

BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



FEBRUARY 2019

PAGE 2

PAGE 3

PAGE 5

PAGE 6



ANGELICA CANTANTI YOUTH CHOIR PERFORMS

The Angelica Cantanti Youth Choir brings scales of good notes to Bloomington. Since 1980, thousands of choir singers and concertgoers have experienced the joy of music through the group's performances.

Today, Angelica Cantanti has five ensembles with members in grades 2 – 12 and an adult choir called Encore. The choirs gather 330 voices in a welcoming atmosphere.

Rehearsals are held at the Bloomington Center for the Arts in Civic Plaza at 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

"Music is the universal language. Our singers gain confidence and self-esteem. They learn a lifelong skill and make new friends," Executive Director Audrey Riddle said.

For more information on Angelica Cantanti's upcoming concerts, see page 8.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT PENN AMERICAN?

The Penn American District is getting a stormwater storage update to improve the area prone to flooding. The \$12 million project is slated to reduce the size, frequency and duration of surface flooding events. The work began last summer.

"It is a flood reduction project designed to protect adjacent properties, improve public safety and improve water quality," Senior Water Resources Manager Bryan Gruidl said.

The area around Knox Avenue and American Boulevard was formerly a lake. Over time, the lake area was filled in as the road system developed. In 1958, a storm sewer system was constructed in the area to pipe the water away. However, the

area continues to be a regional low point. With the addition of the new METRO Orange bus rapid transit line and other developments, the aim is to reduce flooding significantly, something the City has been looking into for 12 – 15 years.

To facilitate reconstruction, Knox Avenue South (between West 81st Street and West 82nd Street) was closed for around 11 weeks during the fall. Some road closures are anticipated at Morgan Circle this spring.

The project is expected to be complete by the end of June 2019 and the area will be restored to its original condition as green space. Sign up for project update emails at blm.mn/PAWater or call 952-563-4870.

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MAYOR’S MEMO

THE PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM: IT’S GOOD FOR YOU AND THE CITY

By Mayor Gene Winstead

Streets are a big part of what the City does and the Pavement Management Program (PMP) paves the way. The City is committed to providing a cost-effective street maintenance program that ensures more than 340 miles of streets are safe and functional. Meeting the needs of our residents and the traveling public is a priority. As Mayor, I work with the Council to learn the best procedures and put them in place using PMP.

For more than 25 years, the PMP has supported street maintenance tasks such as street sweeping, snow removal, crack sealing and seal coating, plus other seasonal services. More extensive road projects are also covered by PMP.

The process begins with regularly scheduled field inspections of each street, completed on a three-year cycle. The inspection results rate the condition of roads with a Pavement Condition Index (PCI) number between zero and 100. Potholes, cracks and other pavement defects are considered. The PCI value is used to determine what street projects are most needed and economical. Usually, projects involve one of three maintenance techniques:

- Sealcoat: Application of asphalt topped by compacted rock.
- Mill and overlay: Surface grinding followed by paving new asphalt.

- Reconstruction: Removal and replacement of an existing road section and constructing curbs in areas that did not have them previously.

City staff also uses the PCI value to determine when to move forward with projects. While many other factors weigh in, some of the most common considerations include:

- County or City construction projects on adjacent roadways.
- The effectiveness and overall conditions of drainage, water and sewer systems.
- Condition of the base under the road.
- Available State and City funding.
- Opportunities to eliminate hazardous situations and provide safety improvements.
- Alignment with major redevelopment projects in the city.

A five- to 10-year outlook prioritizes PMP projects currently. During a typical year, PMP projects involve:

- 4 – 5 miles of reconstructions.
- 7 – 9 miles of mill and overlays.
- 25 – 30 miles of seal coat treatments.

To learn more about PMP, visit blm.mn/pmp or call 952-563-4870.

DESTINATION JAPAN: A SISTER CITY TRIP

Japan is far from an everyday destination, but four representatives recently visited Izumi, Bloomington’s sister city to the east. The trip commemorated the 25th anniversary of a distinctive relationship that bridges the 6,000 mile divide.

Councilmember Dwayne Lowman and his wife Kellie, Bloomington Public Health Administrator Bonnie Paulsen and City of Bloomington Auditor Vijayashree Srilalan made the trip. Airfare was paid by each participant. Remaining expenses were donated by hosts and partnering businesses.

With a full itinerary, five days went by fast, but hospitality was in abundance. Ever-obliging hosts ensured all went well for their guests. Along the way, interpreters explained cultural nuances broadening the meaning of the trip.

The delegation met with Izumi City officials, attended banquets and visited cultural institutions. On their first day, the group climbed more than 100 steps to the Matsuo-ji Temple.

“The trip was an amazing cultural immersion. The way that our hosts brought us to places of nature, school classrooms and tree-lined residential streets, not just the main tourist places—all this is Japan,” Paulsen said.

The Sister Cities program emerged out of the Cold War era as a way to promote friendship, understanding and economic relationships. “Japan was looking to start an exchange of people and gain a better understanding about culture,” Vijayashree said. “Representatives from both cities talked and found similarities.”

Maybe there is less distance than the map would lead us to believe.



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.



ORANGE LINE NOW FULLY FUNDED

The Orange Line, a 17-mile bus rapid transit line along the I-35W corridor that will connect Minneapolis, Richfield, Bloomington and Burnsville, is ready to move forward. The Federal Transit Administration authorized full funding for its portion of the Metropolitan Council and Metro Transit project in December.

“This is a really significant line that currently carries 14,000 riders daily using just express service,” said City Traffic Engineer Kirk Roberts. “That’s expected to grow in the future and that’s key for ridership.”



Bus rapid transit is a faster, more efficient bus line thanks to limited stops and required payment before boarding. Construction for the streamlined service will begin in the summer of 2019 and finish up in 2021. The most significant part of the project includes building a tunnel under I-494. Traffic is not expected to be interrupted.

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 City doing to attract more small businesses, breweries, etc.?

A: While the private market makes decisions on whether to open a business, the City plays a role by making sure City Code is in place to allow desired uses and reduce burdens for businesses to open.

The City recently amended the City Code to allow new development applications to be approved quicker and with fewer meetings. For example, the City is drafting Code amendments for consideration to make restaurants permitted uses rather than conditional uses. The City is also looking at Code amendments and potential City Charter changes to allow breweries, distilleries, taprooms and cocktail rooms.



COUNCIL APPROVES 2019 TAX LEVY

The City Council adopted a property tax levy of \$61,756,432, an increase of 5.75 percent, in December. This means the monthly cost of tax-supported services for the owner of a \$256,900 median-valued home is \$80.99 for 2019, an increase from the 2018 amount of \$78.26.

The increase in monthly cost from 2018 is driven in part by health insurance costs, mandated PERA contributions for police and fire employees and MNLARS impact on Motor Vehicle licensing—all factors outside the City’s control. From 2017 to 2018, the median-valued home increased from \$246,400 to 256,900, a growth of 4.3 percent.

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 2018 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 2017 home sales reflected the increase in value and are the basis for the 2018 assessment for taxes payable in 2019.

Since 1999, the City’s annual base property tax levy increase has averaged 3.84 percent on existing properties. The Bloomington levy impact is lower than 10 of 11 peer communities for median-value homes in Hennepin County.

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



A NEW PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR

The City’s next Parks and Recreation Director, Ann Kattreh, comes to Bloomington from the city of Edina, where she led the parks and recreation department since 2012. She was with Edina for 26 years, beginning as a special events coordinator in 1992.

“Ann has a tremendous track record of accomplishment in Edina,” City Manager Jamie Verbrugge said. “And, perhaps more importantly, she has a well-earned reputation for her team-oriented leadership style.”

Kattreh earned a master’s degree in parks, recreation and leisure facilities management from the University of Minnesota and a bachelor’s degree in parks, recreation and leisure studies from Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

She will be the first to direct Bloomington’s newly reorganized Parks and Recreation Department that now includes enterprise operations, such as golf courses and the community center. She started January 14.



UPDATE YOUR HOME

Do you have a leaky roof or an outdated electrical system? HRA Home Rehabilitation loans could help you get the work done.

Loans of up to \$35,000 are available to income-qualified Bloomington homeowners who want to repair their homes to meet health or safety requirements such as code repairs for electrical, heating and plumbing; lead paint stabilization; energy efficiency improvements and exterior improvements. There are no monthly payments. The loan will accrue interest at an annual rate of two percent for a period of 10 years. Homeowners will not need to repay the loan until they sell or transfer title, or the property is no longer their principal place of residence.

Homes built before 1978 will be required to have a Lead Risk Assessment. For an application, visit blm.mn/loans or call 952-563-8937.



DONATE AND RECYCLE BEFORE THE CURB

While you are getting ready for Curbside Cleanup, consider donating or recycling your gently used clothing, furniture and household items. If the item were something you would give to your friend or neighbor, donate it. Doing so will divert usable and repairable items from the waste stream. Here are some places to donate locally.

Donate

- Arc’s Value Village: visit blm.mn/arcs or call 952-818-8708.
- Bridging: visit blm.mn/bridging or call 952-888-1105.
- Choose to Reuse: visit blm.mn/hcreuse.
- Twin Cities Free Market: visit blm.mn/tcfm.

Recycle

- Hennepin County Drop-off for Textiles: visit blm.mn/hctex.
- Second Chance Recycling: visit blm.mn/secondchance.

For a full list of organizations where you can donate or recycle your items, visit blm.mn/donate.



A LITTLE SALT GOES A LONG WAY

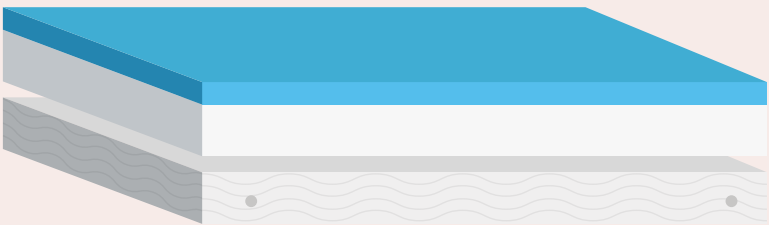
Even during the final weeks of winter, it’s important to think about salt use. A dash of salt has a lasting impact on the environment. One teaspoon of salt permanently pollutes five gallons of water. Chlorides from road salt make their way into spaces that harm plants, wildlife and fish.

“Once salt is in the water, it’s not coming out,” Senior Water Resources Manager Bryan Gruidl said.

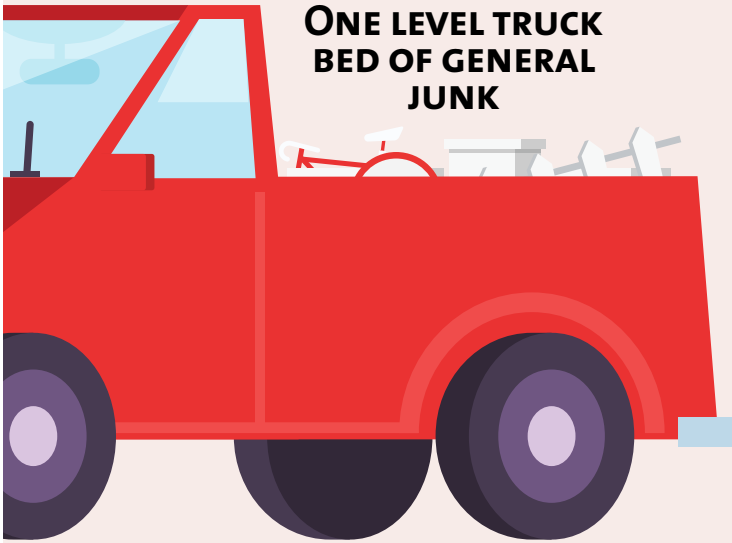
The City is committed to reducing salt use through anti-icing technology (pretreating roads for weather events) and reducing application. Bloomington residents and businesses can help by using a light touch when applying salt (or better yet, by using sand) and sweeping up extra salt when possible. For information, visit blm.mn/nosalt or call 952-563-4870.

2019 CURBSIDE PILE ITEM LIMITS

TWO MATTRESSES OR BOX SPRINGS



ONE LEVEL TRUCK BED OF GENERAL JUNK



TWO PIECES OF FURNITURE



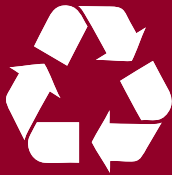
CURBSIDE CLEANUP COMING SOON

Curbside Cleanup continues to be a convenient program at a bargain with an annual cost of \$48.24 to residents. That costs less than dropping off items at a transfer station yourself. For example, the Cleanup costs less than disposing of one mattress with the bulk pickup program at \$51. Eligible residents will see “Citywide Curbside Cleanup” on their utility bills. Prepare for your Cleanup day by setting your materials at the curb before 7 a.m. on your scheduled pickup day. Items must be boxed or bundled with twine. No plastic bags will be accepted. Trucks pass through only once. Seniors or residents with disabilities who need help moving things to the curb can contact Community Outreach at least two weeks prior to their scheduled pickup date at 952-563-8733. Limited assistance available. To receive email reminders, visit blm.mn/esubscribe. Questions? Call 952-563-8760.

To keep program costs low, quantity limits on acceptable items will be enforced, *above*. Any items exceeding the limits identified above will be left on the curb and residents will be responsible for disposing of them. In this case, residents can call Utility Billing at 952-563-8726 to see if they can schedule a bulky materials pickup for an extra fee. To report illegal dumping or junk collectors making a mess, call 911.

2019 CLEANUP SCHEDULE		
West of Normandale	→	April 6
Normandale to France	→	April 13
France to Penn	→	April 20
Penn to Portland	→	April 27
East of Portland	→	May 4

RECYCLING GUIDE



PAPER

- Mail, office and school papers
- Magazines and catalogs
- Newspapers and inserts
- Phone books
- Shredded paper in closed and labeled 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 takeout 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, microwaveable food trays, paper soiled with food, paper plates and towels, drinking glasses, dishes, mirrors or containers that held hazardous products.



BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY

CHADWICK CHILDREN DOG-SLEDDING IN OLD BLOOMINGTON STYLE

Farm dog Brownie shows the power of the paw, pulling not one but two sleds with Elizabeth and Harrison Chadwick happily riding on board. This trio proves how enjoyable winter can be with a little creativity and a lot of outdoor wear layering. Winters were cold and snowy in the 1930s, too.

Photo courtesy of the Chadwick family.



TAKING ESL CLASSES AT CREEKSIDE

They come for conversation, confidence and camaraderie, but most of all for the chance to improve their language skills. People from countries as diverse as China, Vietnam, Mexico and Russia share the same goal—learning English.

Creekside Community Center offers an English as a second language (ESL) class and anyone is welcome to attend. Small-group tutoring in a relaxed, informal setting builds basic conversation, writing and daily life skills.

“We have ESL students who come here, learn and get jobs to support their families,” Volunteer Mary Nessel said. “You don’t need to know another language to teach ESL, just have a caring heart. We care about our students and they are appreciative.”

English language learners are invited to practice and improve their language skills Mondays, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., at Creekside, 9801 Penn Avenue South. For information, visit blm.mn/esl, call 952-563-4944 or email communitycenter@BloomingtonMN.gov. This program is free and does not provide English proficiency testing.



CREEKSIDE’S ESL PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

- 25** ESL students in 2018.
- 20+** Years ESL has been a program at Creekside.
- 18** Students who were from Bloomington last year.
- 10** Students who attend the weekly ESL class on average.

FREE TAX PREP HELP AT CREEKSIDE

Does doing your taxes seem a little too taxing to take on alone? AARP Tax-Aide and Prepare + Prosper provide free tax assistance at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South.

AARP Tax-Aide provides free tax prep services to taxpayers with low to middle incomes on a first-come, first-served basis. Assistance is available Mondays and Tuesdays, February 4 – April 15, starting at 9 a.m. Taxpayers with 1099 forms and other complex tax return requirements are advised to seek paid tax services.

Prepare + Prosper provides free tax prep and financial services for individuals with annual incomes of \$35,000 or less and families with annual incomes of \$55,000 or less. Appointments are required with times available on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings, January 29 – April 13. To schedule an appointment, visit prepareandprosper.org or call 651-287-0187.

For specific tax-related questions and concerns, contact representatives for AARP Tax Aide at 952-858-9040 and Prepare + Prosper at 651-287-0187. Tax forms and instruction books can be obtained through IRS.gov and revenue.state.mn.us.

BE A GREATER HOCKEY OR ICE SKATER

Have you dreamed of skating like a champion? You’re never too young or too old to lace up skates, hit the ice and learn some really cool moves. Bloomington Ice Garden (BIG) Skate School is a year-round skating program registered with Learn to Skate USA, which is endorsed by USA Hockey, US Figure Skating and US Speedskating. Experience the joy of skating whether you are three or 83 years young in classes for all skating abilities.

“Skating is a good, healthy sport that promotes balance, coordination, relaxation and socializing,” Skate School Coordinator Rene Gelecinskyj said.

For more information or to enroll, visit blm.mn/skateschool, call 952-563-8841 or email rgelecinskyj@BloomingtonMN.gov.



OPEN SKATE FOR FUN

The ice is calling for you in a BIG way. Men’s open hockey costs \$6 and runs Mondays and Wednesdays, 6 – 8 a.m. Admission for goalies is free. Open ice skating takes place Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 – 10:30

a.m., Mondays, 7:15 – 8:15 p.m., Fridays, 6:15 – 7:15 p.m., and Sundays, 2 – 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$4 for adults and \$3 for children 17 or younger. To learn more, visit blm.mn/big or call 952-563-8841. Schedules are subject to change.



GET IN A GOLF LEAGUE OR GROUP

Ready to hit the greens to play some golf this spring? Get your game going among friends. Join a golf league at Hyland Greens Golf and Learning Center or Dwan Golf Club.

A number of golf leagues and groups call these City courses home. Most meet weekly and play nine holes but Dwan offers some 18-hole leagues. Find the group you are looking for whether you are a serious competitive player or you seek a lighter game of fun and friendship. Tee times vary, but now is the time sign up for leagues, which start in late spring. For membership details, visit blm.mn/hylandleague for Hyland or blm.mn/dwanleague for Dwan or email golf@BloomingtonMN.gov.



MAKE A CLAY DATE THIS VALENTINE’S DAY

What’s better than a box of chocolates for Valentine’s Day—and calorie free? Get a group together and learn pottery basics with an Artistry clay instructor this February. Be creative and enjoy the perfect double or triple date. Each participant works on the potter’s wheel to throw two pieces of stoneware and finishes then with glazing or other decorative touches. Clay dates run for two hours and accommodate groups of 4 – 12 people. See artistrymn.org for pricing details and booking information.



SIGN UP FOR SOFTBALL

Registration is open for spring and summer adult softball leagues online at blm.mn/sports. Leagues play at Dred Scott Playfield, 10820 Bloomington Ferry Road and Valley View Playfield, 501 East 90th Street West. Teams in all leagues will be provided with softballs at the start of the season.

The managers’ meeting will be an online video available for viewing on the City’s website.

SAVE THESE DATES

- Through February 15: Returning team registration period.
- February 25: New team registration opens.
- March 29: Deadline to withdraw from league and receive refund, less a \$50 service fee.
- April 19: Softball season begins.

2019 TEAM REGISTRATION FEES

RESIDENT LEAGUE FEES

- Doubleheader Leagues: \$860
- Single Game Leagues: \$565

NONRESIDENT LEAGUE FEES

- Doubleheader Leagues: \$885
- Single Game Leagues: \$590



BLOOMINGTON BOOKFEST

Bloomington Bookfest celebrates the joy of reading for all ages, but the fun starts with kids. Explore literacy in a welcoming setting. All families can participate. Receive a literacy passport to fill with stamps from reading-themed rooms. Take photos with Clifford, Big Bird, Elmo and more along the way.

Attend education sessions designed to promote parent-child interaction. Local children’s book author Nancy Carlson will give presentations on reading and book illustrations.

The event is free and will take place at Oak Grove Middle School, 1300 West 106th Street, Saturday, March 2, 9 a.m. – noon. For information, visit blm.mn/kidsread or call 952-681-6108.



PLAN YOUR SUMMER EXPERIENCE

Looking for fun, new ways to engage your children this summer? Parks and Recreation offers several programs to meet your children’s interests and keep them active, all while being easy on your pocketbook. With programming that includes classics such as kickball, arts and crafts and nature exploration, there’s something for everyone. For details and rates, check out the Bloomington Summer Experience catalog, set to be posted mid-February, at blm.mn/summerexperience.



LOOKING FOR LIFEGUARDS

Bush Lake Beach and the Bloomington Family Aquatic Center are looking for summer lifeguards. Applicants must be 16 years of age and able to pass the American Red Cross lifeguarding prerequisites:

- Swim 300 yards continuously demonstrating breath control and rhythmic breathing. Candidates may swim using the front crawl, breaststroke or a combination of both, but swimming on the back or side is not allowed. Swim goggles may be used.
 - Tread water for two minutes using only the legs. Candidates should place their hands under the armpits.
 - Complete a timed event within 1 minute, 40 seconds.
- To apply, visit blm.mn/parkjobs or call 952-563-8877.

BORN AGAIN JOCKS

Want to enjoy playing sports again? Join the Born Again Jocks organization for men 55 and older. There are no annual dues, but there may be sports participation costs. For more information, visit bornagainjocks.com.



RENT A CANOE RACK

Are you sick of hauling your canoe, kayak or paddleboard from your house to the lake every time you want to use it? Rent one of the City’s 96 canoe racks on the west side of Bush Lake. Cost is \$85 for access May 1 – October 31. Registration starts February 5 online at blm.mn/rentals, or call 952-563-8877.



HAVE AN EGG-CELLENT EASTER

Don’t miss the annual egg hunt for kids ages eight and younger, sponsored by the Bloomington Optimist Club and Parks and Recreation. Enjoy fun family activities, information booths, an Easter bunny and other entertainment.

When: Saturday, April 21, activities begin at 10 a.m., egg hunt begins at 11 a.m.

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

YOUTH LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Are you looking to gain leadership experience this summer? Parks and Recreation offers an array of positions for those 13 and older to work in youth programs and adaptive softball. To apply, visit blm.mn/parks-volunteer. The deadline to apply is March 31. Adaptive softball volunteers accepted until filled.

WANT TO GROW YOUR GARDEN? THE CITY CAN HELP

Whether you prefer to plant asparagus, zucchini or anything in between, one of the City’s 178 community garden plots can provide the space you need for the season. Pick a plot at Smith Park, Harrison Park or Brookside Park. A plot measuring 10 by 15 feet costs \$40 (\$50 for nonresidents) for the season (May – October) with a maximum of three plots per renter.

Fee assistance is available to qualifying Bloomington families. For more information, visit blm.mn/gardens or call 952-563-8877. Applicants must complete the fee assistance application process before a rental application can be submitted. It may take up to one week to process fee assistance applications. Return renter registration is open through February. Registration for new renters opens on February 21.

MEET A BLOOMINGTON FIREFIGHTER

D rake Dietz has been a Bloomington firefighter for 13 years out of Station 1. He has served as a captain for the past eight years.

Q: What is your day job?

A: I'm an overnight production manager at a lead foundry.

Q: What do you like to do when you aren't working or volunteering?

A: I like to spend time with my family, golf, hunt, fish and do anything outdoors. I like traveling. I recently visited my son in Okinawa, Japan.

Q: What made you want to become a firefighter?

A: My dad was a founding member of a fire department in southern Missouri. I spent a lot of time there as a kid. I saw how they were giving back as a team. I wanted to be a part of that. I just happen to be doing it in Bloomington.

Q: What do you like about living in Bloomington?

A: There's a real sense of community here. My wife and I are very happy with the education our kids received in Bloomington Public Schools. My oldest is in the Marines now and my youngest is at Lake Superior College getting his associate's degree in fire. He is hoping to join BFD in the future and maybe get a full-time job in fire investigation. I'd like to give a shout out to my family, especially my wife. She has made this all possible with countless missed dinners and time away from my family.



FIGHTING THE EMERALD ASH BORER

What's smaller than a penny and can kill the mightiest of ash trees? It's the Emerald Ash Borer, and this jewel-colored pest is no gem.

In 2014, the non-native beetle was first identified in Bloomington and it has continued to spread since. All ash trees are at risk. The City is combating the Emerald Ash Borer by pre-emptively removing ash trees in parks and rights of way. Disease resistant trees are planted in their place.

"Bloomington has a well-established tree disease management process that was used to control Dutch elm disease," Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Dave Hanson said. "Our goal is to rebuild a new canopy for the future."

Most work is done in the winter when identifying trees is easier. The Emerald Ash Borer leaves a distinctive pattern in the bark of highly infested trees. Woodpecker holes over blond bark areas are other indicators of ash tree infestation.

For residents with ash trees on their properties, this is a good time to decide whether to have them removed or



routinely treated. If you are not certain or have questions, visit blm.mn/eab or contact Dave Hanson at 952-563-8765 or dhanson@BloomingtonMN.gov.



NEW SAFE SWAP SPOT

Whether you're buying or selling things online, deciding on a safe place to do the transaction can be a challenge. The Bloomington Police Department (BPD) set up a safe swap spot in the Civic Plaza parking lot, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. It's a designated location for residents to conduct transactions in a public place that is under video surveillance.

The swap spot is near the Police entrance by the sign pictured above.

You can also do the exchange in the BPD lobby during office hours, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

For more information, contact BPD at 952-563-8700 or visit blm.mn/safeswap.



PUTTING A STOP TO HOME BURGLARIES

Home sweet home is no place to experience a burglary. Bloomington Police shares tips on safeguarding your property to prevent crime.

- If you're going away, use random timers to switch lights on and off, and cancel newspapers and hold mail deliveries. Ask a trustworthy neighbor to keep an eye on your property and call 911 about anything suspicious.
- Secure your valuables and keep them out of sight.
- Be careful about the visitors you allow into your home and what information you share about your possessions and schedule.
- Vary your departure and return times.
- Having a barking dog is a deterrent.
- Don't hide a key. Criminals know just where to look for secret keys.
- Take a walk around your home to identify weak security spots.
- Consider adding motion-activated lights, surveillance cameras or an alarm system.

For information, contact Crime Prevention Coordinator Katie Chase at 952-563-8808 or kchase@BloomingtonMN.gov.

I THINK THAT I SHALL NEVER SEE ...

What better time to plant a tree or two? Do your part and add to Bloomington's urban forest. To increase the number of trees on private land, Park Maintenance holds an annual public tree sale. Based on last year's sales, 300 trees will be available for purchase this spring. Bloomington residents may request up to five trees per household. To order your trees, visit blm.mn/treesale, use the order form below, or call 952-563-8760. All trees must be claimed at Bloomington Civic Plaza Saturday, May 4, 9 – 11 a.m.



ARBOR DAY TREE SALE 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; refunds will not be issued.*

Name _____
Phone _____
Address _____

Fill in number of each tree type desired. First come, first served. Maximum five trees total per household, \$50 each. Check must accompany order.

_____ Autumn Blaze maple	_____ Serviceberry	_____ Imperial honeylocust	_____ Japanese tree lilac
_____ Black Hills spruce	_____ Prairie Fire crab apple	_____ River birch	_____ Snowdrift crab apple

Total trees	<input type="text"/>	X \$50 ea. = \$	<input type="text"/>	Total cost
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Pick up trees at 1800 West Old Shakopee Road **Saturday, May 4, 9 – 11 a.m.**
Send check and form to City of Bloomington, Park Maintenance,
1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027.



COMING SOON TO THE BLOOMINGTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS

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 CHOIR THE MUSIC OF THE BEATLES

Take a trip to *Penny Lane* and *Strawberry Fields*. Join us for a fun afternoon to support our scholarship fund in honor of longtime Director Rita Docter.

February 24, 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.
Tickets \$50



MEDALIST CONCERT BAND 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

This anniversary concert features notable works from Medalist’s 50-year history, plus an original piece for this occasion.

March 3, 4 p.m.
Adults \$17, seniors and students \$15



BLOOMINGTON CHORALE SONGS OF HOPE AND INSPIRATION

Selections from Brahms’ Requiem and Dvorak’s New World Symphony as well as classic musical moments of Rogers and Hammerstein, plus folk songs and spirituals of reflection and exaltation.

May 17, 7:30 p.m., May 18, 4 p.m.
Adults \$16, seniors and students \$12



CHAMELEON THEATRE CIRCLE MY BEAUTIFUL INFINITY

In this mind’s eye, artist Renner becomes trapped in the impossible constructions of infinity in search of love. Written by David Vazdauskas.

February 1 – 17, Thursday – Saturday,
7:30 p.m., Sundays, 2 p.m.
Adults \$25, seniors and students \$22
Tickets: chameleontheatre.org
Black Box Theater



ARNE FOGEL 50 YEARS (& A LITTLE LEFT OVER)

Celebrate a half century of stories and song and Fogel’s world of jazz, pop, working the radio airwaves, encounters with famous and unique personalities, and maybe a polka or two! Music direction by Rick Carlson.

March 8 and 9, 7:30 p.m., March 10, 2 p.m.
Tickets \$22 Black Box Theater



MEDALIST CONCERT BAND VILLAINS AND HEROES

Some of the best stories are told through music! Featured soloist: Winner of the 2019 Earl C. Benson Concerto Competition.

May 19, 4 p.m.
Adults \$17, seniors and students \$15



PHIL THOMPSON PRESENTS LEGENDS OF COUNTRY

Celebrate country music’s biggest hits with an incredible tribute concert filled with songs by Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, Garth Brooks, Kenny Rogers and Toby Keith.

March 2, 7:30 p.m.
Tickets \$32



CONTINENTAL BALLET COMPANY CLASSICAL DIVERTISSEMENT

This program will feature a variety of pas de deux and short ballets such as Les Sylphides, Paquita and Rodeo.

March 16 and 23, 7:30 p.m.,
March 17 and 24, 3 p.m.
Adults \$25, seniors and students \$19,
Children under 13 \$13
For tickets call 952-563-8562



LOVE IS ALIVE & KICKIN

Love is Alive & Kickin is a musical journey that boldly reflects the true-to-life rollercoaster ride of our hearts and the many flavors of love. Fasten your seat belt and enjoy the wild ride!

June 7 – 16,
Wednesday, Thursdays and Sundays, 2 p.m.,
Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 p.m.,
Adults \$34, seniors and students \$30



SEE AN INTERNATIONAL CERAMIC EXHIBIT

The exhibit “Urban Parallel: A Celebration of the History and Legacy of Ceramics in Glasgow, Scotland” will be on display March 1 – 30, in the Inez Greenberg Gallery, Civic Plaza at 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. As a concurrent exhibit for the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts conference, “Urban Parallel” celebrates Glasgow’s rich clay tradition and contemporary developments. Discover the shared history between Scotland and Minnesota through art.

Featured artists include, Susan O’Byrne, Livia Marin, James Rigler, Jonathan Wade, Andrea Walsh and Dawn Youll. An artists’ reception will take place on Thursday, March 28, 5 – 9 p.m. The reception and will be held in the Inez Greenberg Gallery.

In conjunction with the “Urban Parallel” exhibit, Susan O’Byrne will demonstrate her creative methods and offer a ceramics master workshop. Participants can experiment with O’Byrne’s techniques and create related works. The workshop and demonstration, “Animal Portraits, Print, Pattern and Paper-Porcelain” will take place March 25 and 26, 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., with the demonstration on March 25, 9:30 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

For information, blm.mn/exhibits, call 952-563-8575 or info@artistrymn.org.

BOX OFFICE

Order tickets by phone: Call 952-563-8575 • Online: Go to blm.mn/bcatix
In person: Office hours vary. Call 952-563-8575 for current hours. Does not include tickets for Chameleon Theatre Circle or Continental Ballet Company. All performances held in Schneider Theater unless otherwise noted. Programs, artists and prices subject to change.
All ticket sales are final. No refunds or exchanges.