

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



AUGUST 2019

PAGE 2

PAGE 3

PAGE 6

PAGE 8

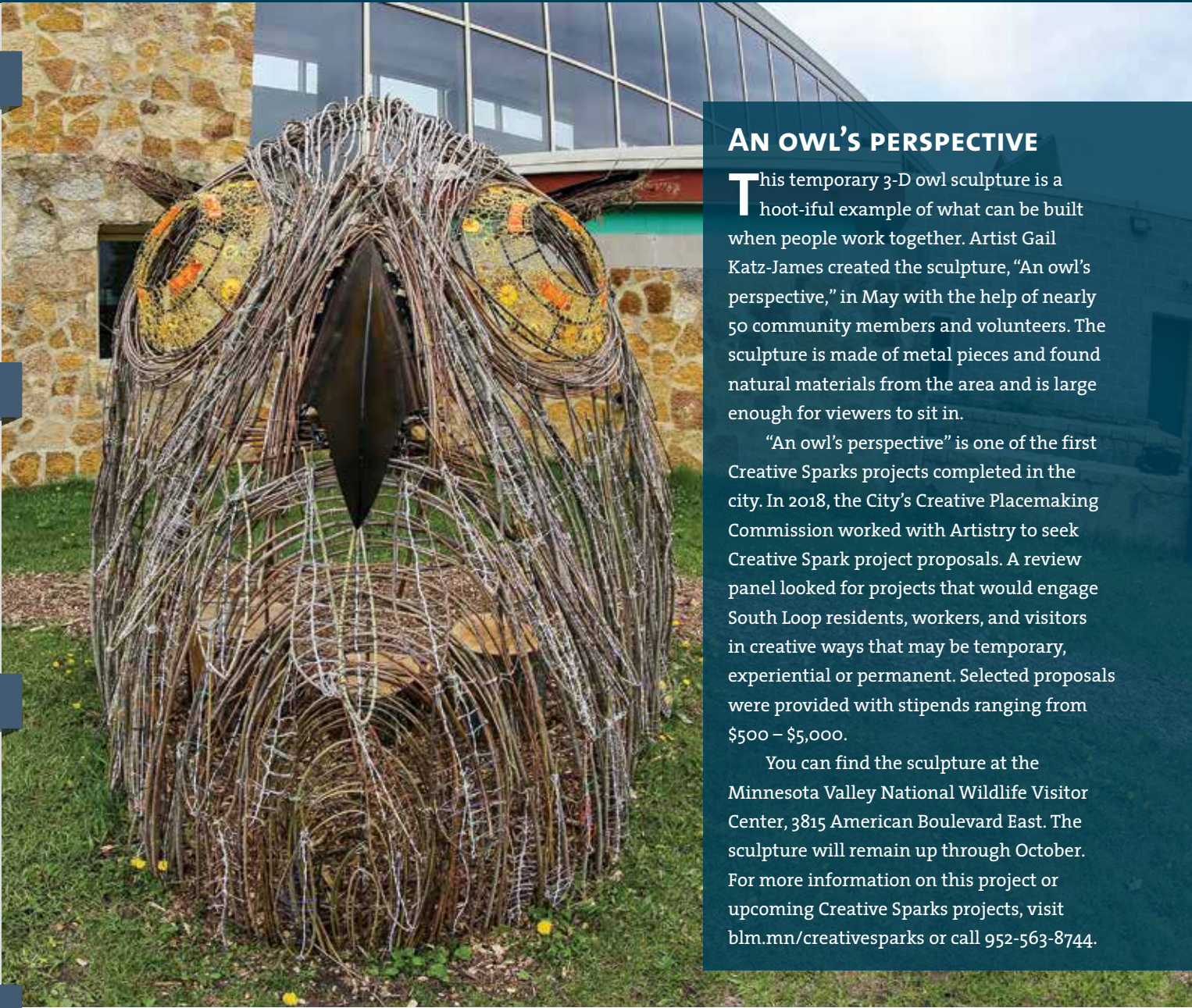
FIND US ONLINE
BLOOMINGTONMN.gov



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

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

ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER



AN OWL’S PERSPECTIVE

This temporary 3-D owl sculpture is a hoot-iful example of what can be built when people work together. Artist Gail Katz-James created the sculpture, “An owl’s perspective,” in May with the help of nearly 50 community members and volunteers. The sculpture is made of metal pieces and found natural materials from the area and is large enough for viewers to sit in.

“An owl’s perspective” is one of the first Creative Sparks projects completed in the city. In 2018, the City’s Creative Placemaking Commission worked with Artistry to seek Creative Spark project proposals. A review panel looked for projects that would engage South Loop residents, workers, and visitors in creative ways that may be temporary, experiential or permanent. Selected proposals were provided with stipends ranging from \$500 – \$5,000.

You can find the sculpture at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Visitor Center, 3815 American Boulevard East. The sculpture will remain up through October. For more information on this project or upcoming Creative Sparks projects, visit blm.mn/creativesparks or call 952-563-8744.

ARTFUL AMENITIES RENEWAL MORE SPACE NEEDED FOR BLOOMINGTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS PROGRAMS

It’s no secret Bloomington has a strong, well-established arts community. For 16 years, the Bloomington Center for the Arts has housed seven arts groups with an array of quality programming that serves a diverse community. As the arts thrive in Bloomington, the Center for the Arts needs an update to keep up with increasing demands. For nearly two years, the City and resident arts organizations have explored potential improvements to the Center for the Arts in Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

The Schneider Theater, Black Box Theater, Inez Greenberg Gallery and other venues in the center bring together artists and audiences. The seven arts organizations that use the Center for the Arts have outgrown the space, especially for concerts, theater performances and rehearsals.

“The arts are flourishing in Bloomington and groups are already in a position to have more performances and poised to grow,” Center for the Arts Manager Jim Urie said. “We’re maxed out here.”

The 70-member Medalist Concert Band and others vie for time and space in the current 32,000-square-foot facility. Rehearsals and even performances often have to be held in other places because of space limitations.

“The ability to rehearse and perform in the same space and to learn the acoustics of the space would help our artistic quality,” Medalist Band Music Director Jerry Luckhardt said. “It raises the bar and makes everything better as we strive for more professionalism in our work. More space for rehearsals, audience seating and even storage would be a step in the right direction.”

Other groups share the need for Center for the Arts expansion. Angelica Cantanti wants to expand their choirs, but does not have space to do so. Currently, the group has more than 300 singers across six choirs.



The Bloomington Symphony Orchestra only gives one Center for the Arts performance yearly but would like to do more. The small size of the stage makes a tight fit for the 75-member orchestra.

Today, the Schneider Theater seats 366 and the Black Box Theater seats 120. A new concert hall with seating for up to 500 people is proposed. More stage, seating, rehearsal and storage space would open up the schedule and accommodate more activity. Performances in the theater have an average occupancy of 86 percent, which exceeds industry standard of 70 percent.

As concept plans are tentatively developed to expand eastward from the existing facility, the City is seeking a state appropriation of \$10 million to supplement City investments and private contributions toward the Center’s expansion.

For more information, visit blm.mn/bca or call 952-563-8877.



MAYOR’S MEMO

WATER PARK PROPOSAL GAINS NONPROFIT PARTNER

By Mayor Gene Winstead

Maybe you’ve heard about the water park proposal. Bloomington residents and businesses can’t help taking notice of the project’s scale and scope. Here’s an update on how things are moving along.

This year, the City of Bloomington has taken more steps to analyze the proposed water park, which would be connected to Mall of America (MOA) in the South Loop District. After discussion by the Council and Port Authority in July, a recommendation was made to move forward to negotiate and draft an agreement between the City and the nonprofit Provident Resource Group (Provident) to deliver the water park project. I believe this project will benefit Bloomington and surrounding communities.

Provident’s nonprofit mission is, in part, to lessen the burdens of government and provide economic development. Both are official terms the IRS uses to grant Provident its 501(c)3 nonprofit status. Using a nonprofit like Provident for this project truly does lessen the burdens of the City in a number of ways, and the project promotes economic development.

With multilevel interior areas adding up to more than 300,000 square feet, the proposed indoor water park would be one of the largest in North America. The estimated cost of construction to the site—located north of the existing mall—is \$250 million.

The plan is for MOA to lease the land for the water park to the City. In turn, the City will sublease to Provident who will be the leasehold owner of the water park and borrower of the debt. Provident will own the water park while the bonds are being repaid. This will provide the financial framework necessary to construct the water park.

We have to be sandwiched in there, but the City doesn’t have any financial risk for that water park payment. If there is low water park revenue, we don’t have to pay that water park loan. If there are excess revenues, they will go to pay the loan off early. This is a complicated yet efficient way of financing a recreational project with the nonprofit.

The water park proposal will continue to be analyzed by the City. Bloomington Port Authority staff is working closely with Provident as well as consultants who specialize in the design, development and management of water parks across the country.

BLOOMINGTON IN FOCUS: LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHERS SHARE THEIR SHOTS

Images collected in the City’s photo contests over the past year really show the beauty Bloomington has to offer. From eagles soaring high to friends having fun, the photos submitted reflect many different aspects of life in the city. The amount of resident engagement in the contests inspired the 2019 theme for State of the City and the annual Corporate Report—Bloomington in Focus. This photo of bald eagles was taken by Dick Bergstrom at Nine Mile Creek. Check out the trails around the creek for yourself and maybe you’ll spot some wildlife in person. The City first sent the word out about its seasonal photo contests in the summer of 2018. Through all four seasons, more than 150 people sent in their submissions. Visit blm.mn/photocontest to take a look at the submitted photos.



BRIEFING

Volume 27, Number 8

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

BLOOMINGTON CITY COUNCIL



Mayor
Gene Winstead
952-888-1258 (h)
952-563-8782 (w)
gwinstead@BloomingtonMN.gov

Councilmember At Large
Nathan Coulter
952-239-0531
ncoulter@BloomingtonMN.gov



Councilmember At Large
Tim Busse
952-457-7506
tbusse@BloomingtonMN.gov

Councilmember District I
Dwayne Lowman
952-479-0226
dlowman@BloomingtonMN.gov



Councilmember District II
Shawn Nelson
952-479-0471
snelson@BloomingtonMN.gov

Councilmember District III
Jack Baloga
952-944-5194
jbologa@BloomingtonMN.gov



Councilmember District IV
Patrick Martin
952-454-6657
pmartin@BloomingtonMN.gov

Elected officials presented for informational purposes.

COUNCILMEMBERS

council@BloomingtonMN.gov

EXECUTIVE STAFF

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



CLEANING UP NORMANDALE LAKE

More than a year ago, the City and Nine Mile Creek Watershed District began a water quality project at Normandale Lake to reduce the amount of weeds and algae growing in the water by removing the invasive curly-leaf pondweed. Crews drained the lake over the winter to freeze the pondweed seeds. Staff expected some curly-leaf pondweed to survive the winter freeze since it is a hardy, invasive plant. To manage nutrients in the lake, the watershed district applied an alum treatment in the spring. The district will do a targeted herbicide treatment every spring for the next four years.

After the lake filled back up, the Department of Natural Resources restocked it with the native fish population, including blue gills. This summer, the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District will conduct a carp study to find a management strategy to limit the numbers in the lake. This study will be ongoing throughout the summer. The district will also be doing several plant surveys to determine the effectiveness of these efforts and identify possible next steps.

“At the end of the day we hope to make the lake a better place,” said Nine Mile Creek Program Manager Erica Sniegowski. For more information, visit blm.mn/normandalelake.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING RESOURCES

Food, water, shelter—housing is a basic need and affordability is an essential. Today, affordable housing is an issue on the forefront of people’s minds and Bloomington is no exception.

Earlier this year, the City approved an opportunity housing ordinance to preserve and create new affordable housing opportunities in Bloomington. The goal is to provide more affordable housing units for working families, seniors and other residents.

Perhaps you have questions about the availability of affordable housing in Bloomington? Maybe you are looking for affordable housing? A number of resources are available through the City’s affordable housing page at visit blm.mn/affordablehousing. Resources include:

- HousingLink contains information on affordable housing opportunities at blm.mn/houselink or call 612-522-2500.

- ECHO is a multi-language website with information about housing, health and safety issues and more at blm.mn/ECHO or call 651-222-1717.
- First Call for Help is a crisis support line offers helpful connections for housing plus other resources. Call 211 or visit blm.mn/1stCallHelp.
- HOMEline offers free information on legal rights and responsibilities of tenants and landlords at blm.mn/homeline or call 612-728-5767.
- HUD Fair Housing has information on how to file a fair housing complaint at blm.mn/HUDFairHouse or call 202-708-1112.
- Minnesota Office of the Department of Housing and Urban Development can be reached at blm.mn/MnHUD or call 202-708-1112.

To ask questions by phone, call 952-563-8937.

PARK PLAN INPUT WANTED

The City has 97 parks, 3,700 acres of green space, 50 miles of off-road trails and 65 miles of bike lanes. What would you like to see happen with the park system over the next 20 years?

The City is putting together a parks and recreation master plan, and ideas from the community are an important part of the process. The plan will provide a clear 20-year vision for the Bloomington park system and a basis for decision-making for the development and redevelopment of parks, facilities, recreational opportunities and funding. The planning process will take approximately 18 – 24 months, with the project kicking off this year and a completed plan launch during 2021 – 2022.

You can have a voice in how Bloomington parks are planned, programmed and used in the future. An assessment survey to gauge community needs was conducted in June, and other opportunities for input are coming. Park stakeholders, community groups, residents and visitors are encouraged to participate throughout the planning process. For more information, call 952-563-8877.



ENJOY NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Each year, thousands of residents gather and enjoy a summer evening with neighbors, good food and information about keeping their communities safe. Bloomington’s 36th annual National Night Out event is Tuesday, August 6.

For more information or to register your National Night Out party, visit blm.mn/nno or call 952-563-4900. New this year is a chalk drawing contest with prizes given for the most creative piece, best overall and most representative of National Night Out.

ON THE BALLOT: CHARTER AMENDMENT QUESTION

Voters will soon get to decide whether to remove a section of the City Charter that regulates intoxicating liquor. If approved, intoxicating liquor would be regulated by state law and the city code. One potential result of this change would be that the City Council could create new types of licenses to allow new types of liquor establishments in Bloomington.

On July 15, the City Council approved a charter amendment question to be included on the November 5 General Election ballot that would authorize the City Council to adopt ordinances that would allow for new types of liquor establishments such as tap rooms and cocktail rooms. The question asks voters whether to remove alcohol regulations from the City Charter:

“Shall the Bloomington City Charter be amended to delete Section 12.12, which would allow the City Council to adopt ordinances authorizing additional types of places to serve and sell alcohol in the City?”

The amendment requires 55 percent of people voting yes to pass. If approved, the change would go into effect 30 days after the election.

JOIN A RENEWABLE ENERGY CHALLENGE

Bloomington is excited about the future of renewable energy. The City recently completed an Energy Action Plan through Xcel Energy’s Partners in Energy program. You can be a part of the plan, too. The Sustainability Commission’s challenge to you: Help reduce greenhouse gas emissions by subscribing to a renewable energy program.

The Commission’s goal is for 100 new subscribers to sign up for Xcel Energy’s Windsource® in August. Residents who sign up for a subscription to help Bloomington reach its energy goals before September 15 can enter a drawing to win a prize. Visit blm.mn/renewable to sign up and enter to win.



ORGANICS RECYCLING INCREASING

Every day is recycling day for organics in Bloomington. For your convenience, City drop-off sites are open daily at Valley View Park, 201 East 90th Street, and West Bush Lake Park, 95th Street and West Bush Lake Road, plus a County-operated site at 1400 West 96th Street.

On August 10, look for an organics recycling table sponsored by Hennepin County at the Bloomington Farmers Market. The first 50 people to sign up for the organics recycling program there will get a free kitchen collection container.

It’s easy to be a part this free program. Sign up anytime online at blm.mn/organics-signup.

Enjoy the benefits of organics recycling. Save money as you reduce your garbage service need and switch to a smaller garbage cart. Compost items you wouldn’t put into your backyard composter, including dairy products, meats and bones.

Take a look at organics recycling by the numbers:

- 1,135 participants registered.
- 78 tons of organic material collected for composting.
- 16 months since the program started.
- 2 City-owned drop-off sites (for households).



EARTH ACTION HERO: PLANTING SUSTAINABILITY AS A MASTER GARDENER

There are gardeners and there are Master Gardeners. Karen Valerio puts her green thumb to task as a sustainable steward at her Bloomington home and as a Master Gardener at the University of Minnesota. Through every turn of the trowel, she stays current about horticultural developments and helps community members with their gardens. Maybe you’ve seen her volunteering around town?

“I love working at the Bloomington Farmers Market because it supports the people where I live,” Valerio said. “It’s fun to talk to all the gardeners. We get questions about pest control, weed issues, watering, transplanting and lots more.”

Brimming with native flowers, shrubs and trees, her yard and gardens warrant a double take. To Valerio, sustainable gardening means installing plants that are earth friendly, reduce chemical use, and provide food and shelter for native insects. Little choices can make a big difference.

“Consider installing a bee lawn,” Valerio said. “We have a handout at the Master Gardener table at the Market.” (For bee lawn information online, visit blm.mn/beelawn.)

Growing native plants for bees, butterflies and other insects is an easy choice and is a gardening trend. “Add some coneflowers, asters and grasses. After the first three years when the plants mature, maintenance is very low,” Valerio said.

To find out more about becoming a master gardener, visit blm.mn/mastergardener or call 612-596-2130.

FARMERS MARKET BRINGS SMILES

They come for the food, they come for the community and they come early. From toddlers to grandparents, the Bloomington Farmers Market has something for everyone and the crowd starts building at 8 a.m. sharp.

The Market bustles with fun times and great food in the east parking lot of Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Saturdays through October 19, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Remember to visit the Midweek Music and Market, Wednesdays, 4 – 8 p.m. through August 14. Enjoy live music, lawn games, food trucks and beer (21 plus with ID).

For more information, visit the market’s Facebook page at blm.mn/fbookfarmers or call 952-563-8877.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT DRAWS A CROWD

The City Council and Sustainability Commission partnered on an engagement event called Food for Thought @ Farmers Market June 15. The Saturday market attracted approximately 2,600 shoppers. The event was designed to draw in Farmers Market shoppers who passed through the Civic Plaza lobby to reach the market. Shoppers were given “passports” good for a drawing if they visited interactive stations highlighting the Sustainability Commission’s key areas of focus. The event was effective in catching attention and facilitating one-on-one conversations between councilmembers, commissioners, staff and visitors.

“The turnout exceeded my expectations,” said Sustainability Commission Chair Tim Sandry. “The setup and structure enabled all of us on the Commission to have great one-on-one interactions with the residents.”

Staff from Public Works and Community Outreach and Engagement coordinated the event.



MEET A BLOOMINGTON FIREFIGHTER

Nancy Anselmin has been a Bloomington firefighter for 17 years. She serves out of Station 2.

Q: What’s your day job?

A: I’m a registered nurse; I do a phone triage line and I work in an emergency room. I was a paramedic before I was a nurse, there was a lot of overlap between those jobs and with the fire service.

Q: What do you like to do when you aren’t working or volunteering?

A: My husband and I like to travel and garden. I walk my dogs a lot. We have three—Gertrude, my Mastiff, Emma, my Pug, and Norman is my little Chihuahua. We’ve got a huge one, medium and little. And I’m a knitter, like every other firefighter—no, just kidding.

Q: What do you love most about firefighting?

A: It’s problem solving, it’s always different and it’s great being out in the community helping people—a lot of times it’s people you know. I also like being able to bring a sense of calm to calls we go out on. I think in my line of work, that’s really important and it’s something I pride myself on.



AUGUST IS BREASTFEEDING AWARENESS MONTH

Public Health is dedicated to supporting, promoting and protecting a woman’s ability to continue providing breastmilk to her infant after returning to work. To help raise awareness in the community on the laws surrounding breastfeeding support, Public Health kicked off a pilot breastfeeding awareness campaign on the City of Bloomington’s Facebook page at the beginning of 2019. The goal of the campaign is to educate the community, specifically about supporting women in the workplace by highlighting businesses already doing a good job.

The pilot project involved seeking nominations from employees who feel their workplaces are supportive of moms returning to work and wanting to continue providing breastmilk for their baby. Within 24 hours of the Facebook post being published, seven nominations came through. In total, Public Health saw 16 nominations, with 11 of those being unduplicated nominations for employers in Bloomington.



GIVE BACK, GIVE BLOOD

Giving blood is quick and easy, and can help people who are in life-or-death situations. One donation can save up to three lives.

“The importance of giving blood is that it can save a person’s life at any given moment. It could even be your own,” Bloomington Community Development Director and blood donor Eric Anthony Johnson said.

Sign up to donate at the Bloomington Community Blood Drive Wednesday, August 14, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. Online registration is preferred, but walk-ins are welcome. For more information, contact the American Red Cross at 1-800-REDCROSS or visit blm.mn/blooddrive.

ASK A PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

Public Health nurses work with community members of all ages. Topics they specialize in include immunizations, healthy pregnancy, breastfeeding, early childhood, parenting, aging and emergency preparedness. In this column, they’ll answer your questions.

Q: What are some tips to overcome breastfeeding challenges?

A: The number one tip would be to access professional breastfeeding support. Lactation consultants are often available through clinics, hospitals and WIC, and are generally covered by insurance. Even if the issue seems minor, it’s worth getting support early on. Peer support, such as La Leche League groups or the WIC Peer Breastfeeding Counselors, can be a wonderful source of encouragement and problem solving. For concerns about breast milk production, remember that frequent expression of milk is the main drive of milk production. An effective way to do this is to look for signs the baby is hungry—it may be frequent in the early months. For more information, call Public Health at 952-563-8900.

TRAINING FOR FOOD SAFETY

From hot dogs to warm cheesy nachos to frosty cold ice cream, serving snacks involves more than meets the eye. How food is stored, handled and prepared has implications for your health. Did you know the City takes an active role educating seasonal workers about food safety best practices at the Family Aquatic Center, 201 East 90th Street and Bush Lake Beach, 9140 East Bush Lake Road?

To ensure pool users and beach goers have the best possible experiences, in-house experts from Environmental Health work with Parks and Recreation to train staff in proper concession food handling.

“If there is food, the City’s Environmental Health staff is making it safe,” Recreation Supervisor David Benson said.

During a specially designed three-hour class, participants hone new skills, field questions and recognize how vital food safety is for the community. For the seasonal workers, lessons learned can last a lifetime and spark an interest in food-related careers.

For information, visit blm.mn/e-health or call 952-563-8934.



AT YOUR SERVICE: CAITLIN EBNER

Whether she’s inspecting restaurants or sampling lakes for E. coli, Environmental Health Specialist Caitlin Ebner says her work is all about being proactive to keep people safe.

“I love the variety of work that comes along with my job, but my favorite thing is connecting people to resources that can help them,” Ebner said. “We like to provide as much education as we can to help people be successful.”

Ebner has been with the City for six years. She started as an environmental health specialist after graduating from University of Wisconsin—Eau Claire with a bachelor’s degree in environmental and public health. She also completed two summer internships in the City’s Environmental Health Division.

In her role, Ebner performs inspections to ensure federal, state and City codes are upheld. In addition to restaurants and Bush Lake Beach, she inspects hotels and pools. She also helps other City departments train staff in things like food safety when needed.

“My first exposure to environmental stewardship was at our family’s cabin, picking up cans from the lake bottom with my dad. As a kid, it was a neat bonus if you found a crayfish inside,” she said. “I learned a lot about the health of the lake that way and it nurtured an interest that led me to the career I have now.”





FALL IS A GREAT TIME TO GOLF

Ready to hit the links? Late summer and early fall are the perfect time to play golf at Dwan Golf Club, 3301 West 110th Street and Hyland Greens Golf and Learning Center, 10100 Normandale Boulevard. The weather is great, and booking a tee time is easier than ever.

“Dwan and Hyland Greens are popular with golf leagues, and with many of them finishing up in August, more tee times become available,” Golf Course Manager Peter Kurvers said.

Tee times can be booked online by phone or in person. For information, visit blm.mn/golf or call Dwan at 952-563-8702 and Hyland Greens at 952-563-8868.



THANK YOU SUMMER FETE DONORS!

- STARS AND STRIPES**
- Jimmy Johns
 - Plekkenpol Builders Inc.
 - DBA David Fongs Restaurant
 - Northwestern Health Sciences University
 - Bloomington Chamber of Commerce
 - Raindance Sprinkler Systems Inc
 - Chu Vision Institute
 - Sperides Reiners Architechs Inc
- DETONATION**
- Renewal by Andersen (Justin Miller)
 - Premier Bank Minnesota
 - Bloomington Convention and Visitors Bureau
 - Gyropolis Inc
 - Weather Master
- KID’S STAGE AND CARNIVAL**
- Earl C. Hill Bloomington American Legion Post 550
 - Mall of America



CHECK OUT A POP-UP SPLASH PAD

Looking for a way to have some summertime fun? Join Bloomington firefighters and Community Outreach and Engagement staff at the pop-up splash pad event and run through the spray of a fire hose, dance to the music and enjoy a free popsicle. The event will take place on Thursday, August 22, 5 – 7 p.m., at Westwood Park, 3490 West 109th Street, in the paved ice rink. If rain or lightning occurs, the event will be canceled. For more information, call Community Outreach and Engagement at 952-563-8733.

PUP PLACES: GOING OFF LEASH

Oh, the dog days of summer. Nothing beats a nice day outdoors, and for many, the family dog adds to the fun. Did you know the City has two off-leash recreation areas?

Your four-legged friend can roam free and hit the ground running at the 25-acre, off-leash recreation area at Nesbitt Avenue and West 110th Street, and the double broomball rink off-leash recreation area at Tretbaugh Park, West 90th Street and Tretbaugh Drive. Happy hounds abound as dogs and their humans enjoy socializing, exercise, fresh air and nature. For off-leash recreation rules and other information, visit blm.mn/off-nesbitt or blm.mn/off-tretb, or call 952-563-8877.



NORMANDALE LAKE PERFORMANCE SERIES

The sounds of summer echo throughout the Normandale Lake Bandshell, 84th Street and Chalet Road, with the Twin Cities’ most sought-after musicians and bands. Shows begin at 7 p.m. and are free to the public. Bring your appetite! You’ll find a variety of food and drink options at events marked with a fork and spoon icon.

AUGUST

1 ‘80s Explosion

THUR



Groove to **Time Machine’s** highly energized party songs, sure to pack the dance floor. Food: Heavy Metal Grill.

6

TUE

Blue Groove Bluegrass

Listen to authentic bluegrass music performed by some of the most talented bluegrass artists in the region.

8

THUR

Bloomington Symphony Orchestra

Enjoy one of Minnesota’s premier community orchestras. Food: Reverie food truck sells plant-based cuisine.



MIDWEEK MUSIC AND MARKET SERIES

HELD 4 – 8 P.M. AT CIVIC PLAZA, 1800 WEST OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD. MUSIC FROM 5:30 – 7:30 P.M.

7

AUGUST

Steve Clarke and the Working Stiffs



Classic big band and crooner sounds are the specialty of this group, headlined by the six-time Minnesota Music Award horn player of the year.

14

AUGUST

Salsa del Soul



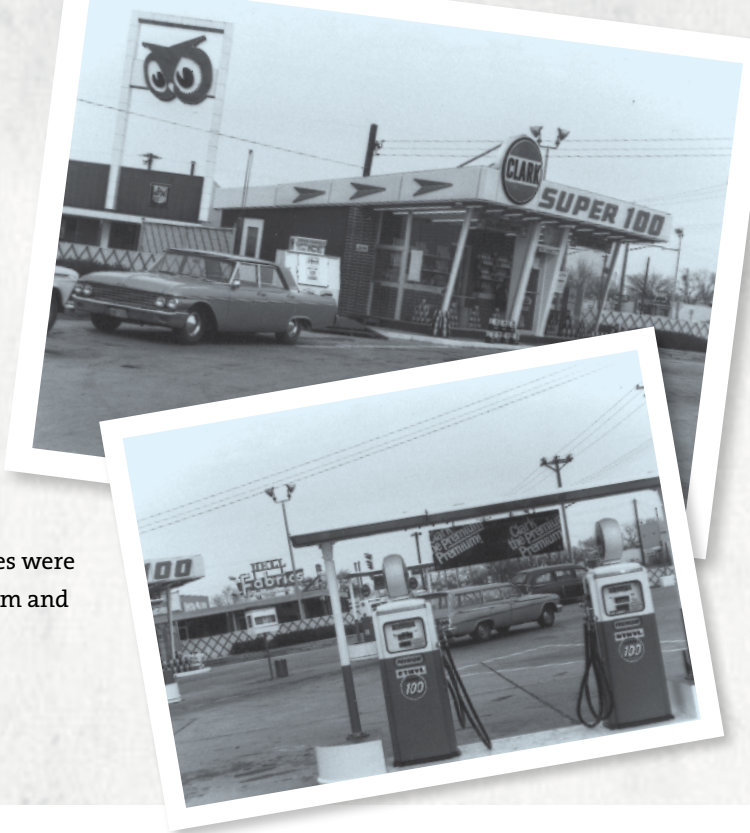
Experience the swinging sounds from all over the Caribbean!

BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY

FILLING 'ER UP AT CLARK SUPER 100 IN 1966

Ever see an orange plastic foam ball on top of the antenna of a car? The characteristically sunny spheres were a Midwestern craze sparked by Clark's Super Gas, a Milwaukee-based company. Clark's Super Gas turned Clark Oil then Clark Brands as it is known today.

Travel back to the '60s when cars were big and gas prices were small. Gas station trips were more common than chrome trim and white sidewall tires.



100 YEARS OF BLOOMINGTON LIVING

For most of us, turning 21 or 50 or 75 is a big deal, but Betty Pearson, pictured with her daughter Jan Whitbeck, goes beyond those milestones by many years. The lifelong Bloomington resident celebrated her 100th birthday in April.

Not many people can remember the days when Bloomington was a farming community powered by horses—when phone lines were rare and quilting bees were the way neighbors kept in touch. The rural landscape was a patchwork of cropland fields, anchored by hand-honed homesteads.

Decades ago, Pearson's childhood home at West Old Shakopee Road and Harriet Avenue South made way for retail development and is a Festival Foods today. Over a century, much has changed, yet the most important things have stayed the same.

Family, friends and faith are Pearson's mainstays. The successes of her two children, five grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren make her beam with pride.

"I don't look at my years; I look ahead," Pearson said, affirming her belief that she still has important work left to do and a meaningful life to live.



RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE IN HUMAN RIGHTS WORK

The Omar Bonderud Human Rights Award is presented by the Human Rights Commission to an individual or organization that has made a significant contribution to ensuring the rights of people in Bloomington. The award is named after Omar Bonderud, who was the first Chairperson of the Commission, formed in 1968.

Nominate any individual or organization that has gone above and beyond to ensure people in Bloomington have equal opportunities in employment, housing, public accommodations, public services, education and/or represent a substantial effort toward educating, winning or preserving equality and justice for protected groups. Applications will be accepted through Friday, August 30. Complete an online nomination form at blm.mn/bonderud or call 952-563-8733 to request a paper form.



MEDIA BY THE COMMUNITY, FOR THE COMMUNITY

At Bloomington Community Access Television (BCAT), any Bloomington resident can learn how to operate video and audio equipment, and create community television programming. No experience is required.

For information on memberships, classes, and more, contact Communications Specialist Ben Vinar at 952-563-4980 or bvinar@BloomingtonMN.gov, or visit www.bcat16.org. Tune in to BCAT on Comcast channel 16, CenturyLink Channels 8216/8716, or streaming worldwide 24/7 at stream.bcat16.org.



EASE YOUR MIND AND UNWIND IN CLASS

Learn how to relax during the new Stretch, Relax, Meditate class series at Creekside Community Center. Engage your body and mind through simple stretches and gentle yoga postures. Begin each class with a centering exercise to draw yourself into the present moment. As your body finds a sense of ease, your mind will begin to calm, inviting space for relaxing the mind, helping to create a sense of well-being.

Registration is required for this four-week class, Tuesdays, September 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2 – 3 p.m., at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South. Cost is \$20 for Bloomington residents and \$28 for nonresidents. Register by Tuesday, August 27. For more information or to register, call 952-563-4944. Participants are asked to wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat.



THE GOOD OLD DAYS OF WCCO RADIO

During 21 years at WCCO as news director, Curtis Beckman learned what it takes to make an AM radio station entertaining. Curtis will share stories from working with radio personalities and news people at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South, Monday, August 26, 9 – 10:30 a.m. Prepare for a few surprises and many laughs.

Register by Tuesday, August 20. Cost is \$5 with a light breakfast included. For more information or to register, call 952-563-4944.



NEW ARTISTRY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In July, Kevin Ramach succeeded Andrea Specht as Artistry’s executive director. A familiar face in the Twin Cities arts community, Ramach garnered success as president and general director of the Minnesota Opera, and as president and board chair of the Arts Partnership with the Opera, the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, the Schubert Club and The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra.

With his strong record of leadership, Artistry is on track to further its strategic vision of making art and artists essential to a vibrant social fabric and civic life in Bloomington and beyond.

“I am very excited to join the staff, board and the community to continue to advance the mission of Artistry,” Ramach said. “The growth of Artistry under Andrea’s leadership has been remarkable and compelling. I believe that working together we can continue this momentum, expanding the role of arts and engagement.”

For information about Artistry, visit blm.mn/artistry or call 952-563-8575.

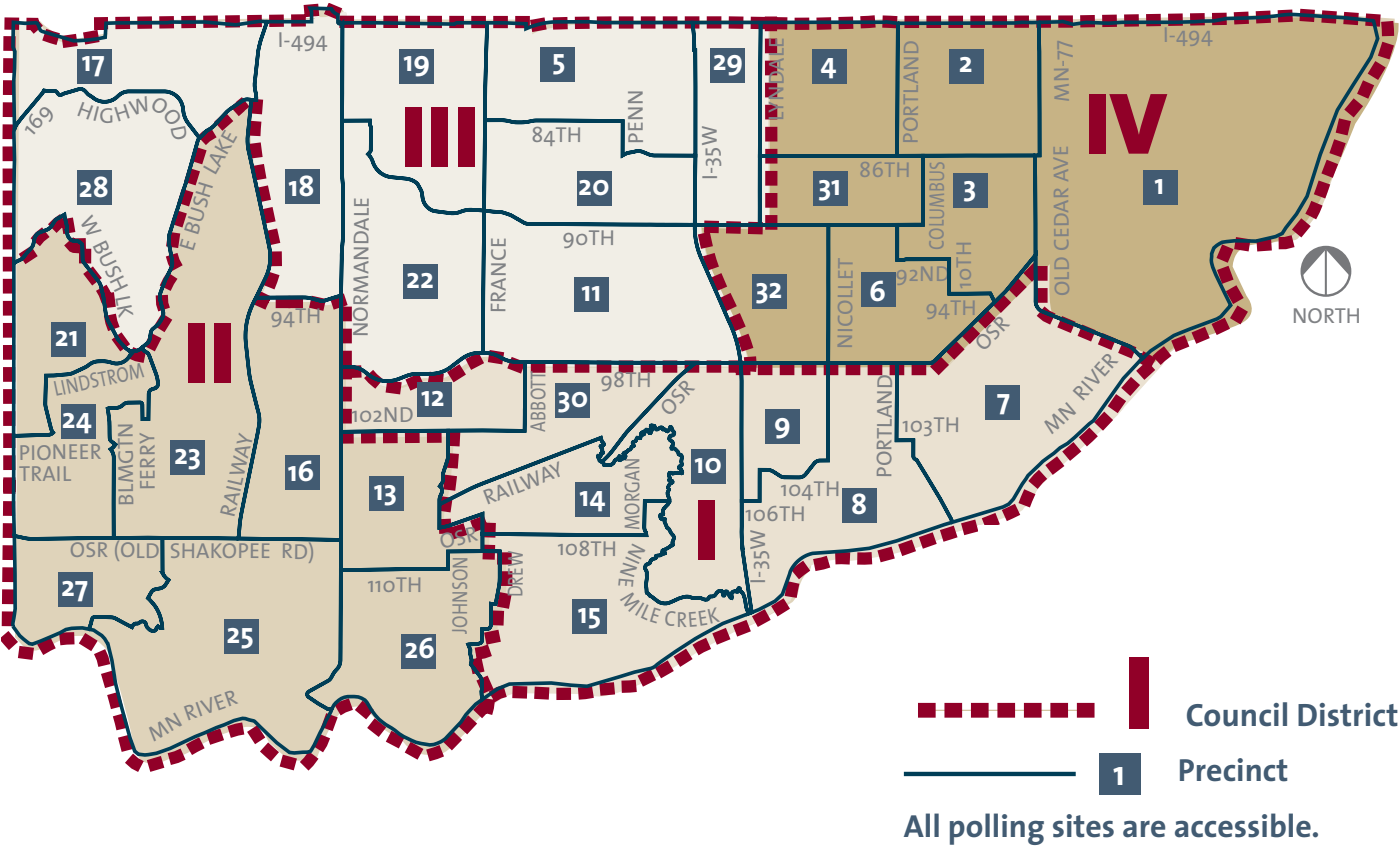


ATTEND A CREATIVE
HAPPY HOUR

Enjoy fun and funky live music, yard games, food trucks, a cash bar and make-and-take art activities at the third annual Creative Happy Hour, Thursday, August 15, in Bloomington Central Station Park.

Join the City and Artistry in celebrating another year of art and creative placemaking in South Loop. Learn about recent projects and grab a self-guided tour map.

If it rains on August 15, the event will moved to Thursday, August 29. For more information, visit blm.mn/placemaking.



CAST YOUR BALLOT IN THE PRIMARY ELECTION ON
AUGUST 13

Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, August 13 in Bloomington for the offices of mayor, councilmember at large and district I councilmember. Polling places open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. Verify your polling place before Election Day. To find your polling place, visit blm.mn/pollingplace or call the City Clerk’s Office at 952-563-4925. Eligible and registered voters are required to vote at the assigned polling place for their legal residence (where you sleep).

WHEN ARE VOTER IDS REQUIRED?

Voters are not required to present identification to the judges upon check-in unless they are registering for the first time or updating their voter information. Election judges will inform voters when identification is necessary.

ABSENTEE VOTING

Any registered voter in Bloomington can vote by absentee ballot. In-person voting is conducted after completing an application at Bloomington Civic Plaza on the following dates: June 29 – August 13, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Saturday, August 11, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. (extended hours), and Monday, August 13, 4:30 p.m. – 5 p.m. (extended hours).

Absentee voting is also available by mail. Contact Hennepin County Elections at 612-348-5151 to have an application mailed or complete an online application at blm.mn/hennncovote.

After the application is completed and received by Hennepin County, the ballot materials will be mailed directly to the voter. A postage-paid envelope will be provided to return the voted absentee ballot for counting. All absentee ballots are counted and vote totals are included with the election results from the polls.

CHECK OUT A TEMPORARY MURAL IN
SOUTH LOOP

Artist Rock Martinez has more than 15 years’ experience painting large surfaces, and he’s bringing his expertise to South Loop this summer. His free-standing temporary murals will be on display in Bloomington Central Station Park, 8100 33rd Avenue South, through September. Martinez specializes in bright, larger-than-life murals. For the pieces in South Loop, he drew inspiration from area wildlife. For more information about this project or other Creative Sparks projects, visit blm.mn/placemaking or call 952-563-8744.



FAR EAST-INSPIRED ART EXHIBIT
COMING TO BLOOMINGTON

The Far East beckons you in an exhibit with 90 works of local art. Artistry brings the Sumi-e Society of America’s 56th Annual National Juried Exhibition to the Bloomington Center for the Arts.

The show hails from artists across the nation and was juried for exhibition by master Sumi-e artists, Yuming Zhu and Bloomington’s own Hong Zhang. In Sumi-e (Japanese for black ink brush painting) soft but powerful brush strokes, depict the elegance of calligraphy, landscape, flora and fauna, and much more—all in an Asian light.

Find out why Sumi-e is synonymous with serenity. Delve into Asian art and culture three times over—all from a Bloomington base. Visit the six-week long exhibit, hosted by the local Ming Chiao Chapter, August 9 – September 20. Attend the reception, Friday, September 6, 6 – 8 p.m. Both are free and in the Inez Greenberg Gallery, Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.



Take the experience another step and participate in a Sumi-e painting class, Saturday, September 14, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Fee required: Artistry members \$98 and nonmembers \$108.) Learn how to paint tranquil, Asian-inspired scenes using ink, watercolor, rice paper and bamboo. Practice and refine your brushwork skills in a safe, relaxing environment. Register at artistrymn.org or call 952-563-8575.

For other information, visit blm.mn/artistry or call 952-563-8575.