

# BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



JANUARY 2022

PAGE 3

PAGE 4

PAGE 5

PAGE 7



Children play at an October *Bloomington. Tomorrow. Together.* event.

## BLOOMINGTON. TOMORROW. TOGETHER. COMMUNITY FEEDBACK PROVIDES DIRECTION

About 150 people attended virtual and live events held in October and November and shared their vision for Bloomington's future. This was a foundational part of the *Bloomington. Tomorrow. Together.* strategic planning process. More than 100 people also provided input through online forums. When respondents were asked about their top priorities to help Bloomington thrive, the following themes emerged:

- Community recreation and amenities – indoor and outdoor;
- Bloomington identity, belonging and sense of community;
- Public infrastructure and services;
- Support for local businesses;
- Housing, public safety and education.

Participants also shared their thoughts about what challenges would be most significant for Bloomington over the next three to five years. Six main themes emerged: housing; infrastructure and development; safety, crime and police; community divide; climate change; and an aging population.

To read the full report of feedback gathered through online engagement and in-person community café events, visit [blm.mn/btt](http://blm.mn/btt).

After the information gathering and outreach efforts, the core planning team held a retreat on December 2 – 4 to work on a draft of the strategic plan. The action and measurement teams are expected to finish working out additional details of the plan by the end of February.

*Bloomington. Tomorrow. Together.* is the City's most collaborative strategic planning effort to date. For more information, visit [blm.mn/btt](http://blm.mn/btt).

## STREET RENAMED TO HONOR FORMER MAYOR WINSTEAD

For 30 years, Gene Winstead made an impact as mayor of Bloomington. Now a street will be named after him to honor his years of service. On November 29, the Bloomington City Council voted to change the name of 28th Avenue South to Winstead Way.

"I'm humbled and flattered," former Mayor Winstead said. "Many of the streets in the city are named after families and people, kind of like the founders, who have contributed to Bloomington. It's nice to know that the many years of service are being recognized and appreciated."

Mayor Tim Busse formally requested consideration of a permanent street renaming. In a proposal to Bloomington's city engineer, Mayor Busse said "The purpose of this proposal is to recognize and memorialize the tremendous record of service, legacy of leadership, and vision that Gene Winstead demonstrated over more than 30 years of service to the city of Bloomington."

Winstead's involvement in public service began in the late 1980s when he was asked to sit on a committee to give input on one of the first major intersections in the city. Then he became involved in the HRA and the planning commission before running for mayor.

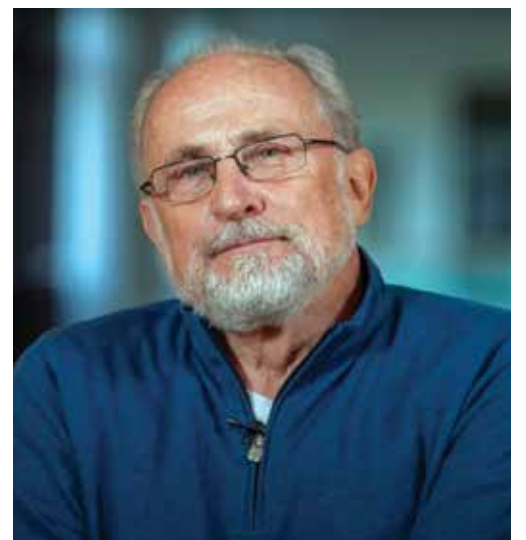
"I figured I'd serve a term or two, and it ended up being five terms," Winstead said. "I really enjoyed the work, working with City staff and interacting with all the people in Bloomington, because this is where we live."

A Bloomington resident since 1977, Winstead said nearly 90,000 people in Bloomington is how he defines community, and they became a part of his life—an enjoyable part.

According to Mayor Busse, the renaming of 28th Avenue South is appropriate because of its location in the South Loop District, an area of the City that has been remade under Winstead's leadership.

"His role as mayor to champion numerous projects that have made South Loop the thriving place it is today are all reasons to warrant this lasting honor," Mayor Busse said. "Gene Winstead is the longest serving mayor in Bloomington's 160-plus year history, and his accomplishments and tenure are worthy of a named place in Bloomington's history."

The installation of the new street signs will happen in spring 2022. For questions about the street naming process in Bloomington, contact the engineering division at 952-563-4870.



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



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

ECRWSS  
POSTAL CUSTOMER

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





Aritst credit Reggie LeFlore, WE Mural detail.

# MAYOR’S MEMO

## SOUTH LOOP IS ABUZZ WITH NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND AMENITIES

By Mayor Tim Busse

Bloomington’s South Loop District contains many amenities— Mall of America, homes, hotels, sculptures, restaurants, murals, apartments, four light rail stations—and they’re all next to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

Many new attractions are on their way to South Loop, too. From new housing opportunities to public art, there’s something for everyone in the area. In addition to a new mural—one of Minnesota’s longest—and a new art bench, *read more on page 7*, Fiddlehead Coffee Co. opened its doors at 8061 33rd Avenue in October. Housing projects on the horizon include a new independent senior housing complex from Roers Senior Development that was approved with a future location at 8131 34th Avenue South. The age-restricted, six-story building will include 146 units and redevelop an existing surface parking lot along the Minnesota River bluff. Plans include two levels of underground parking spaces, some of which will be shared with the office building at 8101 34th Avenue South. Construction could begin as early as this spring.

Two more development projects are also taking shape in the South Loop. The Rosa and American Square developments will create new residential housing, advancing goals of Bloomington’s South Loop District Plan. On both sites, large surface parking lots will be transformed into more than 500 new housing units.

Preparation for this work began years ago. In June, the Bloomington City Council approved the Rosa development on a 12-acre site at 3700 American Boulevard East, where Park and Fly currently operates. During the first phase, a six-story, 183-unit apartment building will be constructed. Affordable units will make up 20% of the apartments, and the remainder will be market rate. Additional phases are planned for two residential buildings and a hotel, depending on market demand.

Across the street from Rosa, a two-phased development called American Square is planned at 3701 American Boulevard East. The first phase will involve the construction of the Ardor, a six-story, 242-unit apartment building. All units would be market rate. The second phase includes the development of a five-story, 86-unit apartment building called the Quinn. All units will be affordable housing.

The proposed South Loop water park project is in motion once again. In September, the City Council and Port Authority directed staff to investigate a private financing model allowed by new 2021 legislation. If the financing markets “like” the private model, we could see a closing on the project in 2022, with an opening in 2024. Of course, no real estate deal is done until the financing closes, which is still months away.

The water park would be open to the general public. The new 330,000-square-foot water park would bring an estimated \$1 million in new admissions and lodging taxes to the City. No Bloomington property taxes are at risk for the project debt. A discount on admission to the water park for Bloomington residents is planned.

There are also many proposed projects in the area that have not yet been approved. Watch for more details on those as they progress in future issues of the *Briefing*. To learn more about what’s happening in South Loop, visit blm.mn/southloop.

## JACK BALOGA BIDS FAREWELL TO COUNCIL

Councilmember Jack Baloga said goodbye to the Bloomington City Council on December 20, his final meeting as a councilmember.

“My great joy of serving on the City Council was responding to calls and emails from constituents, and working with City staff to solve the problems, or providing resources outside the City as necessary,” Baloga said. “I was not always able to solve the problem, but I always enjoyed the interaction with residents.”

Baloga represented District III for 10 years. He was first elected in 2011. What began as a volunteer opportunity to serve on the board of equalization and review many years ago led to more than 30 years in public service. Before being elected to the City Council, Baloga served on the planning commission for five years.

“I have a personal belief that we should volunteer our time and talents to service others in whatever way we are able to do so,” Baloga said. “Ten years ago, I felt I could be of service to residents and chose to run for Council. I have been honored and humbled by the support of my constituents and their trust and confidence in me.”

During his tenure, Baloga focused his energy on the quality of life for residents and visitors of Bloomington, including housing, transportation, public safety, natural resources and equity. He was a part of many far-reaching projects during his time on the City Council, including establishing the sustainability commission, supporting affordable housing, working to enable the construction of the bridge from Bush Lake Road to westbound I-494 and more.



# BRIEFING

Volume 30, Number 01

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  
**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**  
Lona Dallessandro  
612-231-6824  
ldallessandro@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	
Michael Sable, <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	
<b>General phone number</b>	<b>952-563-8700</b>

*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.*





### CITY SELECTS NEW ASSISTANT PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATOR

Blair Harrison was hired as the City’s next assistant public health administrator in late 2021. She brings with her 13 years of public health experience. Before starting with the City on December 6, Harrison was a senior advisor on health, homelessness and housing at the Minnesota Department of Health. She was highly involved in MDH’s pandemic response, with a focus on the state’s unhoused population.

“The last two years working on the pandemic response have been profound. We’ve seen the best of what public health can do,” Harrison said.

During her career, Harrison has focused on the social determinants of health, structural barriers and policies that limit the advancement of health and racial equity. This focus fits well with the Council’s inclusion and equity strategic priority.

“You can’t do public health work without addressing the justice issues of racism and inequity. I think that is the primary work,” Harrison said. “That work happens largely in the community with those who are impacted.” Harrison replaces former assistant public health administrator Nick Kelley, who was promoted to public health administrator in 2021.



### SAVE THE DATE: HOME IMPROVEMENT FAIR

Need inspiration to nail down your home improvement plans? Check out the 2022 Home Improvement Fair hosted by the City and the Housing Redevelopment Authority, Saturday, February 26, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

This free event showcases vendors from across the metro with exhibits and how-to seminars to help you make your dream home a reality. Fairgoers will have the opportunity to ask experts about general remodeling, designing and landscaping. There will also be kids’ activities including a project table hosted by Home Depot. Visit [blm.mn/homefair](http://blm.mn/homefair) or call 952-563-8943 for more information.

## WHAT’S DEVELOPING: ORANGE LINE BUS RAPID TRANSIT

The METRO Orange Line is a planned 17-mile highway bus rapid transit line that connects Minneapolis, Richfield, Bloomington and Burnsville along I-35W. The Orange Line opened and started providing service in December. It provides frequent, all-day service in both directions, seven days a week.

“This is a really significant line that currently carries 14,000 riders daily using just express service,” said City Traffic and Transportation Engineer Kirk Roberts. “That’s expected to grow in the future and that’s key for ridership.”

Bus rapid transit is a faster, more efficient bus line thanks to limited stops and required payment before boarding. The Orange Line route upgraded and replaced former local Route 535 with enhanced service and amenities, and new station features that will also benefit other transit riders along the I-35W corridor. Orange Line service will have competitive running times for station-to-station trips and offer a new option for commuters traveling from urban areas to suburban destinations.

The project includes street and highway improvements, upgraded transit stations, and improved bus routes. BRT provides high-quality, reliable service like light rail transit, but is less expensive to build and allows for a more flexible route.

Funding for the Orange Line was provided by the Counties Transit Improvement Board, the State of Minnesota, the Metropolitan Council, Hennepin County, Dakota County and the federal government.

### COUNCIL APPROVES 2022 TAX LEVY

On December 6, the City Council approved the 2022 property tax levy of \$68.3 million—a 2.75 percent increase over 2021. The levy will fund 68% of the City’s 2022 general fund budget. Most property taxes support core public safety services, including police and fire, and other essential core services, such as public works. For every dollar of City taxes paid, 48% goes toward police and fire, and 27% goes toward public works. *See graph.*

“The vast majority of new spending is a major investment in public safety,” City Manager Jamie Verbrugge said. “The property tax levy is increasing about \$1.8 million over 2021. The property tax-supported, new staffing costs for fire and police are just under 75% of that amount or \$1.15 million.”

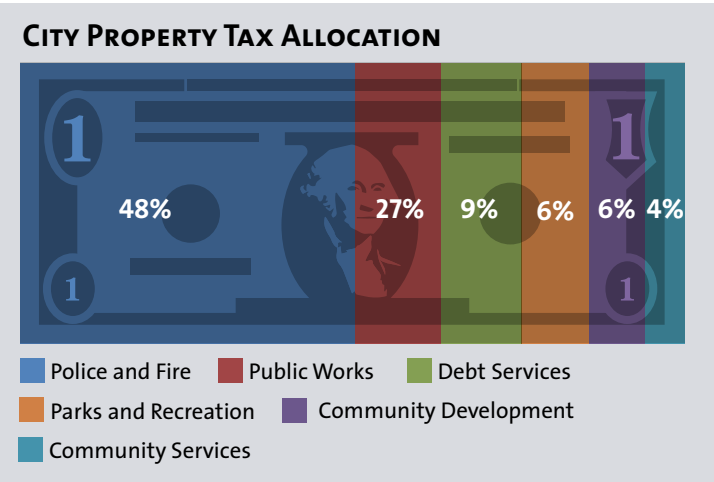
At 2.75%, Bloomington’s levy increase is the lowest among 15 peer cities. The average 2022 preliminary tax levy increase for 15 similar metro-area cities is around 6%. *See graph.*

In Minnesota, local governments set a total property tax dollar amount instead of a tax rate as is done in some other states. Following state law, this is prorated to each property based on its value. With this property tax levy, the City’s share of 2022 total residential property taxes is 30 cents out of every tax dollar paid. The remaining amount goes to the county, school district and other taxing districts.

Even though the City’s tax levy increased by only 2.75%, many residents in Bloomington are seeing an increase in their overall property taxes between 5 and 15%. The increase for 2022 property taxes is due to a significant shift in the amount of taxes paid by commercial properties to residential properties. This is because the strong demand in the housing market has increased the values of many homes in Bloomington, while commercial properties saw a decrease in value due to the pandemic. Not surprisingly, the lodging and retail sectors were especially hard hit in Bloomington.

From 2021 to 2022, the median-valued home increased from \$286,400 to \$307,200, a growth of 7.3%. This increase in valuation means that the monthly cost of tax-supported services for the owner of a \$307,200 median-valued home is \$101.28 for 2022, an increase from the 2021 monthly cost of \$91.06.

“These annual budget discussions are clearly the most important discussions we have as a City,” Mayor Tim Busse said. “I can say without hesitation that the City staff and the City Council take very seriously the responsibility we have regarding taxing decisions and how taxpayer money is spent.”



COMPARISON CITY	PRELIMINARY 2022 TAX LEVY INCREASE
Brooklyn Park	10.11%
Edina	9.01%
Lakeville	7.50%
Plymouth	7.07%
St. Paul	6.92%
St. Louis Park	7.87%
Minnetonka	5.59%
Woodbury	5.55%
Minneapolis	5.49%
Eden Prairie	5.09%
Burnsville	4.75%
Blaine	4.45%
Apple Valley	4.40%
Eagan	3.91%
Maple Grove	3.03%
Bloomington	2.75%





**CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP**

Christmas trees will be collected during the weeks of January 3 – 7 and 10 – 14.

The organic Christmas tree material will be mulched at a composting facility, which is much better than landfilling.

No prior scheduling is required. Remove all decorations, wires and stands from the tree, and set it out before 7 a.m. on your collection day. During the Christmas tree collection weeks, a fee of \$10.93 per tree will appear on your next utility bill. Christmas tree pickup any other time of the year will cost \$54.65. Call Utility Billing at 952-563-8726 or visit [blm.mn/garbage](http://blm.mn/garbage) for information.



**CHECK OUT THE INDOOR FARMERS MARKET**

Now doesn't mean the end of fresh produce and locally grown goods at the Bloomington Farmers Market. The remaining indoor markets will be held: Saturday, February 12, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., and Saturday, March 12, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. You'll find fresh apples, root vegetables, cheeses, baked goods, canned goods, handcrafted apparel and jewelry, gifts and more. Visit [blm.mn/market](http://blm.mn/market) for more information.



**EARTH ACTION HERO: CITY OF BLOOMINGTON WATER RESOURCES**

City water resources staff—Bryan Gruidl, Steve Gurney, Jack Distel, Dave Gunderson and Derek Cable—were recently awarded the 2021 Izaak Walton League's Bush Lake Public Good Award for their contributions to Bloomington waterways. The award recognizes public employees for their contributions to water quality, conservation and the environment.

"This award is a testament to the City's efforts in doing the important work of creating a healthy local ecology," Jack Distel said. "It also highlights the valuable partnerships between the City and its residents and organizations, like the Isaac Walton League, who are and who will be vital in our shared goal of being good stewards to the land and the many communities it supports."

In recent years, water resources has collaborated with the Bush Lake Chapter on a number of projects, including the installation of wood duck houses on Normandale Lake. They replaced the outlet structure that connects East Bay Pond to Bush Lake with the installation of a beaver-proof structure, which helps to protect Bush Lake's water quality and allows beavers to inhabit the area. They also implemented water quality best management practices in West Bush Lake Park to further protect the lake. Also, water resources provides funding to maintain native vegetation around Bush Lake, and plan to manage the invasive cattail around the lake.

Stay up-to-date with water resources' work and projects by visiting [blm.mn/water-resources](http://blm.mn/water-resources).

**CURBSIDE ORGANICS RECYCLING SERVICE COMING IN MARCH**

Starting the week of March 7, Bloomington residents will be able to recycle organics for composting at the curb. This ensures that the City is in compliance with Hennepin County Ordinance 13, which requires cities with more than 10,000 residents to make organics recycling available to residents by 2022. All residents in the City's garbage and recycling program will pay for curbside organics recycling, like they do for regular recycling. The City Council approved a rate of \$5.50 per month on November 15. There is no additional cost to receive an organics cart, but sign up is required.

Residents may sign up online at [blm.mn/organics](http://blm.mn/organics). To sign up by mail, return the postage-paid postcard that was mailed to all residential addresses in December. Residents may also sign up by calling Utility Billing at 952-563-8726 or by emailing [UtilityBilling@bloomingtonmn.gov](mailto:UtilityBilling@bloomingtonmn.gov).

Residents who sign up for organics will receive a 30-gallon organics cart that will be collected weekly on their garbage day. Those who sign up will also receive an organics welcome packet with more information and tips for collecting organics at home.



"Because one-third of an average resident's garbage is organic material that could be composted, those participating in the organics program could save money by switching to a smaller garbage cart," Project Coordinator Laura Horner said.

In the meantime, residents are encouraged to drop off organics at one of the City's organics drop-off sites. The City will continue to operate the free organics drop-offs for residents in multifamily housing not serviced through the City's garbage and recycling program. To start composting now, visit [blm.mn/organics](http://blm.mn/organics).

**WIN \$100 IN AN ORGANICS POSTER CONTEST**

Use your art skills to illustrate the process of organics recycling and win a cash prize. The City of Bloomington is partnering with the cities of Edina and Richfield to host an organics poster competition. The goal of the contest is to create posters that demonstrate the process of recycling organics. The theme this year is "Return to Earth: A Compost Story." The first-place contest winners will receive a \$100 prize, with second- and third-place winners receiving a \$50 cash prize each.

"The goal of this project is to engage our youth, who will be most affected by our changing climate, in a creative expression of hope for their futures," Minnesota Green Corps Member Jane Peuser said.

For more information and the contest rules, visit [blm.mn/organicsposter](http://blm.mn/organicsposter). Questions? Contact Jane Peuser at [jpeuser@bloomingtonmn.gov](mailto:jpeuser@bloomingtonmn.gov).





# CELEBRATING BLOOMINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT’S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Bloomington Fire Department’s founding. Throughout the year, look for more stories and memories in the *Briefing* as the BFD celebrates 75 years. If you, your family or friends have memories and stories about the charter members or the early years of Bloomington’s fire department, contact Communications at [communications@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:communications@BloomingtonMN.gov).



## BFD HISTORY: REMEMBERING CHARTER MEMBER AXEL FURULI

In honor of the Bloomington Fire Department’s 75th Anniversary, granddaughters of Axel Furuli, *in photo above left*, a founding charter member of the BFD in 1947, shared memories of their grandfather.

Then known as the Bloomington Volunteer Fire Department, Axel Furuli, #12, was the chief dispatcher. He was asked to join the department in 1946 because he lived closed to the fire station and was “available 24 hours a day” as printed in the local newspaper in 1958 and shared by granddaughter Paula Thompson.

Granddaughter Thraicie Hawkner remembers her grandfather lived across the street from the original fire station at West 95th and Garfield, and they had a telephone at home with no dial on it, because it was meant for incoming calls exclusively. “Whenever it rang, Grandpa would answer it, take down the particulars, and Grandma would begin the calling tree to other firemen’s homes,” Hawkner said. “Meanwhile, Grandpa would reach into the coat closet where there was a button to press, which started the sirens over at the fire station.”

As the dispatcher, Furuli liked to go out with the firefighters on a fire call once in a while. He also held a number of offices and did odd jobs to help the department. Hawkner retells a story that Furuli and his son, Leroy, would run over to the fire station to “catch the cars.” “The other firemen would arrive in such a hurry that they wouldn’t bother to stop and park their cars,” Hawkner said. “They would just hop out of the car, and one of the Furulis would jump in to steer the car into a proper parking spot.”



## A TIMELINE STORY: BLOOMINGTON FIRE HISTORY 1900 – 1940s

Throughout the year, the City will present a timeline of Bloomington Fire Department history. Here are highlights from 1915 – 1948.



Jack Stewart was elected as Town Constable, which also made him the town’s “fire department.” He was given a fire extinguisher. It was his responsibility to keep this fire extinguisher filled at all times at his own expense. He used the horn on his car as the siren.



An enormous fire destroyed the Oxboro Bulk Plant at 95th Street and Lyndale

Avenue. The fire burned for two days. Bloomington had not paid its \$125 yearly fee to Minneapolis for fire protection. Therefore, firefighters just stood by and watched. This unfortunate event led to the first consideration of starting a fire department in Bloomington.



The first money was allocated to start up a fire department.



February 14, 1947, marked the first organizational meeting to form a fire department. The meeting was held in Gus Welter’s shop.

On April 8, 1947, the Town Council accepted an offer to purchase the land at 95th Street and Syndicate Avenue for \$1 to build its first fire station.

Arnold Friendshuh was elected as the first fire chief, Gus Welter as the assistant chief, and 25 men were recruited as the first charter members.

Bonnie Smith was the fire department’s dispatcher. When there was a fire, she would call Jack Stewart, the town constable. Then she’d call Margaret Friendshuh, Evelyn Furuli, and Ev Kelley, and they would then call the firefighters.

In August, construction of the new fire station was completed. The total cost of the station and equipment was \$24,000. The siren bell from the Bloomington School moved over to the fire station for sounding a fire call.

October 4, 1947, was the first fire open house with dancing and refreshments.



The Fire Department responded to 48 fire calls.

### THANK YOU TO ALL THE FOUNDING BFD CHARTER MEMBERS

Fire Chief Arnold J. Friendshuh  
#1, Assistant Fire Chief Gus Welter  
#2, Melvin Smith #3, Francis Thoma #4, Robert Eglund #5, Russell Chadwick #6, Robert Elm #7, Fred Goodermont #8, James Savage #10, Roy Lund #11, Axel Furuli #12, Richard Savage #13, Clarence Kelley #14, Ewald Zochert #15, Carl Christensen #16, Ray Clemensen #19, Neal Gabriel #21, Arnold Hoaglund #25, Kenneth Heger #27, Roy Donkersgoed, Robert Donkersgoed, James Collette, Alfred Kroohn, Walter Anderson, Howard Walker and J.R. Glad.







GET ACTIVE AT CREEKSIDE

New Year, new goals. If you are aiming to be more active this year, you'll find an array of options at Creekside, 9801 Penn Avenue South. Check out one of the following exercise classes available for adults age 50 and over to incorporate more movement into your day in a supportive, friendly environment.

LOW-IMPACT EXERCISE

Light to moderate exercise focused on balance, light aerobics and strength training. This program is led by volunteers following an exercise video.

Mondays, 10 – 11 a.m.

Free, preregistration not required.

STRENGTH AND BALANCE

Class combines light cardio and strength training for individuals who want to improve muscle tone, flexibility, range of motion and balance and coordination.

Wednesdays, 9 a.m.

Monthly registration fee of \$5 per Wednesday or drop-in fee \$7.

GENTLE MAT YOGA

Learn a gentle form of yoga with modified movements and proper breathing techniques. Bring your own yoga mat.

Tuesdays, six-week session.

January 11 – February 15.

Group 1: 9:30 -10:30 a.m.

Group 2: 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.

The cost is \$42 for Bloomington residents and \$54 for nonresidents. Preregistration required.

CHAIR YOGA

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.

Fridays, six-week session.

January 14 – February 18.

Group 1: 9 – 10 a.m.

Group 2: 10:10 – 11:10 a.m.

Group 3: 11:15 – 12:15 a.m.

The cost is \$42 for Bloomington residents and \$54 for nonresidents. Preregistration required.

For more information or to register call Creekside 952-563-4944 or email Creekside@BloomingtonMN.gov.



PLAN YOUR PARKS AND REC SUMMER

Parks and Recreation summer information is coming soon. Look for a special feature page in the March issue of the *Briefing* that highlights summer programs and events. Program sign-up will take place in April, but staff is needed for these programs to occur. Hiring for seasonal positions is taking place now.

The full Parks and Recreation Summer Experience catalog will also be available online and in limited print quantities at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. For more information on summer programs and jobs, visit blm.mn/parksrec or call 952-563-8877.

BOOK A PARK SHELTER

Warm up by thinking of sun and fun while making plans for this coming summer. Book a park shelter for your summer gathering now. Shelters are available to rent for picnics, meetings, receptions and reunions as Minnesota Department of Health guidelines allow. Registration began January 3, 9 a.m. for shelter use April 25 – October 5. Shelters amenities vary by location. They may include electricity, grills, restrooms and drinking fountains. City parks offer nearby playgrounds, volleyball and horseshoe courts, trails, softball fields and other amenities.

- Moir Park, 104th Street at Morgan Avenue, Shelter 1: Accommodates 200+. Shelter 2: Accommodates 60.
- East Bush Lake Park, 9140 East Bush Lake Road, Shelter 3: Accommodates 200.
- West Bush Lake Park, 94th Street at West Bush Lake Road, Shelter 1: Accommodates 200. Shelter 2: Accommodates 100.

Maximum capacity of shelters is subject to change to comply with the latest guidelines from the Minnesota Department of Health. New in 2022, online reservations now available. Call 952-563-8877 or visit blm.mn/rentals for more information. Smaller shelters at other City parks may be available to reserve upon request.

HIDDEN GEM: RUNNING PARK

When winter comes around, it's an opportunity to experience City parks in a whole new way. Running Park, 9501 12th Avenue South, offers never-ending fun. A resident favorite, this 10-acre park offers good hills for fun, family sledding and three options for getting onto the ice. Hockey players can enjoy its two rinks outfitted with boards and goals, and skaters can go for a spin on its wide-open general ice area. Rink lighting will operate 4:30 – 10 p.m. daily.

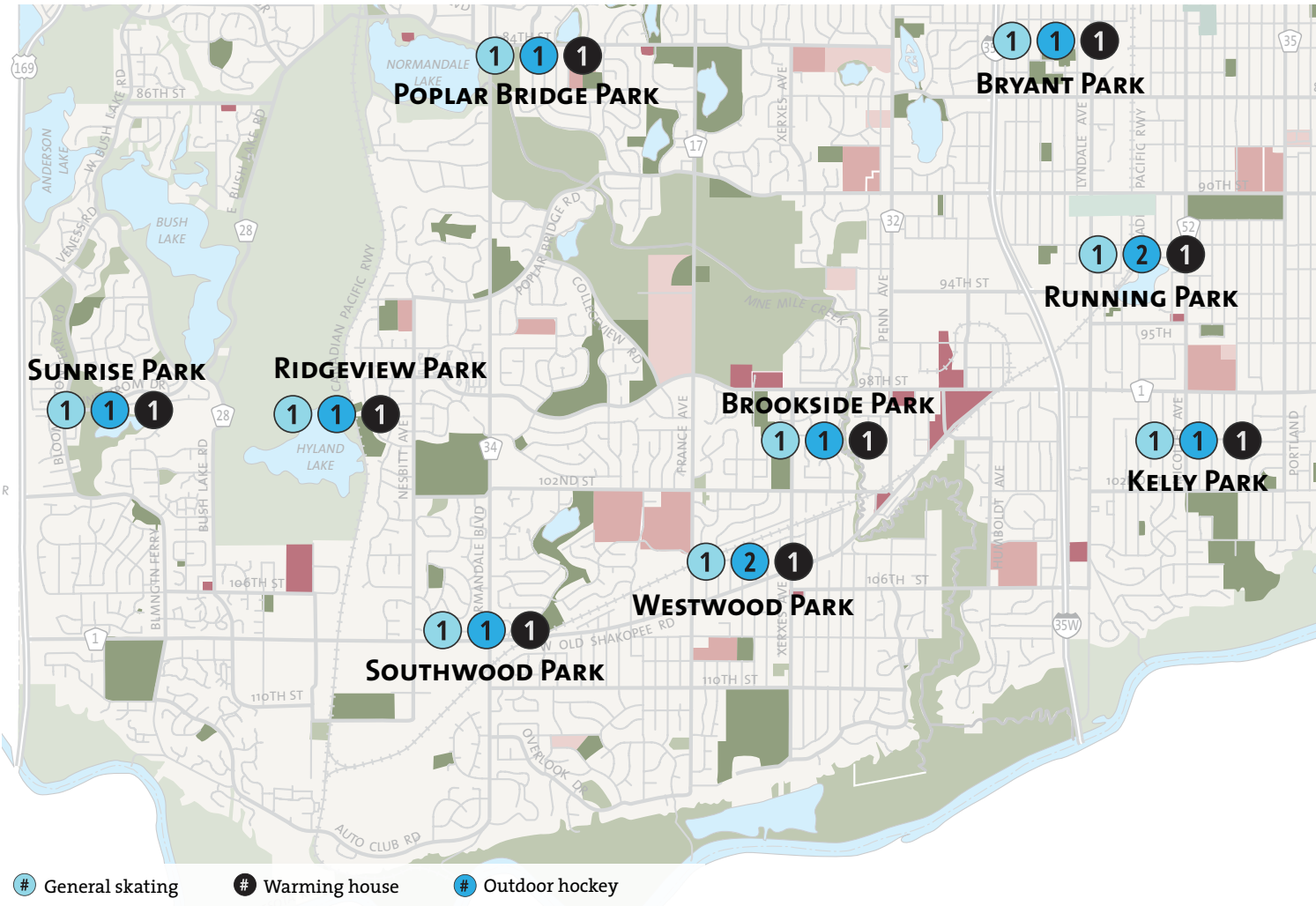
Take a break to recharge at the warming house, which is open most days and some evenings through February (weather and ice conditions permitting).

For warming house hours, up-to-date rink conditions, closings and schedules, visit the City's website at blm.mn/rinks or call 952-563- 8878 and select option 3.

There is no admission charge, but some rinks may be rented. Free off-street parking is available.

In warm months, take advantage of the softball field, two playgrounds, a mini zip line and a soccer field. Running Park has year-round appeal. Winter is only the beginning. Visit blm.mn/bloomington-parks or call 952-563-8877 for information on City parks.

ICE RINKS AND WARMING HOUSES  
BLOOMINGTON PARKS WITH GENERAL SKATING, OUTDOOR HOCKEY OR WARMING HOUSES







## VISIT THE ART GALLERIES THIS MONTH

This winter, you don't have to go very far for a change of scenery. Head over to Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, to fill your days with color at one of these art galleries.

- “On Belonging” in the Inez Greenberg Gallery**  
In response to increasing racial polarity in the United States, Nirmal Raja and Lois Bielefeld examine identity, belonging and our connection to place and history through photography, video, audio and art installations in the “On Belonging” exhibit, January 7 – February 18. The opening reception is Friday, January 7, 6 – 8 p.m., at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, and an artist talk Tuesday, January 11, at 7 p.m.
- “Nature: Shadows and Reflections” in the Atrium Gallery**  
Local artist James Burpee celebrates nature in his solo exhibition, “Nature: Shadows and Reflections” January 13 – February 27. In the paintings, Burpee masters the challenge of transposing three-dimensional forms onto a two-dimensional surface as well as exploring luminous color. The paintings express Burpee’s skillful approach to describe and project “light” as an actual source. The artist reception is scheduled Saturday, February 19, 1 – 3 p.m, at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

## KALOPSIA BENCH INSTALLED IN SOUTH LOOP

There’s new public art in South Loop. The Kalopsia bench by local artist Daniela Bianchini was installed outside of the new Fiddlehead Coffee Co., 8061 33rd Avenue South, just before their grand opening in October.

Bianchini built the bench’s metal frame and covered it in porcelain tile mosaic. Drawing inspiration from the surrounding nature and nearby Long Meadow Lake, the artist used vibrant colors and natural elements to create a distinctive, welcoming and functioning piece of art. Bianchini has been doing murals for 10 years and public art installations, such as mosaic benches and garbage cans, for seven years.

“I like everything about having the opportunity to create public art,” she said. “I like that it’s a challenge. I like that it’s for everyone and I like bringing color to something that is usually bland and gray.”

This bench was one of four sculptures selected by a stakeholder panel, as part of Bloomington’s Creative Spark program. Kalopsia faces Bloomington Central Station Park, and offers the community a place for rest and contemplation while also being an ode to South Loop’s natural surroundings. You can see more of Bianchini’s work in downtown Saint Paul, south Minneapolis, Roseville and Hastings.



## CULTURAL ARTS SUPPORT GRANT PROGRAM CALLS FOR APPLICANTS

Each year, the Bloomington Center for the Arts provides Cultural Arts Support grants to help build opportunities for meaningful engagement and enrich the vibrant social fabric of life in Bloomington. The City will post application materials this month at [blm.mn/bca](http://blm.mn/bca).

“The Cultural Arts Support grant program is intended to invest in the overall health of Bloomington nonprofit arts organizations and arts-related educational institutions so they can provide enriching, accessible, equitable and inclusive activities that engage community members in the arts,” Center for the Arts Manager Leah Hughes said.

For more information, eligibility requirements or application materials, visit [blm.mn/bca](http://blm.mn/bca). The deadline for grant submissions is April 15, 2022. Questions? Contact Center for the Arts Manager Leah Hughes at 952-563-8881 or [centerforthearts@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:centerforthearts@BloomingtonMN.gov).



## “SNOW” MUCH FUN AT WINTER FETE

Minnesotans embrace the cold like no one else. For proof, look no further than Bloomington Parks and Recreation’s annual Winter Fete celebration, which transforms the city into a cold-weather fun zone the week of January 15 – 23. Over the years, Winter Fete has featured professional ski jumping competitions, ice fishing demonstration, snowshoeing excursions, fat-tire bike races and much more. There will be plenty of activities for everyone. For the full schedule of free (unless otherwise noted) and exciting events happening all week, visit [blm.mn/winter-fete](http://blm.mn/winter-fete) or call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877.

## REGISTER FOR ARTISTRY WINTER PROGRAMS

Start the New Year with a new hobby or a fun way to pass the winter blues by participating in an art class. Artistry’s winter programs, from January through March, includes painting, drawing, clay and glass classes for adults, and some special Saturday sessions for young people including an opportunity to make unicorn pillows.

In Artistry’s studio spaces at Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, participants will broaden their creative thinking, concentrate on the task at hand and enjoy a meditative rhythm.

“We know that after such a long time, many people feel they need a refresher or are eager to start something new,” Artistry’s On-Site Learning Manager Chelley McLearn said. “This coming season, we have a sampler class on Thursday afternoons that will give students the opportunity to try drawing, watercolor painting and acrylic painting. We also have beginner classes in glass art, in drawing, and in watercolor painting. All supplies will be included in these beginner classes so that participants can try the class before investing in their own art materials.”

Over 20 in-person classes are listed on the Artistry website, [artistrymn.org/education](http://artistrymn.org/education). Class sizes will be limited to eight students per class to ensure safe distancing and time for one-on-one interaction with the teaching artists.





DID YOU KNOW?

Residents and realtors frequently seek records necessary for property sale well disclosure requirements. The City maintains an interactive map of more than 10,500 water wells estimated to be 85% of all wells in Bloomington. You can view them online at blm.mn/wellmap.

You can find wells by zooming into a neighborhood or searching by a specific address. Clicking on a well dot opens a window of summary information and records available under the “more info” link.

For more information, contact the Environmental Health Division at 952-563-8934 or email envhealth@BloomingtonMN.gov.



DONALDSON  
RECOGNIZED FOR  
SUPPORT OF VETERANS  
AND MILITARY FAMILIES

Donaldson Company, a Bloomington manufacturer of innovative filtration products and solutions, has been named a Yellow Ribbon Company by the Minnesota Department of Military Affairs’ Beyond the Yellow Ribbon program.

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon is a community network that creates awareness to connect military families and veterans with community support and resources. Yellow Ribbon-designated organizations partner with the State of Minnesota Director of Military Outreach to develop a sustainable, formal action plan demonstrating a long-term commitment to service members, veterans and their families. The action plan includes specific recruiting and human resources policies, training and development efforts, community and employee outreach and support initiatives.

Recently, Bloomington’s Beyond the Yellow Ribbon group was officially recognized by the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs as the Bloomington Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Network. Bloomington Mayor Tim Busse, *above left*, officially congratulated the group on this accomplishment in a City Council proclamation in November 2021.

BLOOMINGTON  
YESTERDAY:  
REMEMBERING SCHOOL  
LUNCHES

School lunches in Bloomington began in 1945 with a handful of volunteers from the Mother’s Club that prepared meals at the Red Cross’ canteen cookery. There was one school that housed kindergarten through 12th grade, and had about 500 students to feed. The quality and quantity of lunches increased through the years, but the creativity and wholesome appeal made those lunches memorable for most school children.

School lunches were prepared by following exact recipes. Pizza burger was a school lunch favorite. In a Bloomington Sun article, published in 1969, food service supervisor, Mrs. Lil Johnson, said, “We vary menus, repeat seldom except for things our customers like such as our famous pizza burgers.”

Most everything was made from scratch and school cooks wasted nothing. There was a bread baker who baked all the breads, buns and rolls from scratch right on site at the schools. The popularity of the Bloomington school lunches resulted in a recipe-card-sized book published in the 1960s. “School Lunch Recipes” dedication page reads: “With sincere appreciation and gratitude we dedicate this cookbook of home-size school recipes to our volunteer mothers who willingly give of their time to better our School Lunch Program. Bloomington Cooks.”

A copy of the recipe book is on display at the Bloomington Historical Society, 2215 West Old Shakopee Road.



STREET SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

Each year, Bloomington’s Engineering Division selects a number of streets each year to improve with the Pavement Management Program, a yearly program that aims to maintain Bloomington roadways and keep the City’s pavement, curbs and sidewalks in good condition in a fiscally sound manner. Improvements are prioritized based on factors such as age, street condition, utilities condition and the type of street. Recently, safety improvements were completed to improve the safety of pedestrians and drivers. The location of these improvements include the following:

Enhanced school crossing at France Avenue and West 108th Street (Westwood Elementary)

The school crossing distance was shortened with new construction of curb bump outs for the crosswalk on the north and east legs of this intersection to highlight the school crossing activity to drivers and improve pedestrian safety.

Intersection improvement at East 98th Street and Chicago

The reconstruction project at this intersection clearly realigns and identifies that East 98th Street is the through street, and made Chicago Avenue a T-intersection into East 98th Street. This intersection used to be configured in a way that made it difficult to assign right-of-way and caused confusion for drivers.

West 86th Street, westbound through Lyndale Avenue

There used to be a gap in the on-road bikeway through this intersection. This reconstruction project made curb modifications and striping changes to extend the bike lane through the signalized intersection for the westbound movement, which completes the last gap in a continuous on-road bikeway that runs along 86th Street from East Old Shakopee Road to Xerxes Avenue.

AT YOUR SERVICE: THE HEROES OF WINTER

Snowplow drivers are the unsung heroes of winter. On a frigid winter morning before you’ve even made coffee, Equipment Operator Chad Stanton, *pictured at right*, and his coworkers have already been up for hours, plowing and salting streets, so you can drive safely on the roads.

Driving a snowplow isn’t easy, but Stanton said “we have an important job. Our top priority is to make sure that school buses and emergency vehicles can travel safely on the roads.”

Bloomington averages about 50 inches of snow per year, and plows about 25 times per winter season. Equipped with nearly 70 snowplow trucks on its fleet, the Public Works maintenance division clears snow from 2,016 lane-miles of road, 260 miles of sidewalks, 512 cul-de-sacs and 33 ice rinks in the city.

On the job for more than six years, Stanton enjoys the variety of tasks to keep the streets clean.

“In the wintertime, it might be anti-icing or snowplowing. It just all depends on the type of winter event,” Stanton said.

When it comes to snowplowing, several factors are considered, including the time the snow began, duration of snowfall, type of snow (light/dry or wet/heavy), temperature before and after snowfall, and snow accumulation.

“The biggest thing about snowplowing the streets is safety,” Stanton said. “Safety for people driving, people shoveling their driveways and for us.”

Snowplow trucks need space. If you see a snowplow truck, back away. Don’t follow closely behind a snowplow truck.

“I see it all the time when people are too close,” Stanton said. “These trucks don’t stop like a regular vehicle. It takes a little bit more time and distance for it to come to a stop, especially on an icy road.”

The amount of snow determines how long plowing takes to complete. For example, plowing a four-inch snowfall can take eight to ten hours. For snow removal and snow emergency information, call the Snow Emergency Hotline at 952-563-8768 or visit blm.mn/snow.

