

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



OCTOBER 2020

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BALLOT QUESTIONS COVER GARBAGE AND VOTING

During the general election on Tuesday, November 3, residents will have the opportunity to vote on City-organized solid waste collection and ranked choice voting.

SOLID WASTE COLLECTION

Two questions regarding organized collection will be on the ballot. The first asks voters if they want to change the City's Charter to prevent the City from organizing solid waste collection without a vote in a general election. A "yes" vote means that the voter wants to change the City Charter to require the voters, in an election, to decide if Bloomington should have City-organized solid waste collection. A "no" vote means the voter does not want to change the City Charter and wishes to leave decisions about garbage and recycling collection up to the City Council.

If the first question passes and changes the Charter, the second question will give the voters an opportunity to decide whether or not City-organized collection should continue. A "yes" vote means the voter wants to stop the current City-organized trash, recycling, bulky waste, electronic waste and yard waste collection services. A "yes" vote means the voter wants to revert back to residents selecting their own individual private trash haulers. A "no" vote means the voter wants to continue the current City-organized trash, recycling, bulky waste, electronic waste, and yard waste collection services in the City.

If the first question does not pass, the second question will not be considered and City-organized solid waste collection will continue. Vote on both questions to make your preferences known.

Currently, Bloomington households have City-organized solid waste collection. A resident petition was circulated to require the City put the change to the voters as an additional step before moving to organized collection. In February 2020, the Minnesota Supreme Court ruled that the resident petition to require a vote before moving to City-organized solid waste collection was lawful.

Solid waste collection includes the collection of garbage, recyclables, yard waste and bulky items. All one- and two-unit residences, and some townhome complexes that have chosen to opt into the program, would be affected by changes to organized collection.

If City-organized collection ends, residents will be required to contract with a hauler they select. Prices and collection days will vary across the city.

For more information, call 952-563-4581, visit blm.mn/ocfaq or email publicworks@BloomingtonMN.gov.

RANKED CHOICE VOTING

In August, the City Council voted to include a question about ranked choice voting on this year's ballot. The ballot question will read: "Should the Bloomington City Charter be amended to elect the Mayor and City Council members by the Ranked Choice Voting method?" If the ballot question passes with at least 51% of voters choosing "yes," ranked choice voting would be used for municipal elections starting in November 2021.

Ranked choice voting is sometimes referred to as "instant runoff voting" or "preferential voting." It is a process that allows voters to rank their choices for each office. First-choice votes are counted. If no candidate has a majority of the votes (more than 50%), the candidate with the fewest number of first-choice votes is eliminated. Voters who picked the eliminated candidate as their first choice have their second-choice vote counted instead. This process repeats until one candidate has a majority.

Read more about ranked choice voting at blm.mn/rcv.



MAYOR’S MEMO

COVID-19 IMPACTING GOVERNMENT BUDGETS NATIONWIDE

By Mayor Tim Busse

The coronavirus pandemic has created the largest economic downturn since 2008’s Great Recession. Businesses have closed, people have lost their jobs or been laid off and many industries have come to a grinding halt, one of those being the tourism industry. In Bloomington, that has translated to millions of dollars lost from lodging and admissions taxes, mostly paid by people who come to Bloomington and are not residents.

Bloomington’s hospitality industry is a multibillion-dollar economic engine for the state of Minnesota and about 20% of the City of Bloomington’s tax base. Lodging tax revenues from the more than 9,000 hotel rooms in the city and admission tax revenues from entertainment venues such as Nickelodeon Universe usually generate about 12% of the City’s general fund revenues, which fund City services, including essential services like Police, Fire and Public Works.

We felt a larger impact locally in 2020 because Bloomington relies on tourism as a major contributor to the budget, and 2021 and 2022 will continue to be challenging years.

According to the *National League of Cities’* annual budget report, nearly eight in 10 finance officers indicate that their cities are less able to meet the financial needs of their communities in fiscal year 2020 than they were in fiscal year 2019. This jumps to about nine in 10 cities reporting “less

able” when asked to anticipate their budgetary capacity for fiscal year 2021. To give you a sense of what this number is in a usual year, only 24% of finance officers reported that their city was less able to meet fiscal needs in 2019 than 2018.

Bloomington has been very fortunate to have a broad base of revenues combined with a long history of sound financial management. The City is not as dependent on property taxes as other cities, which represents about two-thirds of general fund revenues. These are reasons why Bloomington is one of only 40 cities nationwide to receive three triple-A credit ratings and why only an event of this magnitude could affect the City’s financial situation to this extent.

Since March, City staff have proactively worked with the Public Health Division to understand the pandemic and with Finance staff to identify the extent of the budget shortfall. We’ve made residents more involved than ever in budget development by convening a Community Budget Advisory Committee, *read more below*. The committee will help resident voices come to the forefront of planning for the 2021 budget. Be sure to let us know what you think at blm.mn/letstalk. Since the pandemic began I’ve witnessed countless examples of how strong this community is and how much we care for each other. I know that, if we work together, we can meet this budget challenge and be stronger than we were before.



COMMUNITY BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE: REVIEWING SERVICES AND DELIVERING BUDGET OPTIONS

The City is forecasting a budget shortfall of \$6 – 7 million in 2021 due to revenue losses from COVID-19. To ensure resident perspectives are reflected in difficult budget choices, the City Council appointed a Community Budget Advisory Committee in May. CBAC has been meeting weekly since June. The group provided preliminary levy recommendations to the City Council at the end of August. By looking at the overall budget instead of reducing services one by one, the City Council is aiming to ensure service changes reflect what community members value most.

In late September, CBAC hosted two virtual engagement events to gather input on what City services residents value most. *Those events had not yet been held when this newsletter went to print. Visit blm.mn/cbac for more information on the type of feedback attendees provided.*

The committee is providing monthly status reports to the City Council on its work. The committee also provided three to four revenue scenarios by the end of September and three to four final budget options by early November. CBAC will host the following community listening sessions online in October:

Give feedback on proposed budget options

- Thursday, October 15, 6:30 – 8 p.m.
- Saturday, October 17, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

Residents may also read about and share their feedback on the proposed City budget solutions at blm.mn/letstalk. Learn more about these events, watch CBAC meetings live, watch past meetings, view agendas and minutes, or sign up for email updates at blm.mn/cbac.

BRIEFING

Volume 28, Number 10

The *Briefing*, published monthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to 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

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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 YESTERDAY

DRED SCOTT PLAYFIELD HONORS STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM

In 1971, in tribute to Dred Scott’s place in the history of Minnesota and the nation, the Bloomington City Council named the 50-acre park complex at 10820 Bloomington Ferry Road the Dred Scott Playfield.

A forerunner in the fight to achieve racial justice, Scott endured a 10-year struggle to free himself and his family from slavery. After living as a slave in free states and territories for four years, including time at Fort Snelling, Scott began his case for emancipation. His case went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. In Scott v. Sanford, citing racist findings, the Supreme Court ruled against the emancipation of Scott, and even held that Scott was not a citizen of the U.S. and could not sue in federal court.

The decision propelled the abolitionist movement and contributed to the tensions that led to the Civil War. In 1857, he and his spouse, Harriet Scott, were voluntarily freed. Tragically, his time of freedom was brief. Scott died the next year.

To learn more about the naming or history of Dred Scott Playfield, email the Human Rights Commission at humanrights@BloomingtonMN.gov. For more information about park facilities at Dred Scott Playfield, visit blm.mn/dredscott or email parksrec@bloomingtonmn.gov.



DRED SCOTT PLAYFIELD WHEELHOUSE IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETE

This summer a new wheelhouse was completed at Dred Scott Playfield, 10820 Bloomington Ferry Road. The new facility contains a concession stand, restrooms and drainage system, which replaces the two-story wheelhouse used for years.

The new concession area is more protected from the sun and rain. The building is designed to be water resistant and low maintenance. Concrete and coated surfaces are noticeable throughout the facility. Interior wood trim softens the look and adds a connection to nature. Americans with Disabilities Act compliant bathrooms are self-contained and easily accessed by all. Modern lighting controls function at the touch of a button.

See more of the new wheelhouse at blm.mn/wheelhouse. For other information, visit blm.mn/parks or call 952-563-8877.



Ryan Meany delivering books on race to little libraries around Bloomington.

BOOKS ON RACE IN A LITTLE LIBRARY NEAR YOU

The Bloomington Human Rights Commission and Bloomington Volunteers, a local group of about 10 people organizing and volunteering in the community, worked together to bring books about race and diversity to little libraries around the city.

Volunteers Casey Speaker and Stephanie Tanner wanted to provide a way for families to have conversations about race and diversity following the killing of George Floyd. They contacted the City’s Community Outreach and Engagement Division to share their idea and find other partners interested in this project, and the Human Rights Commission agreed to cosponsor it.

With selections ranging from *How to Be an Antiracist* to the children’s book *Overground Railroad*, the Human Rights Commission purchased 33 books for Bloomington Volunteers to distribute. Each book has an added message inside that reads: “This book was donated by the Bloomington Human Rights Commission. We’d love to hear from those who read these books! Tag us on social media with #BloomReads.” To donate books or funds email blmvolunteersconnection@gmail.com.

You can find these books in the little libraries around Bloomington. Find local little libraries at littlefreelibrary.org/ourmap.

BLOOMINGTON COVID-19 STATISTICS

Learn more about how COVID-19 is affecting Bloomington through the online dashboard at blm.mn/cdash. It includes local statistics like total number of cases, number of deaths, demographics of cases and more.

This data does not reflect the total number of cases in Bloomington, as many have not been tested.

If there are fewer than 10 in a demographic, data is suppressed to respect privacy.

Data is updated by 1p.m. Monday through Friday, with information from the previous day.



AROUND THE AIRPORT PROJECT NEARLY COMPLETE

Road construction around the airport is in its final stage and is expected to be complete in October. Around the Airport is a construction project to resurface Highway 5 with new concrete and repair 12 bridges and ramps. When the project is finished, motorists will have a smoother ride on Highway 5 and I-494.

If you travel on Highway 5, plan extra time for your commute, through the end of October, and know your route before you hit the road. The westbound Highway 5 lanes and ramps will be closed between TH 62 and I-494. During this time, the eastbound Highway 5 traffic lanes will remain open and westbound traffic will be detoured around the airport using westbound TH62, southbound TH77 and eastbound I-494.

All traffic impacts are tentative and weather dependent. For closure maps, detour information, travel tools and other information, visit blm.mn/h5construction or call 651-296-3000.



KEEP GOLDFISH OUT OF LAKES

Don't dump your unwanted goldfish or other aquarium fish in outside waterbodies. While it could seem like you are giving the fish another chance at life, a dumped goldfish is not a keeper of an idea.

Goldfish crowd out native fish. As members of the carp family, goldfish are hardy creatures and will live year-round if water doesn't freeze or lose all of its oxygen in the winter. Once goldfish get into water, it's hard to get them out. Removal requires tracking and tracing, which is costly, and this is in addition to the cost of fixing the damage they cause.

Call 952-563-8748 to report sightings of goldfish in local waterbodies.

HOW TO DISPOSE OF ASH TREE WASTE

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is smaller than a quarter but can cause big problems for ash trees.

The best time to prune or cut an ash tree is October through April when the insects are dormant. Be extra cautious when pruning or removing diseased wood. All ash tree wood must be disposed of properly. Hennepin County is quarantined for EAB. For Bloomington residents, that means taking the wood to the closest appropriate facility. Find the facility closest to you at blm.mn/EABdisposal.

Symptoms of infested ash trees include woodpecker holes from where the birds feed on larvae, cracked bark caused by tunneling larvae and distinctive patterns of S-shaped galleries just under the tree's bark.

For more information, visit blm.mn/EAB or call 952-563-8760.



BATTLE BUCKTHORN

Buckthorn is an invasive plant that crowds out native plants and endangers pollinators by limiting their habitat. If you have buckthorn in your yard, fall or winter is the best time to remove it. There will be fewer bugs and buckthorn leaves stay green longer than native plants, making it easier to spot. Check with your local garden center or hardware store for recommendations on effective weed killers to use on buckthorn. For more information, call 952-563-8760.



EARTH ACTION HERO: PICKING UP LITTER ADDS TO THE WALK

Maybe you've noticed the man with the Lands' End bag walking along Lyndale and Nicollet avenues and 98th Street? Douglas Sandin goes out for an hour-long walk every day, year-round. Along his three-and-a-half mile-route, he puts his Bloomington pride to work and does his part to make the community better. He picks up litter, all kinds of litter.

In 2014, after heart trouble—and following his doctor's advice—Sandin took up walking. Litter removal soon became part of his routine and continues to this day.

"I'm no hero. I'm not looking for recognition," Sandin said. "I'm trying to give my heart a workout and thought while I was doing that I'd do something useful."

People around town have taken notice of Sandin, with his plastic Lands' End bag in tow. As he finds litter, he puts it into the bag, then empties it when he goes by a public garbage can. If there's anything left over beyond that, he takes the litter home for disposal. When he finds keys or other items of value, he takes them to the police station.

A neighbor, Norma Macdonald-Ockwig, was so impressed by Sandin's faithful routine of walking and removing litter that she contacted Lands' End. The company sent Sandin a collection of its signature plastic bags and a fancy canvas bag. Now, if you spot Sandin out on his daily walk, his Lands' End bag will be new—and most likely filled with litter.



SUSTAINABILITY, RACIAL EQUITY TRAINING IN PROGRESS

Sustainability and racial equity are intertwined. Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) communities experience the adverse effects of climate change first and to a higher degree. To offer more inclusion and opportunities for BIPOC communities in environmental planning, the Sustainability Commission has started a racial equity training program.

Five members of the Sustainability Commission will take the Equity Foundations Training. One City Council Member will also participate. Racial Equity Coordinator Faith Jackson

and Sustainability Coordinator Emma Struss are cofacilitating the five-part training series. After the training is complete, participants will report their findings.

"The goal is to develop shared language and analysis to integrate equity into sustainability programs," Struss said.

Equity and inclusion, and environmental sustainability make up two of the City's strategic priorities. For more information, email estruss@BloomingtonMN.gov or call 952-563-4862 for more information.

EARTH DAY TURNS 50

Reflect on the first 50 years of Earth Day celebrations and count on the next 50 years being greener at a community celebration hosted by the Bloomington Sustainability Commission and the League of Women Voters of Bloomington on Thursday, October 22, 7 – 8:30 p.m., via a Zoom video conference.

Mayor Tim Busse and sustainability commissioners will discuss topics, including the impacts of climate change, loss of biodiversity and Sustainable Bloomington. You'll learn things suitable for all ages and backgrounds to be more sustainable in your day-to-day life.

Advance registration is required. To register or learn more, visit blm.mn/earth50. Virtual doors open at 6:45 p.m. for a 15-minute technology tour for those who are not familiar with Zoom.

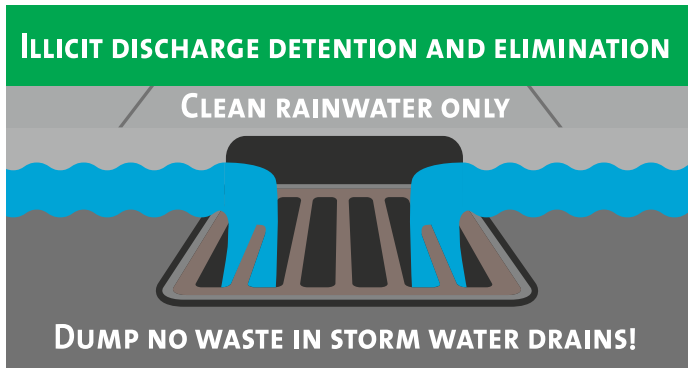
ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN

What goes down the drain or into the street ends up in the storm drain and into waterbodies. Storm water runoff is one of the leading causes of water pollution.

What is called "illicit discharge" happens when pollutants are put into stormwater systems. With a few exceptions, such as water from washing a car (individual residential only) or chlorine-free pool water, only clean rainwater is allowed to go into storm sewers. Everything else is considered illicit discharge. There are obvious examples, like paint or motor oil, but more often illicit discharge may be something less obvious, like muddy water or grass clippings from mowing the lawn. While it may seem like a non-issue, even small things, like dumping grass clippings and leaves on the road, can have a big impact of water quality.

Properly dispose of paint, oil and other common pollutants. Bring them to the Hennepin Recycling and Problem Waste Drop-Off Center, 1400 West 96th Street, 612-348-3777. And remember, going to a car wash is better for the environment than doing it yourself.

If you see paint, oil or other material that could be getting into stormwater, contact the Engineering Division by calling 952-563-4870 or email engineering@BloomingtonMN.gov.



MEET A BLOOMINGTON FIREFIGHTER

James Jonathan has been a Bloomington firefighter for a little more than a year. He serves out of Station 1.

Q: What is your day job?

A: When I'm not working at the station, I bartend at Willy McCoy's.

Q: What made you want to become a firefighter?

A: What made me want to become a firefighter is growing up down the street from a station in Eagan and thinking it would be the coolest job to have as a career.

Q: What do you like most about firefighting?

A: The best part about firefighting is helping people out in a time of need, keeping them safe, and obviously being able to fight fire. It's awesome.

Q: What are some of your hobbies?

A: My hobbies are attending sporting events, playing sports, playing with my dogs, attempting home remodeling and, most importantly, hanging out with my fiance.



NOTABLE NEIGHBOR: DR. HAZEL CLAIBORN

Ten families virtually gathered for a dinner party in August, sharing healthy recipes, laughs, food and fellowship. The virtual dinner was made possible by the Coalition of Asian American Leaders Sparks Grant secured by Dr. Hazel Claiborn, *at right*.

"So much happens over dinner," Claiborn said. "This dinner was diverse, including African American families, blended families and white families. In African American homes, especially, a lot of healing happens over food. I believe laughter is medicine, especially in times like these."

Claiborn has been in Bloomington for 14 years. She has a big presence at the Potter's House of Jesus Christ as a community leader and Pastor Earnest Claiborn's wife. She has been invested in local community health for years. She became a member of the Bloomington Advisory Board of Health this year and has been working with local public health staff on different projects for more than 10 years. She was also featured in the *Hands on Twin Cities 100 years of volunteers* book, serves on the board for VEAP and volunteers at Feed My Starving Children.



HOW TO HELP STREET SWEEPERS

There's more to street sweeping than meets the eye, and residents can make the process better. Provide the space for a clean sweep. Keep your garbage cans off the road. Don't park your car on the street.

Lighten the leaf load. When you are doing yard work, don't put leaves onto the street. Instead use your leaves as mulch or compost. Another way to dispose of leaves is to bag them for pickup. To arrange yard waste service, call the City Utility Billing Office at 952-563-8726.

STREET SWEEPING BY THE NUMBERS:	
3–5	Miles per hour sweeping speed.
5	Street sweeping vehicles in the City fleet.
20	Miles per hour top speed of a sweeper.
2,016	Lane-miles of street in Bloomington.
2,300	Tons of debris removed annually.

AT YOUR SERVICE: GREG CHAPMAN

This time of year, street sweepers are out in full force. Peak times are during the fall and spring, but street sweeping continues year-round in Bloomington. Leaves, storm debris, road work and construction, and even car accident clutter, mean that the to-do list for a street sweeper is always a busy one.

After 16 years on the job, Equipment Operator Greg Chapman knows the inner workings of street sweeping vehicles and what it takes to run one. He enjoys working with them. With their size and a top speed of 20 miles per hour, people take notice.

"Residents give us a thumbs up when we go by. Kids like to watch and stare," Chapman said. "I think people appreciate what we do for them."



RESPECT RULES OF THE ROAD

With 50 miles of off-road trails and 60 miles of bike lanes, Bloomington offers many biking destinations. Follow the rules of the road to make your biking experience safe and enjoyable. It's the neighborly thing to do and makes getting around Bloomington a better experience for everyone.

If you are heading out for a bike ride, consider these safety tips.

- Before leaving home, discuss your bike route with others.
- Wear a properly fitted helmet.
- Follow traffic rules. Ride with the flow of traffic, obey traffic signs and use proper hand signals.
- Follow social distancing guidelines. Remain six feet or more from other bikers and pedestrians.

For more information, call 952-563-4900 or email police@BloomingtonMN.gov.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT CANCELED FOR 2020

In the interest of keeping the community safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bloomington Police Department canceled the 2020 National Night Out event.

National Night Out is an annual event that promotes building police-community partnerships and making neighborhoods safer, more caring places.

A food drive for VEAP has always been a key piece of National Night Out. Block Captains are still encouraged to collect nonperishable items and donate them to the VEAP food shelf, 9600 Aldrich Ave. S. Donations help keep individuals, families and our neighborhoods strong and stable.

For more information, visit blm.mn/nno.



PROJECT P.L.A.Y.’s LASTING BENEFITS

Over the past several months, Bloomington’s youth has had opportunities to participate in fun, engaging, active, imaginative and inclusive recreation programs offered through Project P.L.A.Y. (Providing Leisure Activities for Youth). The benefits of this Parks and Recreation Department initiative are ongoing.

Besides programs, including Learn to Bike, Take Home Summer Camp Kits, and Pop-up Soccer, the Project P.L.A.Y. grant helped to fund new equipment that will be available for other programs. New mobile recreation centers, bikes and paddleboards will enhance the City’s ability to deliver programs and services to Bloomington residents well into the future.

The Project P.L.A.Y. initiative was funded by a \$363,000 grant through the CARES Act.

To learn more, call 952-563-8877 or visit blm.mn/Project-PLAY.



PARK SYSTEM MASTER PLAN UPDATE

The process for a new Park System Master Plan started in fall 2019. The Park System Master Plan is a road map for planning and completing park improvements. It will help the City decide what parks to focus on first in the future, and ensure changes and investments to parks fit into the bigger picture of serving the needs of the community today and long term.

The Park System Master Plan will consider local and national park and recreation trends, community demographics, facility needs, current and future programming needs, maintenance, long-term sustainability, and most importantly, information gathered from the community. It will ultimately be the foundation for future decision-making, program planning, budgeting and park system investments.

Based on your comments provided throughout the year, we are preparing a draft vision statement, goals and guiding principles for the Park System Master Plan. To stay informed and continue to provide input on the draft plan call 952-563-8877 go to blm.mn/parks2020.



NAME _____ GRADE _____ PHONE _____

HALLOWEEN COLORING CONTEST’S A REAL TREAT

Have a “fang-tastic” Halloween from the comfort of your own home. Enter the Halloween coloring contest for kids. Create something “bootiful” with markers, crayons or colored pencils. The contest is open to preschool to fourth-grade children, and there’s a chance to win prizes.

First-, second- and third-place prizes will be awarded for each age group. Return your colored entry (either by U.S. mail or drop-off) by 4:30 p.m., Monday, October 19, to Parks and Recreation, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431.

DRIVE-IN FOR A FAMILY FUN HALLOWEEN EVENT

As darkness falls upon Bloomington land, a Happy Halloween night is at hand—during the drive-thru Halloween event. Drive in for a spell on All Hallows’ Eve.

Bring your family and celebrate safely from your own vehicle. Wave to firefighters, police officers and surprise characters. Gaze at frightfully fun decorations. Kids will be treated to goblin’ good candy and other small prizes from booths provided by local organizations.

The first-ever drive-thru Halloween event is presented by Bloomington Parks and Recreation, Bloomington Optimists Club and Northwestern Health Sciences University. (Costumes are not required to participate in this family-style event. Guests will stay in their personal vehicles during the event.)

Come if you dare on Saturday, October 31, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m., to Northwestern Health Sciences University Parking Lot, 2501 West 84th Street.

OUTDOOR FARMERS MARKET SEASON ENDING

The Bloomington Farmers Market remains open on Saturdays through October 24. Don’t miss the chance to buy maple syrup, honey, apples, pumpkins, squash, carrots and other fall favorites.

This season the Farmers Market looked a little different, but still provided access to plenty of healthy, local food. Market staff and vendors adapted quickly to accommodate changing guidelines for COVID-19 safety. Before you visit the Farmers Market, check out the latest on social distancing rules and vendors. To learn more visit blm.mn/fbookfarmers or call 952-563-8877.





TAKE CONTINENTAL BALLET COURSES ONLINE

Add beauty to your moves—learn classical dance. Continental Ballet offers online classes with instruction and training in traditional classical ballet. No special equipment is needed, but a counter or chair can be useful for balance. Students will go through a series of barre exercises that develop muscles, improve balance and flexibility, and start to develop the classical lines of a ballet dancer.

All classes are arranged by student level. Classes are offered for students in grades one and two, and grades three and four. Ballet 4P is for students grade four and older who have begun to work on pointe. Ballet Five is designed for students with at least one year of pointe work and advanced classes.

An online Introduction to Ballet course for adults is available through community education. To register, visit blm.mn/ballet, email cbcinfo@continentalballet.com or call 952-563-8562.

ENJOY TWO ART EXHIBITS

In October, you can experience two exhibits online at Artistrymn.org or make an in-person visit to the Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. Due to COVID-19, the Bloomington Center for the Arts and all galleries will have appropriate social distancing practices in place when open.

44th Annual Members’ Juried Art Exhibition



October 2 – November 13

Inez Greenberg Gallery

The Annual Members’ Juried Art Exhibition is one of the most popular shows at Artistry in the Bloomington Center for the Arts. Each year this exhibition brings together Artistry’s many members and showcases their diverse range of artistic talents. The 2020 show was juried by Nicole Watson, Director of the Catherine G. Murphy Gallery at St. Catherine University. Exhibiting artists competed for 11 awards, including a \$500 Best of Show Award.

Due to COVID-19 there will not be an in-person reception or awards ceremony. However, a virtual awards presentation will be available online on October 8.



A Perturbable Stillness

Through October 30

Atrium Gallery

Sharon Ulrich is a Minneapolis-based oil painter who grew up in Madagascar and South Africa. Her active imagination and dreamy style shape her work. “By introducing understated and disparate elements I invite my viewers to look further... in hopes to find something new to discover and internalize,” Ulrich said.

For more information, visit Artistrymn.org or call 952-563-8575.



BLOOMINGTON DESTINATIONS: SCULPTURES TO SEE

Want to experience some world-class art? Just head outdoors. Take a look at these privately-owned sculptures in Bloomington:

1. “Memorial Structure” is located in the plaza of the AC Hotel, 8100 26th Avenue South. Designed in 1961, the sculpture was created by Herbert Bayer, a well-known Austrian artist of the Bauhaus school. The developer of the hotel, David Peters, has long admired Bayer’s work and picked out the sculpture personally.
2. Distinctive sculptural forms are located throughout Bloomington Central Station Park, 8100 33rd Avenue South. At dawn and dusk, the park transforms as sculptural fixtures glow into a linear light show. The park is owned by McGough Construction, the architect was AECOM and the designer was O2 Design.
3. A different geometric picture appears at every angle as you walk around the large metal sculpture at 9555 James Avenue South. Look at the base on each side and you will see “StarLight Moon” and “Russel Erickson ‘87” built into the sculpture’s framework. Erickson was a prolific sculptor and Minneapolis College of Art and Design staff member before he left the art world in pursuit of a career in finance.
4. Sculptures are on display along the walking trail west of the Japanese garden at Normandale Community College. One moving tribute is “My Heart Is Open” by Gene Piersa, a memorial in honor of Dr. Russell Smiley, a beloved faculty member and respected teacher from 1987 to 2013.

For other information about Bloomington art, go to blm.mn/placemaking or call 952-563-8744.



VOTE NOVEMBER 3

Exercise your right to vote in the 2020 general election. To learn more, visit the City’s website at blm.mn/vote.



GET PREREGISTERED BY OCTOBER 13

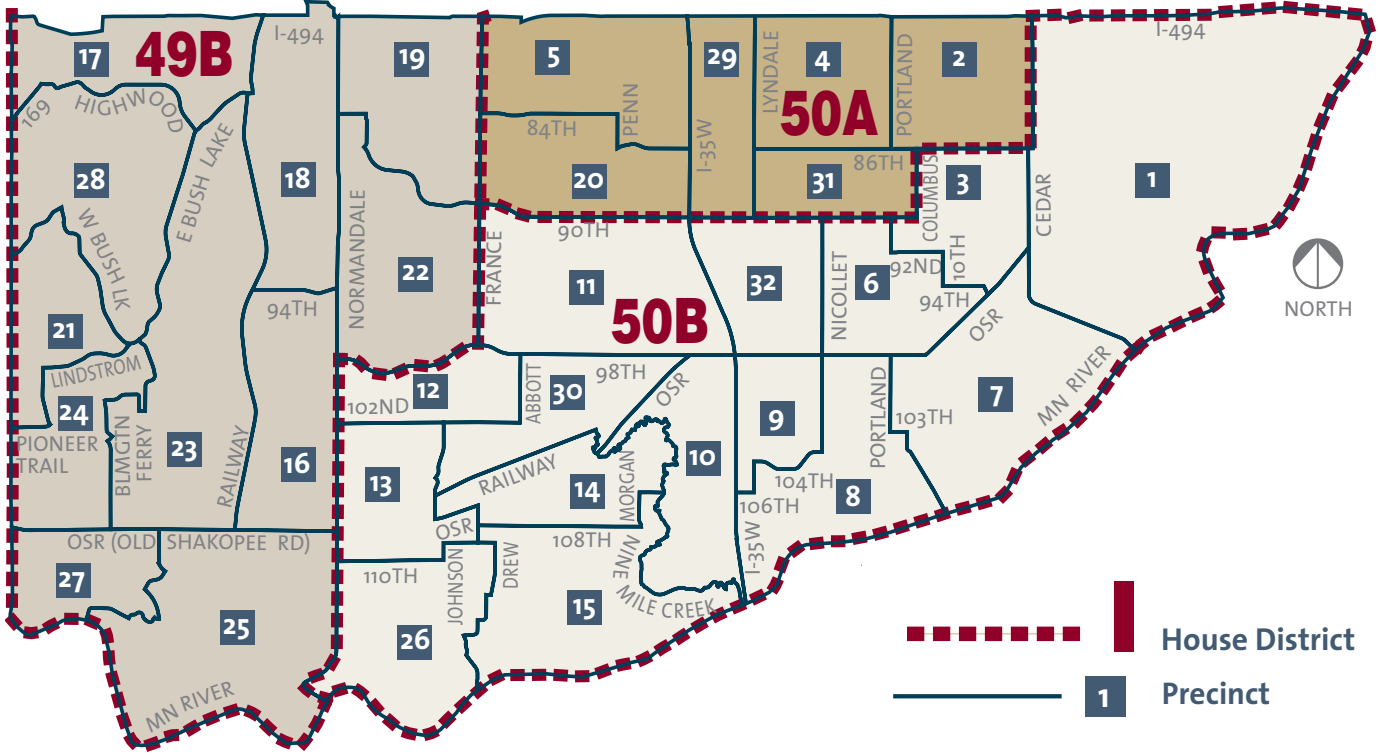
All eligible voters can check their voter registration status prior to Election Day at blm.mn/votereg. If your registration needs updating or you’ve never voted before, you can register online before October 13 at blm.mn/register. You can also register at your polling place on Election Day.

ILLEGAL CAMPAIGNING

Bloomington Civic Plaza is a polling place on Election Day and for 46 days preceding Election Day for absentee voting. This means campaigning is not allowed anywhere on the property and voters cannot wear clothing, hats or buttons related to any party, candidate or question on the ballot. Please keep Civic Plaza politically neutral and impartial.

2020 GENERAL ELECTION GUIDE

POLLS ARE OPEN FROM 7 A.M. TO 8 P.M. ON NOVEMBER 3. ALL POLLING PLACES ARE ACCESSIBLE.



Precinct/Polling location	Entrance/Parking
1 Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center 3815 American Boulevard East	West entrance Visitor lot (W)
2 Portland Avenue United Methodist Church 8000 Portland Avenue South	Main entrance West lot
3 Cedar Valley Church 8600 Bloomington Avenue South	West entrance Door 4 South lot Accessible entrance: Door 1, East lot
4 Unity South Church 7950 1st Avenue South	Main entrance South lot
5 Southtown Baptist Church 2600 West 82nd Street	Main entrance (W) Northwest lot
6 Bloomington Lutheran Church 9350 Portland Avenue South	Main entrance North lot
7 Atonement Lutheran Church 601 East Old Shakopee Road	Southwest entrance South lot
8 Grace Covenant Church 10201 Nicollet Avenue South	Southeast entrance East lot
9 Nativity of Mary Catholic Church 9900 Lyndale Avenue South	Main entrance Door 9 South lot
10 St. Luke’s Lutheran Church 1701 West Old Shakopee Road	Northeast entrance North lot
11 Bloomington City Hall (Bloomington Civic Plaza) 1800 West Old Shakopee Road	East entrance East lot
12 Crosspoint Church 9801 France Avenue South	Main entrance (E) East lot
13 Bloomington Covenant Church 10150 Xerxes Avenue South	Main entrance (E) East and North lots
14 Mount Hope Lutheran Church 3601 West Old Shakopee Road	Main entrance (S) South lot
15 Minnesota Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 10715 Zenith Avenue South	Main entrance North lot
16 Normandale Hylands United Methodist Church 9920 Normandale Boulevard South	Northeast entrance (left doors) North lot
17 Westwood Community Church 6301 Cecilia Circle NEW POLLING PLACE	Main entrance (W) Main lot (W)
18 The Church of St. Edward’s 9401 Nesbitt Avenue South	SW entrance Upper level, SW lot
19 St. Stephen Lutheran Church 8400 France Avenue South	Main entrance (W) West lot

Precinct/Polling location	Entrance/Parking
20 St. Mark’s United Church of Christ 8630 Xerxes Avenue South	South entrance Southwest lot
21 Hyland Vistors Center 10145 Bush Lake Road	West entrance West lot
22 St. Michael’s Lutheran Church 9201 Normandale Boulevard	Main entrance (E) East lot
23 Community of the Cross Lutheran Church 10701 Bloomington Ferry Road	Main entrance (N) North lot
24 Bloomington Lutheran School 10600 Bloomington Ferry Road	Main entrance (S) South lot, disabled East side
25 MN Masonic Heritage Center 11411 Masonic Home Drive	Main entrance (W) West lot
26 Transfiguration Lutheran Church 11000 France Avenue South	Main entrance (W) West lot
27 Bethany Church 6900 Auto Club Road	West entrance West and North lots
28 Peace Lutheran Church 8600 East Bush Lake Road	Main entrance North lot
29 Christ the King Lutheran Church 8600 Fremont Avenue South	Southwest entrance Southwest lot
30 Oak Grove Presbyterian Church 2200 West Old Shakopee Road	Main entrance Northeast lot
31 St. Bonaventure Catholic Church 901 East 90th Street (Social Hall)	Main entrance East lot
32 Oxboro Evangelical Free Church 9431 Nicollet Avenue South	North entrance North lot

HOW CAN I CAST MY BALLOT?

In the 2020 election, there are three ways to cast your ballot. Minnesota has “no excuse” absentee voting, meaning all eligible voters are allowed to vote early if they choose.

- By mail with absentee voting (early voting) with Hennepin County. Absentee voting is encouraged due to the pandemic. Provide enough mailing time for election officials to process your ballot.
- In-person with early voting Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.
- In-person on Election Day at your polling place.

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



VOTING INFORMATION: CALL 952-563-8729 OR VISIT [BLM.MN/VOTE](https://blm.mn/vote).