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## NAIL DOWN YOUR HOME IMPROVEMENT PLANS

Check out the 2020 Home Improvement Fair, Saturday, February 22, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, hosted by the City and the Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority. This free event showcases vendors from across the metro with more than 60 exhibitors and several how-to seminars to help you make your dream home an affordable reality. Fairgoers will have the opportunity to ask general remodeling experts, designers and landscapers about their home improvement needs. There will also be childrens' activities, including a workshop hosted by Home Depot. For more information, call 952-563-8943 or visit [blm.mn/homefair](http://blm.mn/homefair).

## CITY ESTABLISHES AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND

At the December 16, 2019 Council meeting, the City launched a \$15 million Affordable Housing Trust Fund and approved a \$7 million loan for nonprofit affordable housing developer Aeon to purchase Village Club Apartments. This move immediately preserved 306 units of naturally occurring affordable housing (NOAH) in Bloomington, which are residential rental properties that are affordable without government-subsidized rents.

The City identified a strategy to raise the needed capital for the affordable housing trust fund without placing any financial burden on taxpayers, leveraging existing City resources along with assistance from Old National Bank. This is a significant and innovative investment in retaining economic diversity in Bloomington. Few suburban cities have trust funds dedicated to preserving and creating affordable housing. Hennepin County only recently approved \$15 million for a similar countywide trust fund.

"We are proud to work with the City of Bloomington as it provides groundbreaking leadership to preserve and create affordable housing for all residents," Aeon CEO Alan Arthur said.

The Twin Cities metro area is losing affordable housing faster than new affordable units can be built. Many NOAH properties are being purchased and converted to higher market rate rents. The owners of Village Club Apartments received multiple offers to acquire the property, mainly from national institutional investors likely to raise the rents and potentially displace current renters.

"This process gets at the heart of the difficulty of preserving NOAH properties. Cities and nonprofits typically can't compete with national private market investors. It's not only the risk of being significantly outbid, it's the inability to bring in public funds within the private market timeframe," Community Development Director Eric Johnson said. "Because of our strong commitment to affordable housing preservation, we moved mountains to act immediately to support Aeon in

purchasing this property and securing housing stability for the hard working families who have made Village Club their home."

The City had been working to establish the Affordable Housing Trust Fund in early 2020 under the goals of the opportunity housing ordinance, providing incentives to preserve and develop new affordable housing units while furthering private market development. With Village Club up for sale with a closing deadline of December 27 and 306 NOAH units at risk, the City moved up its timeline in an effort to preserve them.

The Village Club complex is in need of rehabilitation and is considered a challenge due to deferred maintenance. Upon acquisition, Aeon plans to address health and safety repairs first, and then begin rehab.

Aeon will also apply for other public funding to construct up to 300 additional affordable units on the property to assist with long-term stabilization.

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](mailto: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.*

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



Participants of the Bloomington Leadership Program pose in the City Council chambers with City staff who led the program.

## MAYOR'S MEMO BLOOMINGTON LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

By Mayor Tim Busse

**E**ngaged leaders help make a community thrive, and the Bloomington Leadership Program fosters success across our city. Any Bloomington resident 18 years or older can apply to be a part of this free program designed to build leadership opportunities for all communities.

In 2017, the City launched the Bloomington Leadership Program to encourage more diverse populations to apply for commission and board openings. So far, 51 people have taken part in the program.

Participants get to know each other, cultivate a broader understanding of their community and hone leadership skills. All the while, barriers to understanding are broken down, discovery takes place and community building occurs.

Topics cover civic engagement, community leadership, personal leadership development and other engaging exercises. From start to finish, the Bloomington Leadership Program is a fun way to be involved with the community and build leadership skills.

### HOW TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE BLOOMINGTON LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Any Bloomington resident 18 years or older may apply for the Bloomington Leadership Program. Look for an online application this summer. A selection committee will review the applicants and select the 2020 cohort. For more information, visit [blm.mn/CityLP](http://blm.mn/CityLP) or call 952-563-8733.

As a Bloomington Leadership Program guest presenter, I enjoyed taking part in a mock city council session where participants took on the roles of city councilmembers, subject matter experts and community members who acted out a scenario to experience what takes place at a regular meeting. For this exercise, I acted as mayor. The mock council voted in favor of an ordinance, and I cast the only dissenting vote. The measure passed. This illustrates how a mayor's legislative power has limits.

Some participants were surprised at the outcome. (They also took the opportunity to remind me in a joking way that the roleplay was a test of my future mayoral dealings.)

These emerging leaders go on to take their skills to new levels. Bloomington Leadership Program alumni have participated in Welcome Meals, the 2020 Census Complete Count Committee, the Lyndale Avenue Retrofit project and other vital community initiatives.

The benefits of the Bloomington Leadership Program are innumerable. I encourage Bloomington residents to get involved and become leaders for a better community.

## SAVE THE DATE: MINNESOTA PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

**M**ake your voice heard in the 2020 presidential primary Tuesday, March 3. Minnesota is one of 15 states and territories that will hold presidential nomination primaries on what is often referred to as Super Tuesday.

On March 3, Bloomington voters may vote at their regular polling places between the hours of 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. To find your polling place, visit [blm.mn/pollingplace](http://blm.mn/pollingplace).

Alternatively, voters may vote by absentee ballot between January 17 and March 2. To cast an absentee ballot in person, visit Bloomington Civic Plaza Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. To cast an absentee ballot by mail visit [blm.mn/sos-absentee](http://blm.mn/sos-absentee).

The presidential nomination primary is a unique voting experience as there are two ballots—one for each of the major political parties. Voters must choose which major party ballot they wish to receive and only candidates for the office of U.S. President will be on the ballot. (A separate primary for state offices will be held August 11, 2020.)

Each major party submitted a list of candidates for the party's ballot on December 31, 2019. Those candidates will appear on the ballot even if they drop out of the presidential race before March 3. After the primary, party delegates representing the presidential primary results will carry Minnesotans' preferences forward to the national conventions.

This is Minnesota's first presidential nomination primary since 1992, thanks to a 2016 change in state statute. Voters should note that precinct caucuses will still be held on February 25 to conduct other party business.

For more information about the presidential primary and precinct caucuses, visit [www.sos.state.mn.us](http://www.sos.state.mn.us) or call the City Clerk's Office at 952-563-8729.





## BUSINESS EXPANSION TO BRING JOBS, SPACE TECH

**H**ave you heard about Skywater Technology’s addition on 2401 East 86th Street? The 60,000-square-foot expansion that will cut into the existing parking lot, *pictured above*, will house a new clean room where out-of-this-world chips will be produced. The small, radiation-hardened chips are designed to withstand harsh outer space conditions. Much of the funding for the project comes from the U.S. Department of Defense.

The expansion is expected to bring an additional 30 to 50 jobs to Bloomington.

“We’re proud to be leading the way, right here from Bloomington, for the next generation of this critical technology used in defense applications, as well as in medical and space-based communications,” President Thomas Sonderman said.

Skywater designs and develops semiconductors at its Bloomington-based facility and currently employs more than 500 workers.

## PARK SYSTEM MASTER PLAN—GET INVOLVED!

**T**he online input platform, project bloom! has launched on the Park System Master Plan website. The City is using this cool tool to get your comments and ideas about Bloomington’s parks and trails. The interactive map allows you to simply drag a pin icon onto the map and fill out a short form with your comments. The platform incorporates Google Translate and allows you to select your preferred language. Project bloom! also allows you to cast your vote on what you think are the highest priority issues and themes that the City should consider addressing in the plan. We will be gathering and using your input and ideas through fall 2020. Visit [blm.mm/park-master-plan](http://blm.mm/park-master-plan) and click project bloom! to get engaged in the Park System Master Plan.



## LYNDALE AVENUE CORRIDOR DESIGN WORKSHOP

**T**he City is working to bring investment to Lyndale Avenue and provide a walkable, mixed-use corridor that serves as an amenity to attract new, and retain existing, residents and businesses.

You are invited to participate in an interactive three-day planning and design workshop March 2 – 4 to share your ideas for the future of the area. The workshop will be led by Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. in partnership with the City of Bloomington and Hennepin County. This will be a concentrated period of design and planning activities where the team is collaborating directly with the community to ensure all innovative strategies and ideas to solve Lyndale Avenue’s current and future issues are on the table. The workshop will be guided by feedback from the public received over the past three months and will influence a preliminary design for the next phase of the project.

During the workshop, the design team will operate out of an “office” located at 800 West 98th Street in the Clover Center, corner of 98th Street and Lyndale Avenue. The public is welcome to stop by and offer input and feedback, ask questions or simply observe. Periodically, the design team will provide presentations of their work and ask for reactions, ideas and suggestions. The design team will prepare an illustrated report that lays out a clear vision for revitalizing the Lyndale Avenue Corridor, and specific actions and funding strategies to assist the implementation.

As project details are finalized, information will also be posted on the project website at [blm.mn/LyndaleRetrofit](http://blm.mn/LyndaleRetrofit). For more information, call 952-563-4706.



## JOHNSON RECEIVES RUBINGER FELLOWSHIP

**B**loomington Community Development Director Eric Johnson was named a 2020 Rubinger Fellow by the Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC). Johnson was one of 10 selected in a competitive nationwide process and is the first-ever fellow representing a unit of government.

Fellows meet three times a year and are supported with a network of resources. Johnson will use his fellowship year and resources to research innovative solutions in affordable housing and community development with an emphasis on policy and strategy within redevelopment approaches.

“I’m hoping that what I learn through this fellowship will add more support to team Bloomington as we continue to make our city a community of choice in the Twin Cities region,” Johnson said.

LISC awarded \$40,000 to each fellow to support a special project that addresses critical challenges in rural and urban America. Their overarching goal is to develop innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for people and connect them to the broader economy.



## 2020 CENSUS COMMITTEE AT WORK

**T**he 2020 Census Complete Count Committee’s work plan is well underway. The committee was spearheaded by the Human Rights Commission and has expanded to become a community-led project. The group has held two meetings the past few months. One was a data-driven meeting with information from the state demographers’ office, and the other was a facilitated conversation to generate action steps that raise Census 2020 awareness in the areas of Bloomington that have been historically hard to count.

For more information, visit [blm.mn/census2020](http://blm.mn/census2020).



Home Energy Squad employee helps with a home energy audit.

## HOME ENERGY SQUAD VISIT REMINDER

**W**ant to trim your utility bill? Find out how you can save energy and money with tips from the Home Energy Squad. Residents are encouraged to participate in the energy-efficiency program. The City of Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority pays half the cost of a Home Energy Squad visit. For \$50, the Home Energy Squad will measure air leaks in your home, install weather stripping and LED bulbs, set up high-efficiency shower heads and more.

To schedule a visit, call 651-328-6220 or visit [blm.mn/home-energy](http://blm.mn/home-energy). Home Energy Squad is provided by CenterPoint Energy and Xcel Energy and delivered by the Center for Energy and Environment.



## WATERSHED DISTRICT GRANTS AVAILABLE

**G**rants are available to help you create native prairie and rainwater gardens. Some cover up to 75% of the cost of the project. Native prairie and rainwater gardens offer many benefits, including lower long-term maintenance costs, improved wildlife habitat, better water quality and upholding the City Council's strategic priority for environmental sustainability.

Deadlines to apply for watershed grants vary by district. For information, call 952-563-4870 or visit [blm.mn/water-resource](http://blm.mn/water-resource).



## EARTH ACTION HERO: AN ELECTRIC CAR SPARKS CHANGE

**O**wning an electric car adds a lot of advantages with only an occasional charge for City of Bloomington's Fleet Manager Michael Keim, *above left*, and Accounting Assistant Joan Keim, *above right*. Two years ago, the Bloomington couple bought an electric car. They enjoy the financial and environmental benefits an electric car offers.

For the Keims, charging a car with an electric plug is easy at home in the garage. Electric power generation is a sustainable advantage.

"Step out of your comfort zone and into an electric car," Michael said. "Don't be scared of the change. Electronic cars are very nice to drive and the technology is proven."

As fleet manager for the City's more than 500 vehicles, Michael knows his cars (and trucks) and how things run on the road under all conditions in all seasons.

The car's range is well suited for city driving. Current electric car models have a range of 150 – 250 miles. The ride is quiet and smooth with no engine vibrations. The car's torque provides plenty of responsive power. Brakes last longer because they are regenerative. With no gas, oil changes or tuneups, lifetime cost of ownership is less than a traditional car even taking the higher purchase price into account.

## CURBSIDE CLEANUP STUDY RELEASED

**M**any Bloomington residents participate in the annual spring Curbside Cleanup program. A new study determined the amount of reusable and recyclable material that is disposed of as part of the Cleanup. The information will be used to better understand the environmental impact of the program, and to identify options for disposing of bulky items in more environmentally sustainable ways. In the current program, appliances and brush are collected during the cleanup for recycling. The rest of the items are collected for disposal as garbage.

The City Council requested the Bloomington Sustainability Commission look at the Curbside Cleanup program. A working group contracted with consultant, Foth, to conduct a waste characterization audit. A team of 20 dedicated volunteers and City staff helped carry out the study. The team went out early each Saturday morning during last year's Cleanup to study what items were in the piles for haulers to collect. The team looked at piles at more than 2,000 households across the city, with more than 19,000 items inventoried.

"The study looked at what was going into the Curbside Cleanup piles and found that many of the materials being left out on the curb could be reused." Public Works Project Manager Laura Horner said. "The program is not only expensive, it adds to growing environmental concerns about landfill expansion."

The Sustainability Commission is considering more environmentally efficient ways to handle bulky items in the future. While change may come, this year's Cleanup will not see adjustments.

For more information, visit [blm.mn/curbside](http://blm.mn/curbside) or call 952-563-8760.

## DONATE AND RECYCLE ITEMS INSTEAD OF SETTING THEM ON THE CURB

**W**hile February may not be the time you normally think about spring cleaning, remember that you can donate or recycle any time of year. Except for large appliances and brush, items collected at the curb by the haulers during Curbside cleanup end up in the landfill.

Several local charity organizations accept donated materials. Guidelines on what is acceptable vary by organization and sometimes by time of year. Most clean, gently-used items in good working order are suitable for donation, but check with the organization to be sure.

In Bloomington, donations can be taken to:

- Arc's Value Village, 10546 France Avenue South, 952-818-8708, [blm.mn/arcs](http://blm.mn/arcs).

- Bridging Inc., 201 West 87th Street, 952-888-1105, [blm.mn/bridging](http://blm.mn/bridging).
- Goodwill, 7845 Lyndale Avenue South, 952-881-2468, [blm.mn/goodwill](http://blm.mn/goodwill).
- Salvation Army, 710 West 98th Street, 952-881-6197, [blm.mn/sa](http://blm.mn/sa).

Options for recycling items that are not in good condition, including mattresses and box springs:

- Hennepin County Brooklyn Park (not Bloomington) Drop-Off Facility, 8100 Jefferson Highway, Brooklyn Park, 612-348-3777, takes mattresses for a \$20 fee.
  - Second Chance Recycling, [blm.mn/secondchance](http://blm.mn/secondchance).
- Visit [blm.mn/donate](http://blm.mn/donate) to see a full list of organizations where you can recycle or donate your items.

## CURBSIDE CLEANUP COMING

**C**urbside Cleanup is coming. Start planning ahead for this year's dates. This year, the cleanup will run from East to West.

- April 4: East of Portland Avenue.
- April 11: Portland Avenue to Penn Avenue.
- April 18: Penn Avenue to France Avenue.
- April 25: France Avenue to Normandale Avenue.
- May 2: West of Normandale Avenue.

Look for an accepted item list, pile limitations and other event details in the March *Briefing*. Visit [blm.mn/curbside](http://blm.mn/curbside), or call 952-563-8760 for more information.



## MEET A FIREFIGHTER

**E**d Dankbar has been a firefighter for 11 years. He serves out of Station 5.

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

**A:** I am a Hazmat and Emergency Response Officer for Canadian Pacific Railroad, U.S. West Division.

**Q:** What do you do for fun when you aren't working or volunteering?

**A:** In my free time I enjoy hunting, fishing, power sports, going to the cabin and spending time with my wife, dog and three cats.

**Q:** What made you want to become a firefighter?

**A:** My mom said it all started when Chief Seal visited my preschool in the late '80s, but I would have to say I always liked the idea of helping the community and being there for my family, friends and neighbors.

**Q:** What do you like most about firefighting?

**A:** It's a very exciting job. It is never the same thing twice.

**Q:** What is a little-known fact about you?

**A:** I have a minor in art history.



## HOW THINGS WORK: A RECIPE FOR ANTI-ICING

**A**nti-icing prepares streets for inclement weather. Before snow and ice accumulates, the anti-icing process begins. A brine mixture is used to coat street surfaces. Public Works custom mixes a brine solution to maximize melting power. Sometimes beet and corn extracts are used along with salt. The formula for the mix is contingent on the condition of the roads, the weather forecast and other variables.

The amount of salt needed to clear roadways is reduced when anti-icing is applied. Reducing chlorides is a sustainable practice in keeping with the City Council's strategic priority for environmental sustainability.

For more information, visit [blm.mn/de-ice](http://blm.mn/de-ice) or contact Public Works at 952-563-4581 or [public-works@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:public-works@BloomingtonMN.gov).

## LEARN ABOUT CRIME PREVENTION

**A**ttend the 2020 Block Captains Workshop to learn more about how the Bloomington Police Department works and crime prevention on March 7, in the Schneider Theater at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. This event is free and open to everyone. No need to register to attend. There will be free prize drawings and food. For more information, visit [blm.mn/2020BCWS](http://blm.mn/2020BCWS).



## PUBLIC HEALTH HELPS YOUNG FAMILIES

**B**loomington Public Health nurses have provided home visiting to families for more than 40 years in the cities of Bloomington, Edina and Richfield. When Public Health expanded its home visiting services in 2007, it joined partner agencies to form the Metro Alliance for Healthy Families. Since then, 178 Bloomington families have enrolled, receiving 7,224 home visits.

Through this partnership, Public Health is able to offer Healthy Families America (HFA)—an evidence-based home visiting model program. Research shows that HFA home visiting helps improve the health and well-being of women, children, and families as well as increasing school readiness.

Those who receive HFA service are either pregnant or parenting new babies. The goal of the home visiting program is to promote healthy pregnancy, early childhood development and long-term health outcomes through discussion with a nurse. Families can enroll in the program during pregnancy or within three months after the birth of a baby. Enrollees receive weekly home visits for the first 6 – 18 months and continue with decreasing frequency up to age four.

For more information, call 952-563-8910 or visit [blm.mn/publichealth](http://blm.mn/publichealth).



## AT YOUR SERVICE: JOHN CARLSON

**F**or Bloomington Animal Control Coordinator John Carlson, there's a wild side to the average work day. He's seen it all—from ferrets and chickens to puppies and kittens—during his more than 20 years in animal control.

"We really handle just about anything animal," he said. "And when it's not in our wheelhouse I always try to refer people to someone who can help. For example, we'd work with the Raptor Center for a wounded hawk."

In his day-to-day duties, Carlson answers resident questions and manages the 400 – 600 animals that come into the shelter each year. He works closely with local animal rescues and hospice programs to place as many animals as possible in new homes. He also does the work it takes to maintain the animal shelter, including cleaning, ordering supplies and doing administrative things like fielding calls and filing adoption applications.

"Everything I do is about helping animals when they're in need," Carlson said. "Finding ways to give animals a second chance at life or getting them back to their owners—that's the reward."



## SEEKING BUSINESS NOMINATIONS

**R**eturning to work after having a baby can be jarring. Having a supportive employer can make all the difference. Employers who provide breaks for pumping breast milk in a private space and make a woman feel supported result in healthier, happier and more productive employees.

Last August, the City Council recognized nine businesses nominated by one or more employees as breastfeeding supportive. The City wants to once again recognize local businesses that support their employees to continue to successfully provide breast milk for their babies after returning to work.

To nominate your employer, go to [blm.mn/phbf](http://blm.mn/phbf) and complete the form.



## CHECK OUT THE CITY'S COMMUNITY GARDENS

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. Pick a plot at Smith Park, Harrison Park, or Brookside Park. A plot measuring 10 by 15 feet costs \$41 (\$51 for nonresidents) for the season (May – October) with a maximum of three plots per renter.

For more information, visit [blm.mn/gardens](http://blm.mn/gardens) or call 952-563-8877. Return renter registration is open through February 6. Registration for new renters opens February 20. Fee assistance is available to qualifying Bloomington residents. 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.



## ENJOY AN EGG HUNT

Don't miss the annual egg hunt for kids ages eight and younger, sponsored by the Bloomington Optimist Club and Parks and Recreation, on Saturday, April 11, at the Normandale Lake Bandshell, 5901 West 84th Street. Enjoy fun family activities, information booths, an Easter bunny and other entertainment. Activities begin at 10 a.m. The hunt begins at 11 a.m.

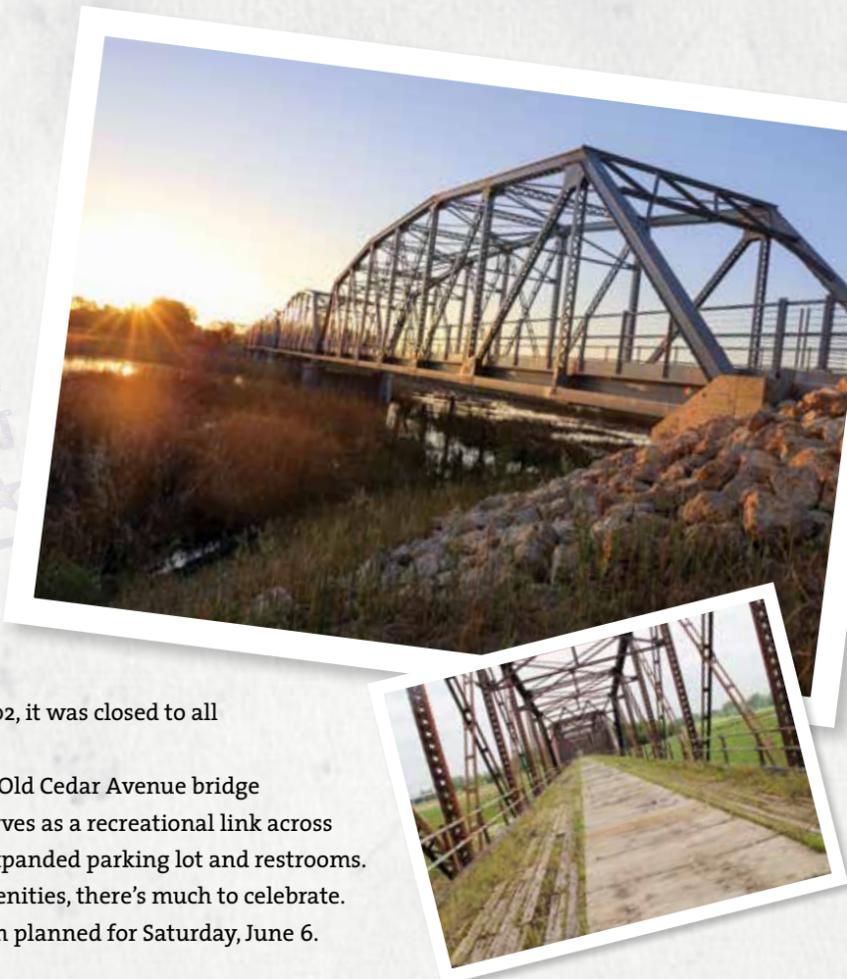
## BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY OLD CEDAR AVENUE BRIDGE

The bridge at the endpoint of Old Cedar Avenue South of Bloomington has come to be known by more than one name. The Old Cedar Avenue bridge is also called the Long Meadow Lake bridge. Sometimes, the name is incorrectly shortened to the Cedar Avenue bridge (really the name of the bridge at Highway 77, constructed in 1980, just downstream and to the east.)

Confused? Let history be your guide. After the demolition of a circa-1890s wooden bridge, Hennepin County constructed a metal bridge over Long Meadow Lake in 1920. It carried vehicle traffic from Old Cedar Avenue South for 73 years. In 2002, it was closed to all pedestrian and vehicle traffic.

After extensive renovation, in November 2018, the Old Cedar Avenue bridge reopened for bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Today, it serves as a recreational link across Long Meadow Lake. Other enhancements include an expanded parking lot and restrooms.

With the newly renovated bridge and updated amenities, there's much to celebrate. Save the date for the Old Cedar Avenue Area celebration planned for Saturday, June 6.



## WORK FOR THE CITY THIS SUMMER

With opportunities ranging from park program instructor to Public Works employee, there are a wide variety of seasonal jobs available with the City in the summer.

One of the largest needs is for golf course staff, Public Works staff and lifeguards at Bush Lake Beach and the Bloomington Family Aquatic Center. Lifeguard 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, tread water for two minutes using only the legs and complete a timed event within 1 minute, 40 seconds.

To apply, visit [blm.mn/jobs](http://blm.mn/jobs) or call 952-563-8710.

## YOUTH LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Are you looking to gain leadership experience this summer? Parks and Recreation offers positions for those 13 and older to work in youth programs and adaptive softball. Volunteers will gain valuable skills in leadership, activity facilitation and planning, people skills all while having a great participating in Bloomington's summer programs. To apply, visit [blm.mn/parks-volunteer](http://blm.mn/parks-volunteer). The deadline to apply is March 31. Adaptive softball volunteers accepted until filled.

## TREE SALE COMING

Get ready for spring and planting trees. Mark your calendar for the annual public tree sale held by Park Maintenance. This spring, 300 trees will be available for purchase. Up to five trees may be requested by each Bloomington household.

To order your trees, visit [blm.mn/treesale](http://blm.mn/treesale), use the order form below, or call 952-563-8760.

### 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.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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  X \$50 ea. = \$  Total cost

Pick up trees at 1800 West Old Shakopee Road **Saturday, May 2, 9 – 11 a.m.**

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





## OLD TOWN HALL ENLIVENS HISTORY

Whether you are a history buff or just a little curious about Bloomington's past, the Old Town Hall, 10200 Penn Avenue South, is a treasure trove. Originally constructed in 1892 with a complete renovation in 2007, the building is filled with artifacts and exhibits commemorating Bloomington history. From American Indian dugout canoes to WWII memorabilia to skyscraper aerial photographs, you'll see the past come alive. Visit the Old Town Hall Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays or Saturdays, 12 – 4 p.m., or on Sundays, 1 – 5 p.m. For more information, visit [blm.mn/bhs](http://blm.mn/bhs) or call 952-881-4114.

## BLOOMINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD MEMBERS RETIRING

Long-time board members and officers, Larry Granger, left in reenactment costume, and Vonda Kelly, right, announced their retirement from the board of directors effective January 1.

Granger's involvement with BHS extends 55 years and includes several terms as president. Kelly's service spans 45 years, beginning as city liaison in 1975, and serving as president, executive director and



treasurer over the years.

"On behalf of the City, I want to thank Vonda and Larry for all they've done and honor their many years of dedicated service to the community," said City Manager Jamie Verbrugge.

Granger and Kelly wish to express their appreciation to the City and community for their long-standing support of Bloomington's historical legacy.

## ENJOY TWO MORE WINTER FARMERS MARKETS

It's cold outside, but two indoor Farmers Markets await you. Join in the fun on Saturdays, February 8 and March 14, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., inside Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. Visit [blm.mn/market](http://blm.mn/market) or call 952-563-8877 for information.

## MEET COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT STAFF: EMILY LARSON

The Community Outreach and Engagement Division (COED) was created as a result of restructuring the former Human Services Division in late 2018. The new work group has been focused on being leaders in equity and inclusion, developing new methods of outreach and engagement, and offering events and programs that make connections in the community.

Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator Emily Larson has been with the City for six years and previously worked in Human Services. In her new role, Larson coordinates programs, including Pathways to Local Government, the Bloomington Leadership program, the staff facilitation network and the City's volunteer management program.

"What I like about this role is that it's all about how we can strengthen the community by building relationships and connecting people," Larson said. "I'd say that's our specialty."

She also serves as the staff liaison for the Community Services Department, Fire Department and City Administration.

For more information, visit [blm.mn/coed](http://blm.mn/coed) or call 952-563-8733.



## FREE TAX PREP AT CREEKSIDE

Need help preparing your taxes? AARP Tax-Aide will provide free tax assistance at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South. Assistance is available Monday and Tuesdays, February 3 – April 14, beginning at 9 a.m., on a first-come basis. Paid tax services are advised for taxpayers with complex tax requirements.

Prepare + Prosper will provide free tax prep and financial services again in Bloomington this year, but their appointments will be held at VEAP. To reach Prepare + Prosper for appointments, call 651-287-0187.

Contact representatives for AARP Tax Aide at 952-858-9040 for specific tax-related questions and concerns. For tax forms and instruction books, visit [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov) and [revenue.state.mn.us/](http://revenue.state.mn.us/).



Teen Video Boot Camp participant Maggie Weiss produces a video.

## TEEN VIDEO BOOT CAMP RETURNS

Bloomington Community Access Television (BCAT) and Southwest TV will hold three youth camps this summer. Now in its third year, Teen Video Boot Camp, is for youth ages 12 – 17 who are interested in creating videos. In one week, students will learn how to use professional video production equipment and produce a short narrative film as a group.

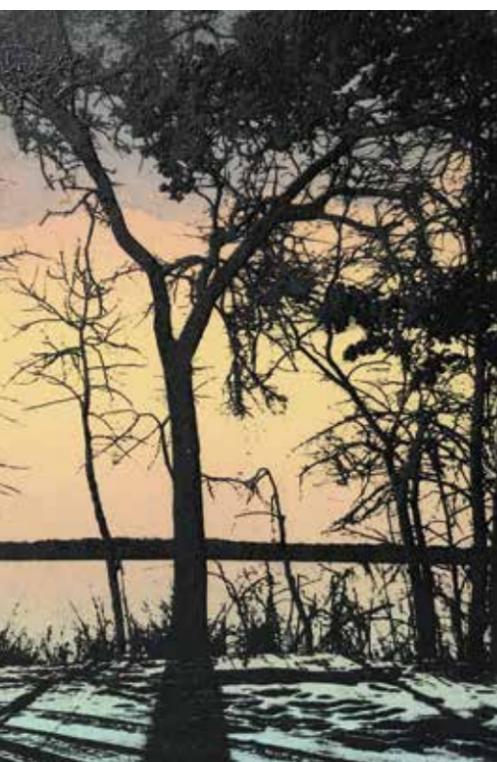
The program costs \$50, and will take place June 22 – 26, July 20 – 24 and August 17 – 21, from 1 – 4 p.m. All three camps will be structured the same, and include a screening of the film for students and parents on the last day. In addition to the camp, participants will receive a one-year membership to BCAT and certification in their camera class so that they can continue to make their own videos.

The camps will be held at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. For more information and to sign up, contact Communications Specialist Ben Vinar at 952-563-4980 or [bvinar@bloomingtonmn.gov](mailto:bvinar@bloomingtonmn.gov). There are a limited number of spots available, so sign up today.



## TAKE AN AUGMENTED REALITY TOUR

Ready to experience augmented reality (AR)? The Creative Placemaking Commission, Artistry, and artists Nancy Musinguzi and Adam Davis-McGee offer a virtual AR tour of the Old Cedar Avenue bridge, 9898 Old Cedar Avenue South. The AR tour is an informative, shareable and entertaining experience through Snapchat inspired by the legacy and surroundings of the bridge. Themes include historical information and dates, selfie wings highlighting local birds and butterflies, and flags representing the diversity of Bloomington. For more information, visit [blm.mn/placemaking](http://blm.mn/placemaking) or call 952-563-8744.



## ENJOY OBSERVATIONS EXHIBIT

Take a winter break with a visual journey in the Atrium Gallery's upcoming exhibit. Award-winning artist and printmaking instructor Pamela Carberry brings her experience with nature to life through her luminous linocuts, intaglio and collagraph prints. Artistry, an independent nonprofit organization, presents the exhibit at Bloomington Center for the Arts, Atrium Gallery, Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, February 27 – April 19. For more information, visit [artistrymn.org](http://artistrymn.org).

## COMING SOON THE BLOOMINGTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS PERFORMANCE SERIES

The Bloomington Center for the Arts Performance Series offers a dazzling array of theater, band, chorale and pop concerts. Performances are held in the Schneider or Black Box theaters, in the Bloomington Center for the Arts, at the corner of 98th Street and West Old Shakopee Road.

### TAKE A LOOK AT THIS LINEUP OF SHOWS



#### ANGELICA CANTANTI YOUTH CHOIR THE MUSIC OF BROADWAY

Take a trip to New York's 42nd Street. Join us for a fun afternoon to support our scholarship fund in honor of longtime Director Rita Docter.

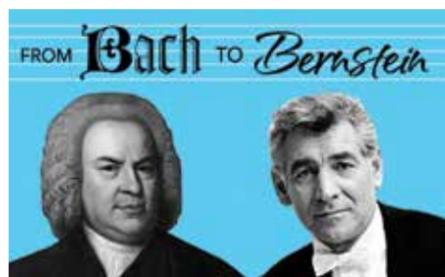
February 23, 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.  
Tickets \$50



#### CONTINENTAL BALLET COMPANY SWAN LAKE

Swan Lake is one of the most beloved of classical ballets. It features the enchanting all-white second act and brilliant character dances in the third.

March 21 and 28, 7:30 p.m.,  
March 22 and 29, 3 p.m.  
Adults \$25, seniors and students \$19,  
Children under 13 \$13



#### MEDALIST CONCERT BAND FROM BACH TO BERNSTEIN

Bask in a bounty of brilliance in this Medalist concert featuring composers whose names begin with B! Guest soloist: Earl C. Benson, Concerto Competition winner.

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



#### MEDALIST CONCERT BAND MARCH ON!

Medalist explores the full range of marches, from patriotic favorites to concert and symphonic works, by some of history's foremost composers.

March 1, 4 p.m.  
Adults \$17, seniors and students \$15



#### ARTISTRY PRESENTS MAME: LIFE'S A BANQUET

Meet Mame Dennis, an eccentric Manhattanite whose fabulous, bohemian lifestyle turns upside down when her orphaned nephew comes to live with her.

April 17 – May 10 (showtimes vary)  
Adults \$46, seniors \$41 and  
30 and under \$17



#### NOTEABLE SINGERS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A WOMAN

Join us as we perform songs that explore themes of laughter, resilience, determination and empowerment. A variety of music and lively choreography will illustrate just what happens when a woman wants to have fun, make a change and determine her own path.

May 30, 5 p.m.  
Adults \$20, seniors and students \$15



#### CHAMELEON THEATRE CIRCLE VANISHING POINT

A musical comedy-fantasy that brings three women together as they solve the mystery of their disappearances from their own lives.

March 6 – 22, Thursdays – Saturdays,  
7:30 p.m., Sundays, 2 p.m.  
Adults \$25, seniors and students \$19  
[chameleontheatre.org](http://chameleontheatre.org)



#### BLOOMINGTON CHORALE "EVERYTHING'S COMING UP ROSES"

Enjoy a concert, featuring popular springtime melodies of joy and delight!

May 15, 7:30 p.m.,  
May 16, 4 p.m.  
Adults \$19, seniors and students \$15



#### ALIVE & KICKIN COMING OF AGE

A musical journey that smashes stereotypes around aging. Celebrate seniors' golden years with stories and songs redefining what it means to age.

June 5 – 14,  
Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 p.m.,  
Sundays, 2 p.m.  
Adults \$34, seniors and students \$30

### BOX OFFICE

Order tickets by phone: Call 952-563-8575 • Online: Go to [blm.mn/bcatix](http://blm.mn/bcatix).  
In person: Office hours vary. Call 952-563-8575 for current hours. (Does not include tickets for Continental Ballet or Chameleon Theatre Co.) Additional ticketing fees apply.  
Programs, artists and prices subject to change. Orders received less than seven days prior to the performance will be held for pick-up at the box office.  
All ticket sales are final. No refunds or exchanges.