

BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



SEPTEMBER 2022

PAGE 2

PAGE 5

PAGE 6

PAGE 8



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FUND TO HELP WITH PARK IMPROVEMENTS AND MORE

Each year, when the annual external audit is complete and the City has a good picture of where the previous year's financials have settled, staff total up the positive budget variances from the general fund. This is money that the City Council can reallocate to the City's strategic priorities fund. This fund helps ensure resources are available for special projects, initiatives or activities on a one-time basis or as a transitional source of funding.

The city manager works with the executive leadership team to identify projects that support the City Council's strategic initiatives, address longstanding maintenance issues or otherwise support City service delivery.

The dollar amount available to transfer to the strategic priority fund varies from year to year. In 2021, the positive budget variances totaled about \$3.5 million. The Council approved the allocation of \$3.49 million to projects in the areas of Police, Parks and Recreation and Public Works. Of the \$3.49 million allocated, \$540,000 will go to the Police Department for improvements such as a jail remodel. Public Works will receive \$1.25 million to fund a natural resource project, the purchase of 10 electric F-150 pickup trucks and other items. And \$1.7 million will go to Parks and Recreation to provide a jump start to a number of priorities identified in the City's Park System Master Plan. These projects include:

- A new pool filter and ultraviolet disinfection for the Bloomington Family Aquatic Center.
- New playground equipment at Smith Park.
- Basketball court upgrades at Cedarcrest, Dred Scott, Smith and Valley View parks.
- New bag toss games at Bush Lake, Moir, Normandale Lake and Valley View parks.
- Redecking 10 bridges at Moir/Central, Hyland and Normandale Lake parks.
- New gazebo roofs at Normandale Lake Park.

You'll see progress on many of these projects this year. The pool filter and new Smith Park playground will be completed in 2023. The rest of the projects will be completed in 2022. For more information about the strategic priorities fund and identified projects, visit blm.mn/spf202207.

VOTE EARLY OR ABSENTEE

Absentee and early voting for the November 8 general election begins September 23. 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, November 5, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. and on Monday, November 7, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Mail-in ballots must be received by November 8.

If you have questions or are a voter with special circumstances, contact the City Clerk's Office, 952-563-8729 or visit blm.mn/voting for more information. For details on how to register and how to serve as an election judge, see page 8.

CHECK YOUR POLLING PLACE

Because of redistricting, many residents will vote at new locations this year. Voters should visit mnvotes.org to find their polling place location before going to the polls.



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MAYOR’S MEMO

THE 2023 BUDGET AND PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES

By Mayor Tim Busse

Each year the City goes through an annual budget process to determine what services it will provide, how much those services will cost and where it will get the money to pay for them. Services are funded by user fees, grants, local lodging and admission taxes, and property taxes. The City Council sets a preliminary property tax levy dollar amount and budget that must be submitted to Hennepin County at the end of September. The City Council must approve the final property tax levy and budget by the end of December. The final tax levy amount can be lower than the preliminary tax levy that is submitted in September, but it cannot be higher.

The 2022 property tax amount levied by the City was \$68,296,727. About \$58.2 million of that amount was levied to fund the City’s general fund operations. The majority of general fund expenses go to public safety services such as police, fire and road and infrastructure maintenance, as well as parks throughout the city. Other general fund expenses include Environmental Health, Planning, Building and Inspections, Assessing, Public Health, Community Outreach and Engagement, Parks and Recreation, Engineering, City Clerk, Human Resources, Legal, Finance and the City Manager’s Office. The general fund is the largest fund in the City, but it is just one of 30 funds with a budget approved by the Council each year.

The costs in the City’s proposed 2023 budget are aligned with the mission and core values of the community-based strategic plan *Bloomington. Tomorrow. Together.* Our mission is to cultivate an enduring and remarkable community where people want to be. However, the costs of City services are increasing due to the rise in the costs of supplies, materials, fuel and pressures from a tight labor market.

The Bloomington Fire Department is also in urgent need of a change in its staffing model. The department has been operating under a mainly volunteer or paid-on-call firefighter system since 1947. The ideal number of active firefighters is 155. The current active total is only 97. The number of calls answered with only one or two firefighters or an all-rookie crew has continued to increase. With increased challenges to recruit, train and retain part-time firefighters, the department has shared a plan to transition to a hybrid model of 75 full-time and 60 paid-on-call firefighters over the next 10 years. This would require increased property tax support.

The budget manager and City staff have been at many events this summer asking residents about what City services are important to them. Events have included the Police open house, performances at the Normandale Lake Bandshell and National Night Out block parties. Stop by the two remaining events—the September 17 Farmers Market as well as the Fire Department open house on October 15—to let us know what’s most important to you. You can also visit the Let’s Talk Bloomington page at blm.mn/letstalk to share your budget priorities and answer survey questions about how you receive information about the City budget.

The City Council plans to set the 2023 preliminary tax levy and budget at the September 12 Council meeting. A truth-in-taxation public hearing is scheduled for December 5 before the final property tax levy and budget are approved.

Learn more about the City’s budget along with information on public budget information and engagement opportunities online at blm.mn/budget.

ATTEND A TOWN HALL FORUM

This fall, Councilmembers will host town hall forums to connect with constituents. Mayor Tim Busse hosted the first town hall forum on August 17. Councilmembers and City staff will answer questions at upcoming forums and present updates on ongoing and upcoming projects. For more information, visit blm.mn/townhall or call 952-563-8782.

CITY TO OPEN CENTER TO HELP SMALL BUSINESSES

In an effort to uplift small businesses and support under-represented groups, the City is planning to open a small business development center. The center will support under-represented groups including Black, Indigenous and People of Color- and women-owned businesses, youth and artists. It will be on the east side of Bloomington in the former fire station, 2050 86th Street East, which is within a half-mile of public transit.

“We hope this new center will serve as a space for aspiring entrepreneurs by providing educational and financial resources,” Special Projects and Initiatives Manager Barb Wolff said. “We hope the center will help create long-lasting jobs that will benefit the community and drive economic growth in Bloomington.”

The new center is in alignment with the City Council’s strategic priorities of equity and inclusion, community amenities, environmental sustainability and high-quality service delivery.

The need for a small business development center was born out of the work of the City’s racial equity strategic planning committee. It was reconfirmed by the recent business survey conducted by Morris Leatherman Company, with 84% of respondents saying that the creation of a City-led business incubator is a good idea.

The City is working with with an advisory committee to develop suggestions for operations, space use, programming, services, activities, criteria and branding. For more information, visit blm.mn/sbdcinfo.



BRIEFING

Volume 30, Number 09

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



BLOOMINGTON COLLECTIVE HIGHLIGHTS BIPOC-OWNED BUSINESSES

The City’s video series *Bloomington Collective: Stories of Solidarity* highlights local business owners who are Black, Indigenous and People of Color. RuvaAfricWear is the most recent Bloomington Collective story. RuvaAfricWear celebrates African fashion for everyone and offers free fitness classes in its store at Mall of America.

“With the recent protests in Minneapolis, people were getting more and more isolated. It was becoming more divisive. So we wanted to create a space where people could come together and celebrate something,” Sylvester Ndhlovu, RuvaAfricWear founder, owner and designer said.

Learn more about RuvaAfricWear or watch the Bloomington Collective features on the City’s YouTube channel at blm.mn/collective. Mhiripiri Gallery, Agape African Market, Luro Boots, Action Hair Salon and Stall One Automotives are other businesses that have been featured.

IMPROVEMENTS COMING TO TWO MAJOR INTERSECTIONS

The City is working on improving the intersections at Xerxes Avenue South and West Old Shakopee Road and 98th Street and Normandale Boulevard.

“Both of these projects will improve safety for vehicles, bikers and pedestrians,” Senior Civil Engineer Bob Simons said.



98TH STREET AND NORMANDALE BOULEVARD

Crews will remove the separate right turn lanes, add dedicated right turn lanes at the intersection, upgrade existing sidewalk and trails and implement signal improvements. These changes will improve sight lines for vehicles using the intersection. The concrete islands between lanes will be modified to allow walkers and runners to cross through them and have an area to stop when crossing between lanes before finishing crossing the intersection. The existing pedestrian and bicycle concrete sidewalks and asphalt paths in the intersection to current width and size standards will be upgraded. The pedestrian ramp, the area where pedestrians stop before crossing the road, will be replaced to meet American with Disabilities Act requirements regarding how steep they are. Accessible pedestrian signals will also be added in the intersection.



WEST OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD AND XERXES AVENUE

Dedicated left turn lanes will be installed on all approaches of Xerxes Avenue and Old Shakopee Road. Old Shakopee Road will maintain two through lanes in both directions of travel. Left turn lanes will also be evaluated for the use of flashing yellow arrows at certain times of the day. The pedestrian ramp, the area the pedestrians stop at prior to crossing the road, will be replaced to meet American with Disabilities Act requirements. Crews will also complete pavement rehabilitation and install reflective pavement markings within the project limits.

These projects are funded with with federal, state and county aid as well as City funds. Hennepin County and the City of Bloomington applied for and received a competitive Federal Aid Highway Safety Improvement grant in 2019. For more information about street projects, contact Engineering at 952-563-4870 or visit blm.mn/street-projects.

RICHARDSON NATURE CENTER CLOSED DURING CONSTRUCTION

Richardson Nature Center, 8737 East Bush Lake Road, will be closed September 6 – October 1 due to construction expanding the nature center parking lot, reconstructing a paved trail near the parking area, adding new lighting and making ADA and stormwater improvements. There will be no access to the nature center grounds from East Bush Lake Road during that time.

During the closure, Richardson Nature Center staff will be offering a variety of programs at the Hyland Visitor Center, 10145 East Bush Lake Road, including Free Family Fun Days every Sunday, 1 – 3 p.m. For more information about programs at Hyland Lake Park Reserve, visit threeRiversParks.org/page/three-rivers-programs. For more information about the project at Richardson Nature Center, visit blm.mn/richardson.



CHECK OUT HOUSING HIGHLIGHTS

To keep residents informed, the Community Development Department compiled a multipage housing flyer to highlight the diverse housing types in Bloomington. The City’s housing consists of 54% single-family homes and 31% apartments. Of the housing available for rent, 86% are licensed multifamily buildings and units, such as apartments and fourplexes. The City prioritizes affordable housing and promotes homeownership.

Included in the flyer is the estimated building and construction fee breakdown and average cost to build a new single-family home. Informational resources for homeowners, such as the Down Payment Assistance and Home Improvement Loan programs, are explained in the flyer as well. View the flyer at blm.mn/housing-flyer. For more information, contact Community Development at 952-563-8920.

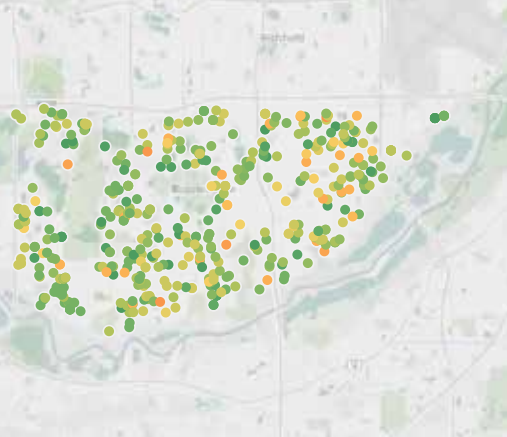
LEARN MORE ABOUT CANDIDATES

This year, the League of Women Voters Bloomington will record a Minnesota Senate District 50B and Minnesota House District 50B candidate forums on Thursday, September 15, and Minnesota Senate District 51 and Minnesota House District 51B candidate forums on Tuesday, September 20. Both forums will be held 7 – 8:30 p.m., in the Civic Plaza Council Chambers, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. The forums are free and open to the public.

LWV Bloomington and LWV Edina are sponsoring a forum for the candidates for the Minnesota Senate District 50A seat. Most of this district is in Edina, so the forum will be held in Edina. At the time of this writing, the date and time are yet to be determined. Find details on lwvedina.org.

Recorded videos where candidates introduce themselves to the community, are available on the City’s website, blm.mn/voting and on League of Bloomington’s website, lwvmn.org/Bloomington.

The LWV Bloomington is a nonpartisan political organization that does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. LWV encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.



ENERGY DISCLOSURE HELPS HOMEOWNERS

Energy-efficient homes have many advantages. They are more comfortable year-round, are less expensive to heat and cool, have healthier indoor air and have a reduced environmental impact.

Several key features have the most impact on how energy efficient a home is. With the City of Bloomington’s new Time-of-Sale Energy Disclosure ordinance, inspectors collect information about these key features before homes are listed for sale. These include heating and cooling systems, water heaters, wall and attic insulation, and windows. The energy information is summarized into an energy score and report. These resources are available to prospective homebuyers at open houses and online. View home energy scores and reports at mncee.org/TOS and click on “Find Energy Scores.”



FREE RESOURCES FOR RECENT HOMEBUYERS HOME ENERGY SCORE

All homes that had Time-of-Sale inspections scheduled after April 1, 2022, have a customized energy score and disclosure report. The report lists practical and cost-effective energy improvements. Find your home’s energy score and report at mncee.org/TOS.

ENERGY ADVISOR SERVICE

Energy advisors from Center for Energy and Environment, a local nonprofit, can help you understand your new home’s energy disclosure report, answer energy-related questions and connect you to financing, utility rebates and high-quality insulation contractors to get projects done. Contact an energy advisor at 651-328-6225 or energydisclosure@mncee.org. This service is free to Bloomington homeowners. For more information visit mncee.org/TOS.



EARTH ACTION HEROES: ORGANICS RECYCLING IS A FAMILY AFFAIR



In the Buford family, organics recycling is more than just tackling food waste. It is about taking ownership, being responsible and caring for the Earth.

Eight-year-old Derrick Buford said, “When we compost, it helps the world!”

The Buford family began recycling their organics earlier this year when the City made it available to all residents. They said the process has been easy and convenient. Organics recycling is a family affair. Derrick takes the full bag to the compost bin. His five-year-old sister, Jordyn Buford, puts a new compostable bag into the container in the kitchen. The children take turns rolling out the compost bin to the curb each week.

“Our kids are involved in the process. They get excited. They enjoy doing it,” Dee Buford said. “And it’s a good chore. Participating in organics recycling is a great way to put food waste into something that can be reused.”

The Buford family shares that the process is easy and simple, and it helps them all do a little bit in their part to keep the world a little cleaner. Other items that are accepted in organics recycling include pizza boxes, paper egg cartons, coffee grounds and filters, house plants and flowers.

“I like to compost because it helps the soil,” Jordyn said. “The soil grows flowers. And bumble bees spread the pollen.”

For information about organics recycling, visit blm.mn/organics.

KNOW HOW TO DISPOSE OF YOUR YARD WASTE

Fall is a time of cooler temperatures, and garden and yard cleanup projects. Dispose of your leaves and clippings with City of Bloomington yard waste service. Accepted materials include garden waste, grass clippings, leaves, weeds, soft garden materials, shrub and tree waste and pruning. Twigs and branches must be three feet or less in length and three inches or less in diameter. Bundles or bags cannot be heavier than 40 pounds. Dirt, sod, rocks and wood chips are not accepted.

“Residents may notice delays in collection this season because haulers have been short-staffed,” Project Manager Laura Horner said.

Residents with yard waste service can request one additional yard waste cart for \$38.26. It’s acceptable to set out up to 20 bags of yard waste in addition to your cart(s) per week. If you have more than 20 bags, save the additional bags and have them collected the following week. Yard waste season continues through November 26, weather permitting. If significant snowfall occurs before the end of November, yard waste collection may end at that time.

To sign up for yard waste subscription, contact Utility Billing at utilitybilling@BloomingtonMN.gov or 952-563-8726. Residents can pay per bag for on-call service by purchasing yard waste stickers for \$4.37 each. Call 952-563- 8757 to request stickers to be mailed to you. For more information, visit blm.mn/yardwaste.

MANAGING CATTAILS AT BUSH LAKE

Did you know many species of cattails are considered invasive in Minnesota? City staff are removing invasive cattail populations around Bush Lake to restore wetland health. There are three species of cattails in Minnesota—broadleaf, narrowleaf and hybrid. Only broadleaf is native. Narrowleaf and hybrid can grow so aggressively that they push out other native plants that are necessary for healthy wetlands.

The City is working closely with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to ensure that the management is being done correctly. A large portion of the work will occur throughout winter when the cattail stalks will be cut and removed. Cattail management will benefit the native wetland plants that have historically lived in the area. Watch a video to learn more at blm.mn/cattails.





2022 CITYWIDE RECYCLING DROP-OFF

This year marks the City’s first citywide recycling drop-off event for residents to get rid of large items and recyclable materials. The event will take place **September 24, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m., at the Western Maintenance Center, 10500 Hampshire Avenue South**. The event is open to all Bloomington residents. Certain items will be accepted at no cost and fees will apply for other items. Cash and checks are the only accepted forms of payment. See the list below for what is and is not accepted. This is part of the City’s new bulky item disposal plan, which moves Curbside Cleanup to a biannual event occurring every two years (2022, 2024, etc.). Learn more at blm.mn/drop-off or by calling 952-563-8760.

WHAT IS ACCEPTED

APPLIANCES – \$10 EACH

- Dishwashers
- Refrigerators
- Water heaters
- Dehumidifiers
- Microwaves
- Stoves
- Air conditioners

MATTRESSES AND BOX SPRINGS – \$20 EACH

- Crib mattresses \$5

OTHER ITEMS ACCEPTED WITH NO CHARGE

- Scrap metal (Remove all pieces that are not metal)
- Bicycles (Accepted in any condition)
- Shredded paper

ELECTRONICS – \$10 EACH

- TVs
- Monitors
- Computers
- Tablets

OTHER ELECTRONICS – NO CHARGE

- Cell phones
- Computer accessories, including keyboard and mice
- Cords
- Headphones
- VCRs/DVD players
- Printers
- Game consoles
- Stereos

TIRES – \$3 EACH

WHAT IS NOT ACCEPTED

- Trash
- Building materials
- Concrete
- Furniture
- Carpet
- Exercise equipment
- Lamps
- Leaf blowers
- Light bulbs
- Paint
- Household hazardous waste
- Vacuum cleaners

THE EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE SEPTEMBER 24, 8 A.M. – 1 P.M., AT WESTERN MAINTENANCE CENTER, 10500 HAMPSHIRE AVENUE SOUTH.



Source: Minnesota Historical Society.

BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY: HOPKINS BRIAR FIELD FARM – 1900

At the turn of the century, Joe and Leigh Hopkins grew black raspberries on their farm located along the Minnesota River bluff and valley at the end of what is now Lyndale Avenue. In addition to farming, the Hopkins operated a ferry from 1907 to 1921. The ferry was used to transport wagons, farm equipment, hay, logs, firewood and cattle across the Minnesota River. In 1912, Leigh Hopkins bought a used team-powered pumping plant and installed it on the north bank of the river near the Hopkins Ferry landing. River water was pumped through a six-inch pipe at about 600 gallons per minute to irrigate the raspberry fields. *Source: Bloomington on the Minnesota.*



POETRY READING COMING SOON

Eight poems by local writers will be stamped onto new sidewalks and four will be on display on creative sign installations in the area from Portland Avenue to Pleasant Avenue, and American Boulevard to 90th Street as part of Hometown Poetry. This project is part of the City’s neighborhood focus initiative and creative placemaking efforts in partnership with Artistry. Writers will read their poems, that were selected by a panel, at the Hometown Poetry Reading on September 27, 6 - 7:30 p.m., at Oxboro Library, 8801 Portland Avenue South. The reading will begin at 6:30 p.m. Free refreshments will be provided. Visit blm.mn/callforpoems for more information.



BUY USED BOOKS TO
HELP FIGHT CRIME

The 28th Annual Book ‘Em is coming up, October 7 – 22, in the former Toys-R-Us store, 7839 Southtown Mall. You’ll find used books, CDs, DVDs, records, games and puzzles.

To support the Bloomington Crime Prevention Association, visit blm.mn/bcpa-donations. For additional information, visit the BCPA website at bcpamn.org, or contact the BCPA at board@bcpamn.org or 952-220-2537.

AARP SMART DRIVER
PROGRAM

Are you looking to refresh your driving skills and perhaps qualify for lower insurance rates? AARP is offering the Smart Driver Program for drivers ages 50 and older at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South. The course teaches driving techniques proven to help keep you and your loved ones safe on the road. The initial eight-hour class is offered the second Tuesday of every month, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. The refresher class is offered the remaining Tuesdays, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. A nonrefundable, nontransferable \$5 service fee is due at the time of registration. An instructor fee of \$20 for AARP members or \$25 for nonmembers is due at the time of class. Register in person at Creekside or call 952-563-4944.

HOUSEHOLD HELP FOR
SENIORS

Senior Community Services partners with the City to offer Bloomington seniors affordable household help through its Household and Outdoor Maintenance (HOME) program. The HOME program helps people take care of the home they love by assisting with housekeeping, handyperson tasks, painting, home safety checks, light-duty yard services and technology support. To learn more visit seniorcommunity.org, or contact by phone 952-746-4046 or email home@seniorcommunity.org.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT DRAWS A CROWD

Nearly 350 people registered to host a party in August this year for Bloomington Police’s 38th annual National Night Out event. Each year residents gather and enjoy a summer evening with neighbors, good food and information about keeping their communities safe. Bloomington Police, Fire and other City staff visited nearly every registered gathering. One notable element of the National Night Out celebration this year was a \$6,400 donation from Ed Fong of David Fong’s Restaurant—\$3,200 for the Bloomington Police Department and \$3,200 for the Bloomington Fire Department—to commemorate David Fong’s closing after 64 years in business in Bloomington.

Many residents also entered the annual chalk drawing contest. Winners were announced for the most creative piece, best overall and most representative of National Night Out. For a list of chalk contest winners or for more information, visit blm.mn/nno or call Crime Prevention Coordinator Katie Zerull at 952-563-8808.

FIREFIGHTER TURNOUT GEAR:
WHAT’S THAT?

Firefighters are praised for their ability to deal with dangerous situations, and they do so while carrying gear and equipment that weighs in at an average of 45 pounds. This includes helmet, gloves, hood, boots, coat and pants. Tack on other equipment like radios and lights and that weight easily doubles.

Firefighters’ gear, known as turnout gear or bunker gear, pictured at right, gets its name from its history of being stored in the bunk room of fire departments so that it can be easily and readily accessible in case of emergencies.

The specific formulation of the gear has three layers—an outer shell, a moisture barrier and a thermal liner—that protect from flames, minor cuts, abrasions, liquids and the ambient heat. Firefighters have 90 seconds to get in the truck with all their turnout gear on.

The most important fact about turnout gear is that “it’s not fireproof,” Deputy Chief Tim Barrett said. “You cannot just walk through fires like they do in movies and television shows. But the turnout gear will help to protect the firefighters from flames and smoke so that they can help people.”

Learn more about fire gear in a video online at blm.mn/turnoutgear.

SAVE THE DATE!

Come check out firefighter turnout gear, learn about fire safety and get to know firefighters at the annual Bloomington Fire Department open house on Saturday, October 15, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., at all fire stations.





TAKE ACTION TO PREVENT SUICIDE

September is National Suicide Prevention Month. Bloomington Public Health staff sat down with Dr. Dan Reidenberg, Executive Director for Suicide Awareness Voices of Education, to learn more about suicide and how it can be prevented. Suicide is a serious public health issue and a leading cause of death in the U.S. Someone dies by suicide every 11 minutes and someone attempts suicide every 28 seconds. In Minnesota, suicide is the eighth leading cause of death with 723 suicides (two per day) in 2020. Suicide impacts people of every age, race, gender, sexual orientation and socioeconomic group.

What are some of the warning signs of suicide?

- Talking about wanting to die or kill oneself.
- Increasing the use of alcohol or drugs.
- Feeling trapped, desperate or being in unbearable pain.
- Talking about being a burden on others.
- A sense of having no purpose.

If you or someone you know is having thoughts about suicide, where can you turn for help?

- Call 911.
- Call or text the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: 988.
- Text SAVE to 741741.

Anything else you'd like to share?

You don't have to be a doctor or mental health professional to help save someone's life. Being a listening ear or a support person for someone in emotional pain can make a huge difference in keeping someone alive. By knowing who might be at risk, the warning signs of suicide, and how to help, you can save a life.

Get involved

Visit [Save.org](https://www.save.org) or [Take5ToSaveLives.org](https://www.takes5tosavelives.org) to learn more.

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT MONKEYPOX

Monkeypox is a rare disease caused by the monkeypox virus. While monkeypox cases are increasing across the country, the general population is currently at low risk of contracting the disease.

The spread of monkeypox is different from the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. There is a vaccine for monkeypox, and it can be treated with available antiviral medicines. Also, while COVID-19 passed easily from person to person, monkeypox does not spread as easily between people. Monkeypox transmission typically requires skin-to-skin contact, direct contact with body fluids, or prolonged face-to-face contact.

What are the symptoms?

Most people with monkeypox will get a rash that can look like pimples or blisters on the face, the inside of the mouth, hands, feet, chest, genitals or anus. Some people may also experience flu-like symptoms, such as swollen lymph nodes, fever, headache, muscle aches or fatigue.

Monkeypox infections are typically not severe, although symptoms can be extremely painful, and permanent scarring may result from the rash. Infections are rarely fatal.

What should I do if I have symptoms?

If you have a new or unexplained rash or other monkeypox symptoms, make an appointment with your health care provider. If you don't have a provider or health insurance, visit a free health care clinic near you. Avoid close contact with others until a health care provider examines you. Wear a mask when you see a health care provider.

Learn more at blm.mn/monkeypox.

OPEN HOUSE FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Volunteer parents with the Bloomington Early Learning Advisory Council have started an online support group called Early Childhood Special Education Connect. The group is for parents and caregivers of young children, up to age five, who have special needs or are enrolled in Early Childhood Special Education. Visit with other families who have children with special needs at the group's welcome event on Saturday, October 8, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., at Augsburg Park, 7000 Nicollet Avenue in Richfield. Free and open to any family interested in learning about the support group. Read more about the group at blm.mn/ecseconnect.



COLD AND FLU SEASON IS COMING

Now's a great time to get up to date on all your vaccinations. They are still best way to protect yourself, those at high risk and medical staff against severe illness and hospitalization. Book your vaccines appointment online at blm.mn/vaccines.



GET VACCINATED

COVID-19 vaccines are now available to those six months and older. Boosters are available to everyone five and older, and second boosters are available to those 50 and older and those at high risk. Did you know 45% of the public is considered high risk? Find out if you are at blm.mn/highrisk.



MSP AIRPORT IS NOW A TEST-TO-TREAT SITE

The testing site at the MSP Airport offers no-cost testing and prescriptions for COVID-19. You can take a rapid test and, if positive, be assessed by a provider onsite. If eligible for treatment, you receive prescription pills to treat COVID-19 at the same time. Learn more and book your appointment at blm.mn/testsite.



REGISTER TO VOTE

Voters who have moved or changed their names need to re-register. To register before Election Day, visit mnvotes.org by October 18 to submit a registration application. Voters can also register to vote at their polling place on Election Day, Tuesday, November 8. Voters will need to provide proof of residence. To learn more about registering to vote on Election Day, visit blm.mn/vote.

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 or to complete an online application, visit blm.mn/election-judges or call 952-563-8729.



CELEBRATE HISTORY: RIVER RENDEZVOUS

River Rendezvous, one of Minnesota's largest living history festivals, is open to the public Saturday, September 24, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Kids and adults can join in the fun and celebration at Pond Dakota Mission Park, 401 East 104th Street. Participants will learn hands-on in a unique experience about the daily lives of indigenous people and settlers who lived in the Minnesota River Valley during the 1800s. Activities include Dakota history and culture, early trades and crafts, frontier farming, the fur trade, wilderness skills, frontier activities and games and much more. Admission is \$10 for adults ages 18 years and older, \$5 for children ages 4 – 17, and free for children ages three and younger. For more information, visit blm.mn/rendezvous or call Bloomington Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877.

BLOOMINGTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS
2022 - 2023 PERFORMANCE SERIES

The Bloomington Center for the Arts Performance Series includes awe-inspiring theater, band, chorale and jazz concerts. Performances are held in the Schneider or Black Box theaters, located in the Bloomington Center for the Arts at the corner of 98th Street and West Old Shakopee Road. Free parking is available on site.

CHECK OUT THIS AMAZING LINEUP OF SHOWS



ARTISTRY THEATER & COLLIDE
THEATRICAL DANCE COMPANY:
WONDERLAND

This high-energy show, set to a popular music soundtrack, serves up vivid costumes and dazzling technical dance skills with *Alice in Wonderland* characters.

September 8 – October 2
Show times vary
Tickets: \$18 - \$48 (before fees)



MEDALIST CONCERT BAND:
REMEMBRANCES: HONORING
OUR VETERANS

The Medalist Concert Band pays tribute to those individuals who have served in the U.S. military. Thank you for your service!

November 13, 4 p.m.
Tickets: \$17 adults, \$15 seniors and students.



CONTINENTAL BALLET COMPANY:
THE NUTCRACKER BALLET

Enjoy this holiday classic telling the story of a young girl's gift of a nutcracker and her magical godfather.

December 3, 7:30 p.m., December 4, 3 p.m.
December 9, 7:30 p.m.,
December 10, 7:30 p.m., December 11, 3 p.m.
Tickets: \$25 adults, \$19 seniors and students, \$13 children



CONTINENTAL BALLET COMPANY:
BEER AND BALLET

This is a fun, casual look at the art of dance with original choreography by Continental Ballet Company members and Founder/Director Riet Velthuisen.

September 17, 7 p.m.
Tickets \$30
(includes admission and one beverage)



BCA PERFORMANCE SERIES:
THREADS DANCE PROJECT:
ABOLITION IN EVOLUTION (PART 1)

Join Threads Dance as they examine, expose, and celebrate the threads that connect us through this beautifully choreographed and original dance performance.

November 17 and 18
7:30 p.m.
Tickets: \$25 (before fees)



BLOOMINGTON CHORALE:
THIS SHINING NIGHT

The night will shine as the Chorale sings familiar Christmas melodies and other holiday songs from around the globe. Join us for this enchanting evening.

December 16, 7:30 p.m.,
December 17, 4 p.m.
Tickets: \$19 adults, \$15 seniors and students



ARTISTRY:
GODSPELL

This 2012 revised version of Stephen Schwartz's cherished musical offers a masterful retelling with ravishing new arrangements of beloved favorites.

October 14 – November 6
Show times vary
Tickets: \$18 - \$48 (before fees)



BLOOMINGTON SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA:
SOUL AND IRONY

Program includes Margaret Bonds' Montgomery Variations, Michael Sutton performing Schubert's Rondo for Violin, and Shostakovich's Ninth Symphony.

November 20, 3 p.m.
Advanced tickets: \$17 adult, \$14 senior (62+), students are free; At the Door: \$19 adult, \$16 senior (62+); students are free



MEDALIST CONCERT BAND:
SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

Enjoy all your holiday favorites in this popular program by the Medalist Concert Band, Bloomington's community band.

December 18, 4 p.m.
Tickets: \$19 adults, \$17 seniors and students

BOX OFFICE

Order tickets by phone: Call 952-563-8575 • Online: Go to blm.mn/bcatix
In person: Office hours vary. Call 952-563-8575 for current hours. (Does not include tickets for Continental Ballet Company.) Additional ticketing fees apply.
Programs, artists and prices subject to change. Orders received less than seven days prior to the performance will be held for pick up at the box office. All ticket sales are final. No refunds or exchanges.