

# B L O O M I N G T O N BRIEFING



APRIL 2020

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## EVENT CANCELLATIONS AND FACILITY CLOSURES

The City of Bloomington is closely monitoring the situation surrounding COVID-19 to protect the health and safety of the community. At the time this *Briefing* went to print, all the events highlighted in this issue were planned to continue. With the changing situation COVID-19 presents, that status could change. Check the list of cancelled events and closed facilities at [blm.mn/COVID-info](http://blm.mn/COVID-info) for the most up-to-date information.



## ENJOY A SUMMER ADVENTURE WITH PARKS AND REC

Are you looking for a great summer kids' program? From June 15 through August 13, Summer Adventure Playgrounds offers an exciting opportunity for children entering grades 2 – 7 in the fall. Participants experience sports, crafts, games, water activities. They will also enjoy multiple field trips including several to the City's aquatics facilities, Bush Lake Beach and Bloomington Family Aquatic Center. You won't be bored with the variety of events at the seven park program locations throughout Bloomington.

Additional information, including registration details, can be found in the Summer Experience Catalog available online at [blm.mn/youth-programs](http://blm.mn/youth-programs). To register, visit [blm.mn/webtrac](http://blm.mn/webtrac). For questions, contact Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8891 or [parksrec@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:parksrec@BloomingtonMN.gov).



## COVID-19: STAYING HEALTHY AND INFORMED

With coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Minnesota, it's a good time to review ways you can protect yourself from sickness and the stress that comes with uncertainty.

As you follow the news, remember the best methods of preventing respiratory infections are simple: stay home when you're sick, cover your cough, wash your hands and don't touch your face. Taking these steps can help reduce stress and the chances that you or your loved ones will get sick.

"Living through the threat of a pandemic can cause feelings of anxiety," Assistant Public Health Administrator Nick Kelley said. "It's critical to take care of your health during this time, which includes paying attention to your stress levels and mental health."

To help keep you healthy, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) recommends maintaining your usual day-to-day activities and routine where possible. Eat healthy foods, stay hydrated, exercise and get plenty of sleep.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness staff continue to monitor the situation closely and work with local partners, such as MDH, to assess and take appropriate next steps. City staff are working with the City's leadership team to update infectious disease emergency operation plans.

Visit [blm.mn/coronavirus](http://blm.mn/coronavirus) for the most up-to-date information from MDH.



Photos courtesy Bloomington Public Schools.

# MAYOR’S MEMO

## BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF CHOICE

By Mayor Tim Busse

What does it mean to be a community of choice? Choosing a place to live or do business is very personal. When we started talking about Bloomington as a community of choice, we had to get specific about what draws people to a place.

Expansive parks, pedestrian and cyclist trails, public art, livable neighborhoods and strong school systems all play a large part in attracting and retaining residents and commercial investment.

We have a good foundation in place here in Bloomington. In the 2019 National Citizen Survey™, respondents gave the city strong livability scores with a 91% approval rating. A majority of residents also gave positive ratings to the City’s governance with 8 in 10 respondents calling it “excellent” or “good.” Bloomington is at the top of its class for financial strength and stability. With a strong foundation, we’re in a good position to make great progress toward our goal of being a vibrant city that continues to attract new residents, innovative development and dynamic businesses.

With 900 acres of parkland, great shopping, strong neighborhoods and a lot of amenities for residents and visitors to enjoy, there are many reasons to love spending time in Bloomington. We also have the opportunity to become an even more attractive place to live, work and play.

The City is focusing on ways to attract investment to revitalize aging commercial nodes, such as the Lyndale Avenue corridor, *read more on that below*, and the Portland gateway area. We recently gathered feedback on what residents envision for the future of these areas. Ensuring the availability of affordable housing is another area of focus. In 2019, the City Council passed an opportunity housing ordinance. As a result 9% of units in developments of 20 or more units must be affordable.

We’re building a community of choice—establishing the key links that align and connect us. The relationships we build help bring us into alignment to ensure we are working together on common goals for a promising future.

# REIMAGINING LYNDALE AVENUE CORRIDOR

The City is working to bring investment to Lyndale Avenue and provide a walkable, mixed-use corridor that serves as an amenity to retain existing, and attract new residents and businesses. Community members participated in a design workshop to share their ideas and strategies to improve the Lyndale Avenue corridor. The workshop was guided by feedback from a three-month public participation period led by Stantec Consulting Services in partnership with the City and Hennepin County.

In the coming months, Stantec will take the public input gathered at the workshop and refine ideas for the Lyndale Avenue corridor as they work on innovative urban design, mobility and redevelopment strategies. They’ll also compare and analyze development data.

At this time, the design team is expected to address the City Council with a draft proposal this summer. As project details are finalized, information will also be posted on the project website at blm.mn/LyndaleRetrofit. For more information, call 952-563-4706.



A resident “plants” her idea for the future of Lyndale Avenue corridor at the design workshop.

# HOUSEHOLD HELP FOR SENIORS

Attention seniors! Do you need help around the house? Senior Community Services (SCS) offers affordable services designed to help you stay in your home, including home repairs, cleaning, running errands, mowing and small yard projects. Through this program, SCS partners with the City to offer affordable help so you can stay in your home. For more information, call 952-746-4046 or visit seniorcommunity.org.



# BRIEFING

Volume 28, Number 04

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)

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Elected officials presented for informational purposes.

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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.



# MINNESOTA SUPREME COURT DECISION ON ORGANIZED GARBAGE AND RECYCLING

## NO CHANGE IN SERVICES

The Minnesota Supreme Court issued a decision in a case regarding trash collection in Bloomington. The case arose out of a proposed charter amendment submitted by a group of five residents to challenge the City’s decision to move to a system of organized collection.

Four Justices wrote the majority opinion. In it they said that the proposed city charter amendment was not an improper addition to the process. The Supreme Court also considered how the proposed charter amendment impacts the City’s contract with the consortium of garbage and recycling companies that have been providing services in Bloomington for the past several years. Three Justices dissented. They said that the City was correct because the proposed charter amendment was in conflict with the city charter procedures.

The City is reviewing the opinion and evaluating next steps. There will be no change in collection services in Bloomington at this time. The City’s contract for garbage and recycling collection remains in place. Residents should continue to place their garbage and recycling out using the current collection services.

In October 2016, haulers began pickup under the organized collection program in Bloomington with service goals to reduce the number of garbage trucks on collection day, mitigate air and noise pollution, minimize wear and tear on the roadways, improve neighborhood livability and, in most cases, save each household money. For FAQs and more information, visit [blm.mn/garbage](http://blm.mn/garbage).

# HIGHWAY 5 ROAD CONSTRUCTION STARTS

Maybe you’ve noticed new road construction around the airport? The area of Hwy 5 from 34th Avenue to the Highway 55 and TH62 interchange will be under construction from April through the fall. The project will resurface Highway 5 with new concrete and repair 12 bridges and ramps. When complete, motorists will have a smoother ride on Highway 5 and I-494.

During construction, allow extra time when traveling on Highway 5. MnDOT recommends allowing an extra hour to get to the airport.

For up-to-date closure maps, detour information, travel tools or other information, visit [blm.mn/h5construction](http://blm.mn/h5construction) or call 651-296-3000.

PLAN AHEAD FOR ROAD CLOSURES AND DETOURS.

- April – August:** Eastbound Highway 5 will be closed. Only clockwise circulation around the airport will provide access to and through this area.
- July:** The bridges and ramps to and from westbound Highway 5, where Highway 5, 55 and TH62 meet, will be closed.
- August – October:** Westbound Highway 5 will be closed. Only counterclockwise circulation around the airport will provide access to and through this area.
- Weekend closures:** Eastbound I-494 between the Minnesota River Bridge in Mendota Heights and Third Avenue in South St. Paul.
- Throughout the construction season:** Bridge and ramp work will occur at the I-35E and I-494 interchange.



Left: Bloomington Ice Garden in 1977. Right: Bloomington Ice Garden rink in 2019.

# BLOOMINGTON ICE GARDEN TURNS 50

In 1970, the Bloomington Ice Garden (BIG) opened with one rink, at 3600 West 98th Street. Today BIG has three rinks with a combined seating capacity of 2,500. One of the rinks is Olympic-sized. From Dorothy Hamill to Robby Benson to “The Red Machine” Soviet national ice hockey team, celebrities and skaters of all abilities have visited this popular venue.

Notable events have run aplenty, with Stanley Cup appearances, practice and competition rounds for the U.S. Figure Skating Championships, National Hockey League events, filming for the movie “Ice Castles” and even a wedding.

A recent renovation project has made BIG even more welcoming. Still, there’s more work to be done. Ongoing updates ensure the best possible experience for guests. The City of Bloomington has a need to reinvest in or reimagine BIG and other aging City facilities. Community amenities are included in the City Council’s strategic priorities that guide the City through 2020.

For more information, go to [blm.mn/big](http://blm.mn/big) or call 952-563-8841.



# GET READY, GET SET, GET COUNTED

The U.S. Census Bureau is collecting responses to the 2020 census now. Why should you take the time to fill it out? The data collected determines funding that shapes our communities. The distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds and grants is based on census data. This money goes to states, counties and communities for schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs. The census also impacts the boundaries of state legislative and congressional districts.

“All residents—from babies to grandparents and citizens to noncitizens—should be counted so Minnesota and Bloomington are accurately represented,” said Outreach and Engagement Coordinator Nancy Brewster.

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

# PARK SYSTEM MASTER PLAN INPUT

How do you see the future of Bloomington parks? The City is working on a park system master plan that will serve as a road map, laying out a long-term vision and establishing goals and priorities for future park investment. Let us know what is important to you at town hall forums being held in each council district May – August. Dates and locations will be announced soon.

Or submit your opinions online using the input platform, project bloom! at [blm.mn/bloom](http://blm.mn/bloom). The interactive tool allows you to drag a pin icon onto the map and share your comments. Project bloom! also allows you to cast your vote on what you think are the highest priority issues and themes that the City should address in the plan.

City staff will consider information gathered from the community, local and national park and recreation trends, community demographics, facility needs, current and future programming needs, maintenance and long-term sustainability while drafting the plan.

For more information and additional input opportunities, visit [blm.mn/parks2020](http://blm.mn/parks2020).



### VISIT PUBLIC WORKS OPEN HOUSE

Celebrate National Public Works Week during Bloomington’s sixth annual Public Works open house Saturday, May 16, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Enjoy snowplow, tractor and street sweeper rides, demonstrations, interactive displays, prizes, refreshments and other family fun. Come to this free event at the Public Works building, 1700 West 98th Street, and discover how the City builds and maintains the infrastructure that supports everyday quality of life. For more information, visit [blm.mn/pwoh](http://blm.mn/pwoh), email [amarohn@bloomingtonmn.gov](mailto:amarohn@bloomingtonmn.gov) or call 952-563-4532. For information on event cancellations, visit [blm.mn/COVID-info](http://blm.mn/COVID-info).



### ADOPT A STORM DRAIN

Are you looking for an easy way to protect your neighborhood’s natural water? The City is partnering with the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District and the Center for Global and Environmental Education at Hamline University to launch a new adopt-a-storm drain program in Bloomington. Residents who adopt a storm drain will be asked to report debris removal once in the fall and spring online or by returning a postcard. As a thank you, those who sign up will receive a yard sign to show they are protecting our waters. Visit [adopt-a-drain.org](http://adopt-a-drain.org) to sign up or for more information.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The water and debris that go through storm drains do not go to the waste water treatment plant but directly to local watersheds. Anything other than rainwater going through storm drains has the potential to degrade Bloomington waterbodies.



### EARTH ACTION HERO: THERMO KING

Sustainability is a value Thermo King puts into action daily. The Bloomington-based refrigeration and climate-control company promotes sustainability through its production practices, product lines and company culture. A zero-waste landfill goal, rain water recovery system and switch to LED lighting are recent changes. The company achieved its 2020 climate commitment two years early, raising the bar for further sustainable implementation. In partnership with the Bloomington Sustainability Commission, Thermo King hosted a tour of its headquarters highlighting some improvements for other business leaders to see. “It’s real—sustainability doesn’t just exist in a PowerPoint presentation,” Vice President and General Manager Dane Taival said. And it’s good business. A growing number of Thermo King’s customers have their own sustainability goals, and sustainable commercial practices provide long-term cost savings. The opportunity to contribute to environmental stewardship, community building and employee engagement are other benefits. An employee-led green team brainstorms innovative ways to increase sustainability. With a current membership of 15 – 20, the group considers what could benefit the company and the environment. Maybe electric car chargers are the next move? The company is looking ahead to make more changes with an ambitious set of 2030 goals to further address climate change. One goal is to transform business practices to have a restorative impact on the environment, including achieving carbon neutral operations and a 10% absolute reduction in energy consumption. For more information, visit [blm.mn/Thermo](http://blm.mn/Thermo) or call 952-887-2200.

### ORGANICS RECYCLING REMINDER

Did you know approximately 35% of the material collected as garbage could be composted through organics recycling? It’s easy to make a difference. Residents can bring their food scraps and non-recyclable paper to City drop-off sites at Valley View Park, 201 East 90th Street, in the parking lot by the pool and ballfield; or West Bush Lake Park, West 95th Street and West Bush Lake Road, in the parking lot next to the maintenance storage building. Hennepin County hosts a drop-off site at the South Hennepin Recycling and Problem Waste Drop-off Center at 1400 West 96th Street. All residents are eligible to use the organics drop-offs. Sign up at [blm.mn/organics](http://blm.mn/organics) or call 952-563-8760. After signing up, you will be mailed a welcome kit.



### CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF EARTH DAY

Mark your calendars for a gathering of great minds. The Bloomington Sustainability Commission in partnership with the League of Women Voters Bloomington welcomes neighbors and families to join in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. In keeping with the theme of 50, discover how you can contribute to a community goal of increasing sustainability by 50%. The event will take place on April 22, 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., at Fire Station No. 1, 10 West 95th Street. For more information, visit [blm.mn/sustainability](http://blm.mn/sustainability) or call 952-563-8730.

# 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 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 day 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		
■	<b>April 4</b> —East of Portland Avenue (Monday garbage and recycling day).	■
■	<b>April 11</b> — Portland Avenue to Penn Avenue (Tuesday garbage and recycling day).	■
■	<b>April 18</b> — Penn Avenue to France Avenue (Wednesday garbage and recycling day).	■
■	<b>April 25</b> — France Avenue to Normandale Boulevard (Thursday garbage and recycling day) .	■

■	<b>May 2</b> — West of Normandale Boulevard (Friday garbage and recycling day).	■
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### 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 must 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.

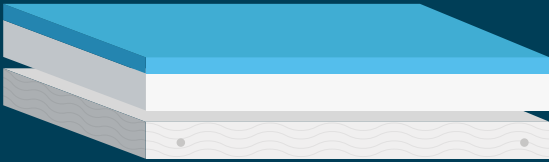
### WHAT’S NOT ACCEPTED AT THE CURB

- **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

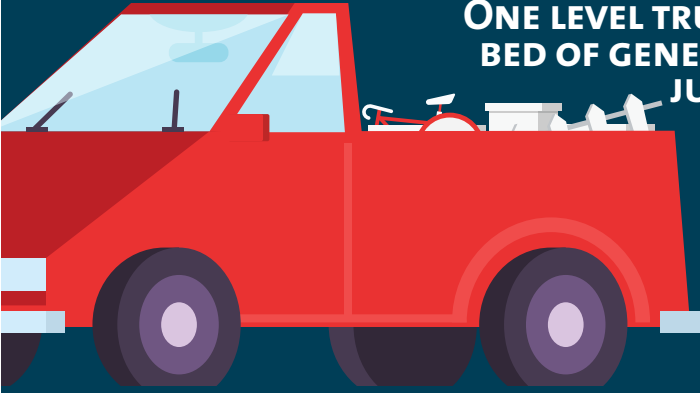
**TWO MATTRESSES OR BOX SPRINGS**



**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](http://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](http://blm.mn/fridge).

**FOR MORE CURBSIDE CLEANUP INFORMATION**

For more information about Curbside Cleanup, visit [blm.mn/curbside](http://blm.mn/curbside) or call 952-563-8760. Want to report illegal dumping or people making a mess of piles? Call 911.

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

## BUILDING MATERIAL REUSE DAYS

Instead of disposing of usable building materials on your Curbside Cleanup Day, when they are collected as garbage, consider taking them to a City-sponsored, usable building materials donation event. It’s an opportunity to donate to nonprofits that specialize in reuse and resale of usable building materials. Plumbing fixtures, cabinetry, countertops, doors, flooring, hardware and light fixtures are examples of items you can bring. The events will be Friday, April 17, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., and Saturday, April 18, 9 – 11 a.m., at the Western Maintenance Yard, 10540 Hampshire Avenue South. For more information, call 952-563-8760. For information on event cancellations, visit [blm.mn/COVID-info](http://blm.mn/COVID-info).

# HAPPY 50TH DWAN GOLF COURSE

Fifty years ago, Dwan Golf Course opened at West 110th Street and Xerxes Avenue South. Today, Dwan Golf Course remains one of the most popular public golf courses in Minnesota. See some historical milestones below.

## 1960s

Dr. Paul F. Dwan donates land to the City of Bloomington to be used for a golf course.

## 1970

July 10, the first hole-in-one occurs before the course officially opens, when visiting golfer Chuck Helps stands out from the crowd as he aces the 18th hole during the dedication round.



July 11, Dwan Golf Course opens to the public.  
A self-serve snack bar opens.

## 1985

Bloomington native Jim Sorenson, representing Dwan Golf Course, wins the U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship by the largest margin in the history of the event.

## 1986

A remodel updates the service counter, kitchen, lighting, doors and more. Air conditioning is added.

## 2008



The Coen brothers film scenes for the movie, "A Serious Man." Unfortunately, the shots weren't included in the final film.

## 2011

A Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf designation is awarded to Dwan Golf Course for the sustainable management of land, water, wildlife and other natural resources.

## 2017

Manager Rick Sitek, the City's longest tenured golf manager, retires after 28 years leading Dwan and Hyland Greens golf courses.



## 2020



A new look and name reflect what Dwan Golf Course offers, a place where everyone is welcome, and players of all skill and experience levels can enjoy a fun and challenging round of golf.

## SPRING OPENING AT DWAN GOLF COURSE

Get your clubs ready. At Dwan Golf Course, West 110th Street and Xerxes Avenue South, things are greening up. Typically, golf begins in April but the actual start date depends on the weather.

Dwan Golf Course will open for business as soon as the snow and ice are gone and the annual course condition evaluation determines it is playable. Golfers of all abilities are welcome. Green fees are \$18 – \$22 for patrons or \$22 – \$32 for nonpatrons. Carts and clubs are available for rent. Book your tee time at blm.mn/dwan or call 952-563-8702.

With Dwan Golf Course celebrating 50 years, 2020 promises to be especially important for this popular public course. Make plans to join your neighbors, old friends and new friends for a round of golf soon.

"I always looked forward to the spring opening and was anxious to get started," former Bloomington resident and Dwan staff member Doug Clemens said. "Welcoming everyone back was neat."

## FIFTH GRADE CLASS FINDS WINTER FETE MEDALLION

Tennis courts are usually pretty empty through the winter, but this year Parks and Recreation staff served up something at the Poplar Bridge court they hoped people would love—a Winter Fete medallion.

After the fourth clue, a student named Emily from Matt Marohn's Poplar Bridge Elementary fifth grade class found the medallion, *see above*. Marohn read all of his students the clues each day. Then they would search for the medallion during recess. The class won a prize package that included a pizza party, pictured, and more.

"We were hoping people would think the medallion hunt was a fun way to get out in the parks during the winter," Recreation Supervisor Mark Morrison said. "Congratulations to the students who found the medallion!"



## JOIN A LEAGUE

### ADULT BAGS LEAGUE

Bags 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 4 – July 23 at Taft Park, 6105 Bloomington Avenue South, in Richfield.

The league is open to players 18 years of age or older. The deadline to register is May 22. Boards and bags will be provided. The cost to participate is \$59 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 deadline is April 24. Games will be held May 5 – July 30 at Valley View Playfield. There will be 10 single-header games and single-elimination playoffs. The cost to participate is \$290 per team. This program is offered in cooperation with the city of Richfield.

### SUMMER SAND VOLLEYBALL

Parks and Recreation will accept registrations for adult co-rec summer sand volleyball until May 15. Matches will take place Wednesdays and Thursdays, beginning Wednesday, May 27, at Dred Scott Playfield, 10820 Bloomington Ferry Road. The cost to participate is \$215 for residents and \$240 for nonresidents. For more information, visit blm.mn/adultsports.

### ADULT SPIKEBALL

Join us in the league that offers a new twist on a classic sandy setting. 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. Games are on Monday nights, June 1 – July 27, at Dred Scott Playfield sand volleyball courts. Cost to participate is \$65 per team. Registration ends on May 15. This league is offered in cooperation with the city of Richfield.

# BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY

## METROPOLITAN STADIUM DEDICATION

Sixty-five years ago, Bloomington’s Metropolitan Stadium was officially dedicated at a game featuring the Minneapolis Millers and Wichita Braves. The Millers were a minor-league baseball team that played in Minnesota until 1960.

A bond drive led by local businesses known as the Minneapolis Minutemen financed construction of a stadium for the Millers in Bloomington. Originally seating fewer than 20,000 fans, Metropolitan Stadium evolved into a combination of single, double and triple-deck stands without roofs. Gusty winds from the northwest helped right-handed hitters, earning the park a reputation as a home run haven. Metropolitan Stadium entered the big leagues in 1961 when the Washington Senators moved to Bloomington and became the Minnesota Twins. The Twins played their last baseball game in Metropolitan Stadium on September 30, 1981.



Photo courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society.



## TAKE PART IN ARTISTRY MOTHER’S DAY CLAY CLASS

Join Artistry to celebrate mom or a mother figure in your life with a group activity in the Clay Studio. Each participant will create a hand-built, clay dish decorated with colorful paints. This one-day workshop takes place Sunday, May 10, 2 – 4 p.m. Projects will be fired and ready to pick up approximately three weeks later. Cost is \$24 for Artistry members; \$26 for nonmembers. Supplies are included. For more information or to register, visit [blm.mn/artclasses](http://blm.mn/artclasses) or call 952-563-8575.

## STAY UP TO DATE WITH CITY NEWS

There’s no better time to stay in the loop with City news. There are a variety of ways you can find the information you want and need about City services, facilities and operations.

**E-Subscribe**—Visit [blm.mn/subscribe](http://blm.mn/subscribe) to sign up to receive email updates on a wide variety of projects and topics ranging from public health to the pavement management program.

**Citizen Alert**—Visit [blm.mn/citizenalert](http://blm.mn/citizenalert) to sign up for email, call and/or text emergency notifications.

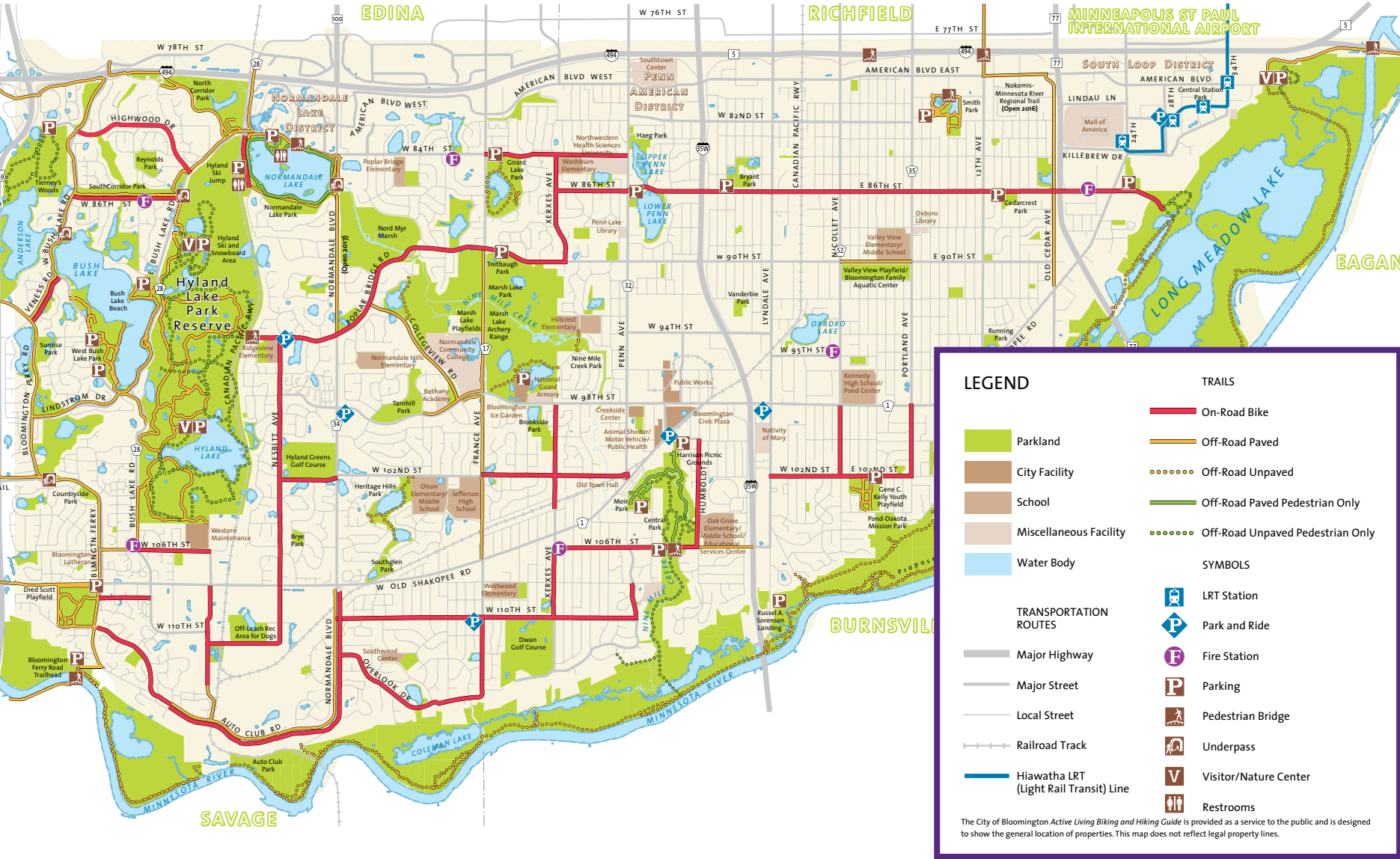
**Social media**—Follow the City on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and/or NextDoor to stay informed about what’s happening in Bloomington.

**CableTV and YouTube**—Watch the weekly news show *Bloomington Today*, other features and City Council meetings on BTV on channel 14 or 859 for HD or on Roku and Apple TV. You can view these productions on the City’s YouTube account at [blm.mn/youtube](http://blm.mn/youtube).

**Webcast of City Council meetings**—All City Council meetings are livestreamed online at [blm.mn/btv-live](http://blm.mn/btv-live). You can also view them online after they occur at [blm.mn/council](http://blm.mn/council).

**The Briefing**—Read this newsletter as it is delivered to your mailbox monthly. You can also sign up to receive the electronic version through E-Subscribe at [blm.mn/briefing](http://blm.mn/briefing).

**Other City services**—Find a list of all the City services that are available online or over the phone at [blm.mn/online](http://blm.mn/online).



## SEE BLOOMINGTON BY BIKE

As the weather gets nicer, hop on your bike for a local adventure. Going on two wheels adds to the fun. There are 50 miles of off-road trails and 60 miles of bike lanes to enjoy in the city. See the map above to check out bike paths and trails throughout Bloomington and chart your own route. City staff are working on an updated bike map that will be distributed and available online this summer. You can also pick up a bike map at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, or find it online at [blm.mn/bikemap](http://blm.mn/bikemap).

# MEET A FIREFIGHTER

Austin Yantes has been a Bloomington firefighter for a year and a half. He serves out of Station 4.

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

**A:** I work duty crew for the Fire Department and at a restaurant on weekends.

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

**A:** I love the outdoors. I spend a lot of time at Hyland Hills and the Minnesota River bottoms. I go rock climbing and backpacking. I went with my dad to Gannett's Peak in Wyoming recently and that was a great trip. I also really like to cook.

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

**A:** When I was younger, a firefighter came into a restaurant I was working in. He loved his job and once I expressed interest he really helped me see how I could get involved.

**Q:** What would you say to someone considering becoming a firefighter?

**A:** It's the best decision I've ever made. It set me on a path that I plan to continue on. Come in and check out the station during an open house and meet some firefighters to see what it's all about.



## WHY IS COMMERCIAL CODE ENFORCEMENT IMPORTANT? MAINTAINING PROPERTY VALUES

Whether you're an owner or tenant, taking pride in your home or business helps keep property values high and the integrity of neighborhoods and commercial business districts intact. One of Environmental Health's goals is keeping local businesses and industrial properties well maintained. The city code covers many things when it comes to commercial properties, including:

**Property maintenance:** Peeling paint, broken windows, potholes, sidewalk disrepair, damaged fencing, accessory structures in disrepair, exterior wall/siding damage or graffiti, etc, are not allowed.

**Lawn and yard maintenance:** Grass and weeds must be shorter than eight inches in height. There should not be tree branches on the ground, lawn bags or other refuse.

**Motor vehicles:** Motor vehicles must be licensed with current tabs even on private property. Parking vehicles on landscaping or grass is not allowed.

**Exterior storage:** In general, materials, vehicles and equipment must have a direct relationship to the primary use of the site. Exterior storage must not be located in off-street parking spaces. Properties must be free of litter.

**Temporary signs:** In general, temporary sign permits are required for commercial promotions for businesses. Feather flags, portable signs, vehicle signs, flashing signs, and off-site advertising signs are some examples of regulated signs.

**Storage containers/Semi-trailers/Accessory buildings:** Temporary storage units may be stored on commercial or industrial property for no more than 30 days per year for a construction project.



You can help the City ensure Bloomington businesses stay up to code. Submit a confidential complaint to the Commercial Property Inspector at 952-563-8981 if you see any violations.



## BLOOMINGTON POLICE WANT TO KEEP YOU INFORMED WITH THE COMMUNITY CRIME MAP

Stay informed about what's happening in your city with the Community Crime Map. The map is meant to connect law enforcement and the people they serve. Bloomington Police feel that the more educated you are about crime, the better you can protect yourself. Effective, responsible crime prevention enhances the quality of life. You can find the map or sign up for email updates at [blm.mn/crimemap](http://blm.mn/crimemap). By being aware of what's happening in Bloomington, you can make better-informed decisions about how to stay safe and reduce crime. For more information, call 952-563-4900.

## HAVE SAFE RECREATIONAL FIRES

A recreational fire is an outdoor fire used for cooking, warming or ceremonial purposes. When burning a recreational fire in your yard, use common sense, remember to be considerate of your neighbors and follow the City ordinance.

- Recreational fires may only be conducted between 7 a.m. and midnight and when the wind speed is less than 10 miles per hour. A fire must be extinguished immediately if a City official determines it is creating a fire safety hazard.
- Fires must be located at least 25 feet away from any structures or combustible materials and constantly attended to by a person within sight of the flames.
- Fire extinguishing equipment must be readily available.
- Only use dry, clean wood such as cordwood or Presto logs.
- Burning wood that has leaves or needles, or wood that is rotten, wet, or treated with paint or glue is prohibited by ordinance.
- Starter fuels may be used, but never use gasoline or other flammable liquids to start a fire.
- The fire stack must not exceed three-feet wide by two-feet high.

For more information, call 952-563-4801.

