

BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



SEPTEMBER 2019

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BLOOMINGTON CRIME ASSOCIATION EVENT TOPS RECORD BESTSELLER

Book 'Em 2019 was a bestseller. A Bloomington tradition since 1992, the book sale raised a record-setting \$170,000. Proceeds go back to the community through crime prevention grants and scholarships.

"It is astonishing to see how everyone comes together for the good of the community," BCPA President Katie Chase said. "The Book 'Em sale is only possible due to the more than 70 hardworking volunteers who put in hundreds of hours to make the sale a success. We thank all of those who donated, shopped and volunteered."

Bloomington residents Jay and Deanna Juergens managed event operations and were among more than 70 volunteers who return every year to sort through thousands of donated books, tapes, records, CDs, DVDs, software, video games and parlor games.

"This year we received a record number of donations," volunteer Jay Juergens said. "We are in a very good position to continue making significant crime prevention grants. That's why we do Book 'Em!"

EXPLORING NEW COMMUNITY CENTER OPTIONS

Plans for a new community center designed to better serve all of Bloomington are in the works. Surveys conducted over the past two years have found the majority of residents support a more modern and comprehensive community center. The current Creekside Community Center at 9801 Penn Avenue South has outlived its useful life. A new upgraded facility would provide even more opportunities for programming for all ages.

Last winter, after evaluating the existing Creekside site and Bloomington Civic Plaza as potential locations, the City Council directed staff to develop plans for a possible community center facility at Valley View Park. The location at 90th Street between Nicollet and Portland avenues is currently home to Bloomington Family Aquatic Center.

NEW POOL SPACE CONSIDERATIONS

The land at Valley View is City-owned and large enough to accommodate the amenities a modern community center would feature. Building at this site would also allow the City to address the aging pool facility by adding a new, significant outdoor aquatic amenity along with a year-round indoor aquatic facility as part of the project.

BALLFIELD SPACES

Red Haddock Field and the Kent Hrbek Fields would remain untouched; however, the preliminary plan for the Valley View site could result in the loss of three ballfields. If fields are removed, some events would need to relocate, including a portion of the Firemen's Tournament. The City would work closely with event organizers to find suitable alternate event sites, including Dred Scott Playfields.

NEXT STEPS

The project is still in its initial phases, and the City will be seeking residents' input on design and programming. The costs for constructing a new community center will depend on the building design, program elements and size to be finalized by the Council in early 2020. With the number of steps required for planning, design, funding and construction, it could take up to four years before a community center is built and operational if the project moves forward.

POSSIBILITIES FOR FUNDING

A funding source for a new facility has not been determined. A bond referendum, lease revenue bonds and charter bonds are all possible resources. For more information, visit blm.mn/communitycenter or call 952-563-8896.



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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
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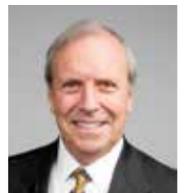
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The City of Bloomington complies with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment 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.



MAYOR'S MEMO

DONATION LAUNCHES AFFORDABLE HOUSING FUND

By Mayor Gene Winstead

A new fund embodies the City's trailblazing approach to affordable housing. To help get things started, former City Councilmember Jon Oleson provided a substantial donation of \$5,000. The generous gift from Oleson sends a powerful message and is an inspiration.

"Jon is heavily active, particularly on the advocacy side of supporting affordable housing, and regularly attends meetings of the Bloomington Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing work group and Bloomington Housing Coalition," Community Development Director Eric Johnson said. "It was natural for him to support this. He personally believes in the mission of affordable housing."

Like-minded Bloomington residents are encouraged to follow Oleson's lead and contribute to the trust fund, which supports the City's efforts to develop affordable housing.

"The creation of a trust fund is really a logical step to generating resources so Bloomington is upfront in the effort," Johnson said.

The City launched its new Opportunity Housing Ordinance September 1. The ordinance incentivizes the creation of new affordable housing units while furthering private market development.

The fund is part of the new Opportunity Housing Ordinance, which went into effect on September 1. The ordinance creates support for the construction of affordable housing units, establishes incentives for developers and current owners of affordable rental housing, and supplies additional protections for tenants.

The need for affordable housing affects the entire community. The City is taking measures to create and maintain affordable housing for residents for years to come. According to the Metropolitan Council, the City needs to add 845 affordable housing units by 2030.

"If you look at issues across the state, this is arguably in the top two," Johnson said. "We have individuals in Bloomington, we have families and seniors spending well over 45% of their income on housing costs."

Learn more about affordable housing options in Bloomington and how to contribute to the fund at blm.mn/affordablehousing or call 952-563-8937.

FOCUSED RENEWAL: GATEWAY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

On May 13, the City Council approved the creation of the Gateway Development District, beginning a transformational opportunity in an area of the city where development and redevelopment has been largely overlooked for decades. By encouraging the redevelopment of Bloomington's aging neighborhood commercial centers within the district, the City increases the likelihood of more business owners and residents naming Bloomington as their community of choice. More importantly, the district's focus will be about creating a quality place for current residents and businesses by building on past successes, present opportunities and future trends.

"The Gateway Development District is anchored with great parks, schools and trails. We're doing our part to make the area attractive to new commercial developers, too," Community Development Director Eric Johnson said.

Through the Gateway Development District, the City intends to:

- Create opportunities for new affordable housing with an array of housing choices.
- Promote projects that improve quality of life by providing desirable goods and services to address an unmet need in the community.
- Retain and increase the number and diversity of jobs, offering stable employment with attractive wages and benefits in the area.
- Promote projects that include needed transportation and other utility infrastructure improvements.

The new district spans more than 7 square miles, *see map*. It is generally located west of Highway 77, east of Penn Avenue, south of Interstate 494, and north of Old Shakopee Road and 98th Street.

The community will have a variety of opportunities to share their vision for the next generation of growth and investment within the district through local engagement opportunities.

Consultant work within the district will be funded by Hennepin County, the Housing and Redevelopment Authority, the Community Development Department and the Bloomington City Council. For more information, visit blm.mn/gatewaydistrict. Questions? Call Community Development Director Eric Johnson at 952-563-8947.



FORWARD 2040

Taking Shape Together



FORWARD 2040 PLAN UPDATE ADOPTED

In early August, the City Council adopted the Forward 2040 Comprehensive Plan update. The comprehensive plan sets the City's 20-year vision and implementation priorities to guide the development of and public investments in City facilities and services, including parks, trails, fire stations, roads, sewer and water systems, and housing.

The comprehensive plan is updated every 10 years, and the 2040 plan replaces the comprehensive plan adopted in 2009. City planning staff prepared the update with guidance from a resident advisory committee and input from technical staff across various City departments. Numerous community engagement, awareness and input opportunities were provided throughout the three-year planning process.

To see the newly adopted comprehensive plan document, visit blm.mn/forward2040, or call 952-563-8920 for more information.



I-35W UPDATE

Crews began construction on a noise wall on the east side of I-35W between 106th Street and Bloomington Cemetery in August. Construction on the noise wall is projected to wrap up fall 2019. No nighttime work on the noise wall is anticipated at this time.

The ramp from northbound I-35W to 106th Street has been closed since April and is projected to reopen fall 2019. The ramp from 106th Street to southbound I-35W has been closed since October 2018. It is not scheduled to reopen until summer 2021.

Construction on the replacement of the existing bridge on I-35W across the Minnesota River and the bridge over 106th Street began in 2018 and will be completed in fall 2021. For more information, visit blm.mn/mndot35.



BIG RENOVATIONS FINISHING UP, PHASE TWO PROJECTS CONSIDERED

Like any seasoned ice skater or hockey player, Bloomington Ice Garden (BIG) has to keep sharp. The 125,000-square-foot facility opened in 1970 and over the years expanded from one to three rinks with a seating capacity of 2,500. Even with these improvements, as time passes, the need for renovation grows.

BIG remains open year-round and hosts more than 800,000 visitors annually. They come for hockey practice and games, public skating, lessons, shows, camps and competitions. Countless users have learned to skate at BIG and some have skated their way to stardom.

The facility has a positive impact on the community as a whole. Renovations will improve the experience for visitors and help uphold a positive image. Facility upgrades reflect the City Council's strategic plan for enhancing community amenities.

"People like to come here," Ice Garden Manager Bob Carr said. "What attracts people is the history, but you can't live in the past. Facilities inevitably need to upgrade and BIG is no exception."

Bloomington Ice Garden, 3600 West 98th Street, has remained open during the seven-month, \$2.2 million project. While the bulk of the funding came from bonds, approximately \$400,000 originated from other sources, including a \$75,000 Kraft Hockeyville U.S.A. grant awarded to BIG for taking second place in an online voting competition.

Main entryway upgrades include more welcoming features with automatic doors and enhanced lighting. At rinks one and two, locker rooms are being upgraded with separate restroom and shower areas, along with seating that complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. All renovations are forecast for completion before the end of the year.

A phase two of construction is under consideration. This could include the addition of an elevator and other beneficial facility and equipment upgrades.

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

PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS

Nearly 7,000 Bloomington residents turned out to cast their vote in the August 13 primary election for the mayor, at-large councilmember and district I councilmember seats. Mayoral candidates Ryan Kulka and Tim Busse were selected by voters to appear on the General Election ballot on November 5, as well as at-large council seat candidates Jenna Carter and Brian "Clem" Clemens, and district 1 council seat candidates Dwayne A. Lowman and Al Noard.

For more information about the General Election, watch for our full-page guide in the *October Briefing*, visit blm.mn/voting or call the Bloomington City Clerk's Office at 952-563-8729.

CAN'T MAKE IT ON ELECTION DAY? VOTE EARLY

Absentee voting for this year's General Election starts Friday, September 20. Minnesota has "no excuse" absentee voting, meaning all eligible voters are allowed to vote early if they choose. There are three ways to cast your ballot in the 2019 elections.

1. In-person on Election Day at your polling place.
2. In-person with early voting at Civic Plaza.
3. By mail with absentee voting (early voting) with Hennepin County.

The absentee ballot voting process requires additional steps different from the Election Day voting process. All early voters must complete both an application to receive a ballot and a certificate when casting the absentee ballot. The form can be found online at blm.mn/voting.



HEAR FROM CANDIDATES FOR LOCAL OFFICE

Want to get to know the City Council and Mayoral candidates who will be on the ballot this November? Attend a candidate forum hosted by the Bloomington League of Women Voters.

- **September 17**—Mayoral Forum and City Council Forum in the Civic Plaza Council Chambers at 6 p.m.
- **September 19**—School Board Forum in the Civic Plaza Council Chambers at 7 p.m.

For more information and video testimonials from the candidates, visit blm.mn/voting.



NEW ELECTRIC VEHICLES ROLLING IN

The future of automobiles is electric, and the City of Bloomington is embracing this future. This fall, the City will purchase two electric vehicles (EVs) for its fleet, plus two more in 2020.

“The primary benefit will be significantly lower fuel and maintenance costs,” Fleet Manager Michael Keim said.

Additionally, the City is installing two EV chargers at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, for free public use. These chargers will be located at the north end of the parking lot near the Arts Center entrance. Find out more at blm.mn/sustainability.

TAKE A TEST DRIVE AT ELECTRIC VEHICLE EXPO

Are you interested in learning more about electric vehicles? Visit the Electric Vehicle Expo at Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, 2200 West Old Shakopee Road, Saturday, September 14, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. You can test drive several of the latest models and learn about the latest technology from dealers and real-world EV owners, with test drives until 1 p.m.

For more information, visit blm.mn/sustainability.

CANADA GOOSE CONTROL AT BUSH LAKE

No one wants to encounter what is left behind by wayward geese. Flocks of the fowl sometimes visit Bush Lake Beach, 9140 East Bush Lake Road.

Droppings from geese are more than a nuisance and can spread disease, including E. coli. To keep the beach safe for swimming, the City controls geese in several ways. Park Maintenance administers a control program that focuses on public safety, sanitation concerns and the health of the animal population. A contractor and a volunteer provide assistance in the ongoing effort by installing Mylar stringers to encourage geese to relocate, and by dragging the beach daily to discourage geese habitation.

Remember, do not feed geese or any other wildlife. For information, visit blm.mn/parkcare or call 952-563-8760.



EARTH ACTION HERO: MASTER WATER STEWARD PROGRAM

Sustainability is not just an ideal—it can also be a practical solution. As a Master Water Steward, Cathie Briggs supports clean water education on behalf of the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District and applies her knowledge to her home and garden. Butterflies, dragonflies and fireflies are just a few of the pollinators that visit her garden brimming with native plants. Its strategically placed water collection and infiltration systems help protect water.

Briggs has two rain gardens connected with meandering channels weighted by stones, which act as catch basins for water runoff. When it rains, the otherwise dry creek beds flow like streams. Water cascades into rain gardens to be infiltrated into groundwater instead of running unfiltered directly into storm drains. The system helps keep our lakes and marshes free of pollutants and keeps her basement dry.

While cardinal flower, coneflower, catmint and other natives dominate her landscape, hosta, phlox, and other non-natives are in the mix. Together they create a beautiful garden of low-maintenance plants. Occasional weeding and annual mulching is all that is required once plants are established.

“One of the best ways to involve others in sustainability is to help them apply it in practical ways,” Briggs said. “I encourage people to find out what watershed they are located in, contact that organization and make use of the tools and programs available.”

To find your watershed, visit blm.mn/wshed.



PROTECT OUR WATERS AS A MASTER WATER STEWARD

Do you want to protect clean water and make real change? Become a Master Water Steward (MWS). Discover how to safeguard local lakes and creeks from pollution.

Master Water Stewards learn how to educate their neighbors on clean water issues and build projects designed to prevent polluted rainwater from entering our lakes and creeks. Rain gardens, rain barrels, cisterns, water-permeable walkways and other clean water landscaping plans are among the projects the MWS organizes.

For more details or to apply, visit blm.mn/waterMS or call 651-313-5806.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PERMIT FORMS GO PAPERLESS

September 1 marked the end of paper-based applications for building permits at the City of Bloomington. Residents and contractors now experience a more efficient, streamlined process online.

In just a few clicks, registered users submit all permit applications online and select planning and engineering applications, including zoning verification letters, encroachment agreements, easement and ROW vacations, and wetlands. You can also perform applicant searches and property information searches.

The change increases efficiency and promotes a more sustainable environment by reducing paper waste. Environmental sustainability is one of the City Council’s six strategic priorities to guide the City through 2020.

Register and apply online at blm.mn/portal. If you have any questions on how to register, call 952-563-8930. For FAQs and other information, visit blm.mn/permits.

HOW TO GET YARD WASTE SERVICE

Need a place for your fall leaves or other yard waste? One call does it all. To sign up for yard waste service, contact the City Utility Billing Office at 952-563-8726.

Full-season yard waste collection runs from April 15 to November 30 (weather permitting). Weekly collection includes leaves, garden waste, grass clippings, weeds, shrub and tree waste, pruning, wood chips and soft garden material.

Through November 30, partial-season yard waste subscription service is offered to new subscribers or residents who moved after yard waste season began. The current rate is \$50.75. Subsequent years will be billed at the full-season rate, unless yard waste is cancelled by the household.

Residents may also pay \$4.08 per bag for on-call yard waste removal services. To arrange on-call service, purchase stickers in the Finance Department at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. A sticker must be placed on each on-call bag. To schedule the on-call collection, notify Utility Billing at least 48 hours prior to your collection day.

For more information, visit blm.mn/yardwaste, call 952-563-8726 or email utilitybilling@BloomingtonMN.gov.



MEET A BLOOMINGTON FIREFIGHTER

Ryan Petersen has been a firefighter for 17 years. He serves out of Station 1.

Q: What's your day job?

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

Q: What made you want to become a firefighter?

A: I like serving my community and helping out. It's a very rewarding career. I grew up watching fire trucks drive down Nicollet past my house and I always thought I wanted to do that someday.

Q: What do you like about living in Bloomington?

A: I like it because it's a well-taken-care-of city that still has a small town feel to it and you're close to everything the Twin Cities has to offer.

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

A: I like hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, backpacking—most outdoor stuff.

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

A: Don't give up. Always be learning. Never take a day off from learning something that will better you.



SAVE THE DATE: FIRE STATION OPEN HOUSES

Get to know your neighborhood firefighters at the annual fire station open house. Each year during National Fire Prevention Week, the Bloomington Fire Department celebrates by opening all its stations to the public for fun, food, and fire prevention education. This year's fire station open houses will take place Saturday, October 12, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Station events include cookies, juice, a coloring contest, fire equipment demonstrations and a plow truck. There will also be a car seat clinic at Station 1, by appointment only. To make a car seat clinic appointment, call 952-563-8930.



PROTECT YOURSELF FROM PHONE SCAMS

The Bloomington Police Department wants to remind you always to be skeptical of callers asking for personal or banking information. Whether it's someone claiming to be with the IRS or pretending to be a grandchild asking for bail money, when in doubt, don't give your banking information out.

If you receive a scam phone call and do not suffer a financial loss or loss of personal information, there is no need to report the incident. Bloomington Police can only take action if there has been a loss.

If you receive a scam phone call from someone impersonating the IRS, call the agency to report it at 1-800-366-4484 and choose option 8. The IRS does not demand immediate payment using a specific payment method such as prepaid debit card or wire transfer. Generally, the IRS will first mail you a bill if you owe any taxes.

HOW THINGS WORK: SIGNS IN THE CITY

Stop, see the sign? With nearly 15,000 signs for the City to keep up, there's always work to be done. Two maintenance technicians work year-round to make and replace signs and complete other street projects. (Hennepin County takes care of its signs.)

The signs, made from aluminum sheets topped with highly reflective material, generally last 10 – 15 years. The familiar white-on-green street signs average nine inches in height but can vary from 24 – 54 inches in length.

The city is divided into 10 sections. Sign maintenance staff target one section yearly, but the need for sign work goes beyond that. The sun causes wear and tear year-round and signs can drop for a variety of reasons, especially during the winter. Residents can help by keeping vegetation clear around signs. To report a sign issue, call 952-563-8760 or visit blm.mn/publicworks.



REDUCE YOUR RISK OF HOUSE FIRES: GET A FREE HOME SAFETY SURVEY

Did you know that the majority of fire-related deaths and injuries happen at home? The Bloomington Fire Department wants to help you make your home safer and reduce the risk of fires through its free home safety survey program.

What should you expect during a survey inspection? A fire inspector will check your home and offer fire safety tips. They will help you with your family's escape plan, cooking safety and general fire safety. If needed, the fire inspector will assist you with installing a battery-powered smoke alarm, carbon monoxide alarm, and StoveTop FireStops®, free while supplies last. Inspections typically last less than an hour. An adult must be present during the inspection. A copy of the inspection findings will be given to the resident along with suggestions.

To schedule a home safety survey, call 952-563-8933 or request a home safety inspection online at blm.mn/safetysurvey. Appointments are available Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT CHALKED UP AS A SUCCESS

More than 380 people registered to host a National Night Out party in August this year—a new record for Bloomington Police's 36th annual National Night Out event. Each year, thousands of residents gather and enjoy a summer evening with neighbors, good food and information about keeping their communities safe.

Bloomington Police and Fire visited nearly every registered gathering.

"We feel lucky to live in a friendly and active neighborhood. Together we can look out for each other and keep our neighborhood safe," said Bloomington resident and neighborhood watch block captain Nancy Amundson.

More than 100 residents also entered the new chalk drawing contest. *See photo above.* Winners will be announced for the most creative piece, best overall and most representative of National Night Out. For more information, visit blm.mn/nno or call Crime Prevention Coordinator Katie Chase at 952-563-8808.





DON'T MISS THE MARKET'S FALL CROP

Just as summer winds down, a new crop of delicious food is ripening and ready for harvest. An appetizing bounty awaits at the Bloomington Farmers Market. During September, apples, onions, squash and root vegetables are in their prime. Who can resist a crisp, juicy, tree-ripened Minnesota-grown apple?

The Farmers Market is presented by the Bloomington Parks and Recreation and is open 8 a.m. – 1 p.m., in the east parking lot of Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Saturdays through October 19. Visit the Market's website at blm.mn/market, Facebook page at blm.mn/fbookfarmers or call 952-563-8877 for more information.



CELEBRATE FALL WITH A SPECIAL LUNCH

Celebrate and reminisce with friends at the September Lunch Party. Join us for this party at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South, Tuesday, September 24, 11:30 a.m. Be entertained by Mary Hall as she takes you back in time through songs and trivia with *Magical Disney Melodies*. Reminisce classic movies as you listen to *Someday My Prince Will Come*, *Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah*, *Beauty and the Beast* and many other Disney favorites.

Registration is required by noon, Wednesday, September 18, or until sold out. The fee is based on eligibility. Call Creekside at 952-563-4944, to make reservations.

Not able to attend the lunch party? Delicious, catered meals are served at 11:30 a.m. Monday – Friday at Creekside. Reservations are required by noon, two working days before dining. Contact Creekside for additional information regarding the lunch program and fees.



PEEK INTO THE PAST AT RIVER RENDEZVOUS

Buying tools from the local blacksmith. Tapping maple and birch trees for sugar. Portaging canoes and trading furs. These activities and more made up the daily lives of indigenous people and Euro-American settlers who made their homes in the river valley of Bloomington in the 1800s.

Parks and Recreation's living history festival River Rendezvous offers a look into this way of life through storytelling and interactive, hands-on demonstrations. Thousands of students from the metro area and as far away as Northfield will attend the festival September 16 – 20. The Rendezvous will be open to the public on Thursday, September 19, 4 – 8:30 p.m., at Pond Dakota Mission Park, 401 East 104th Street. The cost is \$6 per person, free for children under four.

The historical re-enactors come from all walks of life—some do this work full time, and some live off the grid in Northern Minnesota and make the trip south for River Rendezvous each year.

Many re-enactors camp in Pond Dakota Mission Park during the event, living an authentic 1800s life for the week. Some even make a living year-round in their historical trade. The blacksmith, Tom Latane, has been working the event for more than 15 years and is one of the best at his craft. He is nationally known for his work.

SIGN UP FOR SKATE SCHOOL

Sharpen your skating skills by enrolling in the Bloomington Ice Garden (BIG) Skate School this fall. Classes are open for all levels and ages.

Learn more during an open house Saturday, September 21, 9:30 – 11 a.m., at the Bloomington Ice Garden, 3600 West 98th Street. The event is free and skate school coaching staff will be available to help skaters decide what classes to take.

Saturday classes begin September 28, and Tuesday classes start October 1. Call BIG at 952-563-8841 or visit blm.mn/BIG for more information.

CULTURAL FESTIVAL COMING TO BLOOMINGTON

Bloomington Cultural Festival will take place, Saturday, October 12, 1 – 4 p.m., at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, 3815 American Boulevard East. Enjoy multicultural performances, food, crafts and activities. This event is organized by Together Bloomington, and is a Creative Spark project commissioned by the City in partnership with Artistry. For more information, visit blm.mn/placemaking or call 952-563-8744.

EXPERIENCE AUGMENTED REALITY AT OLD CEDAR BRIDGE

During your next trip to the Old Cedar Bridge Area, check out a new virtual self-guided augmented reality (AR) tour created by artists Nancy Musinguzi and Axs GRNTD. Unlock AR experiences by using the multimedia messaging app Snapchat on your cell phone while visiting the area, at Old Cedar Avenue South and Long Meadow Lake. Take part in educational and entertaining themes, including historical information and dates, selfie wings highlighting local birds and butterflies, and flags representing the diversity of Bloomington.

This creative placemaking project was commissioned by the City in partnership with Artistry. Visit blm.mn/placemaking or call 952-563-8744 for more information.



WRIGHT'S LAKE PARK MURAL HONORED WITH AWARD

The Wright's Lake Park Mural, "Seasons of Becoming," by GoodSpace Murals, was recognized as one of 50 outstanding public arts projects created in 2018 by the Americans for the Arts Public Art Network Year in Review program, the only national program that specifically recognizes the most compelling public art. To learn more about the Wright's Lake Park Mural located at East 84th Street and Old Cedar Avenue South, go to blm.mn/placemaking or call 952-563-8744.

BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY

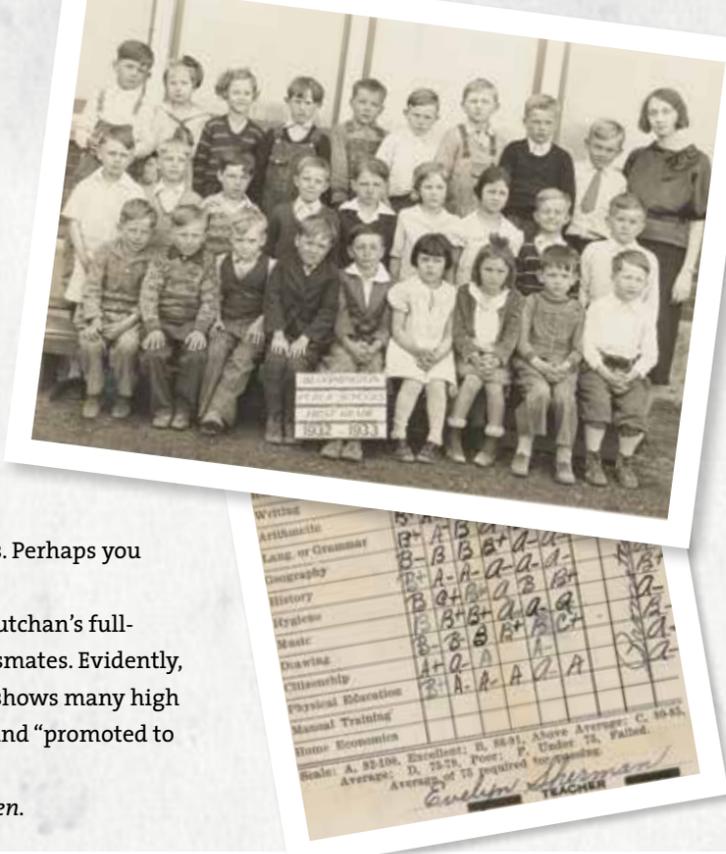
MAKING THE GRADE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Fall means back to school. The season brings a bit of nostalgia—meeting old classmates, playing (or watching) football on a crisp day, buying a new outfit or maybe giving an apple to a teacher.

The Bloomington Public School first grade class of 1932 – 1933 posed for a class photo in an era when children wore everything from pressed ties to dusty overalls. Perhaps you know of someone appearing in this class portrait?

Pictured in the top row, third from the left, Connie McCutchan's full-face grin and confident outlook sets her apart from her classmates. Evidently, McCutchan was a good student. Her fifth grade report card shows many high marks. Teacher Evelyn Sherman penciled in "good worker" and "promoted to sixth."

Photos courtesy of Bloomington resident Gene Christensen.



RULES OF THE ROAD: STAY SAFE AROUND SCHOOL BUSES

The start of another school year is upon us, making it a good time to think about school bus safety. These tips apply not only to motorists, but to the students who are waiting, boarding and unloading from the bus.

Motorists:

- Stop for school buses when the red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended—even on a two- or three-lane road. Failing to stop for school buses with their flashing lights on is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of at least \$500.

- If you intend to turn onto a street where a school bus is stopped and the red lights are flashing, stay stopped in your original lane until the lights are turned off.

Students and parents:

- Have a safe place to wait for your bus away from traffic and the street.
- Stay away from the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the driver signals you to enter.
- Protect yourself by being alert and aware of the traffic around you.

For more information, contact Bloomington Police at 952-563-8689.

CITY RECOGNIZES BUSINESSES THAT SUPPORT BREASTFEEDING

In honor of National Breastfeeding Month in August, the City recognized eight local businesses for supporting breastfeeding. The businesses recognized include SMF Mutual Insurance Company, Edmentum, HealthPartners, Minnesota Gastroenterology, NorthMarq, Prime Therapeutics, TRIA Orthopedic Center and UMB Bank. Nominated by their employees, these businesses are making it easier for moms who choose to breastfeed to transition back to work.

"The support from an employer means a lot," SFM Mutual Insurance's Sarah Strom said. "Moms want to be able to work and raise their families. With the support SFM gives us, we can do that."

If you are a Bloomington employee and want your place of employment to be recognized in 2020, nominate them today at blm.mn/phbf.



Staff from SMF Mutual Insurance Company, one of eight businesses recognized by the City.

AT YOUR SERVICE: CHRIS MYERS

Four seasons filled with a variety of work add up to one fulfilling job for Equipment Operator Chris Myers. It all started in the Army when he was part of an engineering unit sent on a special mission to repair roads and bridges overseas. A knack for running heavy machinery and trucks, along with a love for the outdoors led to Myers current job at the City of Bloomington.

He's out in the field year-round doing fall and spring sweeping, snow plowing, anti-icing, pothole patching, seal coating, other road repairing and more. Myers also helps with the Pavement Management Program (PMP)—a duty that takes him through one-third of Bloomington on foot, which amounts to 45 – 50 miles of streets annually. In PMP, Myers rates the condition of streets and scores them to identify areas that need attention.

The road to a well-maintained city runs all year long and Myers supports the efforts daily.



OPEN TO BUSINESS

Looking for tips to make your small business more successful? Talk to an Open to Business advisor for free at Civic Plaza. Open to Business is a program that enables cities and counties to enhance economic development by providing free small business support to residents and businesses. For Bloomington residents and businesses there is no charge for this service and everything discussed is confidential. Here are some of the types of assistance provided:

- Business feasibility analysis and business planning
- Objectivity and solution perspective
- Strategic/operational planning
- Cash flow analysis
- Loan packaging and micro financing

Open to Business has office hours at Civic Plaza in the Johnson Conference Room on the fourth Wednesday each month from 1 – 4 p.m. Any interested resident or business in Bloomington may book time to meet with an OTB business advisor by contacting jendris@mccdmn.org or 952-563-8927.



Hi, NEIGHBOR

There's a new vehicle in town and it has four wheels capped with a colorful design. The Bloomington Engagement Vehicle or "BEV" joins the City's engagement team this fall. The Community Outreach and Engagement Division repurposed an older City vehicle, creating a way to bring local government to the people.

The vehicle is designed to be inclusive and welcoming to all people. BEV will be in Bloomington neighborhoods sharing information, gathering input and formulating solutions with the public on a variety of topics. Visit blm.mn/coed or call 952-563-8733 for the next location and topic. Watch for BEV in the Bloomington Heritage Days parade and festival and stop by and say "Hi, neighbor."

COMING SOON TO THE BLOOMINGTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The Bloomington Center for the Arts Performance Series includes awe-inspiring theater, band, chorale and jazz concerts. Performances are held in the Schneider or Black Box theaters, located in the Bloomington Center for the Arts at the corner of 98th Street and West Old Shakopee Road. Free parking is available on site.

PERFORMANCE SERIES MULTIPASS SAVE UP TO 20%

- Order tickets to four or more performances and save \$3 per ticket.
- Tickets now available for all performances.
- Discount may be applied to adult and senior/student tickets. Not valid with other discounts.

CHECK OUT THIS AMAZING LINEUP OF SHOWS



BOBBY VAN DEUSEN TRIO KEYBOARD ARTISTRY ON PARADE

Bobby played many shows with the Barbary Coast Band. This year he's back with his own fabulous show accompanied by Steve Pikal on bass and Tom Andrews on drums.

September 21, 7:30 p.m.
Tickets \$25



MEDALIST CONCERT BAND MADE IN AMERICA

Join the Medalist Concert Band in celebrating our nation's rich musical heritage with a performance of pieces by exclusively American composers.

November 10, 4 p.m.
Adults \$17, Seniors and students \$15;
Four-concert season ticket: Adults \$70,
Seniors and students \$62



FOUR BY FOUR WITH THE BSO MANNY LAUREANO, MUSIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR

Manny Laureano and the Bloomington Symphony Orchestra perform Beethoven's Fourth Concerto with Claire Longendyke, and Anton Bruckner's Powerful Fourth Symphony.

November 17, 3 p.m.
Adults \$15, Seniors \$12, Students free,
Adults \$13, Seniors \$10



CONTINENTAL BALLET COMPANY THE NUTCRACKER BALLET

Join us for Tchaikovsky's timeless tale of Clara's voyage to the land of the Sugar Plum Fairy. A holiday classic!

November 30 and December 7, 7:30 p.m.
December 1 and December 8, 3 p.m.
Adults \$25, Seniors and students \$19,
Children under 13 \$13
www.brownpapertickets.com/4253507



BLOOMINGTON CHORALE HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Singing holiday music will warm your heart and brighten your season! *Sleigh Ride, Winter Wonderland, I'll Be Home for Christmas, Hallelujah Chorus* and more!

December 13, 7:30 p.m.
December 14, 4 p.m.
Adults \$19, Seniors and students \$15



MEDALIST CONCERT BAND SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

New this year, Medalist is offering two unique holiday programs: a 1 p.m. family-oriented concert and a 4 p.m. concert of traditional and classical works.

December 15, 1 and 4 p.m.
Adults \$17, Seniors and students \$15;
Four-concert season ticket: Adults \$70,
Seniors and students \$62



MONROE CROSSING A BLUEGRASS CHRISTMAS

Fill your holiday season with musical merriment as Monroe Crossing dazzles audiences with an electrifying blend of bluegrass, gospel, and heartfelt originals.

December 18, 7:30 p.m.
Tickets \$33



ANGELICA CANTANTI YOUTH CHOIRS PRESENT THE MUSIC OF BROADWAY

Take a trip to New York's 42nd Street! Join us for a fun afternoon to support our scholarship fund in honor of longtime Director Rita Docter.

February 23, 2 and 4:30 p.m.
Tickets \$50



MEDALIST CONCERT BAND MARCH ON!

Medalist explores the full range of marches, from patriotic favorites to concert and symphonic works, by some of history's foremost composers.

March 1, 4 p.m.
Adults \$17, Seniors and students \$15;
Four-concert season ticket: Adults \$70,
Seniors and students \$62



CONTINENTAL BALLET COMPANY SWAN LAKE

Swan Lake is one of the most beloved of classical ballets. It features the enchanting all-white second act and brilliant character dances in the third.

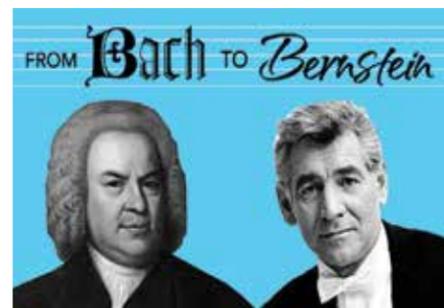
March 21 and 28, 7:30 p.m.
March 22 and 29, 3 p.m.
Adults \$25, Seniors and students \$19,
Children under 13 \$13
www.brownpapertickets.com



BLOOMINGTON CHORALE "EVERYTHING'S COMING UP ROSES" ...A BOUQUET OF MUSIC

Enjoy a concert featuring popular springtime melodies of joy and delight!

May 15, 7:30 p.m.
May 16, 4 p.m.
Adults \$19, Seniors and students \$15



MEDALIST CONCERT BAND FROM BACH TO BERNSTEIN

Bask in a bounty of brilliance in this Medalist concert featuring composers whose names begin with B! Guest soloist: Earl C. Benson, Concerto Competition winner.

May 17, 4 p.m.
Adults \$17, Seniors and students \$15;
Four-concert season ticket: Adults \$70,
Seniors and students \$62

BOX OFFICE

Order tickets by phone: Call 952-563-8575 • Online: Go to blm.mn/bcatix
In person: Office hours vary. Call 952-563-8575 for current hours. (Does not include tickets for Continental Ballet Company.) Additional ticketing fees apply. Programs, artists and prices subject to change. Orders received less than seven days prior to the performance will be held for pick up at the box office. All ticket sales are final. No refunds or exchanges.