

BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



JANUARY 2020



PAGE 2



PAGE 3



PAGE 4



PAGE 7



WALKING IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Resident Casey Speaker captured this image while taking a walk on one of Bloomington's many scenic trails with her family. From Nine Mile Creek to Normandale Lake, there are plenty of parks and trails to enjoy through the winter in the city. Have you taken a photo of winter in Bloomington you want to share? Upload it at blm.mn/photos.

WELCOMING NEW LEADERSHIP

On January 2, Bloomington will have a new mayor and councilmember, along with two returning councilmembers.

TIM BUSSE: NEW MAYOR

Tim Busse was elected to fill the seat Gene Winstead held for 20 years. A record of community involvement and leadership roles at the University of Minnesota, Bloomington Chamber of Commerce and League of Minnesota Cities led Busse to where he is today. He intends to continue Bloomington's tradition of creative, innovative and bold leadership.



His approach will uphold the values of predecessors. Expect the City to continue on a familiar path to outstanding services, strong financials and sound governance.

From his eight years on the City Council, Busse is especially proud of the opportunity housing ordinance and reinvestment in parks and trails, including the Old Cedar Avenue bridge area. Going forward, he intends to prepare for anticipated changes in Bloomington's population, and reinvest in neighborhoods and commercial areas—building on the diversity that is the strength of Bloomington.

JENNA CARTER: NEW COUNCILMEMBER AT LARGE

Jenna Carter was elected as councilmember at large, the seat Tim Busse held for eight years. Carter plans to focus on the growing issue of youth homelessness, safer streets and addressing inequities. Engaging residents and working to create a Bloomington that is truly welcoming and inclusive are ways she wishes to foster positive change.



"I look forward to digging in, listening and really grappling with the complexity of many of the challenges and opportunities in front of us," Carter said. "I ran for City Council because I am committed to a community where every person has the opportunity to live healthy and thrive."

DWAYNE LOWMAN: REELECTED COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT I

Incumbent Dwayne Lowman was reelected as councilmember for District I.

"I am looking forward to the completion of the veterans' memorial, continuing my work on the Metro Alliance for Healthy Families as fundraising chair and working to make Bloomington an even more sustainable city," Lowman said.

Fall was an especially busy time for Lowman when he welcomed a baby girl into his family.



SHAWN NELSON: REELECTED COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT II

Shawn Nelson retained his seat as councilmember for District II. His focus will be to continue working on behalf of residents and business to keep Bloomington neighborhoods vibrant.

"My priorities will be renewing our neighborhood commercial areas, enhancing parks and trails to meet today's needs for kids, adults and seniors, and addressing our infrastructure needs related to roads, water and facilities," Nelson said.

For more information, visit blm.mn/council or call 952-563-8782.



FIND US ONLINE
BLOOMINGTONMN.gov



Presort Std
U.S. Postage
PAID
Twin Cities, MN
Permit
#2293

ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
1800 WEST OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD
BLOOMINGTON MN 55431-3027



BRIEFING

Volume 28, Number 01

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; MN Relay 711; FAX 952-563-8715; Email: jhill@BloomingtonMN.gov Website: BloomingtonMN.gov

BLOOMINGTON CITY COUNCIL



Mayor
Tim Busse
952-563-8782 (w)
952-457-7506 (c)
tbusse@BloomingtonMN.gov

Councilmember At Large
Nathan Coulter
952-239-0531
ncoulter@BloomingtonMN.gov

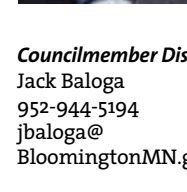


Councilmember At Large
Jenna Carter
612-701-0321
jcarter@BloomingtonMN.gov

Councilmember District I
Dwayne Lowman
952-479-0226
dlowman@BloomingtonMN.gov



Councilmember District II
Shawn Nelson
952-479-0471
snelson@BloomingtonMN.gov



Councilmember District III
Jack Baloga
952-944-5194
jbaloga@BloomingtonMN.gov



Councilmember District IV
Patrick Martin
952-454-6657
pmartin@BloomingtonMN.gov

Elected officials presented for informational purposes.

COUNCILMEMBERS

council@BloomingtonMN.gov

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Jamie Verbrugge, <i>City Manager</i>	952-563-8780
citymanager@BloomingtonMN.gov	
Kris Wilson, <i>Assistant City Manager</i>	952-563-8780
citymanager@BloomingtonMN.gov	
Eric Johnson, <i>Community Development</i>	952-563-8947
communitydevelopment@BloomingtonMN.gov	
Diann Kirby, <i>Community Services</i>	952-563-8717
communityservices@BloomingtonMN.gov	
Lori Economy-Scholler, <i>Finance</i>	952-563-8791
finance@BloomingtonMN.gov	
Ulie Seal, <i>Fire</i>	952-563-4801
fire@BloomingtonMN.gov	
Amy Cheney, <i>Information Technology</i>	952-563-4885
it@BloomingtonMN.gov	
Melissa Manderschied, <i>Legal</i>	952-563-8753
legal@BloomingtonMN.gov	
Ann Kattreh, <i>Parks and Recreation</i>	952-563-8877
parksrec@BloomingtonMN.gov	
Jeffrey Potts, <i>Police</i>	952-563-8601
police@BloomingtonMN.gov	
Karl Keel, <i>Public Works</i>	952-563-8731
publicworks@BloomingtonMN.gov	

General phone number 952-563-8700

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.

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

MAYOR'S MEMO

BOLD LEADERSHIP HAS MOVED BLOOMINGTON FORWARD

By Mayor Tim Busse

As I start writing my first-ever Mayor's memo, I would like to take a moment to say how excited and humbled I am to continue the tradition of bold, innovative public service in Bloomington. This is a fantastic city with a history of outstanding leadership and it's an honor to be elected to continue that as we move forward. I'd also like to thank and pay homage to some of my colleagues—the incredible leaders who set the stage for the success the city has had through the years, including Mayors Gene Winstead and Coral Houle, Councilmembers Amy Grady and Vern Wilcox and many more.

Even though Bloomington is home to nearly 90,000 people, there are deep roots in this community, which isn't necessarily common for such a big city. Bloomington is the community it is because of the bold decisions that have been made through the years. We saw farm fields turn into the Met Stadium and then Mall of America. The Blue Line brought light rail transportation to MOA and Bloomington—something that could certainly be called cutting edge for cities outside of Minneapolis and Saint Paul when it was

built. We recently approved and kicked off projects under the new opportunity housing ordinance to keep economic diversity at the forefront of Bloomington's growth as a community of choice. You'll also read about Bloomington Police efforts to be more inclusive in its hiring through the Pathways to Policing program *on page 7*.

These are all examples of bold, innovative ideas that have moved Bloomington forward. We'll continue to lean into creative solutions and find new ways to address challenges in the city while still celebrating our strengths.

The work I do as Mayor will be for all of Bloomington. It won't be broken down by someone's address, ethnicity, race, age or political party. We are one city, one community and I will make decisions and recommendations based on what is best for Bloomington as a whole.

I am excited to get started and to have more conversations about what matters most to you and what you envision for our city's future. As I settle in to my new office, I will announce and hold regular office hours at Civic Plaza and other places throughout the community to connect with residents and stakeholders.

COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT PUT ON HOLD

COUNCIL SAYS COMMUNITY CENTER PROPOSAL AT VALLEY VIEW PARK IS 'NOT VIABLE AT THIS TIME'

In spring 2019, the Bloomington City Council directed City staff to engage residents and complete a site capacity study for a potential new community center at Valley View Park, 9000 Portland Avenue South.

In November, staff reported study results back to the City Council and the community, including input gathered from residents, a traffic and parking study and site alternatives that showed different scenarios of what a community center in the park could look like.

At the December 2 City Council meeting, staff asked the Council to provide direction on:

1. Whether to move forward with an agreement with the architectural team to continue pre-design of the community center at Valley View Park; or
2. Whether to discontinue evaluation of Valley View Park as the preferred site and provide direction as to how to proceed with the community center project.

After much discussion and deliberation, the City Council did not reach consensus to move forward with a community center design at Valley View Park. The Council decided that the current proposal for a community center at Valley View Park was not viable at this time, and no formal action was taken. While there was no agreement regarding what such a project might look like or where it should be located, the Council remains committed to providing for the recreational needs of all Bloomington residents.

In 2020, the new City Council will determine its priorities and decide how a community center might fit within them. If the Council decides to revisit the community center project, staff will undertake a robust and inclusive engagement process with residents.

For further information on the community center project and its history, visit blm.mn/communitycenter.



PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY COMING IN MARCH

Make your voice heard in the 2020 presidential primary Tuesday, March 3. Only the major political parties are allowed to participate. Each party will have its own ballot. No other offices will appear on the ballot. Precinct caucuses will still be held to conduct other party business.

Major political parties in Minnesota include (in alphabetical order): Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, Grassroots-Legalize Cannabis Party, Legal Marijuana Now Party and the Republican Party of Minnesota.

This type of election requires voters to request the party ballot of their choice. If a voter refuses to select a party, they will not be able to vote in the presidential nomination primary. A voter's choice of party ballot will be recorded and is private data. However, a list of who voted in a presidential nomination primary and the political party each voter selected will be provided to the chair of each major political party, by law. How a voter voted on the ballot will remain secret.

Vote at your polling place March 3 or by absentee ballot between January 17 and March 2. To request a ballot early by mail visit blm.mn/absentee. For more information about the presidential primary and precinct caucuses, visit www.sos.state.mn.us/.

CITY UTILITY RATES GOING UP

On January 1, City water, wastewater, garbage and recycling collection rates increased. On average, a typical single-family residential home will see a monthly increase of 6.7%. The utility rate change will help fund operating costs and repair or replace aging water infrastructure and systems to continue to meet state and federal regulations. For more information, visit blm.mn/utilities.

COUNCIL APPROVES 2020 TAX LEVY

The City Council adopted a property tax levy of \$64,689,863, an increase of 4.75%, in December. The increase in the tax levy from 2019 is driven in part by increased spending for roads, buildings and parks and a reinvestment in infrastructure built largely in the '50s. Due to construction labor shortages and increases in construction materials, construction costs continue to outpace inflation. Another budget challenge has been the Hennepin County court moving from Edina to downtown Minneapolis in February 2019. This has had a significant impact on the City's Legal department staff and resources.

From 2018 to 2019, the median-valued home increased from \$256,900 to \$283,900, a growth of 10.5%. This increase in valuation means that the monthly cost of tax-supported services for the owner of a \$283,900 median-valued home is \$89.62 for 2020, an increase from the 2019 monthly cost of \$81.02.

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 2020 total residential property taxes is 30 cents out of every tax dollar paid. The remaining amount goes to the county, school district and other taxing districts. Study of home sales occurring between October 2017 and September 2018 reflected the increase in value and are the basis for the January 2019 assessment for taxes payable in 2020.

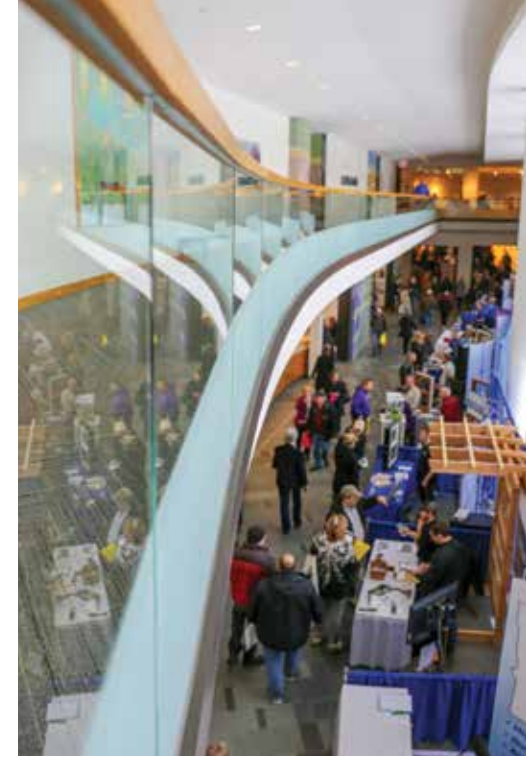
Since 1999, the City's annual base property tax levy increase has averaged 3.88% on existing properties. The Bloomington levy impact is lower than 8 of 11 peer communities for median-value homes. For more information, contact Lori Economy-Scholler at 952-563-8791 or leconomy@BloomingtonMN.gov.

PENN AMERICAN PROJECT AWARDED AND RECOGNIZED

The Penn American stormwater project won the American Public Works Association – Minnesota Chapter (APWA-MN) project of the year award for 2019. During November, the City received recognition at an APWA-MN award ceremony. In December, the City Council recognized the achievement.

The project's overall goal was to reduce surface water flooding. At one time, the area at Knox Avenue South and American Boulevard West was a lake, but over time it was filled in as the location developed. Since then, the area has been dependent on storm sewers to move water out and prevent flooding. The stormwater and sewer project completed last year will reduce the magnitude, frequency and duration of flooding around this site and improve runoff water quality to downstream resources.

The APWA-MN designation commemorates the complexity of the Penn American project and the extensive collaboration required to complete the plan. For more information, visit blm.mn/PAWater or call 952-563-4870.



HOME IMPROVEMENT

FAIR 2020
B L O O M I N G T O N • M N

SAVE THE DATE: HOME IMPROVEMENT FAIR

Looking for new ways to spruce up your home? Check out the 2020 Home Improvement Fair hosted by the City and the Housing Redevelopment Authority, Saturday, February 22, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

This free event showcases vendors from across the metro with exhibits and how-to seminars to help you make your dream home a reality. Fairgoers will have the opportunity to ask experts about general remodeling, designing and landscaping. There will also be kids' activities including a project table hosted by Home Depot.

Visit blm.mn/homefair or call 952-563-8943 for more information.



JOIN A COMMISSION

Are you interested in helping solve issues in your community? Get involved with one of the City's many advisory boards or commissions.

The Council is seeking new commissioner applicants. Boards and commissions provide information and recommendations to the City Council on a wide variety of topics ranging from creative placemaking to sustainability. For more information, visit blm.mn/boards or call 952-563-8780. Applications will be accepted from January 13 through February 7.

Advisory board and commission meetings are usually held at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.



SHOP THE WINTER FARMERS MARKET

Brighten up a Saturday or two this winter. Enjoy shopping indoors for local products on Saturdays, February 8 and March 14, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., inside Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. For more information, visit blm.mn/market or call 952-563-8877.

PARKS AND REC CATALOG CHANGES

Looking forward to receiving your summer Parks and Recreation catalog this February? The City of Bloomington will send out the summer catalog as a special insert in the February *Briefing* this year instead of as a separate mailing. The full Parks and Recreation catalog will still be available online and at Civic Plaza. Questions? Call 952-563-8877.



SUMMER SOFTBALL

Keeep warm this winter with thoughts of sunny summer days on the softball field. Registration for the 2020 summer softball season will open January 24 for returning teams who played in 2019. Registration for all teams will open February 24. Details on how to register and the dates and locations of games are available on the City's website at blm.mn/adultsports.



2020 OUTDOOR RINK AND WARMING HOUSES

Don't let winter weather keep you inside. Enjoy the season at one of Bloomington's 13 outdoor skating rinks with some classic winter fun. During rink hours all facilities will be lighted. Some sites are supervised by Parks and Recreation employees during public skating hours. *See table below.*

Weather and ice conditions permitting, park shelters will be open through February 17. For up-to-date rink conditions, closings and schedules, visit the City's website at blm.mn/rinks or call 952-563-8878 and select option 3.

See the charts at left and below to determine locations, dates and times rinks and warming houses are open.

DAY OF WEEK	REGULAR	SPECIAL HOURS	SCHOOL RELEASE DAYS (SRD)
	January 4 – 19, 21 – 31 February 1 – 16	February 2	January 1 – 3 January 20 February 17
M-F	4 – 9 p.m.	12 – 4 p.m.	12 – 9 p.m.
Saturday	12 – 9 p.m.		
Sunday	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)

BOOK A PARK SHELTER

Get a head start on your summer event planning by booking a park shelter. Shelters will soon be available to rent for picnics, receptions, reunions and meetings. Registration begins January 2 for shelter use April 15 through October 15. Beginning February 3, reservations will also be accepted online. Shelters have electricity, grills, restrooms and drinking fountains. City parks offer nearby playgrounds, volleyball and horseshoe courts, trails and softball fields.

- East Bush Lake Park, 9140 East Bush Lake Road, Shelter 3: Accommodates 200.
- West Bush Lake Park, 9401 West Bush Lake Road, Shelter 1: Accommodates 200. Shelter 2: Accommodates 100.
- Moir Park, 10320 Morgan Avenue South, Shelter 1: Accommodates 200+. Shelter 2: Accommodates 60.

Call 952-563-8877 or visit blm.mn/rentals for more information. Smaller shelters at other City parks may be available to reserve upon request.



FIGURE SKATING CLUB FOURSOME WINS SECTIONALS

Four members of the Bloomington Ice Garden Figure Skating Club (FSC) qualified for the Midwestern Sectional Singles Final for figure skating in Dallas, Texas. Their next stop could be the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Greensboro, N.C. Qualifications began in October during the Upper Great Lakes Regional Challenge. More than 200 skaters competed, and of the 12 FSC skaters taking part, four skaters advanced to the Midwestern Sectional.

“We are so proud of our young skaters,” Skate School Coordinator Rene Gelecinskyj said. “This is a huge accomplishment for them and our club. We have many skaters advancing and the competition is steep.”

Visit blm.mn/BIG, call 952-563-8841, or email rgelecinskyj@BloomingtonMN.gov for information.

SHARPEN YOUR SKILLS: SIGN UP FOR SKATE SCHOOL

Do you like to skate? Maybe you’ve wanted to improve or even learn skating for the first time? Skaters of all levels are welcome to participate in the Bloomington Ice Garden Skate School, 3600 West 98th Street. From pre-K to seniors, there’s a skating class for everyone. Sign up for skating lessons at blm.mn/e-register. For more information, call BIG at 952-563-8841, visit blm.mn/BIG or email rgelecinskyj@BloomingtonMN.gov.

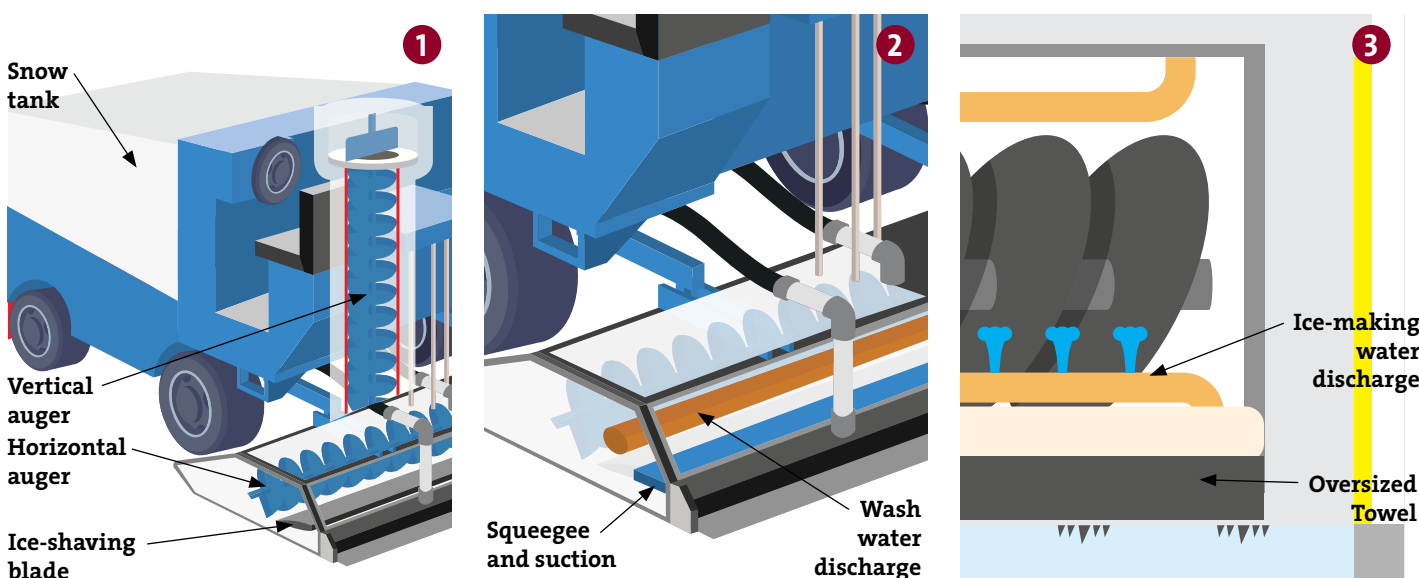
ENJOY THE MAGIC OF THE SEASON AT WINTER FETE

There’s “snow” much family fun to be had at Bloomington’s annual Winter Fete. Check out the full slate of seasonally themed events all around Bloomington the week of January 18 – 26.

Along with other annual favorites like the international ski jumping competition, the City is partnering with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Bush Lake chapter of the Izaak Walton League to offer an ice fishing demonstration on Sunday, January 19, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., at Bush Lake, 9140 East Bush Lake Road. New this year, Parks and Recreation will put on “try snowshoeing,” a free program scheduled on Saturday, January 18, 1 – 3 p.m., at Bush Lake Beach.

The annual Pond Dakota Winter History Festival will take place Sunday, January 26, 12 – 4 p.m., and will feature plenty of activities both inside and outside the Pond house, 401 East 104th Street.

Find out more about Winter Fete or the History Festival and see a full listing of events online at blm.mn/winterfete. Questions? Call 952-563-8877.



HOW IT WORKS: ZAMBONIS AT BLOOMINGTON ICE GARDEN

Ice skating rinks need a good wash and a shave now and then. At Bloomington Ice Garden (BIG), 3600 West 98th Street, four Zamboni ice resurfacers stand ready for use. All machines are electric and run on batteries. With three rinks and thousands of users, regular ice maintenance is necessary to keep things going on smooth ice.

On a busy weekend, the Zambonis operate hourly. For the observer, it’s hard not to be spellbound by the hypnotic, ring-by-ring progression of the ice machine. A reflective ribbon of perfect ice gleams behind the Zamboni.

How ice is resurfaced with a Zamboni:

1. The ice-shaving blade goes down and closely shaves the ice as horizontal and vertical screws (augers) spin and collect the shavings in the snow tank.
2. A layer of wash water is put down from the wash water discharge line to rinse the ice. The dirty water is squeegeed and picked up by suction.
3. A second layer of water is put down by the ice-making water discharge line and is smoothed by an over-sized towel. The wet resurfacing freezes into clean ice.

To see how a Zamboni works at BIG, go to blm.mn/Zamboni. For other information, visit blm.mn/big or call 952-563-8841.



HIDDEN GEM: WESTWOOD PARK

The height of winter is the perfect time to discover frosty fun for the family at Westwood Park, 3490 West 109th Street. Try hockey or ice skating at this four-acre park, located on the east side of Westwood Elementary School.

If you’re ready to hit the ice in an inviting setting, Westwood Park offers hours of cool recreation. Its three rinks are popular for skaters and hockey players alike. Take a break to recharge at the warming house, which is open most days and some evenings through February (weather and ice conditions permitting). Check warming house hours at blm.mn/rinks.

Facilities are lighted during rink hours. There is no admission charge, but some rinks may be rented. Free off-street parking is available.

During the warm months, take advantage of the baseball field, basketball court, pickleball courts, playground, soccer fields, softball field and tennis court. Westwood has year-round appeal. Winter is only the beginning.

Visit blm.mn/Westwood or call 952-563-8877 for more information.



WINTER VOLLEYBALL

You can bump, set and spike throughout winter with the City’s adult volleyball league. Games run January 6 through March 23 at the Kennedy High School Activity Center, 150 East 98th Street. You can sign up for co-rec and women’s league teams. Games occur Monday through Thursday evenings. For more information, call 952-563-8877 or visit blm.mn/adultsports.



HOW TO DISPOSE OF BATTERIES PROPERLY

In Bloomington, you can drop off batteries at the South Hennepin Recycling and Problem Waste Drop-Off Center, 1400 West 96th Street. Bring button batteries, lithium ion and other rechargeable batteries for disposal. Those batteries contain toxic metals, which pose a threat if improperly disposed, so they can't be placed into your trash or recycling cart at home.

While single-use AA, AAA and other alkaline batteries are accepted for recycling at the drop-off center, they do not contain hazardous material and may also be disposed in the trash. Never place batteries of any kind in your recycling cart.

Hennepin County recently stopped collecting batteries at community locations, including libraries, county facilities, city buildings and city events.

Hennepin County's change was made to prevent potential fire hazards triggered by incorrect disposal of vape pens or e-cigarette devices and rechargeable lithium batteries. For more information, visit blm.mn/battery.

MAKE YOUR NEW YEAR SUSTAINABLE

Begin the new year right with some resolutions to be more sustainable.

- Use reusable bags instead of getting single-use bags at the store.
- Recycle organics. Sign up at blm.mn/organics-signup.
- Adopt a storm drain. To learn more, visit adopt-a-drain.org.
- Sign up for a Home Energy Squad visit. Call 866-222-4595 or visit blm.mn/home-energy.
- Clean out your hazardous materials and bring them to the South Hennepin Recycling and Problem Waste Drop-Off Center, 1400 West 96th Street.

Think about making bigger changes for the future. Consider an electric snow blower, lawnmower or car. Have your home's insulation, furnace or air conditioner updated to be more efficient.

Everyone can make a difference. Look for a sustainability scorecard coming later this year to help track your progress.

For more information, visit blm.mn/sustain.



PARKS MASTER PLAN TO INCLUDE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

From Nine Mile Creek to the Minnesota River Valley to countless ponds and lakes, Bloomington has an abundance of parkland with natural water areas. Improved access and management of these resources offers economic, social and health benefits. Green infrastructure (building with nature to create a network that addresses climate change and other environmental challenges) is a way to achieve this and maximize environmental value.

Creating sensory or native plant gardens and restoring natural areas are among the many ways green infrastructure could be implemented in parks. Green stormwater infrastructure is another approach that would reduce flooding and improve water quality and wildlife habitat. These options could also help increase or enhance biodiversity, access to nature, green spaces, educational opportunities, and community resiliency.

Water management and green infrastructure will be considered in the park master plan, which will establish a 20-year vision for parks, open spaces, and trails, as well as recreation, cultural and historical preservation and public art.

The plan is just the beginning. The City is looking for opportunities to leverage the park system to benefit water and natural resources, while enhancing other community benefits.

Resident and park user input is a critical. Let us know how important green infrastructure is to you. Visit blm.mn/park-master-plan and rank your priorities. For more information, call 952-563-8877.

2020 RECYCLING CALENDAR

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	

RECYCLE WEEK

HOLIDAY*

* No pickup on holiday; pickup one day later.

MEET A FIREFIGHTER

Mark Neu has been a firefighter for 18 years. He serves out of Station 5.

Q: What's your day job?

A: I've been a full-time firefighter in Minneapolis for 20 years. My official title is fire motor operator.

Q: What do you do for fun when you're not working or volunteering?

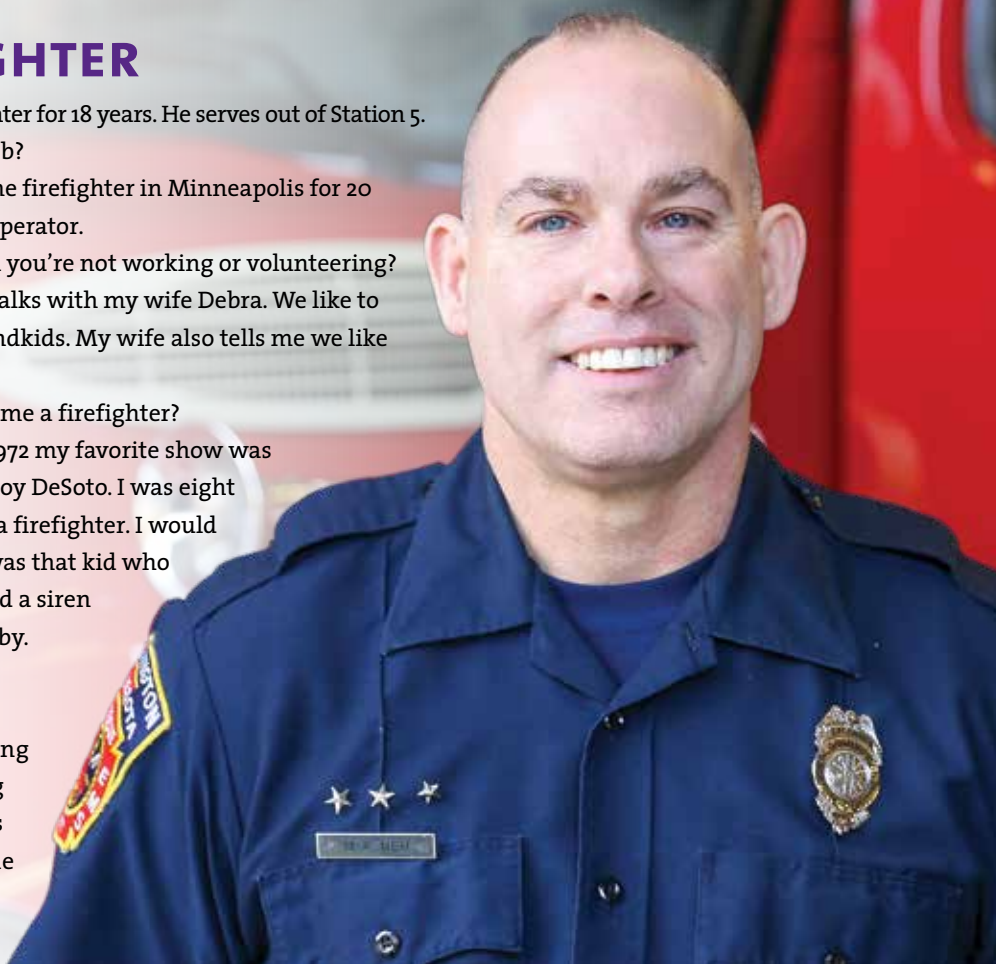
A: I like to exercise and go for walks with my wife Debra. We like to travel to Wisconsin to see our 12 grandkids. My wife also tells me we like to go on bike rides.

Q: What made you want to become a firefighter?

A: I'm going to date myself. In 1972 my favorite show was *Emergency!* with Johnny Gage and Roy DeSoto. I was eight years old and I knew I wanted to be a firefighter. I would visit fire stations in Minneapolis. I was that kid who would run to the corner when I heard a siren and wave to the firefighters driving by.

Q: What do you like about firefighting?

A: I like the camaraderie, helping people on their worst days, visiting schools and daycares to talk to kids about fire safety and the adrenaline rush you get on each call.



GIVE BLOOD, GIVE HOPE

Are you looking for an easy way to give back that makes a big difference? Donate blood at the Community Blood Drive Wednesday, January 8, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., in the Rehearsal Hall 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.



PUBLIC HEALTH PARTNERS WITH SCHOOL DISTRICT ON NEW TOBACCO POLICY

Bloomington Public Schools is in the process of updating its tobacco policy to include language about e-cigarettes and vaping. Community Health Specialist Deb Miller has been working with the district's wellness committee to educate school staff and parents about the dangers of e-cigarettes and vaping as a key part of the process.

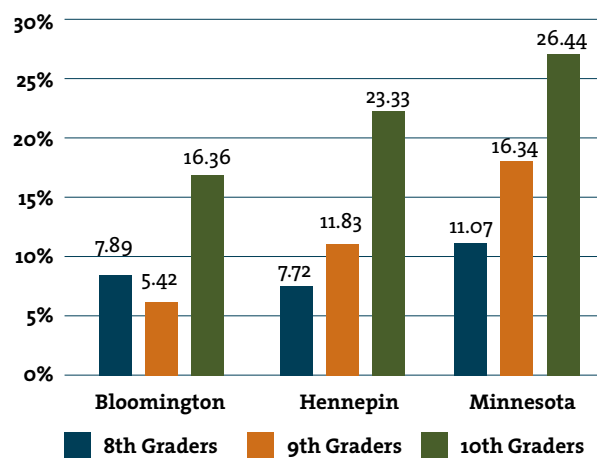
Data from the Minnesota Department of Education's (MDE) 2019 student survey shows a steep rise in e-cigarette use among students. Among 8th grade students e-cigarette use nearly doubled from 2016 – 2019 statewide, and one in four 11th graders in Minnesota now use e-cigarettes, according to MDE.

The survey also found that youth are ill-informed about the health risks, with 76% of 11th graders saying there is either no, slight or moderate risk to using e-cigarettes.

Miller's presentations are part of Bloomington Public Health's Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) work.

"The collaboration with Deb and Bloomington Public Health continues to be very informative for our teaching staff and parents. We look forward to continuing this partnership," Bloomington Public Schools Community Relations and Emergency Management Executive Director Rick Kaufman said.

USE OF E-CIGARETTES OR VAPING DEVICES BY AREA AND GRADE, 2019



BLOOMINGTON POLICE RECOGNIZED FOR INCLUSION EFFORTS

The City of Bloomington and St. Louis Park received a 2019 Program Excellence Award for Community Diversity and Inclusion from the International City/County Management Association for Pathways to Policing—a program meant to attract candidates of color, women and others with nontraditional backgrounds to work as police officers.

In 2016, the Bloomington Police and St. Louis Park Police worked together with the Minnesota Peace Officer Standards and Training Board and Hennepin Technical College to develop the collaborative hiring program.

Pathways removes barriers to nontraditional candidates who are interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement. The program offers law enforcement training for candidates who have at least an associate's degree, allowing them to complete training in four months rather than two years. Candidates are also paid wages and benefits to attend the training program.

AT YOUR SERVICE: PETER ZUNIGA

A few months into his new job, Deputy City Attorney Peter Zuniga welcomes the opportunity to provide legal representation on a variety of issues for the City and the positive impact it has for residents. His duties include advising City departments, such as police, fire and administration on data practices, human resources, elections and first amendment issues.

"We provide timely and effective legal advice to the City, its elected officials, staff, and boards and commissions," Zuniga said. "I'm privileged that I get to work on things on a daily basis that will benefit Bloomington residents."

Coming from a long line of public servants, he has always had a call to serve. Previously, Zuniga worked as general counsel for the Minnesota Department of Human Rights and deputy chief counsel for the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Originally from the Southwestern U.S., Zuniga has "lived in Minnesota 16 years now, and my blood has thickened since then."

During his off time, Zuniga coaches sporting activities for his three kids, plays golf and does woodworking.



HOW THINGS WORK: PLOWING SIDEWALKS

Bloomington Public Works Maintenance Division uses a variety of specialty sidewalk plows, trucks and tractors to clear 260 miles of sidewalks and trails. Depending on the snow event, equipment could include a snow blower, plow or broom. Snow removal can be hindered by trash cans, boulders, timbers, shrubs and other obstacles in rights of way. You can help maintain sidewalks by removing obstructions.

Plowing occurs by a priority listing:

- 1st priority: School walking areas, heavily used wheelchair accessible areas and heavily used areas by main roads.
- 2nd priority: Walks expanding out from the school and along major roads.
- 3rd priority: Residential and industrial areas.

The amount of snow determines how long plowing takes to complete. For example, plowing a four-inch snowfall can take two to three days.

For more information, visit blm.mn/plow, call 952-563-4581 or email publicworks@BloomingtonMN.gov.



RELAXATION CLASS OFFERED AT CREEKSIDE

Ready to recharge after the holidays? Take part in Creekside's popular Stretch, Relax, Meditate class. Learn simple stretches and gentle yoga postures as you master exercises that promote mindfulness. Bring a yoga mat and wear comfortable clothing. Some of the class will be on the floor. Registration is required for this six-week class, Tuesdays, January 21 – February 25, 10 – 11 a.m., at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South. Cost is \$36 for Bloomington residents and \$48 for nonresidents. Registration is open until January 14, or until the class is filled. For more information or to register, call 952-563-4944.

NEW PROGRAM FOR KIDS AT CREEKSIDE

Do your kids need a cure for cabin fever? Get the kids out of the cold and let them burn off some energy at Creekside Open Rec. Children eight years of age and under can enjoy activities that use physical and motor skills, including tumbling, building and bowling. Tag and other recreational team games add to the fun. Join us on the last Sunday of every month starting Sunday, January 26, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Ave South. For more information, call 952-536-4944. Cost: \$2 per child.

WATCH BTV ON ROKU OR APPLE TV

Ever wonder what happened at the last council meeting you weren't able to attend or catch on cable? Now you can search and watch it on demand with your Roku or AppleTV. To access BTV on Roku, simply install the "Cablecast Screenweave" channel. Once it's installed, you can scroll through the available municipal streams on the channel until you find BTV. You can also stream the BTV, BEC-TV and BCAT channels live and access other shows, including commission meetings on demand. For more information, visit blm.mn/btv or call 952-563-8850.



NOTABLE NEIGHBOR: ARLYN GRUSSING

If you ask longtime Bloomington resident Arlyn Grussing what one of the most important things in life is, he'll give you a quick answer: It's fun.

"You can do a lot more with fun than you can by being too serious," Grussing said. "Growing older is required, but growing up is optional."

This philosophy has carried him through decades of a unique career with job titles ranging from city planner to Santa. After starting his city planning career in Iowa, Grussing began work at the City of Bloomington. He served as the City's planning director from 1975 – 1985, a decade of big development.

"We were doing so much around I-494 at that point with new offices and the Normandale Lake office park—during those years Bloomington went from a suburb to a city," he said.

Grussing also gave back to the growing community spending years coaching football, basketball and baseball with the Bloomington Athletic Association, serving on the parent-child board for the YMCA, serving as president of the Jefferson High School football booster club, running chains for Jefferson football for 25 years and volunteering through his church.

"My philosophy is you have to give back—there are a lot of takers in this world. It's really important to contribute," he said.

Now Grussing brings joy to others in a different way—playing Santa. He started out in malls and now runs a business that provides a more comprehensive holiday experience. He even wrote a children's book, *Santa's Magic Christmas*.

ARTISTRY PRESENTS INDIGENOUS NORTH AMERICAN ARTISTS

Experience artwork by indigenous North American artists in Revitalizing Symbols, an exhibition curated by Alexandra Buffalohead. Debra Yepa-Pappan, Briand Morrison, Jonathan Thunder, Gwen Westerman and other artists embrace revitalization through designs, patterns and symbols.

See the exhibition from January 10 – February 14, at Bloomington Center for the Arts, Inez Greenberg Gallery, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. An opening reception will be held Friday, January 10, 6 – 8 p.m., and a panel discussion will take place Tuesday, January 28, 7 p.m. Alexandra Buffalohead is a 2019 fellow with the Emerging Curators Institute, which is designed to support the individual practices of Minnesota-based emerging curators from diverse backgrounds.

Visit artistrymn.org, for more information.



Prayers for Water by Debra Yepa-Pappan.

BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY: CLASSIC CARS RULED THE ROAD

Once upon a time, white sidewall tires, fender skirts, wheel covers, pastel shades, tail fins and gleaming touches of chrome were the fashion. The used car lot at 96th Street and Lyndale Avenue South specialized in economical Nash Ramblers and offered a finance plan to suit a buyer's budget. In the 1950s, the average used car would cost somewhere between a couple hundred dollars to nearly \$2,000. More widespread car ownership was part of the rise of the American dream—a set of fuzzy dice for good luck was optional. Good things seemed to await down the road.

