

BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



MARCH 2020

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DWAN GOLF COURSE TURNS 50

Dwan Golf Course, 3301 West 110th Street, turns 50 this year. On July 11, 1970, the 18-hole golf course opened to an eager crowd. Today, Bloomington celebrates this welcoming golf course, one of the city's well-known attractions and amenities. Players of all abilities enjoy its 5,500 yards of rolling greens and tree-lined fairways.

One week after the course opened, resident Mike Freemark was hooked. He became a Dwan regular for more than 40 years. Along the way, he has made many friends, joined the Dwan Men's Club and made six holes in one.

"I enjoyed playing golf all the time," Freemark said. "Dwan has always been well kept and well run."

Everyone is welcome to play at this public course. Look for details about Dwan's 50th anniversary celebrations in future issues of the *Briefing* or on Facebook at [blm.mn/DwanFB](https://www.facebook.com/blm.mn/DwanFB). For more information, visit [blm.mn/dwan](https://www.blm.mn/dwan) or call 952-563-8702.



PORTLAND LEGACY PROJECT

This project will focus on ways to revitalize this area. Read more on the project and how to get involved on [page 2](#).

LYNDALE TOWNHOUSES

The City is working with a developer to build townhomes on City-owned land. For more information, call 952-563-4706.

LYNDALE FLATS APARTMENTS



MWF Properties will begin construction on 81 affordable rental units in summer 2020. For more information, call 952-563-8946.

LYNDALE AVENUE SUBURBAN RETROFIT



This study will define a clear vision to enhance the function and appearance of Lyndale Avenue and identify priority actions to attract reinvestment to this aging corridor. However, transformation will take time. Opportunities for community input will be provided throughout the process. For more information, visit [blm.mn/LyndaleRetrofit](https://www.blm.mn/LyndaleRetrofit).

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE GATEWAY DISTRICT?

To advance the City Council's strategic priorities of focused renewal, community image, and equity and inclusion, the City is engaged in many renewal efforts in older neighborhoods. These projects, mostly located east of I-35W, are in an area known as the Gateway District, [see also page 5](#).

Throughout the year, the *Briefing* will feature key projects and activities in the area and let you know how you can get more information or get involved. This first article highlights efforts currently underway. A short description of these projects is on this page along with links to more detailed information and key contacts. Stay tuned—more details on these and other activities will be highlighted in future *Briefings*.



Children play at the annual creative happy hour event at Bloomington Central Station Park, 8100 33rd Avenue South.

MAYOR'S MEMO

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE WITH COMMUNITY IN MIND

By Mayor Tim Busse

At our first regular meeting each year, the City Council takes time to discuss and identify goals and important issues we want to focus on in the year ahead. This discussion leads into our annual strategic planning retreat where we get into a little more detail. This year we focused on community based-planning and centered our discussion around the topics of sustainability, inclusion and equity, community image, community amenities, high-quality service delivery and focused renewal. We reviewed successes and stalls from 2019 in these areas and our goals for 2020.

One theme that connected our areas of focus was finding the most efficient and impactful way to achieve our goals. We don't want to do things simply because that's how it has been done in the past. We want to do the most we can with the resources we have at hand.

One priority is proactive communication in the community image focus area surrounding City projects and services. We want to ensure that people who want information about what's happening with the City continue to have a variety of ways to access that information. Similarly, we discussed creating multiple avenues for civic engagement and providing feedback.

The City Council will dive deeper into these goals within the next month. In the weeks since the first part of the retreat, we have discussed what stood out to us and next steps we should take based on the outcomes.

We also touched on two remaining topics the Council will address during a continuation of its retreat—community engagement and transparency. I'll write more in future columns about Council priorities for 2020.

PORTLAND LEGACY COMMUNITY DESIGN WORKSHOP

The cities of Bloomington and Richfield will host a design workshop March 23 – 26 to explore ways to encourage reinvestment and enhance accessibility and walkability along Portland Avenue between 77th Street and American Boulevard. The workshop will be led by a team of national planning and design experts who will generate ideas to transform this aging commercial area into an attractive gateway serving both cities. There will be two public events during the workshop where you can engage with the design team and let them know what improvements you want to see in the area.

Monday March 23, 6 – 8 p.m. at Richfield City Hall, 6700 Portland Avenue South. This event will define a vision for the area and identify priorities for improvements.

Thursday March 26, 6 – 8 p.m. at Portland Avenue United Methodist Church, 8000 Portland Avenue South. The design team will present and seek community input on various ideas and actions to revitalize the area.

The ideas generated during the workshop will be summarized in an illustrated report that lays out a clear vision and identifies specific actions and funding strategies. For more information, visit blm.mn/portland-legacy.

SAVE THE DATE: 2020 STATE OF THE CITY

With its 100-year celebration around the corner, Bloomington's Old Cedar Avenue bridge is an example of what can happen when cities and other organizations reinvest in their communities. Whether it's a pedestrian bridge, roads, infrastructure or aging commercial nodes, it takes time, effort and resources to maintain a fully developed city. In 2020 and beyond, the City's focus falls largely on making Bloomington a community of choice. That means finding new and innovative ways to inspire investment and attract new residents and businesses while retaining those currently in the community. The 2020 State of the City address will touch on ways the City aims to accomplish this and more.

Mayor Tim Busse and City Manager Jamie Verbrugge will talk about the past year's accomplishments and take a look at what's to come at the State of the City on Wednesday, March 18, at the Radisson Blu. Register to attend the Chamber of Commerce event at blm.mn/sotc-reg. This event will be livestreamed on the City's Facebook page, beginning at 12 p.m., on Wednesday, March 18, at blm.mn/facebook. The event will be recorded for YouTube and cable TV.

The Mayor and City Manager will also present the State of the City on Tuesday, March 24, 7 p.m., in the Schneider Theater, at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. No need to register. This event will be livestreamed on the City's Facebook page, starting at 7 p.m. Visit blm.mn/soc2020 for more information.



BRIEFING

Volume 28, Number 03

The *Briefing*, published monthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to our residents and businesses. Direct comments and requests for Braille, larger print or computer file to Communications Administrator Janine Hill, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3071; PH 952-563-8819; MN Relay 711; FAX 952-563-8715; Email: jhill@BloomingtonMN.gov Website: BloomingtonMN.gov

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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.



BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS: FIRE STATION 3 AND 4

A few of the City’s fire stations are more than 50 years old and no longer meet the needs of the community or the Bloomington Fire Department. One of those facilities, Station 3, is currently under construction at 2301 86th Street East, pictured above. Construction is on schedule, on budget and expected to be complete spring 2020.

A new Fire Station 4 will be constructed on the current site at 4201 West 84th Street. Design of the station will occur throughout 2020 with construction set to begin spring 2021. Fire service to the area will be maintained through construction.

Stations 2, 5 and 6 will also need to be replaced in the future. The City will provide opportunities for engagement throughout the construction process of these public safety facilities.

For more information, contact Assistant Fire Chief Jay Forster at jforster@bloomingtonmn.gov or 952-563-4812.

VALUATION NOTICES COMING SOON

If you own property in Bloomington, expect your estimated market value notice from the City via the U.S. Postal Service in early March. Overall, residential value increased 1%, while some individual property values saw an increase of 15 – 25% or more. The commercial segment saw a growth of 2.5% and apartments 5.5%.

“We encourage property owners to review their 2020 valuations,” Residential Appraisal Manager Jennifer Blumers said.

To appeal your value, you need to show clear and convincing evidence that your 2020 valuation is incorrect, including private appraisals or comparable property sales search from the Hennepin County website. If you have questions about appealing your value after collecting supporting documentation, contact the Assessing Department. Visit blm.mn/assess or call 952-563-8722 for additional information regarding process and deadlines. By the time you receive your proposed levies and taxes statement in November or tax statement in April of 2021, you will no longer be able to appeal your 2020 value.

County property tax statements

Hennepin County will start mailing property tax statements for 2020 in early March. To find out if you are eligible for a Minnesota property tax refund, visit blm.mn/state-tax.

MEET COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR AMANDA CROMBIE

What began with volunteering to serve on a parent advisory group at the Pond Family Center led to a “dream” career for Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator Amanda Crombie. Crombie’s work is focused on advancing equity and inclusion, developing new methods of outreach and engagement and serving as an advocate to ensure the community is considered and heard in the development of programs and services.

In her role, Crombie coordinates the Bloomington Leadership program, plans the annual Veterans Appreciation event, organizes Welcome Meals and serves as an advisor to the Youth4Youth group, a subcommittee of Bloomington United for Youth. She is a trained facilitator and as serves as an outreach and engagement liaison for Parks and Recreation and Bloomington Police. She also volunteers for the League of Women Voters in her free time.

“I’ve always been focused on how I can help the community—whether through volunteering or advocacy. Being in this position is like a dream job that brings together everything I care about. I am really excited to see where my city is going,” Crombie said.

For more information, visit blm.mn/coed or call 952-563-8733.



CITY HIRES NEW RACIAL EQUITY COORDINATOR

The City hired Faith Jackson as its first-ever racial equity coordinator in late 2019. This new position is the latest of several steps the Council has taken to advance its work in equity and inclusion.

In 1970, only one percent of Bloomington residents were nonwhite. In 2017, 48 percent of Bloomington kindergarteners were nonwhite. The City Council embraced the city’s growing diversity as a priority in its 2017 strategic plan. The Council decided its equity and inclusion efforts would focus on diversifying the City workforce and commissions and evaluating programs and services.

Jackson is developing a framework to ground City employees in the foundational principles of racial equity. Her training explains government’s role in creating and maintaining racial inequities and provides an overview of the tools needed for change.

She is also working with the Mayor and City Council on a training series that will help the Council recognize institutional and systemic barriers to services and opportunities for black, indigenous and people of color (BIPOC communities).

Moving forward, Jackson will coordinate efforts to integrate racial equity principles into all operations, projects and services of the City.

CITY CHARTER CHANGES ON TAP

Last fall, residents voted to remove a section of the City Charter that regulates intoxicating liquor. The measure was approved by 77% of voters. Now alcohol is regulated by state law and city code.

As a result, the City is weighing changes to intoxicating liquor regulations. Staff provided recommendations to the City Council on proposed code amendments. Look for more developments coming, including possible plans for a more modernized, streamlined and easier-to-read liquor code. For more information, visit blm.mn/tap.

A YEAR IN REVIEW: HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

It's been a big year for Bloomington when it comes to housing. In 2019, a new opportunity housing ordinance was approved and implemented as was a 90-day tenant protection ordinance. In this spread you'll find more about new housing projects and additional facts about housing in Bloomington. For more information, visit blm.mn/hra.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN BLOOMINGTON

The City Council put new ordinances in place and created an affordable housing trust fund in 2019. Many of these initiatives were derived from the work of volunteers on the Bloomington Housing Action Team. Its members include apartment owners, managers and tenants, affordable housing advocates and housing developers. To learn more, visit blm.mn/bhat.

OPPORTUNITY HOUSING ORDINANCE

This ordinance promotes the development of new affordable housing and the preservation of existing naturally occurring affordable housing while furthering private market development in the city. As a result of the ordinance, developers will now offer at least 9% affordable units in all newly constructed and renovated housing developments of 20 units or more. The City has also increased flexibility in building and design requirements, reduced fees, expedited the approval process and increased financial resources available to housing developers as incentives to produce affordable housing.

90-DAY TENANT PROTECTION ORDINANCE

The City Council adopted an ordinance that provides protections for existing residents when a sale of a rental property occurs. The protections include a 90-day period limiting rent increases, a rule preventing non-renewal of leases without cause, and a requirement to provide relocation assistance upon failure to comply with the ordinance.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND

In late 2019, the City launched a \$15 million Affordable Housing Trust Fund. The City worked to identify a strategy to raise the needed capital for the affordable housing trust fund without placing any financial burden on taxpayers by leveraging existing City resources. This is a significant and innovative investment that will support economic diversity in Bloomington. Few suburban cities have trust funds dedicated to the creation and preservation of affordable housing. Hennepin County only recently approved \$15 million for a similar countywide trust fund.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING GOAL FOR THE CITY 845 NEW UNITS

WHAT'S AFFORDABLE? RENT BY INCOME LEVEL (PER MONTH)

BEDROOMS	HOUSEHOLD OF FOUR EARNING \$30,000 A YEAR	HOUSEHOLD OF FOUR EARNING \$60,000 A YEAR
Efficiency	\$525	\$1,050
1 bedroom	\$562	\$1,124
2 bedroom	\$675	\$1,350
3 bedroom	\$780	\$1,560
4 bedroom	\$870	\$1,740

WHAT IS AFFORDABLE?

Housing is considered affordable when rent or mortgage costs are equal to 30% or less of the tenant's or owner's post-tax income. The above graph shows rent that is affordable to household incomes of \$30,000 and \$60,000. See the "2019 cost to rent in Bloomington" graph to the right to get an idea of the current rental market in Bloomington.



HRA NEW DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

With more than 1,600 residential units in the pipeline, it's been a busy year for new housing development in Bloomington. Check out the map above to learn more about new multifamily housing coming to the community.

VILLAGE CLUB APARTMENTS

Village Club preserves 306 units of naturally occurring affordable housing and will provide 165 new affordable units. The City awarded \$7 million in Affordable Housing Trust Funds to assist affordable housing developer Aeon in purchasing Village Club. This development is within walking distance of Mall of America and the light rail station.

HOMES WITHIN REACH

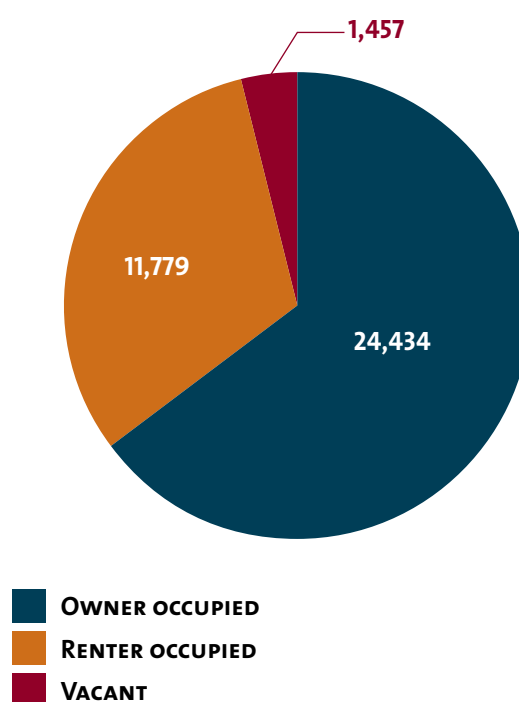
The Homes Within Reach program provides homeownership opportunities to low- and moderate-income, first-time homebuyers in Bloomington using the land trust model. Each year HRA provides funding to reduce the costs of the purchase and rehab expenses for two homes.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

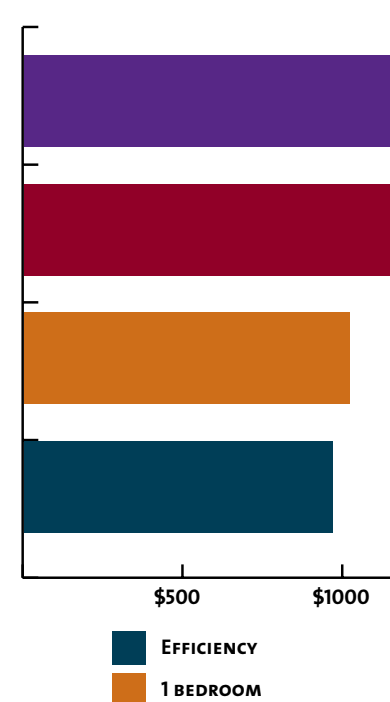
In 2019, HRA partnered with Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity on the development of a single-family home for a low- to moderate-income, first-time homebuyer. HRA removed a substandard home from the lot, which it sold to Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity at a reduced price. The new home will be completed in spring 2020.

BLOOMINGTON HOUSING AT A GLANCE

HOMEOWNERSHIP VS. RENTAL



2019 COST TO RENT IN BLOOMINGTON



A BETTER BLOOMINGTON



THE GATEWAY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

In 2019, the City Council approved the creation of the Gateway Development District, *see map on page 1*, beginning a transformational opportunity in an area of the city where development and redevelopment has lagged. By encouraging the redevelopment of Bloomington's aging neighborhood commercial centers within the district, the City increases the likelihood of more business owners and residents naming Bloomington as their community of choice. More importantly, the district's focus is on creating a quality place for current residents and businesses by building on past successes, present opportunities and future trends. Bloomington HRA provided a large portion of the funds used to make this project happen. They are also involved in a number of the projects that are underway or in the pipeline.

Read about current projects in the district on page 1.



HRA SERVICES FOR RESIDENTS

HOUSING REHABILITATION LOAN PROGRAM

Bloomington HRA provides home rehabilitation loans ranging up to \$35,000 to Bloomington homeowners. Rehabilitation loans do not include monthly payments and they accrue interest at a low rate of 2% for 10 years. Borrowers do not have to pay back the loan until the home is transferred, or sold, or is no longer the owner's principal place of residence.

The loans are available only to Bloomington homeowners. They are meant to help make repairs to meet health and safety requirements, such as bringing lead paint, heating, electrical and plumbing conditions up to City code, making homes more energy efficient, and making exterior improvements such as roofing upgrades.

For more information or to apply for a loan, call 952-563-8937 or visit blm.mn/loans.

HOUSING REHAB LOANS BY THE NUMBERS

94 Loans approved in 2019
2.2 Millions of dollars in investment

RENTAL HOMES FOR FUTURE HOMEBUYERS

The Rental Homes for Future Homebuyers program helps families save money for future home purchases. Eligible families of 3 – 6 members may apply for the program waiting list. The waiting list is approximately 3 – 5 years long and each year 3 – 5 new families enter the program.

Families accepted into the program rent one of 21 houses owned by the Housing and Redevelopment Authority. All the houses are three-bedroom single family houses located in Bloomington.

To help aspiring homeowners achieve their goals, HRA saves a portion of the families rent each month, which is placed in escrow. After five years, those funds are used by the family toward a down payment to buy their own home. Over the period of five years, HRA works with families to set goals and prepare to purchase and maintain their own home.

RENTAL ASSISTANCE

The Housing Choice Voucher Rent Assistance Program is one of the HRA's biggest programs. Also known as Section 8, the program helps very low-income households with rent payments. Each month, Bloomington HRA assists renters in 550 low-income households to pay rent.

RENTAL ASSISTANCE BY THE NUMBERS

550 Households assisted with Housing Choice Vouchers
405 Households assisted with Project Based Section 8
21 Households assisted with Rental Housing for Future Homebuyers



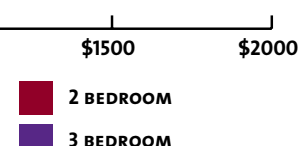
A HOUSE FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

Last fall, an open lot on Penn Avenue transformed into a place for homeless veterans to live, thanks to a three-party partnership including the HRA. The HRA acquired the property because it had a substandard, foreclosed home on it. Once the house was removed, the HRA donated the property to the BATC Housing First Minnesota Foundation. The nonprofit partnered with Lennar, a housing developer, to build a four-bedroom home for homeless veterans. The home will provide an affordable, temporary place for veterans to live for up to two years while receiving resources from the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans. The home will serve four veterans at a time.

COST TO BUY A HOME IN BLOOMINGTON



	2018	2019	+/-
Median sales price	\$260,000	\$276,000	+6.2%





CREATE GYOTAKU FISH PRINTS AT CREEKSIDE

Create a keepsake prize catch through gyotaku, a Japanese art form. Traditionally, gyotaku prints were hung as trophies to display fish size, intricate textures and other natural details. In this two-part class, learn how to print rubber-cast fish forms on a variety of papers and embellish prints with watercolor accents. Classes take place Tuesday, March 24, and Friday, March 27, 1 – 3 p.m., at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South. Cost is \$30. No previous art experience is required. For more information and registration, call 952-563-4944.



CREEKSIDE FAMILY ULTRA-FUN NIGHTS

Tired of watching movies and staying in with the family? Trade screen time for playtime during Family Ultra-Fun Nights (Creekside F.U.N.) at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South. Discover why the family that plays together has the most fun as you take part in activities everyone will enjoy. Creekside F.U.N. is free and held the second Saturday of each month from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

- **March 14:** Bingo night for the whole family with prizes for each game. Door opens at 5:15 p.m.
- **April 11:** Marshmallow masterpiece. Try to build the best sculpture out of marshmallows.
- **May 9:** Minute-to-win-it night. Compete against other families in quick challenges.

For more information, visit blm.mn/programs or call 952-563-4944.

STAY IN THE LOOP WITH EMAIL ALERTS

From current construction projects to arts programs, E-Subscribe makes it easy to stay informed about City projects and events that interest you.

Thousands of people have already signed up for E-Subscribe to learn about a variety of topics. Sign up at blm.mn/subscribe.

BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY

FROM FARM TO WATER FOR YOUR TABLE

Normandale Boulevard is hardly the place you would expect to find a farmstead with a big red barn, tilled cropland and a working windmill. For a glimpse into former farm life, just step back to the early 20th century when Art and Clara Christenson had a place along Poplar Bridge Road. The farm changed hands in the early '50s, when the Figi family took over the property.

Today, the windmill remains atop the slope near Nord Myr Marsh, and the City of Bloomington retains ownership. This is where the water treatment plant is located. While the old homestead is long gone, the timeworn windmill and prairie grass plantings stand tall against the modern facilities hinting at what used to be.



BIG ICE SHOW CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

Join in the 50th anniversary celebration at Bloomington Ice Garden. The annual spring ice show pays tribute to “50 BIG Years” on Friday, March 13, 7 p.m., and Saturday, March 14, 2 p.m.

Presale tickets will be available starting March 2, and continue through March 11, ending at 9 p.m., at BIG, 3600 West 98th Street. The cost is \$7 for adults, and \$5 for children and seniors. Children 5 and younger are free. After March 11, tickets will cost \$10 for adults and \$8 for children and seniors. Tickets will also be sold at the door.

Tickets for a March 12, 6 p.m. dress rehearsal will be sold at the door at a cost of \$6 for all ages.

For more information, visit blm.mn/BIG or call 952-563-8841.



Ice show skaters, from left to right, front row: Melissa Perez Salas, Nina Porter, Mila Dreis, Onia Gelecinskyj, instructor, Christina Lam and Selena Lam, back row: Summer Scherer, Ava Harvey, Isabel McGee, Aubrie Carruthers and Mari Blossom.

ENJOY OPEN SKATING AT BIG

Come have some BIG fun during open skating at Bloomington Ice Garden, 3600 West 98th Street. Open ice skating takes place Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 – 10:30 a.m., and Sundays, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

Cost is \$5 for adults and \$4 for children 17 or younger. Skate sharpening is available for \$6 and skate rental is available for \$3. To learn more, visit blm.mn/BIG or call 952-563-8841. Schedules are subject to change.



IN MEMORIAM: LONGTIME BIG MANAGER DENNY MAY

For Denny May, managing the Bloomington Ice Garden was more than a job. It was a calling—one that he enjoyed for more than three decades. In December 2019, May passed away.

May started working at BIG in 1970, a month before the rink opened. Through his time there he would build the rink's reputation and countless strong relationships with the people who frequented the rink for hockey and figure skating as well as other BIG employees. He is remembered for his passion for hockey, his positive attitude and his smile.

Current BIG Manager Bob Carr and Andy Baltgalvis, who served as manager after May's retirement before Carr took over, have many fond memories of their time spent working with May for more than 30 years.

“We were such a close-knit group. We really miss having Denny around. It's unbelievable that he's gone,” Carr said.



MEET A FIREFIGHTER

Drew Squires has been a Bloomington firefighter for 16 years. He serves out of Station 3.

Q: What is your day job?

A: I'm a full-time firefighter and paramedic in Saint Paul.

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

A: I like to golf. I'm part of the seven-time fire department station championship team. I also enjoy hanging out with my family and cooking, especially barbecue.

Q: What made you want to become a firefighter?

A: Extended family history played a big part in it. Many members of my family have been firefighters in the past and that inspired me to get involved.

Q: What do you like most about firefighting?

A: No two days are ever the same. And I don't need to sit behind a desk.

Q: Where are you from?

A: I grew up in Bloomington, played sports with the Bloomington Athletic Association, graduated, left and moved back.

Q: What do you like most about Bloomington?

A: I really like that it's the biggest little town ever. You really know everyone and have that sense of community, but also have the benefit of being a short drive from Minneapolis, Saint Paul and the airport.



BLOOMINGTON POLICE HOSTS CONVERSATIONS

As part of the Bloomington Police Department's ongoing work to build trust and relationships with residents, the department hosts monthly community conversations throughout the city.

These conversations have no formal agenda and provide residents an opportunity to meet with Chief Jeff Potts and discuss neighborhood concerns.

"As a department, we rely on feedback from our community to better understand people's needs and concerns. These community conversations help us open a dialogue with our residents, which is critical to our efforts to keep Bloomington safe and healthy for all," Potts said.

The next community conversation will be Thursday, March 19, at David Fong's Restaurant, 9329 Lyndale Avenue South. For more information, visit blm.mn/conversations.

MAKE FINE PRINTS FROM FOUND OBJECTS

Join Artistry and use the ordinary to create something extraordinary. Learn how to make marvelous modern prints with forks, spoons, packaging material and other everyday objects. Learn fun techniques that will enable you to create surface designs on pillows, coffee mugs, shirts, greeting cards and more. This one-session workshop is Saturday, March 21, 10 a.m. – noon. Cost is \$52 for Artistry members and \$57 for nonmembers. Supplies are included. For more information or to register, visit blm.mn/artclasses or call 952-563-8575.

MAKE A NUNO FELTED SCARF

The Nuno felted scarf, made by combining silk and wool roving, is a contemporary twist to the traditional art of felt making. In this workshop at Artistry, you can explore surface design techniques to create your own unique Nuno felt accessory. Cost is \$86 for Artistry members and \$94 for nonmembers. The workshop takes place Saturday, March 28, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. To prepare for the workshop, bring two or three hand towels, a bath towel and a bag lunch. Fibers and a beautiful hand-dyed silk chiffon scarf are included.

For more information or to register, visit blm.mn/artclasses or call 952-563-8575.

EXPERIENCE CLASSICAL BALLET WITH CONTINENTAL BALLET COMPANY

Did you know that Minnesota's only classical ballet company is located in Civic Plaza, at the Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road? The Continental Ballet Company has been a fixture since 2002. While many of the group's performing artists are from Minnesota, some come from as far as South America, Europe and Japan.

The Continental Ballet Company performs classical ballets in the Schneider Theater and on tour. All are classical productions, including *Cinderella*, *Giselle*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Rodeo*, *Les Sylphides*, *Coppelia* and more.

Besides ballet performances, the company has a dance school and offers special summer programs. Professional instructors teach classes for children and adults.

BY THE NUMBERS:

3 Months of rehearsal, **6** days a week for *Swan Lake*.

5 Years since *Swan Lake* was last performed.

6 Professional ballet teachers provide ballet instruction.

20 Performances each season.

32 Years ago the company was founded by Riet Velthuisen.

125 Ballet students annually.



The Continental Ballet Company's professional performing company makes the group truly unique. Ballet instruction is also available and taught by professional dancers.



Michaela Macauley, left, and Wesley Rocha, right, are the lead dancers in *Swan Lake*.

BLOOMINGTON CHORALE SELECTS MUSIC DIRECTOR

Dr. David Donelson has joined the Bloomington Chorale as its new music director. With an extensive background as a conductor and music professor, Donelson has directed choruses in Europe and the U.S. Currently, he is the conductor of the Wooddale Church Choir and Orchestra in Eden Prairie. With Donelson's impressive record, the Bloomington Chorale is poised to grow the musical arts in the Twin Cities.

The Bloomington Chorale is housed in the Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, and singers of all ages and abilities can take part. For 38 years, the group has offered high-quality performances at affordable prices. For more information, visit blm.mn/chorale or call 952-563-8582.



CURBSIDE CLEANUP'S COMING

Prepare for your Cleanup day by setting your materials at the curb **before 7 a.m.** Trucks only pass by once. Large appliances and brush are collected for recycling in separate trucks and any remaining items are collected and taken to a landfill.

Eligible Bloomington residents will see a "Citywide Curbside Cleanup" charge on their utility bills. At an annual cost of \$53.04 for residents, this program is a bargain. (Disposing of one mattress with the bulk pickup program costs \$52.02.)

Remember to box small items or bundle them with twine. NO plastic bags are accepted. Do not set out reusable containers that you do not want collected by the haulers.

Limited assistance is available on a first-come, first-served basis for seniors or residents with disabilities who need help moving items to the curb. Inquire about assistance at least two weeks prior to your pickup by calling Maintenance at 952-563-8760.

The City will consider more environmentally efficient ways to handle bulky items in the future.



2020 CURBSIDE CLEANUP SCHEDULE

- **APRIL 4** — EAST OF PORTLAND AVENUE (MONDAY GARBAGE AND RECYCLING DAY). ■
- **APRIL 11** — PORTLAND AVENUE TO PENN AVENUE (TUESDAY GARBAGE AND RECYCLING DAY). ■
- **APRIL 18** — PENN AVENUE TO FRANCE AVENUE (WEDNESDAY GARBAGE AND RECYCLING DAY). ■
- **APRIL 25** — FRANCE AVENUE TO NORMANDEALE BOULEVARD (THURSDAY GARBAGE AND RECYCLING DAY). ■
- **MAY 2** — WEST OF NORMANDEALE BOULEVARD (FRIDAY GARBAGE AND RECYCLING DAY). ■

WHAT'S ACCEPTED AT THE CURB

- **Unusable general junk, household building materials, lumber, windows and doors:** Pile size is limited to what fits in one level, standard-size pickup truck bed. Lumber must be stacked and no longer than five feet. General junk must be boxed or bundled with twine and weigh less than 100 pounds per box or bundle.

- **Carpet and pads:** Roll and securely tie with twine. Keep under five feet in length and one foot in diameter.

- **Appliances:** Limit of two appliances per house. Water heaters and softeners, microwaves, washers, dryers, stoves, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, freezers, dishwashers, trash compactors, garbage disposals, water coolers, refrigerators (remove door or tie securely shut). Do not set out until the morning of your pickup date.

- **Unusable furniture:** Limited to two items. Tie down or disassemble hide-a-way sofa beds so they cannot open when handled.

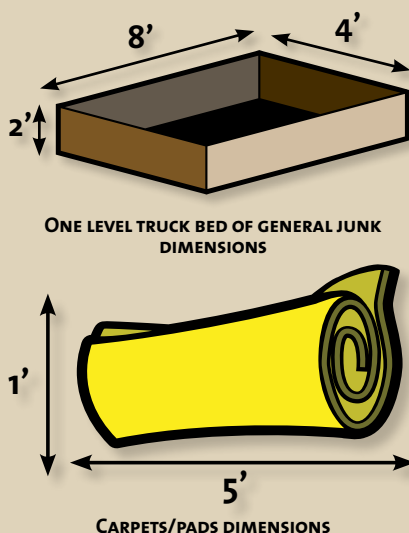
- **Bundled brush:** Branches must be smaller than three inches in diameter and five feet in length, tied with twine and put in bundles that should be light enough for one person to carry. Bundled brush piles must be no more than what can fit in a standard pickup truck bed.

- **Mattresses or box springs.** Limited to two items.
- **Large metal ONLY:** Large scrap metal items that do not fit in the trunk of a car (bikes, grills, lawn mowers, snow blowers, swing sets, treadmills, etc.) Drain all fluids and remove tires. Take smaller items to the South Hennepin Recycling and Problem Waste Drop-Off Center, 1400 West 96th Street.

WHAT'S NOT ACCEPTED AT THE CURB

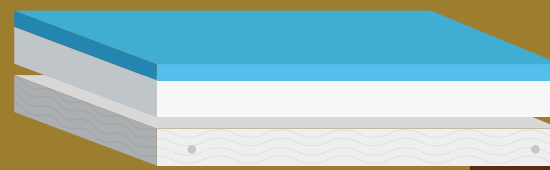
- **Loose cardboard.** While we understand residents might place small items in a box and set the box out on the curb, loose cardboard on its own is not accepted. Cardboard should be flattened and recycled.

- **Small metal.**
- **Tires, batteries.**
- **Tubs, sinks and toilets.**
- **Extra heavy and bulky items:** Pianos or organs, etc.
- **Electronic items:** Cell phones, computers, stereos, printers and TVs.
- **Hazardous waste:** Fluorescent tubes, motor oil, paint, propane, solvents and other household chemicals.
- **Miscellaneous building items:** Contractor materials, bricks, concrete, railroad ties, shingles (asbestos) or treated wood.
- **Organic materials:** Food waste, grass clippings, leaves, logs, sod and stumps.
- **Recyclable materials:** Boxboard, cans, loose cardboard, glass, corrugated cardboard, newspapers and plastic bottles.



CURBSIDE PILE ITEM LIMITS

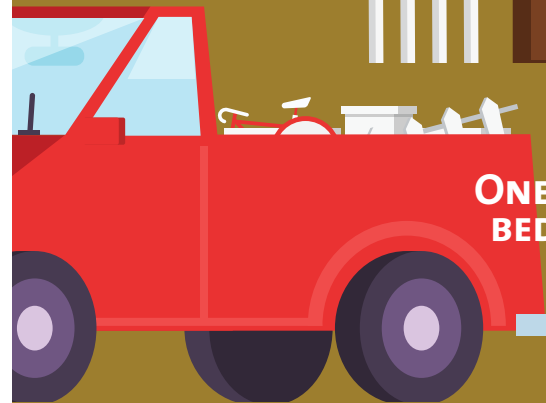
TWO MATTRESSES OR BOX SPRINGS



TWO PIECES OF FURNITURE



ONE LEVEL TRUCK BED OF GENERAL JUNK



FOLLOW QUANTITY LIMITS

Quantity and size limits on accepted items are strictly enforced. This helps to keep program costs low. *See the item quantity and size limits listed above.* Items surpassing specified limits will not be picked up and will remain on the curb; residents will need to arrange for bulk material disposal. Excess materials could increase your costs.

DONATE OR RECYCLE ITEMS FIRST

During 2019 Curbside Cleanup, nearly 35% of the items set on the curb could have been recycled or reused, according to a field audit of more than 2,000 curb piles.

Help reduce the amount of material sent to the landfill by donating and recycling reusable items instead of placing them out for collection.

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

REFRIGERATOR RECYCLING AVAILABLE

Have an old fridge in your basement or garage that still works? If you are a residential Xcel Energy customer, you can sign up for refrigerator recycling. Xcel Energy will take away your refrigerator for free and give you a \$50 rebate. To make an appointment for your free pickup, call 800-599-5795 or visit blm.mn/fridge.

FOR MORE CURBSIDE CLEANUP INFORMATION

For more information about Curbside Cleanup, visit blm.mn/curbside or call 952-563-8760. Want to report illegal dumping or scavengers making a mess? Call 911.

To find more tips about the proper disposal of items not accepted at the curb, visit the Hennepin County Green Disposal Guide on at blm.mn/green-dispose or call 612-348-3777.

PREP TO PREVENT POTENTIAL FLOODING

The City is working with local watershed districts to monitor flood risk. It is too early to know how the weather will unfold, but conditions are ripe for possible flooding. In 2019, total rainfall broke previous records by four inches.

Take steps to prevent potential spring flooding. As you shovel, think about where you pile snow. Avoid flow paths and other areas prone to collecting water. Not sure where they are in your yard? Think about where water has congregated during past spring melts.

Dig a channel in the snow leading away from your home so water has a good place to go. Remember that water follows the path of least resistance.

Make sure storm drains near your home are open and free of snow, ice, litter and other materials.

Visit blm.mn/water-resources or call 952-563-4870 for more information.