

PAGE 2

PAGE 3

PAGE 5

PAGE 6

Photo courtesy of Scott Carnahan.

## FIREFIGHTERS AMONG FRIENDS

Firefighting on a minus six-degree day is cold business, but unexpected kindness warms hearts even in bad weather. Thanks to two neighbors, a fire was a little less burning at West Bush Lake Road, at least in spirit.

Approximately 40 firefighters from Bloomington, Eden Prairie and Edina took several hours to extinguish the blaze. On January 27, the temperature was less than ideal for firefighting.

A neighbor with a home just 30 feet from the fire opened up his heated garage for the firefighters. The shelter provided a place for firefighters to clear ice from one of their most important pieces of equipment, the self-contained breathing apparatus.

Another neighbor brought snacks and drinks for the firefighters as well as police at the scene.

“She made several trips and brought a lot of food,” Fire Chief Ulie Seal said. “This was more than a pan of cookies.”

The neighbors received a letter of recognition from Seal on behalf of the City. Helpful neighbors do what they can during the most challenging times in the most surprising ways.

“Both of those people actually hit three cities with their thoughtfulness,” he said.

Still more good news: all family members and their two pets emerged safely from the blaze.

## PRESERVING AND CREATING AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The City Council approved an opportunity housing ordinance on February 25. To draft the ordinance, the City engaged developers, nonprofits, trade associations and community stakeholders to preserve and create new affordable housing.

The ordinance includes an innovative approach to development, providing flexibility and a better partnership model for developers. It requires that new housing developments of 20 units or more include at least nine percent affordable units. Developers have flexible options to comply with this requirement to minimize the impact.

Developers also have access to a variety of flexibility measures, incentives, and tools to apply to the project, such as reduced parking requirements and development fee waivers. The City will not require developers to use specific tools or incentives. Developers will have their choice of options as part of their own development analysis as they proceed through the City’s development process. Developers will not have to seek City Council approval on the use of the tools and incentives.

An “affordable unit” is affordable to a family of four earning 30 – 60 percent of the region’s area median income of \$94,000 as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Having sufficient affordable housing opportunities in Bloomington not only benefits renters and homeowners, it helps businesses, too. Mayor Gene Winstead said that to ensure local employers have access to a strong workforce—from manufacturing to office or hospitality workers—there must be stable, affordable places for employees to live nearby.

“What we’re finding is that for many in Bloomington’s work force—including teachers, nurses and police officers—housing has become difficult to afford,” Mayor Winstead said. “We want people from all economic levels to be able to work and live here, and this is just another way to do it.”

The ordinance also helps provide housing stability for renters and tenant stability for property owners. It allows tenants who qualify for an affordable unit to grow their income up to 140 percent in a five-year period without needing to leave when they initially rise above the income limit.

“I think Bloomington is at the forefront with this ordinance,” said Blake Hopkins, vice president of housing development at Aeon, a nonprofit developer. “This is the most comprehensive affordable housing package that we’ve seen. I think it will have a real impact on the community.”



FIND US ONLINE  
BLOOMINGTONMN.gov



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

ECRWSS  
POSTAL CUSTOMER

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





The City achieved step 3 in the GreenStep Cities program in 2018. Pictured left to right: City Councilmember Dwayne Lowman, Mayor Gene Winstead, City Manager Jamie Verbrugge and Bloomington Police Chief Jeff Potts.

# MAYOR’S MEMO

## CELEBRATING EARTH DAY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION SUCCESSES

By Mayor Gene Winstead

Earth Day is celebrated worldwide on Monday, April 22, but we take environmental issues into account year-round. The Bloomington Sustainability Commission was formed in 2017 to advise the Council, City staff and community. After its first full year, the Sustainability Commission shared a recap of its successes, including:

- Creating the Energy Action Plan with a goal of reducing carbon emissions from natural gas and electricity by 75 percent by 2035.
- Successfully launching the Organics Drop-off program.
- Establishing a plan with a goal of reducing commercial groundwater use by 350 million gallons by 2028.
- Restoring land in the Minnesota River Valley and making plans to restore an additional 20 acres of ecologically sensitive areas this year.
- Achieving Step Three recognition in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program.

Want to be involved with sustainability? Attend the City’s Earth Day event, “Climate Action: 10 Steps to Leave a Better World for Your Children” on Tuesday, April 30. The Sustainability Commission will give an update on sustainability in Bloomington. Speakers will discuss simple things that you can do to reduce your carbon footprint, improve your health and save money.

The event is sponsored by the League of Women Voters Bloomington and the Sustainability Commission. Networking will start at 6:30 p.m., and presentations follow at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

Want to learn more about sustainability? For information or to sign up for E-Subscribe, visit [blm.mn/sustain](http://blm.mn/sustain).

## POLICE PARTNER WITH HAZELDEN ON FREE EVENT TO HELP PARENTS

The Top Secret Project is a unique event designed to help parents recognize unfamiliar hazards that are often in plain sight in teenagers’ rooms. This project stems from a desire to make families safer, stronger and healthier.

Featuring an extensive display of common household items, the presentation includes a full-size replica of a teenager’s room. Attendees will have the opportunity to look at items that, when seen through an educational lens, could

be a signal that there’s a problem. This event is interactive and accompanied by a presentation and a discussion with Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation staff. It is a free event that is open to the public on Wednesday, May 1, 6 – 8 p.m., at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, in the Council Chambers. No registration is required.

To find out more about this event, visit [blm.mn/topsecretproject](http://blm.mn/topsecretproject) or call 952-563-8808.

## ATTEND A TOWN HALL FORUM

City Councilmembers are exploring new avenues to connect with constituents. In 2018, more than 200 residents attended town hall forums—an outreach event series that kicked off last year. Three town hall forums are planned for this spring and summer: Tuesday, April 23, 7 p.m., at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road; Saturday, May 18, Welcome Meal at Pond Center, 9600 3rd Avenue South, and Saturday, June 15, at the Farmers Market in Civic Plaza’s east lot.

Councilmembers and City staff will answer questions at the events and present information on ongoing and upcoming projects. The town hall forum on April 23 will also be streamed live on Facebook. Online viewers will be able to submit questions for presenters. For more information, visit [blm.mn/townhall](http://blm.mn/townhall) or call 952-563-8782.



## BRIEFING

Volume 27, Number4

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)  
**Website: [BloomingtonMN.gov](http://BloomingtonMN.gov)**

### BLOOMINGTON CITY COUNCIL



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

**Councilmember At Large**  
Nathan Coulter  
952-239-0531  
[ncoulter@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:ncoulter@BloomingtonMN.gov)



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

**Councilmember District I**  
Dwayne Lowman  
952-479-0226  
[dlowman@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:dlowman@BloomingtonMN.gov)



**Councilmember District II**  
Shawn Nelson  
952-479-0471  
[snelson@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:snelson@BloomingtonMN.gov)

**Councilmember District III**  
Jack Baloga  
952-944-5194  
[jbaloga@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:jbaloga@BloomingtonMN.gov)



**Councilmember District IV**  
Patrick Martin  
952-454-6657  
[pmartin@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:pmartin@BloomingtonMN.gov)

*Elected officials presented for informational purposes.*

### COUNCILMEMBERS

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

### EXECUTIVE STAFF

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

**General phone number** 952-563-8700

The City of Bloomington complies with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs, and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations. For more information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; 952-563-8733.

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





## ENJOY OLD CEDAR AVENUE AREA ENHANCEMENTS

Have you been to the Minnesota River by Long Meadow Lake lately? Old Cedar Avenue area enhancements are shaping up with the Old Cedar Avenue bridge historic rehabilitation, road improvements, new connecting trails and boardwalk.

The Old Cedar Avenue area enhancements are a joint project between the City of Bloomington and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. More updated amenities are coming. In another phase of the project, restroom facilities will be added.

For more information, visit [blm.mn/OCA-Area](http://blm.mn/OCA-Area) or call 952-563-4870.

### TRAILS FROM THE OLD CEDAR AVENUE AREA

The Old Cedar Avenue area is part of an extensive trail system connecting with the Nokomis-Minnesota River Regional Trail, the Long Meadow Lake Trail and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Road on the south end. Through the pedestrian bridge at TH77, this trail network connects to the Fort Snelling State Park Trail, also known as the Dakota County Minnesota River Greenway. Further connections include the Nokomis-Minnesota River Regional Trail which leads to Lake Nokomis. From there, trails feed into the Minneapolis Grand Rounds Scenic Byway System and the Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail.

## LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH: ON A MISSION TO MAKE CITIES HEALTHIER

National Public Health Week is April 1 – 7. This year’s message is “Creating the healthiest nation: For science. For action. For health.” It’s a fitting time to recognize the City’s Public Health Division and what they do to promote, protect and improve the health of all in Bloomington, Edina

and Richfield. Public Health works with people of all ages on things like pregnancy and parenting, and disease prevention and control. Public Health staff also work with community partners in order to expand opportunities for healthy living. To learn more, visit [blm.mn/publichealth](http://blm.mn/publichealth).

## PASSPORT PROCESSING AVAILABLE AT CIVIC PLAZA

Do you need a passport for your next trip? The City Clerk’s Office offers passport services for new passports by appointment only Monday through Friday, 8:20 a.m. – 3 p.m. Schedule an appointment at [blm.mn/passport](http://blm.mn/passport).

You need an appointment if you are a first-time applicant, under 18 or if your previous passport was issued more than 15 years ago. Additional considerations are listed on the City’s website. No appointment is necessary for photos. You are required to renew an expired adult passport by mail. For more information, visit [blm.mn/passport](http://blm.mn/passport).



## HENNEPIN COUNTY RAISES SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FEE

Effective April 1, Hennepin County will increase its Solid Waste Management Fee for all garbage services in the county. Residents will pay the newly adjusted fee, which appears on their residential utility bills. The City remits the collected fees to Hennepin County on a monthly basis.

The fee pertains only to services related to garbage. Charges for the collection of extra garbage bags or bulky items, including furniture and mattresses that are disposed of as garbage, are subject to the fee. Charges for items not disposed of as garbage, including recycling, yard waste and bulky item collection of electronics and appliances, are not subject to the fee.

The Hennepin County Solid Waste Management Fee was established in 1994 to fund environmental programs that protect human and environmental health. These programs include waste prevention, recycling and organics recycling, as well as environmental education and protection programs.

For more information, visit [blm.mn/garbage](http://blm.mn/garbage) or call Utility Billing at 952-563-8726.



## TAKE A CREATIVE PLACEMAKING SURVEY WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

As part of the City’s neighborhood focus initiative, the Creative Placemaking Commission identified the intersection of 86th Street East and Nicollet Avenue as a site for one or more small creative projects to enhance the area.

To get started, the City is looking for feedback from those who live or work near the intersection. Take the survey at [blm.mn/cpsurvey](http://blm.mn/cpsurvey). Responses are due by April 15.

Questions? Contact Creative Placemaking Director Alejandra Pelinka at 952-563-8744 or [apelinka@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:apelinka@BloomingtonMN.gov).



## JOIN THE BOARD OF REVIEW

Are you a Bloomington resident with a background in real estate, property assessment or appraisal looking to give back to your community? Get involved with the City’s Board of Review. The group hears appeals of the assessed values for properties in the city. It is seeking new applicants. Applications will be accepted through mid-May. For more information, call 952-563-8780 or visit [blm.mn/boards](http://blm.mn/boards). Advisory board and commission meetings are usually held at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

## HOME IMPROVEMENT SEMINARS

Nail down a few fresh tips to make your home stand out at a home improvement seminar this summer. The Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority will host three home improvement seminars on Tuesday, June 11, and Wednesdays, July 10 and August 7, at 7 p.m., at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. For more details visit [blm.mn/homeseminars](http://blm.mn/homeseminars).



CURBSIDE CLEANUP

Curbside Cleanup continues to be a convenient program and a bargain at an annual cost of \$48.24 for residents. That costs less than dropping off items at a transfer station yourself or scheduling a special bulk pickup through the City. For example, Curbside 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.** Items must be boxed or bundled with twine. **No plastic bags will be accepted.** Trucks pass through only once.

Limited assistance is available for seniors or residents with disabilities who need help moving things to the curb. First come, first served. Contact Community Outreach and Engagement at least two weeks prior to your pickup at 952-563-8733.

ACCEPTED AT THE CURB

• **General junk, household building materials, lumber, windows and doors:** Pile limited to what fits in ONE level standard-size pickup truck bed. Lumber stacked and no longer than five feet. **NO railroad ties. NO business materials used for contractor work.** General junk must be boxed or bundled with twine and weigh under 100 pounds per item.

• **Carpets/pads:** Rolled and securely tied with twine. Under five feet long and one foot in diameter.

• **Appliances:** 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). **Limit of two** appliances per house. **DO NOT set out appliances until the morning of your pickup date.**

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

• **BUNDLED brush:** Branches must be smaller than three inches in diameter and five feet in length, tied with twine and put in bundles that can be carried by one person. 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 (swing sets, grills, bikes, treadmills, lawn mowers, snow blowers, etc.) Drain all fluids and remove tires. Smaller items should be taken to the South Hennepin Recycling and Problem Waste Drop-Off Center, 1400 West 96th Street.

NOT ACCEPTED AT THE CURB

- **Small metal.**
- **Tires, batteries.**
- **Tubs, sinks, toilets.**
- **Exceptionally heavy and bulky items:**

Pianos or organs, for example.

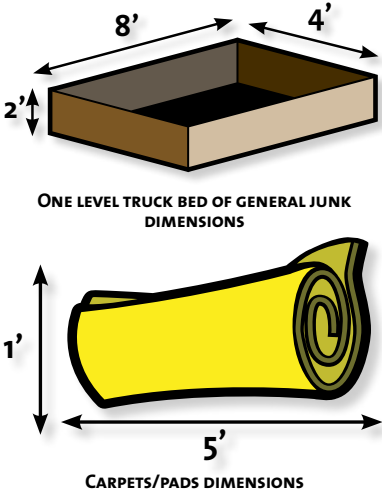
- **Electronic items:** TVs, computers, stereos, cell phones, printers.
- **Miscellaneous building items:** Contractor materials, railroad ties, treated wood, concrete, bricks or shingles (asbestos).
- **Hazardous waste:** Paint, motor oil, solvents, fluorescent tubes, propane and other household chemicals.
- **Organic materials:** Leaves, grass clippings, sod, stumps, logs and food waste.
- **Recyclable materials:** Newspapers, cans, glass, corrugated cardboard, boxboard and plastic bottles.

QUESTIONS? CALL 952-563-8760 OR VISIT BLM.MN/CURBSIDE.

For tips on how to dispose of items not accepted at the curb, call 612-348-3777 or visit the Green Disposal Guide on Hennepin County’s website at hennepin.us/green-disposal-guide.

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

To keep program costs low, quantity limits on accepted items are enforced. Item quantity limits are specified below and at right. Items exceeding the limits will remain on the curb and residents will need to arrange for bulk material disposal. Excess materials could cost you more. To report illegal dumping or scavengers making a mess, call 911.



CURBSIDE PILE ITEM LIMITS



BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY  
CURBSIDE CLEANUPS OF YORE

When this trio of trash-toting tykes proudly posed circa 1970, the Annual Citywide Curbside Cleanup was already a big event. The “Clean up, Paint up, Fix up” tradition began in 1963 to make a safer, cleaner and more beautiful city. Spring cleaning brought out countless household items, old appliances, scrap metal, landscaping brush and more.

The Annual Curbside Cleanup continues today. Learn how you can participate in the 2019 event. See the story at left.

AND THE GOLDEN TRASH CAN AWARD GOES TO...

While the general goal remains the same, some of the glamour of curbside cleanup has faded over the years. Consider the Golden Trash Can Award once presented to the resident with the neatest, most attractive trash pile. In 1978, the acclaimed distinction went to Bloomington residents Scott and Joan Murray. The couple even wrote a poem\* to post on their pile:

This is elm wood.  
It doesn’t do me any good.  
I give it to you with no disgrace.  
I haven’t got a fireplace.  
You may think this is a lark.  
What you take must be debarked.  
At home.

*\*According to the Bloomington Sun Current.*

CITYWIDE GARAGE SALES COMING

Do you like garage sales? Get ready for the Citywide Garage Sales. Mark your calendar for Thursday, May 16 – Saturday, May 18. Whether you like to shop or have things you would like to sell, you won’t want to miss this community event. No need to worry about weather—the Citywide Garage Sales are held rain or shine.

Want to register your address as a garage sale or get a list of garage sale locations? For more information, visit blm.mn/garagesales or contact the Bloomington Optimist Youth Foundation at 952-893-1210. This annual event is sponsored by the Bloomington Optimist Youth Foundation.





# EARTH ACTION HEROES: THE ENERGY SAVERS

The story of creation is commonly told in churches. At Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, that story is followed by a question: How can we care for and preserve the environment?

“I don’t think as a religious organization we could be sitting here burning coal-fired electricity and say that we’re taking care of God’s creation,” said Oak Grove Presbyterian volunteer John Crampton, *above right with volunteer Pdon Pinkham*.

That’s why the church is committed to going green. This year, Oak Grove Presbyterian installed new solar panels. This cut its carbon emissions by about 25 percent—the equivalent of taking 144 cars off the road for a year. Oak Grove gets the rest of its energy from WindSource through Xcel Energy wind farms and a community solar garden.

“We’re going to cut our emissions by 220 percent. We’re actually going to produce more clean energy than we consume,” Crampton said.

Solar panels aren’t the only way Oak Grove is partaking in smart energy practices. They have two electric vehicle chargers in the parking lot available for anyone to use, new high-efficiency HVAC units and LED lights throughout the

building and the parking lot. The church also planted a rain garden in their parking lot area to minimize runoff to the local watershed.

These changes are exactly what the City’s Sustainability Commission is encouraging. A recent series of energy tours aim to give local businesses and organizations ideas to save money while saving the environment.

“Businesses consume about 79 percent of the energy in Bloomington,” Sustainability Commissioner Steve Flagg said. “These tours are a total win-win. Finding new efficient practices is good for the environment, good for resources and good for the pocketbook.”

Oak Grove Presbyterian volunteers attended an energy tour and identified with the message.

“It’s about keeping as many resources available in the earth as possible,” said church volunteer Bob Gerdes. “It’s about doing things that are very efficient and protecting the environment for future generations so they can enjoy Bloomington as we have.”



## CUT WASTE

Bloomington residential garbage is processed at a waste-to-energy facility called Hennepin County Recovery Center (HERC). Facilities like HERC are environmentally preferred to landfills, but it’s better to avoid making waste in the first place.

Only put things in the garbage that can’t be turned into new products through recycling and composting. Use reusable items instead of single-use items. Recycle boxes, bottles, cans, cartons, containers, papers and other recyclables. Compost organics—when you bring your food scraps to an organics drop-off site or compost in a backyard pile, the waste turns into a nutrient-rich soil amendment. Sign up for the City’s organics drop-off program at [blm.mn/organics](http://blm.mn/organics).

## SORT SMART

Properly sorting and reducing waste before it becomes garbage makes a difference and keeps our air cleaner. For more information, visit [blm.mn/recyclingres](http://blm.mn/recyclingres) or call 952-563-8760.

## YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

At last year’s town hall forums, residents submitted nearly 240 questions covering topics from new development to sustainability projects. Councilmembers and staff answered these questions at the forums. You can also find some of the answers in upcoming issues of the *Briefing* and online at [blm.mn/faq](http://blm.mn/faq).

**Q:** Will there ever be weekly recycling or curbside organics?  
**A:** The garbage and recycling program is set for the next few years. Council will be reviewing options when they discuss the future of the garbage and recycling contract between the end of 2019 and 2020. City staff will analyze and present options regarding recycling and organics waste to Council at that time.

## TREE PLANTINGS COMMEMORATE ARBOR DAY

Want to celebrate Arbor Day? Participate in the annual public tree sale. Order your trees ahead of time and pick up your trees during the event.

Through the sale, Bloomington residents can purchase affordable shade trees and find out more about trees. Experts will give a demonstration about planting bare-root trees and be on hand to answer questions. Learn proper planting techniques and why a diverse mix of species is important.

Now in its 13th year, the tree sale has added approximately 2,800 trees to Bloomington’s urban forest. The event is among the initiatives that helps Bloomington maintain its Tree City USA status.

Residents may purchase a maximum of up to five trees per household. To place a tree order, go to [blm.mn/treesale](http://blm.mn/treesale), mail in the order form below, or call 952-563-8760. Claim your trees at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road 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	_____ Black Hills spruce	_____ Imperial honeylocust	_____ Japanese tree lilac
_____ River birch	_____ Serviceberry	_____ Snowdrift crab apple	

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

Pick up trees at 1800 West Old Shakopee Road on **Saturday, May 5, 9 – 11 a.m.**

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







**JOIN A LEAGUE**  
**ADULT BAGS LEAGUE**

**B**ags, baggo, cornhole ... call it what you want! It has been a backyard favorite for years. Now you can test your skills in a fun recreational league. Games will be on Tuesday and Thursday nights, June 3 – August 1 at Taft Park, 6105 Bloomington Avenue South, Richfield.

The league is open to players 18 years of age or older. The deadline to register is May 20. Boards and bags will be provided. The cost to participate is \$55 per team. This league is offered in cooperation with the city of Richfield. For more information, call 612-861-9396.

**ADULT KICKBALL**

Have fun with your friends this summer while throwing it back to a school-age classic in the City's co-rec kickball league. The league fee includes regular season and playoffs, kickball (one per team), field, game official and league champion prizes. Registration is March 11 – April 26. Games will be from May through late July, at Valley View Playfield. There will be 10 single-header games and single-elimination playoffs. The cost to participate is \$285. This program is offered in cooperation with the city of Richfield.

**SUMMER SAND VOLLEYBALL**

Parks and Recreation is now accepting registrations for adult co-rec summer sand volleyball. Matches will take place Wednesdays and Thursdays, beginning Wednesday, May 29, at Dred Scott Playfield, 10820 Bloomington Ferry Road. For more information, visit [blm.mn/adultsports](http://blm.mn/adultsports).

**ADULT SPIKEBALL**

Spikeball is a mix between volleyball and foursquare that brings the heat. This two-versus-two sport takes place in a circle as opponents bounce the spikeball off a center net in an effort to stop the other team from returning it. Join us in the league that offers a new twist on a classic sandy setting. Games are on Monday nights, June 3 – August 5, at Dred Scott Playfield sand volleyball courts. Cost to participate is \$65 per team. Registration ends on May 17. This league is offered in cooperation with the city of Richfield.



**SUNSHINE AND SUMMERTIME**

**E**njoy lake life right here in Bloomington this summer at beautiful Bush Lake Beach, 9140 East Bush Lake Road. You can bring a picnic lunch, build a sandcastle, practice your backstroke or just soak up the sun. A daily pass or seasonal parking permit is required for entrance to East Bush Lake Park, June 1 – August 31. East Bush Lake Park is staffed June 8 – August 18, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m., daily with lifeguards on duty beginning at 11 a.m. Season parking permits for Bush Lake are now available for purchase at Civic Plaza. Cost is \$40 for the season (June through August) or \$8 daily.



**CHILL OUT AT THE AQUATIC CENTER**

Bloomington Family Aquatic Center, 201 90th Street East, has a zero-depth entry pool, interactive play areas, water slides, diving boards and a concession stand. Tot-swim and lap-swim are available Monday – Friday at 10 a.m. The pool is open all week June 8 – August 18 and on weekends through Labor Day. Pool hours are 12 – 8 p.m. on weekdays, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. on Saturdays, and 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Sundays.

**STEP TO IT CHALLENGE**

The Step to It Challenge is a friendly competition and a great way to get moving. The challenge starts May 1 and lasts four weeks. Track your daily activities online for a chance to win prizes and be honored at a Minnesota Twins home game during the 2019 season. For more information, visit [blm.mn/steptoit](http://blm.mn/steptoit).



**JOIN AN EGG-CITING HUNT**

Hop on over to the annual Egg Hunt where children ages eight and younger will enjoy exciting family activities, music, crafts and a hunt with more than 9,000 eggs! The Bloomington Optimist Club and Bloomington Parks and Recreation sponsor the annual Egg Hunt.

When: Saturday, April 20, activities 10 – 11 a.m. Egg hunt begins at 11 a.m.

Where: Normandale Lake Bandshell, 5901 West 84th Street

**MAKE A SPLASH AND GET FIT**

Test the waters in a low-impact workout class at the Bloomington Family Aquatic Center this summer on Sunday evenings at 6 p.m. Water aerobics combines cardio and strength moves for a workout that fits your skill level. All are welcome.



**BATTER UP! JOIN ADAPTIVE SOFTBALL**

**C**ompetitive and recreational adaptive softball leagues for adults 19 and older and youth ages 10 – 18 are open for registration. Adult leagues play Tuesdays, June 18 – August 13 and youth leagues play Mondays, June 17 – August 5, 6:30 – 8 p.m., at Tarnhill Park, 9650 Little Road. Cost to play is \$67. This includes a team shirt and photo. For more information, visit [blm.mn/adaptivesoftball](http://blm.mn/adaptivesoftball).



**GOLF COURSES OPENING FOR SEASON**

**C**all it a rite of spring. Golf season opens with a swing in the weather. Now that things are greening up, it's time to get outdoors.

Play golf at Dwan Golf Club, 110th Street and Xerxes Avenue, or Hyland Greens Golf and Learning Center, 102nd Street and Normandale Boulevard. Both City golf courses have reasonable fees and all the amenities for a great game. With discount passes, residents and nonresidents can golf and save.

To learn more, visit [blm.mn/golf](http://blm.mn/golf) or call Dwan at 952-563-8702 and Hyland Greens at 952-563-8868.





# SUMMER TO REMEMBER

Give your kids the gift of lasting memories this summer when you sign them up for Bloomington Parks and Rec youth programs. For more information about these programs or to register, call 952-563-8877 or visit [blm.mn/parksprograms](http://blm.mn/parksprograms).

## SUMMER ADVENTURE PLAYGROUNDS

Enjoy classic summer fun at a neighborhood park where activities range from sports and water games to arts and crafts, and field trips.

Dates: Monday – Friday, June 17 – August 15. (No program July 1 – 5.) Time: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Locations: Brye, Kelly, Poplar Bridge, Running, Sunrise, Smith and Westwood parks.

Ages: Grades 2 – 7.

Cost: \$125 before June 5; \$130 on or after June 5.

## GALAXY SUMMER OF SERVICE AND SUMMER GALAXY 2.0

Youth are empowered to work together to serve the community and spend time doing other daily activities, including sports, crafts, afternoons at the Bloomington Family Aquatic Center and weekly field trips.

Dates: Monday – Friday, June 17 – August 19. (No program July 1 – 5.) Time: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Location: Valley View Elementary, 351 East 88th Street.

Ages: Grades 6 – 7 for Galaxy Summer of Service. Grades 8 – 10 for Summer Galaxy 2.0.

Cost: \$300 for summer. Lunches provided.



## CAMP KOTA AND KOTA KIDS

One of Bloomington’s longest-running programs is back for another summer. If your kids love meeting new people, challenges, learning about nature, singing crazy songs and having fun, then Camp Kota and Kota Kids are for them.

Dates: July 8 – 12, July 15 – 19, July 22 – 26, July 29 – August 2. (Kota Kids do not attend camp on Fridays.)

Times: 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Location: 9140 East Bush Lake Road.

Ages: Grades K – 1 for Kota Kids; grades 2 – 7 for Camp Kota. Cost: \$160 Kota Kids per week; \$190 Camp Kota per week.



# EXPERIENCE “BETWEEN WORLDS” ART SHOW

Experience the transformative storytelling, complexity and freedom that arises with the personified characters in Artistry’s “Between Worlds” exhibition. Through their individual styles, exhibiting artists Karen Brown, Jennifer Davis and DC Ice incorporate anthropomorphism in their creations. The trio shares an interest in attributing human traits to animals and bringing them to life through artwork. The exhibit runs April 5 – May 3, in the Inez Greenberg Gallery, Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. An opening reception will be held on Friday, April 5, 6 – 8 p.m. An artist talk will take place on Tuesday, April 23, 7 p.m. For more information, visit [artistrymn.org](http://artistrymn.org) or call 952-563-8575.



# UPCOMING PERFORMANCES THAT ARE SURE TO ENTERTAIN



## ARTISTRY PRESENTS: VICTOR/VICTORIA

This musical comedy features songs from Henry Mancini and a spectacular staging from Artistry Director/Choreographer Michael Matthew Ferrell.

April 6 – May 5

Adults \$46, seniors \$43, and 30 and under \$15



## ARTISTRY PRESENTS: TINKER TO EVERS TO CHANCE

Follow Nessa, a true Cubs fan through lessons about love, life, and the relentless power of hope in the face of hopelessness.

April 4 – May 26

Adults \$46, seniors \$43, and 30 and under \$15



## 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.

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.

All performances presented at the Bloomington Center for the Arts on the corner of 98th Street and West Old Shakopee Road. Parking is free.

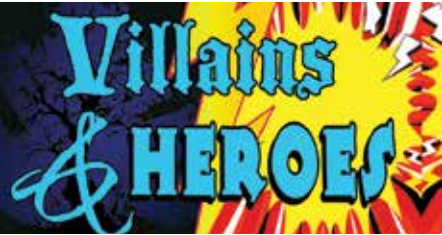


## BLOOMINGTON CHORALE SONGS OF HOPE AND INSPIRATION

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



## 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





## SAVE THE DATE: PUBLIC WORKS OPEN HOUSE

Do you ever wonder who’s driving the snowplows that keep streets safe in the winter? Maybe you’ve asked yourself what kind of equipment it takes to keep Bloomington parks looking good? Get an inside look at the equipment and people that keep City streets, parks and utilities running smoothly at the fifth annual Public Works open house on Saturday, May 18, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., at the Public Works building, 1700 West 98th Street.

Come to this event to meet the people who build and maintain the infrastructure that supports everyday quality of life. There will also be equipment displays, demonstrations, food, games and prizes. For more information, visit [blm.mn/pwoh](http://blm.mn/pwoh).



## RAINWATER GARDEN MAINTENANCE

Do you have a rainwater garden in your yard? The first rainwater garden projects began in 2009 as part of the City’s Pavement Management Program (PMP). Today, through PMP, around 100 rainwater gardens have been installed in partnership with residents and community volunteers.

Spring is a good time to do rainwater garden maintenance before bright blooms and feathery prairie grasses take hold. It’s easier to do landscaping work and avoid damaging plants before they have grown out.

Look for thinning areas of shredded wood mulch to top off with fresh material. As plantings age, they may need to be cut down, divided or replaced with something new.

The sediment trap prevents excess sediment from entering the garden. It could be getting full and need maintenance. The City performs annual sediment trap cleaning.

A well-maintained raingarden will filter pollutants more efficiently. For information, call 952-563-4870 or visit [blm.mn/raingarden](http://blm.mn/raingarden).



## AT YOUR SERVICE: KEEPING WATER CLEAN

The high quality of Bloomington’s bodies of water is no secret. Senior Water Resources Manager Bryan Gruidl works to make the reputation hold true on every level.

He oversees the storm water pollution prevention program and permits with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. From parks to watersheds to redeveloping areas, Gruidl is involved to ensure that water integrity is considered and improved.

“I enjoy implementing projects around town and seeing the impact they have,” Gruidl said. “Essentially my job is about helping people. It’s nice to work with residents with unique water concerns and work out a solution.”

He’s quick to attribute every success to teamwork. Collaborating with other water experts, departments and agencies is one of the things Gruidl enjoys the most about his job.

During the 13 years Gruidl has been with the City, two projects stand out because of their magnitude: the Normandale Lake Water Quality Improvement Project and the Penn American District Stormwater Project.

### SPRING MAINTENANCE TIME

Protect our bodies of water while doing spring yard maintenance. Do your part and keep grass clippings, leaves and other yard waste from getting into the street.

Rather than entering the waste water treatment plant system, street debris goes into storm drains and flows directly into the watershed. Anything other than rainwater going through storm drains has the potential to degrade Bloomington bodies of water.

Stop potential pollutants in their tracks. Make a habit of bagging leaves and unwanted grass clippings. Better still, let the grass clippings go back on your lawn as free and natural fertilizer.

Still need to fertilize your lawn? Use phosphorus-free fertilizer and apply to grass only, taking care to stay away

from sidewalks, roadways and driveways. Unwanted organic materials and fertilizers are major sources of pollutants, which flow into bodies of water and can trigger clogged pipes, backups or flooding.

For information, visit [blm.mn/yardfix](http://blm.mn/yardfix) or call 952-563-4870.

### SPRING SWEEPING COMING TO STREET NEAR YOU

Come spring and fall, streets get a clean sweep. As part of the City’s Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program, Street Maintenance performs cleaning to clear Bloomington streets of dirt, sand and debris.

Visit [blm.mn/sweep](http://blm.mn/sweep) or call 952-563-8760 to see when your street will be swept and find other information.

## STUDENTS KEEPING WATER CLEAN

Storm drain adoption goes better by the half dozen. The Kennedy Women of the Future, a group of 30 Kennedy High School students, recently adopted six storm drains. Adopting storm drains made an ideal school group project.

To hear sophomore Nicole Osness, one of the Kennedy Women of the Future members, talk about the importance of water makes everything crystal clear. Bloomington has abundant natural resources and access to celebrated water areas but not all places are as fortunate. It’s something that Osness and her group don’t take for granted. They believe clean water is a collaborative effort.



Photo courtesy of Kennedy High School Teacher Cory Elsmore.

Osness invited Water Resource Specialist Steve Gurney to speak to the group about a service project benefitting water quality. They decided to participate in the Adopt-a-Storm drain program.

“My friends and I could not have done this without our advisors and school counselors,” she said.

Adopt-a-storm-drain participants receive one sign to represent their contributions to the community. When weather permits, the Kennedy Women of the Future will post the sign in front of the school for all to see.

Interested in adopting a storm drain? Visit [adopt-a-drain.org](http://adopt-a-drain.org) to sign up or for more information.