

B L O O M I N G T O N BRIEFING



JANUARY 2019

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ENJOY BLOOMINGTON'S WINTER WONDERLAND

Here's a forecast for fun: Take the chill out of one week of winter. Embrace the snow and ice of the season during Parks and Recreation's 16th annual Winter Fete. Hockey, ice skating, ice harvesting, fat tire bike racing and cross-country skiing are just the beginning. Let your spirits soar with the International Ski Jumping Competition. Build something spectacular during Lego activity day at The Works Museum. These and other family-friendly events will take place throughout the city, Saturday, January 19, through Sunday, January 27. For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877 or visit blm.mn/winterfete.



DELVE INTO HISTORY AT WINTER FETE

Local history comes alive during the annual Pond Dakota Winter History Festival, a celebration of olden times and new fun, during the week of Winter Fete. Enjoy winter outdoor pioneer and Dakota games, including "snow snakes" and sledding. Hear talks on Native American Lacrosse with demonstrations on traditional lacrosse stick making. Or join a game of snow lacrosse. Warm up by the fire in the historic Pond House. Delve into the history of the Oak Grove Mission and the Pond family. Be entertained during an authentic 19th century magic act by Scott Crosby. Complimentary refreshments will be available, and the event is free at Pond Dakota Mission Park, 401 East 104th Street, Sunday, January 27, noon – 4 p.m.

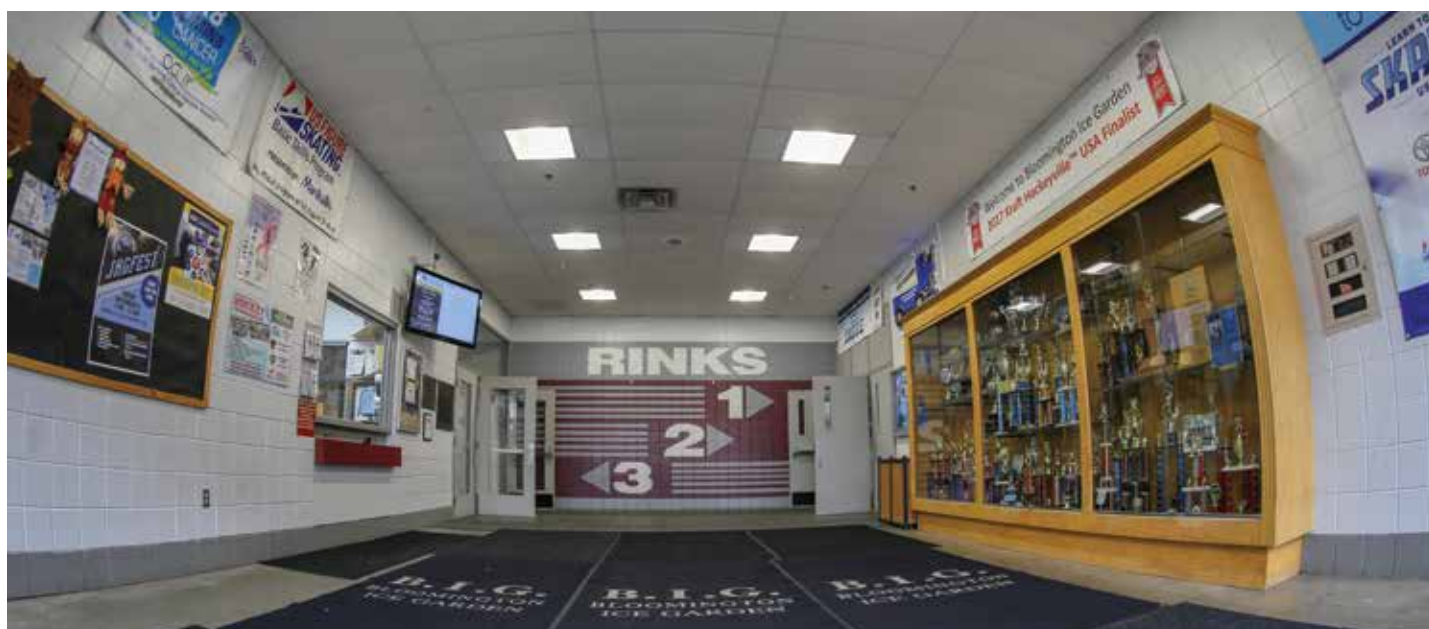
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BIG FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS ON THE WAY FOR BLOOMINGTON ICE GARDEN

An ice arena needs a refresh now and then. Times have changed since the Bloomington Ice Garden (BIG) opened in 1970. Hockey was once a male-dominated sport, and locker rooms were designed accordingly with many connected spaces and few walls. Nowadays, more contained layouts are conducive to coed use.

A BIG update is in the works. Rink one and rink two locker room improvements will create separate restroom and shower areas. The main entryway and lobby will be updated with a new entrance canopy, automatic doors, paint and lighting.

Crews will also add Americans with Disabilities Act compliant ramps and platforms in rinks one and two. Outside the building, sidewalks will be widened. The \$1.6 million project is planned to begin in the spring with a projected finish sometime in the fall.

The facility's enhancements are in keeping with One Bloomington, the City Council's strategic plan for enhancing community amenities. BIG has more than 860,000 annual visitors and will remain open during construction. For information, visit blm.mn/icegarden or call 952-563-8841.



MAYOR’S MEMO

CONNECTING WITH YOUR CITY COUNCIL

By Mayor Gene Winstead

As part of the City Council, I regularly have discussions that affect residents, businesses and organizations in Bloomington. In 2018, one of our priorities as a Council was finding new ways to inform and connect with residents and stakeholders.

One of our outreach efforts was a series of town hall forums in October. More than 400 residents attended one of these events hosted in their council districts. Councilmembers led discussions about the City’s strategic priorities and upcoming projects such as a new community center and other facility improvements. I led the all-city session.

The high level of engagement we saw at the forums—with nearly 240 resident questions submitted—confirmed the need for finding new ways to connect with the community. We answered questions live at the town hall events and began posting a list of answers to the forum questions that you can find on the City’s website at blm.mn/faq. We have also been providing answers in video and print. *See below.*

Another new project we’re working on is a print, web and video feature called “Around B-Town.” It will be a short,

monthly rundown of the conversations the Council has been having, the projects we’ve been working on and what’s been approved.

We provide many ways for residents to find out what’s on the Council’s agenda. You can watch Council meetings on cable, streamed live on the City’s website or find past meetings any time at blm.mn/meetings.

People are watching the meetings on these platforms, but we hope to widen our reach with Council information that’s more accessible. With “Around B-Town,” we expect to reach people where they are to provide another easy way to stay informed. With more than 9,000 Facebook followers, the social media audience that will receive “Around B-Town” updates is significant. Not to mention the 38,000 households and 5,000 businesses that get the *Briefing* in the mail each month.

We want it to be easy for you to find out what we’re working on and how to get involved. These forums and “Around B-Town” are just a few of an ongoing series of opportunities for residents to interact directly with their councilmembers.

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

At last fall’s town hall forums, residents submitted nearly 240 questions for City Councilmembers and staff to answer. Questions ranged from new developments to sustainability projects. Councilmembers and staff answered these questions at the events, but they also wanted to respond to frequently asked questions for those who couldn’t attend. Find some of the answers in upcoming issues of the *Briefing* and online at blm.mn/faq.

Q: What is the plan for Normandale Lake?

A: This project is being directed by the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District. They have the lake drawn down to the holding level for the winter. This will allow the frost to freeze out the curly-leaf pondweed turions (a fancy word for weed seeds.) The September rains that filled the pond back up did not impact the overall schedule of the first phase. The next steps include spot treatment of the curly-leaf pondweed and the alum treatment. The exact timing of these will be determined once the effectiveness of the freeze out has been evaluated next spring.

Q: What are we doing to combat Emerald Ash Borer?

A: The City is working to reduce the impact of the emerald ash borer by removing 8,200 public ash trees over 20 years. This work began in 2014 and 632 trees have been removed so far. The goal is to remove 400 trees in 2018. This removal activity is expected to increase over the next five years peaking at 800 annually for three years from 2023-2025. To ensure future tree canopy cover, maintenance staff will replant an equal number of trees in Bloomington. Greater diversity is key to the future resiliency of Bloomington’s urban forest, so the 300 new trees planted in 2018 came from a mix of 20 different varieties.



BRIEFING

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The *Briefing*, published monthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to our residents and businesses. Direct 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; TTY: 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715; E-mail: jhill@BloomingtonMN.gov
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The City of Bloomington complies with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs, and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations. For more information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; 952-563-8733 (Voice); 952-563-8740 (TTY only).

Upon request, this information can be available in Braille, large print, audio tape and/or electronic format.



NEW CONNECTION TO I-494 OPENS

A long-awaited access point to I-494—the new westbound on-ramp at East Bush Lake Road—is now open to drivers. The on-ramp relieves traffic problems in the Normandale Lake area, Bloomington’s western gateway, and helps ease congestion at the TH 100/I-494 interchange. Mayor Gene Winstead spoke at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the ramp in November.

2019 BUDGET ADOPTED

The City Council approved the 2019 general fund budget in December. To learn more about the approved cost of City services for median-valued homeowners, read the full article on the budget in the February Briefing or online at blm.mn/genfund19. The final budget approval occurred after

this newsletter went to print. The recommended property tax amount proposed in December was \$80.99 per month for owners of median-valued homes of \$256,900, a reduction from the approved preliminary levy. For more information, call Finance at 952-563-8790.

COUNCIL APPROVES NEW UTILITY RATES

In November, the City Council approved utility rate increases that will add up to a monthly increase of \$2.83 for the average user. The nine percent increase in water rates, four percent increase in wastewater collection (sewer) rates and five percent increase in storm drainage rates will help fund operating costs, repair and replacement of aging water infrastructure and systems, and ensure continued compliance with state and federal regulations.

“We have a lot of assets in the ground—almost half a billion dollars’ worth, including more than 1,000 miles of pipe,” Budget Manager Cindy Rollins said. “And most of it is approaching an end of useful life scenario.”

To evaluate the infrastructure’s condition, the City has been building an inventory of all assets, including notes on when and how particular segments have failed in the past and areas that require constant upkeep.

“If we were to replace all our assets based only on end-of-life estimation, we could be looking at costs exceeding \$600 million in a five-year span between 2055 and 2060,” Rollins said. “That would be on top of the regular operations budget



for water, wastewater and storm water, which totals \$35 million.”

To avoid paying more than \$600 million in infrastructure improvements in only five years’ time, the City is budgeting rate income now to fund some of those replacements sooner.

The City aims to continue providing utilities at rates among the lowest in the metro area. Bloomington has lower rates for softened water and wastewater collection than several neighboring communities, including some that don’t provide softened water.

CITY EARNS HIGHEST MARKS WITH AAA RATINGS

Getting an A is an excellent mark, but for a city a triple-A rating is even better. Bloomington earned straight A’s in 2018 just as it’s done for 15 years running. Few cities achieve top rankings for fiscal responsibility, credit worthiness and other financial factors. (The City’s modest debt burden is a credit strength similar to the standards used to calculate a high personal credit score.)

The AAA ratings came from Moody’s Investors Service, Standard & Poor’s (S&P) and Fitch Ratings. Triple AAA ratings are the highest awarded by these agencies. Bloomington is among 37 cities in the U.S. with three triple-A ratings.

“Bloomington is an exceptionally strong and stable credit. Management is proactive and has a long track record of producing balanced budgets and surplus results,” S&P said in a RatingsDirect report. “Additionally, its debt and liability profile is strong, which is somewhat unusual for Minnesota municipalities.”

For information, call 952-563-8790.



GREEN BONDS ISSUED FOR WATER PROJECT

Even bonds can go green. The designation applies to bonds certified as promoting environmental sustainability. Green bond financing is in keeping with the Council’s strategic priorities to promote sustainability and to reduce the City’s overall carbon footprint.

To address flooding around American Boulevard and Knox Avenue, the City is using green bonds for the first time. The \$10.8 million linear stormwater storage project will address flooding and improve water quality. Throughout the 15-year duration of the bonds, the City will report sustainability results using standards certified by the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District.

Bloomington is one of the first cities to issue green bonds. Minneapolis and St. Paul have also recently enacted large-scale green bond projects.

Green bonds are increasingly popular investments with a reputation for lower interest rates that can save taxpayer dollars. The expanding green bond market supports action on climate change on a local level for far-reaching initiatives such as the Paris Agreement to curb greenhouse gas emissions internationally.



SERVE ON A BOARD OR COMMISSION

Do you want to become more involved in your community? Would you like to serve on an advisory board or commission? Boards and commissions provide comments and recommendations to the Council. Now is a great time to get involved. Multiple openings are available and the Council is seeking applicants. Call 952-563-8780 or visit blm.mn/boards for information. Submit applications by mid-January. Advisory board and commission meetings are typically held at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.



WANT TO RECYCLE SHREDDED PAPER?

In the September *Briefing*, an article incorrectly stated that you could not recycle shredded paper. It is true that you cannot recycle loose shredded paper. You can, however, recycle shredded paper if you put it in a paper bag, staple it shut and label it “shredded paper only.”

Bagging shredded paper is necessary because if it’s loose in your recycling bin it causes significant operational concerns at recycling facilities. For more information, contact Public Works at 952-563-4581 or publicworks@BloomingtonMN.gov.



BECOME MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT AT HOME

Want to save money on your utility bill this winter? Schedule a Home Energy Squad visit to find out how you can save energy with some simple tips.

The City of Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority partners with the Center for Energy and Environment to encourage energy efficiency among residents. The HRA pays half the cost for residents to complete a Home Energy Squad visit, reducing the cost to residents to \$50. The Home Energy Squad does everything from installing weatherstripping and high-efficiency shower heads to measuring air leaks in your home.

For more information or to schedule your visit, call 651-328-6220. Home Energy Squad is provided by CenterPoint Energy and Xcel Energy and delivered by local nonprofit Center for Energy and Environment.

EARTH ACTION HERO DONALDSON COMPANY

A tour of Donaldson’s headquarters in Bloomington reveals many sustainable and energy-efficient practices. One is the adoption of all-new LED lighting in the offices. Donaldson is entering the second year of its five-year transition plan on the project.

“We estimate the LED conversion alone will result in a 70 – 80 percent reduction in the electricity needed to light our Bloomington offices, reducing our overall demand by 5 – 10 percent,” said Donaldson Facility Development and Asset Manager Bill Coldwell.

The Bloomington offices also participate in a community solar garden program offered by Xcel Energy, allowing Donaldson to take part in the renewable energy economy and reduce its energy costs without purchasing and installing its own solar panels.

Another of the company’s green initiatives yields a variety of colorful produce. From red tomatoes to green beans, employees have a hand in growing plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables in their community garden. All the vegetables harvested from the garden go directly to VEAP to help people in need of fresh food. Staff has the opportunity to volunteer for a few hours each month on company time.

Bloomington’s Sustainability Commission added Donaldson to its line-up of businesses on its series of energy tours for other business people in November. For more information about these tours and how to get involved, contact Commissioner Steve Flagg at sflagg@BloomingtonMN.gov.



2019 RECYCLING CALENDAR

January						
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September						
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RECYCLE WEEK

HOLIDAY*

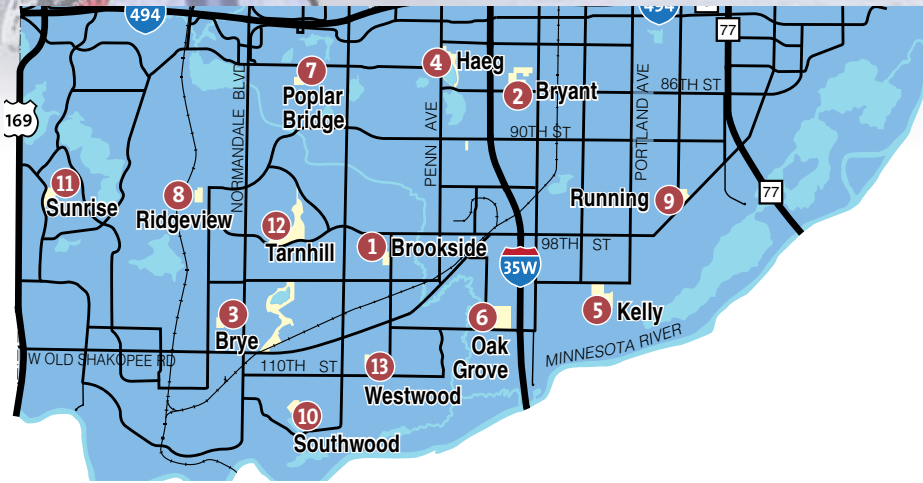
* No pickup; pickup one day later.

KEEP YOUR PIPES CLEAR

Think twice before flushing something down the toilet. Even small things can cause big problems for wastewater treatment facilities, water quality and fish. If sewers become clogged, City water bills cover the cost of repair. Keeping sewer systems free flowing is in everyone’s best interest. Personal care products are potential sewer system slayers. Discarded disposable wipes (the biggest culprits), dental floss, tampons, facial tissues, paper towels and cotton swabs can clog wastewater treatment facilities. Even products that claim to be flushable may not break down enough to avoid trouble.

There are other materials that are often flushed but should be thrown away in a garbage can. One is kitty litter, which expands and doesn’t dissolve. Plastics are another, including contact lenses, which don’t biodegrade. Medications can make their way through wastewater filtering systems and pollute water systems.

While some of these items sound innocent, their collective impact can be huge. The solution is simple. Only dispose of toilet paper and human waste down the toilet. For information, call 952-563-8777 or visit blm.mn/sewer.



DAY OF WEEK	REGULAR	SPECIAL HOURS	SCHOOL RELEASE DAYS (SRD)
	December 15 – 23, 29, 30 January 5 – 20, 22 – 31 February 2, 4 – 17	December 24, 31 February 3	December 26 – 28 January 1 – 4, 21 February 1, 18
M-F	4 – 9 p.m.	12 – 4 p.m.	12 – 9 p.m.
Saturday	12 – 9 p.m.		12 – 9 p.m.
Sunday	1 – 8 p.m.		1 – 8 p.m.

LOCATIONS AND FEATURES						
	Park	Address	Staffing	General	Hockey	Floodlights
1	Brookside	10000 Xerxes Avenue South	Weekends, SRD*	•	•	•
2	Bryant	1001 West 85th Street	Daily, special hours	•	•	•
3	Brye	10500 Xavier Avenue South	Weekends, SRD*	•	•	•
4	Haeg	8301 Penn Avenue South	Volunteer basis	•	•	•
5	Kelly	185 East 102nd Street	Volunteer basis	•	•	•
6	Oak Grove	1301 West 104th Street	Weekends, SRD*	•	•	•
7	Poplar Bridge	4600 West 85th Street	Weekends, SRD*	•	•	•
8	Ridgeview	6001 West 94th Street	Volunteer basis	•	•	•
9	Running	9501 12th Avenue South	Daily, special hours	•	2	•
10	Southwood	4800 Terracewood Drive	Volunteer basis	•	•	•
11	Sunrise	9401 Bloomington Ferry Road	Daily, special hours	•	•	•
12	Tarnhill	9650 Little Road	Volunteer basis	•	•	•
13	Westwood	3490 West 109th Street	Daily, special hours	•	2	•
* School release days (SRD)						

JAPANESE GARDEN A WINTER BEAUTY

Winter can be beautiful, and the Japanese Garden provides the best snow gazing. Two acres of natural beauty invite quiet contemplation and personal reflection. The solitude of cold weather intensifies the breadth of the experience. On a typical winter’s day, only a handful of visitors come to the garden on the northeast side of Normandale Community College, 9700 France Avenue South.

“Winter is a time when you can more clearly see the garden’s bones—the rocks, the Japanese structures and lanterns, and the product of years of careful pruning,” Normandale Japanese Garden Committee Chair Cece Cope said. “The garden is an ideal place to photograph, paint or just take in some of winter’s elusive treasures: a snow-covered landscape, the icy wonderland of an early morning hoar frost, buds bursting while snow still covers the ground.”



Enjoy the Japanese Garden’s winter charms, but be mindful of ice and snow. While the sidewalks and parking lots near the garden are cleared, the garden is not.

The Japanese Garden is open year-round from sunrise until sundown. Admission and parking are free. For garden reservations or tour requests, call 952-358-8145. Additional information is available online at blm.mn/japangarden or by calling 952-358-8200.



BLOOMINGTON GEMS: HYLAND HILLS SKI AREA

No matter the season, there are plenty of reasons to get outside and enjoy Bloomington’s natural beauty. And around here, there’s no shortage of options. One of the places you can enjoy the outdoors this winter is Three Rivers Park District’s Hyland Hills Ski Area—one of the best places in the Twin Cities to break out your skis and snowboards.

If you’ve never hit the slopes or want to sharpen your skills, Hyland Hills offers lessons for all levels of skiers and snowboarders. They also host several competitive ski clubs and adaptive skiing programs.

Located within the Hyland Lake Park Reserve at 8800 Chalet Road, the terrain park is full of progressive and innovative features and is known for some of the best snowmaking and grooming in the Midwest. For more information, visit blm.mn/hylandhills.

NORMANDALE LAKE PARK UPGRADES

The City buildings at Normandale Lake Park, 84th and Chalet Road, are getting a full makeover. The rest rooms and maintenance garage on the south side of Chalet Road will be completely reconstructed. New restroom facilities will meet ADA requirements for residents, and a new maintenance, trash and recycling building will better serve staff needs. In addition to the work on the two buildings, improvements will be made to the driveway, sidewalks, lighting and utilities. A related storm water upgrade includes new grading, paving, curbs and gutters, retaining walls and landscaping.

The almost \$1.2 million project is backed by 2020 Parks and Trails Legacy funding, a state grant and state bonding. The 2020 start date will coincide with the availability of other projected Metropolitan Regional Parks and Trails System grant dollars. The Normandale Lake Park upgrades have a tentative completion date of 2023 and are part of the City’s 10-year capital improvement plan.

Normandale Lake Park falls within the Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve. For information, visit blm.mn/parks or call 952-563-8877.



RECOGNIZE HEALTH AND WELLNESS WORK

Know of a person or an organization that has made a positive impact on the health and wellness of Bloomington? We want to hear about it! Nominations for the 2019 Health and Wellness Award are being accepted through Friday, February 8. For more information, contact Public Health at 952-563-8900 or visit blm.mn/healthaward. Pictured above is Lynn Lenort, the 2017 award recipient.



NEW WEATHER STATION IN BLOOMINGTON

Bloomington is now home to one of Hennepin County’s emergency preparedness weather stations. It’s a 30-foot-tall remote sensor that provides highly accurate, nearly real-time measurements of weather, soil and water conditions. This information automatically goes to a central database where software creates graphics to show what is happening across the county. Gathering and logging local weather, water and soil data isn’t only good for planning what to wear and when to travel—it keeps Bloomington safer. “The weather station is a great life-safety tool that helps emergency leaders make critical decisions,” said Bloomington Fire Chief Ulie Seal. “Rapid surface observations during dangerous weather like tornadoes or flash flooding are really helpful in deciding when and how to provide public warnings or advise evacuation.” The Bloomington station is one of 22 in Hennepin County. For more information, visit blm.mn/henncowestweather.

MEET A BLOOMINGTON FIREFIGHTER

Steve Peterson has been a Bloomington firefighter for more than 29 years. He works out of Station 3.

Q: What’s your day job?

A: I own a martial arts studio and teach jiu-jitsu. I work at UPS part time, too.

Q: What do you do when you aren’t working or volunteering?

A: I split firewood, ride my motorcycle and do woodworking. I build furniture. I’ve been doing that since high school.

Q: What made you want to become a firefighter?

A: My father had been on the Bloomington Fire Department since I was six years old. He retired after 20 years so we were able to be on the department together for six years. That was really fun. It’s also an adrenaline rush running into a burning building.

Q: What do you like about firefighting?

A: The camaraderie. BFD is like a second family. If you need somebody, they’re going to stop what they’re doing and come help you.

Q: What are some of your hobbies?

A: I’ve been fostering pit bulls for the last eight years. We just saved one that was from Texas. She was going to be put down in a half an hour and we said we’d take her. She was so sweet I ended up adopting her.



WHAT IS SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY AND HOW DO YOU REPORT IT?

The success of the Bloomington Police Department (BPD) is enhanced by the active involvement of Bloomington residents. When you call to report suspicious activity, you don’t only help BPD—you make your neighborhood a safer place. Don’t hesitate to call 911 directly. They will take your report.

Many times people notice something suspicious but don’t call in to report it. Don’t assume someone else has already called BPD or that the information isn’t important.

How do I report?

Call the police first at 911 or the nonemergency number, 952-563-4900. Make the call yourself even if you have a Neighborhood Watch block captain.

- Report what happened and the exact location.
- Provide a detailed description.
- Remain on the phone and stay calm.
- Be prepared to answer follow-up questions.

- What things should I note?**
- Suspicious people:
- Sex, age and race.
 - Height and weight.
 - Hair color and style.
 - Complexion, scars or tattoos.
 - Clothing and general appearance.
 - Speech.
- Suspicious vehicles:
- License plate number.
 - Make, model, year and color.
 - Any marks, dents or unique characteristics.
 - Direction of travel and occupants.
- For information, contact Crime Prevention Coordinator Katie Chase at 952-563-8808 or kchase@BloomingtonMN.gov.

PRACTICE PREVENTATIVE CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING MEASURES

When temperatures fall, carbon monoxide (CO) poisonings rise. Emergency room visits and hospitalizations from CO poisoning increase late fall through February. A few cautionary steps can help prevent CO issues.

- Install and check CO alarms. Minnesota state law requires alarms in all single- and multi-family residences within 10 feet of each room used for sleeping (some exceptions for multi-family housing.) Replace your alarms every five years or according to manufacturer’s instructions.
- Have furnaces and wood-burning stoves professionally inspected and checked for proper venting every year.
- Never run a gasoline or propane heater or a grill inside your home or garage. Properly vent and maintain fuel-burning appliances. When there are no electrical outlets available, use battery-powered alarms in areas such as tents, cabins, RVs, enclosed boats and other areas where fuel-burning devices may be present.
- Operate generators 20 feet or more from the home or garage.
- Never run a car in an enclosed space. To idle, back out of the garage.

Visit blm.mn/COhelp or call 952-563-8933 to request smoke alarm installation assistance or learn more about other fire department services.

CLEARING ROADS OF ICE AND SNOW

Minnesota ice is not nice on roadways and neither is snow. During cold weather events, Bloomington Public Works Maintenance Division is on call 24/7 with a crew of up to 75 staff. It takes an average of 12 hours to clear 350 center-lane miles of main arterial roads after a snow event.

Road treatment begins with careful planning. “We’re like meteorologists over here. We’ve got to watch the weather and have a plan of attack,” Street Maintenance Supervisor Michael Kalis said.

Before precipitation falls, anti-icing begins and streets are coated with a brine mixture. While the brine has a touch of salt, corn and beet extracts are sometimes added for more stickiness and melting power. In any case, Public Works mixes their own brine solution. Road conditions, weather and other calculations determine what is used.



Once the snow or ice comes, it’s on to the second step: plowing and applying sand or salt where needed to keep roads safe. Anti-icing before snow or ice storms reduces the amount of salt needed to clear streets afterwards. The City is committed to sustainable practices and reducing chlorides.

For information, visit blm.mn/de-ice or contact Public Works at 952-563-4581 or publicworks@BloomingtonMN.gov.



TEMPORARY FOOD LICENSES HELP YOU SERVE SAFELY

Planning an event where you'll be serving food or beverages to the public? You probably need a temporary food license. A few examples of events in this category include selling concessions at a sporting event or craft fair, handing out snacks at a fundraising event, or having a restaurant cater an event that is not held at the restaurant and is open to the public.

The City's Environmental Health Division issues these licenses to help you serve food safely and prevent foodborne illness. A temporary food license application must be submitted to the City at least 10 days before the event. The temporary food license application and requirements are available online at blm.mn/foodsafety. If you have any questions, call Environmental Health at 952-563-8934.

ASSISTING EMPLOYERS TO SUPPORT NURSING MOMS

Returning to work can be overwhelming for any new mom, and supporting nursing mothers can be confusing for employers. Minnesota State Statute 181.939 helps support nursing moms going back to work by requiring employers to provide reasonable unpaid break times and a room to express breast milk. The space must be a private room or other intrusion-free place near the work area. The space should include an electrical outlet and table for a pump. Bathrooms are not acceptable for sanitary reasons.

A work site that offers support to nursing moms can be recognized as a breastfeeding-friendly workplace. In 2017,

the Minnesota Department of Health awarded Bloomington Public Health a gold level recognition award for supporting breastfeeding.

Public Health is dedicated to supporting, actively promoting and protecting breastfeeding. Free consultation is available for Bloomington employers that need advice on meeting statute requirements. "Some workplaces don't know about the law or what to do to comply, and we can help them," Health Specialist Joan Bulfer said.

Visit blm.mn/breastfeeding or call 952-563-8992 for information.

GIVE BLOOD, SAVE LIVES

Giving blood is a simple thing to do and it makes a big difference. Donate at the Bloomington Community Blood Drive Wednesday, January 9, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. Online registration is preferred, but walk-ins are welcome. For more information, contact the American Red Cross at 1-800-REDCROSS or visit blm.mn/blooddrive.



'MY BEAUTIFUL INFINITY' COMING TO CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Save the date for the Chameleon Theatre Circle's world premiere of *My Beautiful Infinity*. Follow the inward struggles of artist Renner's creative mind as he finds himself trapped in the impossible constructions of infinity in search of love. Just in time for Valentine's Day, bring your date to experience the fascinating twists and turns involved with this technical marvel written by David Vazdauskas.

- Thursdays, February 7 and 14, 7:30 p.m.
- Fridays, February 1, 8, 15, 7:30 p.m.
- Saturdays, February 2, 9 and 16, 7:30 p.m.
- Sundays, February 3, 10 and 17, 2 p.m.

Cost is \$25 for adults and \$22 for seniors and students. The performance will take place at the Center for the Arts, Civic Plaza at West 98th Street and Old Shakopee Road. Tickets available at blm.mn/infinity.



COMMUTING TO WORK BY THE NUMBERS

Bloomington is a thriving city where people live and work. As an inner-ring suburb with a vibrant business community, more workers commute into Bloomington daily than commute to jobs outside of the city. The abundance of employment opportunities in Bloomington is beneficial for residents and the tax base. See how commuting in Bloomington shapes up by the numbers.*

Ranking in Minnesota for net commuters coming in; Bloomington ranks behind Minneapolis only.

Percentage of Bloomington workers who commute in from elsewhere.

Commuters coming into the city.

Commuters going out of the city.

**From MinnPost, Where the Twin Cities Metro's True Bedroom Communities Are, March 2018.*



BE TRAVEL READY: PREP YOUR PASSPORT

The City Clerk offers passport services for new passports by appointment-only Monday through Friday, 8:20 a.m. – 3 p.m. Schedule an appointment at blm.mn/passport. You need an appointment if you are a first-time applicant, under 18 or if your previous passport was issued more than 15 years ago; was issued when you were under the age of 16; is badly damaged, lost or stolen; was in a different name and you are unable to submit proper documentation to reflect the name change; or was a limited-validity passport.

No appointment is necessary for photos. You can renew an expired passport by mail. For more information, visit blm.mn/passport.



COMMUTER SERVICES HONORS CITY

Commuter Services recently recognized the City of Bloomington at the annual State of the Commute Employer Summit. The City was recognized for its work to promote traffic demand management to City employees with its rollout of a flexible work arrangement and telework policy in 2017. The award also recognized the City’s annual bike checks in the spring, Commuter Services’ booths at employee appreciation events and the City’s traffic demand management ordinance. Councilmember Jack Baloga, *above*, pictured with Community Services Director Diann Kirby, *far left*, and Commuter Services Executive Director Melissa Madison, *center*, accepted the award on behalf of the City. Other local honorees included Normandale College, Quality Bicycle Products, Bloomington Bicycle Alliance, Senators Melisa Franzen and Melissa Wiklund and Representatives Andrew Carlson and Paul Rosenthal.

JOIN US ONLINE

Stay in touch with the City using E-subscribe, the Briefing, BTV, Citizen Alert and social media links.

- blm.mn/esubscribe: Email subscriptions have covered more than 200 different topics (69 currently available) to more than 25,000 subscribers.
- blm.mn/briefing: Find current and past articles from the City’s newsletter Bloomington Briefing.
- blm.mn/btv: See Bloomington TV programs on Comcast SD: Channel 14, Comcast HD: Channel 859 and CenturyLink HD: Channel 8214.
- blm.mn/citizenalert: Receive emergency alerts during time-sensitive situations.
- blm.mn/facebook: Like or get notifications for the official Facebook page for the City.
- blm.mn/twitter: Follow the official Twitter page for the City.
- blm.mn/youtube: Watch the City’s official YouTube channel.
- blm.mn/instagram: Follow the official Instagram page for the City.
- blm.mn/nextdoor: Find your neighborhood’s content at City news.

BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY: RINK RESURFACING WITH FIRE AND ICE

In Bloomington, hockey and ice skating are as much a part of the winter landscape as a good dusting of snow. Ice time is a happy time for many skaters, whether aspiring novices or well-seasoned pros.

Here’s a look back at how rink ice was maintained in 1939. The old propane-propelled fire-and-ice method contrasts with the modern technology of Zamboni-style resurfacing used today.



AT YOUR SERVICE: THE ICEMAN OF BIG

Joey Bergquist, Bloomington Ice Garden’s assistant maintenance supervisor, comes from a rink family. The north-central Minnesota native grew up playing hockey and hanging around rinks. Skate by skate, the pastime evolved into a career.

Bergquist and his brothers played hockey many nights in their small town’s private ice arena. When the regular Zamboni driver failed to show up to repair the ice, dad had to drop what he was doing and fill in, but not without warning his sons that they had to pitch in and resurface the ice. So Bergquist learned how to drive a Zamboni at 14.

Today, he operates huge resurfacing machines with the precision of a racecar driver, leaving a trail of glittering ice behind. Bergquist oversees the night ice maintenance crew at BIG. From troubleshooting ice issues to machine breakdowns, he enjoys the variety of his work. Bergquist’s two-year tenure with the City is the culmination of a lifetime on ice. It’s a cool job. But winter is only the beginning. An ice garden needs daily tending year-round.





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City of Bloomington

JOB FAIR

WORK WITH THE CITY

Find your start in the public sector at the City of Bloomington job fair on Saturday, January 5, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. With seasonal jobs in Public Works, Parks and Recreation and the golf courses available plus internships in Assessing, Engineering and Environmental Health, there is something for everyone.

“There are so many public sector job opportunities. It can become a lifelong career path,” said Human Resources Representative Mari Kittridge.

Human Resources staff will be on hand at the event to talk to job seekers about their interests and suggest related job opportunities. There will also be staff at the event from each division hiring staff to answer questions.

No internet? No problem! The City will have computers available at the job fair and staff nearby to help with online applications. On-site interviews will also be held for seasonal Parks and Recreation and Public Works positions. For more information, call Human Resources at 952-563-8710 or visit blm.mn/hr.