

BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



JANUARY 2024

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MEET YOUR COUNCIL MEMBERS

In 2023, for the first time in the city's history, all of Bloomington's City Council seats, including the mayor, were up for election. Read on to learn more about your recently elected council members.

MAYOR TIM BUSSE

Tim Busse, a communications consultant who served on the City Council for eight years before becoming mayor in 2019, was reelected mayor.

"I ran for another term because while we accomplished a lot in my first term as mayor, there is still work to do!" Busse said. "I'm excited to get to work on the three projects approved as part of Bloomington Forward and continuing to work on the *Bloomington. Tomorrow. Together.* strategic plan."



COUNCIL MEMBER AT LARGE JENNA CARTER

Council member Jenna Carter, a community health and equity professional who has served on the City Council since 2019, was reelected to a second term.

"I plan to continue a strong focus on the parks and recreation system, small businesses and neighborhood revitalization, affordable housing, equity and inclusion, climate change and public safety," Carter said.



COUNCIL MEMBER AT LARGE CHAO MOUA

Council member Chao Moua, a client success professional, was elected after being appointed to a vacant council seat in February 2023.

"Seeing my children be so excited watching the Council meeting that they didn't want to go to bed, and seeing a 1895 map of where my wife's family, the Pahl's, farmed here, made me realize I wanted to honor Bloomington's heritage and help build a place where my children want to grow up." Moua shared.



DISTRICT 1 DWAYNE A. LOWMAN

Council member Dwayne A. Lowman, a business analyst who has served on the city council for 10 years, was reelected to serve District I for a fourth term.

"Looking ahead, I hope to keep our government expenses reasonable, fight for a community that is just and fair for all, and work to ensure a more sustainable city for future generations," Lowman said.



DISTRICT 2 SHAWN NELSON

Council member Shawn Nelson, a small-business owner who has served on the City Council since 2017, was reelected to serve District 2.

"I ran for reelection to build on Bloomington's recent successes," Nelson said. "We have started to update our parks with new amenities, expand food and entertainment options, diversify our economic development, improve public safety and foster new housing options. I will work to keep Bloomington affordable as we address the needs for reinvestment in roads, utilities, parks, facilities and public safety."



DISTRICT 3 LONA DALLESSANDRO

Council member Lona Dallessandro, a product management executive for software companies, was reelected to serve a second term in District 3.

"In my time on the council, we've been able to make significant investments where residents see value, like public safety, natural resources preservation and community development," Dallessandro said. "I am excited to continue advocating for more green space rehabilitation, implementing our parks master plan, improvements to housing and utilities service offerings for seniors and championing more multi-modal transportation options within city limits."



DISTRICT 4 VICTOR RIVAS

Council member Victor Rivas, a hotel and dining hospitality management professional, was elected to serve his first term representing District 4.

"I have attended council meetings in person and online since I moved to Bloomington 13 years ago and I realized to really affect change I had to serve on the council," Rivas said. "When I ran, I talked to many people in my district. Everyone is suffering from high costs. It's hard. When I return as an elected official, I want to be transparent about the facts involved and promote honesty and sincerity in all decision-making processes."



BY THE NUMBERS

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.

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
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Elected officials presented for informational purposes.

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MAYOR'S MEMO

NEXT STEPS FOR BLOOMINGTON FORWARD

By Mayor Tim Busse

You could say voters were forward thinking as they cast their votes on the future of City facilities outlined in the Bloomington Forward investment plan. During the 2023 election, Bloomington voters approved a new half-percent sales tax to provide \$155 million for renovations to Bloomington Ice Garden, a new community health and wellness center, and enhancing and protecting the Nine Mile Creek corridor, and Moir and Central Parks.

There is some administrative work to do, but the half-percent sales tax increase could take effect on April 1, 2024. Here's an overview of the next steps for each of the three projects.



BLOOMINGTON ICE GARDEN

The first project slated for improvements is likely to be the Bloomington Ice Garden renovation. The City had been looking at that as a potential phased project, but ultimately it was decided the best way to handle this project is all at once to minimize lost revenue. Construction could begin as soon as 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.



This image shows a vision of what a new facility could look like.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER

Now that we know there is funding, the City can start detailed planning and development for a new community health and wellness center. A lot of community engagement and design work needs to happen to determine what elements the new center will include. This will also include planning for what to do with Creekside services during construction.

We want to be sure the community has an active voice in this project. The City will start community engagement in 2024. We hope to conclude much of that engagement and start the design planning process in 2025. The end goal is for the new center to open by 2027.



NINE MILE CREEK CORRIDOR

The next step for the Nine Mile Creek corridor will be community engagement. Parks and Recreation leadership will begin this process early next year. The biggest issue we heard related to this project was the presence of bikes and whether there would be bike paths added in the Nine Mile Creek corridor. The concerns are maintaining the serenity of the corridor and protecting the natural areas.

Once we have the timelines for community engagement opportunities for Nine Mile Creek and the community health and wellness center projects, we'll be sure to share that information on the City's website, social media channels and cable television, and in the *Briefing*.



PUBLIC ART INSTALLED AT NEW SOUTH LOOP COMMUNITY GARDEN

Late last fall, artists were out in the cold installing three new cyanotypes, or sun prints, which are key features of the artistic landscape design at the community garden behind Fire Station 3, 2301 East 86th Street.

These bright blue banners were co-designed by Dakota Artist Erin Genia, *above left*, and Sheila Novak, *above right*. They share the story of the land, honoring the sun and water, and histories of the significant Minnesota River Valley, the life it supports, and its value to indigenous communities. Bloomington Creative Placemaking Director Alejandra Pelinka coordinated this project.

Learn more about creative placemaking in Bloomington online at blm.mn/placemaking.

WANT A PLOT IN A COMMUNITY GARDEN?

City of Bloomington community garden plots can be reserved starting in March. Visit blm.mn/gardens for more information.

WELCOME TO BLOOMINGTON PROGRAM LAUNCHES

The City is excited to announce the Welcome to Bloomington program launching this year to greet new residents, including renters and homeowners, to Bloomington. The program was co-created by residents, community partners and City staff.

A design group was formed to build the foundation of the program. An implementation team also contributed further details to the design group's work. Collectively, both groups created an annual Welcome to Bloomington program that focuses on five key initiatives:

- A bucket list including community events and places to visit.
- New resident meetings: The first is scheduled on Saturday, January 20, 10-11:30 a.m., at The Lounge at MOA, Mall of America, Level 2 North, 2131 Lindau Lane.
- Neighborhood events.
- Resource fair.
- Cultural fair.

Each initiative is focused on engaging new residents in the City services, programs, activities and community resources Bloomington has to offer while connecting current residents with new residents. Questions? Email equity@BloomingtonMN.gov or visit blm.mn/welcome.



CITY COUNCIL APPROVES FINAL 2024 BUDGET

On December 4, the City Council approved the 2024 property tax levy of \$80,484,270—a 7.97% increase over 2023. The levy will fund 69% of the City's 2024 general fund budget.

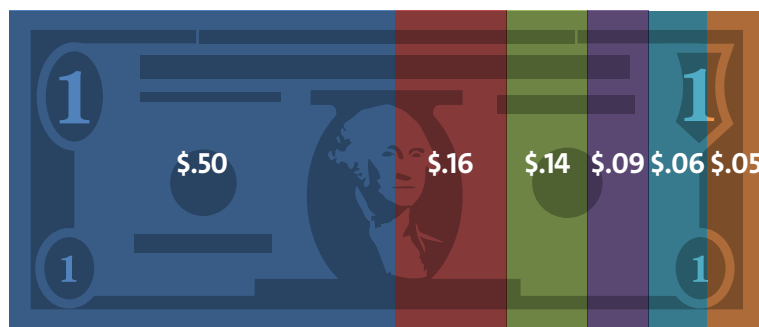
"Most property taxes support core public safety services including police and fire, and other essential core services such as public works," City Manager Jamie Verbrugge said. "For every dollar of City taxes paid, 50 cents goes toward police and fire, and 16 cents goes toward public works." *See graph.*

In Minnesota, local governments set a total property tax dollar amount instead of a tax rate as is done in some other states. Following state law, this is prorated to each property based on its value. With this property tax levy, the City's share of 2024 total residential property taxes is 33 cents out of every tax dollar paid. The remaining amount goes to the county, school district and other taxing districts.

From 2023 to 2024, the median home value increased from \$355,900 to \$361,800, a growth of 1.7%. The monthly cost of tax-supported services for the owner of a \$361,800 median-valued home is \$118.60 for 2024, an increase from the 2023 monthly cost of \$111.09.

"These annual budget discussions are clearly the most important discussions we have as a City," Mayor Tim Busse said. "I can say without hesitation that City staff and the City Council take very seriously the responsibility we have regarding taxing decisions and how taxpayer money is spent."

DIVIDING UP THE 2024 CITY PROPERTY TAX DOLLAR



- Police and Fire
- Public Works
- Parks and Recreation
- Community Development
- Community Services
- Capital Debt



BPD LAUNCHES INNOVATIVE MENTAL HEALTH PILOT PROGRAM

Many 911 calls about people suffering a mental health crisis result in a visit from a police officer and often an emergency room visit, but an innovative pilot program announced last fall by Bloomington Police Chief Booker T. Hodges, *pictured above*, will reduce those incidents by providing community members with immediate in-home therapy at no cost.

Meeting the need: Last year, BPD responded to 1,115 calls related to a mental health crisis, or suicide attempt or threat. As of early December 2023, there have been 952 calls. In many cases, follow-up therapy sessions are not available for weeks after the initial contact with law enforcement and social workers. Without professional treatment and intervention, the potential for repeat incidents increases.

"Our core value here at the Bloomington Police Department is respect, and respect is demonstrated through our compassionate and honest service. I believe that it's not very compassionate to allow someone who needs and wants help to go months without getting the help they need," Chief Hodges said.

How: The first-in-Minnesota program will include two licensed marriage and family counselors who will be embedded within the Bloomington Police Department. The two therapists will supervise four students who are completing their clinical practice requirements.

Individuals will receive services at no cost. Appointments will be available in-person at their home or another convenient location. School facilities and workplaces cannot be used as meeting locations.

Timeline and funding: The pilot program, which began in December 2023, will cost \$63,000 and be paid for with funds from the state's opioid settlements and state Public Safety Aid funds.

Resources: The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is available 24/7 for anyone in need of mental health crisis services. You can call or text 988 for support.



CURBSIDE CLEANUP HAPPENING IN 2024

This year, Curbside Cleanup will take place between April and May. 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 or call 952-563-8760. Curbside Cleanup now takes place every other year.

To find more tips about how to properly dispose of items not accepted at the curb, visit the Green Disposal Guide on Hennepin County at blm.mn/green-dispose or call 612-348-3777.

2024 CURBSIDE CLEANUP SCHEDULE

- WEST OF NORMANDE (FRIDAY HAULING DISTRICT) APRIL 6
- NORMANDE 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



EARTH ACTION HERO: APPLETREE CONDO ASSOCIATION GROWING DEEP ROOTS

What would you do if half an acre of land behind your condo building was eroding? If you were in the Appletree Condo Association, you would undertake a native plant restoration project.

When a \$250,000 retaining wall proved too expensive, Master Naturalist Tom Fahey and other association board members looked at other options. After three years of discussions with other community members and the City, the association board applied for two grants, each \$7,500, from the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District. The first grant in 2022 helped with the cost to remove existing gravel at the top of the slope. The second grant in 2023 helped with the cost of seeds, plugs and erosion blankets for the steep slope.

"The Appletree community came together for this project," said landscape committee member Pam Bott. "It gave us a great sense of pride, a greater sense of community with our neighbors at the wildlife refuge and a greater appreciation of the resources within Bloomington."

With the help of 20 volunteers like Fahey and Bott who invested more than 650 hours this last summer, the runoff is now captured by the deep roots of native plants, and residents have a close-up view of all the blooms, butterflies, bees and wildlife that show up.

"It is very rewarding to know that we are one of a growing number of groups undertaking initiatives to return our bluffs and open spaces to their natural state, encouraging the revitalization of the wildlife in our area," Bott concluded.

If you or someone you know is an Earth Action Hero, email communications@BloomingtonMN.gov for a chance to be included in a future issue of the *Briefing*.

SIGN UP FOR CURBSIDE ORGANICS RECYCLING AND GET FREE COMPOSTABLE BAGS

Did you know? City solid waste customers who sign up for an organics cart to compost their food scraps receive an annual voucher for 130 free compostable plastic bags. For most households, that's enough bags for a year. The first voucher is mailed out within two months of signing up. New participants also receive a welcome packet with their organics cart that has helpful tips to get you started, a magnet list of accepted items and 10 compostable bags.

Since the program started in 2022, more than 28% of eligible households have signed up for curbside organics. Happy residents report that they empty their trash less often because it doesn't smell.

The new year is a perfect time to start composting your food scraps. To learn more and sign up for organics, visit blm.mn/organics or call 952-563-8726.





BPD WELCOMES NEW DEPUTY CHIEF DAMON BITNEY

Damon Bitney, pictured above with his wife, left, and mother, right, has been a commander for the Bloomington Police Department since 2018. In October 2023, he was promoted to the rank of deputy chief.

Deputy Chief Bitney joined the Bloomington Police Department in 2000. In the past 23 years, some of Bitney's experience has included work as patrol officer, member of the South Loop Unit; narcotics detective; and SWAT team member for more than 16 years.

"I am extremely grateful to all the members of the Bloomington Police Department, past and present, who have made this a premier law enforcement agency," Bitney said of his appointment. "I understand the extreme importance of this position, and I will do everything in my power to honor our history, collaborate for improvement, and develop future leaders to ensure we become and stay the most respected police department."

During his career, Bitney was also an assistant instructor at Rasmussen University. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Metropolitan State University and graduated from Northwestern University Center for Public Safety School of Police Staff and Command.

THANK YOU, DEPUTY CHIEF JEFF GILES

Former Deputy Chief Jeff Giles has stepped into retirement. Giles began his career at the BPD one week before Mall of America opened in 1992. During his career he served as a K9 handler (with his K9 partner Duke), SWAT team member and leader, field training officer, bike patrol officer and investigator.

In 2004, Giles was promoted to sergeant and assigned to the patrol division, while also serving as a SWAT team leader. In 2014, he was selected to supervise the Special Investigations Unit with the primary focus on narcotics and human trafficking investigations. In July 2020, he was promoted to deputy chief. His colleagues say that his role as mentor is what they will miss most.

"It has been my honor and privilege to serve as a police officer for the City of Bloomington for over 31 years," Giles said. "I am incredibly proud of the entire staff at the Bloomington Police Department as I know they are dedicated to the continued excellence in policing that is the standard of BPD."

Now retired, Giles will have more time for playing and coaching basketball and spending time with his wife Wendy and their two sons, William and Jackson.



MEET A FIREFIGHTER: MAMIE RUHMANN

Mamie Ruhmann has been a paid-on-call firefighter with the Bloomington Fire Department for nearly five years, joining her brothers Beau and Jesse who have been with the BFD for 10 and 17 years, respectively.

She holds fire science and nursing degrees and has worked as an emergency medical technician and an emergency room nurse.

"Firefighting is a bunch of different jobs requiring critical thinking, focus and figuring out challenges on the fly," Ruhmann said. "I'm drawn to that."

"Having a supportive family is what makes this career possible," Ruhmann said of her husband Michael and her son Sando. Her brother Cole hollers "Go save a life!" when she receives a call whenever he is around.

MAMIE'S FIRE SAFETY ADVICE

"Make sure you have working smoke detectors throughout your home and an escape plan set up, especially if you have children living with you or visiting often!" Ruhmann, center, with her family including her firefighter brothers Jesse, second from left, and Beau, second from right in the back row.



MEET YOUR BLOOMINGTON FIREFIGHTERS

NAME:
MAMIE RUHMANN
STATION:
FIRE STATION 2



Bloomington Police Chief Booker Hodges, shown left with State of Minnesota Retired Public Safety Commissioner John Harrington.

CHIEF BOOKER HODGES HONORED WITH 2023 WILLIAM H. SPURGEON AWARD

In late October at the annual Community Builder Celebration, Police Chief Booker T. Hodges was recognized with the 2023 William H. Spurgeon Award.

Selected by Northern Star Scouting and the Community Builder Celebration Committee, Chief Hodges was recognized for his outstanding leadership as a volunteer in community-based organizations and role model for youth as well as demonstrating excellence in his career field.

"I am humbled by this award," Chief Hodges said. "I always tell my officers never miss an opportunity to interact with youth. They are our future."

William H. Spurgeon III is credited with developing the coeducational Career Exploring program. Since its inception in 1980, the Spurgeon Award has recognized those who demonstrate ongoing, long-term concern for the community and welfare of children and youth.



SIGN UP FOR EMERGENCY ALERTS

Bloomington's Citizen Alert system sends time-sensitive emergency notifications directly to your home or smart phone via voice and text alerts, and email. These notifications could include alerts about natural disasters, flooding, gas leaks, police activities and more. To sign up for Citizen Alert, visit blm.mn/citizen-alert, then follow the prompts.



COUNTRY MUSIC JAM THURSDAYS

You are invited to the Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South, any Thursday to listen to a free Country Music Jam concert.

Drop in anytime between 9 a.m.-12 p.m. to sing, clap or stand up and dance to a group of musicians playing a variety of your favorite country music songs.

All ages are welcome to join in the fun and no preregistration is required. For more information about fun happenings at Creekside, visit blm.mn/creekside.

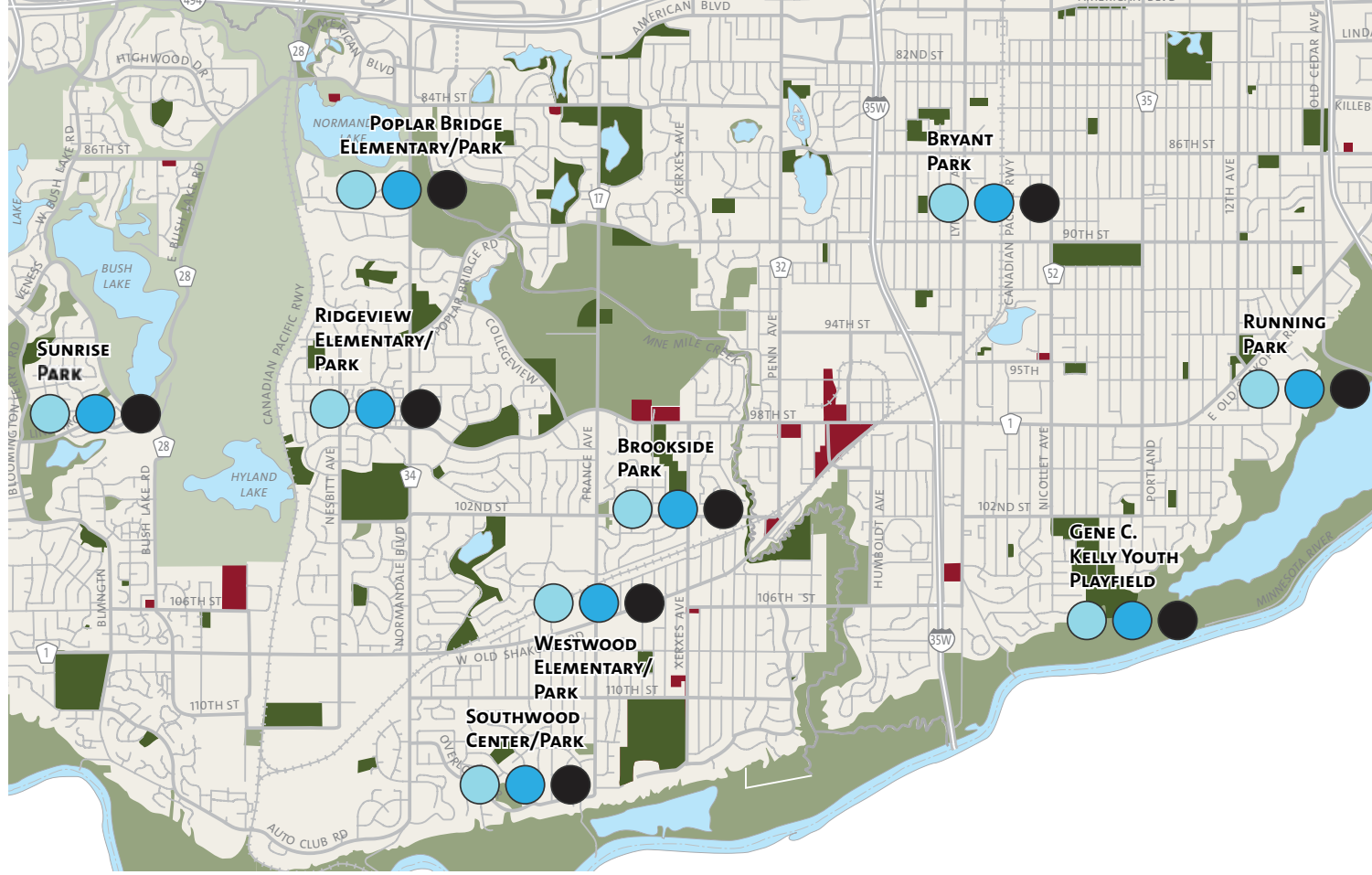


CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY WITH A DATE NIGHT AT BIG

Get your glide on with your sweetie. The Bloomington Ice Garden is hosting its first-ever Valentine's Night Date Skate for couples 16 years and older.

If you are looking for a fun activity for you and your special someone on Valentine's Day, Wednesday, February 14, join us at Bloomington Ice Garden from 7-9 p.m. on Rink 3 for this open skating event.

The cost is \$15 per couple and includes skate rentals. Concessions at BIG will also be available. For more information, visit blm.mn/BIG.



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

OUTDOOR SKATING OFFERS WINTER FUN

One way to increase your appreciation of winter is to enjoy its many wonders. One of those wonders is outdoor skating. Weather permitting, Bloomington offers nine outdoor skating sites from December 15, 2023-February 19, 2024. Each site features both hockey and general recreational skating options.

If you can't make it out during the day, the lights are on at the rinks daily from 4:30-10 p.m. Warmth can be found in a warming house during these days and times:

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

For the most current rink conditions and status updates, please check the weather line at 952-563-8878, option 3.



NOTABLE NEIGHBOR (TO THE NORTH): LIZ OLNEY

Liz Olney Arms lives in Minneapolis, but Bloomington is the eighth city where she's walked every single street. She says she was pleasantly surprised by what she discovered and that walking a community is a way to truly get to know it.

Back in about 2018, Olney ran across a person who was walking through every neighborhood of Minneapolis, and she thought it would be fun to give it a try. Once she was done with Minneapolis, Olney moved on to complete other cities, including St. Paul, Edina, Richfield, Falcon Heights, Lauderdale and West St. Paul.

"Bloomington was an area I didn't know a lot about. I knew the I-494 strip. I knew Mall of America. I knew Old Shakopee Road. I was really surprised. I had no idea how green Bloomington is," Olney said. "There are so many parks, so many lakes. Several times when I was walking in Bloomington, I paused and thought to myself, 'Gosh, I wouldn't mind living in Bloomington.'"

She started walking Bloomington in April 2023 and completed her goal in October.

"I went back and looked at my numbers. It was about 85 different walks. Took me 500 plus miles or so, a lot of doubling back on a lot of streets," she said. "I'm high tech and low tech, so I use physical maps and I use apps."

Olney has two Instagram accounts that feature what she finds on her walks. One account, @mplsmurals, has murals from around Minneapolis. Her other account, @mplsstpaulsidewalkart, is a way for her to memorialize her walks and focus while she was out.



From left: Police Chief Booker T. Hodges, Young Builders and Designers director Brian Kelley, 2nd place winner Vai Wichterman (7th Grade, Oak Grove Middle School), and 1st place winner Annie Sevcik (8th Grade, Valley View Middle School) are shown with the LEGO build of Sevcik's photo of the Bloomington Japanese Garden.

BLOOMINGTON STUDENTS RECOGNIZED AS YOUNG BUILDERS AND DESIGNERS

Drum roll please! Young Builders and Designers, a program that hosts activities in the Twin Cities introducing youth to design and building, put together a photo contest for local youth last fall. Three winners were chosen. The first-place winner had their photo engineered into a LEGO™ Mosaic that is now on display in the Bloomington Police Department gym.

CONGRATULATIONS ANNIE, VAI AND MILA!

- **First Place Winner:** Annie Sevcik, 8th Grade, Valley View Middle School
- **Second Place Winner:** Vai Wichterman, 7th Grade, Oak Grove Middle School
- **Third Place Winner:** Mila Mitchell, Grade 3, Ridgeview Elementary

The BPD sponsored this photography contest and LEGO™ build through Young Builders and Designers and Brian Kelley, the director.



Some attendees at a previous Baby Resource Fair pause for a break. Exhibitors are needed for the 2024 fair in May.

CALL FOR EXHIBITORS: BABY RESOURCE FAIR

The City of Bloomington and Bloomington Public Schools' Early Learning Services is hosting the second annual Baby Resource Fair on Saturday, May 4, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Pond Early Learning Center, 9600 Third Avenue South.

Organizations or individuals who can communicate meaningful information relevant to supporting a happy and healthy baby are invited to exhibit at this event. Past exhibitor topics have included car seat safety and baby gear tips, postpartum health, sleep strategies, infant care basics, etc.

The deadline to apply to be an exhibitor is Friday, March 8.

For more information and to apply, visit blm.mn/baby. If you have questions, please contact Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator Amanda Crombie at acrombie@bloomingtonMN.gov.

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD WITH BCAT

Bloomington Community Access Television (BCAT) is a media facility dedicated to diverse expression, learning and programming. Individuals and organizations can take classes to learn the basics of television production and then check out equipment to create television shows that can be used to share their story with Bloomington cable subscribers on Channel 16 and beyond.

It all begins with a free orientation class at BCAT at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. In-depth classes are offered in studio production, digital video editing, lighting for television and more. Become a member of BCAT for an annual fee starting at \$50 per individual or only \$15 per student.

"I try to customize classes to meet the needs of those who attend," said Patrick Willson, BCAT production specialist, who shares his extensive knowledge in one-on-one and small group classes.

So, whether you want to share a talent, educate people about a favorite cause, faith or politics, or entertain them, consider BCAT your resource for community access television. For more information, visit bcat16.org.

BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY: ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

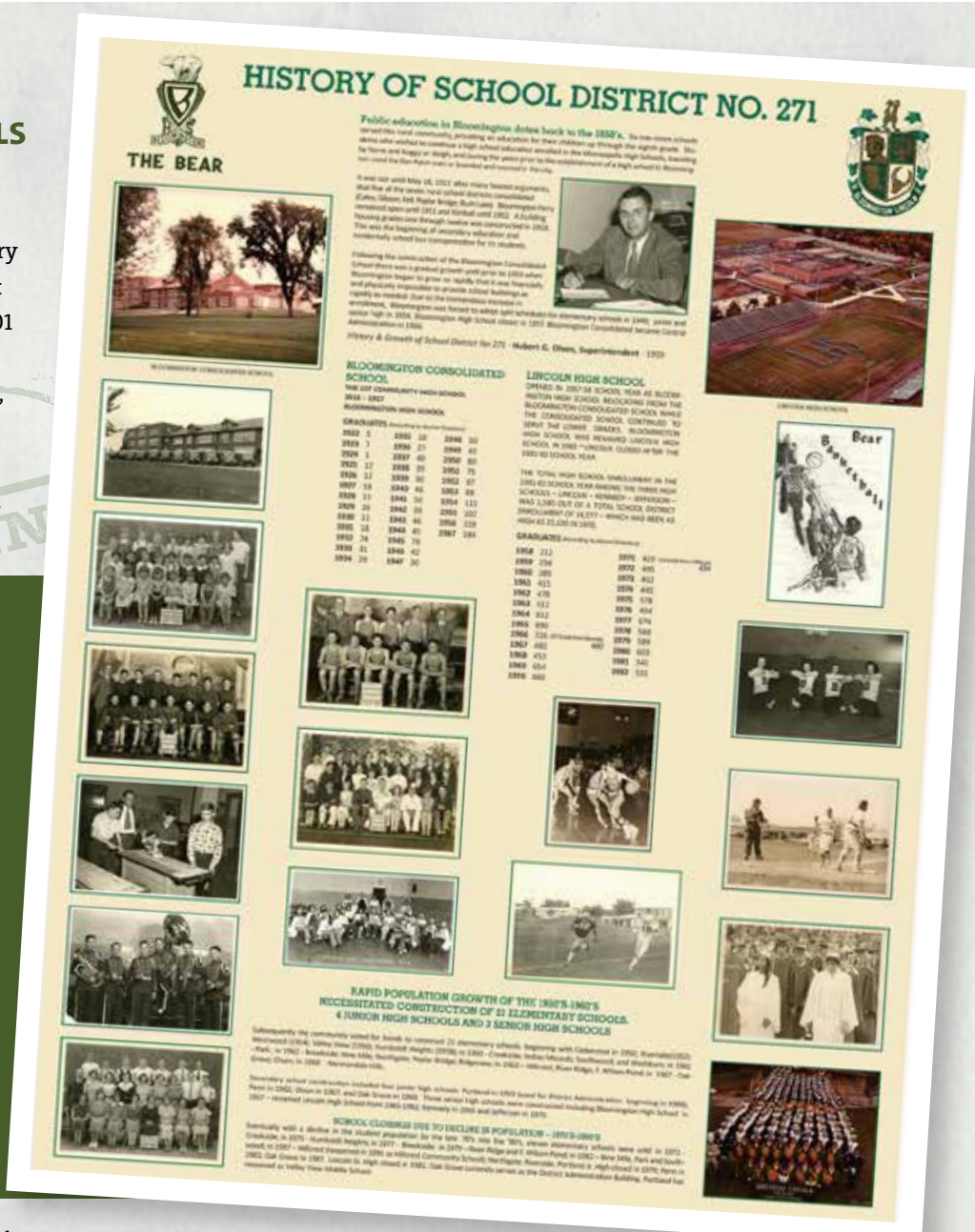
Join the Bloomington Historical Society to learn all about the history of Bloomington elementary schools on January 17, 10-11 a.m. at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South.

The society will share photos, relics and stories about how Bloomington elementary schools started, and how they've changed over the years.

DID YOU KNOW?

Public education in Bloomington dates back to the 1850s. Six one-room schools served the then rural community of Bloomington, providing an education for children through the eighth grade. To continue their high school education, students enrolled in Minneapolis high schools, and traveling by horse and buggy or sleigh.

To learn more, visit blm.mn/creekside.



BLOOMINGTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS

WINTER PERFORMANCE SERIES



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

BLOOMINGTON BOX OFFICE

FOR EVENT TICKETS, VISIT [BLM.MN/BCATIX](http://blm.mn/bcatix)

OFFICE HOURS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE
WED - FRI: 12:30 - 4:30 P.M.



ARTISTRY BOX OFFICE

FOR ARTISTRY EVENT TICKETS, VISIT [ARTISTRYMN.ORG/BUYTICKETS](http://artistrymn.org/buytickets) OR CALL 952-563-8575

OFFICE HOURS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE
WED - FRI: 1 - 5 P.M.



BLOOMINGTON Winter FETE 2024

WINTER FETE OFFERS FREE OPEN SKATE AND MORE

Winter Fete offers many ways to enjoy snow and ice. Each winter, Bloomington Parks and Recreation embraces the cold with activities and events that draw people outdoors.

Activities are designed to get people into the winter season with opportunities such as an introduction to ice fishing, fat tire bike riding, a skiing event and more.

Don't miss out on free, open skating on January 14, 4-6:45 p.m. at the Bloomington Ice Garden, 3600 West 98th Street.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON WINTER FETE ACTIVITIES, VISIT [BLM.MN/WINTERFETE](http://blm.mn/winterfete).

INTRO TO ICE FISHING: JANUARY 14-MARCH 3

Fishing isn't just a summer activity. Once lakes freeze over, you can venture out and catch fish through the ice. Learn how to use the equipment, understand and find where the fish live in winter and practice reeling in the different fish species that call Bush Lake home. All equipment will be provided. Maximum of 15 participants per event. Children must have adult supervision.

- **Where:** Bush Lake Beach, 9140 East Bush Lake Road.
- **When:** January 14, 21, 28, February 4, 11, 18, 25, March 3, 1-3 p.m.
- **Fee:** \$20 per person.
- **Registration:** Online at blm.mn/webtrac.

A RecTrac household account is required in order to register. If you have an account, log in after clicking the link above. If you do not have an account, create a new one.

ADULT SNOWSHOE HIKE: JANUARY 13

Enjoy a staff-led snowshoe hike, exploring Bush Lake Park from a new perspective. Participants will be guided through a hike on park trails and on the frozen lake. Afterwards, warm up with refreshments and conversation. Beginners are welcome! The event is free to participate, but registration is required.

- **Where:** Bush Lake Beach, 9140 East Bush Lake Road.
- **Who:** Adults 18+.
- **When:** January 13, 1-2:30 p.m.
- **Cost:** Free.
- **Equipment:** A limited number of snowshoes are provided. Participants are welcome to bring their own snowshoes.
- **Registration:** Online at blm.mn/webtrac.

A RecTrac household account is required in order to register online. If you have an account, log in after clicking the link above. If you do not have an account, create a new one.

FREE OPEN SKATING: JANUARY 14

Enjoy free open skating at Bloomington Ice Garden. All ages are welcome. Free skate rental included!

- **Where:** Bloomington Ice Garden, 3600 West 98th Street.
- **When:** January 14, 4-6:45 p.m.
- **Cost:** Free.
- **Registration:** None required.

MEDALLION HUNT BEGINS JANUARY 16

THE MEDALLION

An example picture of the medallion is available at blm.mn/winterfete.

It's about as big as a hockey puck or a typical coaster.

CLUES AND TIMING

Clues will be provided at blm.mn/winterfete

and on the Bloomington

Parks and Recreation Facebook

page. The first clue is on Tuesday, January 16, due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. All subsequent clues will be posted on Mondays and Thursdays, January 18-February 15.

ICE HARVEST AT RICHARDSON NATURE CENTER: JANUARY 20

Experience the adventures of Minnesota's hardy ice harvesters at the 26th Annual Ice Harvest, courtesy of Three Rivers Park District. This is a great event for families, grandparents and people interested in Minnesota's ice harvesting history. Event activities may be modified to occur on land depending on ice conditions.

Activities include:

- Cutting blocks of ice out of the pond with a vintage ice saw and pulling an antique ice plow.
- Weighing blocks of ice, using chipping tools, and making ice cubes.
- Discovering food preservation techniques with costumed interpreters from The Landing and hearing stories from ice harvesting historians.
- Trying a kick-sled.
- Throwing a snow snake.
- Watching an ice rescue demonstration by the Bloomington Fire Department.
- Keeping warm by a campfire.
- **Where:** Richardson Nature Center, 8737 East Bush Lake Road.
- **When:** Saturday, January 20, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **Cost:** Free.
- **Registration:** Online at blm.mn/webtrac.

