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A rendering of what a health and wellness center could look like, if approved by voters.

## SURVEY FINDS COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR BUILDING AND UPDATING CITY FACILITIES

A survey of Bloomington residents found strong support for improvements to four City facilities funded by a local option sales tax. A Bloomington sales tax would be a half cent added to sales tax charged within the boundaries of the city. The tax would only apply to items that are currently taxable, meaning things like clothing and groceries would remain untaxed. The revenue collected through a Bloomington sales tax would be used for capital projects that are regionally significant.

The Morris Leatherman Company conducted a statistically valid, random sample phone survey between July 27 and August 11. The survey asked respondents for their opinions on constructing a new community health and wellness center and improvements to the Bloomington Ice Garden, Bloomington Center for the Arts and Dwan Golf Course.

The survey found strongest support for a community health and wellness center with 76% of respondents backing construction of a new facility. Expansion of the Center for the Arts was close behind with 72% support.

“All four projects have support from majorities in the community, two of them have extraordinarily strong support approaching three-quarters in favor,” said Morris Leatherman’s Peter Leatherman.

The survey also asked respondents for their opinion on the use of a local option sales tax to pay for these projects. Sixty-seven percent of respondents supported the sales tax increase if the majority of the revenue came from people living outside of Bloomington.

Based on these survey results, the City Council is likely to ask the state Legislature for its approval of a Bloomington local option sales tax during the 2023 legislative session. If approved by the Legislature, Bloomington voters would be asked to approve a local sales tax before it could be implemented. Voters would also weigh in on each of the four projects individually if a local option sales tax is approved.

For more information, visit [blm.mn/bst](http://blm.mn/bst) or watch Mayor Tim Busse discuss the survey online at [blm.mn/cmbst](http://blm.mn/cmbst).

## VOTE EARLY OR ABSENTEE

Absentee and early voting are underway for the November 8 general election. 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 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](http://blm.mn/voting) for more information.

## CHECK YOUR POLLING PLACE

Because of redistricting, many residents will vote at new locations this year. Voters should visit [mnvotes.org](http://mnvotes.org) to find their polling place location before going to the polls. See page 8 for a full list and map of polling precincts.

The Bloomington City Council approved its councilmember districts and precinct boundaries last March based on the population count of the 2020 Census. As the population grows and changes, it is important that district boundaries are drawn so that each district has a similar population size, resulting in equal representation for each district. To learn more, visit [blm.mn/redistricting](http://blm.mn/redistricting).







# MAYOR’S MEMO

## 2023 PRELIMINARY LEVY APPROVED

By Mayor Tim Busse

Last month, the City Council approved a 2023 preliminary property tax levy of \$75.5 million, a 10.5% increase from 2022. The preliminary levy sets the maximum amount of property taxes that can be collected. The amount can be reduced, but not increased before final budget adoption in December.

That is a significant number, much higher than the 2.75% increases that occurred in each of the past two years, and higher than our average increase of 4.5% since 2016. The primary factor driving this increase is a significant increase in public safety spending in Bloomington. It’s a conversation we’ve been having for at least 18 months. Police and Fire accounted for 49% of the City’s 2022 tax levy, and the proposed 2023 levy increases that percentage.

Bloomington firefighters have served this community since 1947, operating on a volunteer or paid-on-call basis. Sufficient staffing continues to be a critical issue. The ideal number of active firefighters for Bloomington is about 155. The Bloomington Fire Department has 97 active firefighters that includes seven chiefs. Insufficient staffing is creating issues in response times and the number of firefighters responding to calls. This year, BFD met its response-time goal only 67% of the time. Bloomington fire trucks frequently arrived on calls with only one or two firefighters in the truck. The 2023 budget is an important first step in moving Bloomington to a full-time fire department by hiring six new full-time firefighters.

The proposed budget also includes a proposal to add police officers to the Bloomington Police Department. BPD is currently authorized for 123 officers. Based on national benchmarks for peer cities, that’s low. The proposal would add three new positions.

One of the biggest benefits of increasing the number of officers in BPD would be a decrease in the hours of overtime our officers currently work. Policing is hard, stressful work. When officers need to work overtime to meet basic staffing needs, they do not get the downtime they need and deserve.

In total, the investments in public safety would be \$4.4 million. The remaining \$3 million in the proposed increase is in line with increases from previous years. 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. Surrounding cities face similar challenges related to staffing and infrastructure reinvestment.

This levy funds 68.6% of the City’s General Fund budget. The remainder of the General Fund budget is supported by lodging and admission taxes, license and permit fees, grants and program revenues. To go deeper on the topic of the proposed 2023 levy, visit blm.mn/cm8-24. For more budget information, visit blm.mn/budget.

# LEARN ABOUT CITY PROJECTS AT A TOWN HALL FORUM

This fall, Councilmembers will host town hall forums to connect with constituents. Councilmembers will answer questions and present updates on ongoing and upcoming projects. Mayor Tim Busse hosted the first town hall forum on August 17. For more information about the October town hall forum, including dates, time and location, or to watch Mayor Busse’s town hall forum, visit blm.mn/townhall or call 952-563-8782.



# JOIN A BOARD OR COMMISSION

Get more involved in your community by serving on a City board or commission. The City is seeking applicants to serve on the following:

- Housing and Redevelopment Authority Board.
- Port Authority Commission.

Visit blm.mn/boards for more information or to apply. The deadline is Monday, October 31. Questions? Contact the Community Outreach and Engagement Division at 952-563-8733 or outreach@BloomingtonMN.gov.

# BRIEFING

Volume 30, Number 10

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**

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Elected officials presented for informational purposes.

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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.





# WILDLIFE IN THE CITY: WHAT TO DO

**B**loomington residents have reported recent sightings of foxes and coyotes. “Generally, if you leave the animals alone, they won’t harm you,” Animal Control Coordinator John Carlson said. If you don’t want them in your backyard, Carlson explained how to haze an animal. Hazing is a method that makes use of deterrents to move an animal out of an area. It can help maintain a coyote’s fear of humans and deter them from backyards. Use a variety of hazing tools so animals don’t get used to redundant sounds and actions.

- Hazing techniques:**
- Stand tall and wave your arms in the air. Yell loudly.
  - Toss sticks or tennis balls near the animal.
  - Use noisemakers such as whistles, air horns, bells, banging items together or your voice.
  - Spray the animal with a water hose.

An animal may not immediately run. Continue to use hazing techniques until the animal completely leaves the area. If the animal returns later, repeat the hazing. It could take a few times to get the animal to stay away.

**Follow these additional tips from the Bloomington Police Department’s Animal Control:**

- Make sure trash is always secure.
- Inspect property for holes. Fill holes under porches or in sheds.
- Keep trees well trimmed to prevent animals from accessing the rooftop by climbing a tree.
- Visit your local garden or hardware store to purchase deterrents.

BPD officers are not trappers. If you have problems with wild animals and want them trapped, consider hiring a wildlife trapper. For more information or to watch a video about hazing, visit [blm.mn/animalcontrol](http://blm.mn/animalcontrol). Call 952-563-4942 for questions and concerns.

# CHECK OUT THE HOMEOWNERSHIP PRESERVATION PROGRAM

**T**he City wants to help Bloomington families stay in their homes. To achieve this goal, it has partnered with the Minnesota Homeownership Center to offer the Bloomington Homeownership Preservation Program. The BHPP will provide support to Bloomington homeowners who have trouble paying their mortgage or other housing expenses. BHPP offers foreclosure prevention advising and limited financial assistance. Financial assistance may include help with past due housing costs, depending on household income and housing cost burden. Homeowners must be able to demonstrate they can pay their housing expenses moving forward to be eligible for relief. The program launches in October 2022. For questions about the program, contact the Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority at 952-563-8937 or visit [www.hocmn.org](http://www.hocmn.org).

# A PATHWAY TO HOMEOWNERSHIP

**T**he Rental Homes for Future Home Buyers program helps families save money to buy a house in the future. Each year, the Housing and Redevelopment Authority accepts approximately three to five new families into the program. Those families will rent one of 21 houses owned by the HRA for up to five years. All HRA homes are three-bedroom, single-family houses located in Bloomington.

To help families achieve their goal of buying a home, the tenant will pay rent and escrow. The escrow is placed in a special interest-bearing account. At the conclusion of the family’s time in the HRA home, the family uses the escrow toward a down payment to buy their own home. During a family’s time in the HRA home, the HRA works with them to set goals and prepare to purchase and maintain their own home in the future.

The Rental Homes for Future Homebuyers program began in 1992 with the specific HRA priorities to increase housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income people and preserve the existing housing inventory. Since its launch, 58 families that participated in the Rental Homes for Future Homebuyers program have purchased their own home. The Rental Homes for Future Homebuyers program has a waiting list that is now open for new applicants. For more information, visit [blm.mn/rental](http://blm.mn/rental) or call 952-563-8937.



# GIFT BAGS FOR BLOOMINGTON VETERANS

**T**he City is thanking Bloomington veterans for their dedication and service to their country. To receive your gift, you must be a Bloomington veteran and register by calling Community Outreach and Engagement at 952-563-8733, MN Relay 711 or email [outreach@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:outreach@BloomingtonMN.gov). Supplies are limited. The deadline to register is October 21. Gift bag pick-up is on Wednesday, November 9, at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

# OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

**I**n recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness month, the City of Bloomington is offering training and resources throughout October to help educate City staff and community members about the impacts of domestic violence. Domestic violence impacts us all. Learn ways to respond to known violence and prevent future violence. Visit [blm.mn/resources](http://blm.mn/resources) to learn more.

On Thursday, October 20, join the national movement and wear purple. It’s a simple yet meaningful way to raise awareness about domestic violence.

Take a selfie, snap a group photo, and flood social media with purple and #purplethursday.





NATIONAL ENERGY AWARENESS MONTH

October is National Energy Awareness month. Whether you are looking to increase your home’s comfort, lower energy bills, improve indoor air quality or help the environment, there are resources available. Visit blm.mn/home-energy for links to programs and services provided in Bloomington.



ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Energy Assistance Program helps income-qualified households pay for home heating and water. EAP is federally funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Need help paying your energy bill this winter? Get help and avoid utility disconnections. Grants are based on household size and income, and on utility costs. Applicants can receive up to \$2,000 per household for energy bills. Grants are paid to your Xcel Energy or CenterPoint Energy accounts.

Applications for the 2022 – 2023 Energy Assistance Program are now open. Applications are available in English, Somali and Spanish. The program is open to homeowners and renters. Applications are available at blm.mn/energyassistance.

If you need help filling out an application, come to the energy resource workshop, Thursday, October 13, 5 – 8 p.m., at Cedar Valley Church, 8600 Bloomington Ave South. Visit blm.mn/sustainability for more information.



Sustainability Commissioner Beth Stegora stands outside her home with her children.

EARTH ACTION HERO: SUSTAINABILITY AT HOME



The idea of making your home eco-friendly can seem like a huge undertaking and feel overwhelming.

“Anyone can start with the small things and over time they can take on bigger projects to build a green, energy-efficient home,” Sustainability Commissioner Beth Stegora said.

When you create a sustainable home, you improve the environment and lower the cost of running your home. How did the Stegora household do it?

**Reuse water with rain barrels.** Stegora uses the water collected in their six rain barrels for watering fruits and vegetables grown on their property.

**Compost your organics and recycling.** Food scraps and other materials are collected and turned into compost. Composting helps enrich your soil and reduce methane emissions from landfills.

“We have two compost bins for our garden and participate in the City’s organics program with excitement,” Stegora said. “The organics program is so easy, and we really enjoyed using the compost given out at the City’s garden tool swap.”

**Use smart mowing practices.** “We use a spinning blade, no-fuel, no-electricity mower,” Stegora said. “And we don’t mow our lawn if it is not going to rain. Therefore, we don’t use water for grass.”

**Add solar panels.** Solar is the cleaner and more sustainable alternative power source. Solar panels reduce the negative effects of climate change, because they don’t produce greenhouse gases.

“By installing solar panels, we have become energy independent,” Stegora said. “We can power our house and our electric vehicle. And we are involved in the solar perks program and sell back the extra energy.”

**Minimize your carbon output.** “We decreased our product purchases,” Stegora said. “We shop at thrift stores for clothes, swap items in the Facebook groups, and joined a toy library to share toys.” Even though they have an electric vehicle, Stegora still bike commutes to work 14 miles a day to decrease car traffic on the roads to improve overall carbon efficiency of traffic.

**Improve your impact by trying new behaviors.** “Our newest habit is to minimize single-use plastics [like plastic bags for food storage],” Stegora said. “We now bring our own to-go containers for leftovers to restaurants.” Something new the Stegora family tried this season is drying out clothes on a clothesline to minimize fossil fuel use of their dryer.

By learning how to make your home more sustainable, you will contribute to a healthier environment.

“Our kids have been a huge motivation to preserve our precious Minnesota resources such as water and air,” Stegora said. For information on sustainability, visit blm.mn/sustainability.

ENERGY RESOURCE WORKSHOPS

The City of Bloomington is partnering with Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy to inform and assist residents in saving money, energy and the environment. Come to an energy resource workshop to learn more. Workshop dates are October 18 and November 1, 5 – 8 p.m., at Cedar Valley Church, 8600 Bloomington Avenue South. For more information, call 952-563-4862.

KEEP LEAVES OFF STREETS

Fallen leaves are one of the main causes of poor water quality in the metro area. When left in the street, leaves end up in a storm sewer where they are carried to nearby lakes and ponds.

Leaves contain phosphorus and other nutrients that can cause excess algae growth, which negatively impacts plants and wildlife. Leaves can also block storm drains and cause flooding in neighborhoods. Minnesota law bans leaves from entering landfills and burning facilities, but there are plenty of good ways to get rid of leaves on your property, such as having your hauler take them with your yard waste or using them as mulch. Watch the video at blm.mn/leaves to learn more.







Photo courtesy Joel Larson

## NOTABLE NEIGHBORS: SUSAN KILBY AND NEIGHBORS COLLECT FOR VEAP

When Susan Kilby of Girard Park East Condominiums received a flyer from Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People about its desperate need for support, she mobilized the condo’s social committee.

“It was a very positive thing to do, especially when there are so many hardships and shortages in the world,” Kilby said.

With the support of a few friends and neighbors, Susan contacted VEAP and asked how they could contribute. VEAP sent them a list of much-needed items. They worked together to run a food donation drive and made it into a fun competition between the condominium residents. Together, they collected 1,264 pounds of items for VEAP. Kilby and her neighbors collected toilet paper, paper towels, toddler diapers and all sorts of nonperishable foods.

“Diapers for toddlers and birthday items were a surprise,” Kilby said. “They are things we never think of donating, but it made sense. People typically gift only newborn diapers. It was a lot of fun to buy birthday items and know it will help someone celebrate a birthday.”

An avid community volunteer, Kilby said her physical condition has made it difficult for her to stand for long periods of time volunteering in person. The donation drive allowed her to still participate as a volunteer in a capacity where she’s able to contribute.

“It wasn’t hard to rise to the occasion. It was rewarding to see our efforts unfold before our eyes as the contributions piled up,” Kilby said.

“It helps so many people. In the end, it really felt like we gained more than what we gave,” Darlene Solhein, chair of the condominium’s social committee, said.

Kilby and the social committee plan to have future collection drives but have not settled on an exact date yet. Solhein explained that people tend to give a lot during the holiday season, so they might wait until January when it’s past giving season and VEAP will need help to fill its shelves.

“We want to share our story in hopes that other condos and associations will do the same,” Kilby said. “The donation drive is such an easy thing to do and there is so much need for it.”

## BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY: DAVID FONG’S

The community’s beloved and iconic Chinese restaurant closed its doors in August after 64 years of great food and memories in Bloomington.

David Fong’s is one of the longest-running, family-owned restaurants in the Twin Cities. What started out as a small Chinese takeout spot in 1958, grew into a legendary two-generation, family-operated restaurant.

Ed Fong is David Fong’s second-generation owner. His siblings own and operate restaurants in nearby communities. Their father, David Fong, worked for his parents who operated Moy Café in Minneapolis.



When David, *pictured at right*, set out to pursue his dream of restaurant ownership, he got lost. That’s how David Fong’s landed in Bloomington.

“They missed the exit, and traveled through to Bloomington,” Ed Fong said. “They were turning around in a shopping center to go back and saw a ‘for lease’ sign. They inquired and, on a handshake, that’s how we started the business.”

David Fong’s started out serving only four dishes—chicken chow mein, egg foo young, fried rice and egg rolls—which have remained customers’ favorites and bestsellers all these years.

Eight years into the business, Fong’s moved its location to 9329 Lyndale, just four blocks from its original store, to accommodate the success of the restaurant. Ed’s father was a draftsman by trade and he designed the red awnings around and inside the building.

Ed was two months old when his father started David Fong’s. He has never worked outside of the family business. Ed Fong has run the family restaurant for 40 years since taking over.

“We were welcomed into the community and that’s how we started putting our roots down,” Ed Fong said. “Bloomington is still my home and will always be my home.”

## BLOOMINGTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: SOUL AND IRONY

The Bloomington Symphony Orchestra returns to the Schneider Theater Sunday, November 20, 3 p.m., at the Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. Music Director Manny Laureano will lead the BSO in the Minnesota premiere of Margaret Bonds’ “Montgomery Variations.” “Shostakovich’s Ninth Symphony”—a full-length musical joke—will close the program. In between, BSO Concertmaster Michael Sutton will play and conduct his performance of Franz Schubert’s “Rondo in A.” Advance ticket purchase is strongly encouraged. Visit [blm.mn/bso-november](http://blm.mn/bso-november) for show information and to buy your tickets.

## SEE THREADS DANCE PROJECT PERFORM

Threads Dance Project, an organization that better humanity through dance, education, and outreach, closes its 11th year with an encore performance of its work “Abolition in Evolution Part 1” and favorites created by Artistic Director Karen Charles, November 17 and 18, 7:30 p.m., in the Schneider Theater, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. The show asks the audience to reflect on how they can move toward a new abolitionist movement to eradicate the ills preventing people from fully realizing their humanity. If abolition can be defined as radical imagining, Threads’ evening of dances challenges the audience to contemplate where that radical imagining takes them and how they can manifest that place physically. Contact the Bloomington Box Office for tickets at [blm.mn/bca](http://blm.mn/bca).

## ARTISTRY’S 46TH ANNUAL JURIED ART EXHIBITION

Each year this exciting competition and exhibition brings together Artistry’s talented members. It is a varied and eclectic collection showcasing many different mediums, styles and techniques. Every year the exhibited artwork is selected by a prominent member of the local arts community. Join Artistry for the opening reception and awards ceremony Friday, October 14, 6 – 8 p.m., at Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. For information about art exhibitions, visit [artistrymn.org/exhibitions](http://artistrymn.org/exhibitions).





THE GLASS STUDIO

Heat things up this fall when you participate in a glass art class at Artistry. Classes are designed for beginners and do not require prior experience with glass. Dive into the world of glass and create beautiful art. All classes will be held at the Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. Sign up now at [artistrymn.org/fallclasses](http://artistrymn.org/fallclasses).

FUSING FOR BEGINNERS AND BEYOND

In this mixed-level class, participants will learn to design, assemble and fuse tiles, plates, suncatchers and more. Techniques include adding texture, layering color, cutting complex designs and applying frits, powders and stringers. Participants will complete projects according to their own skill levels. This class is suitable for beginners and learners with prior knowledge of the basics of glass fusing. All tools and materials are provided and included in the class cost. This four-week class begins Monday, October 31, 6 – 9 p.m. The cost is \$185 for nonmembers and \$170 for members.



GLASS SAMPLER

Participants will try out three different glassworking techniques. In this three-week class, you’ll learn to manipulate hot glass in a torch flame to make glass beads; gain experience cutting and assembling pieces of sheet glass and fusing them into a single tile, coaster or plate; refine your cutting skills; and learn to connect pieces of glass with copper foil and solder. No experience necessary. All supplies included. Class begins November 8, 6 – 9 p.m., and runs two additional Tuesdays. The cost is \$145 for nonmembers and \$130 for members.



Coloring contest art supplied by Crayola.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

HALLOWEEN COLORING CONTEST

Calling all ghosts and ghouls, Halloween is almost here! Get creative and enter the Halloween coloring contest for a chance to win prizes and see your art displayed at the Citywide Halloween Party. Create your own spooky masterpiece by using the artwork pictured above. The contest is open to preschoolers through fifth graders. First-, second- and third-place prizes will be awarded for each age group. Colored entries must arrive Tuesday, October 18, by 4:30 p.m., by drop-off or U.S. mail to Parks and Recreation, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431 or by email to [parksrec@bloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:parksrec@bloomingtonMN.gov).

TRICK-OR-TREAT TRAIL OFFERS FRIGHTFULLY FUN TIME

Throw on a costume and prepare for lots of fun, treats and live music at the second annual Trick-or-Treat Trail event on Sunday, October 30, 2 – 5 p.m., at Normandale Lake Park, 5901 West 84th Street, with parking on Chalet Road. This event is for preschoolers through fifth graders accompanied by an adult. Attendees will enjoy all sorts of surprises along the trail—live music, candy, food trucks and police and fire equipment displays, to name a few. To help keep traffic on the trail moving, preschool through second-grade children are invited to start at the beginning of the trail on Chalet Road between 2 – 3:30 p.m. Third- through fifth-graders are invited to start the trail between 3:30 – 5 p.m. This free event is sponsored by the Bloomington Optimist Club and Bloomington Parks and Recreation. For more information, including weather updates, call 952-563-8877 or visit [blm.mn/halloweenparty](http://blm.mn/halloweenparty).

CREEKSIDE HALLOWEEN EXTRAVAGANZA

Join in for a ghostly good time Thursday, October 27, at Creekside Community Center, 9800 Penn Avenue South. Costumes or your favorite orange and black clothing is strongly encouraged. Document your holiday duds in the photo booth, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., or attend the afternoon bingo party, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Free preregistration is required for bingo by October 21, or until full. To register, contact Creekside at 952-563-4944 or [creekside@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:creekside@BloomingtonMN.gov). Bingo prizes are provided by Martin Luther Senior Living and Care.





Volunteers work to coordinate the Book 'Em sale each year.

## BOOK 'EM TO HELP FIGHT CRIME

The Bloomington Crime Prevention Association will hold the 28th Annual Book 'Em sale, October 8 – 22, in the former Toys-R-Us store at Southtown Shopping Center, 7839 Southtown Mall. Get ready to shop Bloomington's largest used book sale. You'll find more than books—the sale also includes CDs, DVDs, records, games and puzzles.

A preview sale is scheduled October 7, 5 – 9 p.m. Admission to the preview sale is \$10 per person for anyone over 12 years of age, or free with a BCPA membership card. Funds generated are awarded as grants to Bloomington organizations for crime prevention activities. For hours and more information, visit the BCPA website at [bcpamn.org](http://bcpamn.org), or contact the BCPA at [board@bcpamn.org](mailto:board@bcpamn.org) or 952-220-2537.



## #BFD75: FIRE STATION OPEN HOUSES

You don't need to wait for firefighters to visit your school to learn about fire safety. Visit any of the five fire stations in Bloomington, October 15, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., as part of Fire Prevention Week. The National Fire Protection Association chose this year's theme, "Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape™," reinforcing the critical importance of developing a home escape plan with all members of the household and practicing it regularly. Fire stations will be open to the public for fun, food and fire prevention education. Station events include fire equipment demonstrations and plow truck displays. October marks the 100th anniversary of Fire Prevention Week, the nation's longest-running public health observance. For questions, call the Bloomington Fire Department at 952-563-4801.



## #BFD75: TEACHING CHILDREN ABOUT FIRE SAFETY

If your child were to see a fire, either inside a house or outdoors, would they know what to do? The Bloomington Fire Department works with teachers, childcare providers and parents year-round to teach children about fire safety. A key priority of the BFD is to serve the community through outreach and education programs because fire safety is everyone's responsibility.

"Fire and life safety is often an afterthought in today's busy lifestyles," Fire Inspector Pete Miller said. "Many basic safety tools are overlooked and neglected. It is our mission to educate the community and to help keep these things at the forefront."

Each fall, the BFD visits Bloomington classrooms to teach children how to call 911 in an emergency and the importance of quickly escaping a home fire. They reassure students that firefighters are always on the job and will come to their house to help them. The children get to see a firefighter dressed in turnout gear and tour a fire truck.

The BFD's tradition of teaching fire safety in the schools began in 1963, *above right*, according to John "Shorty" McWilliams. Back then, firefighters would visit the elementary schools and kindergarten programs and present a fire safety program to the kids. The kids were allowed to tour the trucks. Some of the firefighters would even help serve lunch to the students.

Today, the BFD provides fire prevention services in schools and in the community upon request. Topics include car seat installation, home safety inspections, smoke alarm installation, fire station tours and more. To request a visit for your organization, complete the form at [blm.mn/BFDpresentations](http://blm.mn/BFDpresentations). For more information, contact Fire Prevention at 952-563-8930.



## PROTECT YOURSELF FROM PHONE SCAMS

The Bloomington Police Department wants to remind you always to be skeptical of callers asking for personal or banking information. Whether it's someone claiming to be with the IRS or your cable company, when in doubt, do not give your banking information out.

If you receive a scam phone call and do not suffer a financial loss or loss of personal information, there is no need to report the incident because BPD can only take action if there has been a loss.

If you receive a scam phone call from someone impersonating Comcast, call the agency to report it at 1-800-COMCAST. Comcast agents do not call customers to manually take payment information. Comcast does not typically call customers. Most notifications about payment are sent via email or mail.



## BPD RECRUITING YOUTH FOR EXPLORER PROGRAM

The Bloomington Police Department is now accepting applications for its Explorer Post program. Now in its 50th year, the program allows youth to work with police officers and learn about various law enforcement career paths. Explorers meet once a week on Wednesday nights until the state competition, April 20 – 23, 2023. At the weekly meetings, there will be opportunities to learn valuable leadership skills, receive hands-on training, make new friends and get involved in community service projects. Participants must be between 14 and 20 years old, be of good moral character and be willing to volunteer time in the community. Applications are available online at [blm.mn/exapp](http://blm.mn/exapp) and accepted until October 31. For questions, contact Bloomington Police at 952-563-4900 or email [police@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:police@BloomingtonMN.gov).





## DON'T WAIT TO VACCINATE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

**C**OVID-19 infections are expected to rise as we move indoors for the winter. Staying up to date on vaccinations will help protect you, your loved ones, the community and medical staff against severe illness and hospitalization. Vaccines can take weeks to reach full strength and require months between doses. Visit [blm.mn/vaccines](https://blm.mn/vaccines) to book your appointment now.



# NOVAVAX COVID-19 VACCINE NOW AVAILABLE

**T**his fourth variety of vaccine is based on technology like hepatitis B vaccines and flu shots. If someone you know is concerned about the newer technology used to produce previous COVID-19 vaccines, this is a good option. Learn more online at [blm.rmn/novavax](https://blm.rmn/novavax).

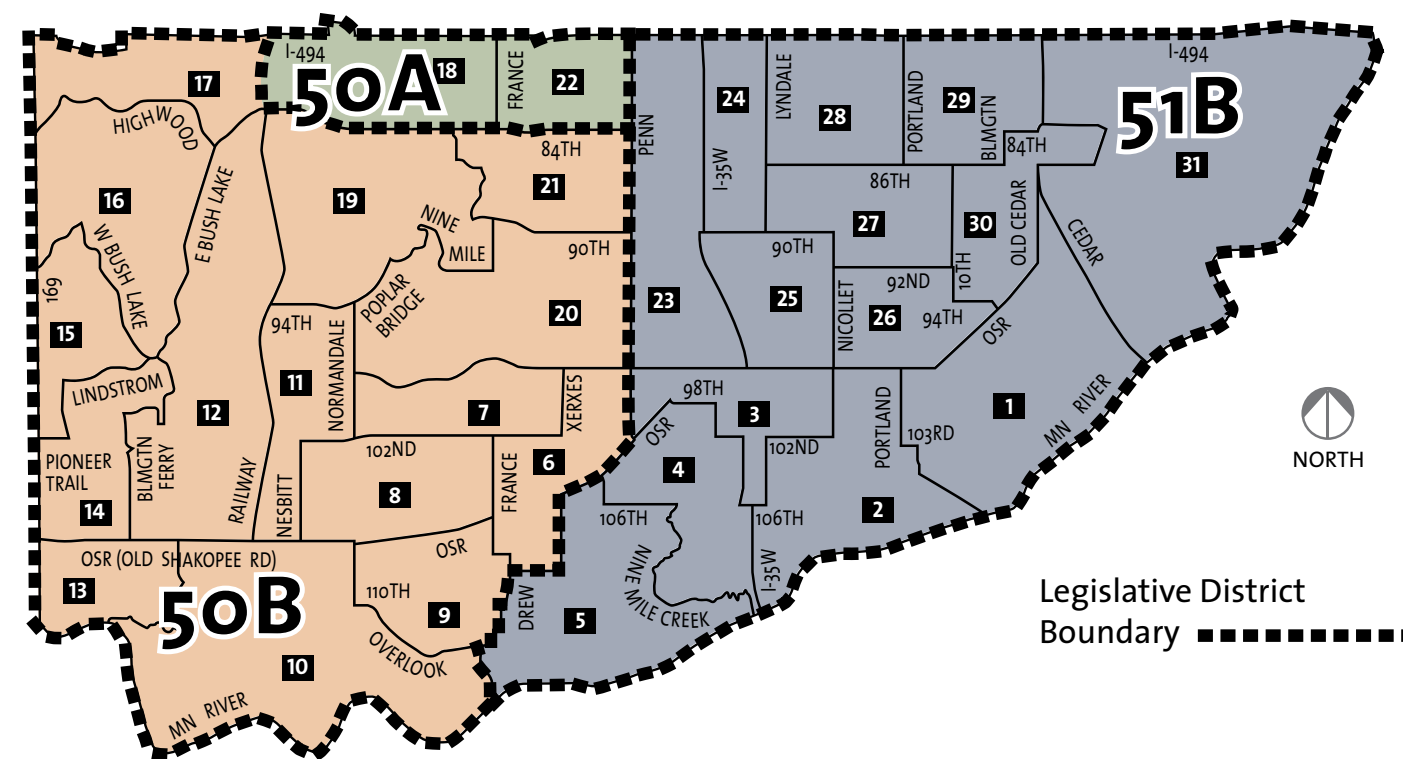


## COVID-19 VACCINES AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE SIX MONTHS AND OLDER

**C**OVID-19 vaccines are now available to everyone six months and older. Boosters are available to everyone five and older and second boosters are available to those 12 and older. Additional boosters are available to those 50 and older or those at high risk. Find out if you're considered high risk at [blm.mn/highrisk](https://blm.mn/highrisk).

# 2022 ELECTION GUIDE

**POLLS ARE OPEN FROM 7 A.M. TO 8 P.M. ON ELECTION DAY, NOVEMBER 8. 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	West entrance West 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 upcoming general election, Bloomington voters have three options for casting a ballot.

- By mail: Request to have a ballot mailed to you by completing an online absentee ballot application at [mnvotes.org](https://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. **Because of redistricting, many voters' polling places have changed. Remember to check your polling place location at [mnvotes.org](https://mnvotes.org).**

Minnesota has no-excuse absentee voting. This means that all eligible voters may vote early if they choose.



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