

BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



NOVEMBER 2022

VOTE ON ELECTION DAY, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8. FIND YOUR POLLING PLACE ONLINE AT [MNVOTES.ORG](https://mnvotes.org).

PAGE 3

PAGE 5

PAGE 7

PAGE 8

Walkers enjoy the change in seasons along Nine Mile Creek in Moir Park, 10320 Morgan Avenue South.

COUNCIL TO VOTE ON FINAL TAX LEVY IN DECEMBER

In September, 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. This preliminary levy increase is higher than the 2.75% increases that occurred in each of the past two years, and the City's average increase of 4.5% since 2016.

INVESTING IN NEEDED PUBLIC SAFETY STAFFING

The primary factor driving this increase is a significant need for public safety spending. Police and Fire accounted for 49% of the City's 2022 tax levy, and the proposed 2023 levy increases that percentage.

The Bloomington Police Department is currently authorized for 123 officers. That is low, based on national benchmarks for peer cities. The proposal adds two additional police officers. This would decrease the amount of overtime officers are expected to work to meet basic staffing needs. Changes like this would allow officers to get the downtime they need outside of the difficult and stressful work they do. It also adds a dispatch training and quality coordinator position to address challenges with recruitment and retention.

Bloomington firefighters have operated on a volunteer or paid-on-call basis since 1947. The ideal number of active firefighters for Bloomington is 155. The Bloomington Fire Department has only 97 active firefighters. Insufficient staffing has adversely affected response times and the number of firefighters available to respond to calls. In 2021, BFD met its response-time goal only 67% of the time. Bloomington fire trucks frequently arrived on calls with only one or two firefighters. The proposed 2023 budget adds full-time firefighters in 2023 to address critical staffing issues and begin the transformation from a mainly paid-on-call, part-time department to a hybrid model of full-time and part-time firefighters.

In total, the investments in public safety would amount to \$4.7 million. The remaining \$2.5 million in the proposed property tax increase is in line with increases from previous years.

COMMUNITY VOICES

Budget Manager Kari Carlson and other City staff have attended events throughout the year, such as the Police Open House, the Farmers Market and Arts in the Parks performances, to speak with attendees and learn what's important to community members when it comes to the 2023 budget. They've engaged with more than 220 people so far. Community members commented that things like parks and recreation, natural resources, economic development, affordable housing and public safety were priorities when it came to the 2023 budget.

"It's a lot easier to get feedback from community members when you are at the events they are already attending," Carlson said. "This has been a great way to get feedback from people we wouldn't hear from at a budget-specific event."

LEARN MORE

For more budget information, including details from budget-related City Council meetings and recaps in Council Minute with Mayor Tim Busse episodes, visit blm.mn/budget.



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



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

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

ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER



MAYOR’S MEMO

TAKING CARE OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

By Mayor Tim Busse

In September, the City Council approved Bloomington’s first Natural Resources Prioritization Plan. Whether it’s the banks of the Minnesota River or the native prairie lands in Bloomington parkland, there are many wonderful natural resources to maintain and restore in Bloomington.

During the work surrounding the Park System Master Plan, community voices came out loud and clear in favor of enhanced restoration of local natural resources, enhanced programming and enhanced volunteer efforts. The new Natural Resources Prioritization Plan will help City staff work through restoration that needs to happen.

Plans like this aren’t very common. The City of Bloomington really dug in and did something impressive. We have thousands of acres of parkland, much of it is developed, programmed and used for traditional recreation, but there’s much more that has been left as natural areas.

Over the years, invasive species have moved in. Some habitat has been degraded. The City aims to address that with this plan, which will eventually direct work to restore natural resources. The plan sets priorities for us as we create redevelopment plans for parks. During plan development, City staff will scope out all the details of the restoration that should take place. City staff will answer questions addressing what type of invasive plants need to be removed and what types of habitats already exist in an area.

The plan also provides guidance about the maintenance and restoration of specific ecosystems and habitats. We already have a plan like this for the Minnesota River Valley, but this plan considers all the natural spaces across Bloomington.

Learn more in a video in which I speak with Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Dave Hanson at blm.mn/cm-921. See page 4 to learn more about one way you can help remove invasive species and restore the natural resources near you.

COUNCIL APPROVES CODE AMENDMENTS FOR ACCESSORY DWELLINGS

The City Council recently adopted changes to its regulations of accessory dwelling units associated with single-family houses, commonly referred to as in-law suites or carriage houses.

The key change is that accessory dwelling units are now allowed to be physically separate from the main house. Accessory dwelling units will still be subject to many of the same standards required of home additions. The City previously only allowed accessory dwelling units that were attached to or inside houses. The City began allowing accessory dwelling units in 2009 to expand housing options for residents.

Before drafting the ordinance and conducting public hearings, staff gathered feedback from residents about detached accessory dwelling units.

“The comments from community members were very valuable when considering the new ordinance,” Planner Tom Ramler-Olson said.

To learn more, visit the project webpage at blm.mn/adus. Reach out to Ramler-Olson with questions at tramlerolson@BloomingtonMN.gov or 952-563-8928.

BRIEFING

Volume 30, Number 11

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.



SURVEY FINDS SAFETY IS KEY FACTOR IN BLOOMINGTON’S QUALITY OF LIFE

Three-quarters of residents positively rated the overall feeling of safety in Bloomington according to the 2022 National Community Survey™ of Bloomington residents.

Around 9 in 10 residents reported feeling very or somewhat safe in their neighborhood and commercial areas during the day. This high level of safety likely contributed to the high quality of life respondents said they experience. A total of 90% of respondents rated the overall quality of life in Bloomington as excellent or good. Around 9 in 10 respondents were likely to recommend living to Bloomington to someone who asks.

Residents also liked how Bloomington handles water—liquid and frozen. The City’s drinking water ranked No. 2 among the nearly 300 cities and counties polled nationwide, with an approval rating of 91%. Snow removal received scores of excellent or good from 84% of respondents, putting the City in the top 10% nationwide.

- Other results**
- Fire services received a score of 94%, while Police services drew excellent or good marks from 84% of respondents.
 - Nearly three-quarters of residents gave positive marks to the value of services provided by Bloomington and the overall customer service of City employees.
 - The availability of paths and walking trails (84%), preservation of natural areas (80%), and open space (78%) were all rated high compared to national averages.
 - When asked what impact, if any, the economy would have on their household income in the next six months, only 10% of respondents expected a positive impact compared to 60% who expected a negative impact.

This was the 11th year in a row that the National Community Survey™ was conducted in Bloomington. A total of 728 residents completed the random sample, scientific poll that was conducted between May 20 to July 8, by the National Research Center of Boulder, Colorado.

For more information and complete survey results, visit blm.mn/ncs2022.

WHAT’S DEVELOPING: BLOOMINGTON CENTRAL STATION

Bloomington Central Station Phase 4 construction is underway in South Loop. The new phase of development, *in image at right*, will bring more residential units to the area and a grocery store—the first in the neighborhood. To see a map of current development happening throughout Bloomington, visit blm.mn/developmentmap.



CARBON 31

This will be a six-story, 405-unit apartment building at 8100 31st Avenue South, with an attached 15,000-square-foot grocery space and other site improvements.

OXENDALES GROCERY STORE

Oxendales Market, a locally owned grocery store with three locations in Minneapolis and St. Paul, will occupy the grocery space on the main floor of Carbon 31. The grocery store is scheduled to open in the first quarter of 2023.

BIRD SCOOTERS LAND IN BLOOMINGTON

Bird, an electric-vehicle-sharing company, started deploying its dockless scooters throughout Bloomington in September. Bird has an app that riders can use to rent a scooter. When the rider is finished, they shut down the scooter and close the ride in the app. The charge is determined by the amount of time the rider was using the scooter.

Dockless scooters are new to Bloomington and made possible by a City Council-approved change to the city code to expand the area where such vehicles are allowed to operate. Bird is allowed to operate up to 200 scooters in the city until November 15, weather permitting. In the spring, the City anticipates that Bird will bring the scooters back.

Some areas are defined as prohibited zones, including Mall of America property, Bloomington parks, Three Rivers Park District and U.S. Fish and Wildlife lands. These are prohibited through geofencing in the Bird app. City staff will reach out to these entities to see if they would like to allow scooters in the future.

People can report abandoned scooters to bloomington311@bird.co.



ATTEND A HOMEOWNERSHIP WORKSHOP

Project for Pride in Living in partnership with US Bank and Bloomington HRA is offering a Journey to Homeownership Workshop on Wednesday, November 16, 6 – 7:30 p.m., at Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. Learn the basics of the homebuying process and register for financial and homeownership counseling.

DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

The City of Bloomington has a program for down payment assistance for homebuyers. The program is being administered by NeighborWorks Home Partners and more information may be found at nwhomepartners.org.



CEO NEXT HELPS REGIONAL COMPANIES

Having the tools and techniques to succeed is essential for business owners hoping to make their businesses thrive. CEO Next Business Institute is a no-cost program that provides practical tools and techniques designed specifically for growing regional companies.

Participants can include private businesses in Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey and Scott counties who meet the following criteria:

- 10 – 99 employees.
- Revenue between \$1 million and \$50 million.
- Ready to transition from small to large.
- Appetite and aptitude for growth.

Are you next? Learn more about CEO Next Business Institute and see testimonials from past participants online at blm.mn/ceonext. The 2022 – 2023 session is full, but a waitlist is open.



SNOWPLOWS AND SALT

Removing snow from roads and sidewalks improves safety and accessibility in the winter months. Snowplows and sidewalk plows are common tools Public Works uses to achieve safe streets and sidewalks. Salt is another tool crews use for pavement management.

“We put salt on the pavement because it makes ice weaker and easier to remove,” Water Resource Specialist Jack Distel said. “But, while it improves safety, there are big issues with salt. It’s polluting our lakes, ponds, wetlands and streams.”

If the concentration of salt in fresh water is too high, it can kill the fish and bugs that live there. Salt can also damage the metal and concrete of the City’s infrastructure, which leads to the need for costly repairs.

The City puts an anti-ice brine solution on the roads ahead of storms to help reduce the amount of salt needed to make them safe. The brine makes it more difficult for ice to bond to the pavement, meaning there is less ice on the pavement to be salted.

To go deeper, watch the video at blm.mn/salting.

HOW TO DISPOSE OF BATTERIES SAFELY

Batteries make our daily lives more convenient. Once they are used, though, they must be disposed of properly. If thrown in the trash or recycling, lithium-ion and other rechargeable batteries may catch fire and pose a threat to people and property. Some batteries also contain toxic metals such as cadmium, lead or mercury that can pose a threat to health and the environment. Put batteries in their place by dropping them off at Hennepin County Drop-off Facility. Here is how to dispose of batteries safely:

- Bring button batteries, lithium-ion and other rechargeable batteries to the South Hennepin Recycling and Problem Waste Drop-Off Center, 1400 West 96th Street. These batteries cannot go in trash or recycling carts.
- Single-use AA, AAA and other alkaline batteries may be brought to Hennepin’s Drop-Off Facility to be recycled. While these are safe to put in the garbage, recycling them is better for the environment because less is going to the landfill. Do not put batteries into a recycling cart. For more information, visit hennepin.us/batteryrecycling.



Photo courtesy National Park Service, Sophia Cameron.

For help identifying buckthorn, visit blm.mn/buckthorn, or contact your local garden center or the City at 952-563-8760.

EARTH ACTION HERO: BUCKTHORN BUSTERS



Did you know that late fall is the best time to get rid of buckthorn? It stays green longer than most native plants, making it easier to spot.

“Buckthorn is an invasive species that prevents native plants from thriving. You can help the native plants near you by removing buckthorn where you see it,” Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Dave Hanson said. “There are a few different methods you can use to make sure buckthorn doesn’t damage the natural habitat in your neighborhood.”

Small buckthorn seedlings and trees can be pulled by hand or with tools such as a shovel or a weed wrench. A weed wrench is a manually operated tool that clamps onto a stem up to three inches in diameter and operates as a lever to uproot plants.

Residents can rent a weed wrench from Public Works for free by calling 952-563-4919. Removing buckthorn by hand is easier when the soil is moist. Large-diameter buckthorn stems can be cut at the stump with a chainsaw, brush cutter or other hand tool.

Cover the stump with a tin can or black plastic to prevent future sprouting after you remove all the stems you can. Before digging out buckthorn roots, call 811 or visit gopherstateonecall.org a few days ahead to allow time for public utilities to be marked.

Chemicals should be considered only if pulling individual plants is impractical, such as with larger diameter buckthorn stems. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources recommends using herbicides containing glyphosate or triclopyr for buckthorn control.

Check with your local garden center or hardware store for recommendations on effective weed killers for buckthorn. Always follow label directions when using herbicides, wear recommended protective clothing and avoid contact with other plants.

The City’s yard waste program allows residents to dispose of buckthorn. Residents may also call a tree service company or bring the buckthorn to a collection site. Learn more at blm.mn/buckthorn or watch a video about buckthorn removal at blm.mn/bustbuckthorn. For questions, call 952-563-8760.

HOLIDAY GARBAGE AND RECYCLING SCHEDULE

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

 RECYCLE WEEK  HOLIDAY; PICKUP IS DELAYED BY ONE DAY

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



Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society.

BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY: THE DRAGON AT HOWARD WONG’S

Once upon a time in Bloomington, a 25-foot-high, two-headed, fire-breathing dragon greeted visitors on the front lawn of the restaurant Howard Wong’s. The famous Chinese restaurant at 2701 Southtown Drive opened in 1966. Howard Wong’s, named after the restaurant owner, quickly became a Bloomington hot spot, and its dragon became a hometown landmark of some notoriety. Wong commissioned the dragon sculpture from Richfield artist Donald Danielson. The dragon breathed fire, propelled by gas, until the energy crisis of 1974. When Wong sold his restaurant in the 1980s, the dragon was donated and moved to Minnesota State University Moorhead, whose mascot is the Dragons. The dragon still breathes fire, and MSUM lights the dragon statue for special events.



GET YOUR HOLIDAY GIFTS AT CREEKSIDE

The Creekside Boutique sells a wide selection of unique items like scarves, mittens, slippers and quilts, handmade by older adults. Nearly all of the crafters with goods featured in the shop are from Bloomington. For several decades, volunteers have run the shop at Creekside Community Center. Room 104 is brimming with lovingly crafted keepsakes. From embroidered towels to greeting cards to cutting boards to doll dresses, the range of items reflects the creativity of the crafters. The holidays are a great time to shop for crafts. Stop in Mondays – Thursdays, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., and Fridays, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., at Creekside, 9801 Penn Avenue South. For information, visit blm.mn/boutique or call 952-563-4944.

SHOWCASE YOUR VIDEO PRODUCTION SKILLS

Did you know the City operates a public access channel that provides space and equipment for people and organizations to create television shows? Classes and equipment are available through Bloomington Community Access Television (BCAT) to help you share your message and creativity. Whether you are trying to gain new members in your environmental club, highlight stories of local superheroes, or simply increase awareness for a community need, a television show would be a fun way to do it. All equipment and training are provided. Membership is a good value at \$50 a year for residents, \$135 a year for organizations and \$15 a year for students. Visit blm.mn/bcat or email bcat@BloomingtonMN.gov to learn more.



CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS SAFELY

COVID-19 infections are expected to rise as we move indoors for 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. The latest booster provides additional protection against the omicron variants causing most infections. Visit blm.mn/vaccines to book your appointment now.



WHO’S ELIGIBLE FOR VACCINES AND BOOSTERS?

COVID-19 vaccines are 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 now available to the general public. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends waiting three months after getting a COVID-19 infection before you get the latest booster.

AFTER GETTING BOOSTED FOR COVID-19, PEOPLE ARE:

- 5 times less likely to get infected.
- 7 times less likely to be hospitalized.
- 15 times less likely to die (29 times for those 50 and older).



ARTISTRY’S 46TH ANNUAL JURIED ART EXHIBITION

This annual exhibition is a varied and eclectic collection showcasing different mediums, styles and techniques and recognizing Artistry’s talented members.

Each year the exhibited artwork is selected by a prominent member of the local arts community. This year, Suyao Tian will serve as the juror for the exhibit. Tian is an artist, designer, owner of Viewpoint Gallery and adjunct faculty at Minneapolis College of Art and Design. Tian’s paintings have been featured in numerous group and solo exhibitions, and she’s curated group shows across the country. Her designs have been applied and sold to companies, including Room & Board, Merlette and more.

Enjoy the exhibit through November 18 in the Inez Greenberg Gallery at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. For information about art exhibitions, visit artistrymn.org/exhibitions.



SEE THREADS DANCE PROJECT PERFORM

Threads Dance Project, an organization that betterers humanity through dance, education, and outreach, closes its 11th year with an encore performance of its work “Abolition in Evolution Part 1” along with favorite works created by Artistic Director Karen Charles, November 17 and 18, 7:30 p.m., in the Schneider Theater, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. 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 physically manifest that place. Contact the Bloomington Box Office for tickets at blm.mn/bca.



SHARPEN YOUR SKILLS AT BLOOMINGTON ICE GARDEN

Whether you are a beginner or skating circles around your friends, there are plenty of ways to get on the ice at the Bloomington Ice Garden. At BIG you can take skating lessons, participate in youth or adult hockey and do some figure skating and freestyle during open ice hours.

Skaters of all levels are welcome to skate during the open ice skating time, which takes place Sunday, 5:30 – 6:45 p.m.; Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9 – 10:30 a.m. Admission to open ice is \$5 for all ages. Skate sharpening is \$8 and skate rental is \$5.

Hockey players who want extra practice time are welcome to attend developmental ice time on Mondays and Fridays, 6 – 7 a.m. To sign up for skating lessons, visit blm.mn/big or call 952-563-4636. Schedules are subject to change.

You can also purchase private ice time by contacting BIG at 952-563-8841 or big@BloomingtonMN.gov. You can confirm availability of dates online at blm.mn/ice-schedule. Rates are \$242 per hour plus tax for prime time, Monday – Friday, 3 – 9:30 p.m. and Saturday – Sunday, 6 a.m. – 9:30 p.m. Evening rates (after 9:30 p.m.) are \$177 per hour plus tax.

Visit blm.mn/ice-schedule to view the most up to date schedule.

REGISTER FOR THE FIRST-EVER BLOOMINGTON WINTER LIGHTS TOUR

Do you think of yourself as a local Clark Griswold of “National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation” when it comes to holiday decorations? Let the City know. Parks and Recreation is organizing a winter lights tour for the first time this year. City staff want to highlight community members who go above and beyond to spread holiday cheer.

Submit your house to be added to the tour map by December 5 at blm.mn/winter-lights. The City will release the map for visitors to follow around December 9. People who take the winter lights tour will be able to vote for several awards, including the Clark Griswold award, best animated display and most unique. Voting will take place online through January 2.

You can find the tour map and more information at blm.mn/winter-lights.



MEDALIST CONCERT BAND HONORS VETERANS

Medalist Concert Band presents Remembrances: Honoring Our Veterans to pay tribute to those individuals who have served in the U.S. military on Sunday, November 13, 4 p.m., in the Schneider Theater, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. Bloomington’s community band thanks you for your service!



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 for show information and to buy your tickets.

CONTINENTAL BALLET COMPANY PRESENTS THE NUTCRACKER

Enjoy this holiday classic telling the story of a young girl, her magical godfather and the gift of a nutcracker. Performances will take place December 3, 4, 9, 10 and 11, in the Schneider Theater, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. Get your tickets now at blm.mn/nutcracker2022.





LARGEST BPD CLASS OF OFFICERS STARTED THIS FALL

Ten new police officers joined the Bloomington Police Department in one class this fall—the largest group to start at one time.

“We wanted the best possible candidates, so I changed the hiring process to be values based,” Chief Booker T. Hodges said. “We looked at candidates’ core values because at the end of the day, I can train most people how to drive a car or write a report, but that inner core piece is something that you really can’t train people on. I wanted to be sure we had people who matched our core value of respect.”

The new recruits come from many different backgrounds. There are former correctional officers, carpenters, cadets, deputies, makeup artists and more.

“Having a department that is reflective of the community, I believe, will allow us to continue to be the most respectful and most respected department in the country,” Hodges said.

The group is going through a seven-week academy instead of the usual six weeks. Not many police departments in Minnesota have their own academies. Bloomington Police’s academy covers a gamut of topics—firearms, first aid, arrest control and emergency driving, to name a few.

“Our goal with the Police Department here is to get them prepared to make appropriate decisions that follow case law, state statutes and our policy,” Training Sergeant Tom Maloney said. “The community deserves to have highly trained officers who are ready to respond to a variety of calls.”

The group will finish the in-house academy and move to field training with officers out on patrol the week of October 24. Go more in-depth in a video about the new officers at blm.mn/bpd-hires.



BFD75: HOME SAFETY SURVEYS

The Bloomington Fire Department offers a free home safety survey (inspection) for single-family homes in Bloomington. During a home safety survey, a fire inspector assesses and identifies the potential hazards around your home that increase your risk of fires and fire-related dangers. Fire Inspector Pete Miller said, “The goal of the home safety inspection is and help educate people to help keep everyone safe, not to enforce code.”

What do fire inspectors look for in a home safety survey?

They look for smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, potential fire hazards and physical obstructions. If needed, they offer fire safety tips to safeguard your families from fire.

What should you expect?

- The fire inspectors will walk through your house with you, and:
- Check that all smoke alarms are functioning appropriately throughout the house.
 - Look for any potential hazards, such as electrical wiring issues or appliance malfunctions, that could lead to a fire, and provide recommendations.
 - Help you with your family’s escape plan, and check for furniture or fixtures blocking escape routes.
 - Provide cooking safety and general fire safety tips.

If needed, the fire inspector will assist you with installing a smoke alarm, carbon monoxide alarm, and StoveTop FireStops®, free while supplies last. Fire safety inspections typically last less than an hour.

Should you have a home safety survey?

Though it is not required, it can be highly beneficial. A copy of the inspection findings will be given to the occupants along with suggestions.

To schedule a home safety survey, call 952-563-8930 or complete an online request at blm.mn/HomeSafetySurvey. An adult must be present during the inspection.

BPD HOSTS COOKOUT AT BLOOMING MEADOWS APARTMENTS

In September, Blooming Meadows residents and Bloomington Police came together for good food, yard games, prizes and a fun time. The department’s Racial Equity Action Team (REAT) hosted a community cookout at Blooming Meadows, on 86th Street East, to give residents a chance to mingle with neighbors, meet new people and connect with BPD staff and officers right in their own backyard.

“I liked seeing the positive interactions between the community and BPD,” officer and BPD REAT member Desmond Daniels said. “Questions were asked both ways and the conversations were flowing. Most of all I enjoyed seeing the kids have a great time.”

This was BPD’s first event like this. The department plans to host similar events at different apartment buildings throughout the city.



BPD HELPS GIRL ACHIEVE HER GOAL OF HUGGING AN OFFICER IN EVERY STATE

Nearly 50 people gathered in front of Creekside Community Center in September, including Bloomington Police, City staff and community members, to welcome a family that had driven more than 1,100 miles to be there. Rosalyn, who’s 12 years old, her mother Angie, and brother Phillip have a goal to hug a cop in every state. So far, they’ve been to 41, including Minnesota.

“I’m here to show affection for officers and show our appreciation for them,” Rosalyn said. “Sometime in 2017, I heard about a shooting near where I lived. When I heard about that, I had an ache in my heart. I wanted to show love for our communities.”

Why did they choose Bloomington? Because so many people had reached out to them to spread the word about the positive things they’ve seen Bloomington Police doing in the community, according to Angie.

“There are hundreds of cities in Minnesota and she chose Bloomington,” Sergeant Erik Norling said. “I’ve seen friends leave law enforcement the last couple years. It’s been challenging. She’s keeping officers getting up and going to their jobs every day with what she’s doing. When you see support like that you think, ‘You know what, I need to continue to ensure my community is safe, support my community and do my job.’”



BE A PART OF
BLOOMINGTON'S
UPCOMING VETERANS
MEMORIAL

Local nonprofit Bloomington Remembers Veterans has been working closely with the City to plan a veterans memorial on the grounds of the east lawn of Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. The goal of the memorial is to honor and recognize veterans, while educating the public about wars and why they were fought.

The Bloomington City Council selected and approved a memorial design by Leo A. Daly. It captures the themes of honor, reflection, education, community and the future. The six military branches will be recognized in the design through armatures and service emblems. Individual recognition will be provided through oversized symbolic dog tags hanging from the armatures with QR codes that visitors can scan to learn more about the veteran listed and their service.

HOW TO HONOR A VETERAN IN
THE MEMORIAL

The process is simple. You can purchase a dog tag to recognize a veteran, living or deceased, for serving during any period, peace or war time. A veteran being honored can be from Bloomington and beyond.

Bloomington Remembers Veterans is selling dog tags on the memorial for \$350 apiece. Each dog tag includes a listing of name, military branch, years of service or conflict and any special recognition. The QR code on the tag will lead to an online page with a veteran's story shared by family and friends in their words. Use your phone to scan the QR code, below, to see a sample page. Or visit blm.mn/dogtag. Commemorative holiday packages are available for gifting. Call 952-334-3859 for details.

OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT THE
MEMORIAL

Community support will be critical in bringing this project to fruition. To learn more about dog tag holiday gift packages, donating or volunteering with the project visit bloomingtonveteransmemorial.org.

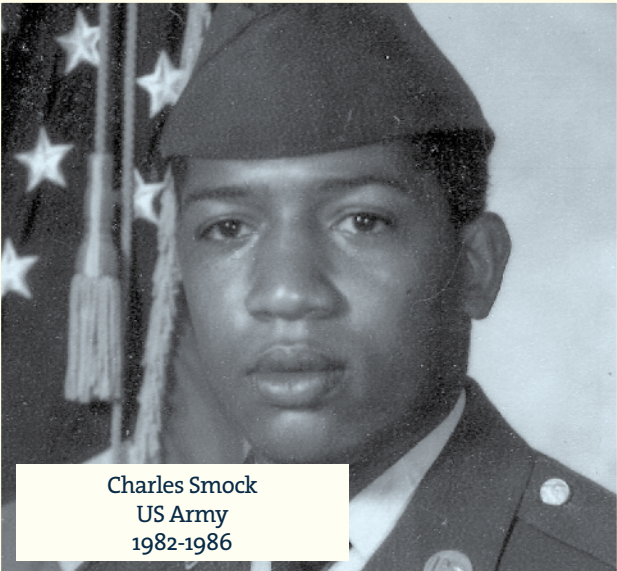
WHAT
IS A QR
CODE?

It is an image you can scan using your smartphone camera. QR codes contain white and black squares in different patterns that contain a link to a website. When your smartphone scans this code, it brings you to the intended website. Scan the QR code, above, to see a sample veteran memorial page.



HONORING LOCAL VETERANS

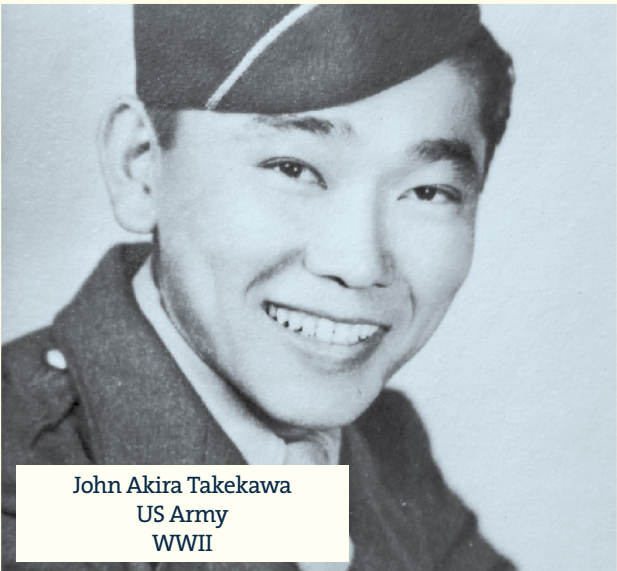
The City of Bloomington veterans' photo wall features hundreds of photos of local veterans who served in the Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, Air Force and Space Force. Below are just some of the people we honor today and every day. Take part in this long-running tradition by viewing the digital photo album at blm.mn/veterans. You can also check out the veterans' photo wall in person until November 30 in the Civic Plaza lobby, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. The City is always accepting veteran photo submissions. Visit blm.mn/veterans to submit a photo.



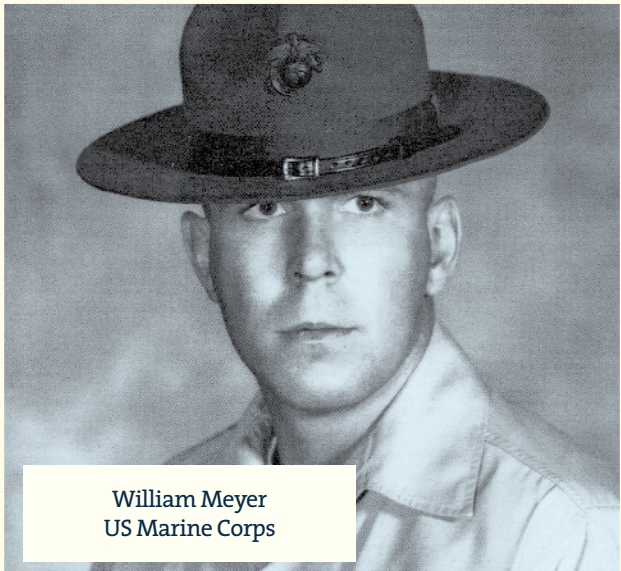
Charles Smock
US Army
1982-1986



Heather Gould
Army National Guard
2003-2013



John Akira Takekawa
US Army
WWII



William Meyer
US Marine Corps



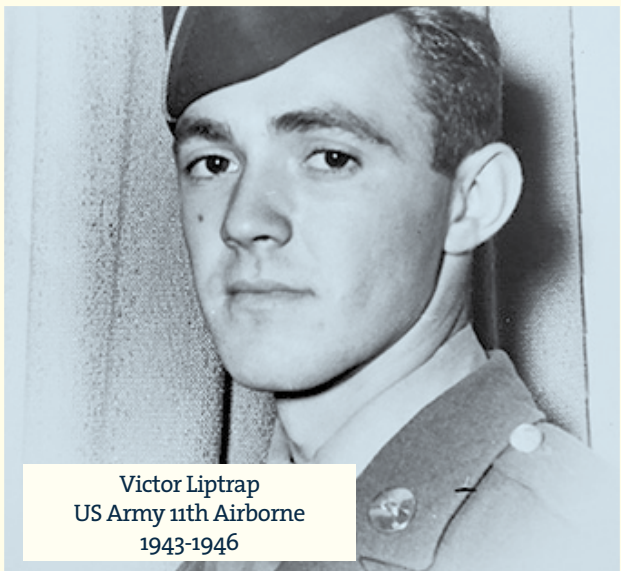
Petty Officer First Class
Deborah Vangel
US Navy 1986-2006



Specialist 5
Debra Tone Johnson
US Army 1973-1976



SSgt Troy Dukart
US Air Force
2014-2018



Victor Liptrap
US Army 11th Airborne
1943-1946