

# BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



FEBRUARY 2015



Cross-country skiers enjoy the winter weather at Nine Mile Creek. Thank you to Bloomington resident Dick Bergstrom for submitting this photo.



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## MEET BLOOMINGTON'S NEXT CITY MANAGER

Jamie Verbrugge started as Bloomington's city manager earlier this month, taking the baton from Mark Bernhardson, who retired in December.

Verbrugge has more than 15 years of experience in city management. He was city manager of Brooklyn Park from 2008 to 2014, city administrator for the city of Rosemount from 2003 to 2008, and assistant city administrator for the city of Eagan from 1998 to 2003.

Under Verbrugge's leadership, Brooklyn Park has seen the continued expansion of Target's corporate campus in the city, which now has roughly 6,000 workers and additional development in the Hwy. 610 corridor project.

As Bloomington's city manager, Verbrugge will oversee a staff of 650 full- and part-time employees and a budget of \$188 million. The city manager serves at the pleasure of the City Council and is the chief administrative officer of the City.

Forty-eight applicants were considered for the position and three finalists were interviewed. The hiring decision was made by the Bloomington City Council. Mayor Gene Winstead said Verbrugge was chosen based on a number of factors, including his experience and leadership skills and the fact that he is a "doer and a go-getter."

"We are very excited to have Jamie on board," he said. "His background is outstanding. His leadership skills and experience as both a community- and staff-builder will serve Bloomington and this organization well."

Verbrugge said he was attracted to Bloomington as an organization for the complexity and variety of the work as well as opportunities to engage with City staff and the community. He describes his leadership style as open and positive.

"Bloomington is a premiere city with an outstanding reputation. My goal is for this community to be a better place five or ten years down the road than it is today."

Verbrugge said he is looking forward to working collaboratively with the Bloomington City Council and bringing new ideas to the table.

Verbrugge holds a Master of Arts degree in Public Administration from Hamline University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Political Science from St. Cloud State University. He lives in Richfield with his wife, Jennifer, and three children.

He is Bloomington's third city manager in 50 years.



## FOUND ON facebook

The City of Bloomington's Facebook page now has more than 2,100 fans, many of whom commented on, liked and shared this post about the retirement of Caine, a ten-year veteran of Bloomington Police Department's K-9 Unit.

You can watch Caine's *Bloomington Today* interview by visiting the City's website and clicking on the Facebook or YouTube logo.



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The *Briefing*, published bimonthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to our residents and businesses. Direct comments and requests for Braille, larger print or computer disk to Communications Administrator Janine Hill, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027; PH 952-563-8819; TTY: 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715; E-mail: [jhill@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:jhill@BloomingtonMN.gov)  
**Website: BloomingtonMN.gov**

## BLOOMINGTON CITY COUNCIL



**Mayor**  
 Gene Winstead  
 952-888-1258 (h)  
 952-563-8782 (w)  
[gwinstead@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:gwinstead@BloomingtonMN.gov)

**Councilmember At Large**  
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 952-833-0505 (h)  
[cabrams@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:cabrams@BloomingtonMN.gov)

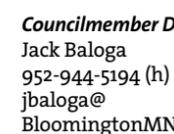


**Councilmember At Large**  
 Tim Busse  
 952-457-7506 (c)  
[tbusse@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:tbusse@BloomingtonMN.gov)

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 Dwayne Lowman  
 952-479-0226 (h)  
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**Councilmember District II**  
 Andrew Carlson  
 952-242-5658 (h)  
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**Councilmember District III**  
 Jack Baloga  
 952-944-5194 (h)  
[jbaloga@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:jbaloga@BloomingtonMN.gov)



**Councilmember District IV**  
 Jon Oleson  
 651-208-6586 (c)  
[joleson@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:joleson@BloomingtonMN.gov)

*Elected officials presented for informational purposes.*

## COUNCILMEMBERS

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

## CITY MANAGER

Jamie Verbrugge 952-563-8780  
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## DIRECTORS

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 Karl Keel, *Public Works* 952-563-8731  
[publicworks@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto: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 of 1990 (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).*

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

# MAYOR'S MEMO

## NEW YEAR, NEW BEGINNINGS

By Mayor Gene Winstead

These are exciting times for Bloomington. The City is kicking off 2015 with a new city manager at its helm and a continued focus on the community. In December, I was proud to announce the hiring of Jamie Verbrugge as Bloomington's next leader. Jamie comes to Bloomington from Brooklyn Park, where he accomplished many great things during his six years as that city's manager. We know he will continue to do great things for Bloomington.

We have many exciting developments in the works for 2015 and beyond, including a new website, a revamped summer program for youth, improvements in the Minnesota River Valley, updated Alternative Transportation Plan, a needs assessment for a new community center and a plan to combat emerald ash borer. In addition, we recently learned the results of a street repair survey that will help us continue to improve our street maintenance and repair services while meeting the needs of the community.

As always, we continue to keep our focus on the future, carrying out the vision of the City's strategic plan, *Imagine Bloomington 2025*, that will be our guide for development, redevelopment, City services, infrastructure and fiscal sustainability for the next 10 years and beyond.



## IN THE NEWS

### STREET REPAIR RATINGS ON THE RISE ACCORDING TO SURVEY

Opinions about street repair and maintenance in Bloomington appear to be rebounding, according to a new poll of residents. Fifty-six percent of residents rated overall street repair and maintenance in the city as excellent or good. This compares to 36 percent in The National Citizen Survey of residents conducted in May 2014, 47 percent in 2013 and 56 percent in 2012.

The 2014 Street, Road and Highway Survey was developed as a follow-up to the 2014 National Citizen Survey for use in decision-making regarding maintenance of City streets. The National Research Center of Boulder, Colorado, randomly selected 3,000 Bloomington residents to participate in a mail survey between September and November 2014. A total of 1,113 households completed the survey.

The overall condition of neighborhood streets and major City-maintained streets received the highest ratings from residents, with slightly lower ratings for state freeways and county roads. About 70 percent of residents felt that the pavement conditions of neighborhood and major City streets were excellent or good. County roads and state freeways and highways received positive ratings from 65 percent of residents.

Seven in 10 residents felt that traffic volume on their neighborhood streets was excellent or good compared to 3 in 10 who gave positive ratings to traffic on state freeways and highways.

The survey also found that a majority of residents were willing to pay additional property taxes to improve the condition of Bloomington streets. Sixty-four percent of respondents stated that they were willing to pay additional property taxes for this purpose. Nineteen percent were willing to pay up to \$0.99 per month and 31 percent were willing to pay between \$1 and \$2.99 per month. About 14 percent of residents were willing to pay \$3 or more per month for street improvements.

For more information and the complete survey results, visit the City's website.

**WEBSITE KEYWORDS: STREET SURVEY.**

### NEW TANNING BED LAW

A new tanning bed law passed by the State of Minnesota last summer makes it illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to use tanning equipment. The law specifically prohibits people younger than 18 from using any tanning equipment that utilizes ultraviolet radiation to induce skin tanning. In addition, the law requires that tanning facilities prominently display signs stating that it is unlawful for a tanning facility or operator to allow a minor to use tanning equipment.

Minors are still permitted to use tanning equipment that does not use ultraviolet light, such as spray tanning. Tanning facilities should ensure that changes are made to their operations and procedures in order to comply with the new statewide regulations. It is important to remember that any significant remodeling of an existing facility or equipment may need a plan review or building permits. For more information, call Environmental Health at 952-563-8934.



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## CONTACT US

### CITY PHONE NUMBERS AND EMAIL ADDRESSES

Have a question or concern and don't know whom to contact? The following are the most frequently called and emailed City contacts.

**WEBSITE KEYWORD: DIRECTORY.**

**Police/Fire/Medical Emergency 911**  
If you cannot complete a call using 911, call 952-563-4900.

**Animal Shelter** 952-563-4942  
police@BloomingtonMN.gov

**Pet Licenses** 952-563-8728  
djunker@BloomingtonMN.gov

**Center for the Arts** 952-563-8889  
jmurphy@BloomingtonMN.gov

**Creekside Community Center**  
952-563-4944  
humanservices@BloomingtonMN.gov

**Dwan Golf Club** 952-563-8702  
rsitek@BloomingtonMN.gov

**Hyland Greens Golf Course** 952-563-8868

**Human Services referrals for housing, financial assistance, health insurance, food or transportation needs, legal** 952-563-8733  
humanservices@BloomingtonMN.gov

**Building, electrical, heating and plumbing inspections** 952-563-8930  
djohnson@BloomingtonMN.gov

**Fire inspections** 952-563-8933  
fireprevention@bloomingtonmn.gov

**Job Information Line** 952-563-8705

**Mayor/City Council** 952-563-8782  
council@BloomingtonMN.gov

**Motor Vehicle** 952-563-8719  
kgriffith@BloomingtonMN.gov

**Noise, weeds or problem properties** 952-563-8934  
envhealth@BloomingtonMN.gov

**Parks and Recreation** 952-563-8877  
parksrec@BloomingtonMN.gov

**Passports** 952-563-4923  
djunker@BloomingtonMN.gov

**Police non-emergency** 952-563-4900  
police@BloomingtonMN.gov

**Property Information** 952-563-8724  
assessing@BloomingtonMN.gov

**Public Health** 952-563-8900  
publichealth@BloomingtonMN.gov

**Recycling** 952-563-8760  
environment@hennepin.us

**Section 8 Housing** 952-563-8937  
hrawaitinglist@BloomingtonMN.gov

**Sewer and Water 24-Hour Emergency** 952-563-4905

**Voter Registration** 952-563-8729

**Snow/Emergency Line** 952-563-8768

**TTY (Text telephone)** 952-563-8740

**Volunteer opportunities** 952-563-8733  
humanservices@BloomingtonMN.gov

**Water and Sewer Utility Billing** 952-563-8726  
utilitybilling@BloomingtonMN.gov

**Water leaks** 952-563-8777

## PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR PARKS AND TRAILS

### ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

In early 2014, the City began updating the Alternative Transportation Plan, originally adopted in 2008. The draft Alternative Transportation Plan is currently available for review and public comment. Comments can be made online, via email at ATPcomments@BloomingtonMN.gov, or at an open house at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, on Thursday, February 12, 6:30–8 p.m.

**WEBSITE KEYWORD: ATP.**

### MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY MASTER PLAN

A master plan is being created for the Minnesota River Valley, including more than 1,000 acres owned and maintained by the City. The key goals of the plan are to enhance access, increase awareness of the area, and ensure that trails and water bodies are protected. A draft plan should be ready for public review by March. For more information, contact Parks and Recreation Manager Randy Quale at 952-563-8876 or email MNRVMPcomments@BloomingtonMN.gov.

**WEBSITE KEYWORDS: MN RIVER PLAN.**

## EMERALD ASH BORER FOUND IN BLOOMINGTON

Emerald ash borer, the iridescent green beetle that burrows under the bark of and kills ash trees, has been discovered in Bloomington near Columbus Playlot, 10030 Columbus Avenue South. The pest, already known to have infected ash trees in Saint Paul, Minneapolis and Shoreview, was discovered by a homeowner and confirmed by City tree inspectors. A subsequent tree survey by the City and Minnesota Department of Agriculture experts found more trees with suspected emerald ash borer in the surrounding neighborhood.

According to Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Dave Hanson, to reduce the pest's population and slow its spread, all of the ash trees in Columbus Playlot will be removed and replaced with a mix of native trees in the spring or fall.

"Removing trees during the winter when the insect is dormant is an important aspect of slowing the spread," he said.



Photo courtesy Jeffrey Hahn, University of Minnesota Extension

The City will also be using a biological control agent in the form of tiny wasps that are a natural enemy of the emerald ash borer. The wasps prey on emerald ash borer larvae and eggs and are not harmful to humans.

"Bloomington has decades of experience managing tree diseases like Dutch elm and oak wilt, and some of the same programs that have been successful in the past will be applied to control or at least slow down this new pest," Hanson said.

For more information, visit the City's website or contact Dave Hanson at 952-563-8760 or dhanson@BloomingtonMN.gov.

**WEBSITE KEYWORD: EAB.**

## QUALITY SERVICES, AFFORDABLE PRICE

After seven months of budget meetings, the City Council adopted a property tax levy increase of four percent to \$49,971,775. This means the monthly cost of tax-supported services for the owner of a \$206,900 median value home is

\$71.64 for 2015. Four out of the past five years this cost was \$67.82. The increase of \$3.82 from 2014 is the result of a shift in tax base value from commercial properties to residential properties. From 2013 to 2014, the median valued home increased

"According to the 2014 resident survey, maintaining City services is the most important thing for the City to address over the next five years. Bloomington's City services were ranked in the top 20 percent nationwide when compared to benchmarked cities with similar demographics."

from \$188,000 to \$206,900, a growth of 10 percent. Commercial values grew an average of one percent during this same timeframe. This differential increase in value results in residential properties paying more of the property tax levy.

In Minnesota, local governments set a total property tax dollar amount instead of a tax rate as is done in other states. This is based on state law, prorated to each property based on the property's value. With this property tax levy, the City's share of 2015 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. Prorated 2013

PRELIMINARY LEVY AND MEDIAN MONTHLY COST VS. CPI



home sales reflected the increase in value and are the basis for the 2014 assessment for taxes payable in 2015. Commercial and residential markets saw strong, balanced growth in 2014 that should work to mitigate shifting tax burdens for the 2015 assessment for taxes payable in 2016.

Since 1990, the City's annual base property tax levy increase has averaged 2.24 percent on existing properties—below the Urban National and Minneapolis Consumer Price Indexes (CPI). See graph above. The Bloomington levy impact also remained the lowest for the median value home for Hennepin County communities with populations over 20,000.

For more information, contact Lori Economy-Scholler at 952-563-8791 or leconomy@BloomingtonMN.gov.

**WEBSITE KEYWORDS: 2015 BUDGET.**



## CURBSIDE CLEANUP

The Citywide Curbside Cleanup begins again this April. Be sure you're prepared by setting your materials at the curb by 7 a.m. on your pick-up day.

Residents are encouraged to recycle, reuse, or donate materials before disposing of them. For more information, visit the City's website or call 952-563-8760.

### 2015 CITYWIDE CURBSIDE CLEANUP SCHEDULE:

- APRIL 11—EAST OF PORTLAND AVENUE
- APRIL 18—PENN AVENUE TO PORTLAND AVENUE
- APRIL 25—FRANCE AVENUE TO PENN AVENUE
- MAY 2—NORMANDEALE BOULEVARD TO FRANCE AVENUE
- MAY 9—WEST OF NORMANDEALE BOULEVARD

Seniors or residents with disabilities who need help moving items to the curb should contact Human Services at least two weeks prior to their scheduled pick-up date at 952-563-4944.

#### Curbside Cleanup changes

In 2014, the last year of the City's contract with the existing contractor, the Curbside Cleanup Program cost \$590,000. The cost for 2015, based on new contractor bids, is estimated to be \$900,000. The City will look for alternative ways to provide this service moving forward. The Curbside Cleanup is funded through solid waste utility fees collected as part of the monthly utility bill.



### A MORE EARTH-FRIENDLY RIDE

The Minneapolis Airport Marriott's vans that shuttle guests to and from the airport and Mall of America can travel nearly 200 miles a day, but the hotel's management isn't worried about fluctuating gas prices. That's because the vans, four in total, are powered by electricity.

According to General Manager Tod Oswald, the Minneapolis Airport Marriot, which is located at I-494 and TH 77, made the transition to electric vans last summer in an effort to reduce its carbon footprint while still meeting the transportation needs of guests.

"Hotel vehicles really need to be built to last," Oswald said. "These vans require very little maintenance and can run 90 to 120 miles on just one charge. Best of all, they are good for the environment. We really couldn't be happier with the decision to switch to electric-powered."

Oswald said he's received nothing but positive feedback from guests since the hotel began using the electric vans last July. The vans are charged right in front of the hotel.

"Our guests are usually surprised when they realize the van they're traveling in is electric," he said. "They don't look any different from other vans. I think the biggest difference is in the quiet ride. You don't hear any engine noise."

The electric vans are manufactured by Zenith Motors in Wilder, Kentucky.

The hotel's environmental initiatives don't stop with electric vans. The hotel has also increased its recycling efforts, installed advanced thermostat controls in all of its rooms and invested in motion-sensor lighting throughout the building.

# RECYCLING GUIDE



#### PAPER

- Mail, office and school papers
- Magazines and catalogs
- Newspapers and inserts
- Phone books
- Shredded paper in closed paper bags



#### BOXES

- Cardboard
- Cereal and cracker boxes
- Shoe boxes, gift boxes and electronics boxes
- Toothpaste, medication and other toiletry boxes



#### CARTONS

- Milk cartons
- Juice boxes
- Soup, broth and wine cartons



#### GLASS

- Food and beverage bottles and jars



#### PLASTIC

##### BOTTLES AND JUGS

- Water, soda and juice bottles
- Milk and juice jugs
- Ketchup and salad dressing bottles
- Shampoo, soap and lotion bottles
- Dishwashing liquid bottles and detergent jugs



##### CUPS AND CONTAINERS

- Yogurt, pudding and fruit cups
- Disposable cups and bowls
- Produce, deli and take-out containers
- Margarine, cottage cheese and other containers

##### PACKAGING

- Clear packaging from toys and electronics

#### METAL

- Food and beverage bottles and jars



**DON'T RECYCLE:** Styrofoam™, plastic wrap, microwavable food trays, paper soiled with food, paper plates and towels, drinking glasses, dishes, mirrors or containers that held hazardous products.





## MEET VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER KRIS KAUFFMAN

Volunteer Firefighter Kris Kauffman has been a Bloomington Fire Department volunteer for more than 10 years.

**Q.** What fire station do you call home?

**A.** I work out of Station 1.

**Q.** What is your day job?

**A.** I am a full-time firefighter and paramedic for the City of Saint Paul.

**Q.** What do you enjoy most about being a firefighter?

**A.** Being able to help make a difference on someone's worst day and honoring the trust that they put into you, even though you've never met.

**Q.** What do you do for fun when you're not working?

**A.** I always try to make sure I put my family first, which in this business can get hard sometimes. I enjoy spending time with my family, wherever we are, and watching them grow and learn.

**Q.** What's your most memorable moment as a Bloomington firefighter?

**A.** My most memorable experience is of a multistory hotel that caught fire during construction. I was still quite new on the job. I remember riding in the back of the ladder truck and being able to see the flames from the window as we approached I-494 at Prairie Center Drive. I could also feel the heat through my window. I remember thinking that it was going to be a long night.

## LOOK WHEN YOU COOK

Cooking fires remain the number one cause of home fires and injuries. In 2013, there were six deaths and 51 injuries related to cooking fires in Minnesota. The total loss from those cooking fires was close to six million dollars. Unattended cooking was a key factor in nearly 30 percent of reported home cooking fires in Minnesota.

To keep your family safe, follow these tips from Bloomington Fire Prevention:

- Always stay in the kitchen while you are cooking.
- Turn off the stove, even if you leave the kitchen for a short period of time.
- If you are simmering, baking, roasting or boiling food, check it regularly.
- Use a timer to remind yourself that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire away from your stove, including oven mitts, wooden utensils and dish towels.
- Have a three-foot, kid-free zone around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is being prepared.
- Never throw water on a grease fire. Cover the pot or pan with a lid to extinguish the fire and turn off the stovetop.



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Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.

- For oven fires, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.
- For microwave fires, leave the door closed, turn off the oven and unplug it.
- If the fire does not go out, get outside and call 911.

For more information, contact Bloomington Fire Prevention at 952-563-8965.

## PLANNING A HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECT?

The Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority is accepting applications for its deferred Home Improvement Loan Program. These loans have no monthly payments, carry a four percent interest rate for the first 10 years and are payable upon sale of the property. Eligible improvements include window and door replacement, siding, and electrical, plumbing and heating work.

For a complete list of eligible improvements and income guidelines, visit the City's website or call 952-563-8937.

**WEBSITE KEYWORDS: HOME LOANS.**

| Maximum Home Improvement Loan income limits |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Number of Persons                           | Gross Household Annual Income* |
| 1   | \$44,750                       |
| 2   | \$51,150                       |
| 3   | \$57,550                       |
| 4   | \$63,900                       |
| 5   | \$69,050                       |
| 6   | \$74,150                       |
| 7   | \$79,250                       |
| 8   | \$84,350                       |

\*Gross income limits subject to change.



**EQUAL LENDING OPPORTUNITIES:** The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of disability.



## ASK A PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

Bloomington Public Health Nurse Karen Stanley recently answered a resident's question about why she should get a flu vaccination.

**Q:** I've heard that the current flu vaccination doesn't protect against a variant strain of the flu virus called H3N2. If this is the case, why should I bother getting vaccinated?

**A.** While the current flu vaccination may be less effective against this new strain of flu virus, it will still offer you protection against other flu virus strains. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that everyone over the age of six months be vaccinated as it is the best protection against the flu.

For more information, contact Bloomington Public Health at 952-563-8900.

**WEBSITE KEYWORD: FLU.**



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## CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

If you are planning to plant a tree, install a fence or do any other digging in your yard, make sure it doesn't turn into an electrifying experience. State law requires you to call Gopher State One Call (GSOC) before beginning projects that require digging on your property.

When you contact GSOC, a representative will visit your home to locate all underground utilities and spray-paint each utility so you can avoid them. Before you dig, call GSOC at 651-454-0002.

## MAPPING CRIME

Are you curious about crime trends in your area? Visit the City's website to view a public crime map. Crime mapping helps you get a better idea of crime activity in your area so you can make more informed decisions about how to stay safe. You can even sign up to receive crime alert emails from RAIDS Online.

For more information, visit the City's website.

**WEBSITE KEYWORDS: CRIME MAP.**





## 2015 SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

Registrations are now being accepted for spring/summer adult softball leagues. Leagues play at Dred Scott Playfield, 10820 Bloomington Ferry Road and Valley View Playfield, 9000 Portland Avenue South. New this year: all leagues will be provided with softballs for games. Teams will receive their softballs at the start of the season.

### SAVE THESE DATES

**Through February 20:** Returning team registration period.

**March 2:** New team registration period opens.

**April 3:** Deadline to withdraw from league and receive refund, less the \$50 service fee.

**April 13–16:** Managers' meetings will be held. Times and locations of games will be announced after the registration period closes.

**April 24:** 2015 softball season begins.



## 2015 TEAM REGISTRATION FEES RESIDENT LEAGUE FEES

Double Header Leagues:

\$800 + tax = \$858.20

Single Game Leagues:

\$555 + tax = \$595.38

## NON-RESIDENT LEAGUE FEES

Double Header Leagues:

\$825 + tax = \$885.02

Single Game Leagues:

\$580 + tax = \$622.22



## START PLANNING FOR WARMER WEATHER... BLOOMINGTON SUMMER EXPERIENCE

This summer, the City of Bloomington will unveil a new lineup of youth programs with more activities and locations to choose from and more affordable pricing.

The Bloomington Summer Experience will combine the best Parks and Recreation, Bloomington Public Schools and Bloomington Theatre and Arts Center youth programs into one awesome catalog of endless options for summer fun. The Bloomington Summer Experience is designed to meet the needs of all program participants and make it easier than ever to find the perfect summer activities.

Registration kicks off Tuesday, March 17. Look for program catalogs on the City's website and in your mailbox early March.

For more information, call the Parks and Recreation Division at 952-563-8877 or visit the City's website.

**WEBSITE KEYWORDS: SUMMER EXPERIENCE.**

## SPEND SOME TIME POOLSIDE

Bloomington Family Aquatic Center (BFAC) resident season passes will be available beginning March 16. Get your pass before April 17 to receive \$2 off, or prior to June 5 to receive \$1 off. Passes are sold at the Parks and Recreation counter at Bloomington Civic Plaza through June 5. Beginning on June 3, passes will be available daily, 4–7 p.m., at BFAC, 201 East 90th Street. BFAC is open June 6–August 23 and the two weekends before Labor Day.

## BORN AGAIN JOCKS VOLLEYBALL

The Born Again Jocks volleyball league welcomes men 55 years and older of all skill levels. Games are held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m., at Kennedy High School, 9701 Nicollet Avenue. For more information, call Don Wilkie at 952-884-2146 or Don Wagner at 952-831-4460.

## GROW SOME GREEN

### ANNUAL TREE SALE ADDS HUNDREDS OF TREES TO LANDSCAPE

Each year the City plants trees in parks and other public areas to ensure that Bloomington's urban forest continues to grow. The City has planted more than 1,000 trees over the last few years. To increase the number of trees on private properties, Park Maintenance holds an annual public tree sale. Based on last year's sales, 300 trees will be available for purchase this spring.

### TREE ORDER FORM

Bloomington residents only. All trees are bare-root, one-and-a-quarter to one-and-a-half inches in diameter and cost \$50 each. *Trees are not guaranteed.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

*Fill in number of each tree type desired. Maximum 5 trees total per household, \$50 each. Check must accompany order.*

Autumn Blaze red maple   
  American Sentry linden   
  Hackberry   
  Imperial honeylocust  
 Northwood red maple   
  Prairie Fire crab apple   
  River birch   
  Snowdrift crab apple

Total trees  X \$50 ea. = \$  Total cost

Pick up trees at 1800 West Old Shakopee Road on **Saturday, May 3, 9–11 a.m.**

Send check and form to City of Bloomington, Park Maintenance,  
1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027.



## ANNUAL EGG HUNT

Don't miss this annual family event for kids ages eight and younger, sponsored by Bloomington Parks and Recreation and the Bloomington Optimist Club. While you're there, check out fun family activities, information booths and musical entertainment.

**When:** Saturday, April 4, 10–11 a.m. Hunt begins at 11 a.m.

**Where:** Normandale Lake Bandshell, 5901 West 84th Street.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Are you 13 years old or older and looking for something fun to do this summer? Look no further than Bloomington Parks and Recreation. There are plenty of leadership positions available in youth programs and adaptive softball. The application deadline is February 27.

**WEBSITE KEYWORDS: PARKS VOLUNTEER.**

## JOIN A SPRING BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Join the 3-on-3 basketball league! Games will be self-officiated and played half-court with scorekeepers provided. The 3-on-3 basketball league is offered in cooperation with the cities of Richfield, Edina and St. Louis Park. Games will be played at Richfield Middle School, 7461 Oliver Avenue South in Richfield, Wednesdays, April 1–May 6. The cost is \$120 per team. Registration deadline is March 18.





## BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY

This photo of the northwest corner of East Old Shakopee Road and Old Cedar Avenue was taken sometime in the early 1960s. Cedar Liquor is still open for business.



### DONATE VEGETABLES FROM YOUR GARDEN

Are you a backyard gardener who has such a bright green thumb that you find yourself giving away excess produce to friends and neighbors? If that's the case, the Garden Gleaning Project would like to hear from you.

The Project seeks extra garden produce for VEAP's food shelf in Bloomington. Funding was made possible in part through a mini-grant awarded by Bloomington Public Health with Statewide Health Improvement Program funds.

For more information on donating your garden produce to VEAP as well as other Hennepin County food shelves, visit [www.gardengleaning.org](http://www.gardengleaning.org), email Jared at [gardengleaning@gmail.com](mailto:gardengleaning@gmail.com) or call 651-789-3321.

### PLANT A RAINGARDEN

Metro Blooms will be hosting a raingarden workshop on February 14, 8:30 a.m.–noon, at Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, 2200 West Old Shakopee Road. Participants will learn about watershed management, stormwater runoff and raingarden basics including design, installation and maintenance using native plants. In the second half of the session participants will receive hands-on assistance in planning a raingarden project. Participants will also learn how they can receive a grant to install a raingarden or other stormwater management system through a cost-sharing program offered by Bloomington's watershed districts.

The Cost Share Incentive and Water Quality Restoration Program will award \$20,000 to private or public water projects. The deadline to apply is May 15.



The workshop is sponsored by the City of Bloomington, Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization, 9-Mile Creek Watershed District and Oak Grove Presbyterian Church. The cost of the workshop is \$15.

**WEBSITE KEYWORDS: RAINGARDEN WORKSHOP.**



*Bigstock.com*

### FREE TAX PREPARATION SERVICES

Human Services will partner with AARP Tax Aide and Prepare + Prosper, formerly AccountAbility Minnesota, to provide free taxpayer assistance to income-qualifying individuals. Services are offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Taxpayers with complex returns are advised to seek paid tax assistance.

#### Prepare + Prosper

- Income-qualifying guidelines: \$30,000 or less for individuals and \$53,000 or less for families.
- Tuesdays and Thursdays through April 14, 5:15–10 p.m., Saturdays through April 11, 8:15 a.m.–1 p.m. and Wednesday, April 15, 5:15–10 p.m.

#### AARP Tax-Aide

- AARP Tax-Aide serves low-to-moderate income taxpayers.
- Mondays and Tuesdays through April 14, 9 a.m.–noon.

For more information, call 952-563-4944 or 952-563-4933 TTY.

### WE NEED TO TALK

This AARP seminar, offered February 21, 1–2:30 p.m. and March 21, 9–10:30 a.m., helps families determine when it's time for their loved ones to hang up the car keys. The seminar is free and offers practical tips and advice on observing driving skills and planning the conversation. To reserve your spot, call 952-563-4944 or email [reservations@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:reservations@BloomingtonMN.gov).

## HUMAN SERVICES

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS JOIN EVOLVE

Human Services and the Vital Aging Network are accepting applications for the Evolve program that provides individuals age 50 and older with a unique opportunity to make a difference in their community. Evolve meets on the first Wednesday of each month from April to November at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. The cost of the course is \$750. Discounted rates may be available for residents. To receive an application, call 952-563-8733. Applications are due Monday, February 23.

**WEBSITE KEYWORD: EVOLVE.**

### OLD-TIME MOVIES

Travel back in time with the 16mm classic films "Man from Music Mountain," "Don Winslow of the Navy," "Jesse James Rides Again" and others at Creekside Community Center. Showtimes are February 23 and March 16 at 12:45 p.m. Free to attend.

### STAY CONNECTED

Human Services is partnering with Life Wireless to provide eligible individuals with a free cell phone without a contract or activation fee. Distribution of phones will take place at Creekside Community Center on Wednesday, February 18, 9 a.m.–2 p.m., Saturday, March 7, 9 a.m.–1 p.m. and Wednesday, March 18, 9 a.m.–2 p.m. For more information, call 952-563-4944.

**WEBSITE KEYWORDS: CELL PHONE.**



# BLOOMINGTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS

## 2015 PERFORMANCE SERIES

The Bloomington Center for the Arts Performance Series includes awe-inspiring theater, band, chorale and jazz concerts. Performances are held in the Schneider or Black Box theaters, located in the Bloomington Center for the Arts at the corner of 98th Street and West Old Shakopee Road.



### CHECK OUT THIS AMAZING LINEUP OF SHOWS

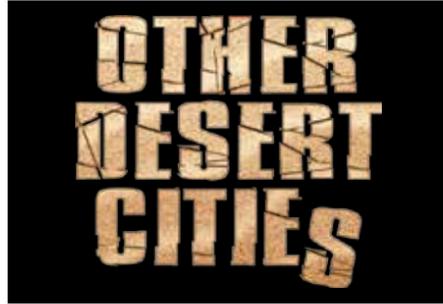


#### Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs Rita Docter Scholarship Benefit Concert

The Angelica Cantanti singers and alumni perform to support the scholarship fund in honor of longtime director Rita Docter. Dessert reception included.

**Sunday, February 22, 3 p.m.**

**Adults \$25, Seniors \$25, 25 and under \$25**



#### Bloomington Civic Theatre Other Desert Cities

The story of a daughter who announces to her family she intends to publish a memoir dredging up a tragic event and a wound they don't want reopened.

**February 27–March 22**

**Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 p.m.**

**Sundays, 2 p.m.**

**Adults \$24, Seniors \$22, 25 and under \$19**

**Black Box Theater**

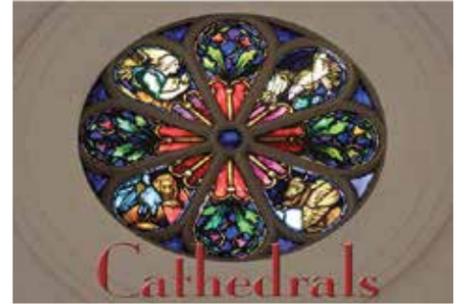


#### Fogel and Eckes What the World Needs Now

Back by popular demand: the songs of Burt Bacharach and Hal David, as performed by popular jazz club performer Arne Fogel and cabaret singer Jennifer Eckes.

**Saturday, February 28, 7:30 p.m.**

**Adults \$26, Seniors \$23, 25 and under \$19**



#### Medalist Concert Band Cathedrals

A beautiful musical celebration of churches and cathedrals, where we experience many of life's joys and sorrows.

**Sunday, March 1, 4 p.m.**

**Adults \$15, Seniors and Students \$12**



#### Continental Ballet Company Swan Lake

The Continental Ballet Company performs one of the most famous ballets in the classical repertoire, Swan Lake.

**March 21–March 29**

**Saturdays, 7:30 p.m., Sundays, 3 p.m.**

**Adults \$25, Seniors and Students \$19, 13 and under \$13. For tickets call 952-563-8562.**



#### The Nature of Things: The Seasons

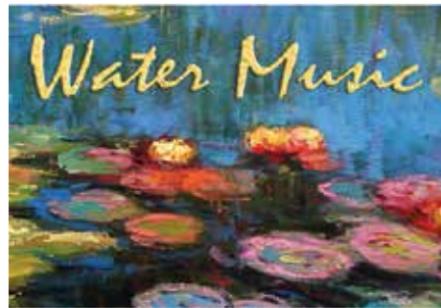
The Bloomington Chorale performs Hayden's *The Seasons* followed by the hits of Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby, Rosemary Clooney and other artists of the era.

**Friday, April 10, 7:30 p.m.**

**Saturday, April 11, 4 p.m.**

**Adults \$15, Seniors \$11, 15 and under \$11**

**(Add \$1 to ticket price at the door)**



#### Medalist Concert Band Water Music

The Medalist Concert Band offers a vivid portrayal of the many moods of water, plus enjoy the Earl C. Benson Concerto Competition winner.

**Sunday, April 12, 4 p.m.**

**Adults \$15, Seniors and Students \$12**



#### Bloomington Civic Theatre God of Carnage

This Tony Award-winning comedy strikes at the heart of bourgeois civility, revealing the savagery beneath high society's polished facade.

**May 21–June 14**

**Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays 7:30 p.m.**

**Sundays, 2 p.m.**

**Adults \$24, Seniors \$22, 25 and under \$19**

**Black Box Theater**



#### Barbary Coast Dixieland Show Band

Together since 1967, Bloomington's own Barbary Coast takes their authentic Dixieland jazz around the world and brings it back home again! You won't want to miss this fabulous performance.

**Friday, May 29, 7:30 p.m.**

**Adults \$29, Seniors \$26, 25 and under \$22**



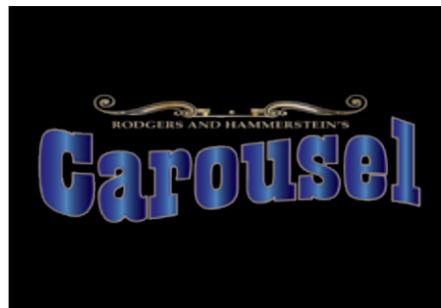
#### NOTE-able Singers Night and Day

The NOTE-able Singers perform songs from a wide range of eras and styles, including Cole Porter's "Night and Day" and the Beatles' "Good Day Sunshine."

**Saturday, May 30, 7:30 p.m.**

**Sunday, May 31, 2 p.m.**

**Adults \$15, Seniors \$12, 5 and under free**

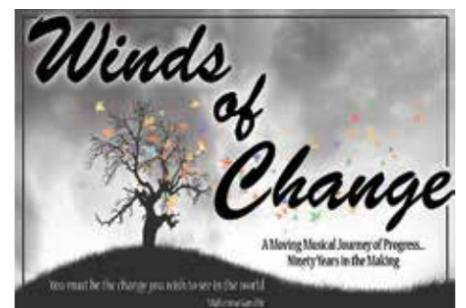


#### Bloomington Civic Theatre Carousel

Carousel has captivated audiences around the world with songs including "You'll Never Walk Alone" and "If I Loved You." Don't miss this multiple Tony Award-winning show.

**April 24–May 17**

**Adults \$34, Seniors \$31, 25 and under \$27**



#### Alive & Kickin Winds of Change

Alive & Kickin performs a captivating blend of stories set to music. Created and lead by Ivey Award-winning Artistic Director Michael Matthew Ferrell and Co-creator/Musical Director Jason Hansen.

**June 5–June 14**

**Adults \$29, Seniors and Students \$26**

### BOX OFFICE

Order tickets by phone: Call 952-563-8575 • Online: Go to [www.centerstageticketing.com/sites/bloomington](http://www.centerstageticketing.com/sites/bloomington)

In person: Office hours vary. Call 952-563-8575 for current hours.

Programs, artists and prices subject to change. Orders received less than 7 days prior to the performance will be held for pick up at the box office.

All ticket sales are final. No refunds or exchanges.