HOLIDAY; PICKUP IS DELAYED BY ONE DAY

**NOTE: CITY-OBSERVED HOLIDAYS THAT ARE NOT LISTED ON THE CALENDAR DO NOT DELAY COLLECTION**

**CHRISTMAS TREES PICKED UP FOR A REDUCED FEE  
JANUARY 1-12**

**YARD WASTE SEASON  
APRIL 8 - NOVEMBER 30, WEATHER PERMITTING  
SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE, EXTRA CHARGES APPLY**



## MEET YOUR BLOOMINGTON FIREFIGHTERS

**NAME:**  
KRIS KAUFFMAN  
**STATION:**  
FIRE STATION 4

**K**ris Kauffman has been serving Bloomington residents as a volunteer firefighter for more than 20 years. He started in June 1999 at Fire Station 4 and is thrilled to be at the new Station 4 during its opening months for his full-time assignment. He previously worked for a private industrial fire company and as a fire-medical for St. Paul's Fire Department. He also serves as a fire-medical for the Bloomington Police Department's Emergency Response Unit.

Why firefighting? Service runs in the Kauffman family. "My father was a WWII veteran who was present for and aided in the liberation of Dachau and Buchenwald," Kauffman shared. "He was also in the Battle of the Bulge. Based on his experiences and advice, I decided on the fire service."

Kauffman's high school sweetheart, Kate, and their children Tyler, Olivia and Hailey are very supportive of his service.

To others considering a career in fire service, Kauffman offers the following advice. "Firefighting is the greatest blue-collar, customer service job in the world but you will need to dig deep and strive to be better every day. The best thing though is you never know what you're going to do or see on any given day."

### KAUFFMAN'S FIRE SAFETY TIPS

Stay and look while you cook and don't charge your phone in bed or on any soft surface. It can be dangerous. Phones can get very warm, cords can become damaged and the wires can break, causing a fire to start.

### STAY HEALTHY AND SAFE THIS WINTER

**Y**ou've found the perfect holiday gifts and bought the ingredients for that special recipe. Make sure taking care of yourself is also on your to-do list by following these tips.

- Manage stress. Give yourself a break if you feel stressed out or overwhelmed. "While the holidays are a time for fun and connection, they can also bring added stress and anxiety," said Jade Burt, community health supervisor with Bloomington Public Health. "Find support, connect socially and get plenty of sleep. If you need to talk with someone, call or text 988 Lifeline."

- Bundle up to stay dry and warm outdoors. Wear light, warm layers, gloves, hats, scarves and waterproof boots. "It can be expensive for families to buy all the right winter gear," said Burt. "If you have the means, look for community drives where you can donate new or gently used clothing."

- Get your vaccinations. Be mindful of common winter illnesses such as colds, flu and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV). The immunity you gain from vaccination can reduce your risk of infection and becoming very sick if you do get infected. It's not too late to get your flu shot. Updated COVID-19 vaccines and new RSV vaccines are available.

For more steps to a healthy holiday season, visit [blm.mn/holidays](http://blm.mn/holidays).

### PREVENT FOOD WASTE WHEN PLANNING FOR A FEAST

**Y**ou can take steps to prevent waste during all stages of your holiday meal.

- Use a portion calculator to match servings with the number of guests. You can use the calculator online at [savethefood.com/guestimator](http://savethefood.com/guestimator).

- Reduce the "foodprint" of your meal by planning your menu to use local ingredients.

- Don't be afraid to switch things up. Is there a dish that nobody loves but you make it because of tradition? Time to let it go and make room for something better.

- Don't let leftovers go to waste. Recyclable containers from takeout meals work great for sharing leftover food in containers you don't need to get back.

- When you are grocery shopping, be aware of the packaging and use your zero-waste shopping habits. Ask yourself: Is the packaging recyclable? Compostable? Avoidable?

Whatever your holiday plans, plan ahead to reduce waste, aim to cook the right amount and enjoy your lower-waste feast.

## HOLIDAY RECYCLING DO'S AND DON'TS

**B**efore throwing something away this holiday season, ask yourself: does this item belong in recycling, organics or garbage? Use this guide to answer all your holiday waste disposal questions.

### RECYCLE

- Boxes (flatten)
- Paper cards and envelopes
- Catalogs and magazines
- Milk and broth cartons
- Plastic bottles and containers
- Glass bottles and jars
- Aluminum cans and baking trays
- Cookie and pie tins
- Steel cans

### COMPOST

- Fruit and vegetable peels
- Dairy products
- Meat trimmings and bones
- Fish scraps
- Grains and beans
- Coffee grounds and paper tea bags
- Napkins and paper towels
- BPI certified compostable serving ware

### GARBAGE

- Holiday lights\*
  - Bubble wrap and plastic bags\*
  - Wrapping paper
  - Ribbons and bows
  - Tinsel and ornaments
  - Non-compostable paper plates and serving ware
  - Styrofoam
- \*Can be recycled at Hennepin County drop off, 1400 West 96th Street*

## TIPS FOR EXTRA RECYCLING

**E**xtra recycling accumulates quickly during the holidays. After you fill your recycling cart with recyclable materials, you can place any leftover recyclable materials next to the cart. Place smaller recyclable items in paper bags before them putting next to the recycling cart. Cardboard should be flattened and stacked into a pile no larger than three feet wide and one foot tall. Bundle the stacked cardboard with string or twine and place next to your cart. If you regularly have extra recycling, you can request a second recycling cart for no cost. For more information, visit [blm.mn/recycling](http://blm.mn/recycling).

## CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP

**C**hristmas trees will be collected from January 2-12. No prior scheduling is required. Remove all decorations, wires and stands from the tree, and set it out before 7 a.m. on your collection day. During the Christmas tree collection weeks, a fee of \$11.60 per tree will appear on your next utility bill. Christmas tree pickup any other time of the year will cost \$57.98. Call Utility Billing at 952-563-8726 or visit [blm.mn/garbage](http://blm.mn/garbage) for information.



## HAVE SOME SEASONAL FUN AT WINTER FETE

Bloomington Parks and Recreation is embracing winter with a series of activities and events intended to get people outdoors each year with its 20th annual Winter Fete. The City works with community partners, including Three Rivers Park District, to bring a winter wonderland of fun to life.

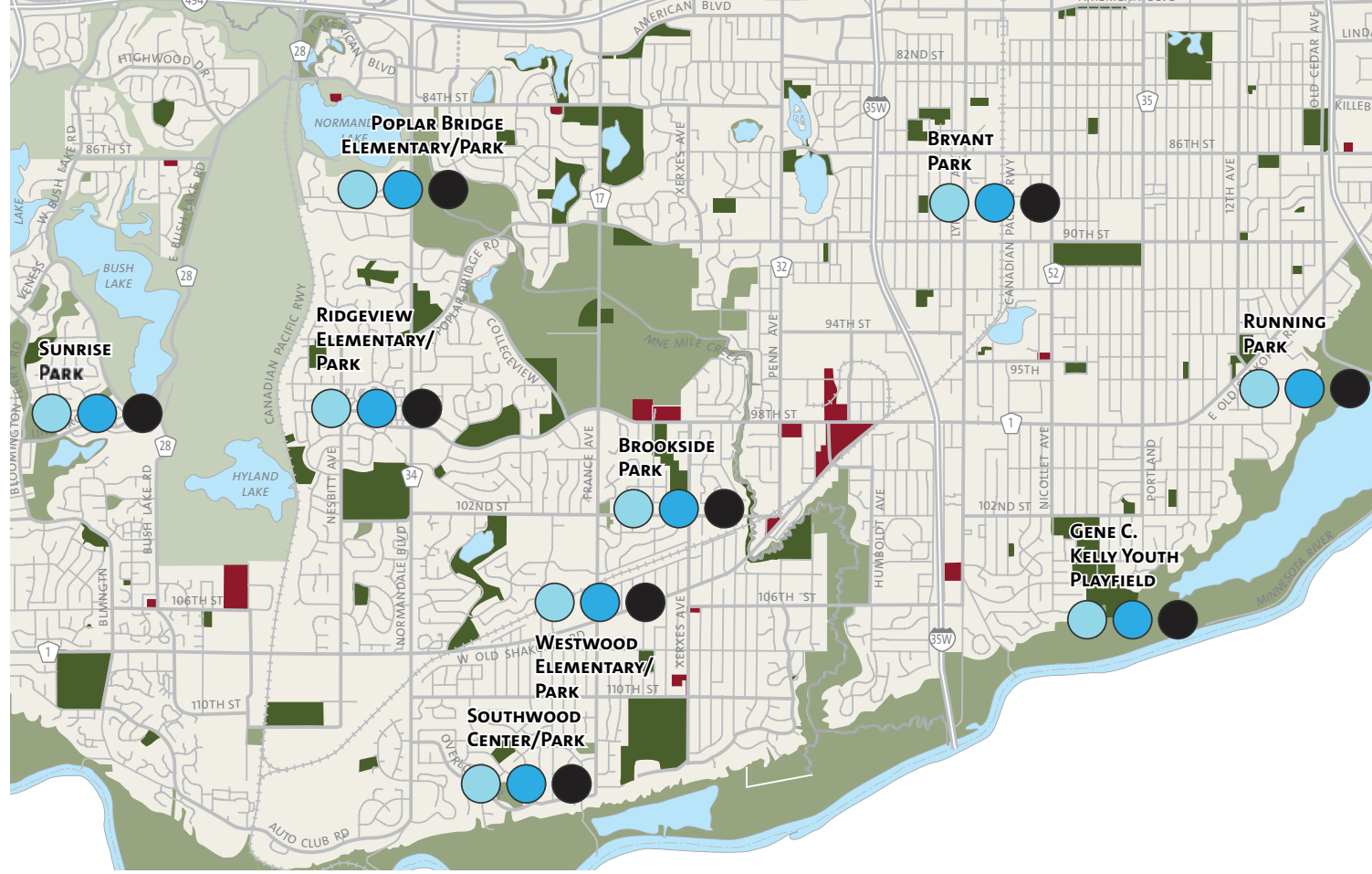
“Winter Fete offers opportunities for people to say active and get outside to enjoy all Bloomington has to offer during the colder months,” said Recreation Supervisor Jenna Smith.

This year’s activities include fat tire bike riding, open skating, introduction to ice fishing, a winter lights tour and more. For more details visit [blm.mn/winterfete](http://blm.mn/winterfete).



## CHECK OUT A WINTER MOVIE AT CREEKSIDE

Get in the spirit of the season with a movie day at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue, for adults ages 50 and above. Catch “The Polar Express” for free on Monday, December 11, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Treats and refreshments will be provided. To learn more, visit [blm.mn/creekside](http://blm.mn/creekside).



● General skating ● Outdoor hockey (Running Park and Westwood Elementary/Park have two rinks.) ● Warming house



## 2023-2024 OUTDOOR SKATING RINKS AND WARMING HOUSES

Lace up your skates and glide into a classic winter pastime—skating—on one of Bloomington’s nine outdoor skating rinks. The outdoor skating season is scheduled to run December 15-February 19, depending on weather and ice conditions. Rink lighting will operate 4:30-10 p.m. daily.

Warming houses are scheduled to be open during the following times:

- Monday – Thursday: 4-8 p.m.
- Friday: 4-9 p.m.
- Saturday: 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
- Sunday: 12-8 p.m.

Warming houses will be closed December 24, December 25 and December 31, but will be open January 1. Lights will be on and people may skate during posted park hours.

For park addresses, up-to-date rink conditions, closings and schedules, visit [blm.mn/rinks](http://blm.mn/rinks) or call 952-563- 8878 and select option 3.

## ENJOY A NEW YEAR’S EVE OPEN SKATE

Lace up your skates and head over to Bloomington Ice Garden, 3600 West 98th Street, for a New Year’s Eve open skate. You can hit the ice on Monday, December 31, 4-7 p.m. All ages are welcome. Admission costs \$8 if you preregister or pay at the door. This cost includes skate rental. Concessions will be open for purchase. Multiple sheets of ice will be open for skating with music. There will also be a kid-friendly New Year’s Eve countdown at 6:30 p.m.





## AND THE AWARD GOES TO: JESSICA MARTINEZ

Jessica Martinez was recently recognized with the Omar Bonderud Award for her work advancing human rights in Bloomington and beyond.

Martinez, an equity specialist in the Bloomington Public Schools Office of Education Equity, has served on numerous committees including Bloomington Cultural Arts Support, Viva! Festival Latino and Bloomington Pride. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Martinez supported numerous COVID vaccination sites. She is a volunteer board member with Oasis for Youth and co-facilitator of the ComUNIDAD Latinx Parent group.

“Being the first Latina recipient of the Omar Bonderud Human Rights Award is empowering,” Jessica Martinez, *above*, said. “I firmly believe that I am community made, and if it wasn’t for the amazing Bloomington community, this would not be possible. I am thankful for the students I work with, the families that entrust me with their children and the incredible support system that surrounds me. This award means love, it means humanity, it means unity, and it means we still have a lot of work to do.”

The Omar Bonderud Human Rights Award is presented by the Human Rights Commission to an individual or organization that has made a significant contribution to ensuring the rights of people in Bloomington. For more information, visit [blm.mn/omar](http://blm.mn/omar).

## GET IN THE SPIRIT WITH BLOOMINGTON’S WINTER LIGHTS TOUR

Bask in the glow (literally) of your neighbors’ decorative illumination that brings the holiday vibes to a whole new level. Bloomington City staff are highlighting community members who go above and beyond to spread holiday cheer for Parks and Recreation’s second annual winter lights tour.

The City will release the map for visitors to follow around December 8. You can find the tour map and more information at [blm.mn/winter-lights](http://blm.mn/winter-lights).



## LIONS CLUB DONATES \$25,000 TOWARD PARK IMPROVEMENTS

In late September, Mayor Tim Busse accepted a check for \$25,000 from Bloomington Lions toward the cost of shade structures at the newly reconstructed tennis and pickleball courts at Dred Scott Playfield, 10820 Bloomington Ferry Road.

Renewal in Dred Scott began in September 2021 when the City started reconstructing the tennis courts. The project involved removal of the existing fence, reconfiguration of the area to support both tennis and pickleball, and installation of a completely new playing surface, fencing and net systems. This work was completed in June 2022 when four new tennis courts and six pickleball courts opened.

The shade structure project will take place in spring 2024. The Lions Club is working with Parks and Recreation to identify other projects that they could support.

## BLOOMINGTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS

WINTER 2023-2024 PERFORMANCE SERIES



### CONTINENTAL BALLET COMPANY: THE NUTCRACKER BALLET

Enjoy this holiday classic tale of a girl’s gift of a nutcracker and her visit to the Land of the Sugarplum Fairy. This ballet makes for a great family tradition.

DECEMBER 9, 7:30 P.M., DECEMBER 10, 3 P.M.

TICKETS \$25 ADULT, \$19 SENIOR, \$13 YOUTH (12 AND UNDER)



### BLOOMINGTON CHORALE: A SEASON OF JOY

This holiday showcase of choral music will bring the warmth of the season to all. Selections include “Sleigh Ride,” “Jingle Bells,” “Holiday Tango,” “Eight Days of Light,” “O Holy Night” and more.

DECEMBER 15, 7:30 P.M., DECEMBER 16, 4 P.M.

TICKETS \$25 ADULT, \$20 SENIOR, \$20 STUDENT



### MEDALIST CONCERT BAND: SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

Enjoy both classic and contemporary favorites in this popular holiday program by the Medalist Concert Band.

DECEMBER 17 • 4 P.M.

TICKETS \$19 ADULT, \$17 SENIOR, \$17 STUDENT



### ARTISTRY: SOME ENCHANTED EVENING – THE SONGS OF RODGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN

This holiday season, join Artistry Theater and Visual Arts for a celebration of musical theater with a glorious parade of Rodgers and Hammerstein hits!

DECEMBER 20 – 31 • SHOW TIMES VARY

TICKETS \$26 - \$56 (INCLUDES FEES)



### ARTISTRY: CRAZY FOR YOU

To kick off our 2024 season, we’re bringing you a concert version of “Crazy for You” featuring Anita Ruth and the Artistry Orchestra.

JANUARY 25-FEBRUARY 11 • SHOW TIMES VARY

TICKETS \$26 - \$56 (INCLUDES FEES)



### ANGELICA CANTANTI YOUTH CHOIRS: FAVORITE BROADWAY, MOVIE AND POP SONGS

Five youth choirs with singers in Grades 2-12 will perform choral favorites at our Annual Fundraiser Concert and Silent Auction event to support the Angelica Choirs.

FEBRUARY 25 • 2 P.M. AND 4 P.M.

TICKETS \$40

# SNOW EMERGENCY BASICS

’Tis the season for the white stuff. Yes, we’re talking snow. If enough falls in Bloomington, City staff calls a snow emergency. Once declared, a snow emergency remains in effect until streets have been plowed full width or for 48 hours, whichever happens first.

In the 2023 National Community Survey, 84% of respondents rated the City’s snow removal services as excellent or good, which is higher than the national average.



## PARKING BANS DURING SNOW EMERGENCIES

Once the City calls a snow emergency, a parking ban is also in effect. A parking ban means all vehicles must be moved from city streets. By moving vehicles quickly once a snow emergency is declared, you can help avoid a vehicle covered in plowed snow and the possibility of being ticketed or towed.

## STAY INFORMED

The best thing to do is watch weather conditions and stay up to date on snow emergencies by signing up for alerts at [blm.mn/snow](http://blm.mn/snow) or by following the City’s Facebook page and X (Twitter) feed.

## SAFE STREETS, LAKES AND STREAMS

The City treats roads with an anti-icing brine solution to make it more difficult for snow and ice to stick. The brine is a mixture of water and salt. After it is sprayed on the streets, the solution evaporates and leaves behind thin deposits of salt. The salt prevents the bonding of snow and ice so plows can more easily scrape the street clean. The brine reduces the amount of salt required to clear streets. This treatment protects the surrounding bodies of water from excess salt runoff in the spring.



## WAIT TO CLEAR YOUR DRIVEWAY

Clear the end of your driveway after the full width of your street has been plowed so you only have to shovel once. While clearing streets, snowplows may inadvertently push snow from the road into driveways that have already been shoveled.



## KEEP SIDEWALKS CLEAR

Keeping your sidewalk clear of snow and ice makes walking around Bloomington safer for pedestrians. The City asks that residents and business owners keep their sidewalks free of all snow whether it’s fallen snow or snow that may be moved onto the sidewalk during street or driveway snow removal efforts. It’s illegal for any vehicle to block a public sidewalk.



## SHOVEL OUT FIRE HYDRANTS, MAILBOXES AND GARBAGE BINS

Help protect your neighborhood from house fires. Accessible hydrants lessen the time it takes firefighters to extinguish a fire. Keep your mailbox clear of snow. Mailboxes should not extend past the curb and should have sturdy four-by-four timber posts. The bottoms of mailboxes should be no less than 45 inches off the ground and located on the left side of your driveway. If it snows on or near garbage collection day, keep garbage and recycling bins behind the curb and away from the end of the driveway. Place containers off sidewalks to leave room for plows.



## PLACE CARTS FOR WINTER

This winter, think about where you put your garbage and recycling carts. If the weather gets snowy or icy, shovel out a safe, accessible space and path for your carts so haulers can access your cart. Be sure to place your carts a minimum of three to five feet from other carts, mailboxes, vehicles, bushes, trees and other objects. Keep carts off sidewalks and out of the street. Visit [blm.mn/recycling](http://blm.mn/recycling) for more information.