

BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



OCTOBER 2021

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VOTE NOVEMBER 2

Election Day is fast approaching. Be sure you're ready to cast your first Bloomington ballot using the ranked choice voting method in municipal races.

Last November, Bloomington voters approved the use of ranked choice voting for future city council and mayoral elections. This changes how residents vote for mayor and city councilmembers. This does not change how residents vote in federal, state, county or school board elections. The City's existing election equipment, including ballot counters, is compatible with ranked choice voting.

Minneapolis, St. Paul and St. Louis Park currently use ranked choice voting for municipal elections. It is used in various other jurisdictions around the country. Voters in Minnetonka also opted for ranked choice voting in the 2020 election.

"We're helping residents prepare for coming to the polls in a variety of ways," City Clerk Christina Scipioni said. "We've been at the Farmers Market, Arts in the Parks events, and more, talking to residents about how ranked choice voting works. We also held a mock election in late July and early August, which provided a chance for voters to look at the new ranking system firsthand."

WHAT IS RANKED CHOICE VOTING?

Sometimes referred to as "instant runoff voting" or "preferential voting," ranked choice voting allows voters to rank their choices for each office. On election night, first-choice votes are counted. If no candidate has a majority of the votes (more than 50%), the candidate with the fewest number of first-choice votes is eliminated. Voters who picked the eliminated candidate as their first choice have their second-choice vote counted instead. This process repeats until one candidate has a majority. Watch a video on how ranked choice voting works at blm.mn/vote.

FIND YOUR SAMPLE BALLOT

See who is running for City Council in your neighborhood. Find your sample ballot online at mnvotes.org.

LEARN MORE

For information about voter registration, visit mnvotes.org. Watch candidate testimonial videos on the City's YouTube channel at blm.mn/youtube. Read more about ranked choice voting at blm.mn/vote.

VOTE EARLY OR ABSENTEE

Any voter in the city may vote early or by absentee ballot. In-person voting will be conducted through November 1, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

Extended hours: Saturday, October 30, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., and Monday, November 1, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Absentee voting is also available by mail. For more information, contact Hennepin County Elections at 612-348-5151 or visit blm.mn/henncovote for more information. A witness is required for all absentee ballots.

CANDIDATES ON THE BALLOT

COUNCILMEMBER AT LARGE

Nathan Coulter
Paul King
Ricardo Oliva

COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT 3

David Clark
Lona Dallessandro
Kevin Heinen
Laura Hunt

COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT 4

Angella M. Coil
Patrick Martin
Victor Rivas
Becky Strohmeier



MAYOR’S MEMO

2022 PRELIMINARY LEVY APPROVED

By Mayor Tim Busse

Last month, the City Council approved a preliminary 2022 tax levy increase of 2.75%. The preliminary levy sets the maximum amount of property taxes that can be collected. When we adopt our final 2022 budget in December, we can reduce the levy, which we have done most years, but we can’t increase it.

Last year we also increased the levy 2.75%. That was the lowest levy increase in nearly a decade, and it was lower than nearly every other large city in the metro area. The average 2022 preliminary tax levy increase for the 15 cities that we often use for comparison is around 5%. At 2.75%, Bloomington’s preliminary levy increase is the lowest among those 15 cities. I want to share a bit more about how the 2022 budget has taken shape. This year’s budget discussion has been a lot different than last year’s.

As I’m sure you’ll remember, last year the City Council and City staff worked with a Community Budget Advisory Committee to make some tough decisions during a very challenging budget year. In 2020 and 2021, the City’s budget reduced the number of employees by eliminating 23 positions and reducing services in a number of areas. This year, there are still challenges, but they are ones that are largely within the City’s control—or at least are well-defined—so we have time to work through them.

We are still projecting a 2022 budget with revenues quite a bit below where we were in 2019—pre-pandemic—especially for revenues from lodging and admissions taxes. Those two revenues, mostly paid by people from outside of Bloomington who stay in our hotels or go on rides at Nickelodeon Universe, will likely be about \$3 million less than what the City collected in 2019.

Staff and Council made the commitment to rework how we deliver services. The proposed budget maintains that commitment. The additions to the budget we are considering are related to current and future demands. While our staff has held the line on much of the budget for 2022, we need to address several areas. One of the most important is public safety, and specifically, managing the evolution of the Bloomington Fire Department. The biggest issue BFD is facing is recruitment and retention.

We don’t take the decisions we make regarding taxes lightly. People aren’t out of the woods yet from the effects of the pandemic and the City Council knows that. As we work through our budget for 2022, we will continue to work with our staff to understand how the economy is affecting people and how the decisions we make will impact tax payers.

There will be two opportunities in October for the public to participate in 2022 budget discussions and information sessions:

- Wednesday, October 20, 7 – 8:30 p.m., virtual meeting on Zoom
- Wednesday, October 27, 7 – 8:30 p.m., in the City Council Chambers at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road

For more information, visit blm.mn/budget.

BLOOMINGTON.

tomorrow. together.

GET INVOLVED IN PLANNING BLOOMINGTON’S FUTURE

The City is in the midst of a strategic planning effort that involves the community in planning Bloomington’s future. The “Bloomington. Tomorrow. Together.” initiative asks residents to volunteer to help design a strategic plan. City representatives will work in partnership with members of the community at every stage of the process, from the initial stages of understanding who and what Bloomington is, through the creation of a mission statement and strategic objectives, to planning the priorities for implementation and identifying the measurements for success.

There are several opportunities for the community to get involved, including the upcoming series of community cafes starting Saturday, October 16. At these events, people will have an opportunity to explore and share what it is they value about the places where they live, work or spend time. Additional cafes will be offered throughout the community. Visit blm.mn/btt for additional dates, times and locations.

“We hope the cafes will help draw out the hopes and desires that people have for the future, provide constructive avenues for expressing concerns and fears, identify challenges and barriers to progress, and celebrate the strengths that make Bloomington great,” City Manager Jamie Verbrugge said.

The city manager will make recommendations regarding the strategic plan to the City Council in early 2022 based on the information gathered from residents and feedback from the community members on the action team, the core planning team and the measurement team. Visit blm.mn/BTT for more information about the strategic planning process.

WHAT ARE COMMUNITY CAFES?

They are small group conversations in an informal setting that give you the opportunity to share what you value about your community. You’ll also be able to describe your desires for the future and your top priorities for helping Bloomington continue to thrive.

BRIEFING

Volume 29, Number 10

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

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The City of Bloomington does not discriminate against or deny the benefits of its services, programs, or activities to a qualified person because of a disability. The City will provide a reasonable accommodation or modify its policies and programs to allow people with disabilities to participate in all City services, programs, activities, and employment. The law does not require the City to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden on the City. To make a request for a reasonable accommodation, ask for more information, or to file a complaint, contact the Community Outreach and Engagement Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; 952-563-8733, MN Relay 711.



I-494 IMPROVEMENTS COMING 2023

The first of four projects in Minnesota Department of Transportation’s I-494 vision is in the works. Reconstruction of I-494 from the Minneapolis - St. Paul International Airport to Highway 169 is scheduled to begin in 2023, following a community engagement, design and environmental review process. Work on the first project will extend from East Bush Lake Road to 12th Avenue.

This project will include changes to I-494 access at Nicollet Avenue, Portland Avenue and 12th Avenue; MnPASS and auxiliary lanes between I-35W and Highway 100; and a flyover ramp for traffic moving from northbound I-35W to westbound I-494.

Construction on the first project is expected to begin in late summer 2023. The project team has not yet determined how long it will take to construct the entire project.

The project is funded through state and federal programs. In 2018, Corridors of Commerce, a state road improvement grant program, awarded \$204 million to address congestion and safety along I-494. In 2021, the United States Department of Transportation awarded \$60 million to aid in the construction of project 1 of the I-494 corridor vision implementation plan.

To learn more, make comments or ask questions about the project, visit blm.mn/letstalk or call Civil Engineer Amy Marohn at 952-563-4532. You can also attend MnDOT’s virtual open house for the project at 494openhouse.com/494vision.

WHAT’S DEVELOPING? NEW PROJECT ROUNDUP

AIRE APARTMENTS

The Crowne Plaza Aire Hotel at 3 Appletree Square will be converted into a smaller hotel with affordable apartments above it. Named Aire Apartments, 295 hotel rooms will transform into 229 apartments in a substantial portion of the hotel tower. The conversion includes 64 “micro units,” which are studio apartments smaller than 400 square feet, a residential option not currently available in Bloomington. A total of 46 apartments will be affordable to residents making 50-60% of the area’s median income. Bloomington Hotel Ventures, LLC, the owner of the Crowne Plaza Aire Hotel, has partnered with Ron Clark Construction and Design to begin the conversion this fall. For more information, call Ron Clark Construction at 952-947-3000.

OLD CEDAR APARTMENTS

Reuter Walton Development will construct a four-story, 68-unit apartment building at 8012 Old Cedar Avenue South and 1800 East 80th Street, replacing an existing two-story office building constructed in 1963. All of the units will be affordable to households earning 60% of the area’s median income with six units affordable to households at 30% of the area’s median income. Construction for the project will begin this fall, with completion anticipated in late 2022 or early 2023.

For more information, call Reuter Walton Development at 612-823-3489.

MIXED-USE BUILDING AT BLOOMINGTON CENTRAL STATION (BCS) PHASE 4

McGough Development’s new six-story, mixed-use building with 405 apartments and a 14,000-square-foot grocery store will become the latest addition to BCS. Thirty-six units will be reserved for residents earning 60% or less of the area’s median income. McGough has not revealed the identity of the grocer. The project is anticipated to begin in spring of 2022. For more information, contact McGough Development at 651-633-5050.

WALSER TOYOTA REDEVELOPMENT

Walser Toyota has obtained zoning approval to redevelop its existing motor vehicle sales facility at 4401 American Boulevard West. The new three-story office and dealership building, which is approximately 122,000 square feet in size, will also be the new site of the Walser corporate offices. The project will include a three-story parking structure with roof parking, incorporating the former site of the Senser’s restaurant at 4217 American Boulevard West. The project is scheduled to begin in fall of 2021.



FLU AND COVID-19 VACCINES

The flu and COVID-19 are both contagious respiratory illnesses, but they are caused by different viruses. Getting vaccinated for the flu is the best way to protect yourself during flu season. You can get both the flu shot and COVID-19 vaccine at the same time, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. You no longer need to wait 14 days between them.

Most people experience mild side effects from the two vaccines. Some people don’t experience any side effects.

Bloomington Public Health offers immunizations to individuals who are uninsured or underinsured. Immunizations are currently available Tuesdays, 12:30 – 4 p.m. by appointment. Call 952-563-8900, option 3, to schedule your appointment. There is a \$20 donation requested per vaccination. However, no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

For more information, visit blm.mn/flu. *See page 7* for information about upcoming flu shot clinics.

EXPO 2027

In August, the federal government formally endorsed the Minnesota effort to bring an EXPO (World’s Fair) to the United States in 2027. Former Minnesota Secretary of State Mark Ritchie has been championing a Minnesota EXPO bid for several years. Bloomington could be site for the three-month, 62-acre event.

“The EXPO is projected to attract millions of visitors. Many will stay in Bloomington hotels, visit restaurants and attractions. Maybe more important than the event itself, the project would leave behind one million square feet of landmark developments for Bloomington businesses to use for decades,” City Manager Jamie Verbrugge said.

The Bureau of International Expositions will vote in November 2022 to determine where Expo 2027 will take place. Minnesota’s proposed theme of health and wellness would showcase Minnesota’s strength in these areas.

The U.S. hasn’t hosted an EXPO since 1984 in New Orleans.

JOIN THE HRA COMMISSION

The City is seeking applicants for the Housing and Redevelopment Authority Commission. Visit blm.mn/boards for more information or apply at blm.mn/board-app. The deadline is Sunday, October 31.

LONGTIME PUBLIC HEALTH LEADER RETIRES

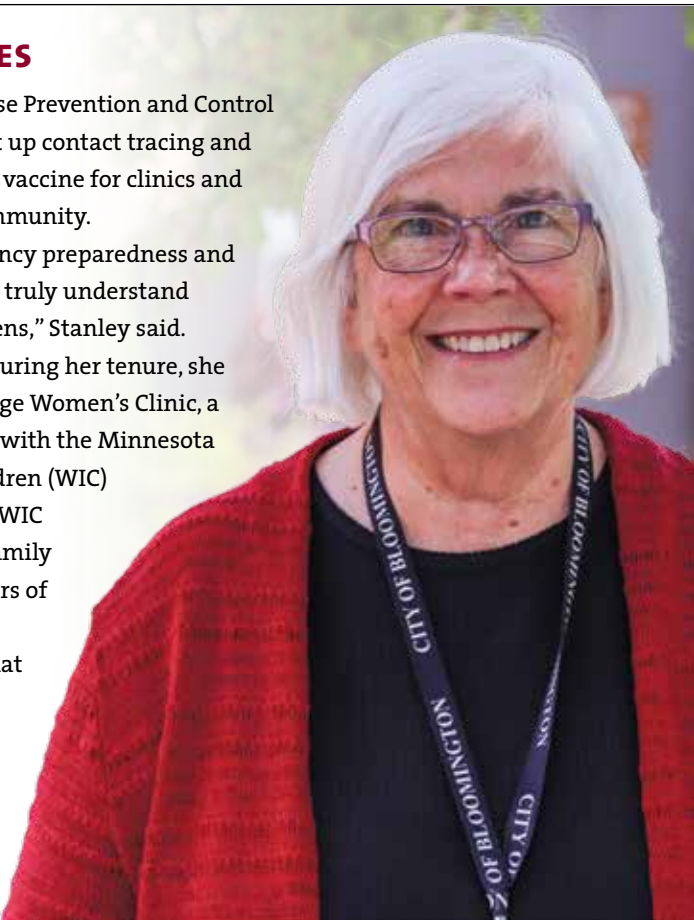
Recently retired Bloomington Public Health Manager of Disease Prevention and Control Karen Stanley loved her work. Over the last year or so, she set up contact tracing and essential services for those with COVID-19, coordinated COVID-19 vaccine for clinics and provided education regarding coronavirus to callers from the community.

“Even though I spent more than 20 years working in emergency preparedness and Public Health had emergency response plans prepared, you don’t truly understand what it takes to respond to a pandemic of this scale until it happens,” Stanley said.

Her other duties through the years have been far reaching. During her tenure, she managed the immunization and flu shot clinics, implemented Sage Women’s Clinic, a breast and cervical cancer screening program at Mall of America with the Minnesota Department of Health, coordinated the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Clinic, implemented the peer breastfeeding support program for WIC women, and managed the family planning clinic and provided family planning education in local public schools and more. After 45 years of service at the City, Stanley retired in August.

“I’ve really loved my job all this time,” she said. “The thing that was always the most important to me was our clients and being able to be out making connections in the community.”

Check out a video about her work from her 40-year anniversary of service at the City at blm.mn/stanley.





ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN

Fall is an important time for protecting storm drains. Blowing or raking leaves and yard clippings into the street can clog storm drains and cause flooding. And yard waste in storm drains pollutes lakes and rivers. Leaves, grass clippings and debris that build up along curbs and storm drains contain phosphorus and nitrogen. In the water, they decompose and release these nutrients into the water. Too much phosphorus in lakes and rivers reduces oxygen and can cause algae and bacterial blooms the following summer.

“If every resident made sure to remove leaves from the street, there would be a huge combined impact on water quality,” said Jack Distel, Bloomington’s water resources specialist.

- To protect water quality:
- Take used oil, unwanted chemicals and other household hazardous wastes to South Hennepin Recycling and Problem Waste Drop-off Center or another drop-off site specializing in such waste.
 - Sweep your garage and place debris in trash, instead of hosing it down.
 - De-chlorinate your pool water before draining. Chlorine is not good for wildlife.

Residents are encouraged to collect and bag leaves and yard trimmings for pickup on their assigned trash and recycling service day. Another option is to compost yard waste on site. Composting can be done using managed compost piles or you can mulch leaves into grass using a mower.

Questions about yard waste? Contact the Public Works Department at 952-563-8726 or visit blm.mn/yardwaste.



From left to right: Bloomington residents and Wild Ones Twin Cities chapter members Andy Scott, Holley Włodarczyk, Róż Johnson, Liz Stanley, Nathalie Shanstrom and Moira Olson.

EARTH ACTION HEROES: WILD ONES

They come from all walks of life and all over town, they are the Wild Ones. This national native plant gardening group has a 180-member Twin Cities chapter and a devoted presence in Bloomington. Wild Ones Twin Cities is a nonprofit promoting environmentally friendly landscaping practices through the establishment, restoration and preservation of native plant communities. Members spread the seeds of sustainability as they cultivate community.

Wild Ones Twin Cities has information and programs to get aspiring native plant gardeners started and keep more seasoned gardeners inspired. Sustainable practices are encouraged at every turn of the spade.

Native flowers, shrubs and trees can flourish in Bloomington. All it takes is the right plants in the right locations. Traditional turf landscapes can transform into new ecosystems which not only look great but attract butterflies, bees, birds and even frogs.

Bloomington resident Roz Johnson enjoys sharing her knowledge about native plants and sees possibilities for new landscapes everywhere. As co-president of Wild Ones Twin Cities, she looks at ordinary lawns and gardens as opportunities to preserve and restore diversity of native plant communities.

“One of our slogans is ‘healing the earth one yard at a time,’” Johnson said. Want to grow native plants and are not sure where to begin? “Start by sectioning off a small pollinator garden. Think of it as potential habitat,” Johnson said. “Most people like having birds, butterflies and bees in their yards.”

Many Wild Ones members take photos of the wildlife their native landscapes attract. They swap stories of recent sightings and compare notes. The success of one member is celebrated by all. The rewards of sustainable landscaping go beyond one season. The benefits are never-ending—to bring back native plants, get better gardening results, promote diversity, do less watering and make new friends. The neighborly support the Wild Ones Twin Cities offers can go a long way to make gardening and landscaping more fun and fruitful.

For more information on Wild Ones Twin Cities and the free events and educational programming they offer, visit blm.mn/wildones.

OUTDOOR MARKET OPEN THROUGH OCTOBER 23

Fall harvest is here, and the Farmers Market has no shortage of bright-colored autumn goodies. Fall produce such as apples, squash, pumpkins and gourds are available, as well as seasonal canned goods. Crafters and makers will be on hand to sell candles, soaps and salves. The market, lively with musicians, community tables and vendors, takes place every Saturday 8 a.m. – 1 p.m., at the east lot at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. For more information, visit blm.mn/market.



IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF OXBORO LAKE

Oxboro Lake, 9301 Syndicate Avenue, is one of the few remaining places east of the I-35W corridor providing flood storage and sediment capture of storm water runoff before it goes to Nine Mile Creek. The lake has become shallower due to the sediment that has washed into it over the years. The main goal of the project is to improve the function of Oxboro Lake as a storm water treatment basin.

“To restore the treatment ability of Oxboro Lake, we need to remove some sediment from the lake bottom. The amount of sediment is about 65,000 cubic yards. That’s enough to fill 30 hockey rinks up to the top of the dasherboards,” Water Resources Civil Engineer Steve Gurney said.

To make the lake deeper, crews will drain Oxboro Lake to expose the lake bottom and remove the collected sediment using excavators. The lake is too shallow to support a robust fishery. It typically freezes all the way to the bottom in the winter and likely does not provide overwintering habitat for turtles. Some trees must be removed because they block access



to the lake for the machinery. The trees being removed are cottonwoods, box elder and buckthorn. “The trees being removed limit the natural mixing provided by wind,” Gurney said. “Once spring comes, we will be planting a native prairie seed mix in the cleared area.” Work is scheduled to begin as early as November 2021 and may continue into 2023. For more information, to ask a question or share your thoughts on the project, visit blm.mn/letstalk.



Three Tod Pod families attend a parent-organized story time at Moir Park.

CREATING COMMUNITY: TOD POD

When the first round of the pandemic restrictions began to ease in the late summer of 2020, Bloomington resident Tara Owens, *not pictured*, was looking for ways she and her daughter could get some safely distanced, outdoor social time. “We had all gotten through lockdown and people were starting to be comfortable gathering outside again,” she said. “The pandemic was isolating and I wasn’t finding any organized outdoor events for parents with young kids. So I created what I was looking for.”

Owens reached out to eight families she knew and asked if they wanted to start meeting weekly at Bloomington parks. She named the group the Tod Pod, a nod to the fact that many kids attending are toddlers. Through word of mouth, the group grew from eight families on Owens’ Tod Pod email list to 110. Owens says about 40 families regularly attend events.

“I thought it was a product of the pandemic, but the list keeps growing,” Owens said. “It’s not official or incorporated and other parents help me organize it. But I love being able to be a part of providing support for parents in the same season I am in.”

What started as an email list has developed into a community. Josey Stafford, *pictured above at center*, says Tod Pod provides a place for connection. She and her daughter Isabel have been attending Tod Pod meetings since last October.

“Tod Pod has been the best way to feel confident about parenting while engaging my child in a safe, fun, unstructured play environment,” Stafford said. “Being a parent can be really isolating. It’s invaluable to be around people going through the same experience, especially when social engagement has been limited or canceled.”

To learn more, email todpodinfo@gmail.com.

ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY RECEIVES ALL-STAR AWARD

Assistant City Attorney Maureen O’Brien, *at right*, hit a metaphorical home run at the Twins game this summer when the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office recognized her as a member of the 2021 DWI Enforcer All-Star Team for taking drunk drivers off the road.

In a case before the Minnesota Supreme Court with potentially wide-reaching implications for the prosecution of all future DWI cases throughout Minnesota, Maureen successfully argued that prosecutors are not required to prove that a driver had “intent” to drive with controlled substances in their body. Maureen is one of two prosecutors and 59 law enforcement officers from around the state who were honored this year.



2021 SUMMER EXPERIENCE RECAP

In summer 2021, Bloomington Parks and Recreation offered 10 weeks of fun experiences from June to August.

“People were excited and eager to get back to some normalcy with Parks and Recreation programs and events after a one-year hiatus,” said Recreation Manager Alison Warren. “Due to staffing shortages, we had to cancel a few beloved youth summer programs. But on the bright side, children and families were able to enjoy a more close-knit community.”

The youth Summer Adventure Playgrounds program was full to capacity with a waitlist throughout the summer. Even without the typical field trips due to COVID-19, participants had a blast, day in and day out. The return of Arts in the Parks events exceeded normal attendance numbers, especially during the Midweek Music and Market, which featured additional food trucks and local breweries.

Adult sport leagues like softball, tennis and kickball went off without a hitch. Bloomington hosted numerous youth sports tournaments as well. New this year, Parks and Recreation introduced a partnership with Soccer Shots. This high-energy program that introduces kids to the fundamentals of soccer, proved popular with summer sessions filling up quickly. Loosened COVID-19 restrictions also allowed for the return of Summer Fete, a popular community gathering that people greatly missed in 2020.

“Seeing the excitement, smiles and happiness at all of our programs, events and facilities was something our staff greatly missed in 2020,” Warren said. “We were thrilled to see so many people enjoying our offerings, and we can hardly wait to offer a full slate of programs next summer!”

CONTINENTAL BALLET ANNUAL BEER AND BALLET FUNDRAISER

The Continental Ballet Company is hosting a “Beer & Ballet” fundraiser event on Friday, October 8, 7 p.m., at the Schneider Theater at 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. Tickets are \$30, which includes admission and one free beverage. Additional beverages will be available for purchase. Guests can enjoy short performances featuring new choreography by some dancers and the director. The fundraiser will support ballet lessons, visits to local schools and performances. This year’s fundraiser is sponsored by 9 Mile Brewing Company. To purchase tickets, visit brownpapertickets.com or call the Continental Ballet Company at 952-563-8562.



NEW ART IN SOUTH LOOP

ARTBOXES INSTALLED

Six more utility boxes in South Loop became places where artists expressed their creativity this summer. New artbox designs by artists Robyn Brower, Luis Fitch, John C. Gerber, Jose Rebollo, Shakuntala Maheshwari and Leah Yellowbird were installed in July. The first artboxes were installed in 2016. Now there are 16.

“These artboxes essentially create a free, walkable outdoor art gallery in the South Loop,” Creative Placemaking Director Alejandra Pelinka said. “It’s exciting to see the collection expand to feature more local artists.”

Artboxes have several benefits, including reducing graffiti, beautifying neighborhoods, contributing to community character and fostering a more walkable neighborhood. For more information about creative placemaking in Bloomington, visit blm.mn/placemaking.



ART BENCH COMING SOON

The “Kalopsia” art bench, *above*, offers the community a place for rest and contemplation while also being an ode to South Loop’s natural surroundings. Taking inspiration from nearby Long Meadow Lake, Twin Cities artist Daniela Bianchini uses vibrant colors and natural elements to create distinctive, welcoming and functional art.

The bench will be located in South Loop, outside of Fiddlehead Coffee at The Fenley Apartments, 8051 33rd Avenue South, facing Bloomington Central Station Park.



**BELLINGER
RECOGNIZED FOR
SERVICE TO PARKS**

An avid pickleball player, Reggie Bellinger received the 2021 Parks, Arts and Recreation Award of Excellence for his service to the community. It all began with a desire to share the game with everyone, according to the 30-year Bloomington resident who lives near Westwood Park.

“I never expected to earn anything or to be recognized. I volunteer any chance that I get,” Bellinger said. “It was humbling to receive this award. The community is super supportive, it’s fun.”

When Bellinger and other players saw a need to install wind screens at Westwood Park, he helped gather donations. Additionally, he and other players contributed money to install umbrellas at the tables to provide shade while they rotate in and out of games.

On an average weeknight, all eight courts at Westwood Park are busy with players from a wide range of age groups and ethnic backgrounds. Bellinger has continued to share his passion for pickleball with anyone who wants to play, even loaning equipment to people new to the sport.

The Parks, Arts and Recreation Award of Excellence is presented annually by the Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission (PARC) to recognize community service that benefits parks and recreation programs and facilities. For more information, visit blm.mn/parc-award.

**FARE FOR ALL AT
CREEKSIDE**

You can save on groceries when you shop at Fare for All. After being held as a drive-thru option for the last year, Fare for All will move back inside at Creekside Community Center, at 9801 Penn Avenue South. Fare for All is a food distribution program open to everyone. Customers can save up to 40% on brand-name, prepackaged food. Items include fresh produce, frozen meat, and other basic groceries. There are no income guidelines. Packages range \$10 to \$30. Cash, credit, debit and EBT accepted. Come shop on Friday, October 22, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Visit blm.mn/creekside to view October food pack options.



Coloring contest art supplied by Crayola.

NAME _____ **GRADE** _____ **PHONE** _____

HALLOWEEN COLORING CONTEST FOR KIDS

Fall is in full swing and Halloween night is almost here! Get spooky creative and enter the Halloween coloring contest for a chance to win prizes and see your art displayed at the Citywide Halloween Party. Grab your markers, crayons or colored pencils to create your own spooktastic masterpiece by using the artwork pictured above. The contest is open to preschool to fifth-grade children. First-, second- and third-place prizes will be awarded for each age group. Colored entries must arrive by 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 19, by drop-off or U.S. mail to Parks and Recreation, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431 or by email to parksrec@bloomingtonmn.gov.

**A FRIGHTFULLY FUN TIME FOR THE
WHOLE FAMILY**

Get a little spooky and groovy at the citywide Halloween Party, 3 – 5 p.m., October 31, at Normandale Lake Bandshell, 5901 West 84th Street with parking on Chalet Road. This event is for preschoolers through fifth graders accompanied by an adult. Children will enjoy musical and other surprises along the trick or treat trail. A donation of a nonperishable food item for the VEAP food shelf would be greatly appreciated, but not required. This free event is sponsored by the Bloomington Optimist Club and Bloomington Parks and Recreation. For more information, including weather updates, call 952-563-8877 or visit blm.mn/halloweenparty.





TOOLS OF THE TRADE: LADDER TRUCK

The latest addition to the Bloomington Fire Department’s apparatus and equipment is a 2019 Rosenbauer Tractor Drawn Aerial, better known as Ladder 1. This fire ladder truck is equipped with a 100-foot aerial ladder and is capable of reaching seven stories.

“We consider it a large tool box on wheels,” said Assistant Fire Chief Jay Forster. “The ladder truck carries tools and equipment. Its 100-foot aerial ladder along with ground ladders make it possible to reach windows and roofs for rescue and fire operations.”

Ladder 1 has equipment for water rescues and extrications, low- and high-pressure lifting bags, ventilation fans, a chain saw and more. The ladder trucks are most commonly used for structure fires, vehicle crashes and technical rescues. Ladder 1 seats six firefighters. It requires two drivers; one firefighter who drives the cab and another to steer the trailer. Ladder 1 is housed at Station 1. Come see a demonstration of ladder trucks and other emergency vehicles at the fire open houses on October 9, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at all six fire stations. For more information about the Fire Department, visit blm.mn/fire.

TRUCK SPECIAL FEATURES:

- 100-feet aerial device capable of flowing 1250 gallons of water per minute
- Onspot auto chains at drive axle, which helps with traction in snow and ice conditions
- 10KW generator
- FIRETECH scene lighting

FLU SHOT CLINICS

Protect yourself with an annual flu shot. Attend an upcoming flu shot clinic offered by Public Health. Anyone can come to the flu shot clinics. Immunizations will be available by appointment only due to COVID-19 precautions. Bring your insurance card or inform the nurse if you do not have one. A parent or guardian must accompany children under 18.

Community Clinics at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South:

- Monday, October 11, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
- Friday, October 22, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Thursday, November 4, 9 – 11 a.m.

Make an appointment online at blm.mn/clinics. If you need help with scheduling an appointment, please call 952-563-8900 and select the option for help with flu vaccinations.

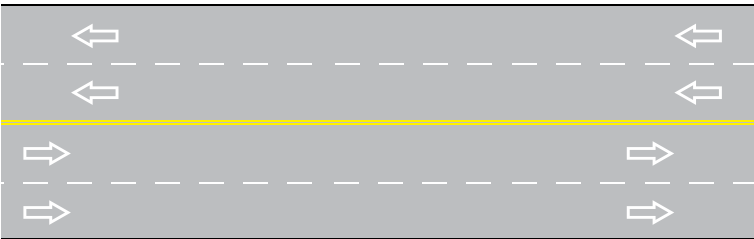
DRIVING SAFELY ON THREE-LANE ROADS

Three-lane roads calm traffic by reducing speeding between drivers, reducing accident rates and providing more space for bicyclists and pedestrians. For your well-being and the safety of others on the road, follow these tips on driving safely on a three-lane street.

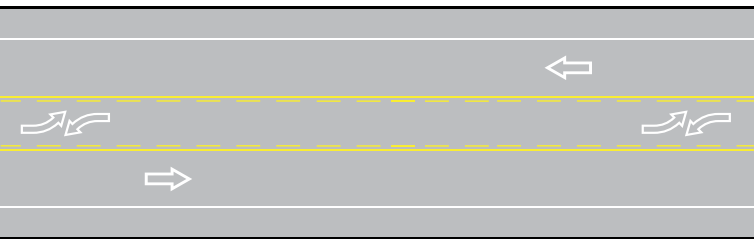
- Remember the center lane is shared by traffic in both directions for making left turns. The lane is marked by parallel solid and dashed yellow lines accompanied by white arrows on the pavement.
- Travel a maximum of 200 feet in the center turn lane and only as part of a left turn maneuver.
- Do not pass in the center turn lane.
- If a transit bus, garbage truck or other vehicle stops along the curb and encroaches into the through lane, you can drive into the center turn lane to go around the stopped vehicle—but only when you have checked that no other vehicles are in the center turn lane.

- Only make left turns from the center turn lane.
- If you are entering the three-lane roadway from a side street or driveway, you can turn into the center turn lane and enter through that point.

BEFORE - FOUR-LANE ROAD



AFTER - THREE-LANE ROAD



GET TO KNOW YOUR FIRE STATION

In observance of National Fire Prevention Week, the Bloomington Fire Department will host fire open houses at all six fire stations in Bloomington on October 9, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Visitors can meet the firefighters, check out the equipment used in the profession, and learn the sounds of fire safety.

This year’s theme, the sounds of fire safety, is meant to help people recognize the different emergency alarm sounds, and to know how to act based on the alarm sound. This year’s theme particularly highlights smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms that meet the needs of people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Other alert devices include strobe lights, low frequency alarms, and bed/pillow shakers that activate at the sound of the alarm.

To prevent injury and death from fire, residents can make sure to their smoke and CO alarms meet the needs of everyone in their home, including those with sensory or physical disabilities by following these tips:

- Install a bedside alert device that responds to the sound of the smoke and CO alarms.
- Sleep with your mobility device, glasses, and phone close to your bed.
- Keep pathways like hallways lit with night lights and free from clutter.

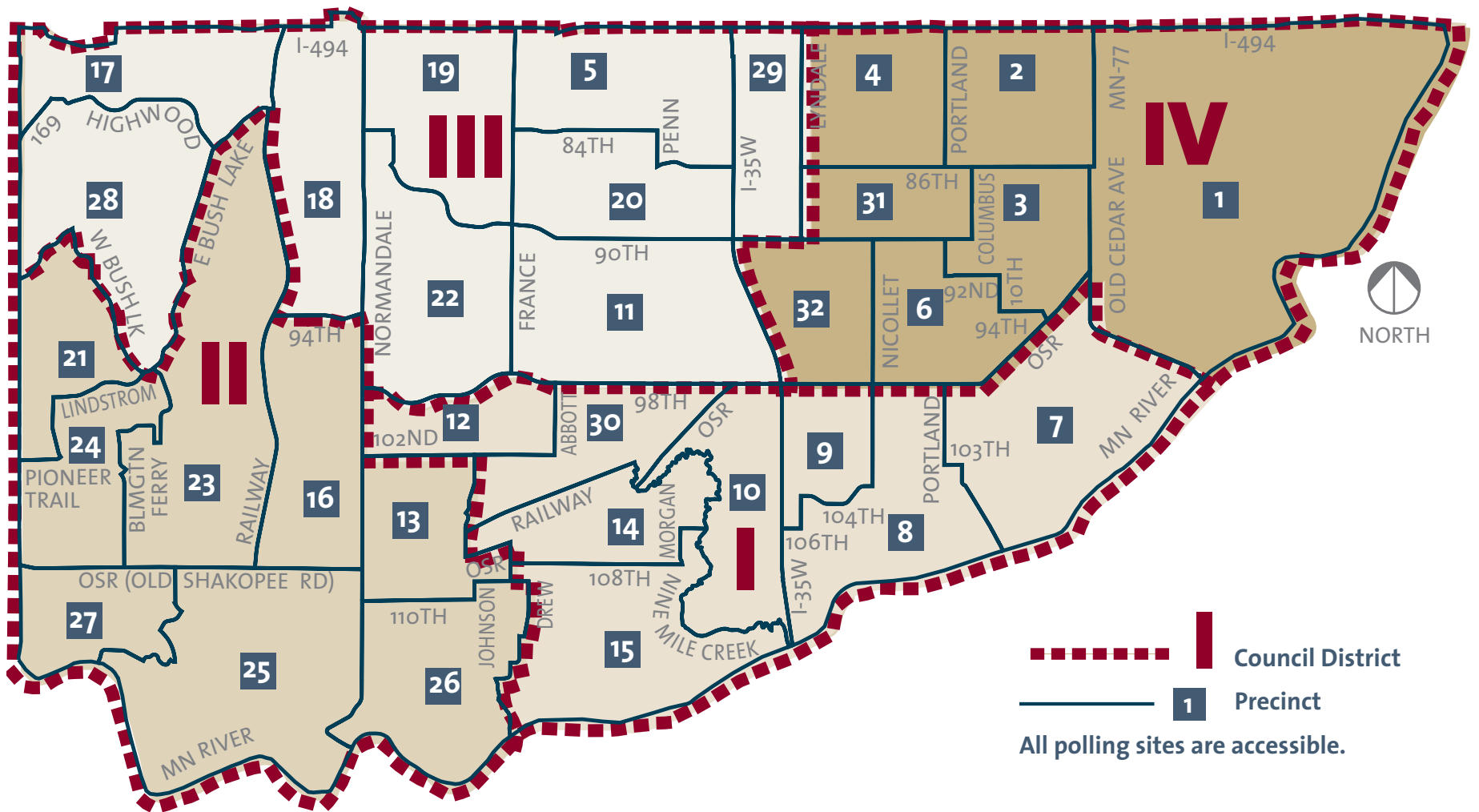
Everyone is welcome to attend a fire open house at these locations:

- Fire Station 1**
10 West 95th Street
- Fire Station 2**
10601 Xerxes Avenue
- Fire Station 3**
2301 East 86th Street
- Fire Station 4**
4201 West 84th Street
- Fire Station 5**
10540 Bush Lake Road
- Fire Station 6**
8601 Lakeview Road

For questions about fire safety and alert devices, contact the Bloomington Fire Department at 952-563-4801.

2021 GENERAL ELECTION GUIDE

POLLS ARE OPEN TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, FROM 7 A.M. – 8 P.M. ALL POLLING PLACES ARE ACCESSIBLE.



Precinct/Polling Location	Entrance/Parking
1 Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center 3815 American Boulevard East	West entrance Visitor lot (W)
2 Portland Avenue United Methodist Church 8000 Portland Avenue South	Main entrance West lot
3 Cedar Valley Church 8600 Bloomington Avenue South	West entrance (Door 4) South lot Accessible entrance: Door 1, East lot
4 Unity South Church 7950 1st Avenue South	Main entrance South lot
5 Southtown Baptist Church 2600 West 82nd Street	Main entrance (W) Northwest lot
6 Bloomington Lutheran Church 9350 Portland Avenue South	Main entrance North lot
7 Atonement Lutheran Church 601 East Old Shakopee Road	Southwest entrance South lot
8 Grace Covenant Church 10201 Nicollet Avenue South	Southeast entrance East lot
9 Nativity of Mary Catholic Church 9900 Lyndale Avenue South	Main entrance (Door 9) South lot
10 St. Luke's Lutheran Church 1701 West Old Shakopee Road	Northeast entrance North lot
11 Bloomington City Hall (Bloomington Civic Plaza) 1800 West Old Shakopee Road	East entrance East lot
12 Crosspoint Church 9801 France Avenue South	Main entrance (E) East lot
13 Bloomington Covenant Church 10150 Xerxes Avenue South	Main entrance (E) East and North lots
14 Mount Hope Lutheran Church 3601 West Old Shakopee Road	Main entrance (S) South lot
15 Minnesota Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 10715 Zenith Avenue South	Main entrance North lot

Precinct/Polling Location	Entrance/Parking
16 Normandale Hylands United Methodist Church 9920 Normandale Boulevard South	Northeast entrance (left doors) North lot
17 Westwood Community Church 6301 Cecilia Circle	Main entrance (W) Main lot (W)
18 The Church of St. Edward's 9401 Nesbitt Avenue South	Southwest entrance (upper level) Southwest lot
19 St. Stephen Lutheran Church 8400 France Avenue South	Main entrance (W) West lot
20 St. Mark's United Church of Christ 8630 Xerxes Avenue South	South entrance Southwest lot
21 Hyland Vistors Center 10145 Bush Lake Road	West entrance West lot
22 St. Michael's Lutheran Church 9201 Normandale Boulevard	Main entrance (E) East lot
23 Community of the Cross Lutheran Church 10701 Bloomington Ferry Road	Main entrance (N) North lot
24 Bloomington Lutheran School 10600 Bloomington Ferry Road	Main entrance (South doors) South lot Accessible entrance: East side
25 MN Masonic Heritage Center 11411 Masonic Home Drive	Main entrance (W) West lot
26 Transfiguration Lutheran Church 11000 France Avenue South	Main entrance (W) West lot
27 Bethany Church 6900 Auto Club Road	West entrance West and North lots
28 Peace Lutheran Church 8600 East Bush Lake Road	Main entrance North lot
29 Christ the King Lutheran Church 8600 Fremont Avenue South	Southwest entrance Southwest lot
30 Oak Grove Presbyterian Church 2200 West Old Shakopee Road	Main entrance Northeast lot
31 St. Bonaventure Catholic Church 901 East 90th Street (Social Hall)	Main entrance East lot
32 Oxboro Evangelical Free Church 9431 Nicollet Avenue South	North entrance North lot



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