

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



NOVEMBER 2020

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## RUSTY PATCHED BUMBLE BEES IN BLOOMINGTON

**T**he rusty patched bumble bee, an endangered species, was discovered at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. Last summer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Urban Biologist Nicole Menard was conducting an insect survey in the area and came across five rusty patched bumble bees.

“The bee is really easy to see when on the flowers and to get a good look without disturbing,” Menard said. “We encourage folks to just take photos. You need a federal recovery permit to do more.”

A rusty patched bumble bee has a tan blotch on its back just behind its wings. If you think you see one, try to take a photograph and report your finding to iNaturalist at [blm.mn/inature](https://blm.mn/inature) or Bumble Bee Watch at [blm.mn/beewatch](https://blm.mn/beewatch). Do not disturb the bees or their habitat.

## COUNCIL TO VOTE ON FINAL LEVY IN DECEMBER

**I**n September, the City Council approved a preliminary 2021 property tax levy of \$67,924,356. The preliminary tax levy can be reduced, but not increased, before final adoption in December. This levy funds 69.4% of the City’s General Fund budget. The remainder of the General Fund budget is supported by lodging and admission taxes, license and permit fees, grants and program revenues. The preliminary levy reflects a 5% increase over the 2020 levy.

The Community Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC) will present budget proposals to the City Council that include varying levels and types of service reductions.

The City Council will hold a virtual public budget hearing on Monday, December 7, at 7 p.m., via WebEx video conference. Residents will be able to call in and participate. For instructions, visit [blm.mn/cc-1207](https://blm.mn/cc-1207).

### YOUR CITY PROPERTY TAX DOLLAR

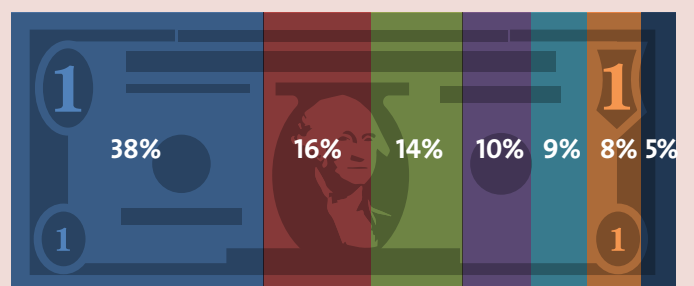
Most property taxes support core services, including police, fire, public works, and parks and recreation, *see graph upper right*. For every dollar of City taxes paid, 38 cents goes toward Police and Fire, 16 cents goes toward Public Works and 14 cents goes toward Parks and Recreation while 8 cents of each City property tax dollar pays outstanding debt service. Debt is issued to fund street and infrastructure work and construction projects.

### IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE CITY’S BUDGET

The pandemic has created a larger economic downturn for the City than 2008’s Great Recession. Many industries have come to a halt, including the hospitality and entertainment industries. For the City, that means millions of dollars lost in lodging and admissions taxes, mostly paid by visitors, not residents.

Lodging and admission tax revenues usually generate about 13% of the City’s general fund revenues. Due to the pandemic, these revenues have declined by more than \$5 million, to less than half what was collected before COVID-19.

### CITY PROPERTY TAX ALLOCATION



### STEPS TAKEN TO CONTROL COSTS

The City is working hard to respond to this ongoing loss of revenue, while still providing core public services. The City expects to balance the 2021 budget by controlling personnel costs and reducing staff positions, drawing down fund reserves where available, carefully analyzing City services for possible reductions, and analyzing lower interest rates to borrow for projects instead of paying cash.

### ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

To ensure budget discussions reflected community preferences, the City Council appointed nine residents with knowledge of municipal budgets to the Community Budget Advisory Committee in May. Since then, CBAC studied the City’s budget and services, and hosted numerous community engagement initiatives to provide the City Council with recommendations for balancing the budget.

### LEARN MORE

For detailed information, including staff presentations, summaries of community input and minutes of CBAC meetings, visit [blm.mn/cbac](https://blm.mn/cbac).



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# MAYOR’S MEMO

## How to enjoy the holidays safely

By Mayor Tim Busse

Ordinarily, November marks the start of the holiday season, and plans for Thanksgiving and other celebrations start taking shape. But 2020 is no ordinary year, and making plans probably seems harder. This year traditions may take on a new spin. I encourage you to honor those traditions in ways that are within CDC guidelines. (Read the CDC guidelines at [blm.mn/cdcholiday](https://blm.mn/cdcholiday).)

My favorite part of Thanksgiving is gathering with family and friends, followed closely by the food (I make a killer stuffing). With a little creativity, there are ways to enjoy holiday activities while still following CDC guidelines. Make extra servings of stuffing or pie and deliver the goodies to the people you would normally have over for dinner. Or tap into technology and host a virtual dinner party with all the trimmings. Throw in an ugly sweater contest to make things more festive. Limiting the extent of in-person family gatherings is one of the best things you can do to say that you care about your loved ones.

Or maybe this is a year to go lighter with food? Instead of planning a menu for lots of people, donate the money that would have gone into meal prep to VEAP or some other local charity. It’s a good feeling to help others, and the need is greater than it’s been in quite a while.

This is an opportunity to support each other. As much as your circumstances allow, be there for your neighbor. During social interactions, don’t let your guard down. Stay six feet or more away from others. If gatherings are a must, keep things small with 10 or fewer people and allow enough space to physically distance.

Even better, go outside instead of sitting inside with extended family and friends. An activity, such as walking or hiking, can be an opportunity to get out and enjoy Bloomington parks while social distancing. This time of year, weather may not be the best for outdoor social gatherings. Still, it can be worth a try.

Whether you have to bundle up or not, remember everyone needs to mask up. Don’t give into the temptation to make exceptions.

COVID-19 has upended every aspect of our lives. It’s been tough for everyone, but we need to keep up the good work during this critical time. Spend time with family and do it in an environment that keeps you and those you care about as safe as possible. Protect the ones you love.

Focus on the thankfulness of Thanksgiving, knowing challenging times will continue. This holiday season, more than ever, it’s important we look out for each other. We can get through this, stay healthy and connect in new ways.

## DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT: LET’S TALK BLOOMINGTON

There is a new way to let the City know what you think about current projects and services. Let’s Talk Bloomington is a digital forum where staff share information about City initiatives and connect with residents and stakeholders.

There are active pages on Let’s Talk Bloomington for the work of the Community Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC), the Park System Master Plan and the Lyndale Avenue retrofit project.

Registration is required to participate on the site so project organizers can understand the demographics of those who engage with the content. The public can read information on the page without registering and will be prompted to register to participate in commenting, polls or other engagement.

Let’s Talk Bloomington is one of many tools in the City’s engagement toolkit and advances the City Council Strategic Priority of engagement and transparency. Explore the site at [blm.mn/letstalk](https://blm.mn/letstalk).



## How to watch City Council meetings

If you had other commitments and were unable to tune in to watch the latest live council meeting, we have good news for you. Now you can search and watch it on demand with your Roku or AppleTV.

To access BTV on Roku, simply install the “Cablecast Screenweave” channel. Once it’s installed, scroll through the available municipal streams on the channel until you find BTV.

You can also stream the BTV, BEC-TV and BCAT channels live and access other shows, including commission meetings on demand.

To watch council meetings live online visit [blm.mn/btv-live](https://blm.mn/btv-live) or watch BTV on cable (Comcast channels 859 or 14.) To view past meetings, go to the City’s YouTube channel at [blm.mn/youtube](https://blm.mn/youtube).

For more information, visit [blm.mn/btv](https://blm.mn/btv) or call 952-563-8850.



## BRIEFING

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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](mailto:jhill@BloomingtonMN.gov) Website: [BloomingtonMN.gov](https://BloomingtonMN.gov)

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Elected officials presented for informational purposes.

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**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.





## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE VOTE ON ORGANIZED SOLID WASTE COLLECTION

The November general election ballot contained two City questions related to City-organized solid waste collection. Visit the City’s website at [blm.mn](http://blm.mn) to find out the results of the ballot questions. At the time this issue of the *Briefing* went to print, the results of the November 3 election were not known. This article was written in advance to get information out to residents as soon as possible following the election, particularly if Bloomington voters elected to end organized collection within the city.

Here is what you need to know:

If the voters decided to keep organized solid waste collection within the city, the program will continue as it has for the past four years. Continue to place your garbage and recycling carts out by 7 a.m. on your regular service day.

If the voters decided to end organized collection and return to a system of open collection, the City is legally obligated to terminate the organized collection program 30 days after the election, when the City Charter changes become effective. The last week of City-organized recycling service would be November 16 – 20. The last week of City-organized garbage collection service would be the week of November 23 – 28, 2020, with Thursday and Friday collection delayed by one day due to the Thanksgiving holiday. If voters

decided to change to an open collection system, residents are encouraged to make arrangements with a licensed hauler as soon as possible after the election.

The City’s website [blm.mn/garbage](http://blm.mn/garbage) will have contact information for licensed haulers, and provide up-to-date information and instructions for residents. The same information will be available at the Civic Plaza information desk, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

Residents should plan to read all City and hauler communications related to garbage and recycling services to minimize any disruptions in services, because this possible transition to an open collection system would occur within a limited timeline. Haulers will need to update accounts for customers, develop new routes and make cart adjustments for up to 22,000 households within a limited time frame.

If voters decided to transition to open collection, local haulers may experience a high volume of customer service requests in November.

Residents are encouraged to visit the City’s website at [blm.mn/garbage](http://blm.mn/garbage), call 952-563-8726, or visit Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, for additional information, answers to frequently asked questions and for updates related to the program following the election.



## PASSPORT SERVICES REOPENED

The City reopened passport services on September 21 at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. Appointments are required for first-time applicants, renewing a passport issued to a juvenile, or renewing a passport that expired more than five years ago. One appointment per person must be scheduled online at [blm.mn/passport](http://blm.mn/passport) or by calling 952-563-8728.

Renewals of adult passports that have expired within the last five years, or about to expire, can be done by the applicant through the mail. The City Clerk’s office can provide the application (free) or passport photos for \$15 each.

At this time, federal passport offices are not accepting expedited service.

For more information, call 952-563-8728.

## SENIOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS COMING

New senior housing is underway in Bloomington. Four projects currently under construction will add more than 600 senior units. The developments will provide more housing options for seniors as well as more affordable housing.

The City recognizes the importance of adding housing to meet the needs of the community. The addition of more senior and affordable housing advances City strategic goals for focused renewal.

“Given age demographics in Bloomington and in surrounding cities, we’re seeing strong demand for senior housing. Four projects are under construction and more are in the discussion stage.” Planning Manager Glen Markegard said.

See where the four senior housing developments are taking shape in Bloomington.

<b>Cherrywood Pointe</b> • 5501 American Boulevard West 118 Units • 952-522-7964	<b>Founder’s Ridge</b> • 6600 Auto Club Road 110 Units • 952-946-2010
<b>Friendship Village (expansion)</b> • 8100 Highwood Drive 93 Units, 140-bed health center • 952-830-5199	<b>Hayden Grove</b> • 8715 Portland Avenue South 166 Units • 952-235-3146

## SEWER UPGRADES ALLOW BUSINESS EXPANSION

What’s as big as a football field, four stories tall and cleaner than an operating room? It’s the new clean room addition at SkyWater Technology, a Bloomington-based chip builder.

Over the summer, the City of Bloomington partnered with SkyWater Technology to make required sanitary sewer improvements for a new clean room addition. Design of the sanitary sewer improvement was done in the spring, with construction completed in August.

The success of this private-public partnership is an example of how the City’s Public Works Department carries out the council’s strategic priority for high-quality services.

For more information, call the Engineering Division at 952-563-4870 or email [engineering@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:engineering@BloomingtonMN.gov).



A commission work group discusses ideas in 2019.

## JOIN A COMMISSION

Are you interested in building leadership skills and helping solve issues in your community? Get involved with one of the City’s advisory boards or commissions. In the coming months, the City Council will be seeking applicants for the following: Advisory Board of Health, Creative Placemaking Commission, Human Rights Commission, Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission and Sustainability Commission.

Applications will be accepted beginning in January 2021. New terms begin on March 1, 2021. For more information, visit [blm.mn/commission](http://blm.mn/commission) or contact the Community Outreach and Engagement Division at 952-563-8733 or [outreach@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:outreach@BloomingtonMN.gov).





### ENERGY-EFFICIENCY UPGRADES COMPLETED

Recent upgrades to City facilities promote sustainability and provide energy savings. Boilers were replaced at Public Works and the Water Treatment plant. LED lighting was added to update older, less efficient fixtures. The project included automated building control upgrades for heating and cooling. These upgrades are projected to save \$150,000 in energy costs yearly.

“This reduces our carbon footprint,” Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Dave Hanson said. “It’s a good thing to have more sustainable equipment and sustainable operation of buildings.”

Recommendations from an energy use study guided the project. The energy upgrades are in keeping with the City Council’s strategic priority for environmental sustainability.

During the next few years, additional upgrades are planned for solar panels. The Civic Plaza and Public Works roofs are at an age when replacement is needed. After the work is done, they will be ready for solar panels.

For more information, call 952-563-8760 or email sustainability@BloomingtonMN.gov.



### BATTLE BUCKTHORN

Because its leaves remain green long after others have changed color and fallen to the ground, fall is a great time to control buckthorn. Buckthorn will often have green leaves through November.

Small plants can be pulled by hand while larger ones, up to two inches, can be pulled using tools called weed wrenches. Bloomington Public Works has a variety of these tools available for residents to check out and they can be reserved by calling 952-563-4920.

Dealing with the roots is very important. Buckthorn will resprout vigorously if left alone.

For more information from Public Works about buckthorn removal or using weed wrenches, visit blm.mn/citybuckthorn.

For more information from the Department of Natural Resources, visit blm.mn/buckthorn.



Representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service help a youth group identify insects during a prairie survey in 2018. When bees are caught, they are placed in cups and go into a cooler. This slows the bees down long enough for them to be identified.



### EARTH ACTION HERO: HELPING BEES IN BLOOMINGTON

Even bees need a good home. Bee houses are located at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, 3815 American Boulevard East. One is in front of the visitor’s center and the other is in the back by a wetland. The bee houses are part of a greater effort to help bees and other pollinators thrive in Bloomington. In recent years, pollinator numbers have decreased due to pesticide use, habitat loss, climate change and disease.

The prairie restorations located at the refuge and Civic Plaza are vital to the livelihood of rusty patched bumble bees along with other insects, birds, and wildlife. Plantings of native flowers, grasses, shrubs and trees create corridors of habitat so bees and other pollinators don’t have to travel as far for food.

Want to help bees and other pollinators? Provide nesting areas for bees with a bee house or a reserved natural area. Avoid pesticide use, and add some native plants to your garden or landscape.

“Anyone and everyone can plant something that is beneficial,” U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Urban Biologist Nicole Menard said.

For more information, call 952-563-8700.

### HOLIDAY GARBAGE AND RECYCLING CHANGES

For 2020, Thanksgiving is Thursday, November 26. The holiday does not occur during a recycling week. Garbage services normally scheduled for Thursday will move to Friday, and those normally scheduled for Friday will move to Saturday.

If voters decided to end City-organized collection (visit blm.mn for election results), the week of November 28 will be last week of service and the Thanksgiving holiday delay would still apply. For more information, visit blm.mn/garbage or call Utility Billing at 952-563-8726.

RECYCLE WEEK HOLIDAY\*

\* No pickup; pickup one day later.

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

### BLOOMINGTON WATER UPHOLDS STANDARDS

Work at the City’s Water Treatment plant is a 24 hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week business. Part of that effort includes a water study to track the existence of any copper or lead. The study is done every three years to ensure the City’s treatment process is free of any corrosive problems. This year, 30 Bloomington households gave water samples. Participants were chosen by the state based on the age of their homes.

Test findings from the state showed the levels of copper and lead below action levels established by the EPA, meaning nothing has changed and amounts are appropriate. Bloomington’s results are so consistent, the need to test has been reduced over the years.

Lead and copper typically don’t exist in Bloomington’s water and only become an issue when they leach from piping or plumbing fixtures in homes or buildings. The City treats water in a way to prevent potential leaching and keep measurements below EPA action levels.

“Bloomington residents can continue to be assured that their water is safe to drink as well as being great tasting,” Utilities Superintendent Scott Anderson said.

For more information, visit blm.mn/water or call 952-563-4905.



# AT YOUR SERVICE: ANN SATTLER

Connecting with seniors and others throughout the community is a big part of Ann Sattler’s work. As a Bloomington Public Health Nurse, her goal is to make a positive difference and help large numbers of people.

From identifying supportive resources, to looking into public health referrals, to planning conferences and events, her role with the City is a busy one.

“I like the emphasis on being proactive, not just reactive, and improving the health of the community,” Sattler said.

Her compassion for others is apparent in the work she does. “I live in Bloomington and have a vested interest to serve and help people in the community,” Sattler said.

Besides promoting public health, Sattler sees the building of community as an outcome of the work she does. Recently she has been coordinating COVID-19 testing at long-term care facilities in partnership with the Minnesota National Guard and the Minnesota Department of Health. At one of these events, a community partner showed up to honor health care workers. Volunteers dressed up in costumes, gave out treats and expressed their gratitude. This was a particularly moving experience for Sattler.

“There’s a lot of good in Bloomington,” she says.

See Sattler coordinating a summer testing event at [blm.mn/annlive](https://blm.mn/annlive).



## BLOOMINGTON NATIVE LEADS MINNESOTA’S COVID-19 RESPONSE

A typical work day for Kris Ehresmann, director of infectious disease at the Minnesota Department of Health, begins when she gets to the office at 7 a.m. Since COVID-19 first appeared, her days have become a whirlwind of back-to-back meetings, emails and phone calls. Teams report the latest case counts and other key metrics, as well as updates related to schools, contact tracing and more.

“The term ‘multitasking’ has taken on a whole new meaning during COVID-19,” Ehresmann said.

Growing up in a tight-knit community on the east side of Bloomington, Ehresmann was active in Blue Birds and Camp Fire Girls. She credits her volunteer work with the Bloomington Heart Health Program with helping her get started in public health. Program staff and volunteers provided health education to Bloomington residents and then looked for changes at the community level, such as decreases in emergency room visits and heart attacks.

When it comes to COVID-19, Ehresmann is quick to empathize with the pandemic fatigue that many people are feeling. “This has been a year like no other ... I realize that we’re all kind of at the end of our rope with the limitations responding to COVID has put on our lives,” she said.

At the same time, Ehresmann encourages individuals to keep thinking about the larger community. “Every case is like throwing a rock into a lake, and then there are the ripples that come from that toss. And so, you may be one case, but it’s that ripple effect, it’s the people you may expose, it’s the roles that you play.”



## HOW TO KEEP HOLIDAY FOODS SAFE

The holidays are coming and that means celebrations with food. The last thing you want during the holidays is to have someone get a food-related illness. Here’s how to prepare, handle and store food safely.

- Wash hands and surfaces frequently. Keep your cooking utensils clean.
  - Rinse vegetables and fruits under running water.
  - Avoid cross contamination: Keep raw meat, poultry and seafood separate.
  - Thaw food in the refrigerator, not on the kitchen counter. Plan ahead. A large frozen turkey can take days to thaw.
  - Cook foods to proper temperatures. Use a thermometer and ensure turkey is cooked to 165 degrees.
  - Do not eat raw cookie dough or use unpasteurized eggs in homemade eggnog. Uncooked flour and raw eggs can make you sick.
  - Refrigerate perishable food within two hours. Such foods should be discarded after sitting out for four hours or more.
  - Don’t put large, hot dishes in the refrigerator. Divide up food and store in smaller containers with lids.
  - Set your refrigerator so food stays at 41 degrees or below.
- For more information, visit [blm.mn/safefood](https://blm.mn/safefood) or call 952-563-8934.

## SNOW PLOWING SEASON APPROACHING

The first snowfall usually occurs in November. Residents can help to make plowing faster and more efficient. When it snows, keep your car and garbage cans off the street. This is required by City code and helps staff plow the full width of streets to keep them wider.

To lessen the amount of snow that gets pushed across your driveway, clear the area to the right of your driveway and place excess snow to the left (when looking at your house from the street.) This gives plow drivers a place to push the next round of snow and reduce pileup at the end of your driveway.

Want to do a good deed while you’re shoveling snow? Consider clearing out fire hydrants and storm drains.

For more information, visit [blm.mn/snow](https://blm.mn/snow) or call 952-563-8760. The Snow Emergency Hotline is 952-563-8768.

### SNOW PLOWING BY THE NUMBERS

- 70** Plows out during a snow event, with 2016 lane miles of roads and 512 cul-de-sacs traversed by City plows.
- 50** Inches of snow that falls yearly in Bloomington on average.
- 26** Snow plowing events per year on average.



## POLICE DEBUT AWARENESS STICKERS

Bloomington Police have begun supplying emergency responder alert stickers. The stickers inform first responders if a person in a residence or vehicle has dementia, Alzheimer’s, autism, special needs or is deaf or hard of hearing. Feedback about the new resource has been overwhelmingly positive on BPD’s Twitter account.

“Having this type of information when responding to a call means we can provide better service to residents,” Police Chief Jeff Potts said. “These stickers help first responders—including BPD, firefighters and emergency medical technicians—have a greater positive impact in providing services to those in need.”

Bloomington Public Health staff have been partnering with BPD to get these stickers out into the community where they are needed. If you would like to pick up a sticker, visit the Bloomington Police Department lobby at 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

## GET YOUR FLU SHOT

Public Health is hosting a community flu shot clinic December 9, 4 – 6 p.m., in the Oak Grove Middle School cafeteria, at 1300 West 106th Street.

Organizers are taking the necessary precautions to minimize risk of exposure to COVID-19. The clinic site will have separate doors for entering and exiting. Face masks and physical distancing will be required. Appointments will also be required to minimize waiting.

“We’re doing the clinics as safely as possible and following all the rules from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Minnesota Department of Health,” Public Health Program Manager Karen Stanley said.

If you have insurance, bring your insurance card with you. If you do not have insurance, you will still be able to receive the vaccination. Children under 18 must have a parent or guardian present. For more information, call 952-563-8900 or visit [blm.mn/flu](https://blm.mn/flu).





### SHOP GIFTS IN THE GALLERY

Want to find the perfect holiday gift? Shop for handmade creative gifts sure to impress everyone on your list, December 7 – 21, in the Inez Greenberg Gallery at the Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

Due to COVID-19, the Center for the Arts and the Inez Greenberg Gallery will use appropriate physical distancing practices when open. No reception will take place this year.

To see a list of participating artists or find other information, visit [artistrymn.org/gig](http://artistrymn.org/gig), or contact Artistry at 952-563-8575 or [info@artistrymn.org](mailto:info@artistrymn.org).



### LEARN SKATING AT BIG WINTER SKATE SCHOOL

Time to get your skates sharpened and hit the ice. Bloomington Ice Garden Winter Skate School begins this month.

- Tuesday sessions:  
Registration opens on November 7 for residents and November 10 for nonresidents. Classes begin November 17.
- Saturday sessions:  
Registration opens November 11 for residents and November 14 for nonresidents. Classes begin November 21.

Future sessions are also available. BIG Skate School offers skating lessons year-round. For more information, visit [blm.mn/big](http://blm.mn/big) or call 952-563-8841.

### BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY: GIDEON AND AGNES POND HOUSE FIRESIDE

Earth, home and harvest — the scene portrayed at the Gideon Pond house brings history to life along the river bluff in Bloomington. Cultural Arts Coordinator Jay Ludwig, *at right*, wears a formal “Sunday-best” costume from the mid-1800s as he stands in front of the fireplace.

Fall decorations and framed portraits evoke family gatherings and Thanksgiving celebrations. Gideon Pond is in the far-right picture, his second spouse Agnes in the middle and his brother Samuel to the left.

The Pond brothers were missionaries. They had a genuine respect for Chief Cloud Man and the Dakota people, learned the Native language and wrote a book about the experience.

Gideon and Agnes lived in the Pond House and ran a 160-acre farm. “Our lives were as busy as lives could be,” Agnes wrote. As a mother to 16 children in a blended family, she knew.

Relationships between white settlers and Native people living in Bloomington are highlighted in tours and programming at the Pond House. It’s an opportunity to learn how original white settlers interacted with Native Americans so many years ago.



### VISITING THE GIDEON AND AGNES POND HOUSE

Hands-on history programs take place on Sundays, 1 – 4 p.m. through December at Pond Dakota Mission Park, 401 East 104th Street. Confirm programming at [blm.mn/parksFB](http://blm.mn/parksFB) or call 952-563-8877.

The Gideon and Agnes Pond House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The City purchased the site in 1975. “Not all suburban communities are preserving their history to the extent Bloomington is. Bloomington has really prioritized its emphasis on history and it’s laudable,” Ludwig said.

### DWAN GOLF COURSE SEASON A SUCCESS

It’s been a good year for Dwan Golf Course. Even with COVID-19 restrictions and a three-week delay in opening compared to 2019, Dwan has remained a popular destination for golf in Minnesota. In its 50th anniversary year, the course is on track to surpass 40,000 rounds for the first time since 2016.

Visitors to Dwan, 3301 West 110th Street, benefit from customer-friendly offerings, including online booking and payment, cart-cleaning measures and other safety amenities. A virtually contactless experience allows golfers to confidently play with less worry about contracting the virus.

“The pandemic posed an unprecedented challenge for the golf industry,” said General Manager, Peter Kurvers. “We worked very hard to deliver a safe golf experience, and we’re grateful to all of our patrons and guests for supporting us throughout the season.”

The clubhouse opened on July 2, which allowed for more traditional forms of tee time booking and payment via phone and in-person—all while maintaining robust COVID precautions. At that time, food service expanded to include limited indoor seating.

The golf season typically ends in November. For more information, visit [blm.mn/dwan](http://blm.mn/dwan), call 952-563-8702 or email [golf@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:golf@BloomingtonMN.gov).



Dwan Golf Course aerial view.

### VIRTUAL PROGRAMS AVAILABLE FOR SENIORS

#### WEEKLY CONNECT CALL

Every Tuesday at 9 a.m.  
Help fight social isolation, chat with old and new friends in a weekly call to connect with other seniors. Conversations will focus on positive stories or memories, tips to share of things to do or other fun topic starters to get the conversation going. Participate weekly or occasionally.

A tablet or smartphone with video capability is recommended to be able to see other callers, but not required. Participants may also simply call in to connect.

The chat will last 30 – 60 minutes depending on the number of participants. If interested, email [creekside@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:creekside@BloomingtonMN.gov) or call 952-563-8889 to receive an email invitation. Open to anyone age 50 or older.

#### MONTHLY VIRTUAL GAME PARTY

First Thursday of every month at 1 p.m.  
Join others 50 and older to connect over games, such as BINGO or trivia. A smartphone, tablet or computer is required to be able to see and participate in the games. If interested, email [creekside@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:creekside@BloomingtonMN.gov) or call 952-563-8889 for further instructions and to receive an email invitation.

### PARK SYSTEM MASTER PLAN: NEW OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE INPUT DIGITALLY

In September, the Park System Master Plan transitioned from the longstanding project bloom! forum to a new online platform. As the formation of the Park System Master Plan continues, there are additional ways you can help guide the future of Bloomington’s parks.

At Let’s Talk Bloomington, the City’s website for community conversations, you can participate at the time and place most convenient for you. It’s easy to stay involved with the Park System Master Plan and other City initiatives online. Register at [blm.mn/letstalk](http://blm.mn/letstalk) to add your own comments and ideas.





# UP TO CODE: KEEPING BLOOMINGTON AT ITS BEST

Residents play an important role in maintaining property values and the appearance of Bloomington neighborhoods. The City code describes standards for property maintenance and relies on residents to take care of their properties. Here are some common standard set forth in the City code regulating your house and neighborhood.



## PARKING

1. Vehicles must be parked in the garage or on an approved driveway.
2. Unlicensed or inoperable vehicles must be stored in the garage. This includes vehicles with expired tabs.
3. No more than four vehicles may be parked outside of a garage, excluding visitors.
4. Trailers that exceed six feet in height or have a bed length of more than eight feet six inches cannot be stored outside of the garage. One trailer under this size may be stored outside no closer than five feet to side yard property lines. A utility trailer may also be parked in the driveway if it is at least 30 feet back from the street.
5. Nonresidential vehicles taller than seven feet six inches or longer than 22 feet cannot park in residential areas.
6. Recreational vehicles (RVs) have parking restrictions. Contact Environmental Health with questions by calling 952-563-8934 or emailing envhealth@BloomingtonMN.gov.



## HOME MAINTENANCE AND OUTDOOR STORAGE

7. Store materials, machinery and equipment in a building or fully screened area so they are not visible from adjoining or adjacent lands.
8. Home exteriors must be maintained free from peeling, chipping and other deterioration. This includes siding, windows, trim, roof, doors, driveways, sheds and fences.
9. Firewood stack size and location are regulated.



## REFUSE, LITTER AND WEEDS

10. Grass must be cut before it reaches eight inches in height and before it goes to seed. All noxious weeds must be removed.
11. All twigs, tree and shrub branches that fall in the yard must be removed immediately or stored in an enclosed container. Brush piles are not allowed on residential properties.
12. Garbage must be stored within a building or an enclosed container.
13. All refuse, recycling, compost, twigs and brush should be placed at the assigned collection location no more than 12 hours before collection day. Waste containers must be removed no more than 12 hours after collection day. Garbage and recycling containers for single-family, detached homes must be set back 30 feet from any four-season living area other than the owner's. Garbage and recycling containers cannot be stored more than five feet in front of the principal building along any public right-of-way.



## HOME BUSINESSES

14. Certain businesses are prohibited in residential zones, including manufacturing, vehicle repair and retail where customers come to the house. Home businesses are separated into two types: Type 1 businesses include beauty shops, tutoring and piano instruction, but these have limits on the number of daily customers allowed. Type 2 businesses require Council approval.

## OTHER CITY CODES

15. This is not an exhaustive list of City codes. To read all City codes, visit blm.mn/code.

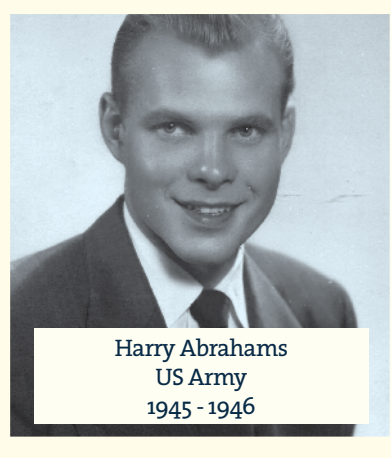
## NOTICE A PROBLEM?

Let us know if a neighborhood property is becoming a problem. To report a nuisance or ordinance violation, call Environmental Health at 952-563-8934 or email envhealth@BloomingtonMN.gov.

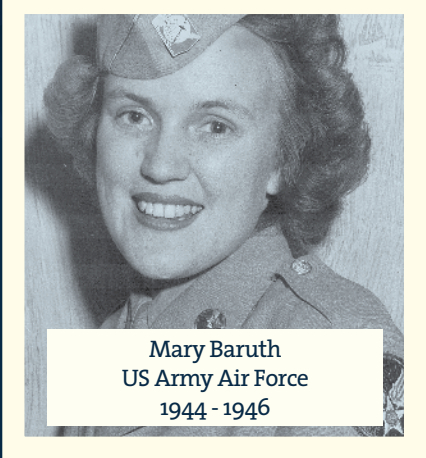


# RECOGNIZING VETERANS

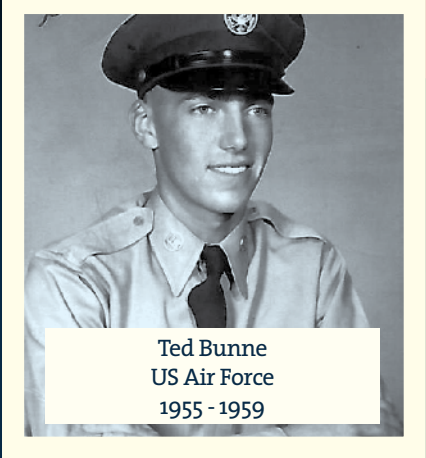
More than 300 photos of veterans from the Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard and Air Force make up the veterans' photo wall. Their proud faces are a reminder of their dedicated service and sacrifice. Below are just some of the people we honor today and every day. Take part in this long-running tradition honoring veterans from our community virtually this year by viewing the digital photo album at [blm.mn/veterans](http://blm.mn/veterans).



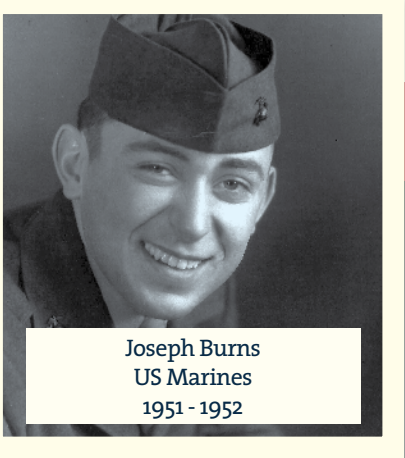
Harry Abrahams  
US Army  
1945 - 1946



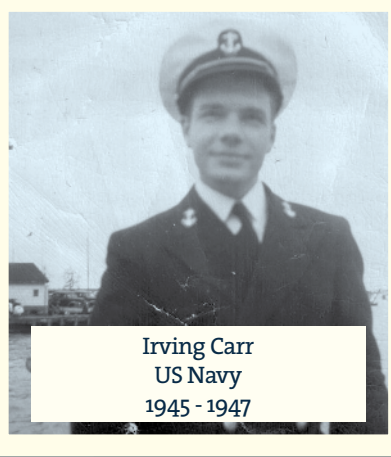
Mary Baruth  
US Army Air Force  
1944 - 1946



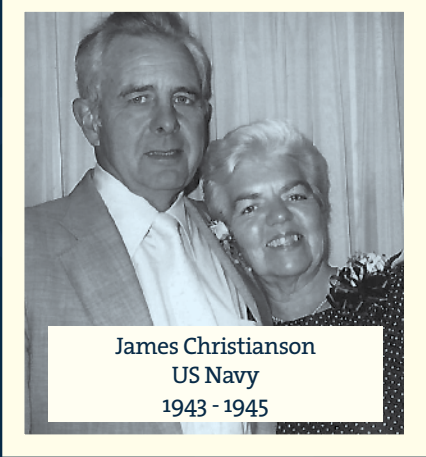
Ted Bunne  
US Air Force  
1955 - 1959



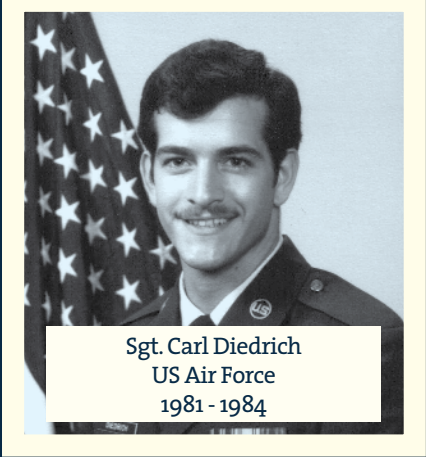
Joseph Burns  
US Marines  
1951 - 1952



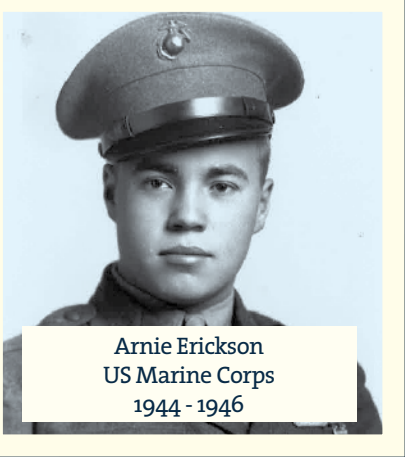
Irving Carr  
US Navy  
1945 - 1947



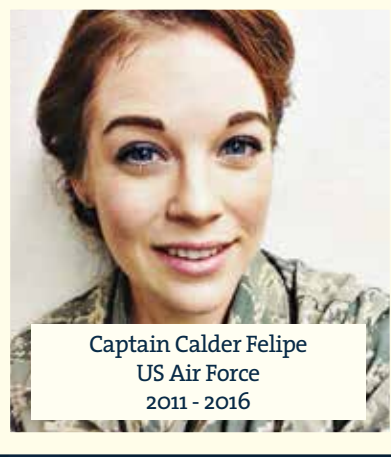
James Christianson  
US Navy  
1943 - 1945



Sgt. Carl Diedrich  
US Air Force  
1981 - 1984



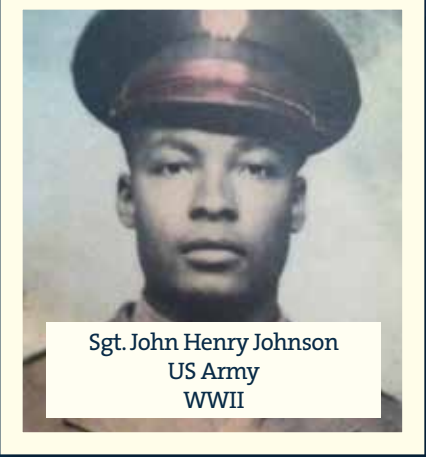
Arnie Erickson  
US Marine Corps  
1944 - 1946



Captain Calder Felipe  
US Air Force  
2011 - 2016



Captain Jerome Johnson  
Army  
1973 - 1988



Sgt. John Henry Johnson  
US Army  
WWII



Ruth M. (Little) Larson  
US Navy Nurse Corps  
1949 - 1951



Lt. Colonel Ardean Lewis  
US Army  
1992 - 2007



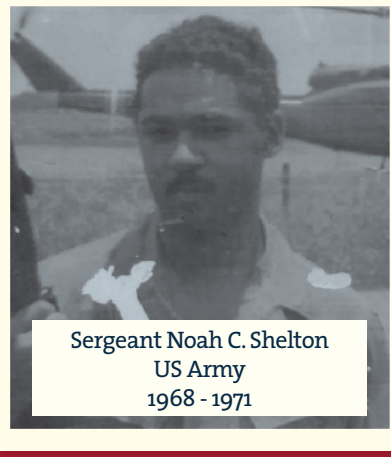
PFC Emily Mahon  
US Marine Corps  
Active Duty



Paul Mahon  
US Air Force  
1986 - 1997



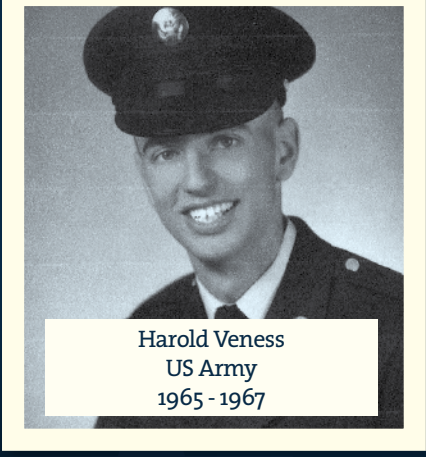
Nghia Ba Nguyen  
Navy  
1999 - 2003



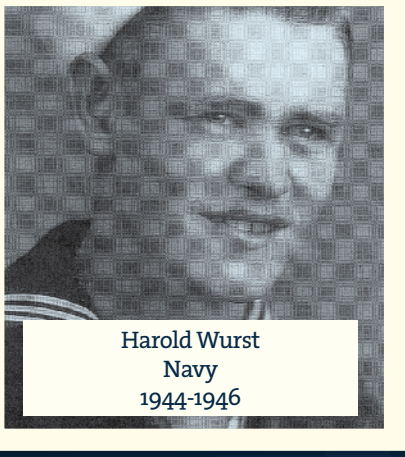
Sergeant Noah C. Shelton  
US Army  
1968 - 1971



Elaine (Jensen) Summerfield  
US Navy Waves, USNR  
1944 - 1946



Harold Veness  
US Army  
1965 - 1967



Harold Wurst  
Navy  
1944 - 1946