

# BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



DECEMBER 2021

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Residents gathered at a community café event in October to talk about the City's *Bloomington. Tomorrow. Together.* strategic plan. [Read more on page 2.](#)

## ELECTION RESULTS ARE IN

A new representative and two familiar faces will start new terms on the Bloomington City Council in January 2022. More than 15,000 Bloomington voters cast their ballots in Bloomington's election on November 2; that's a 26% voter turnout.

"For this type of odd-year election, that is a strong turnout," City Clerk Christina Scipioni said.

Newly elected City officials will be sworn in at the first January City Council meeting. Meet the recently elected and reelected councilmembers below.

### LONA DALLESSANDRO, DISTRICT III

Lona Dallessandro was elected to fill the District III City Council seat following Jack Baloga's retirement. In her career, Dallessandro has led the introduction of digital products and services for Fortune 100 companies and startups, and earned a Master of Business Administration in the process. She and her wife, Sarah, have lived in the Twin Cities metro since 2008, where they have been actively involved as lay leaders for their faith community and as supporters and volunteers for a variety of civic and environmental organizations.

"I am excited to serve District III by working to diversify our economy through innovation, focusing on environmental sustainability not just as a health imperative, but as an economic one, and ensuring that work on affordable housing includes families at all life stages," Dallessandro said. "I will lead the community through changes needed to improve outcomes for our economy and provide opportunities for more businesses to choose Bloomington."



### PATRICK MARTIN, DISTRICT IV

Patrick Martin was reelected to represent District IV. Martin has spent his career working with churches and nonprofits across the region, equipping families with tools for success. After serving on the Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission and the Advisory Board of Health, he was elected to his first term on the Bloomington City Council in 2017. Since then, Martin has been honored to work with his neighbors building a stronger community.

"I'm committed to ensuring Bloomington is a place where every family can put down roots and thrive," Councilmember Martin said. "I'm excited to make important investments in our east side neighborhoods, reinvigorate our parks system, and empower residents to help guide our city's direction for years to come."



### NATHAN COULTER, AT-LARGE

Nathan Coulter was reelected to his second term on the City Council, having previously served on the Bloomington HRA board. He lives near Moir Park with his wife Charity and daughters Eleanor and Adeline. Coulter is a lifelong Bloomington resident, a product of Bloomington Public Schools, and holds a Bachelor of Arts in music and political science from St. Olaf College, and a Master of Public Administration from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota.

"I'm excited to continue serving our neighbors and working to make our community better. I look forward to continuing to center our values in our budget discussions, implementing our Parks System Master Plan, and working with residents and businesses on future-focused development that ensures a thriving Bloomington," Councilmember Coulter said.







# MAYOR’S MEMO

## RANKED CHOICE VOTING DEBUTS IN BLOOMINGTON

By Mayor Tim Busse

In November, the City held an election for open positions on the City Council and the school board. This was the first time the City used ranked choice voting. None of the City Council candidates received enough first-choice votes to be declared the winner on election night. Ranked choice voting rules state that a candidate is elected on election night if they receive at least 50% +1 of all votes cast. This is called the maximum possible threshold. All votes cast include first-choice votes for a candidate on the ballot, first-choice votes for write-in candidates, over voted first-choice votes and under voted first-choice votes. That meant ranked choice tabulation had to take place at Civic Plaza in the days following Election Day. The public was invited to watch as City staff tabulated votes in real time. By the end of that week, we knew who had been elected to the City Council. *Read the cover for more about the candidates elected to Council.*

More than 15,000 Bloomington residents voted in the election. That’s about a 26% turnout, which is below Bloomington’s 92% turnout rate that we saw in the 2020 elections, but is about on par with the voter turnout we typically see in off-year elections. I want to thank everyone who took the time to exercise their civic right to vote.

I’m particularly grateful to City Clerk Christina Scipioni and all City Clerk staff for establishing ranked choice voting in Bloomington and providing multiple opportunities for residents to learn about the new voting method and how it works. And I want to be sure to specifically thank all of the election judges who worked this Election Day. Year after year, Bloomington election judges do outstanding work. They work long hours. They are patient and knowledgeable, which was especially important this year with the debut of ranked choice voting, and they do it all with a smile. They make democracy work here in Bloomington and their efforts are greatly appreciated. Welcome new and seasoned councilmembers. Let’s work together to make Bloomington better today and tomorrow for all.

## RESIDENTS GATHER TO ENVISION BLOOMINGTON’S FUTURE

About 150 people attended virtual and live events held in October and November to share their visions for Bloomington’s future. This is a foundational part of the *Bloomington. Tomorrow. Together.* strategic planning process. At these events, people were able to share what they value about the places they live, work and spend time. More than 100 people also provided input on the café questions via online forums. A full report of the feedback received at the events is available online at blm.mn/btt.

The City also received nearly 160 applications from residents who were interested in serving on the core planning, action and measurement teams that will help propel the strategic planning process. The core planning team held a retreat on December 2 – 4 to work on a draft of the strategic plan. Now, the action and measurement teams will work out the details of the plan during the months of January and February 2022.

*Bloomington. Tomorrow. Together.* is the City’s most collaborative strategic planning effort to date. The process provides opportunities for residents to partner with the City to help design a plan for Bloomington’s future. City representatives are working in partnership with members of the community at every stage of the process. For more information, visit blm.mn/btt.

## JUST DEEDS PROJECT PROGRESSES IN BLOOMINGTON

Last June, the Bloomington City Council passed a resolution condemning the use of discriminatory covenants and joined the Just Deeds Coalition. Discriminatory covenants were tools used by real estate developers and others to prevent those who were Black, Indigenous, and People of Color from buying or occupying property in certain areas. The City is in the process of discharging discriminatory covenants on all City-owned parcels that have them.

These types of covenants were common throughout the United States from the early 1900s to the 1950s. This practice resulted in racially homogenized communities that excluded BIPOC individuals and families, building a hidden system of segregation. Discriminatory covenants were established in Bloomington between 1923 and 1951 and are not legally enforceable under current laws. Most property owners are likely unaware of their existence.

“The City is working to spread awareness about this and other discriminatory practices from Minnesota’s past,” Housing and Redevelopment Authority Administrator Aarica Coleman said. “Together, we can acknowledge this and other forms of discrimination, discharge these covenants and build a foundation for more inclusive communities.”

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

Are you a resident wondering if you have a discriminatory covenant on your property? To learn more about your land visit blm.mn/justdeeds and use the interactive map. To request free assistance in discharging a discriminatory covenant visit blm.mn/justdeeds-register.

Are you a lawyer? Volunteer your time to help renounce discriminatory covenants at <https://justdeeds.org/attorneys/>.

## BRIEFING

Volume 29, Number 12

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

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*Elected officials presented for informational purposes.*

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Mayor Tim Busse speaks at a celebration of the I-35W bridge completion.

## I-35W BRIDGE COMPLETE

To address the deteriorating condition of the bridge structures across the Minnesota River, a project to reconstruct the I-35W bridge between West 106th Street in Bloomington and Cliff Road in Burnsville began nearly three years ago. The work included reconstruction of the I-35W bridge, new pavement from Cliff Road to 106th Street and a pedestrian and bike trail on the east side of the river bridge. On October 30, public officials gathered to celebrate the completion of the I-35W Minnesota River bridge project.

“I think, it brings up that real notion of connections—building bridges as opposed to building walls. We like to connect with our neighbors in Burnsville, we connect with our neighbors in Eagan,” Mayor Tim Busse said. “We are just so fortunate to have such good and supportive neighbors. Our neighbors really make it a group effort whenever we take on a project of this scale. It’s always very successful and very appreciated.”

MnDOT and the City worked together on separate undertakings to improve traffic flow and promote safety for motorists, pedestrians, bikers and other users.

“During the pandemic, we saw a huge increase in bike traffic. To be able to make that connection is just a really important piece of that infrastructure for people as they get out and enjoy nature and exercise,” Mayor Busse said.

For more information about City projects, visit [blm.mn/roadprojects](https://blm.mn/roadprojects) or call 952-563-4532.

## BLOOMINGTON PASSES TWO ENERGY-DISCLOSURE ORDINANCES

The Bloomington City Council adopted two energy-disclosure ordinances in September. The first ordinance, time-of-sale energy disclosure, leverages the City’s existing time-of-sale inspection to gather and disclose information about a home’s energy assets. Beginning on April 1, inspectors will collect energy metrics about a home’s heating and cooling system, water heater, wall and attic insulation, and windows before it is listed for sale. The City will summarize those metrics in an energy disclosure report and require sellers to display that report at open houses. Bloomington is the second city in the state to require energy disclosure at the time of sale.

“Sharing information about a home’s energy assets helps potential buyers understand the energy cost of ownership,” said Sustainability Coordinator Emma Struss. “Energy disclosure also provides the City a way to identify and connect residents with resources to address inefficient homes.”

The second energy-disclosure ordinance adopted in September focuses on large building benchmarking. This ordinance requires public, commercial and multifamily buildings that are larger than 75,000 square feet to benchmark and disclose high-level energy metrics on an annual basis. The City will implement these requirements in phases based upon building size and type. Public buildings will be the first to require benchmarking, with an initial reporting date of December 30, 2021. Commercial and multifamily buildings over 100,000 square feet will follow, with an initial reporting date of June 1, 2022.

“Benchmarking helps building owners track energy performance, control costs and identify options to improve efficiency,” said Steve Flagg, Bloomington Sustainability Commissioner and founder of the Bloomington-based Quality Bicycle Products, which will be a participant in the benchmarking program.

“The buildings in our community play a big role in the local greenhouse gas emissions driving climate change—the electricity and natural gas used to fuel our buildings is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the city. Bloomington’s Energy Action Plan outlines a goal of reducing these emissions by 75% by 2035,” Mayor Tim Busse said. “This week the Council took significant steps to meet this goal by adopting two energy-disclosure ordinances.”

## OASIS FOR YOUTH RECEIVES OMAR BONDERUD AWARD

In a tradition going back to the 1970s, the Human Rights Commission honors individuals and organizations making significant contributions to ensure the human rights of people in Bloomington each year with the Omar Bonderud Award. This year, Oasis for Youth received the award for its work assisting youth and families in the community. Oasis for Youth serves Bloomington, Edina and Richfield with the mission to elevate youth in their own community. The organization does this by providing employment support, rental assistance, outreach and a drop-in center that offers food, clothes, showers, a place to do laundry, legal aid and more.

During the height of the pandemic, Oasis for Youth served more than 350 youth with 184 being new to Oasis. The organization distributed 713 meals, made more than 3,000 virtual or in-person visits and provided nearly \$23,000 in rental subsidies.

“This past year has been profoundly difficult for everyone, but the strength of our community allowed us to navigate it all. Through a global pandemic, a social uprising and the total disruption to our day-to-day work when a pipe burst in the Oasis basement, we have continued advocating for our youth,” Oasis Executive Director Nicole Mills said. “Receiving this award is a welcome recognition of Oasis staff’s work, but the real honor is getting to serve the youth in our community.”

For more information, visit [blm.mn/bonderud](https://blm.mn/bonderud).



Oasis for Youth staff serve the youth of the Bloomington, Edina and Richfield communities.



## SEEKING 2022 HOME IMPROVEMENT FAIR VENDORS

The City and the Housing Redevelopment Authority will host the 2022 Home Improvement Fair Saturday, February 26. Home remodeling professionals and vendors who are interested in exhibiting at the event must register before Friday, December 17. For more information or to register, visit [blm.mn/hif-vendors](https://blm.mn/hif-vendors).

## COUNCIL TO VOTE ON FINAL 2022 BUDGET

The City Council will vote to adopt a final 2022 budget this month. In September, the Council approved a preliminary 2022 property tax levy increase of 2.75%. The preliminary tax levy can be reduced, but not increased, before final adoption.

This levy would fund 68.8% of the City’s 2022 general fund budget. The remainder of the proposed budget would be supported by lodging and admission taxes, license and permit fees, grants and program revenues. The average 2022 preliminary tax levy increase for 15 similar metro area cities is around 5%. At 2.75%, Bloomington’s preliminary levy increase is the lowest among those 15 cities.

The City Council will hold a truth-in-taxation public budget hearing Monday, December 6, 6 p.m., at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. For instructions on how to participate in person or virtually, visit [blm.mn/cc-1206](https://blm.mn/cc-1206) or call 952-563-8790.

For detailed information, including presentation slides from information sessions and recaps of City Council budget discussions, visit [blm.mn/budget](https://blm.mn/budget).





## RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

During the holiday season, you can help Mother Nature by recycling your (nature-grown) Christmas tree. The organic material will be mulched at a composting facility. Composting trees is much better for the environment than sending them to landfills.

Christmas trees will be collected in 2022 during the weeks of January 3 – 7 and 10 – 14. During tree collection weeks, a fee of \$10.93 per tree will appear on your next utility bill.

To prepare your tree for pickup, 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.

Recycling your Christmas tree any other time of the year will cost \$54.65. Call Utility Billing at 952-563-8726 to schedule a bulky item pickup. Visit [blm.mn/garbage](http://blm.mn/garbage) for information.

### ARTIFICIAL TREES

Artificial trees cannot be recycled in the City's recycling program. Public Works suggests residents consider donating artificial trees in good condition to charitable organizations in and around Bloomington. Visit [blm.mn/donate](http://blm.mn/donate) for a list of organizations that accept donations of artificial Christmas trees.

## TIPS FOR EXTRA RECYCLING

Extra recycling accumulates quickly during the holidays. After you fill your recycling cart, you can place leftover recyclable materials next to the cart. Place smaller recyclable items in paper bags before putting them next to the 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. If you regularly have extra recycling, you can request a second recycling cart at no cost. For more information, visit [blm.mn/recycling](http://blm.mn/recycling).



## 2022 GARBAGE AND RECYCLING CALENDAR

*Note: Organics recycling is not reflected in this calendar, because organics recycling will be picked up every week on your regular garbage pickup day.*

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RECYCLE WEEK



HOLIDAY TREES PICKED UP FOR A REDUCED FEE



HOLIDAY; PICKUP IS DELAYED BY ONE DAY

**CITY-OBSERVED HOLIDAYS THAT ARE NOT LISTED ON THE CALENDAR DO NOT DELAY COLLECTION**

**YARD WASTE SEASON\*: APRIL 11 – NOVEMBER 26, WEATHER PERMITTING**

\*SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE, EXTRA CHARGES APPLY

## DECEMBER GARBAGE AND RECYCLING SCHEDULE

This year, enjoy your holidays without the worry of forgetting your garbage collection day. Generally, if your collection day occurs on or after a major holiday, your collection will be delayed by one day. If the holiday occurs on Saturday or Sunday, garbage will be collected as usual. This year, Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on a Saturday. There will be no delay in collection for Christmas in 2021. For more information, visit [blm.mn/garbage](http://blm.mn/garbage).



RECYCLE WEEK

December 2021						
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## FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSES A SUCCESS

Bloomington residents got to meet firefighters, police officers and Public Works staff at the annual fire station open houses, held in October in recognition of National Fire Prevention Week.

“There was great excitement at the fire stations seeing cool fire trucks, snow plows and police squads,” Assistant Fire Chief/Fire Marshal Laura McCarthy said. “Both firefighters and residents enjoyed participating in fun activities while adhering to the current COVID-19 guidelines.”

At all six fire stations, firefighters created a fun atmosphere and spoke about this year’s prevention theme: “Learn the Sounds of Safety.” They handed out t-shirts with that message printed on the front with Sparky the Fire Dog. They answered questions and provided handouts with information on smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms. Also, residents and children watched drone demonstrations, learned how to properly use a fire extinguisher, tested their skills in an agility course and created art at a coloring station.

## SPACE HEATER SAFETY GUIDE

Ready or not, cold temperatures are on the way. The Bloomington Fire Department urges residents to remember that space heaters need space.

Safety is a top concern when using space heaters. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, space heaters are the cause of more than 25,000 residential fires every year. An estimated 6,000 people receive hospital emergency room care for burn injuries associated with contacting the hot surfaces of space heaters, mostly in non-fire situations.

- Keep warm and cozy without the hazard, when you follow these tips:
- Place space heaters on low, flat surfaces.
  - Keep space heaters at least three feet away from flammable items and objects, such as papers or curtains.
  - Make sure your heater has an auto shut-off to turn the heater off if it tips over.
  - Keep children away from the space heater.
  - Plug the heater directly into the wall outlet. Never use an extension cord.
  - Avoid leaving a space heater unattended, especially for long periods of time.
  - Never use a space heater to dry clothing.
  - Unplug space heaters when not in use.
- In addition, the department urges you to keep smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors up to date. For questions or concerns, contact the BFD at 952-563-4801.

## HOLIDAY SHOPPING SAFETY TIPS

’Tis the season for shopping—don’t let a Grinch ruin your holiday gift giving this year. Each year during the holiday season, shoppers become easy targets for criminals. The Bloomington Police Department’s Crime Prevention Unit wants to remind everyone to take extra precautions to keep safe.

### SHOPPING IN PERSON

- Plan to shop during daylight hours. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.
- Never leave your purse or wallet unattended. Only take out your money when it is time to pay.
- Do not carry large amounts of cash.
- Avoid being a victim of identity theft by not exposing credit cards, debit cards, and other identification. Thieves use cell phones to capture card information without your knowledge.
- Pay with one credit card, if possible.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.

### ONLINE SHOPPING

- Do not pay with a debit card online. Paying with a credit card gives you more protection when it comes to fraud.
- Shop on websites you know and trust.
- Avoid making purchases on public Wi-Fi. The data you send on a public network can be intercepted.
- Ensure a website is secure by looking for the lock icon in the URL field, and making sure the URL starts with “https,” not just “http.” The “s” means the site is safer and more secure.
- Print and save all confirmations from your online purchases.
- Collect your delivered packages immediately. Have a neighbor pick them up for you, or utilize package lockers that are offered by many retailers to limit your chances of your packages being stolen.

### AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINE (ATM)

- Only use ATMs in well-lit locations.
- Use your body to “shield” the ATM keyboard as you enter your PIN. If someone seems to be lingering behind you, walk away and come back later.
- Withdraw only the amount of cash you need.
- Do not throw your ATM receipt away at the ATM location.
- Do not count or visually display any money you received from the ATM. Immediately place the cash in your purse or wallet, and count it later.



## HAD CLOSE CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WITH COVID-19? HERE’S WHAT TO DO

In general, close contact means being less than six feet from someone for 15 minutes or more throughout a 24-hour period. However, even shorter periods of time or longer distances can result in spread of the COVID-19. The longer someone is close to the person who has the virus, and the closer they are, the greater the chance the virus can spread.

If you have close contact with someone who has been told by a doctor, clinic or hospital that they have COVID-19, follow the appropriate guidance below.

**If you are fully vaccinated** (it has been two weeks since your last dose of vaccine):

- Get tested three to five days after exposure to someone with COVID-19.
- Wear a mask in public, indoor settings for 14 days following exposure or until your test result is negative.

**If you are not fully vaccinated:**

- Get tested immediately.
- If the test is negative, test again three to five days after the last time you were close to the person with COVID-19.
- Stay home and away from others.
- If you are at high risk of severe illness, you may be able to get medicine to prevent disease.

**Whether or not you are fully vaccinated:**

- If test results are positive or if you start to feel sick, follow recommendations at [blm.mn/feelingsick](https://blm.mn/feelingsick).
- Follow recommendations for wearing masks.
- Wash your hands often.
- Clean surfaces you touch.





### BIG ICE SKATING SHOWS

Be mesmerized with twirls and ice dancing at Bloomington Ice Garden, 3600 West 98th Street.

#### JINGLE SKATE

The annual Jingle Skate returns December 17, 5:30 – 6:15 p.m., at BIG in rink 2. This informal event, hosted by the Figure Skating Club of Bloomington, will feature skaters performing to holiday favorite jingles. Admission is free. Visit [fscbloomington.org/](https://fscbloomington.org/) for more information.

#### ANNUAL ICE SHOW

The annual Ice Show is set for March 11, 7 p.m. and March 12, 1 p.m. The Ice Show is an opportunity for skaters to exhibit their creative skating skills, have fun and work with others to put on an exciting show. Registered skaters from the Bloomington Ice Garden Skate School and members of the Figure Skating Club of Bloomington are encouraged to participate. Registration information for skaters will be available in December. Ticket sales for the general public will be announced at a later date. For up-to-date information, visit [blm.mn/big](https://blm.mn/big) and [fscbloomington.org/](https://fscbloomington.org/). You can also email to Skate School Coordinator Rene Gelecinskyj at [rgelecinskyj@bloomingtonmn.gov](mailto:rgelecinskyj@bloomingtonmn.gov).

### BIG SKATE SCHOOL

Whether you’re learning to skate for the first time or wanting to improve, the Bloomington Ice Garden Skate School, 3600 West 98th Street, can help you sharpen your skating skills. Skaters of all levels are welcome to participate. From pre-K to adults, there’s a skating class for everyone. BIG Skate School students have the opportunity to perform alongside the Figure Skating Club of Bloomington in BIG’s annual spring Ice Show. BIG Skate School runs year round. Online registration is preferred. To register online, visit [blm.mn/skateschool](https://blm.mn/skateschool). For more information, call BIG at 952-563-8841, visit [blm.mn/BIG](https://blm.mn/BIG) or send an email to Rene Gelecinskyj, BIG Skate School Coordinator, at [rgelecinskyj@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:rgelecinskyj@BloomingtonMN.gov).



## 2021-2022 OUTDOOR SKATING RINKS AND WARMING HOUSES

Whether you’re a novice or can twirl it up on the ice, you can enjoy some classic winter fun on one of Bloomington’s nine outdoor skating rinks. The season is scheduled to run December 15 - February 17, depending on weather and ice conditions.

Warming houses are scheduled to be open during the following times, pending staff availability:

Monday – Thursday: 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Friday: 4 – 9 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Sunday: 12 – 8 p.m.

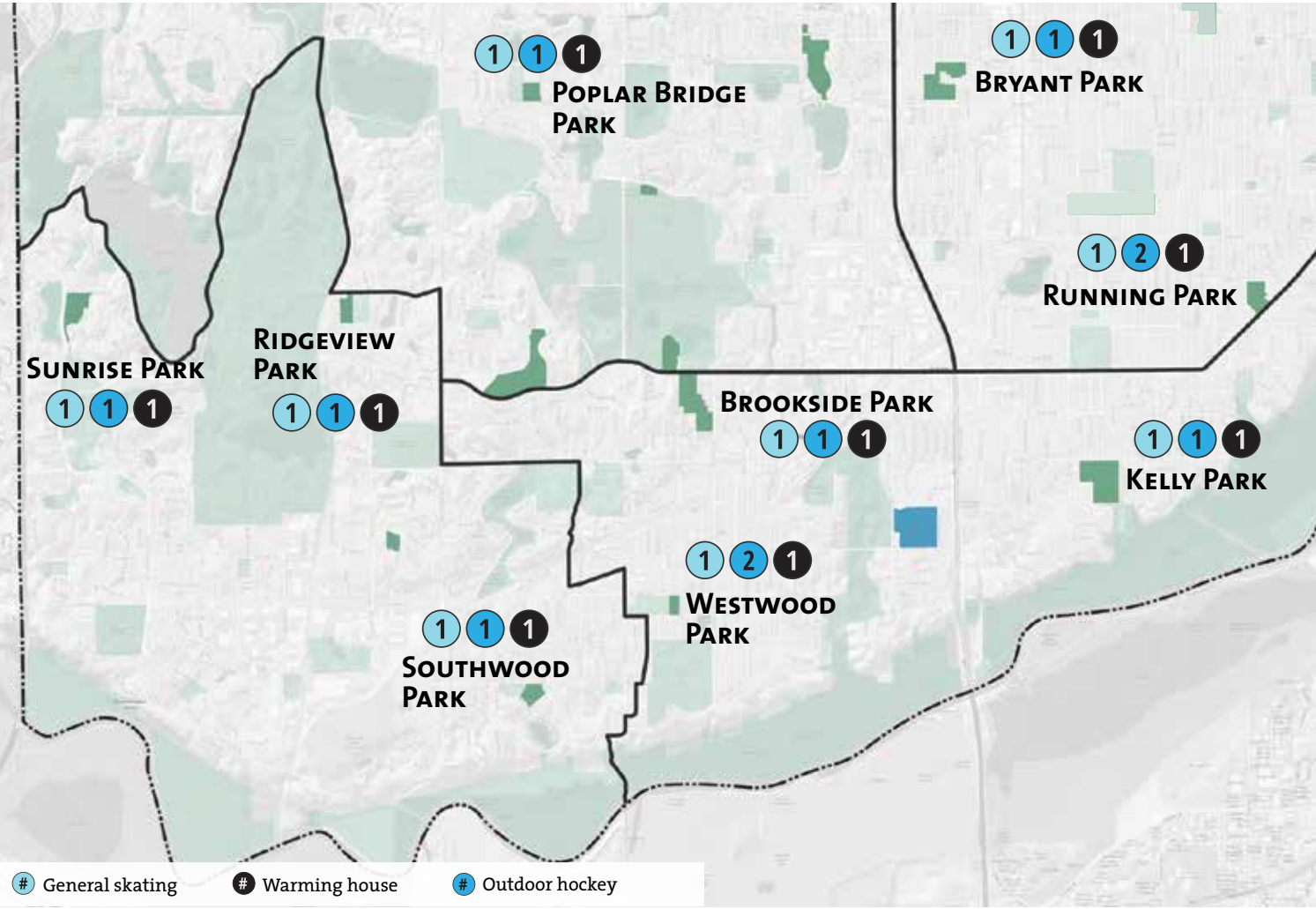
Rink lighting will operate 4:30 – 10 p.m. daily.

All warming houses will be closed on December 24, December 25, December 31, and January 1. Lights will still be on, and people may skate during posted park hours.

For park addresses, up-to-date rink conditions, closings and schedules visit the City’s website at [blm.mn/rinks](https://blm.mn/rinks) or call 952-563-8878 and select option 3.

### ICE RINKS AND WARMING HOUSES

#### BLOOMINGTON PARKS WITH GENERAL SKATING, OUTDOOR HOCKEY OR WARMING HOUSES



### WINTER FETE RETURNS

After being called off in 2021 due to the pandemic, Winter Fete will return to Bloomington in January. Mark your calendar! Come join Bloomington Parks and Recreation and local sponsors, January 15 – 23, to embrace the season during the 18th annual Winter Fete celebration.

Details are yet to be finalized, but past events and activities included a fat-tire bike race, ski jumping and the Pond Dakota Winter History Festival. The week-long celebration takes place outdoors for a splendid Minnesota experience. All Winter Fete activities are free unless otherwise noted, and fun for the whole family. Stay up-to-date with the latest announcements of Winter Fete at [blm.mn/winter-fete](https://blm.mn/winter-fete) or call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877.



# HOLIDAY SHOWS AT BLOOMINGTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The sights and sounds of holiday shows will surely make your spirit bright and merry. The Bloomington Center for the Arts houses eight art organizations in Civic Plaza at West 98th Street and Old Shakopee Road. For tickets, call the box office at 952-563-8575. For additional shows and facility information, visit [blm.mn/bca](http://blm.mn/bca).



### THE NUTCRACKER BALLET CONTINENTAL BALLET COMPANY

A classic, holiday favorite. Relive the magic of childhood in this delightful ballet as you travel to the land of the Sugar Plum Fairy.

**DECEMBER 9, 7 P.M., DECEMBER 10, 7:30 P.M.  
DECEMBER 11, 7:30 P.M., DECEMBER 12, 3 P.M.**

**TICKETS: ADULTS \$25, SENIORS AND STUDENTS \$19,  
CHILDREN UNDER 13 \$13**

Buy online at  
<https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/5146542>



### MEDALIST CONCERT BAND PRESENTS: SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

The resounding joy of the holiday season returns with your favorite local band. Come enjoy all of your favorites, both traditional carols and modern classics, in this popular holiday program.

**DECEMBER 19, 4 P.M.**

**TICKETS: ADULTS \$19, SENIORS AND STUDENTS \$17**

Buy online at  
<https://ci.ovationtix.com/35671/production/1077030>



Ceramic trees by Alice Nelson-Lindall.

## SHOP GIFTS IN THE GALLERY

The ideal place to find stunning, creative gifts is at Gifts in the Gallery, presented by Artistry. This annual event offers a boutique-style holiday sale for juried art items. Be dazzled by sculpture, jewelry, scarves, ceramics, pictures, glasswork, wood-turned home goods, cards and more—all handmade by more than 50 local artists.

Join Artistry and the exhibiting artists for a festive reception with door prizes and live music by Phil Berbig December 7, 6 – 8 p.m., inside the Inez Greenberg Gallery at the Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

Open for only two weeks, shoppers can enjoy a relaxed shopping atmosphere December 7 – 21. Sale hours are:

Monday – Friday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Saturday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Sunday, 1 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Parking is always free. Visit [artistrymn.org/gig](http://artistrymn.org/gig) for a full list of participating artists, sale hours, the most up-to-date COVID-19 safety protocols and potential cancellations.

## CALL FOR ART!

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of Twin Cities Pride, the City of Bloomington Human Rights Commission and Artistry, along with community partners, will host a Pride Art Exhibition in June 2022 in the Greenberg Gallery. The show will celebrate the LGBTQ+ community. Artwork showcasing the contributions of the LGBTQ+ community and fitting the theme “Come as you are!” will be accepted starting December 1 at [blm.mn/callforart](http://blm.mn/callforart). Minnesota artists age 18 and older are welcome to submit one or two pieces of artwork for consideration and selection by a curatorial review panel. The deadline to submit art is January 20, 2022.



## DWAN GOLF COURSE OPEN HOUSE SUMMARY

In September, Parks and Recreation hosted a Community Input Open House for residents to learn about potential improvements to Dwan Golf Course and clubhouse. The primary purpose of the open house was to gather input from golfers and the general public on desired clubhouse and course enhancements.

Consultants and City staff were present to listen, provide information and answer questions. The architecture firm Hammel, Green and Abrahamson will work on the concept design and cost estimates for the new clubhouse. Kevin Norby, the golf course architect, will work on course improvements and cost estimates.

“Staff has received significant input from Dwan golfers about the improvements they would like to see,” Faus said. “This is the first step in the process to put together the space program, conceptual design and cost estimates that will provide the City Council more accurate information on the true costs to make the improvements.”

More than 100 community members attended the open house. The majority of guests expressed support for some preliminary possible interior clubhouse space designs, and a list of prospective course changes and improvements.

Prior to the open house, Parks and Recreation conducted a customer survey and received nearly 700 responses. Key comments and themes from the survey and open house are summarized below:

- Complete redo of the bunkers all over the golf course.
- Full alcohol options.
- Expanded food options.
- Permanent restrooms on the course.
- Improved and expanded outdoor seating areas.
- Non-golf activities, such as cross country skiing, snowshoeing and walking, allowed in the off-season on the course grounds.

The 18-hole Dwan Golf Course has been Bloomington’s home course since July 11, 1970, when it hosted its first public golf rounds. Having hosted countless tournaments, events, leagues and rounds of golf over 50 years, Dwan is in need of some major updates, including bathroom renovations, an expanded and improved kitchen, and improved front desk.

Updates about this ongoing project will be available on Dwan’s website at [blm.mn/dwan](http://blm.mn/dwan). The public will have additional opportunities to provide input on potential improvements at Dwan. For more information about the open house, contact Susan Faus, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation, at 952-563-8899.





# SNOW SAFETY 101

In every Minnesota winter, (at least) a little snow must fall. The City is prepared to keep you traveling safely through it all. In the 2021 National Community Survey, 85 percent of respondents rated the City’s snow removal services as excellent or good, which is higher than the national average. In Bloomington, snowplowing services cost \$4.50 per month for owners of median-valued homes. Snowplow operators are on the streets, preparing them for morning traffic after or during a snowfall as early as 3 a.m. They plow the most heavily used roads first and then move on to other roads and cul-de-sacs. If damage to turf or a mailbox occurs due to snow removal operations, call Street Maintenance at 952-563-8760.

## WHAT’S A SNOW EMERGENCY?

A snow emergency is a declaration the City can make any time 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 INFORMED

When a snow emergency is declared, the City posts alerts on its website, social media pages, cable channel and E-Subscribe. To receive email alerts about snow emergencies and parking restrictions, sign up for E-Subscribe alerts at [blm.mn/esubscribe](http://blm.mn/esubscribe).

## SAFE STREETS AND WATER BODIES

The City treats roads with an anti-icing brine solution to make it more difficult 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 treatment protects the surrounding bodies of water from excess salt runoff in the spring.



## PLAY IT SAFE

From sledding to snowballs, there’s no shortage of fun kids can have in the snow. Help your children play it safe. Never allow children to build tunnels or snow forts near the street. The force and weight of the snow from 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

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

## PLACE CARTS FOR WINTER

This winter, think about 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. Keep carts off sidewalks and out of the street. Visit [blm.mn/recycling](http://blm.mn/recycling) for more information.

## KEEP SIDEWALKS CLEAR

Keeping your sidewalk clear of snow and ice makes walking around Bloomington safer for pedestrians. The City asks that residents and business owners keep their sidewalks free of all snow whether it’s fallen snow or snow that may be moved onto the sidewalk during street or driveway snow removal efforts. It’s illegal for any vehicle to block a public sidewalk.

## SHOVEL OUT FIRE HYDRANTS, MAILBOXES AND GARBAGE BINS

Help protect your neighborhood from house fires. Accessible hydrants lessen 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 behind the curb and away from the end of the driveway. Place containers off sidewalks to leave room for plows.



## MOVE YOUR CAR OFF THE STREET DURING SNOW EMERGENCIES

Parked cars make plowing more challenging and result in lingering patches of snow. You can help the City plow more quickly and efficiently. Move your car off the street to avoid having to dig it out of a snowbank or getting a ticket during snow emergencies. To ensure that all streets are fully cleared, Bloomington Police enforce a parking ban during snow emergencies. To see if a snow emergency has been declared, visit the City’s website or call the Snow Emergency Hotline at 952-563-8768.

## WATCH FOR SNOWPLOWS

Did you know a snowplow weighs 17 times more than a car? In a crash with a plow, car passengers are more likely to be seriously injured. Keep these tips in mind to share the road safely:

- Yield to snowplows and stay alert.
- Give snowplow drivers plenty of space. Allow at least five car lengths between you and a snowplow.
- Never drive into a snow cloud created by a snowplow.
- Do not use cruise control on wet, icy roads.

