



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



DECEMBER 2018

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BLOOMINGTON VOTERS SET NEW TURNOUT RECORD

More than 22 percent of Bloomington voters cast early ballots by mail or in person at Civic Plaza this year. That's more than double the early voter turnout of 2014, the last non-presidential election year. This increase in early voting may mean dividing resources differently in upcoming elections with more staff available during early voting as opposed to on Election Day, according to City Clerk Janet Lewis.

"If people are more likely to take advantage of early voting, then we need to make sure we provide the resources for that opportunity so everyone has a positive voting experience in Bloomington," said Lewis. "I'm really grateful for all the staff who supported the election process this year."

Absentee voting by mail and in person starts 46 days before the election and direct balloting, where voters place ballots directly into the ballot counter, starts seven days before the election. The city's overall midterm voter turnout set a record, too, with 45,331 voters.

MAKING NEW COUNCIL-COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Bloomington City Councilmembers are exploring new avenues to connect with constituents. In October, more than 200 residents attended town hall forums—a new outreach event series—held in their council districts. At these events, councilmembers led discussions about the City's strategic priorities, including high-quality services and community amenities.

They spoke about improvements to City fire stations, park buildings, playgrounds and facilities including the Bloomington Ice Garden, Dwan and Hyland Greens golf courses, the aquatic center and a potential new community center. After the presentation, attendees had the opportunity to ask councilmembers questions.

Residents submitted hundreds of questions on a wide range of subjects. Some of the most common topics of inquiry were the Normandale Lake water quality project, the new community center, *see page 4* for more on this, and fire station improvements.

Councilmembers and City staff answered questions live at the event. City staff is also working on answering the most common questions in print, video and online for those who were not able to attend a town hall forum.

The all-City town hall forum, hosted by At-Large Councilmembers Tim Busse and Nathan Coulter, was also streamed live on Facebook when it took place on October 30. The video is still available to view online at blm.mn/townhallvid.

"More than anything, the City Council wants to set a new standard for how it's going to interact with the community," City Manager Jamie Verbrugge said. "I expect these town hall forums will be the first in an ongoing series of opportunities for residents to directly interact with their councilmember."

For more information about the town hall forums, visit blm.mn/townhall or call 952-563-8782.



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; TTY: 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715; E-mail: jhill@BloomingtonMN.gov
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The City of Bloomington complies with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and 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 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 (Voice); 952-563-8740 (TTY only).

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

MAYOR’S MEMO

GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS: GOOD ROADS FOR THE FUTURE

By Mayor Gene Winstead

A smile and a handshake were the way to start the day when Business Day at City Hall was held at Civic Plaza in early October. The event, now in its fourth year and cosponsored by the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, brings the City and the business community together.

“Business has been the engine of Bloomington’s growth for 175 years,” Bloomington Chamber President Kim Hansen said. “Business Day at City Hall is one way to connect our members with the City, and it will strengthen our community through inclusive prosperity.”

Inclusion was in the forefront for Tawanna Black, CEO of the Center for Economic Inclusion. In her keynote, she discussed the value of an inclusive economy and how it can benefit companies, our community and our state. City Manager Jamie Verbrugge and Community Development Director Eric Johnson talked about how our dynamic City is engaging with businesses and residents daily. I presented updates about the I-35W bridge, MnPASS lanes on Highway 169 and needed expansion along I-494.

This event not only shares where we are, but where we are going. Our annual business survey helps pinpoint those topics. In this year’s business survey, eight in 10 business owners or managers said Bloomington is an excellent or good place to do business, and 85 percent gave excellent or good ratings for City services. Mobility proved to be a big priority for businesses. Nearly nine in 10 thought it was very important or essential for Bloomington to focus on transportation during the next two years.

Progress is on the move for construction projects around the area. The westbound entrance ramp from East Bush Lake Road is now open and will help move traffic to and from the Normandale Lake business district. The I-494 project from the airport to Highway 169 finally received funding needed to help ease congestion.

Although it may feel like parts of the city are under construction for too long (at least when we’re behind the wheel), the upcoming changes will make driving around the south metro easier. Businesses and residents will benefit as a result. Just bear with us during construction. We’re on a good road to the future.

COURT RULES IN FAVOR OF THE CITY

ORGANIZED COLLECTION WILL NOT GO TO A VOTE

The Minnesota Court of Appeals recently ruled in favor of the City saying that a proposed charter amendment, intended to halt the City’s organized collection system for garbage and recycling, was not a lawful use of the power of a referendum.

“We are happy with the Court of Appeals’ ruling,” City Manager Jamie Verbrugge said. “It upholds organized garbage and recycling collection in Bloomington—a service we believe improves quality of life for our residents.”

As a result of the Court’s ruling, Bloomington’s garbage and recycling collection services will remain in place for the foreseeable future.

Haulers began pickup under the organized collection program in October 2016. According to the 2017 resident survey, 80 percent of respondents viewed the City’s garbage and recycling services favorably.

Bloomington’s organized collection service goals are to reduce the number of garbage trucks on collection day, mitigate air and noise pollution, minimize wear and tear on the roadways and, in most cases, save households money.

WHAT’S DEVELOPING?

98TH STREET STATION AREA PLAN

The City has developed a new plan for the 98th Street Station Area, a half-mile area around the Bloomington Transit Center, located a block west of 98th Street and Lyndale Avenue. In 2021, Metro Transit is expected to begin operating the METRO Orange Line bus rapid transit system. This will enhance the transit center by providing frequent all-day service seven days a week to Minneapolis, Richfield and Burnsville. Staff conducted surveys, walking audits, focus groups and more with residents, businesses, property owners and partners to identify recommendations for the area that:

- Coordinate infrastructure improvements to heighten pedestrian and bicycle safety, create a sense of place and enhance station connectivity to neighborhoods and businesses.
- Support and facilitate compact mixed-use redevelopment of commercial areas to complement the enhanced transit service.
- Facilitate entrance on and off I-35W while creating enhanced bicycle, pedestrian and transit access.

More information about the 98th Street Station Area Plan is available at blm.mn/OrangeLine.





TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

COMPLETE: EAST BUSH LAKE ROAD INTERCHANGE

The new interchange at East Bush Lake Road and I-494 and westbound on-ramp opened to motorists in late November. This long-awaited access point to I-494 will help traffic movement in the Normandale Lake District and assist in the more efficient operation of the congested interchange at TH 100/I-494.

The interchange at East Bush Lake Road and I-494 had been without a westbound on-ramp since its construction in 1960. Since then, development and redevelopment occurred in the Normandale Lake area with the emergence of a number of high-rise office towers, hotels, four- and five-story office buildings, townhomes and high-rise condominiums. For more information, visit blm.mn/eblr494.

IN PROGRESS: I-35W BRIDGES

MnDOT's work on the I-35W Minnesota River bridge and 106th Street bridge is in full swing. Crews began alternating lane closures on southbound I-35W in October. MnDOT crews plan to maintain three lanes of traffic in each direction during the bridge reconstruction work.

Crews also closed the 106th Street ramp to southbound I-35W in October. It will remain closed until late 2021. Motorists should follow the signed detour using northbound I-35W and 98th Street to access southbound I-35W.

These lane and ramp closures are part of a multiyear project to replace the I-35W Minnesota River bridge between Burnsville and Bloomington. The work will include reconstructing the I-35W bridge spanning the Minnesota River and the bridge at 106th Street, replacing pavement from Cliff



Road to 106th Street and constructing a trail between Black Dog Road and Lyndale Avenue.

MnDOT urges motorists to remain attentive at all times, drive with caution, slow down in work zones and never enter a road blocked with barriers or cones.

For more information about this project or to sign up for email updates, visit blm.mn/mndot35.

2019 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

In 2019, the tax-supported cost of City services for owners of median-valued homes of \$256,900 will be \$81.60 per month. Last year, the cost was \$78.67. The total cost of services for a median-valued home, which includes property taxes, franchise fees, water and sewer and solid waste, is \$139.28. This cost remains lower than 11 of 12 neighboring peer communities.

In September, the City Council approved a preliminary levy of \$62,194,421 for 2019. It also approved a preliminary general operating fund budget of \$74,972,475, a 3.3 percent increase from the 2018 budget. The City uses multiyear modeling to track revenue and expenditures to predict upcoming trends. City staff also uses a 10-year planning model that considers both short-term and future needs of the community to recommend a preliminary levy. The preliminary levy can be reduced, but not increased, before final adoption.

The City continues to be cost-effective in providing quality services that meet public demand. In a 2018 resident survey, 63 percent of



respondents thought that the value of City services for taxes paid was excellent or good.

If the 2019 levy is approved at the proposed level, the average annual increase in the City's levy from 1999 to 2019 would be 4.1 percent. One of Bloomington's strengths is the diversity of its tax base. Historically, Bloomington's tax capacity has been split between residential properties, including apartments, and commercial/industrial properties. Real estate values are showing greater variability as the current economy comes out of its downturn.

The City's multiyear modeling indicates that property tax levies over the next 10 years should remain approximately equal to long-term home value appreciation plus economy growth as Bloomington works for the longer term to be more sustainable.

For more information, contact Chief Financial Officer Lori Economy-Scholler at 952-563-8791 or leconomy@BloomingtonMN.gov. For property valuation information, contact City Assessor Matt Gersemehl at 952-563-8708 or mgersemehl@BloomingtonMN.gov.



WELCOMING A NEW CITY ENGINEER

City Engineer Julie Long started in her position in September, but she's been with the City for 15 years. She started as a Civil Engineer in 2003.

"I am excited to take a look at different practices and projects I've been involved in from a new perspective," she said. "And I'm happy to be able to continue the relationships I have here."

Julie began her career in the private sector doing consulting work. When she saw the job listing for a civil engineer back in 2003, she was intrigued by the idea of working in public service. Julie says her favorite thing about working in government comes back to relationships.

"I like talking to residents and hearing their concerns," she said. "We can't always do the exact thing they're asking, but we help however we're able. As a consultant, I was always a step removed from that process."

Julie has her bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Rensselaer Polytech Institute and a master's degree in public administration from Hamline University.



OPENINGS TO SERVE WITH THE CITY

Have you ever thought about serving on an advisory board or commission? Are you interested in helping solve issues? Would you like to become more involved in your community? Boards and commissions provide comments and recommendations for the City Council. Now is a great time to get involved. The Council is seeking applicants for its boards and commissions.

For information, call 952-563-8780 or visit blm.mn/boards. Applications are being accepted through mid-January. Advisory board and commission meetings are usually held at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.



CREEKSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER CHANGES COMING

Creekside Community Center, a fixture at West 98th Street and Penn Avenue South for decades, is changing. A service assessment recommended making changes to the organizational structure of Creekside. As a result, Creekside was realigned as a recreational facility and moved into the Parks and Recreation Department. Creekside staff will still operate and maintain the facility. Meal and food programs will remain available along with special events for older adults and other participants. Creekside serves more than 100,000 visitors annually. Call 952-563-4944 or visit blm.mn/cc for information.



CREEKSIDE FUN FACTS:

- Houses 85 volunteer-led older adult programs.
- Welcomes more than 100,000 visitors annually.
- Provides more than 50,000 meals served annually through a combination of lunch and dinner services.
- Helps people save money on groceries through Fare for All, a monthly food distribution program open to all.
- Showcases an array of beautifully handcrafted items for purchase at the Creekside Boutique. *See story on page 8.*
- Offers room rentals to groups of all sizes for meetings and events, seven days a week, 24 hours a day.



SERVICE EVALUATIONS PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES

A NOTE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

The City began performing in-depth evaluations of service areas this year. The City Council requested these service reviews as part of an ongoing effort to do more in-depth assessments of our processes. Conducting deep dives into City operations is consistent with our efforts to be a high-performing organization that values continuous improvement, and it furthers one of the City Council’s strategic goals of high-quality service delivery. Public Health and Human Services were reviewed earlier this year. There were no major reorganizational recommendations for Public Health, but changes were made to Human Services as a result of the review. The evaluation included a review of services provided and budgetary data and personnel levels with significant input from internal

and external stakeholders. The big-picture questions that the evaluations sought to answer included:

- Are the resources and services of these divisions optimally aligned to meet community needs and priorities?
- How much is the City spending on these services, and what is the return in value for our residents?
- If we don’t have the resources to be all things to all people, who are we going to focus services on and why?
- Are there services we currently provide that duplicate what other organizations are providing or could do better?

Read more on this page about the upcoming changes in Human Services. We plan to continue these service evaluations with the goal of reviewing each department and division in time.

CITY STILL EXPLORING OPTIONS FOR NEW COMMUNITY CENTER

A potential new community center is under consideration, but future plans no longer focus exclusively on a partnership with the YMCA. In November, the City Council decided they would like to conduct research on other options while keeping the door open for possible future conversations with the YMCA. In 2016, a task force recommended that the City consider finding a partner to share the costs of a community center project. The City began informal discussions with the YMCA later that year. Since then, a market research survey revealed that while 63 percent of respondents favored building a new community center, the number of potential new members for a YMCA facility was lower than the YMCA expected. The YMCA’s projected financial investment in a new center was less than the City Council desired. “We are grateful to the YMCA for its commitment to this conversation over the past two years,” City Manager Jamie Verbrugge said. “We wish the YMCA well in its work to build strong kids, strong families and strong communities.” “Work continues to develop a new community center that will serve a broader section of the community,” Community Services Director Diann Kirby said. For information, contact Diann Kirby at 952-563-8717 or dkirby@bloomingtonmn.gov.

A NEW CITY OFFICE AIMS TO SERVE RESIDENTS BETTER

Reaching out to residents and stakeholders and fostering meaningful engagement are two areas of focus for the City. To continue progress in those areas, the City reorganized its Human Services Division into two separate work groups: the Community Outreach and Engagement Division, and Creekside Community Center. This new structure is intended to focus the City’s investment of resources and align with the City’s six strategic priorities of community amenities, community image, equity and inclusion, high-quality services, focused renewal and environmental sustainability. Community Outreach and Engagement staff will advance each of these priorities with a focus on equity and inclusion. The new division will expand on the City’s current engagement activities and develop consistent outreach efforts by using staff already involved in projects such as resident focus groups, Bloomington Learn to Lead Initiative and Students in Government Day. Staff will serve as advocates and change agents to ensure traditionally under-served or underrepresented populations are considered and heard in the development of City programs and services. The new office will also focus on helping recruit candidates for boards and commissions with the goal of



helping residents better understand the City’s processes and how they can have a voice and impact City government. Creekside Community Center began operating as a part of the Parks and Recreation Department after this shift. No changes have been made to programs and services at this time, but the change better positions the City to provide enhanced services should a new community center be built.



EARTH ACTION HERO

BUSINESSES IN THE SPOTLIGHT ON ENERGY TOURS

Smart energy practices are a bright spot at IKEA in Bloomington. The store has the largest rooftop solar panel installation in Minnesota, with 4,316 panels installed in 2012—that’s enough to eliminate the emissions of 157 cars or power 100 homes each year. IKEA also uses LED lighting exclusively in their parking structures and most areas of the store. And all the light bulbs they sell to customers? Those are LED, too.

“Sustainability is one of IKEA’s values. We believe in operating for the many and making sure sustainable options are accessible to everyone,” IKEA staff member Kwame Herzog said.

Kwame was one of the team from IKEA leading the Best Practices Energy Tour, a recent collaboration with the Bloomington Sustainability Commission. The commission kicked off the tour series with a visit to Quality Bicycle Products last summer. The events serve as a way for local business people to see how their peers are saving energy

and money all while helping the environment.

“Businesses consume about 79 percent of the energy in Bloomington,” Sustainability Commissioner Steve Flagg said. “These tours are a total win-win. Finding new efficient practices is good for the environment, good for resources and good for the pocketbook.”

People from local businesses met for the tour of IKEA in October. These tours introduced energy projects to other business owners, facility and sustainability managers and project managers. Xcel and CenterPoint representatives attend these tours to answer questions about potential energy improvements along with representatives from the City.

For more information or to receive an invitation to the next tour, contact Steve Flagg at sflagg@BloomingtonMN.gov.

HOLIDAY GARBAGE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION SCHEDULE

This holiday season, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day fall on a Tuesday and will affect garbage and recycling collection. Tuesday through Friday collections will occur one day later than usual. Monday collection will remain unchanged. For a printable collection calendar, visit blm.mn/recycling-2018.

December 2018/January 2019						
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

RECYCLE WEEK HOLIDAY* * No pickup; pickup one day later.

EXTRA RECYCLING

’Tis the season for extra recycling. When the holidays come, paper piles follow. Place all recyclables directly in your cart. Any extra recycling should go into paper bags next to your recycling cart. Flatten extra cardboard into a pile no larger than three feet wide and one foot tall, then bundle it with string or twine and place next to your cart. Notify the hauler ahead of time for unusually large amounts of recycling. Call 952-563-8726, select option two, and then select your recycling hauler to contact a customer service representative.

ORGANICS RECYCLING

Organics drop-off recycling will continue through the winter. Collection hours will remain the same: 30 minutes before sunrise until 10 p.m. For more information on accepted organics, visit blm.mn/organics and register for program updates via email, or call 952-563-8760.



WINTER CART PLACEMENT

During winter, consider weather conditions for an appropriate location to place your carts. Shovel out a safe, accessible space and path for your carts in the event of snow or ice. Place carts at least three to five feet from other carts, vehicles, mailboxes, trees, bushes and other objects.



GOING SALT-FREE FOR WINTER ICE AND SNOW

When it comes to sidewalks and driveways, a little salt goes a long way. Why not try to go salt-free this winter, at least as much as possible?

“The easiest thing to do is shovel snow before it gets packed down and eliminate the need for salt,” Water Resources Specialist Steve Gurney said.

If salt is needed to tackle ice or snow, use a light hand for application. It takes less than a 12-ounce coffee cup of salt to treat 1,000 square feet (about the size of a typical two-car driveway.) Keep in mind salt appears to melt away but doesn’t actually disappear. Also, salt’s effectiveness lessens as temperatures drop. Salt doesn’t melt ice if the pavement is below 15 degrees, so use sand for traction when it’s too cold.

“A teaspoon of salt is all it takes to contaminate five gallons of water and the damage is cumulative,” Gurney said. “Chloride concentrations have been getting worse for our water bodies over time.”

Once salt gets into water, only reverse osmosis or distilling can remove it. Neither method is cost-effective.



KANE RECEIVES OMAR BONDERUD AWARD

Community service is a big part of Dennis Kane’s life, and protecting human rights is his passion. The longtime Bloomington resident received this year’s Omar Bonderud award. It’s a tribute to Kane’s dedicated leadership on the Bloomington Human Rights Commission. Kane is quick to point out that any accomplishments came through teamwork beyond his individual contribution. He attributes his success to the City Council and Lorinda Pearson, former Manager of the City’s Human Services Division, among others.



Kane is a natural leader and networker. He brings different people together to reach for something more than they can do separately. The retired library manager and teacher joined the HRC in 2012 and served as commission chairperson from 2014 to 2017. From disabilities to transgender issues, when it comes to human rights, Kane has tackled it all for the HRC. He sees himself as a cheerleader spreading the word about the importance of human rights and volunteering as a way to build connections for a greater good. “The world is constantly changing and we have responsibility to serve,” Kane said.

The HRC presents the Omar Bonderud Award, named after its first chairperson, to an individual or organization that has made a significant contribution to ensuring the rights of people in Bloomington. Formed in 1968, the HRC aids and advises the Council in ensuring that all residents have equal opportunity in employment, housing, public accommodations, public services and education, and in other affairs that affect the social well-being of the community.


For information, call 952-563-8733 or visit blm.mn/hrights.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION’S COMMUNITY SERVICE HAPPY 50TH TO THE HRC

Congratulations to the Human Rights Commission (HRC) on 50 years of distinguished community service. Dedicated staff and volunteers have worked hard over the years. While the HRC has many groundbreaking initiatives to its credit, a few major milestones are listed below. To see a complete timeline of HRC accomplishments, visit blm.mn/hrights.

1968

HRC receives the first annual Human Rights Award presented by the League of Minnesota Human Rights Commissioners.



HRC collaborates with the Bloomington School District to develop a Statement on Immigration.

1972

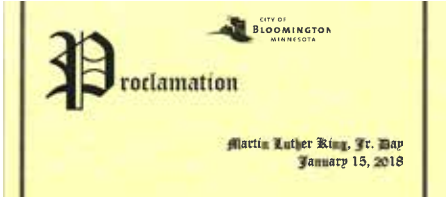
1977

1978

2011


2017

2018



The Council establishes the HRC following the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.

At the urging of the HRC, the Council offers a \$2,500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for a cross burning on a black family’s lawn.



HRC celebrates 50 years of aiding and advising the Council.

MEET HRC’S YOUTH COMMISSIONERS

Each year, Bloomington’s Human Rights Commission offers a few students the opportunity to make a difference as youth commissioners. Jefferson High School senior Angela Kunkel and Kennedy High School alumnae Ellie Smith were appointed in 2018.



ANGELA KUNKEL

Q: What made you want to get involved by serving on the HRC?
A: I wanted to help implement real change in Bloomington that could have a lasting effect on this community.
Q: What do you want to do after high school?
A: Hopefully, I want to attend the University of Minnesota. I’m still undecided on what I want to study.
Q: What do you hope to accomplish on the HRC?
A: I think the HRC is a great opportunity for me to learn more about my community and advocate for a more equitable Bloomington where we can embrace and celebrate our diversity.
Q: What’s something you enjoy doing outside of school, work and volunteering?
A: Outside of school, I like to keep busy playing soccer and spending as much time outside as possible. If I’m not outside, I’m probably getting pizza and hanging out with my friends.



ELLIE SMITH

Q: What made you want to get involved by serving on the HRC?
A: Social justice and equity are things I’m very passionate about. The HRC is helping to move Bloomington toward being a more inclusive, multicultural city. I am excited about being a part of a commission that is working toward expanding cultural competence, diversity and inclusiveness.
Q: What do you hope to accomplish on the HRC?
A: I hope to take action as well as attend and lead events within the city that promote sustainable change and a sense of community. A goal I hope to work toward continuously in the HRC is combating the barriers that prevent marginalized populations within Bloomington from being and feeling like an important part of the community.
Q: What’s something you enjoy doing outside of school, work and volunteering?
A: Outside of work, school and volunteering, I really enjoy the outdoors. I enjoy hiking, running, paddle boarding and traveling to new places. I also enjoy live music.

BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY: DR. FOOTE’S HOMEY HAVEN

Even on a snowy winter’s day, Dr. Foote’s house looks comfortably warm and inviting on West 94th Street and Penn Avenue South. In the late 1900s, the town of Bloomington had a handful of similar homesteads.

Photo courtesy of the Bloomington Historical Society.



NOTABLE NEIGHBORS: BLOOMINGTON’S BLUE RIBBON BAKERS AND CANNERS

Do you know who the blue ribbon bakers and canners are around town? Cassandra Busch, Kerry Kelzenberg, *above*, and Rachel Yahnke took home first-place prizes from this year’s Minnesota State Fair. These busy cooks took time out between recipes to discuss their prize-worthy culinary creations.

Cassandra Busch hails from a family of dedicated bakers. Recipes are cherished keepsakes handed down from generation to generation. Busch said, “Baking is my passion, and I dream of opening a diner and bakery in Bloomington. I love to bake and want to spread the joy to others.”

The state fair gave Busch a chance to showcase her talent and bring in eight ribbons. Carrot cake and a cookie-on-a-stick of Fairchild, the state fair gopher mascot, took first places

Kerry Kelzenberg has roots entwined in a proud history of Minnesota farming. Today, she continues a tradition of great food by preparing her own canned goods. Among her prizes, Kelzenberg took first-place ribbons for watermelon rind pickles, honey lemonade with mint and peach butter with honey.



Her secret? “I buy the best ingredients I can at our Bloomington Farmers Market and Colorado peaches from Bob’s Produce,” she said. “I research and use trusted recipes. I pay attention to approved canning procedures by various extension services throughout the U.S.”

A recipe for plum jam won Rachel Yahnke a blue ribbon. The Bloomington resident enjoys canning jams, pickles and other homemade wonders. She cooks year-round and strives for blue-ribbon quality for every recipe she creates, whether for friends, family or show.

Want to learn more? See Bloomington’s blue-ribbon bakers at work in their kitchens at blm.mn/brbakers.

TRIMMING TO PREVENT OAK WILT

Majestic mighty oaks are susceptible to tiny fungus-spreading beetles. Oak sap beetles move fungal spores that spread oak wilt from tree to tree. Preventive pruning is the best defense.

Trim oak trees from November through February when oak wilt disease is dormant. Risk of infection is lower during cold weather. If oak trees are trimmed from April through October, a sealant of shellac or water-based paint should be applied to all cut branches and other wounds to prevent oak wilt infection. Disinfect tools if moving between multiple trees.

Fortunately, oak trees require little trimming. Low branches, storm damage, and growth into rooflines, gutters and other unwanted areas can necessitate trimming.

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



HOLIDAY LIGHT DISPLAY SHINES BRIGHT

David and Theresa Carroll’s lights are a bright spot of the holiday season. The twinkle of 15,000 multi-colored lights could almost blind Santa. David is unsure about the exact number of lights. The last tally came to 20,000, but that was before he switched to LED.

Installation takes around 100 hours. David’s not counting. For 23 years running, he and his wife have put on the holiday light show, mostly to entertain children.

The Carrolls give candy canes to kids, collect donations for charities and warm hearts at every turn. Their display spreads good tidings in the form of Santas, snowmen, stars, bears, penguins and candy canes, not to mention a Winnie the Pooh, Piglet, Eeyore, Tigger and a nativity scene.

Two neighbors have followed suit, creating their own light displays. The Carroll’s holiday light show runs from Thanksgiving to New Year’s Day, 6 – 11 p.m., weather permitting, on Briar Circle near Normandale Boulevard.



HOLIDAY TREE DISPOSAL

During the first two full weeks in January, natural Christmas trees will be collected as yard waste. Collections of natural green trees will occur during the weeks of January 6 and 13. A fee of approximately \$10 per tree will appear on your following month’s utility bill. To ensure your tree is ready for pick up:

- Remove tinsel, decorations, wires and stands.
- Set out before 7 a.m. on your collection day.
- Set out the tree no earlier than the day before pickup. Ensure it does not stick to snow or ice.
- Don’t include plastic, compostable or other bags.

For collection outside these weeks, call Utility Billing at 952-563-8726 to schedule a bulky item pickup. A fee of \$51 will be applied.



HRA COMMISSIONER AWARDED FOR SERVICE

This fall, Mike Fossum received the Conrad Rettmer Award for Commissioners from the Minnesota Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO). The annual award recognizes one Minnesota Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Commissioner for outstanding leadership in affordable housing and community development.

During his 18 years on the HRA Board, Fossum has been a driving force behind Lyndale Green, Penn American and several other large-scale projects. The redevelopments brought new housing, retail space and a grocery store to the city.

Fossum joined the HRA by appointment in 2000 while he was serving on the City Council and remains an active member of the Minnesota NAHRO and HRA.



HOLIDAY FOOD PACK AT CREEKSIDE

Would you like to have a special holiday meal with your family for less money? December’s Fare For All event features a holiday pack filled with seasonal foods to create an entire meal for \$30. Regular packages are also available and cost from \$10 to \$25. No income restrictions or other qualifications are required to participate. Stock up at Fare for All on Wednesday, December 12, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South. For information, visit blm.mn/fareall or call 952-563-4944.



SHOPPING CREEKSIDE BOUTIQUE FOR CRAFTS

Bloomington resident Raynata Lundquist likes to crochet, and at 87, she’s an expert. Selling her baby booties, tatted earrings and other handmade crafts at the Creekside Boutique enables her to share the beauty of her work and brings in a little money. Crafting is the kind of activity that sticks for a lifetime and the Creekside Boutique keeps craft traditions going.

The shop is unique in its year-round operation, selling new items handmade by older adults ages 50 to 90. Around 90 percent of the crafters hail from Bloomington.

For several decades, volunteers have run the shop at Creekside Community Center. Room 104 is brimming with lovingly crafted keepsakes. From embroidered towels to greeting cards to birdhouses to doll dresses, the range of items reflects the creativity of the crafters. Items cost from \$1.25 for a kitchen “scrubby” to \$99 or more for a faux fur or fleece jacket.

These quality crafts offer something for everyone. “The Creekside Boutique is one of Bloomington’s best-kept secrets,”



Program Leader Sandy Schmitz, *above*, said. Why not drop in and see what some of your neighbors have been crafting?

The holidays are a great time to shop for crafts. Stop in weekdays, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. and Tuesday evenings, 5 – 7 p.m., at Creekside, 9801 Penn Avenue South. In December, the boutique is open Saturdays, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Visit the boutique at the Indoor Farmer’s Market at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road on Saturday, December 8.

For information, visit blm.mn/boutique or call 952-563-4944.

GOING GREEN FOR GIFTING

This holiday season, consider creating memories instead of giving traditional boxed and wrapped gifts for an easy, no-waste holiday. Start a tradition for new experiences rather than new things.

Gift-giving alternatives

Many people would like to try new activities, but won’t spend the time and money on themselves. Get creative with memory gifting, give more of what really matters and avoid holiday shopping lines! Here are some ideas on how to create memories and give green.



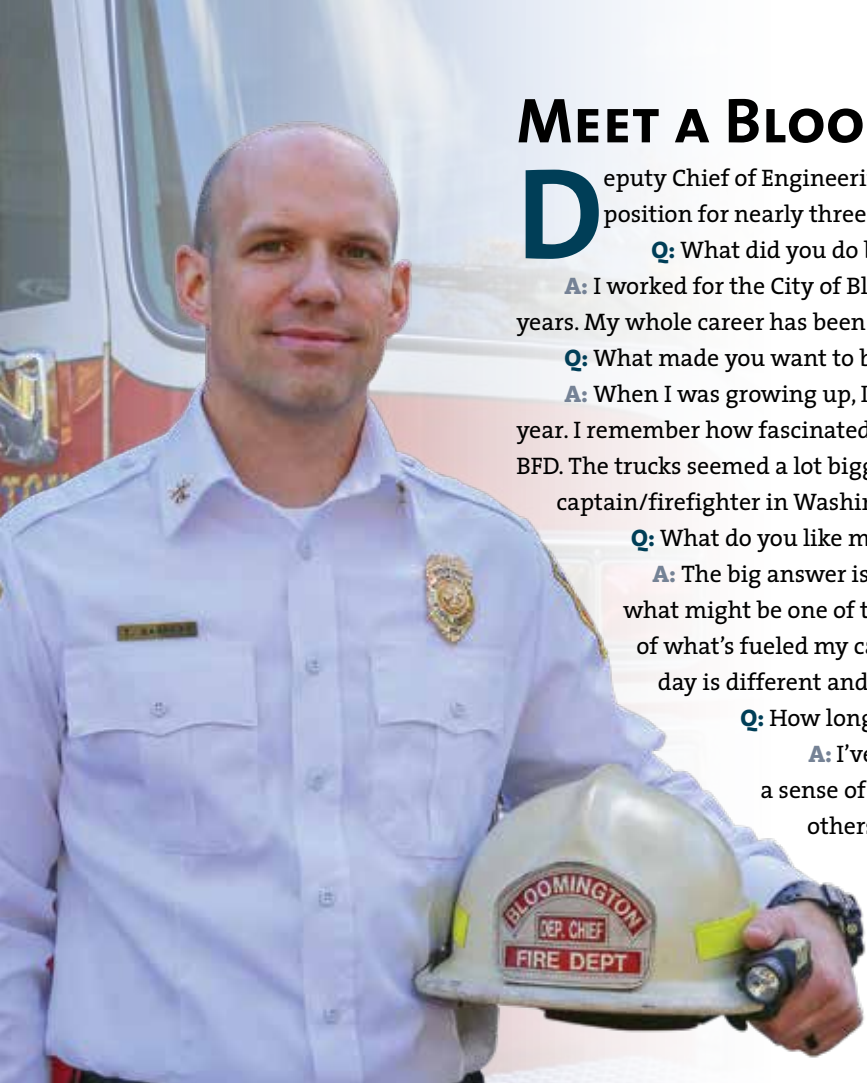
- Singing, piano, guitar, foreign language or other lessons.
- Registration in a camp or continuing education class.
- Passes to a regional, state or national park, or Metro Transit.

- Tickets to a sporting event, play, concert, exhibit or cooking class.
- Membership to a gym, health club or fitness studio.
- A book of family recipes.
- Help with shopping for food or cook meals, clean up, and serve or deliver.
- Homemade treat of the month: Prepare a breakfast item, bread or dessert and deliver in person. It’s a fun excuse to visit and stay in touch beyond the holidays.
- Share a top-10 book list and repurpose a favorite title you’ve read to get the recipient started.



- Fun note jar: Fill with notes labeled build indoor fort, make crafts, library visit, walk, bike, hike, ski, play cards or board games, and other activities you will do with the person.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency offers more no-waste holiday information. Visit blm.mn/mnpc or call 651-296-6300.



MEET A BLOOMINGTON FIREFIGHTER

Deputy Chief of Engineering and Operations Tim Barrett has been in his current position for nearly three months and a Bloomington Firefighter for 13 years.

Q: What did you do before you started full-time with the Fire Department?
A: I worked for the City of Bloomington in different aspect of public safety for three years. My whole career has been in public safety for Minnesota cities.

Q: What made you want to become a firefighter?
A: When I was growing up, I'd go to the Bloomington Fire Station 2 open house every year. I remember how fascinated I was by the trucks, the gear and the capabilities of the BFD. The trucks seemed a lot bigger as a kid. It runs in my family, too. My brother is a captain/firefighter in Washington state and my uncle was a firefighter in Saint Paul.

Q: What do you like most about firefighting?
A: The big answer is that you're helping people and being there for them in what might be one of the worst moments of their lives. That's the biggest part of what's fueled my career in public safety. The other aspect I enjoy is that each day is different and presents different challenges.

Q: How long have you lived in Bloomington?
A: I've lived here my whole life. I enjoy it because there's such a sense of community. Many of my friends from high school and others I grew up with still live here. It feels like a small town in that way, but you're close to all that the Twin Cities has to offer. Bloomington has it all, too—parks, shopping, transit.
Q: What do you like doing outside of work?
A: I enjoy spending time with my family, hunting, fishing and spending time at the cabin.

A HOT-BUTTON ISSUE: PREVENTING HOUSE FIRES

Half of all home heating fires occur in December, January or February. Check the following items off your list to prevent malfunctioning heating equipment—the number one cause of house fires during the winter. Have your furnace inspected and serviced by a qualified professional every 12 months. Contact a qualified professional to clean and inspect your chimney and vents. Use only dry, seasoned firewood in the fireplace. Use a metal or tempered glass fireplace screen. Use only portable space heaters with automatic shut-offs. Plug portable space heaters directly into an outlet and place at least three feet away from anything that can burn. Test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. Make sure children know to stay at least three feet away from the fireplace and space heaters. Dispose of cooled ashes and coals by placing them in a metal container and wetting them down. Keep the container outside your home and away from combustible materials.




For more information, contact Fire Marshal Laura McCarthy at 952-563-8965.

SEASON'S SAFETY TIPS

During the holidays, it's important to keep safety in mind. Take a look at the following tips to stay safe this holiday season. The Bloomington Police Department wishes you a safe and happy holiday season.

DRIVING

- Before reaching your destination, lock prior purchases in the trunk.
- Park close to your destination in a lighted area away from cars with tinted windows and large vehicles.
- Locate your keys before to returning to your car.
- Don't approach your car alone if suspicious people are in the area.



SHOPPING

- Shop during daylight. If it's dark, go with a friend or family member.
- Dress casually and comfortably. Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- If possible, shop without a purse or wallet. Carry your driver's license or other identification along with cash, checks and credit cards you expect to use.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash and keep cash in your front pocket.
- Select ATMs located in brightly lighted public places.
- Take your ATM receipts with you.

For information, contact Crime Prevention Coordinator Katie Chase at 952-563-8808 or kchase@BloomingtonMN.gov.

PREVENTING PACKAGE THEFT

Be merry but mindful of home deliveries. Thieves can take notice of packages left in your car or outside your home. While the number of packages actually stolen is relatively low compared to what's shipped, it is still wise to take precautions. Safeguard your packages with these tips:
If possible, have your packages delivered to a trusted neighbor's or relative's house, or another place where they can be received in person. When making a purchase online, if the retailer provides the option, select a specific delivery time.
Take advantage of delivery alerts and be notified when packages arrive. If possible, request the delivery company to hold your packages at their closest pick-up facility.
When purchasing from larger retailers, consider having your package delivered to a local store. Ask the shipper to require a signature confirmation of delivery.
If a package is delivered to you and stolen, call the Police at 952-563-4900 or 911. Also, report the theft to the company or



agency that performed the delivery and to the business that sold you the product.
For information, contact Crime Prevention Coordinator Katie Chase at 952-563-8808 or kchase@BloomingtonMN.gov.



AT YOUR SERVICE KEEPING BLOOMINGTON SAFE

A usual morning for Crime Prevention Specialist Katie Chase includes reviewing the police call log from the day before to identify trends and reaching out to neighborhood block captains to talk about what's happening and provide crime prevention tips. Chase is also part of the team that manages the Police Department's website and social media presence on Facebook, NextDoor and Twitter.



She coordinates events and programs to ensure residents know how they can prevent crime and make their communities safer, such as Coffee with a Cop, Safe Summer Nights and, the largest of these events, National Night Out. Chase debuted a new program in 2018—the junior police academy. Chase regularly leads educational presentations covering topics ranging from avoiding phone scams to making secure home improvements. She is also in charge of notifying neighborhoods about predatory offenders, in compliance with community notification laws.

SIGN UP FOR EMERGENCY ALERTS

Sign up to get emergency alerts and critical information when



it matters most. Citizen Alert is designed for time-sensitive emergency situations, not as an investigative tool or for announcing weather-related events. Only situations that are deemed emergencies by public safety staff will be communicated. You can receive alerts by phone, email or text message. For more information or to sign up, visit blm.mn/citizenalert.

Experience the holiday performances at the Center for the Arts

Mark your calendar for this lineup of holiday shows sure to make your celebration merry and bright. The Center for the Arts houses seven arts organizations in Civic Plaza at West 98th Street and Old Shakopee Road. For facility information, call 952-563-8889. For tickets, call the box office at 952-563-8575.



Continental Ballet Company The Nutcracker

Delve into the dreamy world of Clara as she dances with a cast of enchanting characters, including Herr Drosselmeyer, mice, dolls, snowflakes, soldiers, the Sugar Plum Fairy and more. Tchaikovsky's timeless tale of romance and pageantry can only delight.

December 1 and 8, 7:30 p.m.
December 2 and 9, 3 p.m.

Adults \$25, seniors and students \$19,
under 13 \$13, For tickets call 952-563-8562



Medalist Concert Band Sounds of the Season

Experience the splendor of the season, from traditional carols to modern classics. Hear your holiday favorites in this popular program.

December 16, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Adults \$19, seniors and students \$17

BENJAMIN BRITTEN

A Ceremony of Carols

Choral Favorites of the Season
featuring works of John Rutter,
Mark Hayes and Mac Huff

Bloomington Chorale

A Ceremony of Carols

Choral favorites put a joyous note on the season with works by Benjamin Britten, Mark Hayes, Mac Huff and John Rutter.

December 14, 7:30 p.m.
December 15, 4 p.m.
Adults \$16, seniors and students \$12

Monroe Crossing

A Bluegrass Christmas

Enjoy musical merriment from Monroe Crossing's mix of classic bluegrass, bluegrass gospel and heartfelt originals.

December 19, 7:30 p.m.
Tickets \$32



VISIT GIFTS IN THE GALLERY

Find handmade gifts that stand out for everyone on your holiday shopping list at the Inez Greenberg Gallery, December 5 – 19. Artistry's boutique-style sale features jewelry, pottery, fused glass, paintings and other creations by 70 local artists. The sale runs Monday through Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Thursday through Friday, 10 a.m. – 9 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m. – 9 p.m., and Sunday, 1 – 5 p.m.

Get an early peek at the artisan gifts during a reception Wednesday, December 5, 6 – 8 p.m. Enjoy live holiday music, light refreshments, a drink from the cash bar and a chance to win a door prize.

For more information visit blm.mn/gallerygift, or contact Artistry at 952-563-8575 or info@artistrymn.org.



ARTFULLY YOURS: CREATIVE PLACEMAKING UPDATES

WRIGHT'S LAKE PARK MURAL UNVEILED

The art is on the wall—all 500 feet of it—by Old Cedar Avenue and Highway 77. Creative Placemaking and Artistry staff along with Good Space Murals artists unveiled the Wright's Lake Park mural at 8501 17th Avenue South last fall. The mural's development involved the City, Artistry, Good Space Murals, residents, Valley View Middle School students and other community stakeholders. For information, visit blm.mn/placemaking or call 952-563-8744.

SOUTH LOOP UTILITY BOXES GETTING ARTSY

A utility box can be a beautiful thing. The City's Creative Placemaking Commission in partnership with Artistry sought designs for transforming ordinary utility boxes into extraordinary objects of art. The ARTBOX call resulted in 42 creative submissions. Up to three boxes will be wrapped in the spring. Mandel Cameron's Tiffany glass-style, woodland

landscape with poppies, turtles and birds was among the selected designs. The ARTBOX program will continue with new opportunities annually.

CREATIVE SPARKS PROGRAMS PLANNED FOR 2019

From 36 proposals submitted for the Creative Sparks program, four projects will be implemented in 2019. One of them is an upcoming event, the Bloomington Cultural Festival, slated for the spring, submitted by Curtis Griesel, on behalf of a steering committee. Freestanding temporary murals will stand in Bloomington Central Station Park from June – October, submitted by Rock Martinez. A concert will be held in Bloomington Central Station Park next summer, submitted by the Reflections Condos' social committee. A temporary 3D installation shaped like a great horned owl will be either at the Minnesota Valley Natural Wildlife Refuge or the River Ridge Playlot, submitted by Gail Katz-James.



DAY OF WEEK	REGULAR	SPECIAL HOURS	SCHOOL RELEASE DAYS (SRD)
	December 15 – 23, 29, 30 January 5 – 20, 22 – 31 February 2, 4 – 17	December 24, 31 February 3	December 26 – 28 January 1 – 4, 21 February 1, 18
M-F	4 – 9 p.m.	12 – 4 p.m.	12 – 9 p.m.
Saturday	12 – 9 p.m.		12 – 9 p.m.
Sunday	1 – 8 p.m.		1 – 8 p.m.

2018 – 2019 OUTDOOR RINKS AND WARMING HOUSES

Lace up your skates and head to one of Bloomington’s 13 outdoor skating rinks for some classic winter fun this year. During rink hours all facilities will be lighted. Some sites are supervised by Parks and Recreation employees during public skating hours. *See below.*

Weather and ice conditions permitting, park shelters will be open December 15 through February 18. For up-to-date rink conditions, closings and schedules visit the City’s website at blm.mn/rinks or call 952-563-8878 and select option 3.

All sites are closed December 25. See the charts at right and below to determine locations, dates and times rinks and warming houses are open.



LAST FARMERS MARKET OF THE SEASON

Don’t miss the last Bloomington Farmers Market of the season. Stock up for winter. Find a cornucopia of fresh produce, honey, cheese, chocolates and baked items, plus hand-made seasonal décor and gifts. (Perfect for holiday gifts and treats.) Shop with indoor comfort on Saturday, December 8, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. Be sure to pencil in plans for next year’s market season every Saturday from June 8 – October 19. For information, visit blm.mn/market or call 952-563-8877.

LOCATIONS AND FEATURES						
	Park	Address	Staffing	General	Hockey	Floodlights
1	Brookside	10000 Xerxes Avenue South	Weekends, SRD*	•	•	•
2	Bryant	1001 West 85th Street	Daily, Special hours	•	•	•
3	Brye	10500 Xavier Avenue South	Weekends, SRD*	•	•	•
4	Haeg	8301 Penn Avenue South	Volunteer basis	•	•	•
5	Kelly	185 East 102nd Street	Volunteer basis	•	•	•
6	Oak Grove	1301 West 104th Street	Weekends, SRD*	•	•	•
7	Poplar Bridge	4600 West 85th Street	Weekends, SRD*	•	•	•
8	Ridgeview	6001 West 94th Street	Volunteer basis	•	•	•
9	Running	9501 12th Avenue South	Daily, Special hours	•	2	•
10	Southwood	4800 Terracewood Drive	Volunteer basis	•	•	•
11	Sunrise	9401 Bloomington Ferry Road	Daily, Special hours	•	•	•
12	Tarnhill	9650 Little Road	Volunteer basis	•	•	•
13	Westwood	3490 West 109th Street	Daily, Special hours	•	2	•
* School release days (SRD)						

BOOK A PARK SHELTER

Does the cold weather make you long for the days of grilling out and playing at the park in the sun? Get a head start on your summer outdoor event planning and book a park shelter. Picnic shelters will soon be available to rent for picnics, receptions, reunions and meetings. Registration begins January 3 for shelter use April 15 through October 15. Shelters have electricity, grills, restrooms and drinking fountains. City parks offer nearby playgrounds, volleyball and horseshoe courts, trails and softball fields.

EAST BUSH LAKE PARK

9140 East Bush Lake Road, Shelter 3: Accommodates 200, \$360 including tax.

WEST BUSH LAKE PARK

94th Street at West Bush Lake Road, Shelter 1: Accommodates 200, \$290 including tax. Shelter 2: Accommodates 100, \$200 including tax.

MOIR PARK

104th Street at Morgan Avenue, Due to construction happening in 2019, reservation space is limited. Call 952-563-8877 for more information.



WINTER VOLLEYBALL

You can bump, set and spike through the winter with the City’s adult volleyball league. Games run January 2 through March 26 at the Kennedy High School Activity Center, 150 East 98th Street. You can sign-up for co-rec and women’s league teams. Games occur Monday through Thursday evenings. For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877 or visit blm.mn/adultsports.



SUMMER SOFTBALL

Keep yourself warm this winter with thoughts of summer days spent on the softball field. Registration for the 2019 summer softball season will open January 25 for returning teams who played in 2018. Registration for all teams will open February 25. Details on how to register and the dates and locations of games will be available on the City’s website in early January.



SNOW EMERGENCY SURVIVAL GUIDE

Occasionally traveling on icy, snowy roads is an unavoidable part of Minnesota winters. The City helps residents get through winter road conditions safely with snowplowing services at a cost of \$3.04 per month for an owner of a median-valued home. As early as 3 a.m., snowplow operators are out on the streets preparing them for morning commuters after or during a snowfall. They plow the most heavily used roads first and then move on to other roads, cul-de-sacs and sidewalks. The City prides itself on its snow removal services. In the 2018 resident survey, 76 percent of respondents rated the City’s snow removal services as excellent or good, which is higher than the national average.

WHAT IS A SNOW EMERGENCY?

A snow emergency is a declaration from the City that is automatically in effect when three or more inches of snow have accumulated. During a snow emergency, no parking is allowed on city streets for the following 48 hours or until the full width of the street has been plowed. There will be snow emergency alerts on the City’s website, cable channel, E-Subscribe and social media pages.



SOLUTIONS TO SAFE STREETS AND WATER BODIES

To make it tougher for snow and ice to stick to streets, the City treats roads with an anti-icing brine solution. The brine is a mixture that includes water and salt. The solution evaporates and leaves behind thin deposits of salt after it is sprayed on streets. The salt prevents the bonding of snow and ice to the street so plows can more easily scrape the street clean. The brine solution reduces the amount of salt required to clear streets. This, in turn, protects the surrounding bodies of water from salt runoff in the spring.

PLAY IT SAFE

Winter can be a wonderland for kids—building snowmen, sledding and even playful snowball fights add to the joy of the season. Just remember to help your kids play it safe in the snow. Never allow children to build tunnels or snow forts near the street. The force and weight of the snow coming off of the plows can collapse tunnels or forts and may severely harm kids. Keep sleds and other toys out of the street and far away from the edge of the road. Snowbanks make it difficult for plow operators to see children in these areas.

WAIT TO CLEAR YOUR DRIVEWAY

Don’t double your workload. Wait to clear the end of your driveway until your street has been plowed so you only have to shovel once. While clearing streets, crews may inadvertently plow snow from the road into driveways that have already been shoveled.



PRACTICE PROPER PARKING PROTOCOL

To ensure that all streets are fully cleared, Bloomington Police enforce a parking ban during snow emergencies. To find out if a snow emergency has been declared, visit the City’s website or call the Snow Emergency Hotline at 952-563-8768.

KEEP SIDEWALKS CLEAR

Keeping your sidewalk clear of snow and ice makes walking around Bloomington safer for pedestrians. The City asks that residents and business owners keep their sidewalks free of fallen snow and snow that may be moved onto the sidewalk during street or driveway snow removal efforts. It is illegal for any vehicle to block a public sidewalk. The City is also responsible for keeping some sidewalks clear—crews plow 250 miles of sidewalk each year at a cost of 22 cents per month for an owner of a median-valued home.

SHOVEL OUT FIRE HYDRANTS, MAILBOXES AND GARBAGE BINS

Shovel out fire hydrants near your home to help protect your neighborhood from house fires. Accessible hydrants greatly reduce the time it takes firefighters to extinguish fires. Keep your mailbox clear of snow. Mailboxes should not extend past the curb and should have sturdy four-by-four timber posts. The bottoms of mailboxes should be no less than 45 inches off the ground and located on the left side of your driveway. If it snows on or near garbage collection day, keep garbage and recycling bins away from the end of the driveway and behind the curb. Place containers off sidewalks to leave room for plows.

START SEEING SNOWPLOWS

Every winter when snow flies, the City’s snowplow fleet is out in force keeping our streets safe. A snowplow weighs 17 times more than a car. In a crash with a plow, car passengers are more likely to be seriously injured. Here are a few things to remember when sharing the road:

- Yield to snowplows and stay alert.
- Give snowplow drivers plenty of room. Allow at least five car lengths between your vehicle and a snowplow.
- Never drive into a snow cloud created by a snowplow.
- Do not use cruise control on wet, icy roads.
- Keep garbage cans in your driveway, not on the road.

If snow removal operations damage turf or a mailbox, contact Street Maintenance at 952-563-8760.

SIGN UP FOR ALERTS

Do you want to get an email whenever the City declares a snow emergency? There’s a service for that. Sign up for E-Subscribe alerts at blm.mn/E-Subscribe to stay in the loop.

LET IT SNOW! LET IT SNOW! LET IT SNOW! BLOOMINGTON’S SNOW TOTALS

There’s plenty of snow to be found during Minnesota winters. Bloomington is no exception. On average, Bloomington sees 45 inches of snowfall a year. The winter of 2010 – 2011 was particularly snowy. It clocked in at a record-high 86-inch snowfall. Check out how the last couple years stack up.

