

BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



AUGUST 2022



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Photo credit: Londell Pease

SUN, FUN AND FIREWORKS

Summer Fete provided a breathtaking fireworks display, a family fun zone with free kids activities, about 20 food and beverage vendors, live entertainment and more last month in Bloomington. Tens of thousands of people attended the festival to ring in Independence Day on July 3. Summer Fete is presented annually as part of the Parks and Recreation Arts in the Parks series. Learn more about fun offerings for the rest of the summer at blm.mn/aip.

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COUNCIL ADOPTS EARNED SICK AND SAFE LEAVE ORDINANCE

In June, the City Council adopted an earned sick and safe leave ordinance that requires employers operating in Bloomington to provide some amount of earned sick and safe leave to employees. Three of Minnesota's largest cities—Duluth, St. Paul and Minneapolis—have adopted similar ordinances.

The ordinance protects the well-being of Bloomington's workforce and residents. Employees working in jobs with lower wages, higher turnover and high rates of public contact typically lack access to paid leave. Businesses with five or more employees must provide paid earned sick and safe leave. Employers with fewer than five employees must provide unpaid leave, but they can choose to provide paid leave. The ordinance would allow employees to earn a minimum of one hour of sick and safe leave for every 30 hours worked up to a maximum of 48 hours in a year.

"In addition to the business and economic pieces of the discussion, the Council looked at the ordinance from a public health perspective. If the last two years taught us anything, it's that limiting the spread of contagious illness is good for public health and benefits everyone," Mayor Tim Busse said.

Sick leave would be used when employees need to care for their health or the health of another member of their household by going to the doctor, resting or healing. Safe leave would be used when an employee is experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking. The safe leave hours could be used for going to court to get a restraining order, counseling, relocation or talking to a lawyer.

The earned sick and safe leave ordinance takes effect July 1, 2023. Visit blm.mn/essl for more information.



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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
Booker T. Hodges, <i>Police</i>	952-563-4900 police@BloomingtonMN.gov
Karl Keel, <i>Public Works</i>	952-563-8731 publicworks@BloomingtonMN.gov
General phone number	952-563-8700

The City of Bloomington 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.



MAYOR'S MEMO

A NEW CITY OFFICE FURTHERS INCLUSION, EQUITY AND BELONGING

By Mayor Tim Busse

The City recently established a new Office of Racial Equity, Inclusion and Belonging to advance the work of removing structural bias in City policies, programs and services. The new office will address systemic inequities and support systemic change throughout the City to emphasize equity, inclusion and belonging.

"I believe that systemic racism permeates nearly every institution in our society in some way or fashion," said City Manager Jamie Verbrugge. "I do not believe Bloomington is immune from the effects of systemic racism, nor is Bloomington free of the structures that reinforce historical systems that serve to disadvantage people."

The City's commitment to racial equity and inclusion is longstanding and has evolved over the years since 2015. In December 2017, the City Council adopted a racial equity vision statement that reads, "The City of Bloomington will act courageously to advance racial equity. We will be a vibrant, safe and healthy place where people of all races thrive." The City hired its first-ever racial equity coordinator in 2019. The City adopted the racial equity business plan in 2020, which charts the path for the City's racial equity work in the years to come. The plan identifies goals and outcomes in four distinct areas: hiring, training, services and community engagement.

In 2020, the City Council declared racism a public health crisis. The racial equity strategic planning committee was formed to identify the most impactful policies and practices the City and racial equity strategic planning committee would work on to begin reducing racial disparities in key areas: economic stability, education, health and health care, neighborhood and built environment, and community.

To read more about the racial equity business plan and racial equity strategic planning committee, or learn more about the City's racial equity commitment, visit blm.mn/racialequity.

EXPO 2027 UPDATE

In June, the Minnesota Expo 2027 team took the next step in bringing Expo 2027, also known as a World's Fair, to the U.S. by submitting its formal bid proposal to host the event in Bloomington in summer 2027. Bloomington could be the site for the three-month event.

Bloomington was selected as the official bid location of the United States in June 2021 with the theme of "Healthy People, Healthy Planet." The international campaign is a joint effort between the bid committee and the United States federal government. Minnesota USA Expo 2027 is an independent nonprofit organization established for the purpose of coordinating the bid process and, if successful, planning and hosting the event. The organization is not affiliated with or governed by the City of Bloomington. Mayor Tim Busse and City Manager Jamie Verbrugge serve as ex-officio members of the Minnesota USA Expo 2027 board of directors. Mayor Busse participated in the official Minnesota USA Expo 2027 presentation to the Bureau of International Expositions in Paris, France on June 20.

"Bloomington is centrally located in the metro area and the proposed Expo site has unparalleled connectivity," Mayor Busse told BIE General Assembly delegates. A site logistics study revealed there was no better spot in Minnesota to host such an Expo, with more than 4,000 hotel rooms within a mile and a half of the Expo site. The site is also connected by light rail to an international airport and the downtowns of Minneapolis and St. Paul."

The BIE will vote in June 2023 to determine where Expo 2027 will take place. Other countries that are in the running to host Expo 2027 include Argentina, Serbia, Spain and Thailand. Minnesota's proposed theme of health and wellness would showcase Minnesota's strength in these areas.



ATTEND A TOWN HALL FORUM

This summer and fall, councilmembers will host town hall forums to connect with constituents. Councilmembers and City staff will answer questions at the events and present information on ongoing and upcoming projects. For the latest information, visit blm.mn/townhall or call 952-563-8782.



CITY SELECTS NEXT COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

Laura Bohlen was selected as the City's next community outreach and engagement manager in May. She brings with her 12 years of nonprofit experience. Before starting with the City, Bohlen was an extension educator and associate professor at the University of Minnesota.

In her time with University of Minnesota extension, Bohlen did work at the neighborhood, state and national levels. She is interested in local government because it provides the opportunity to focus on one community and what could be built there over time.

"I've seen the impact of what can be accomplished on the local level and I wanted to be a part of that," Bohlen said. "The work I'm most interested in is hands on and community driven, so local government is a great fit."

In her role, Bohlen supports a team of community engagement and outreach coordinators as they build relationships and ensure that community is considered and heard in the development and delivery of City programs and services.

"Community engagement work is relationship based. I'm really looking forward to getting to know community members, councilmembers, the mayor and City staff," Bohlen said. "That's where the transformational change happens—when we are in relationship and connected to each other. I really enjoy that."

BUDGET PLANNING UNDERWAY FOR 2023

Budget Manager Kari Carlson and other City staff will be at many upcoming events talking to residents about what is important to them as the City prepares its 2023 budget. To learn more and share your priorities, stop by the following upcoming events:

- Budget, Beats and Treats on Friday, August 12, at the On the One Music Festival Night 3, Normandale Lake Bandshell, 5901 West 84th Street.
- Budget at the Market on Saturday, September 17, at the Farmers Market, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.
- Budget and BFD on Saturday, October 15, at the Fire Department Open House, Station 1, 10 West 95th Street.

Learn more about the budget planning process on the City's website at blm.mn/budget.

JOIN THE CITY'S SECOND ANNUAL PRIDE CELEBRATION

With live performances, face painters, stilt walkers, food trucks, drag queens, story time and more, the City's second annual Pride celebration has something for everyone. Join this fun, family-friendly event and celebrate LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and other gender and sexual identities) Pride on Saturday, August 13, 4 – 8 p.m., on the east lawn of Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. There will also be a rainbow game show where attendees can participate in interactive games and win prizes. For more information, visit blm.mn/pride or call 952-563-8733.

ABSENTEE AND EARLY VOTING AVAILABLE NOW

Absentee and early voting for the August 9 primary election began on June 24. Visit mnvotes.org to get your ballot. Request to have a ballot mailed to you by completing an online absentee ballot application at mnvotes.org. Mail-in absentee ballots must be received by August 9.

In-person early voting is available at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Extended hours are offered on Saturday, August 6, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. and on Monday, August 8, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

If you have questions or special needs, contact the City Clerk's Office, 952-563-8729. *Read more about the election on page 8.*

HOMESTEAD APPLICATIONS NO LONGER PROCESSED AT THE CITY

The City's Assessing Department no longer processes homestead applications. All applications must go directly to the Hennepin County's assessor's office at 300 South 6th Street A-2103, Minneapolis, MN 55487. Residents can also apply for their homestead exclusion online anytime at homestead.hennepin.us. For more information, contact ao.homestead@hennepin.us or 612-348-3046.

INVOLVING COMMUNITY IN CITY PROJECTS

The City has many different tools to encourage public participation. That includes in-person events—both interactive and informational—and the digital platform *Let's Talk, Bloomington* where community members can make comments online about projects, take surveys and more.

The City Council adopted a strategic priority of transparency and engagement in 2019. The City's Community Outreach and Engagement Division uses the framework known as the International Association of Public Participations Spectrum of Public Participation to achieve the goal of ensuring community voices are heard in City business.

"The spectrum was designed to be clear with the public about how they can participate in the decisions made by the City," Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator Tracy Smith said. "Each project will have a different level of participation on the spectrum, which makes it clear how the community input will be used."

Learn more about public participation and get involved in City projects online at blm.mn/letstalk.

COUNCIL UPDATES FOOD TRUCK ORDINANCE

In April, the City Council updated an ordinance that spells out the City's rules for food trucks. The ordinance creates definitions and clarifies the rules and regulations for food trucks to operate in Bloomington. The change allows a food truck to operate outside of special events. A food truck must obtain an annual license to operate in Bloomington.

Next year, staff will return to the Planning Commission and City Council to report on how things went, so the City can determine whether any further changes are needed.

For more information on the ordinance or if you are interested in operating a food truck in Bloomington, call 952-563-8728 or visit blm.mn/food-truck-info.





XCEL ENERGY SMART METERS

Now through September, Xcel Energy crews will be installing smart meters at all residences and businesses in Bloomington. Crews started this work in July.

What is a smart meter? A smart meter is an electrical device that measures the electricity consumption of a home or building. It allows for two-way communication between a customer's electric meter and Xcel Energy. It can help customers better understand how energy is being used and identify specific, measurable actions to make energy-saving improvements to their home or business.

How will a smart meter be beneficial? Smart meters provide quicker notifications when service is out and more accurate information about when power is restored. Customers will receive detailed energy usage information and pricing plans that can maximize savings. The smart meter works with customers' My Account.

When will smart meters be installed in Bloomington? Installation is scheduled July – September.

What will it cost to receive a smart meter? The new meters are paid for through Excel's normal billing process. Customers will not see an additional charge on their bills to pay for the meters. Xcel Energy crews or authorized contractors will never request or accept any payment.

Find more information at blm.mn/smartmeters.

SIGN UP FOR EMERGENCY ALERTS

Did you know you can sign up to receive emergency alerts about natural disasters, flooding, gas leaks, police activities and more on the City's website? It only takes a couple minutes to sign up and it could help you be prepared to endure emergency conditions should they arise. Sign up on the City's website at blm.mn/citizenalert.



Landscape committee members (left to right): Pam Bott, Jesse Morzenti, Leo Tschida, Brad Pederson, Phil Burke and Tom Fahey.



EARTH ACTION HEROES: NATIVE PLANTING CHAMPIONS

Natural resources are all around us, literally under our feet and in our backyard. The landscape committee at Appletree Square 5 Condominium has taken the initiative to preserve what's in their backyard because that natural resource is a gift they treasure.

Built in 1984, the condominium is located within the boundaries of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District. The landscape committee conducted an erosion control and maintenance project on the south side of the building. The project consists of removing an existing gravel surface about 10-14 feet wide and 300 feet long on the south side of the building, and adding new topsoil as needed. The south side will be planted with a Mesic Prairie Southwest seed mix and the east side with shade-tolerant fescue seed.

"The prairie seed mix was recommended by Bloomington's Water Resources Manager Bryan Gruidl, because prairie grasses go down a number of feet and help stabilize soil and reduce erosion," Landscape committee chair Tom Fahey said.

In addition, the first 10 – 15 feet of the embankment on the south side of the building will be cleared of buckthorn, wild grape, a few dead trees and some, but not all, other growth to provide additional sunlight for the prairie seed. The trees on the east side will be trimmed to provide more sunlight for the turf. Project work began in May, though the condo residents probably won't see the prairie grow until next year.

"Over time, as more invasive species grew up behind us, it became harder to enjoy the area. It's a secret asset to our building to have the wildlife refuge behind us," committee member Pam Bott said. "All of us really like it. A lot of what we're doing now is to enjoy that gift."

For the landscape committee, this is more than just improving their backyard. Just as they had worked on landscape in the front of the building in 2018—adding a retaining wall, rocks, plants, lilac bushes and trees—these small steps to protect natural resources.

"Nature has its own way of landscaping," said Brad Pederson, committee member, horticulturalist and past owner of the Bloomington Garden Center and Landscape Company. "We're just helping it."



CELEBRATE PENN LAKE

Connect with neighbors, share your favorite memories from Penn Lake and learn more about the water body at the Penn Lake celebration on Saturday, September 10, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., at Lower Penn Lake Park, 1925 West 86th Street. Scientists will be at the event ready to talk about what's living in the lake—beneficial species as well as invasive species—including fish, amphibians, vegetation and more. The City and the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District are hosting the event. Water Resource Specialist Jack Distel will be there to provide more information about the restoration options available for Lower Penn Lake and how community members can get involved. For more information, visit blm.mn/letstalk.



CITY ADDS FULL-TIME FIREFIGHTERS

The Bloomington Fire Department has hired four additional full-time firefighters/fire inspectors to help with current daytime staffing shortages and inspections. With increased staffing challenges to recruit, train and retain part-time firefighters, the department continues changing and modifying its staffing model to meet the needs of the city.

“Finding people to commit the time and effort to complete the initial training, continuing training and responding to calls for service has become increasingly challenging. The pandemic made it even more difficult,” Fire Chief Ulie Seal said. “It is difficult to compete with people’s time commitments to their jobs and families.”

By continuing to add more full-time staff and adjust the part-time firefighter requirements, the department hopes to improve response times and eventually provide adequate coverage at all fire stations 24 hours a day.

LONG-TERM STAFFING PLAN

Chief Seal addressed the City Council to discuss transitioning the department to a hybrid model of 75 full-time and 60 paid-on-call firefighters. The plan is to hire six full-time firefighters per year over the next 10 years. To add the six full-time firefighters annually would cost approximately one percent to the overall property tax levy.

The department applied for a Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant from FEMA to add 18 full-time firefighters. If awarded, the department may be able to accelerate adding full-time firefighters. The grant will cover salary and benefits for three years. At the end of the three-year period, the cost for the salary and benefits will be assumed by the City. This grant would allow the City to plan for changes and adjust budget projections for the department.

HISTORY OF THE BFD STAFFING MODEL

Many fire departments across the nation operate under a volunteer or paid-on-call firefighter system. The Bloomington Fire Department has been operating this way since the meeting in 1947 that marked its founding.

As Bloomington continued to grow and the associated risks increased, the department changed to meet the needs of the city. In 2007, the department transitioned to a combination department with the fire chief’s position moving to full time. The department has continued to add full-time positions since 2007. Currently there are seven chief officers/command staff, eight inspector/firefighters and 97 part-time firefighters. For questions, call 952-563-4801.

PUBLIC HEALTH SUPPORTS HEALTHY BEGINNINGS

August is National Breastfeeding Month. There are many health benefits of breastfeeding for new mothers and their babies. Despite the well-documented benefits, many individuals face barriers, such as the absence of peer support, that prevent them from starting to breastfeed or limit how long they can continue doing so.

Bloomington Public Health peer breastfeeding counselors help families have healthy beginnings by providing education and support. Peer Counselor Ramla Ibrahim worked with a new mom who was uncomfortable leaving her home because she did not know English. The client’s husband worked long hours on the road, leaving her with few options for activities outside the home.

“I relied on my own experience. My husband works long shifts. I know that if I am home alone with the kids too long, it can be stressful,” said Ramla. “I recommend my clients have ‘me time.’ If you are healthy and well, you can take better care of your kids.”

Ibrahim suggested the client enroll in free English as a Second Language courses. The client took several classes, increasing her skills and confidence. Today, she works as an assistant at a day care center.

“I meet clients where they are,” said Ibrahim. “These are long-term relationships.”

Peer breastfeeding counselors are available to participants of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, known as the WIC program. For more information about WIC services, visit blm.mn/wic. Learn more about Public Health’s impact at blm.mn/health2021.



BOOK ‘EM IS BACK: FIGHTING CRIME WITH BOOKS

Donations are now being accepted for the Bloomington Crime Prevention Association’s 28th annual Book ‘Em used book sale. Accepted items are all types of books, CDs, DVDs, records, games and puzzles.

The revenue generated by the Book ‘Em sale will be awarded as grants to Bloomington organizations for crime prevention activities. This year, Book ‘Em will take place October 7 – 22, in the former Toys-R-Us store, 7839 Southtown Mall, at Southtown Shopping Center.

To support the BCPA, visit blm.mn/bcpa-donations for an up-to-date list of drop-off locations and drop dates and times.

For additional information, visit the BCPA website at bcpsmn.org, or contact the BCPA at board@bcpsmn.org or 952-220-2537.



COPS AND CONES

Celebrate the end of summer with a sweet treat at “Cops and Cones” on August 23, 1 – 2:30 p.m., at Scoops Ice Cream, 7700 West Old Shakopee Road. Kids ages 18 and younger can receive a free kid-size ice cream. The Bloomington Police Department’s “Cops and Cones” program aims to connect police officers with the community to break down barriers and strengthen relationships. Police officers will share safety tips. Attendees can ask questions, voice concerns and get to know the police officers. For questions, call 952-563-4900.



CREEKSIDE'S COUNTRY MUSIC JAM

Summer is the perfect time to make music with friends or listen to and enjoy music played by others. Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South, is full of lively classic country music Thursday mornings, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. The Classic Country Music Jam is a volunteer-led senior program. Musicians, ages 50 years and older, come to share their musical talents through a jam session. It is free and open to all. No registration required. For questions, call 952-563-4944.

SING WITH ANGELICA CANTANTI YOUTH CHOIRS THIS FALL

Rehearsals start soon for youth in grades K – 12. Visit angelicacantanti.org or call 952-563-8572 for more information.



DISCOVER ICE SKATING: SIGN UP FOR SKATE SCHOOL

With a little determination, the right techniques and some practice, ice skating can be a whole of lot of fun and a great way to stay fit. The Bloomington Ice Garden Skate School, 3600 West 98th Street, offers programs for skaters of all ages to discover the basics of ice skating in a safe and fun environment while providing the best foundation for figure skating and hockey. Tuesday classes begin September 27, and Saturday classes begin October 1. For enrollment information, visit blm.mn/BIG, call BIG at 952-563-8841, or email rgelecinskyj@BloomingtonMN.gov.



HELP PLAN LOCAL PARKS

Community conversations took place in June at Brookside, Bryant, Gene Kelly, Poplar Bridge, Running, Smith, Southwood, Sunrise and Tretbaugh parks to learn what residents want in their parks. Bloomington's Park System Master Plan provides guidance for improvements to parks, trails, facilities, and recreation programs. The individual park planning process is now underway for these nine parks identified for the initial phase. To continue the conversation about park amenities and other recommendations online, visit blm.mn/park-planning.

REDISCOVER THE PAST: RIVER RENDEZVOUS

Each fall Bloomington hosts one of the largest educational history festivals in the Midwest. River Rendezvous is a living history event that provides a unique experience to learn about the daily lives of indigenous people and settlers who lived in the Minnesota River Valley during the 1800s. Visitors will interactively learn about 19th century life including Dakota history and culture, early trades and crafts, frontier farming, the fur trade, wilderness skills, frontier activities and games and much more. The event features a wide variety of hands-on participation opportunities for kids and families.

The weekday sessions are reserved for school field trips enjoyed by thousands of students, and Saturday's public day is open to all. Join in the fun and celebration on Saturday, September 24, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., at Pond Dakota Mission Park, 401 East 104th Street. Admission to this event is \$10 for adults ages 18 years and older, \$5 for children ages 4 – 17, and free for children ages 3 and younger. For more information, visit blm.mn/rendezvous or call Bloomington Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877.



FINAL DAYS FOR MIDWEEK MUSIC AND MARKET

Summer isn't over yet! Take a break from work and back-to-school shopping for a fun midweek evening out. The Bloomington Farmers Market and Arts in the Parks are hosting three more Wednesday night markets this season. They take place Wednesdays, August 10, 17 and 24, 5 – 8 p.m., with concerts 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. each evening. The whole family can enjoy live music, lawn games and outdoor fun. Stock up on fresh produce from your favorite farmers market vendors. Other vendors sell everything from handcrafted items, baked goods, kettle corn, sauces, canned goods to maple syrup. There is also beer on site from Nine Mile Brewing. For more information, visit the market's Facebook page at blm.mn/fbookfarmers or call 952-563-8877.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MALL OF AMERICA!

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS IN BLOOMINGTON

From “a place for fun in your life” to “always new,” the Mall of America has always lived up to its slogans. MOA is celebrating 30 years of retail success in 2022. The mall opened on August 11, 1992, with 150,000 people attending opening day. Since its beginning, MOA has helped Bloomington become one of America’s top tourist destinations, attracting more than 40 million visitors annually.

In recent years, MOA has expanded to 5.6 million square feet by adding two hotels and more attractions. MOA has experienced continuous growth since its opening, and so has the South Loop District.

Always new and evolving, MOA saw new opportunities during the pandemic. Community Commons opened October 1, 2020. This storefront was a donated space for businesses impacted by the pandemic and destruction from the civil unrest that took place throughout the Twin Cities. The space has now evolved into a collective retail space that gives locally owned Black, Indigenous and People Of Color-owned businesses the opportunity to test their concepts at Mall of America and expand into new audiences. To learn more, visit mallofamerica.com/birthday.

BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY: TWINS’ TERRITORY AT MALL OF AMERICA

As the oldest professional sports franchise in Minnesota, the hometown team and Mall of America share a bit of history together. Before Mall of America, the Metropolitan Stadium was on the site. The last Minnesota Twins game played at the old Metropolitan Stadium was on September 30, 1981.

Today, the Metropolitan Stadium home plate is located on the floor of Nickelodeon Universe near the entrance to SpongeBob SquarePants Rock Bottom Plunge. Visitors can look for the original red stadium chair above the Log Chute ride, marking the spot where Twins legend Harmon Killebrew smashed his longest homerun—flying 522 feet into the second deck—in the Metropolitan Stadium on June 3, 1967. Killebrew became so popular on this day that the street in front to the stadium was named after him and is now one of the main roads to MOA.



EXPERIENCE STEAM AT MALL OF AMERICA

Immerse yourself in the world of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math at EXPERIENCE STEAM, August 10 – 14, at the Mall of America, 60 East Broadway. This unique event is powered by the National Center for Autonomous Technologies and the Mall of America. As a part of Mall of America’s 30th birthday celebration, this event is free for all. Regardless of age or academic background, participants will have an opportunity to join in walk-up activities and experience STEAM in action.

EXPERIENCE STEAM is designed to maximize engagement and offers a variety of events including a STEAM Carnival, student camps, student competitions, professional development workshops and advanced skills training. This week-long experience also offers preregistered events for students looking to learn and compete, and for professionals wanting to advance their technical knowledge, skills and abilities. Learn more at ncatech.org/experience-steam.

SEND IN YOUR VETERAN PHOTOS

The City is beginning to collect photos and stories for the 2022 veterans’ photo wall that will be displayed in November.

Submit your photos and stories online at blm.mn/vet-photos. When submitting a photo, include your name, military branch and years of service. Share your story on the photo submission form or by email. Questions? Contact Community Outreach and Engagement at 952-563- 8733, MN Relay 711 or at outreach@BloomingtonMN.gov. There is no deadline for submissions.

OMAR BONDERUD AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Bloomington Human Rights Commission is seeking nominations for the Omar Bonderud Human Rights Award. Each year, this award is presented to an individual or organization that has worked to remove discriminatory barriers from housing, education, employment and other areas of human rights for all Bloomington residents. Nominations are due August 26. To obtain a nomination form, call 952-563-8733 or visit blm.mn/bonderud.



IN THE GALLERY: “THE VISUAL VOICE OF AUTISM”

Minnesota artist Harrison Halker Heinks examines reflective surfaces in his photography. By capturing multiple planes with one image, Heinks builds an experience where viewers can simultaneously look through, at and in front of the subject. Uniting a single image from several layers evokes emotion with Heinks who intends to express how it feels to live with autism.

Heinks received a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder as a child. By including self-portraits in some of his work, Heinks is motivated to show how he sometimes sees himself as in between reality and being overlooked by society. Through his artwork, Heinks’ voice emerges.

The exhibition is on display through September 11 in the Atrium Gallery at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. For gallery hours and information about the exhibition, visit blm.mn/artistry.



FREE BALLET CLASS

Feel part of the magic and come dance with us! Continental Ballet Company is offering free ballet classes for new students. Open to dancers of all skill levels. The class walks you through the steps of fun ballet dance style. Classes take place at Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. Register now by calling 952-563-8562 or sending an email to cbcinfo@continentalballet.com.

- August 11, 6 – 6:45 p.m., students in grades 4 – 6.
- August 11, 7 – 8 p.m., intermediate and advanced level students.
- August 13, 10 – 10:30 a.m., students ages 4 and 5.
- August 13, 11 – 12 p.m., for students in grades 1 – 3.



PRIMARY ELECTION IS AUGUST 9

The August 9 primary election is approaching fast. In Bloomington, the polls will open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.

A primary election determines which candidates will be on the ballot in the November general election. Offices on the ballot may include: governor, secretary of state, attorney general, state representative, county attorney and county sheriff.



REGISTER TO VOTE

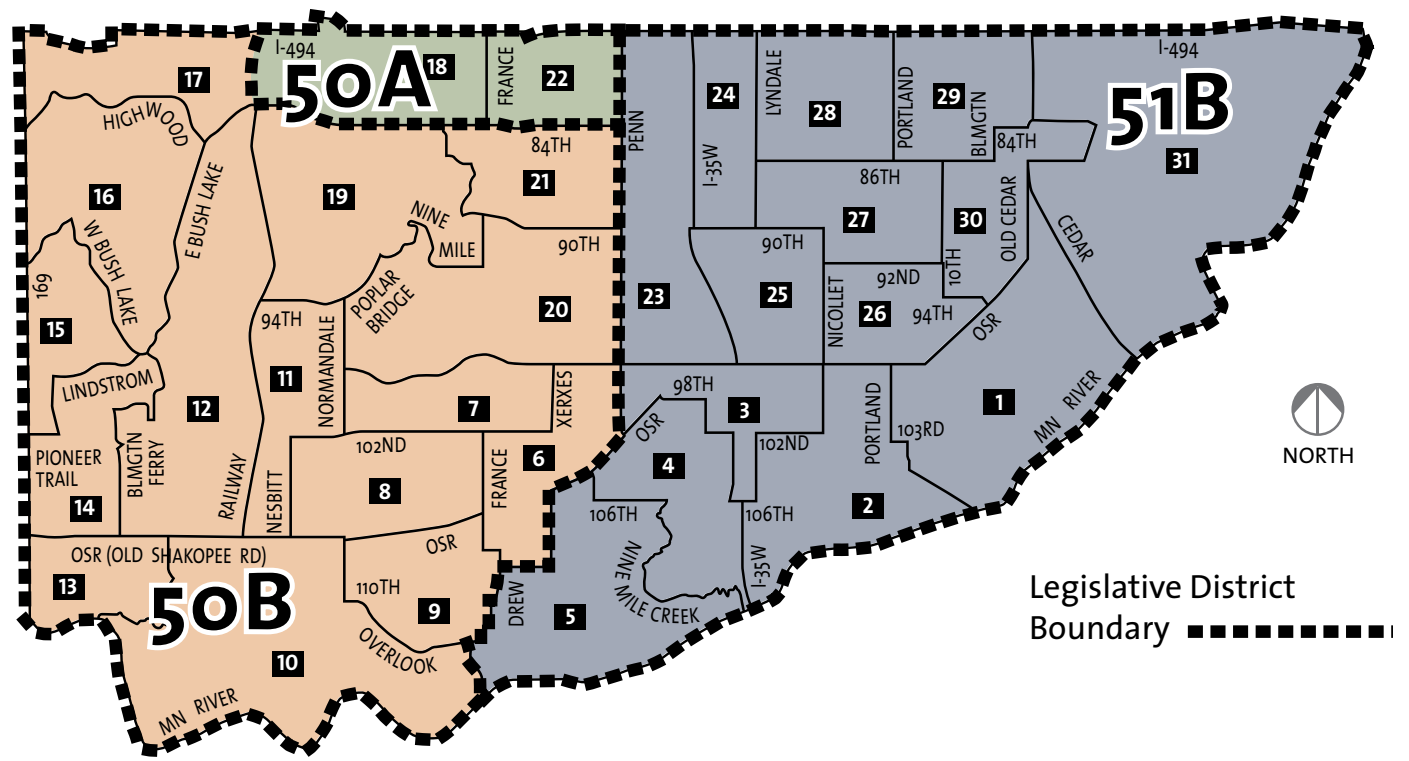
Voters are allowed to register at their polling place on Election Day. To register, you must provide proof of residence. Learn more about how to register at your polling place by visiting blm.mn/voting.

SERVE AS AN ELECTION JUDGE

The City is hiring election judges to staff its polling places for the general election on November 8. Election judges receive training, are paid for their time and provide a vital service to their community. For more information and to complete an online application, or call 952-563-8729 visit blm.mn/election-judges.

2022 ELECTION GUIDE

POLLS ARE OPEN FROM 7 A.M. TO 8 P.M. ON ELECTION DAY. ALL POLLING PLACES ARE ACCESSIBLE.



Precinct/Polling location	Entrance/Parking
1 Atonement Lutheran Church 601 East Old Shakopee Road	Southwest entrance South lot
2 Grace Covenant Church 10201 Nicollet Avenue South	Southeast entrance East lot
3 St. Luke's Lutheran Church 1701 West Old Shakopee Road	Northeast entrance North lot
4 Oak Grove Presbyterian Church 2200 West Old Shakopee Road	Main entrance Northeast lot
5 Minnesota Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 10715 Zenith Avenue South	Main entrance North lot
6 Mount Hope Lutheran Church 3601 West Old Shakopee Road	Main entrance (S) South lot
7 Crosspoint Church 9801 France Avenue South	Main entrance (E) East lot
8 Bloomington Covenant Church 10150 Xerxes Avenue South	Main entrance (E) East and North lots
9 Transfiguration Lutheran Church 11000 France Avenue South	Main entrance (W) West lot
10 MN Masonic Heritage Center 11411 Masonic Home Drive	Main entrance (W) West lot
11 Normandale Hylands United Methodist Church 9920 Normandale Boulevard South	Northeast entrance (left doors) North lot
12 Community of the Cross Lutheran Church 10701 Bloomington Ferry Road	Main entrance (N) North lot
13 Bethany Church 6900 Auto Club Road	West entrance West and North lots
14 Bloomington Lutheran School 10600 Bloomington Ferry Road	Main entrance (S) South lot, ADA: East side
15 Hyland Vistors Center 10145 Bush Lake Road	West entrance West lot
16 Peace Lutheran Church 8600 East Bush Lake Road	Main entrance North lot
17 Westwood Community Church 6301 Cecilia Circle	Main entrance (W) Main lot (W)
18 St. Stephen Lutheran Church 8400 France Avenue South	Main entrance (W) West lot
19 The Church of St. Edward's 9401 Nesbitt Avenue South	SW entrance Upper level, SW lot
20 St. Michael's Lutheran Church 9201 Normandale Boulevard	Main entrance (E) East lot
21 St. Mark's United Church of Christ 8630 Xerxes Avenue South	South entrance Southwest lot
22 Southtown Baptist Church 2600 West 82nd Street	Main entrance (W) Northwest lot

Precinct/Polling location	Entrance/Parking
23 Bloomington City Hall 1800 West Old Shakopee Road	East entrance East lot
24 Christ the King Lutheran Church 8600 Fremont Avenue South	Southwest entrance Southwest lot
25 Oxboro Evangelical Free Church 9431 Nicollet Avenue South	North entrance North lot
26 Bloomington Lutheran Church 9350 Portland Avenue South	Main entrance North lot
27 St. Bonaventure Catholic Church 901 East 90th Street (Social Hall)	Main entrance East lot
28 Unity South Church 7950 1st Avenue South	Main entrance South lot
29 Portland Avenue United Methodist Church 8000 Portland Avenue South	Main entrance West lot
30 Cedar Valley Church 8600 Bloomington Avenue South	West entrance Door 4 South lot ADA: E entrance Door 1
31 Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center 3815 American Boulevard East	West entrance Visitor lot (W)

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. 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.

HOW CAN I CAST MY BALLOT?

In the 2022 election, there are three ways to cast your ballot. Minnesota has "no excuse" absentee voting, meaning all eligible voters are allowed to vote early if they choose.

- By mail: Request to have a ballot mailed to you by completing an online absentee ballot application at mnvotes.org.
- Early in-person voting: Vote early Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.
- On Election Day: Vote in-person at your polling place. Visit mnvotes.org to check your voter registration status and polling place location.

Because of redistricting, many voters' polling places have changed. **Remember to check your polling place location at mnvotes.org.**



VOTING INFORMATION: CALL 952-563-8729 OR VISIT BLM.MN/VOTE.