

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



MAY 2019

PAGE 2

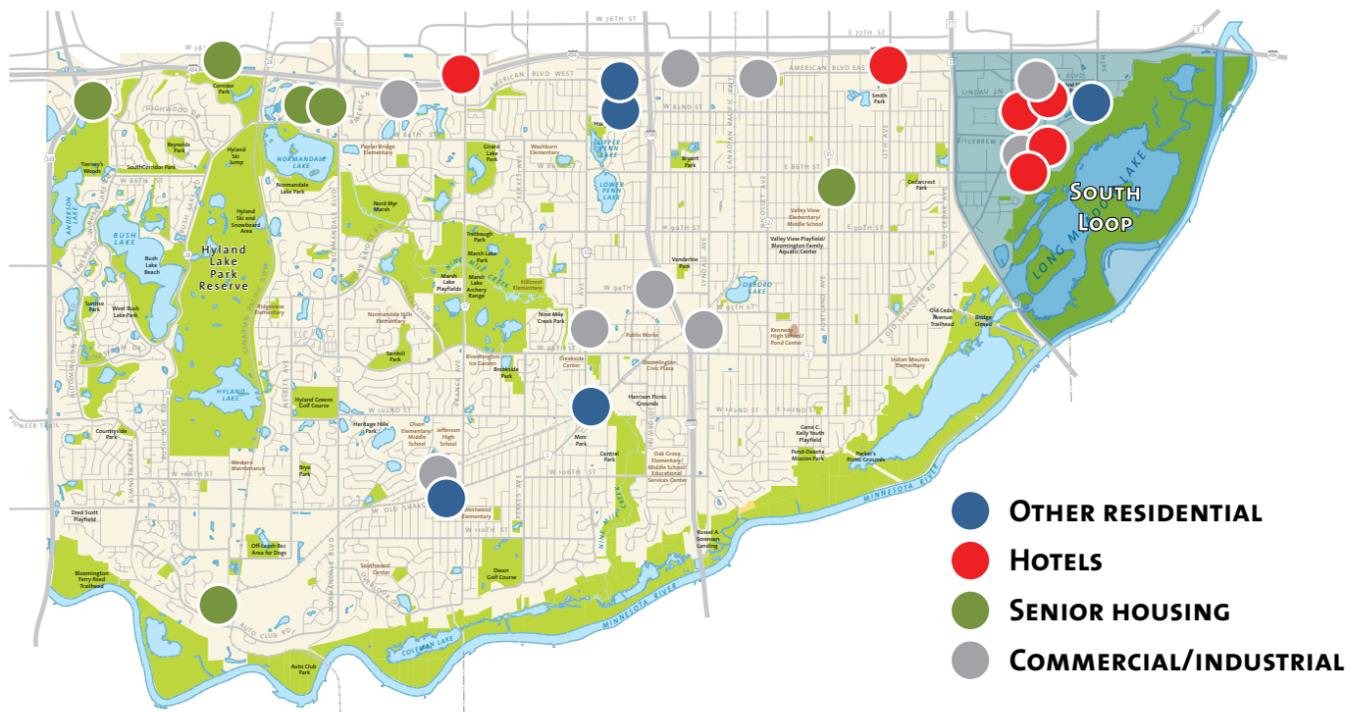
PAGE 3

PAGE 5

PAGE 6

## SNAPSHOTS OF BLOOMINGTON

Winter, spring, summer or fall all you have to do is call to see Bloomington through a new lens. The City sent the word out about its seasonal photo contests in the summer of 2018. With more than 100 submissions over three seasons, the idea is catching on with residents. This photo was submitted by Jason Bates during the “Summer in Bloomington” contest and is of a sunset over Bloomington’s East Bush Lake. Check out the photo contest winners and watch for the upcoming 2019 seasonal photo contests on the City’s Facebook page at [blm.mn/facebook](http://blm.mn/facebook).



## WHAT’S DEVELOPING IN BLOOMINGTON

There is a lot of development happening in the city. In fact, more than a half a billion dollars in investment is in the pipeline between multifamily residential and hotel projects.

“In my 23 years with the City, we’ve never had this volume of development,” Planning Manager Glen Markegard said. “Proposed development will address needs for senior and work force housing, provide employment opportunities and expand Bloomington’s tax base.”

McGough broke ground on The Fenley in South Loop, a new 402-unit, multifamily complex near Bloomington Central Station, last winter. Ten percent of the units will be affordable. It is the first new development using the federal Opportunity Zone legislation—a tax program that encourages the investment of unrealized capital gains to spur economic development in census tracts that have low median family income.

Sick Sensor Intelligence, a German company that designs, builds and sells intelligent sensors and related products, is working with the City to expand and keep its North American

headquarters in Bloomington. Sick plans to add up to 1,200 jobs and move to a site in South Loop from a smaller site in southwest Bloomington.

Five senior housing projects are moving forward, including Portland Commons at 88th and Portland with 166-units; Opus Senior Living Development with 186 units near I-494 and West 78th; and Cherrywood Pointe with 108 units west of Normandale, Phases II - IW of Founder’s Ridge on Auto Club Road with 111 units, and the latest expansion of Friendship Village on Highwood Drive with 93 units and a health center.

In all, nearly 1,700 residential units are in the pipeline, including The Fenley. Construction will begin this spring on 108 Place just south of the France and Old Shakopee Road intersection, with three stories and 42 workforce affordable units. Work will start on Penn Place Apartments at 100th and Penn with 43 affordable units in 2020.

There are also 1,032 new hotel rooms coming to Bloomington with the construction of six hotels currently in progress: Hyatt House, Holiday Inn Express, Tru/Home2 Suites, Element by Westin, Drury Inn and Cambria Suites.



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A mountain biker heads out to enjoy a morning ride along Xerxes Avenue South and American Boulevard West.

## MAYOR'S MEMO

### BIKING WITH THE RULES OF THE ROAD

By Mayor Gene Winstead

Many of us ride bicycles on streets, trails and even sidewalks in Bloomington. With better weather, the popularity of biking surges. What can be more enjoyable than a bright spring day, a bicycle to ride and the wind at your back? Only one thing tops that list, and that's safety.

Biking is a fun sport that's growing in popularity, but to really enjoy your time on two wheels, safety is a must. Before you hop on your bike, take a fresh look at the rules of the road.

"Everyone shares the road," Traffic and Transportation Engineer Kirk Roberts said. "Whether you are on a bike or in a car, we need to be mindful of others and be courteous."

As a year-round bicyclist, Roberts rides around 2,000 miles annually. He takes care every pedal of the way. His top safety tips are to remain visible and predictable at all times. Ride on

the right side in the same direction as cars do. In Bloomington, you can legally ride on the sidewalk, but under Minnesota law, you are also permitted to ride on the road.

When using the road, cyclists must follow regular traffic laws, so be sure to come to a full stop at stop signs. Always be aware of the situation around you and be mindful of traffic.

Remember to wear a properly fitted biking helmet. Have your bike tuned up and in good working order. To avoid flats, check tire pressure before every ride.

By all means, get out and bike. With our abundance of streets and trails, bicycling opportunities abound, but the sport is more fun when everyone keeps the rules of the road in mind.

The Bloomington Bicycle Alliance has local biking information available. Visit [blm.mn/bikealliance](http://blm.mn/bikealliance) to find out more.

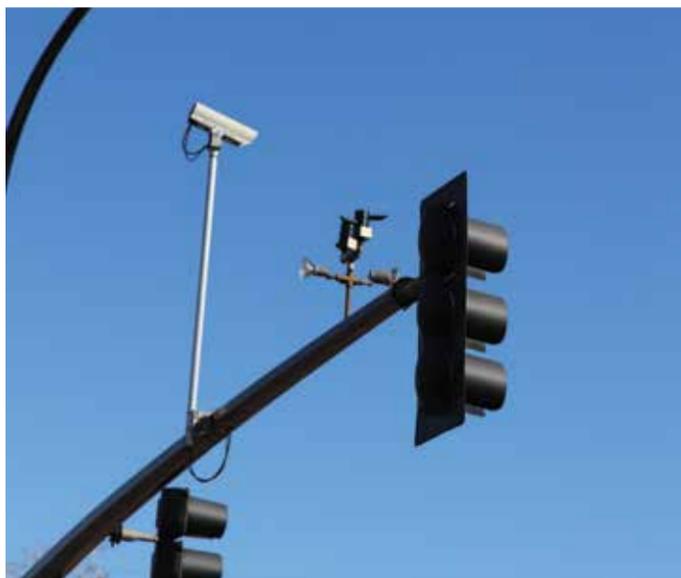
## BETTER BIKE DETECTION, BETTER TRAVELS

Maybe you've noticed more video cameras at intersections with traffic lights around town. The video cameras are up, but you don't have to smile. Facial recognition, license plate numbers and other details are not recognized. The video cameras offer a generalized view with fixed focus and fixed location images designed to notice bikes and other vehicles.

When bicyclists use the bike lane to approach a signalized intersection with a video camera, they no longer need to wait for a motor vehicle to approach to trip the light. If there is a specific spot that cyclists need to stop to be detected, the location will be marked with a symbol on the pavement. As another reminder, a small sign will be posted on the nearest curb.

The change to video cameras promotes efficiency and saves money. The older inductive loop detection system used underground sensors to detect movement and had higher installation and maintenance costs.

Visit [blm.mn/videocams](http://blm.mn/videocams) or call 952-563-4870 for more information.



## CITY COUNTERS BURNSVILLE'S LANDFILL PROPOSAL

In March, the City of Burnsville approved a proposal to expand the Burnsville Sanitary Landfill. The expansion would increase the landfill's waste volume by 26 million cubic yards and the height to 372 feet above grade—60 feet higher than Bloomington's tallest point at Hyland Hills Ski Area.

Next steps in its approval process will likely stretch over multiple years and could include:

- An application for a Certificate of Need from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).
- Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.
- Final approval from the City of Burnsville.
- Permit from the MPCA.

The City of Bloomington has no approval authority over

the expansion but will continue to monitor changes and developments and express concerns. The City's concerns about the proposal include the visual impact, noise, odor, escaping trash and location of additional waste in a sensitive ecological area, among others.

"We have obvious concerns about the size of the landfill, which could grow to dominate our Minnesota River Valley frontage," Mayor Gene Winstead said. "The landfill would be larger than the pyramids of Egypt, creating an undesirable visual for Bloomington."

The City submitted a comment letter in opposition to the expansion and testified in opposition at Burnsville public hearings. To see the letter and other related information, visit [blm.mn/landfill](http://blm.mn/landfill).

## BRIEFING

Volume 27, Number 5

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

Email: [jhill@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:jhill@BloomingtonMN.gov)

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

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



## BLOOMINGTON IN FOCUS

With a focus on community, the 2019 State of the City address provided a look at the city from many points of view. Nearly 300 people gathered at the Radisson Blu in March to hear about Bloomington’s progress, people and places. Mayor Gene Winstead and City Manager Jamie Verbrugge talked about the City’s six strategic priorities—environmental sustainability, inclusion and equity, focused renewal, community image, high-quality service delivery and community amenities—and projects happening now and on the horizon. Some of the topics discussed were neighborhood focus areas, the potential new community center and the City’s internal service assessments. In addition to those attending in person, the Facebook Live broadcast of the event reached nearly 500 people. On April 23, Verbrugge and Winstead also presented the State of the City to residents at the town hall forum. To watch the video, visit [blm.mn/soc2019](http://blm.mn/soc2019).

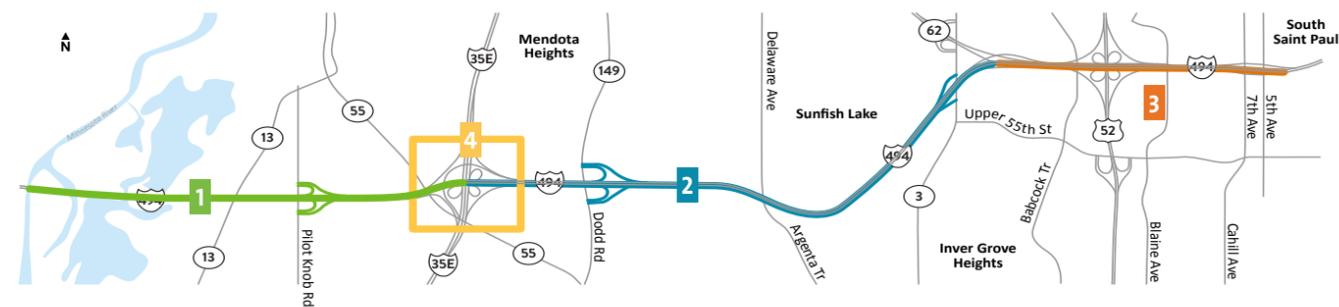
## YOU’RE INVITED!

The Mayor, City Councilmembers and City staff will host engagement events this spring and summer. Join them! Pizza, playtime and parks—how could you go wrong with that combination? Come have some free pizza, learn about Parks and Recreation summer programs, get a free bike tune-up and enjoy fun games and activities on Saturday, May 18, 12 – 2 p.m., at the Pond Family Center, 9600 3rd Avenue South. To register, call 952-563-8733 or email [outreach@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:outreach@BloomingtonMN.gov).

Find a full crop of Food for Thought at the Farmer’s Market on Saturday, June 15, 9 - 11 a.m., at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee road in the Council Chambers and lobby. Join us at the market for many interactive round table discussions on topics related to sustainability. For more information, visit [blm.mn/townhall](http://blm.mn/townhall) or call 952-563-8782.



|                 |                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 1 • STAGE ONE   | MINNESOTA RIVER TO I-35E |
| 2 • STAGE TWO   | I-35E TO HWY 62          |
| 3 • STAGE THREE | HWY 62 TO 3RD ST.        |
| 4 • STAGE FOUR  | I-35E BRIDGE             |



## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE: I-494 AND I-35E CLOSURES

Construction work will continue on I-494 between Mendota Heights and South St. Paul and may impact your drive later this summer.

The work includes bridge deck resurfacing and joint replacement on the I-494 bridge decks over I-35E, repairing pavement between 3rd Avenue and the east side of the Minnesota River bridge, improving drainage, constructing ponds, as well as adding a turn a lane and replacing signals at I-494 and Pilot Knob Road.

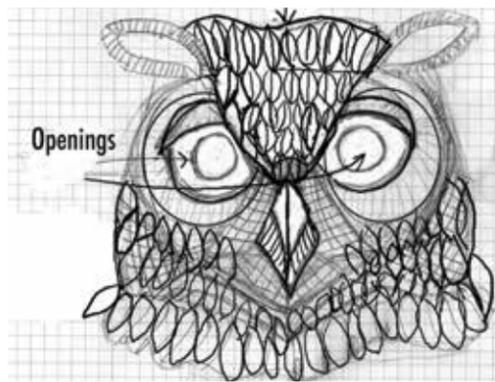
Expect single-lane or directional closures of I-494 over approximately 12 weekends as crews complete the pavement resurfacing and drainage work.

The bridge work will occur in multiple stages over two years and will include lane closures. For more information about the projects on I-494 in Dakota County or to sign up for email updates visit the project website at [mndot.gov/metro/projects/i494invergroveheights](http://mndot.gov/metro/projects/i494invergroveheights).

## RESIDENT SURVEY NOW UNDERWAY

The City wants to hear from you. Work has begun on the 2019 National Citizen Survey™ of Bloomington residents. The survey has been sent to 3,300 households by the National Research Center of Boulder, Colorado. This is the eighth consecutive year the City has partnered with the National

Research Center to conduct the survey in Bloomington. Polling will occur from the end of April through late May. For the 2018 survey results, visit [blm.mn/citizensurvey](http://blm.mn/citizensurvey). For more information, call 952-563-8713 or email [communityservices@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:communityservices@BloomingtonMN.gov).



## GET INVOLVED: PUBLIC ART CAN BE A HOOT

It’s no harm, all “fowl” for the first Creative Sparks project coming to Bloomington. Artist Gail Katz-James will build a temporary 3-D sculpture in the shape of a Great Horned Owl at the Minnesota Valley Natural Wildlife Visitor Center, 3815 American Boulevard East. She needs your help, too. Lend a hand and have a blast building the sculpture May 18 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. during the Urban Birding Festival.

The sculpture will be made of metal pieces and found natural materials from the area. Katz-James and event attendees will build the owl in a half-dome shape. It will be large enough for people to fit inside. The sculpture will remain up for one to three months. For more information on this project or upcoming Creative Sparks projects, visit [blm.mn/creativesparks](http://blm.mn/creativesparks) or call 952-563-88744.



## KITES AND BITES

Check out this fresh take on an old favorite. The Kites and Bites event combines a day of kite flying, free kite giveaways for kids while supplies last and an array of food trucks and music for a day to remember.

“It’s going to be a great family fun day and a kickoff event for summer!” said Recreation Supervisor Mark Morrison. “Be sure to come hungry. We already have five food trucks signed up to be there.”

Bloomington’s Parks and Recreation Department and Community Outreach and Engagement Division collaborated on this high-flying fun event scheduled Saturday, June 8, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., at Valley View Playfields, at 90th Street and Portland Avenue.



## FREE PLANT EXCHANGE COMING TO CREEKSIDE

**G**et your garden going without doling out a lot of green. Whether you're an expert gardener or just beginning, the Creekside Garden Club's annual plant exchange is an opportunity to donate, exchange, or adopt indoor, outdoor and vegetable plants for free.

Spruce up your home and garden digs with your pick of daylilies, cannas, hostas, ferns and other Minnesota-hardy perennial favorites. Tomatoes, succulents and other annuals will also be available, some started from seed by volunteers. The event will be held in the north lawn at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South, Saturday, June 1, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

### JOIN A GARDENING GROUP

Would you like to be involved with community gardening? If you enjoy gardening and are interested in supporting the gardens at Creekside, consider volunteering with the group. Have fun with other gardeners as you enhance the beauty of Bloomington. Gardeners of all levels and abilities are welcome to attend Creekside Garden Club meetings on the fourth Monday of each month, January – October, 10 a.m.

For more information, call 952-563-4944 or email [CommunityCenter@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:CommunityCenter@BloomingtonMN.gov).

## CELEBRATE EARTH DAY EVERY DAY

**M**onthly tips from the Sustainability Commission let you celebrate Earth Day every day. May's tip is to plant native flowers, grasses, shrubs and trees.

Pollinators and other wildlife depend on native plants to survive. Native plants can improve water quality and enhance the beauty of your yard.

Start small with a few native flowers or grasses—maybe redesign part of your lawn that you are tired of mowing. Replace a section of turf grass with big bluestem, blue phlox, false indigo, fireweed, pasque flower, prairie coneflower, prairie smoke, swamp milkweed, wild geranium or wild lupine, to name a few.

Explore these and numerous other possibilities listed in the State of Minnesota's "Native Plant Encyclopedia" at [blm.mn/nativeplant](http://blm.mn/nativeplant). For information about sustainability or to sign up for E-Subscribe, visit [blm.mn/sustain](http://blm.mn/sustain).



## GARDEN CENTER CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL

**A** 100th birthday celebration is a rare achievement for any business, and Bloomington Garden Center & Landscape Co. is honoring its centennial in style. On May 6, a proclamation from Mayor Winstead will declare 2019 as the year of Bloomington Garden Center—the oldest business continually operating in Bloomington—and will encourage all residents to visit this historic site.

The place has remained family-owned for generations. After 40 years in business, Merle Kidder sold his garden center to Brad and Bev Pederson. Today Brad, his son Eric and daughter-in-law Barb run the center.

Not everyone notices the garden center, at 9407 Old Cedar Avenue, two blocks down the hill from Old Shakopee Road, but those customers who do tend to come back. Annuals, hanging baskets, shrubs and trees are seasonal favorites. Lovingly grown plants, knowledgeable staff and quirky traditions, including mandatory breaks to look at snow geese flying over the greenhouse, have amassed fans.

"It's kind of like 'Cheers,'" Barb said. "We know everybody's name, and they know ours."

The garden center is planning centennial events, May 18 – 19. For information, visit [blm.mn/bgcenter](http://blm.mn/bgcenter) or call 952-854-8148.

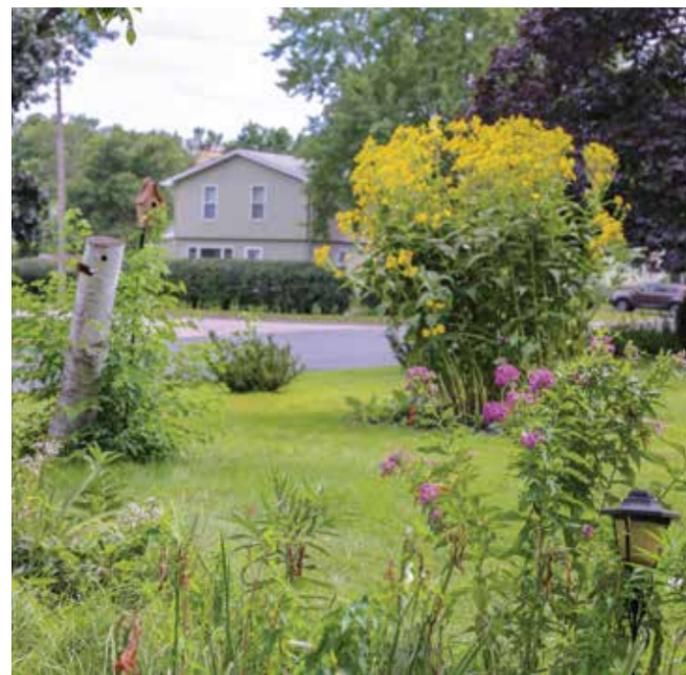
## FREE CLASS ON SUSTAINABLE LAWNS GO NO-MOW AND LET THE NATIVE PLANTS GROW

**Y**ou won't want to mow this one over! "Sustainable Lawns: Fescues and Flowers—A Practical Guide to Transforming Your Yard" is just the workshop for your spring lawn wishes. Bloomington Public Works and the Bloomington Sustainability Commission are co-sponsoring the class with Nine Mile Creek Watershed District.

Discover how to turn traditional turf grass into something environmentally friendly. Switching to a more sustainable landscape enables you to spend less of your time mowing and watering.

Find out how to assess your current lawn. Learn how to select the right seed, plant and maintain a no-mow or pollinator lawn. Attend the class, Wednesday, June 5, 6:30 – 8 p.m., Bloomington Public Works, 1700 West 98th Street. Bring your curiosity and leave ready to transform your yard.

For information or to register, visit [blm.mn/nplantclass](http://blm.mn/nplantclass).



## PLANTING TREES TO STRENGTHEN THE URBAN FOREST

**F**rom diverse plantings, great urban forests grow. Planting different kinds of trees strengthens our urban forest.

"Promoting diversity is important for a healthy and sustainable urban forest," Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Dave Hanson said.

Popularity can put trees in harm's way. The repeated planting of the same types of trees can increase the risk of pest infestation, disease, effects from climate change and severe weather. In the past, countless elms succumbed to Dutch elm disease, a fungal problem triggered by elm bark beetles. Today, ash trees are falling prey to emerald ash borer. The abundance of maples is a growing concern for tree issues in the future.

If you are planting trees, consider less frequently chosen varieties, including ginkgo, hackberry, honey locust, Kentucky coffeetree, river birch or swamp white oak. For information, visit [blm.mn/trees](http://blm.mn/trees) or call 952-563-8760.



## BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY

### SEEING SHOWS AT THE CARLTON CELEBRITY ROOM

Step back to the '70s and '80s when a little bit of Las Vegas lived in Bloomington. The Carlton Celebrity Room, 8350 24th Avenue South, put top entertainment in the spotlight. Everyone from Prince to Pearl Bailey to Pat Boone to Charley Pride performed at the popular nightclub. Who could forget Charo, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis or the Monkees? The performance lineup embodied the best of rock 'n' roll, pop, country, jazz and even musicals.

First dates, anniversaries, awards and music parties were among the many celebrations that took place in the wedge-shaped venue. Maybe you saw a show or two there?

In 1986, the Carlton Celebrity went bankrupt and was razed the following year. Later, Mall of America was constructed at the site. Take pause, listen up—there's still music in the air.



### A LIVE AND LOVABLE MUSICAL SHOW

Love is alive and kickin' and appearing at the Schneider Theater. The ninth annual production by "Alive and Kickin'" puts 30 seniors in the limelight with their personal stories of love. Music is paired with each performer's prerecorded story. From Queen to the Supremes to the Beatles, the style of music reflects the stories told. Some happy, some sad—all entertaining.

"One moment you are moved to tears and the next you are literally dancing in the aisles," Alive & Kickin' Founder and Artistic Director Michael Matthew Ferrell said.

In previous years, the show has sold out, so buy your tickets early. Performances run June 7 – June 16, Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 p.m., and Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, 2 p.m., Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. The cost for adults is \$34, seniors and students are \$30 each. For tickets, call the box office at 952-563-8575 or go to [blm.mn/bcatix](http://blm.mn/bcatix).



### CALLING ALL CARVERS

ativity scenes, folksy figurines, Celtic calligraphy motifs—these handmade creations and more come from the woodcarving group at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South. Experienced and beginning woodcarvers are welcome on Wednesdays, 9 – 11 a.m. While the meeting is free, participants provide their own wood and carving tools.

Share tips, ask for advice and maybe learn something new. Woodcarving is a relaxing hobby that is even more enjoyable as a group. Many of the regulars have been whittling wood for years. They come to Creekside for the creative comradery.

A wooden spoon or snake makes a good starter piece. Just get a chunk of basswood and a pattern, then carve. Projects can take hours or months to complete.

Woodcarving passes the time and can produce items of remarkable utilitarian beauty. The age-old process dates back to Viking times. "The winters were long and they had to have something to get them through it," Woodcarving group member Leonard Kampa said.

The joy of woodcarving can fill your days any time of year. The woodcarving group meets year-round. For information, call Creekside at 952-563-4944.

### LONGTIME LOAVES AND FISHES COORDINATOR RETIRES

Hugs, handshakes and happy tears marked retirement day for Kathy Tominski. After 27 years, she retired from her job as site coordinator for Loaves and Fishes.

A fixture at the Loaves and Fishes Creekside Community Center location for decades, Tominski is skilled at bridging community and love through food. Few can match her record of a million meals served. Her welcoming smile and pleasant conversation kept patrons coming back to Loaves and Fishes.

At the February 28 meal service, Tominski was honored with a congratulatory letter from Mayor Winstead, framed photos, pageant-sized rose bouquets, the first-ever golden silverware award and other keepsakes. Creekside was packed with well-wishers and meal participants. Some people work a crowd, but for Tominski, the crowd came to her. The abundance of smiles was a tribute to her heartfelt popularity.

Today, Loaves and Fishes runs like an extension of family at Creekside. There's always a need for more food coming to the table, and the program will continue to provide free meals. Maybe Tominski, a Bloomington resident, will drop in if only to say "hello."

Information about Loaves and Fishes: [blm.mn/loavesandfishes](http://blm.mn/loavesandfishes).



# BCAT

### WATCH BCAT ANYTIME, ANYWHERE!

Bloomington Community Access Television broadcasts on Comcast cable channel 16 and CenturyLink cable channels 8216 and 8716 locally in Bloomington, but you can also watch your favorite local community programming online anytime, anywhere! BCAT's channel is now streaming 24/7 at [stream.bcat16.org](http://stream.bcat16.org).

BCAT also offers basic video production classes for residents to learn how to operate video and audio equipment and produce their own TV show. For information on memberships, classes, and more, contact Communications Specialist Ben Vinar at 952-563-4980, email [bvinar@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:bvinar@BloomingtonMN.gov), or visit [www.bcat16.org](http://www.bcat16.org).





## GET GOLFING FASTER WITH ONLINE BOOKING

**W**hy waste any time when the golf course is calling? Look no further than your computer or phone to get a tee time at Dwan Golf Club, 110th Street and Xerxes Avenue, and Hyland Greens Golf and Learning Center, 102nd Street and Normandale Boulevard.

Online booking is here. A new system enables you to schedule tee times online or on an app in just a few clicks.

- Tee-time window shows availability in real time.
  - Integrates scheduling for Dwan and Hyland Greens!
  - Buddy list tracks playing partners.
  - Confirmations sent via email.
  - See pricing immediately.
  - Edit or cancel your bookings.
- Fees are paid at the clubhouse. If you prefer, tee times can still be made by phone or in person.

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

## HYLAND GREENS LAUNCHES NEW PAR 30

**P**ar for the course has taken on a new, bigger number at Hyland Greens Golf and Learning Center. With an updated executive layout, the longtime par-3 course is now a par-30 course. Holes two, four and six have been lengthened by an average of more than 20 yards and converted to par 4. All other holes remain par 3.

“Hyland’s par-30 layout gives players a new challenge, added incentive to brush up on their game and three extra strokes each time they play,” Golf Course Manager Peter Kurvers said.

Hyland Greens Golf and Learning Center, a nine-hole course, is open to the public and located at 10100 Normandale Boulevard. To make a tee time, join a golf league or find other information, visit [blm.mn/hyland](http://blm.mn/hyland) or call 952-563-8868.



## GO FISH BLOOMINGTON LAKES

**G**o fish in a Bloomington lake. Bass, crappies, northern pike, sunfish and muskies await your lure. With lakes and rivers in City parks, Hyland Park Reserve and the Minnesota National Wildlife Refuge, opportunities to nab the big one abound.

Who doesn’t like a good fish story? Make yours come true at Bush Lake, Normandale Lake and the Minnesota River—the most popular Bloomington locations to actually catch fish.

Along with your bait and tackle, check up on licensing. A fishing license is required for adults and is available from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources at [blm.mn/DNRfish](http://blm.mn/DNRfish). For information about fishing in Bloomington, visit [blm.mn/fishing](http://blm.mn/fishing) or call 952-563-8877.

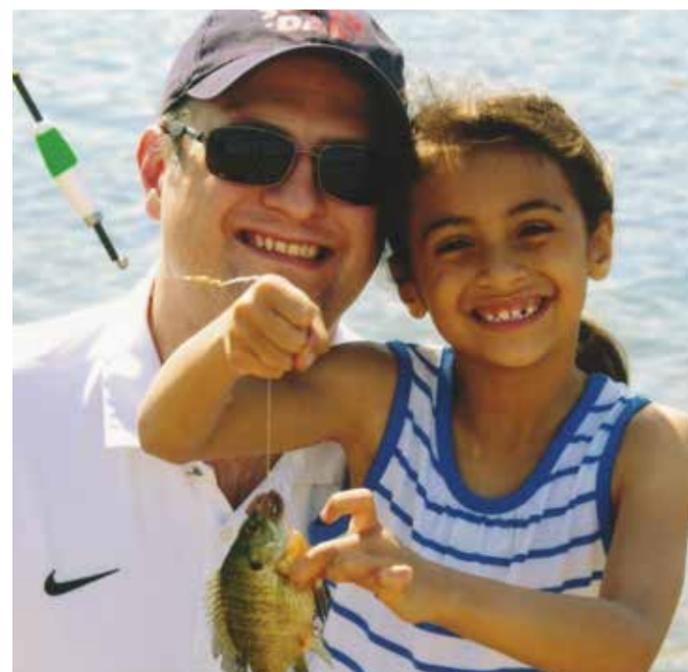
## REEL IN PRIZES AT KIDS FISHING FAIR

**D**o you know any young anglers or fishing fans? Children of all fishing abilities can compete for prizes at the Michael John Mathiason Memorial Bloomington Kids Fishing Fair. Young outdoor enthusiasts will love the chance to go fishing at Bush Lake.

Children up to age 12 can reel in trophies for the biggest catch of the day for four fish species. Free bait and fishing demonstrations add to the fun at West Bush Lake Park, 9140 East Bloomington Road.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., June 1. Kids must bring rods and reels. (Some loaner rods and reels will be available.) No fishing license is required but children must be accompanied by an adult.

The 27th annual event is sponsored by the Bloomington Optimists Club, Bloomington Parks and Rec and Izaak Walton League. For more information visit or call 952-563-8877 [blm.mn/boptimists](http://blm.mn/boptimists).



## CHECK OUT ARTISTRY SUMMER CAMPS

**S**ummer fun takes a creative turn at Artistry Summer Arts Camps. Kids from grades 1 – 9 can participate in their pick of more than 45 visual and performing arts day camps, June 10 – August 9. Sessions run 9 a.m. – noon and 1 – 4 p.m.

From clay to collage to a fashion challenge and more—all classes offer educational, engaging, hands-on artistic experiences sure to make the summer a memorable one. Camps offer young artists the chance to spend a half or full day with talented local teaching artists and learn new creative skills. Free lunch supervision is available for campers registering for both morning and afternoon sessions. Visit [artistrymn.org](http://artistrymn.org) for more information about the camp and registration.



## CHECK OUT SWIM-A-PALOOZA!

**C**ome on in! The water is fine! Join us for Swim-A-Palooza at Valley View Middle School on May 18 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. The Bloomington swim community is coming together for a free open house to celebrate swimming in Bloomington. Information will be available on lifeguarding and swim instructor jobs, swim lesson offerings and competitive swim leagues including the Bloomington Barracudas, Jefferson and Kennedy high schools’ boys and girls swim and dive teams.

## MEET A BLOOMINGTON FIREFIGHTER

**A**lec Purcell has been a Bloomington firefighter for seven years. He serves out of Station 4.

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

**A:** I am a pilot. I fly for Sun Country—737s.

**Q:** What do you like to do when you are not working or volunteering?

**A:** I like hanging out with my wife, hiking, camping, taking road trips, playing video games and board games, and catching up with friends. We like to make use of our Netflix and Hulu accounts, too, and take trips to the cabin up north.

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

**A:** My parents actually. My mom and dad were both Bloomington firefighters—my mom just retired from it and my dad has a few years left. Originally, I didn't want to do what my parents did, but when I got to be 17 or 18 I changed my mind. I didn't want to go to college right away so I applied to be a firefighter and I ended up loving it.

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

**A:** It's just a lot of fun. Everyday is different. The people I get to work with are great. It's a real family atmosphere here at the BFD. It's fun to have friends from all around town—east to west. I really like the community outreach element of the job—meeting with fourth graders and doing pancake breakfasts. It's fun to connect with those guys and see them smiling and having a good time. And, when we do have a call, we get to use what we've been trained to do to be the best part of someone's worst day.



## COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

**T**he Joint Community Police Partnership (JCPP) works to enhance communication between law enforcement and multicultural residents. By building trust and communication between the police and community members, JCPP aims to improve the safety and livability of the community. One way JCPP does that is through its Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC).

Committee members meet with police on a monthly basis to discuss topics that are important to their communities. The meetings are an opportunity for two-way communication that will enhance mutual understanding between police and the people they serve.

"If we want a change, we need to communicate with each other and being part of MAC is an chance to build that communication between police and the community," MAC member Guille Garza said. "The best way to grow as a community is understanding all cultures."

Anyone who lives, works or worships in Bloomington can apply to become a Multicultural Advisory Committee member. For more information, visit [blm.mn/jcpp](http://blm.mn/jcpp) or call 952-563-8700.

## RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH AND WELLNESS

**B**loomington Public Schools Health Services staff not only tend to students' tummy aches, bumps and bruises. They perform tube feedings, blood glucose monitoring, wound care, lice identification and much more. To recognize all the work the 29-person team does to keep students and the community healthy, Bloomington Advisory Board of Health chose them to be the recipients of this year's Health and Wellness Award.

BPS Health Services staff cover two high schools, three middle schools, two preschool programs, a transition program (ages 18 – 21), 10 elementary schools and the non-public schools in Bloomington.

Whether Health Services associates are teaching students about how to cough into their elbow, how to properly wash their hands or broader health topics such as diabetes, it's through education that students learn how to keep themselves and others healthy.

"Healthy kids mean a healthy community," said Licensed School Nurse Tracy Princivalli. "It's not just about just treating an illness, it's about promoting wellness."

Health Services staff keep their community ties strong through home visits, working with the City of Bloomington, participating in community trainings and referring families to the Health Commons at Pond.



BPS Health Services Supervisor Hannah Hatch, left, and Licensed School Nurse Tracy Princivalli.

## AT YOUR SERVICE: KEEPING MOMS AND FAMILIES HEALTHY

**I**t's as easy as A, B, C. Proper nutrition is a basic building block of health for young families.

With its WIC program, Bloomington Public Health provides nutrition education, breastfeeding counseling and support and food vouchers for pregnant and breastfeeding women with low incomes, infants and children through age five.

WIC Clinic Coordinator Marianne Nelson says one of the biggest reasons she has stayed with Public Health for 28 years is the connection she makes with people she serves.

"It's fun to see families grow and develop," she said. "Sometimes they will come back years later with their grown kids. We create a lasting connection and that's not true in every nutrition job."

As the WIC Clinic coordinator, Nelson manages day-to-day operations of the clinic, sets up staff schedules, has direct participant contact, maintains supplies and provides nutrition education.

Nelson landed at

Public Health after she was assigned to a college internship at the City.

"It's a really fun job and I know we're making a difference," she said.

To learn more about Public Health or WIC, visit [blm.mn/publichealth](http://blm.mn/publichealth).



## MENTAL WELL-BEING WORKSHOPS

**M**ay is Mental Health Awareness month. The City of Bloomington hosts monthly learning opportunities centered on mental well-being led by the Minnesota Department of Health.

Public Health Nurse Jo Cotter facilitates the meetings at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

Upcoming meetings include: SLEEP! Improving sleep practices through clinics, community and on college campuses, Tuesday, May 28, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.; and Addressing Social Isolation in Rural Communities (especially among farmers), Tuesday, June 25, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

For more information, contact [publichealth@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:publichealth@BloomingtonMN.gov) or call 952-563-8900.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FARMERS MARKET OPENING

Nothing says summer like a visit to the Bloomington Farmers Market. The opening is June 8. Meet participating farmers and other food producers during this weekly event, which the whole family will enjoy. Look for familiar faces, new vendors, launches of sustainability programs and more.

Join in the fun on Saturdays through October 19, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m., at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. For more details, insights and other fun facts, visit the market's Facebook page at [blm.mn/fbookfarmers](https://www.facebook.com/blm.mn/fbookfarmers).

## DONATE AND BUY BOOKS FOR A BETTER BLOOMINGTON

Donate and buy items for the Bloomington Crime Prevention Association's (BCPA) Book 'Em sale. Through May 30, drop off your gently used books, board games, video games, puzzles, DVDs, CDs, records and software (2015 or newer) at Civic Plaza, Creekside Community Center, public elementary schools and other convenient locations. For more information, visit [blm.mn/bookem](https://www.blm.mn/bookem) or call 952-220-2537.

The sale is June 1 – 15, Monday – Friday, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m., and Saturday – Sunday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., 7839 Southtown Center. A one-evening preview sale is scheduled Friday, May 31, 5 – 9 p.m. with admission of \$10 per person over 12 years of age or free with BCPA member card.

## ATTEND A HOME IMPROVEMENT SEMINAR

Learn about basic home automation and energy efficiency at a home improvement seminar this summer. The Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority will host a seminar on Tuesday, June 11 where you will learn how to use smart home technology and on Tuesday, August 6 with information about making smart energy investments. Seminars will be held at 7 p.m., at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. Visit [blm.mn/homeseminars](https://www.blm.mn/homeseminars) for more details.



## CITY OFFICES COMING ON THE BALLOT

The City will conduct local elections in 2019. The four offices up for election include the Mayor, Council District At Large, Council District I and Council District II. Candidates are placed on a ballot after they file for office. The most common way to file is to complete an affidavit of candidacy and pay a \$50 filing fee during the filing period, May 21 – June 4.

Candidates can file at the City Clerk's Office, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. If three or more candidates file for the same office, primary elections are required and would be held on August 13. School Board offices will be on the ballot during the November Election. There will be no federal, state, or county offices on the ballot in 2019.

To find out more about municipal candidate requirements or other election information, visit [blm.mn/clerk](https://www.blm.mn/clerk) or call 952-563-8729.

## ELECTION JUDGES NEEDED

The City is in the process of recruiting election judges. These opportunities are paid and two training sessions are required. Visit [blm.mn/electionjudge](https://www.blm.mn/electionjudge) for information.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED ELECTION QUESTIONS

**Q:** When are primary elections required?

**A:** Primary elections are required if three or more candidates file for the same office. They are held in August.

**Q:** What qualifications are required to file as a municipal candidate?

**A:** Must be eligible to vote in Minnesota; must have not filed for another office at the upcoming primary or general election; must be 21 years of age or more upon assuming office; must have maintained residence in the district for at least 30 days before the general election.



## YARD WASTE AND UTILITY BILLING

Weather permitting, annual full-season yard waste subscription service runs weekly from April 15 to November 30. Garden waste, grass clippings, leaves, weeds, soft garden materials, shrub and tree waste, prunings, and wood chips are collected. No dirt, sod or rocks are accepted.

Make sure all twigs and branches are approximately three feet in length and no more than three inches in diameter. Put yard waste material in an approved cart or compostable bags, or tie into bundles and place on the ground. Keep the weight of bags and bundles at 40 pounds or less.

Compostable bags must be used for bagged yard waste pickup. Paper (Kraft) bags or compostable plastic bags are acceptable. When purchasing yard waste bags, look for Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) or Cedar Grove certified bags.

As an alternative to full-season yard waste subscription service, residents may request on-call services for a fee. All bags collected on an on-call basis must be labeled with a sticker that can be purchased from the Finance Department at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

For information, visit [blm.mn/yardwaste](https://www.blm.mn/yardwaste), call 952-563-8726 or email [utilitybilling@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:utilitybilling@BloomingtonMN.gov).



**COMPOSTABLE**  
Biodegradable Products Institute | US COMPOSTING COUNCIL

