

BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



AUGUST 2021

PAGE 2

PAGE 4

PAGE 6

PAGE 8



FIND US ONLINE
BLOOMINGTON [MN.gov](https://mn.gov)



Presort Std
U.S. Postage
PAID
Twin Cities, MN
Permit
#2293

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
1800 WEST OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD
BLOOMINGTON MN 55431-3027

ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER



This year Summer Fete made a memorable comeback with a breathtaking display of fireworks July 3. It was a time to get together with family, friends and neighbors. Summer Fete visitors enjoyed a resurgence of community along with live entertainment and an array of food and beverage vendors. In 2020, the event was canceled to comply with COVID-19 restrictions.



BLOOMINGTON'S FIRST TAPROOM OPENING

Get ready to toast “cheers!” to Bloomington’s first taproom this fall. On June 17, the Bloomington Planning Commission held a public hearing and approved a conditional use permit for Nine Mile Brewing to set up shop at 9555 James Avenue South as a brewery, taproom and restaurant.

The new business came about after a change in policy by the City Council. For years, councilmembers heard from residents about taprooms and how they felt it was an amenity Bloomington needed. In 2019, Bloomington voters overwhelmingly approved a measure to remove a section of the City Charter that effectively prohibited taprooms and cocktail rooms. In response, the City Council amended the City Code to permit breweries, brewpubs, taprooms/cocktail rooms, microdistilleries and wineries in many zoning districts.

Nine Mile Brewing will celebrate local traditions and community with house-made specialty beers, traditional IPAs, stouts, porters and lagers. Food will be served from pop-up kitchens. An existing office and warehouse space will be refurbished into an approximately 11,000-square-foot taproom and restaurant with seating for approximately 200 people indoors and 90 outdoors.

Founder and operator Bob Countryman, *pictured above*, has lived in Bloomington most of his life. In 2018, Countryman began to look into why there were no breweries in the city. From there, the idea of opening a taproom evolved.

“Having a craft brewery is really a cool thing, and Bloomington being the third-largest community in the metro, it struck me as kind of odd that the city didn’t have one yet,” Countryman said. “The taproom will be family friendly with drinks for kids and games for all ages. It will be very welcoming for everyone.”

Nine Mile Brewing has 10 investors and owners, most living in Bloomington now or at one time in the past. “Living and working in the community is something we feel strongly about in our investor group,” Countryman said.

The name for Nine Mile Brewing came from one of the investors. Nine Mile Creek runs by his house and he thought the well-known creek would make a good name for the business.



MAYOR’S MEMO

WE’RE ON OUR WAY BACK

By Mayor Tim Busse

The pages of this *Briefing* include stories about what the future has in store for our community. They are stories of transitions, returns and new starts. Just a few weeks ago, we were able to enjoy fireworks and fun at Summer Fete. City offices have reopened. We’ve returned to in-person City Council meetings and restarted facilities and programs that had been dormant for more than a year.

Creekside Community Center had been closed to the public since before mid-March 2020. On July 7, City staff celebrated opening the doors to participants again at a “re-open house” event. Moving forward through the rest of the year, Creekside will have modified hours: Monday – Thursday, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m., Fridays, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m., and Saturday – Sunday, closed. The majority of your favorite programs will be back, including arts and crafts, card groups, education, fitness, music and recreation.

Since starting vaccinations in January, Bloomington Public Health has put more than 19,000 shots in the arms of people in our community. That’s a huge number and it wouldn’t have been possible without the incredible partnership among Public Health, City staff, colleagues in Edina and Richfield, and members of the Medical Reserve Corps. In February we launched our vaccine clinics at Civic Plaza. In June, we completed the last of 66 clinics there. The team is now operating the clinic out of the Public Health building in addition to a mobile clinic task force that will be out in the community giving vaccinations.

Despite all of the good news, it’s important to remember that many of our neighbors are still dealing with challenges from the pandemic. Children ages 12 and under aren’t yet eligible to be vaccinated, and many adults still need vaccinations as well.

If you are eligible, please get vaccinated. If you have questions about the vaccine, contact Bloomington Public Health at 952-563-8900 or talk to your health care provider. We know that for some, the hours or location of clinics is a challenge. Let us know that so we can work with you to get you a vaccine. If you have friends, neighbors, coworkers or loved ones who are not vaccinated, encourage them to get vaccinated. You can find a vaccine near you at vaccines.gov.

For me, all of the issues and challenges of today and tomorrow are somehow made easier by what there is to look forward to in the weeks and months ahead. Being part of community celebrations again—whether it is Summer Fete or the State Fair—is something to be excited about.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDING UPDATE

The American Rescue Plan Act was passed by Congress and signed by the President in March 2021. The City of Bloomington was awarded \$11.4 million in two parts. The City received the first half, \$5.7 million, in June 2021. The second half is expected to be received in May 2022. The City Council and City staff are reviewing guidance from the U.S. Treasury Department on how the funds may be spent. The American Rescue Plan funding is generally understood to allow local governments to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency and its economic impact. The City Council must decide how the funds will be spent by the end of 2024.

KNOCKING ON DOORS TO BOOST VACCINATIONS

Public Health staff are getting out into the community to have important conversations with residents about COVID-19 vaccines. While door knocking at the Southgate Apartments, one of many mobile vaccination sites in Bloomington, staff’s efforts tripled the number of vaccines administered that day, from four appointments booked at the beginning of the clinic, to a total of 13 doses being administered. Each vaccination helps contribute to the State’s goal of 70% of Minnesotans vaccinated.

To date, Public Health staff have knocked on more than 750 doors, engaging in conversations about the vaccines, informing families where children 12 years and older can get vaccinated, and celebrating people who had already been vaccinated. For local information about vaccines, visit blm.mn/vaccine-faq.



BRIEFING

Volume 29, Number 08

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

BLOOMINGTON CITY COUNCIL



Mayor
Tim Busse
952-563-8782 (w)
952-457-7506 (c)
tbusse@BloomingtonMN.gov

Councilmember At Large
Nathan Coulter
952-239-0531
ncoulter@BloomingtonMN.gov



Councilmember At Large
Jenna Carter
612-704-0942
jcarter@BloomingtonMN.gov

Councilmember District I
Dwayne Lowman
952-270-2377
dlowman@BloomingtonMN.gov



Councilmember District II
Shawn Nelson
952-479-0471
snelson@BloomingtonMN.gov

Councilmember District III
Jack Baloga
952-944-5194
jbaloga@BloomingtonMN.gov



Councilmember District IV
Patrick Martin
952-454-6657
pmartin@BloomingtonMN.gov

Elected officials presented for informational purposes.

COUNCILMEMBERS

council@BloomingtonMN.gov

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Jamie Verbrugge, <i>City Manager</i>	952-563-8780
citymanager@BloomingtonMN.gov	
Kris Wilson, <i>Assistant City Manager</i>	952-563-8780
citymanager@BloomingtonMN.gov	
Karla Henderson, <i>Community Development</i>	952-563-8947
communitydevelopment@BloomingtonMN.gov	
Diann Kirby, <i>Community Services</i>	952-563-8717
communityservices@BloomingtonMN.gov	
Lori Economy-Scholler, <i>Finance</i>	952-563-8791
finance@BloomingtonMN.gov	
Ulie Seal, <i>Fire</i>	952-563-4801
fire@BloomingtonMN.gov	
Amy Cheney, <i>Information Technology</i>	952-563-4885
it@BloomingtonMN.gov	
Melissa Manderschied, <i>Legal</i>	952-563-8753
legal@BloomingtonMN.gov	
Ann Kattreh, <i>Parks and Recreation</i>	952-563-8877
parksrec@BloomingtonMN.gov	
Mike Hartley, <i>Police</i>	952-563-8601
police@BloomingtonMN.gov	
Karl Keel, <i>Public Works</i>	952-563-8731
publicworks@BloomingtonMN.gov	

General phone number 952-563-8700

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

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



VETERANS’ MEMORIAL MAKES PROGRESS

Local veterans and volunteers established a nonprofit in 2018 with one project in mind—building a permanent veterans tribute in the city they call home. The nonprofit, Bloomington Remembers Veterans, has since worked closely with the City planning for a future memorial on the grounds of Civic Plaza.

The group chose a design by Leo A. Daly to be constructed on the east lawn of Civic Plaza. The design was approved by the City Council last November. The memorial design includes many features. The six military branches will be recognized in the design through armatures and service emblems. Individual recognition will be provided through symbolic dog tags hanging from the armatures. The design also features two symbolic walking paths: one for the veteran and the other for the family. The paths meet at a flagpole flying the American and prisoner-of-war (POW) flags. Further along is a place for quiet reflection and healing featuring seating and a vertical light source to reflect the spirit of the service members and their families.

Bloomington Remembers Veterans is dedicated to the mission of honoring and recognizing all veterans, educating the public as to why wars were fought, and showing why we should continue to honor these heroes for the freedoms we enjoy. Community support will be critical in bringing this project come to fruition. Learn more about donating or volunteering with the project at bloomingtonveteransmemorial.org.

LEARN ABOUT THE CITY’S 2022 BUDGET

City staff is planning the 2022 budget. Learn more about the budget planning process and what’s on the horizon for 2022. Attend a virtual budget information session Tuesday, August 3, 12 p.m. Zoom information for the session is available at blm.mn/budgetinfo. You can also join a 2022 budget information session in person at the Midweek Music and Market on Wednesday, August 11, 5 – 7 p.m., in the east lot at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. For more information, call 952-563-8725.



BLOOMINGTON WELCOMES NEXT CITY CLERK

Bloomington City Clerk Christina Scipioni was interested in local government long before she worked for a municipality. As a child, she and her family gathered around the TV to watch Eagan city council meetings. She was fascinated by the process of local government and the people involved in making an impact on a local level.

“I’m a local government nerd so I’ve always liked watching the process play out,” she said. “Now I get to be a part of it.”

Christina’s first day at the City was April 12. Since then, she’s been hard at work preparing for the first election in Bloomington that uses ranked choice voting. Before starting with the City, she served as Eagan’s city clerk for 10 years.

“One thing that drew me to Bloomington is the wide variety of services the City Clerk’s Office offers here. It’s also a very exciting time, with our first election with ranked choice voting coming up,” she said.

Check out a video introducing Christina at blm.mn/csvideo.

CITY COUNCIL WORKING ON COMMUNITY-BASED STRATEGIC PLANNING

Community-based strategic planning connects City representatives and residents to shape the future of Bloomington. City representatives will work with community members at every stage of the process:

- Understanding who and what Bloomington is.
- Forming a unifying mission statement and strategic objectives.
- Developing action-planning priorities for implementation.
- Identifying measurements for success.

The core planning team will consist of City representatives and community members. The City is hosting community cafe events in October for residents to share what they see in Bloomington’s future. There will be several community cafe sessions in October. Dates, times and locations of these sessions will be posted online at blm.mn/cbsp.

This plan will be effective for five years and reviewed annually. For more information, visit blm.mn/cbsp and to share your ideas at blm.mn/letstalk.



MEET NICK KELLEY

Nick Kelley officially started as public health administrator on May 3. But his interest in infectious diseases began when he discovered Sinclair Lewis’ *Arrowsmith* as a child. The story included something called particle x that had the ability to treat infection.

“I’ve been fascinated by how infectious diseases changed history,” Kelley said. “We saw dramatic shifts in how society was structured. Buildings were modified to allow for open air after 1918 after what was called the Spanish flu.”

Nick was appointed acting public health administrator last October. He was assistant public health administrator for five years before.

“The pandemic has really shone a spotlight on Public Health. We’ve been here all along, often operating in the shadows. We’ve been that safety net behind the scenes helping people living healthy lives for a long time,” he said.

Check out a video on Nick and his role at the City at blm.mn/nkvideo.



RANKED CHOICE VOTING COMING SOON

Last November, voters approved the use of ranked choice voting for future City Council and mayoral elections. Starting with the November 2, 2021 election, ranked choice voting will be used for municipal races. This changes how residents vote for mayor and City councilmember. This will not change how residents vote in federal, state, county or school board elections.

This fall, Bloomington voters will see one of the councilmember at-large seats on their ballot. Voters in Council District 3 and Council District 4 will also see their councilmember on the ballot. (The other councilmember at-large seat, all four council districts due to redistricting, and the mayor’s seat are next up for election in November 2023.)

The City’s existing election equipment, including ballot counters, are compatible with ranked choice voting and will not have to be replaced. For more information, visit blm.mn/vote.



ORGANICS DROP-OFF SITES

A curbside organics recycling program has been in the works for a few years now in Bloomington. The City took its first step in 2018 when it opened two public organics drop-off sites. Today, nearly 1,800 residents bring their organics to be composted at these sites. The drop-off program has helped establish a group of organics champions, and provided early education on organics recycling before it’s rolled out citywide through a curbside organics program. The City will continue to operate the free organics drop off sites for residents in multifamily housing not serviced through the City’s garbage and recycling program. To get started composting now through one of the City’s organics drop-off sites, visit blm.mn/organics.

TIPS FOR WATERING WISELY

Conserving water is important for everyone. Bloomington water is just too good to waste. Yet, it’s not uncommon to see this precious resource misused on irrigation systems running while it rains or sprinklers spraying on sidewalks and streets.

- Here’s a checklist to make sure you’re watering responsibly.
- Timing: You can lose 50% of irrigation water by watering during the hottest part of the day. Water your lawn and gardens early in the morning and avoid irrigation from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Also, water only when needed and not on rainy days.
 - Mowing: Set your lawn mower at three inches. Your lawn will grow a deeper root system and will be less dependent on irrigation. Keep the mower blade sharp to reduce stress on the grass and moisture loss. Use a mulching blade to create free fertilizer and organic matter for the soil.
 - Planting: Instead of just grass, consider adding more garden beds, trees and shrubs. These plants require less water and provide habitat for pollinators and other wildlife.
- For more information, visit blm.mn/sustain or call 952-563-4862.



GETTING READY FOR A MEADOW LAWN

Do you want to have a meadow lawn but are not sure how to start? Getting a meadow lawn to grow takes proper site preparation prior to seeding or live planting. The best time to seed is late fall or early spring, but site preparation begins even earlier. August is a good time to start.

You don’t have to be a landscaping expert to have a meadow lawn. Whether you have a turf lawn or an old garden bed, site preparation is the key to long-term success. The goal is to get rid of all turf grass and other plants you don’t want. This lessens competition from weeds when the young native plants are getting established and developing roots so they can thrive for years to come.

Prepare your site using one of three methods. Solarizing and sheet mulching need to be left in place for two or three months to eliminate unwanted plants from the site.

- Sheet mulching: Cover the site with cardboard or newspaper and top with three inches of mulch. Remove mulch before seeding to expose the soil. The mulch can be used elsewhere in your yard.
- Solarizing: Use thin plastic sheets to cover the site. Weigh down the plastic with rocks. The plastic limits light and gets hot, literally cooking the turf grass underneath.
- Physical removal: Dig up the turf and remove it, leaving the soil behind.

After unwanted plants are gone, rake the dead plants into the soil. Make sure to smooth out the site and make sure the soil is settled. Now you’re ready to seed.

Pick the right seed mix for your location. Do not use a mix that only has wildflowers. Perennial native grasses are a foundation of a meadow and should be a part of the seed mix. There are several companies specializing in native plant products and they will have native seed mixes designed for local conditions. Speak to one of their representatives to be sure.

For more information visit, blm.mn/nativelawn or call 952-563-8748.

CURBSIDE ORGANICS RECYCLING

Starting in early 2022, residents will be able to conveniently recycle their organics for composting at the curb in a separate cart. Organics are any item that came from a plant or animal that will turn into compost. This includes all food scraps, including meat and dairy products that cannot be composted in backyard piles, pizza boxes, napkins, paper towels, and more. After organics are collected from the curb, they are taken to a commercial composting facility where they are recycled and turned into compost, a nutrient-rich soil amendment.

Curbside organics recycling fits with the City’s strategic priority to be sustainable and to reduce the amount of garbage sent to landfills and incinerators. In addition, Hennepin County has required cities with more than 10,000 residents to make curbside organics recycling available by 2022.

At the June 7, 2021 City Council meeting, the Council approved the scope of services for the curbside program. All households in the solid waste program will be billed for organics like regular recycling service, and residents will receive an organics cart by signing up for the organics cart drop-off service through the City. The program is anticipated to begin in early 2022. Residents will receive more information about the program including the exact start date, how to sign up for a cart, what is accepted in organics carts, and how to collect organics easily in your home in the coming months. To learn more about organics recycling and stay up to date on the program development, residents can visit blm.mn/organics.

WHAT TO DO ABOUT JUMPING WORMS

Have you heard about jumping worms? Don’t panic but do watch for them. Advice is to properly dispose of worms (in a sealed plastic bag) if you find them. Most importantly, if you see jumping worms report them at blm.mn/jworm. Get some clear photos to help with identification. Remember that making a report has no regulatory risk to you.

How can a worm cause so much trouble? Jumping worms are a relatively new invasive species that can strip soil of nutrients and kill plants. They can turn healthy soil into material that resembles coffee grounds. Otherwise healthy plants can wither as jumping worms feed and grow.



Photo by Josef Gorres, University of Vermont.

In August, jumping worms are reaching maturity. They grow up to eight inches long. Because jumping worms resemble night crawlers, they can be hard to identify. A distinctive flat band on the top third of a jumping worm is one difference and another is how they move. Their thrashing s-pattern motion resembles snakes and can be startling.

Once jumping worms appear, there’s no way to get rid of them. The only known way to manage them is prevention of spread. They can live in mud. Clean off your boots, shoes and other gear.

Jumping worms can be in bait or included in worm mixes used for compost. They can spread through plant sales, swaps and dig-ups, plus mulch, compost, soil and other items you introduce to your garden or landscape. Forestry extension professor and educator Angela S. Gupta suggests buying from reputable dealers and doing research first.

“Ask them, what are you doing about jumping worms?” she said.

For more information, visit blm.mn/sustain or call 612-624-1222.



AT YOUR SERVICE: FARMERS MARKET COORDINATOR KARI RAMSTROM

This year brought many changes to the Bloomington Farmers Market. One new face you’ll see is Kari Ramstrom, the new Farmers Market coordinator. On Saturdays through October 23, you’ll find her making the rounds in the east parking lot of Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. On Wednesdays, from July 7 – August 18, she’ll be running at the Midweek Market at the same location.

You’ll see her working with vendors, helping with set-up and doing what it takes to make the market run smoothly. Ramstrom is eager to build community with residents, visitors and vendors.

“I look forward to the community building aspect of the market and having consumers buying produce directly from those that grow or make it,” she said. “I hope that my role will provide a high-quality, engaged market with a wide variety of vendors.”

Ramstrom feels at home at the market and with the meaningful connections to food it offers. “I have a passion for growing food, food security and food justice issues,” She said, “I am an avid community gardener and market attendee myself. I find this a unique combination of several of my passions.”

In 2021, the Bloomington Farmers Market returned to the layout used before COVID-19. “We are bringing back community tables and the Midweek Market, which were not able to take place last year,” Ramstrom said. “I am really excited for a vibrant market season.”

STATE FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS COMING TO BIG

Looking for a way to chill down? Enjoy the cool comfort of Bloomington Ice Garden (BIG) while you watch ice skaters performing their best moves. BIG will serve as the venue for the Minnesota State Figure Skating Championships, Thursday, August 19 – Saturday, August 21.

“State, as those in the figure skating world refer to it, is the most important nonqualifying competition in Minnesota,” Bloomington Ice Garden Skate School Coordinator Rene Gelecinskyj said. “Top skaters from all over the state participate and use this event as a warm up for the first qualifying competition of the year, which leads to the National Championships.”

The Twin City Figure Skating Association has hosted the event for more than 40 years. The central location of Bloomington Ice Garden, 3600 West 98th Street, along with its three ice surfaces and proximity to Mall of America make it an ideal venue for the competition.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit blm.mn/BIG or call 952-563-8877.

BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY: THE BEGINNINGS OF HYLAND PARK

What do a park, lake and farmer all have in common? Add Bloomington to the riddle and you get Hyland.

The story goes back to 1857 when James Hyland purchased more than 100 acres on the eastern shore of the lake that now bears his name. In those days, lakes were often named for the landowner. Hyland farmed along its shores with his spouse Rosanna and children. Sadly, James died five years after he bought the farm. Rosanna continued farming for another 25 years. It was a hard life. One of her sons was killed in the Civil War. In all, the Hyland family farmed the area for 30 years.

The Hyland property changed hands multiple times during the first half of the 20th century until it was bought by Three Rivers Park District in the 1950s. More purchases of farms followed. Much of the land that now comprises Hyland Lake Park Reserve was purchased from brothers James and Chester Nesbitt. Since the 19th century, generations of the Nesbitt family had farmed land near Hyland Lake.

In 1958, a park system plan identified Hyland as a future park. Six years later, Hyland Lake Park Reserve opened with basic services. At that time, the park was incomplete but more land and features were to come.

Today, amenities abound with paved and unpaved trails, beaches, playgrounds, picnic shelters, boat docks, fishing piers, a nature center, a ski hill and more. The 2,500-acre Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve, is owned and operated in partnership with Three Rivers Park District and the City of Bloomington. Three Rivers Park District operates the Hyland and Anderson Lakes facilities while the City of Bloomington operates the Bush Lake and Normandale Lake facilities.



DON'T MISS MIDWEEK MUSIC AND MARKET

Need a midweek break with food and entertainment? For a fun evening out, look no further than Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. The last three Midweek Music and Markets of the season take place on August 4, 11 and 18, 4 – 8 p.m., with concerts 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Shop for locally produced foods and staples. Check out the menus of food trucks and have a beer from NorthStar Tavern (21 plus with ID). The whole family can enjoy live music, lawn games and outdoor fun. Masks are not required. For more information, visit the market’s Facebook page at [blm.mn/fbookfarmers](https://www.facebook.com/blm.mn/fbookfarmers) or call 952-563-8877.



STEP BACK IN TIME AT RIVER RENDEZVOUS

The past comes alive during Parks and Recreation’s living history festival River Rendezvous at Pond Dakota Mission Park, 401 East 104th Street.

Gain a better appreciation for Bloomington history through storytelling and interactive, hands-on demonstrations. Learn about the daily lives of indigenous people and Euro-American settlers who lived in the Minnesota River Valley during the 1800s.

The 2021 River Rendezvous festival takes place Saturday and Sunday, September 25 and 26, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Daily entry fee is \$10 for adults, \$5 for youth age 4 –17, and free for children 3 and under. Discounted two-day passes are also available. For more information, visit blm.mn/rendezvous or call 952-563-8877.



YOGA CLASSES RETURNING TO CREEKSIDE

Creekside reopened in July. Drop by, get a workout and catch up with friends in person. Class sessions last six weeks and cost \$42 for Bloomington residents and \$54 for nonresidents. Registration is required. For more information or to register, call 952-563-4944.

GENTLE MAT YOGA

Learn a gentle form of yoga with modified movements and proper breathing techniques. Bring your own yoga mat. This class lasts six weeks and takes place on Tuesdays.

Session one

September 7 – October 12
9 – 10 a.m. and 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

Session two

November 2 – December 7
9 – 10 a.m. and 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

CHAIR YOGA

Chair yoga is a modified form of yoga, using exercise principles of traditional yoga to increase participants’ health and fitness by replacing a floor mat with a chair. This class lasts six weeks and takes place on Fridays.

Session 1

September 9 – October 14
9 – 10 a.m.

Session 2

November 4 – December 9
10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

CELEBRATE PRIDE

Join the Human Rights Commission and community members to celebrate LGBTQ+ Pride (lesbian, gay, bisexual transgender, and queer, + other gender and sexual identities) on August 14, 5 – 9 p.m. on the east lawn of Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. There will be fun for the whole family. Bands, comedians and drag performers will entertain in the amphitheater area. Food trucks, artists and vendors will also be available in the east parking lot. For more information, visit blm.mn/pride or call 952-563-8733.



BLOOMINGTON STUDENTS SHOW THEY CARE WITH 1,000 PAPER CRANES

With more than 29,000 thoughtful folds, a group of Jefferson and Kennedy High School students made 1,000 paper cranes to show seniors they care with a special gift. Tahm Loyd, a Jefferson High School junior, came up with the idea in February to give 1,000 paper cranes to a local assisted living center to show gratitude for what seniors have been through in the last year. Last month, the students who folded the cranes brought them to Martin Luther Campus. They gave some directly to residents, others were used in art installations for common areas on campus.

“The idea of 1,000 paper cranes came from a Japanese myth that if you fold them a wish will be granted to you,” Loyd said. “The myth is based on the story of a young girl who had leukemia in Japan after she was exposed at Hiroshima. She started to fold 1,000 paper cranes to try to cure herself, unfortunately she couldn’t finish but her classmates finished for her. Then it started to be something you would do when someone wasn’t feeling their best. You help fold 1,000 paper cranes for them to help them out in a hard time.”

The project started out small with Loyd, Nicole Guan, Amal Mohamed and a few more students folding together. As they folded more cranes, the students posted on social media about the project and recruited more people to their meetings.

“I was blown away by it all. It’s been a really hard year for our seniors; it’s no secret,” Martin Luther Campus Director of Community Relations Katie Blessing said. “But it’s also been a hard year for students—trying to navigate working remotely. To think that these students took the time, in addition to everything else they were trying to do this year to be successful, to think ‘what can I do for someone else’ was really meaningful.”

In addition to the joy of giving the gift of the cranes and recognition, students felt they received a gift as well.

“Seeing seniors’ smiles and happiness, we didn’t only give a gift but we received a gift,” Amal Mohamed, Jefferson High School junior, said. “I think during COVID it’s really easy to be selfish and not really consider how other people are struggling through this time. I hope this serves as an example to think about other people and step outside your shoes once in a while.”

To watch a video about the 1,000 paper cranes project, visit blm.mn/1000cranes.

NOMINATIONS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD OPEN

The Human Rights Commission is accepting nominations for the 2021 Omar Bonderud Human Rights Award. Individuals and organizations that have done outstanding work toward educating, winning or preserving equality and justice for protected groups in Bloomington are eligible for nomination. Service areas may include employment, housing, public accommodations, public services, and education. Applications will be accepted through Friday, August 27. Complete an online nomination form at blm.mn/bonderud or call 952-563-8733 to request a paper form.

JUMPSTART 2 SCHOOL PROVIDES SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Each year, Bloomington students, grades K – 12, have the opportunity to pick up free school supplies at the JumpStart 2 School event while supplies last. Like in 2020, JumpStart 2 School will be a drive-thru event this year. It will take place Thursday, August 19, 4 – 7 p.m., at the Saint Bonaventure Activity Center, 901 East 90th Street. Those picking up school supplies will need proof of a Bloomington address.

This event is a collaboration between the City, Bloomington Public Schools, Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People, St. Michaels Lutheran Church and St. Bonaventure Catholic Community. For more information, call 952-563-8733.



LET’S TALK BLOOMINGTON

The City of Bloomington is seeking feedback on several projects with its online engagement tool, Let’s Talk Bloomington, at blm.mn/letstalk. Register to join in the conversation. Here are two projects now posted:

RACIAL EQUITY STRATEGIC PLANNING

The racial equity strategic planning committee is charged with developing a shared vision and identifying collaborative policy and operational strategies to achieve the City’s racial equity goals. In keeping with the City’s commitment to authentically engage underrepresented communities in the governing process, the committee will prioritize the voices of those directly impacted by racial disparities. The committee will build upon input shared by the community to develop a final report that City Council and its partners can implement. Share your experience or ask a question at blm.mn/letstalk.

RETAILER INPUT ON TOBACCO ORDINANCE

Community Development staff are looking for input on a possible incentive program for the tobacco ordinance adopted by the Bloomington City Council on April 26, 2021. This survey is for Bloomington tobacco retailers to weigh in on what might encourage them to turn in their tobacco license early. Retailers can complete the survey and find out more at letstalk.bloomingtonmn.gov/tobacco-ordinances



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

After a year of social distancing, neighbors will once again be able to gather, enjoy a summer evening and good food, and share information about keeping their communities safe. Bloomington's 37th annual National Night Out event is Tuesday, August 3.

"Last year, we weren't able to gather for National Night Out because of the pandemic," Crime Prevention Specialist Katie Zerull said. "This year, officers and firefighters are looking forward to getting back to one of our favorite events of the year, visiting parties and meeting residents."

For more information or to register your National Night Out party, visit blm.mn/nno or call 952-563-4900. The chalk drawing contest will also return this year with prizes given for the most creative piece, best overall and most representative of National Night Out.



LOCK IT, DON'T LOSE IT

If you drive to one of the city's many parks or trails, Bloomington Police recommend leaving valuables home or out of sight in your car. There has been an increase in car burglaries in parks this summer. To ensure your valuables such as purses, laptops and backpacks are safe, make sure they are out of sight and your car is locked. For more information, visit blm.mn/bpd.



NEW FIRE STATION 4

Fire Station 4, at 4201 West 84th Street, is more than 50 years old and no longer meets the needs of the community or the Bloomington Fire Department. The existing station does not have adequate space for firefighters to train or work. The new station will provide enough room for safe operation of equipment and a place for firefighters to stay if they need to be on site for more than 24 hours.

Plans for the new Station 4 are currently in the development and design stages. The City will go out for bids on this project in fall or winter 2021 and construction is expected to begin in spring 2022. The new station will be constructed on the current site. For more information, visit blm.mn/letstalk.

HAVE SAFE RECREATIONAL FIRES

A recreational fire is an outdoor fire used for cooking, warming or ceremonial purposes. When burning a recreational fire in your yard, use common sense, remember to be considerate of your neighbors and follow City ordinances.

- Recreational fires may only be conducted between 7 a.m. and midnight and when the wind speed is less than 10 miles per hour. A fire must be extinguished immediately if a City official determines it is creating a fire safety hazard.
- Fires must be located at least 25 feet away from any structures or combustible materials and constantly attended to by a person within sight of the flames.
- Fire extinguishing equipment must be readily available.
- Use only dry, clean wood such as cordwood or Presto logs.
- Burning wood that has leaves or needles, or wood that is rotten, wet, or treated with paint or glue is prohibited by ordinance.
- Starter fuels may be used, but never use gasoline or other flammable liquids to start a fire.
- The fire stack must not exceed three feet by two feet.

For more information, call 952-563-4801.



GIVE BLOOD, SAVE LIVES

Do your part to help address the severe shortage of lifesaving blood donations. The American Red Cross is sponsoring a blood drive at Bloomington Civic Plaza on Wednesday, August 11, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Register online at redcrossblood.org and enter "BloomMN" to schedule an appointment or call 1-800-733-2767.



@bigstock.com

PREVENT CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT

Catalytic converter theft has been on the rise throughout the Twin Cities this year. Thieves steal catalytic converters because they contain precious metals, including platinum, and are valuable to sell.

Wondering how you can protect your vehicles? Check out Bloomington Police's 15-minute webinar on the topic at blm.mn/prevent-cc-theft. The webinar covers what a catalytic converter is, why it is a target for thieves, vehicles that are often targeted, damage caused by this theft, what to look for in the community and prevention tips.

A few prevention tips covered in the webinar include parking in well-lit areas or garages, installing a dash cam with a motion-activated parking mode, or installing a "cat cage" around your catalytic converter.

For more information, contact Crime Prevention Specialist Katie Zerull at kzerull@BloomingtonMN.gov or 952-563-8808 or Detective Bill King at wking@BloomingtonMN.gov.



TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT PRAIRIES THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

What do you think about prairies? Photographer Ellie Kingsbury wants you to take another look at the prairies of the Midwest which she says are often dismissed as featureless. Kingsbury believes prairies are beautiful with their expanses of native grasses and ever-changing skies.

“Land and sky exalt the vastness of space,” Artist Ellie Kingsbury said. “They lean together to create a shared horizon.”

See for yourself. Experience the exhibit The Material Out of Which Countries Are Made, July 29 – September 12, at the Bloomington Center for the Arts, Atrium Gallery, Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. For more information, visit artistrymn.org or call 952-563-8575.



CHORALE RESUMING IN-PERSON REHEARSALS

Fresh from their spring 2021 virtual chorale experience, the Bloomington Chorale is excited to announce a return to in-person rehearsals beginning Monday, September 13, 7 – 9 p.m., at the Bloomington Center for the Arts, Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

The community-based, non-audition Chorale, welcomes returning members and encourages anyone who loves to sing to join Music Director Dr. Dave Donelson. The Chorale is preparing for a delightful season of singing and performing its first concert since December 2019. “December’s Journey” is a musical treat that you don’t want to miss. For more information, please visit bloomingtonchorale.org or email bloomingtonchorale@gmail.com.



NEW SOUTH LOOP MURAL TAKING SHAPE

A new mural is coming to South Loop. Ua Si Creative, a collective which promotes community through arts, culture and diversity, is working as the curator and producer of a new South Loop Mural. The undertaking is a group effort led by Creative Placemaking in partnership with Artistry. When complete, the 752-foot mural will be the longest in Minnesota.

Ua Si Creative team members Christina Vang, Teeko Yang and Ka Oskar Ly, pictured above, selected artists Marlena Myles, Martzia Thometz, Reggie LeFlore, Xee Reiter and Andre Guzman, and City Mischief to complete a portion of the mural. A theme, focused on the meaning of the acronym WE, will unite each mural piece to the others in hopes to better connect Bloomington.

Selected artists will use a combination of outdoor paint and spray paint to complete their creations. The mural will be located on two walls surrounding an Xcel Energy substation at the corner of American Boulevard and 30th Avenue South.

Installation of the mural will take place this summer and cap off with a Sunset Block Party on Saturday, September 18. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit or call 952-563-8744.

To learn more about Ua Si Creative, follow @uasicreative on Facebook, Instagram or TikTok.

CREATIVE SPARK SCULPTURES COMING TO SOUTH LOOP

Visit South Loop for a new immersion into contemporary art. As part of the Creative Spark program, four permanent sculptures are coming to South Loop. These engaging sculptures offer more than captivating beauty and delight to the eye—they create a more walkable community. A stakeholder panel selected the sculptures based on project goals, design concept, ability, and whether the sculpture would be welcoming to people of all ages, cultures, races and backgrounds. Artists include Daniela Bianchini, Greg Mueller, Safa Sarvestani and Kao Lee Thao.

The sculptures are expected to be installed sometime this summer or spring of 2022. For more information, visit blm.mn/placemaking or call 952-563-8744.



BLOOMINGTON CULTURAL ARTS SUPPORT GRANTS BENEFIT COMMUNITY

The Center for the Arts awards Cultural Arts Support (CAS) grants each year with the goal of providing opportunities for meaningful engagement and enriching the vibrant social fabric of life in Bloomington. In June, Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs, Artistry, Bloomington Chorale, Bloomington Symphony Orchestra, Continental Ballet Company, Medalist Concert Band and NOTEable Singers received Bloomington Cultural Arts Support grants. Watch for activities, programs and events presented by these organizations funded in part by CAS grants in future issues of the Briefing and on the Bloomington Center for the Arts website at blm.mn/bca.

The CAS grant program is designed to support arts and culture groups that impact the Bloomington community. This includes resident arts groups, other established arts nonprofits and new arts groups and organizations interested in partnering with the City.

For more information, visit blm/mn.bca or call 952-563-8877.

