

BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



DECEMBER 2019

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REFLECTING ON BLOOMINGTON'S NATURAL BEAUTY

Resident Bob Rorke submitted this photo of a group of swans soaking up the sun while floating in a small pond on a winter morning in Bloomington. He is one of many residents who submitted their photos of Bloomington places and faces in 2019. Have you taken a great photo of Bloomington you want to share? Show us at blm.mn/photos.

LONGTIME MAYOR RETIRING BIDDING FAREWELL TO MAYOR GENE WINSTEAD

The City of Bloomington is approaching the end of an era. After 20 years, Mayor Gene Winstead will retire. January 2 marks the end of his fifth term. Few mayors have served so long or done so much for their communities. Winstead's leadership was exemplary and the decisions he made will positively impact generations to come.

FROM COMMISSIONER TO MAYOR

In the early 1980s, Winstead's record of service began as a Bloomington Crime Prevention Association member and a business representative on a Housing and Redevelopment Association committee focused on the transformation and redevelopment of 98th and Lyndale. That interest led to him serving as chair of the Planning Commission during Mall of America's development. In 1995, he was elected to the City Council.



In 1999, he was elected mayor. After 35 years of public service, Winstead has become part of the fabric of the community and has helped shape Bloomington.

During his tenure, Winstead saw many major projects through completion. Among his successes are the opportunity housing ordinance, citywide garbage and recycling collection, workplace smoking ban and construction of Civic Plaza and Center for the Arts. While the achievements under Winstead's watch are too numerous to list, a few projects stand out.

INFRASTRUCTURE: ROADS AND WATER

Through Winstead's guidance, the importance of maintaining roads, sewers and water systems—those unseen structural essentials—has been an ongoing priority. The City looks after nearly 350 center-lane miles of streets. Work continues year-round for snow removal, sweeping, crack sealing, street patching and structural maintenance to ensure streets are serviceable and safe. Additionally, Bloomington's water continues to surpass all state and federal requirements for safety, and received first-place honors in state and national water taste tests.

DEVELOPMENT: BLOOMINGTON CIVIC PLAZA

In 2003, Civic Plaza opened, including the City's Police Department offices. Traditional City offices operate alongside community art organizations in the Center for the Arts. Winstead was a proponent for the innovative design and construction of Civic Plaza to benefit all of Bloomington.

REDEVELOPMENT: OLD CEDAR AVENUE BRIDGE AREA

The City Council ended a 20-year debate over the trail link between Hennepin and Dakota Counties with its vote to invest \$12.9 million to fix the Historic Cedar Avenue Bridge. Winstead regarded the project as a chance to highlight community history and to expand outdoor recreational opportunities.

STRONG FINANCIALS: AAA BOND RATINGS

Financial excellence has always been at the forefront of Winstead's decisions. Bloomington is one of 37 cities with three triple-A bond ratings from Moody's, Standard & Poors and Fitch. The positive influence strong bond ratings make on the cost of borrowing, long-term financial security, development potential and the City's reputation cannot be overstated.

FIRSTS IN PUBLIC HEALTH

In 2004, Bloomington became the first metro-area city to ban smoking in workplaces, public areas, bars and restaurants. Other cities followed, along with the State of Minnesota. In 2014, the City Council passed an ordinance banning electronic cigarettes in most public places.

RECORD OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE

Bloomington has earned a reputation of providing high-quality City services at an affordable price. Results from this year's National Citizen Survey™ revealed 86% of respondents rated the quality of life in Bloomington as excellent or good. The city has thriving commercial districts and celebrated neighborhoods. Residents take pride in their community.

MAYOR’S MEMO

SIGNING OFF

By Mayor Gene Winstead

All good things come to an end and I’ve had a great run as Mayor of this fine city. After five terms, I decided retirement was a good thing for my future. Through it all, I’ve kept a keen eye on the future and what’s best for Bloomington. Strong relationships and people working together in business, government and the community have been the keys to our success.

I’ve enjoyed helping to ensure Bloomington is a thriving community and the kind of place that people and businesses like to call home. It’s great to welcome new ideas, and equally important to reflect on those who came before us. Smart, thoughtful decision making has always kept Bloomington strong. Our predecessors who served on this Council set the stage for the accomplishments we are seeing today. It’s a tradition I valued and worked to keep going and one that will, no doubt, continue.

There’s still more to do, but I’m proud of many things we’ve accomplished. The City has benefitted from a steady pay-as-you-go financial philosophy. Our resulting AAA rating (the highest score of credit worthiness a city can get) puts us in a good position to fund necessary improvements to this community and react to change and challenges.

In 2004, Bloomington enacted a trailblazing first with a ban on smoking in work places, public places, bars and restaurants. Other cities followed, as did the State of Minnesota with the Freedom to Breathe Act.

Public safety has always been a priority. Police and Fire have the tools they need to get the job done and keep our community safe. I recall years ago, as a member of the Bloomington Crime Prevention Association, we raised the money needed to get a new K-9 unit going one \$10 donation at a time.

I’ve enjoyed working with Bloomington organizations that make our community super strong. The Optimist Club, Bridging, Bloomington Athletic Association, Bloomington Rotary, Cornerstone, Chamber of Commerce and VEAP, to name a few, keep us going, give back, provide resources, help people in need and improve lives. But it is the residents in this community that make a huge difference.

I’ve been so fortunate to have a supportive wife and family through the years. We moved to Bloomington in the 1970s and my daughters grew up in the house we live in now. In the future, I’ll spend more time with my family and our grandchildren. I may do some traveling and will keep working on my businesses.

If there’s a city for which to be mayor, this is the city. My time as mayor may be done, but I will still be around and involved in this great community. Retiring as mayor starts the chapter of a new story. More good stories are to come.



BRIEFING

Volume 27, Number 12

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

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The City of Bloomington complies with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs, and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations. For more information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; 952-563-8733. Upon request, this information can be available in Braille, large print, audio tape and/or electronic format.

BLOOMINGTON VOTERS ELECT NEW MAYOR, APPROVE BALLOT QUESTION

A few familiar faces and one new representative will make up the City Council in 2020. Bloomington had a more than 31 percent voter turnout with 18,043 ballots cast in the November 5 election, according to City Clerk Janet Lewis.

Tim Busse, *below*, was elected as Bloomington’s first new mayor in 20 years. He had been appointed to the District III seat in 2011. In the fall of that same year, he successfully ran for the at-large seat and has served in that role since. As mayor, Busse says his priorities will be to continue the thoughtful stewardship of tax dollars while retaining high-quality City services, actively preparing for and adapting to the city’s demographic changes and revitalizing neighborhoods and aging commercial nodes.

“Bloomington will be bold. The City has succeeded for decades by being creative, innovative and bold, and when I’m mayor, we will continue to do that,” Busse said.

Dwayne Lowman was reelected as the councilmember for District I. He has been a resident for 35 years and is a senior operational analyst at Wells Fargo. He was elected to City Council in 2013.

Another returning incumbent, Shawn Nelson, was reelected to represent District II. He was elected to the Council in 2017. Nelson owns a residential remodeling company and has lived in Bloomington for 20 years.

Jenna Carter is new to the City Council and will serve as an at-large councilmember. She has advocated at the local and state level for issues impacting the health of Minnesota communities for more than a decade. She also volunteers at Bloomington schools and serves on the Bloomington Housing Coalition, the City’s NOAH workgroup and the VEAP board of directors.

Newly elected officials will be sworn in at the January 2 council meeting.

More than 77 percent of voters who came to the polls voted “yes” on the ballot question that decided to remove a section of the City Charter that regulated intoxicating liquor.

Section 12.12 of the City charter was officially removed 30 days after the election. One potential result of this change is that the City Council could create licenses to allow new types of intoxicating liquor establishments, including taprooms and cocktail lounges.





Park System Master Plan Underway

A park system master plan is a road map that lays out a long-term vision and establishes goals and guiding principles that serve as a guide for future park system investments. City staff consider information gathered from the community, local and national park and recreation trends, community demographics, facility needs, current and future programming needs, maintenance and long-term sustainability while drafting the new plan.

What Makes Up the Bloomington Park System?

Bloomington has 97 parks, nearly 4,000 acres of parkland and many miles of pedestrian and biking trails. The park system also includes facilities such as Bloomington Center for the Arts, Bloomington Ice Garden, Dwan Golf Club, Hyland Greens Golf and Learning Center, and Creekside Community Center.

Tell Us What You Want to See

The City is eager to benefit from your knowledge and thoughts about the Bloomington parks system, including trails, programming, facilities, individual parks and athletic fields. Give us your feedback online today at blm.mn/park-master-plan. Staff will also host pop-up events and focus group meetings through the coming year and will provide regular reports to the City Council along the way. For more information, call 952-563-8877.

City Council, Staff Gather Input on Potential Community Center

The City Council and City staff have been discussing a new community center for many years. In 2015, a resident task force recommended building a new facility to serve all residents.

In early 2019, the City Council was focused on two potential sites—Civic Plaza and the existing Creekside Community Center. After considering many different options at each site, it was determined that neither was large enough for the community center being envisioned with the amenities residents and the task force had requested. This spring, councilmembers directed staff to look into Valley View Park, at 90th Street between Nicollet and Portland Avenues, as a possible site.

Because Valley View Park is currently the Council’s preferred location, they have instructed staff to evaluate the site. Part of the evaluation process is showing very preliminary plans of how a community center could fit at Valley View and how the park could be improved—a step that is critical to making a planning decision.

Another important part of the planning process that occurred this past fall was gathering resident input through surveys, in-person meetings and online forms, and using the collected feedback to guide options and preliminary planning documents.

The initial outcome of the planning process included the input received from residents, a traffic and parking study and site alternatives that showed different scenarios of what a community center in the park could look like. The results were presented at a public event November 14 and at a City Council meeting on November 18, during which a public meeting was also held.

Council is taking the input from residents and information from staff and consultants under advisement and is expected to make a decision on next steps in early December.

For more information or to sign up to receive emails about the project, visit blm.mn/communitycenter or call 952-563-8896.



More Amenities Available at BIG

There’s a lot to celebrate at the Bloomington Ice Garden (BIG). The facility turns 50 next year, and after the completion of a three-part renovation project, BIG is more welcoming than ever.

BIG’s updated main entryway is more visible from the outside. New automatic doors, enhanced lighting and expanded seating make the lobby more user friendly.

Rinks one and two now have Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant ramps and platforms. Visitors with accessible-seating needs can get a better view from a higher vantage point.

The locker rooms at rinks one and two were renovated to feature separate restroom and shower areas.

The renovation and updates were needed to ensure the best possible experience for guests. Take a look for yourself, and visit Bloomington Ice Garden, 3600 West 98th Street. For more information, go to blm.mn/big or call 952-563-8841.



Water Park Proposal Offers Exciting Positives

More community fun and excitement could be coming your way. A new water park in the South Loop District would bring many exciting positives to Bloomington. While the feasibility of this project is being studied, consider what the water park would offer to the community.

The proposed water park would add amenities to the region that are not offered today. With a building footprint of approximately 250,000 square feet, it would be one of the largest indoor water parks in North America. The water park would offer grand-scale family fun with a possible reduced entry fee for Bloomington residents, as financials will allow.

The water park project risks no general fund tax dollars for several reasons. At the outset, the community would benefit from an incremental increase in lodging tax revenue, along with an estimated \$1 million in new admissions tax revenues to the City’s general fund. What’s more, Provident Resources Group, a nonprofit entity, would borrow the money to build the water park.

Visit blm.mn/waterpark or call 952-563-4861 for more information.



**HOME IMPROVEMENT
FAIR 2020**
B L O O M I N G T O N • M N

Seeking 2020 Vendors

The City and the Housing Redevelopment Authority will host the 2020 Home Improvement Fair Saturday, February 22. Home remodeling professionals and vendors who are interested in exhibiting at the event must register before Friday, December 16. For more information and a registration form, visit blm.mn/vendors.



REPURPOSE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

Did you know that you can repurpose your Christmas tree for continued use outside your home? Place the tree in your yard or garden for use by birds and other wildlife. The branches provide shelter from the wind and cold. Food can be supplied by hanging fruit slices, seed cakes or suet bags on its branches. You can also smear peanut butter and seeds in pine cones and hang them in the tree.

Another way to repurpose your tree is to prune off the branches and place the boughs over perennials as winter mulch. You could also chip the tree and use as mulch around trees, shrubs or in flower beds.



RECYCLE YOUR TREE

If you would like your natural Christmas tree to be taken as yard waste, collections will occur during the weeks of January 5 – 11 and 12 – 18. A fee of approximately \$10 per tree will appear on your following month’s utility bill.

To prepare your tree for pick up, remove all decorations, wires and stands. Set out before 7 a.m. on your collection day but no earlier than the day before pickup. Keep snow or ice off the tree. No plastic, compostable or other bags should be included.

For collection outside these two weeks, call Utility Billing at 952-563-8726 and schedule a bulky item pickup for a fee. Visit blm.mn/garbage for information.



EARTH ACTION HEROES: CARPOOLERS

Most mornings, City of Bloomington Public Works employee Ricardo de Jesus, *above right*, leaves his home in the north metro to pick up his carpool partner and coworker, Eric Schoon, *above left*, at a nearby Park and Ride. They have made the 50-mile trek to work together three to four times a week for the past 12 years.

“I drive because I have a more fuel-efficient car, and Eric pays me weekly to fill up the gas tank,” de Jesus said. “We have similar interests in sports, (Motocross is a shared favorite) and because we work in the same department, we can collaborate on work projects during our commute. The time just goes by faster when you have someone to talk to.”

He offers up some advice for people considering carpooling, “Be flexible and leave yourself plenty of time to allow for unexpected traffic delays, especially with all the road construction. Then relax and try to be patient. We all want to get to work safely.”

Schoon and de Jesus also benefit from a parking spot located close to the employee entrance reserved for carpoolers. It’s an easy way for employers to encourage and reward carpooling at their worksites. Commuter Services helps companies set up carpool parking, providing the signs and managing the program. For more information, visit 494corridor.org.



CONSIDERING CARPOOLING TO WORK?

Commuter Services can help! Find potential carpool partners and get tips on how to set up a successful carpool arrangement. Explore vanpooling with the region’s Metro Vanpool program, a great option for longer commutes. Learn more about these programs and request resources on Commuter Services’ Commute Assistant page at blm.mn/commuteassist.

HOLIDAY RECYCLING TIPS

’Tis the season. From Thanksgiving to New Year’s Day, holiday waste increases by more than 25%. Ensure you’re putting your holiday discards in the right place. Look at what you can and cannot put in your recycling cart.

Yes:

- Gift boxes: Break down to recycle or save intact to use again next year.
- Cartons: From eggnog, wine, broth and milk.
- Cards, junk mail and newspapers.
- Tins: Decorative, cookie and pie, or save for reuse.
- Aluminum foil and trays (mostly clean): Ball up the foil to be three inches in diameter or larger.

Yes and no:

- Wrapping paper: Yes, if free of glitter, foil, velvet and reflective areas. No, if not.

No:

- Ribbons.
- Holiday lights: Bring to the Hennepin County Drop-Off Facility, 1400 West 96th Street, for recycling.

Want to recycle your food waste? Take your food, prep scraps, leftovers and paper towels to an organics drop-off location listed at blm.mn/organics.

For more information about how to properly dispose of items, visit blm.mn/recycling or call 952-563-8760.

EXTRA RECYCLING AROUND THE HOLIDAYS

During the busy holiday season, extra recycling accumulates. Wondering what to do with the surplus? First, fill your cart with recyclable materials. If any recyclable materials are left over, place them in paper bags and put the filled bags next to your recycling cart. Cardboard should be flattened and stacked into a pile no larger than three feet wide and one foot tall. Bundle the stacked cardboard with string or twine and place next to your cart. For more information, visit blm.mn/recycling.

HOLIDAY GARBAGE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION SCHEDULE

One more item for your holiday to-do list: Take note of the holiday garbage and recycling collection schedule. This year Christmas Day and New Year’s Day fall on a Wednesday. The schedule will change with Wednesday through Friday collections occurring one day later than usual. Monday and Tuesday collection will remain unchanged. For more information, visit blm.mn/recycling.

December 2019						
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	31				

January 2020						
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	31	

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



AT YOUR SERVICE: LAURA HORNER RECYCLING AS A LIFESTYLE AND A CAREER

Some people make recycling a lifestyle. For Laura Horner that means taking her compostable items to drop-off sites. Zero-waste activities are in keeping with her personal outlook and her professional responsibilities of garbage and recycling as Public Works project coordinator for the City.

“At home, I try to have a small impact. As a habit, I recycle and participate in organics recycling. The goal is to produce less garbage,” Horner said. “For me, this amounts to about one bag of garbage every two to three weeks.”

Years ago while backpacking in Montana’s Beartooth Mountains, Horner discovered her passion for environmental protection. An interest in sustainability and the environment led her to earn a bachelor’s degree in environmental science, policy and management.

On the job, she enjoys providing education on the City’s recycling program, talking with residents, and working toward making the organics drop-off sites more visible in the community. The annual Citywide Curbside Cleanup program is among the many projects Horner coordinates.

TIPS ON HOW TO GO ZERO WASTE

- Bring your coffee mug to work.
- Keep a reusable water bottle and refill with great-tasting Bloomington water.
- Compost your discarded organics at a drop-off site listed at blm.mn/organics.
- Learn more about what you can and cannot recycle at blm.mn/recycling.

BOOK A PARK SHELTER

Get a head start on your summer event planning by booking a park shelter. Shelters will soon be available to rent for picnics, receptions, reunions and meetings. Registration begins January 2 for shelter use April 15 through October 15. Beginning February 3, reservations will also be accepted online. 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.
- West Bush Lake Park 94th Street at West Bush Lake Road, Shelter 1: Accommodates 200. Shelter 2: Accommodates 100.
- Moir Park 104th Street at Morgan Avenue, Shelter 1: Accommodates 200+. Shelter 2: Accommodates 60.

Call 952-563- 8877 or visit blm.mn/rentals for more information. Smaller shelters at other City parks may be available to reserve upon request.



DO MORE WITH LESS SALT

When snow and ice need to go, it’s easy to overdo the salt. As temperatures drop, salt becomes less effective. Use sand for traction when the temperature falls below 15 degrees.

“Avoiding salt use in the first place should always be the first step,” Minnesota GreenCorps Member Meg Hannasch said. “Stay ahead of the winter salt-use game. Shovel snow before it becomes packed down and head off the need for salt.”

If salt is necessary, follow the four s’s: Shovel first, scatter sparingly, sweep up any extra and switch methods when needed. Less than a 12-ounce coffee mug of salt treats the average driveway of 1,000 square feet.

Salt might disappear to the eye, but remnants remain causing damage to wildlife and the environment. Reducing salt use is good for our local water bodies—especially those where salt levels are already high, like Nine Mile Creek.

For more information, visit blm.mn/recycling.



HELPING BEES BE BETTER

Honey bees. Wild bees. Did you know Minnesota has more than 350 species of native bees? Many are in trouble. A double punch of heightened habitat loss and chemical use has hit bees hard.

You can help. Provide much-needed housing for wild bees—put up a nesting block. Wait until native bees emerge in mid-spring to cut or clean your garden beds. Refrain from pesticide use and avoid purchasing neonicotinoid (an insecticide linked to bee colony collapse disorder) treated plants.

Plant native flowers, grasses, shrubs and trees that help bees to thrive, and if you have a shoreline, add a buffer zone. The University of Minnesota has a list at blm.mn/natives.

Plan your garden with bees in mind. It’s never too early to be thinking about ways to help improve the environment in your community. A bonus: Bee-friendly habitats share many similarities with water-friendly habitats.

Look for more items in this series inspired by Clean Water Minnesota. For more information, go to blm.mn/beesMNw.



WINTER FARMERS MARKET CONTINUES

This winter the Bloomington Farmers Market has expanded with more days for your indoor shopping pleasure. Visit the market Saturdays, December 14, February 8 and March 14, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., inside Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. You’ll find seasonal produce, honey, chocolates, cheese, baked goods, handmade gifts and more. For more information, visit blm.mn/market or call 952-563-8877.



SHOP GIFTS IN THE GALLERY

Want to shop local for creative gifts? Take a look at the Inez Greenberg Gallery at the Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. Artistry presents the annual Gifts in the Gallery event, December 4 – 18, with an opening reception on December 4. Be dazzled by scarves, sculpture, jewelry, ceramics, pictures, glasswork and other irresistible finds offered during this juried, boutique-style holiday sale. Find that special gift for a friend, loved one or yourself. Enjoy convenient free parking and a relaxed atmosphere that makes holiday shopping fun for the whole family.

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

WINTER VOLLEYBALL

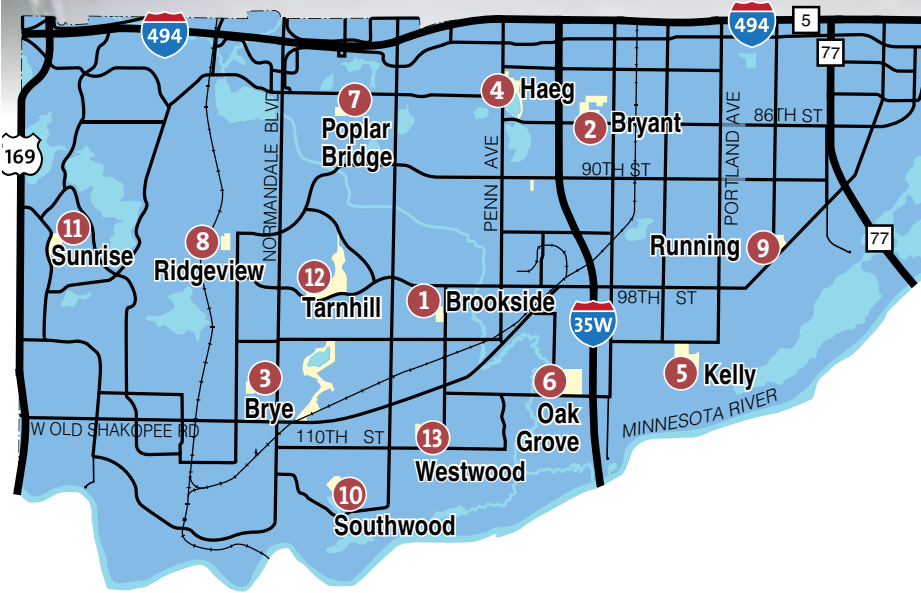
You can bump, set and spike through the winter with the City’s adult volleyball league. Games run January 6 through March 23 at the Kennedy High School Activity Center, 150 East 98th Street. You can sign-up for co-rec and women’s league teams. Games occur Monday through Thursday evenings. For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877 or visit blm.mn/adultsports.

SUMMER SOFTBALL

Keep warm this winter with thoughts of sunny summer days on the softball field. Registration for the 2020 summer softball season will open January 24 for returning teams who played in 2019. Registration for all teams will open February 24. Details on how to register and the dates and locations of games will be available on the City’s website in early January.

LOOKING FOR MORE FAMILY FUN?

Visit Artistry’s free Family Arts Day, Saturday, December 7, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., or fun family art workshops through the winter in Artistry’s Clay Studio. Visit blm.mn/famartpro for program listings and schedules.



DAY OF WEEK	REGULAR	SPECIAL HOURS	SCHOOL RELEASE DAYS (SRD)
	December 14 – 22, January 4 – 19, 21 – 31 February 1 – 16	December 24, 31 February 2	December 23 – January 3 January 20 February 17
M-F	4 – 9 p.m.	12 – 4 p.m.	12 – 9 p.m.
Saturday	12 – 9 p.m.		
Sunday	1 – 8 p.m.		

2019 – 2020 OUTDOOR RINK AND WARMING HOUSES

Don’t let winter weather keep you cooped up inside. Enjoy the season at one of Bloomington’s 13 outdoor skating rinks with some classic winter fun. During rink hours all facilities will be lighted. Some sites are supervised by Parks and Recreation employees during public skating hours. See table below.

Weather and ice conditions permitting, park shelters will be open December 14 through February 17. 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.

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

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)						

HOLIDAY FOOD FOR LESS AT CREEKSIDE

Season’s savings are in the bag at Creekside. Put together a holiday meal for your family for \$30. With the holiday food pack offered by Fare For All, you’ll save approximately 40% on an assortment of meats, vegetables, fruits and other pantry staples. Everyone is welcome to participate with no qualifications or income restrictions. Visit Fare For All on Wednesday, December 11, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South. For more information, call 952-563-4944 or visit blm.mn/cccpprogram.

HONE YOUR CRAFT AT CREEKSIDE

Come to the new Creekside crafting group and enjoy crafters’ company, get helpful hints or discover a new craft. Draw, knit, paint, weave, bead or create other crafts in a group setting. Bring your own project, enjoy the work of others and share ideas. Supplies are provided. The group is free and open to all skill levels, Mondays 2 – 4 p.m., at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South. For more information, call 952-536-4944.

MEET A FIREFIGHTER

Michael Eaton has been a firefighter for more than a year. He serves out of Station 6.

Q. What is your day job?

A. I stay at home with Luella, our two-year-old daughter, and work a few duty crew shifts for the Fire Department. Before Luella was born, I traveled three to four days a week as a corporate quality manager.

Q. What do you do for fun when you're not working or volunteering?

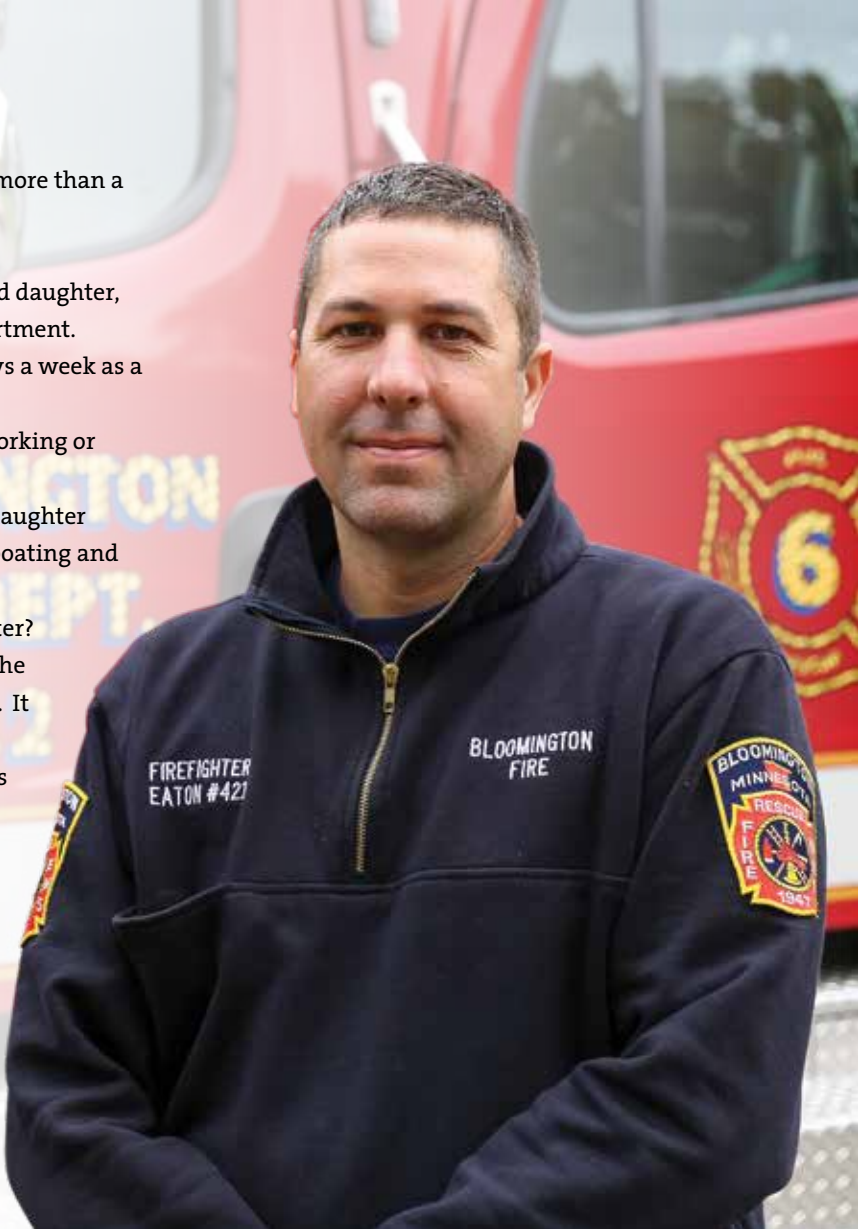
A. Spending time with my wife Andrea and daughter tops the list. We enjoy being outdoors, camping, boating and traveling.

Q. What made you want to become a firefighter?

A. Growing up, my dad and brother were on the volunteer fire department in Pierre, South Dakota. It was a small town of about 20,000 people, but the fire department had five stations and were serious about training and protecting the community. I spent a lot of time at the stations and riding on my brother's ladder truck. After high school I almost went directly into the fire service but went to college instead. I am happy I now have the opportunity to fulfill my long awaited firefighting passion.

Q. What's a little-known fact about you?

A. I have a master's degree in molecular biology and completed my thesis on vaccine development.



UNLIKELY FIRE HAZARD: DIRTY BATHROOM FANS

When you add dust buildup to a bathroom fan motor, you get a fire hazard. When a fan is clogged with lint and dust, airflow can be restricted. This makes the fan motor run hot, which can lead to trouble.

Bathroom exhaust fans should be cleaned regularly per the manufacturer's instructions—usually about twice a year. When cleaning a bathroom fan, you should remove the cover and be sure to clean lint from around the motor paying close attention to airflow areas. Wash the fan cover in warm, soapy water to remove all dust and lint. If there is any mold growing on the cover, add bleach to the cleaning mixture. Remember, bathroom fans aren't meant to run for long periods of time. Consider installing a timer switch to limit unnecessary use.

For more information on how to keep your home safe from fires, visit blm.mn/fireprevention or call 952-563-4801.

GET IN THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT WITH BLOOMINGTON POLICE

Enjoy some hot chocolate, candy canes and conversation with Bloomington Police officers and staff at the fourth annual Coffee with a Cop holiday open house on Thursday, December 12, 3 – 5 p.m., in the Bloomington Police Department, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. Bring the whole family! Santa will be ready to take photos with visitors. BPD will also be accepting donations for Toys for Tots at the event. For more information, visit blm.mn/holidayopenhouse.

BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY: BLOOMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL DAYS NEVER ENDED

It's 1954 all over again when a group of Bloomington High School (BHS) graduates meet for their annual reunion. The class of '54 has made an annual tradition of it the last few years. Of the original 112 students, 15 to 20 gather to celebrate the glory days of the Bloomington Bears. Some still live in Bloomington.

For Fran Koch, talking about BHS brings back memories of carefree times. Once, some of his burly football team buddies picked up and moved his Ford Model A from the parking lot to a field behind the school. The prank did not keep Koch grounded for long; he managed to get the car back onto pavement that same eventful night.

The mood in post-WWII America was optimistic, as the BHS motto proclaims: "Before us lies the timber. Let us build." "Everyone was friendly and there wasn't any commotion," Class of '54 CEO and Historian Marlene Blair said.

Songs by Doris Day, saddle shoes, sock hops and class comradery were in abundant supply. The class of '54 was one of the last to attend BHS, where Presbyterian Homes is located today at 9889 Penn Avenue South. Next time you're around there, picture the old school brimming with students and their green and white BHS Bear spirit.



SCHATZLEIN HONORED

John Schatzlein was a tireless activist for people with disabilities until he passed away last summer at the age of 70. He dedicated his life to advocacy that led to the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act and greater accessibility in sports arenas, hotels, office buildings and sidewalks across the Twin Cities, and much more.

This year, the Human Rights Commission recognized his life's work with the 2019 Omar Bonderud Human Rights Award.

Schatzlein became a paraplegic when he fell from a tree at age 14. After that, he began work in the rehabilitation field and serving people with disabilities in careers at Goodwill Industries, University of Minnesota, Control Data and Sister Kenny Institute.

He traveled back and forth to Washington, D.C., to lobby for passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act. He held numerous leadership roles on state and national committees including the National Spinal Cord Injury Association, the Minnesota Governors Council for Persons with Disabilities and more. He also served on the Bloomington Human Rights Commission and Community Center task force.

Schatzlein was also founder and president of the American Sled Hockey Association, which later became a sport in the Paralympic Games. Over the past two decades, the organization has given thousands of U.S. athletes the opportunity to compete. USA Sled Hockey has won four gold medals.

The HRC presents the annual Omar Bonderud Human Rights Award to an individual or organization that has made a significant contribution to ensuring the human rights of people in Bloomington.

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

SNOW EMERGENCY SURVIVAL GUIDE

The City helps residents get through winter road conditions safely with snowplowing services at a cost of \$3.60 per month for an owner of a median-valued home. As early as 2 a.m., snowplow operators are 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 2019 resident survey, 77 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 the City can make anytime road and weather conditions warrant it. 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.

STAY IN THE KNOW

When a snow emergency is declared, the City will post alerts on its website, cable channel, E-Subscribe and social media pages. To receive an email alert whenever the City declares a snow emergency and stay in the loop about parking restrictions, sign up for E-Subscribe alerts at blm.mn/E-Subscribe.



SOLUTIONS TO SAFE STREETS AND WATER BODIES

The City treats roads with an anti-icing brine solution to make it tougher for snow and ice to stick. The brine is a mixture of water and salt. After it is sprayed on the streets, the solution evaporates and leaves behind thin deposits of salt. The salt prevents the bonding of snow and ice so plows can more easily scrape the street clean. The brine 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, and snow adds 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

Wait to clear the end of your driveway until after the full width of your street has been plowed so you only have to shovel once. While clearing streets, snowplows may inadvertently plow snow from the road into driveways that have already been shoveled.



PLACING CARTS FOR WINTER

Give your carts a happy place. This winter, consider where you put your garbage and recycling carts. If the weather gets snowy or icy, shovel out a safe, accessible space and path for your carts — just for when haulers collect so they can access your cart. Be sure to place your carts a minimum of three to five feet from other carts, mailboxes, vehicles, bushes, trees and other objects. Also, keep carts off sidewalks and out of the street. For more information, visit blm.mn/recycling.

KEEP SIDEWALKS CLEAR

Making sure your sidewalk is 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—maintenance workers plow 250 miles of sidewalk each year.



SHOVEL OUT FIRE HYDRANTS, MAILBOXES AND GARBAGE BINS

Protect your neighborhood from house fires. Accessible hydrants greatly reduce the time it takes firefighters to extinguish a fire. 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.

MOVE YOUR CAR OFF THE STREET WHEN IT SNOWS

Parked cars can make plowing difficult. The City needs drivers' help to plow more quickly and efficiently. By moving your car off the street when it snows, you will avoid having to dig your car out of a snowbank or being ticketed. 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.

START SEEING SNOWPLOWS

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