

PAGE 3

PAGE 5

PAGE 6

PAGE 7



The golf season is teed up at Dwan Golf Course. *Learn more on page 6.*

DON'T WAIT FOR 2024 CURBSIDE CLEANUP MANY OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE

In 2021, the City Council approved a new plan for handling bulky waste items in a more sustainable way. Check out the activities listed below for opportunities to reuse and recycle more, and landfill less.

CURBSIDE CLEANUP NOW EVERY OTHER YEAR

Curbside Cleanup is now held every other year, on even years only. **As such, there will be no Curbside Cleanup in 2023.** The next Curbside Cleanup will be in 2024. Learn more at blm.mn/curbside.

MONTHLY COLLECTION: REUSABLE AND RECYCLABLE BULKY ITEMS

The City began piloting a new service for collection of reusable and recyclable bulky items at the curb in 2022. Residents can schedule a pickup, and items will be collected the first full week of each month on garbage and recycling day. The service will be available citywide this June. Learn more at blm.mn/bulkies.

ANNUAL RECYCLING DROP-OFF EVENT

The second annual drop-off event is set for fall 2023. Drop off electronics, appliances, scrap metal, mattresses, bicycles, and paper for on-site shredding. Some items are collected at no cost, and others for a fee. Learn more at blm.mn/drop-off.

SWAP EVENTS FOR REUSE

The first City-hosted garden tool swap was in May 2022 at Moir Park. Watch for more swap events at blm.mn/swaps.

YEAR-ROUND BULKY ITEM PICKUP

On-call curbside collection of bulky items, collected as garbage, and appliances and electronic waste, collected as recycling, is available year-round through your City-contracted hauler. To schedule a pickup, call Utility Billing at 952.563-8726. Learn more at blm.mn/garbage.

HENNEPIN COUNTY RECYCLING & PROBLEM WASTE FACILITY OPEN YEAR-ROUND

Hennepin County's facility accepts electronics, batteries, tires, appliances, plastic film, cardboard, organics recycling and regular recycling year around. Learn more at hennepin.us/drop-offs.

For additional repair, donation and recycling opportunities visit blm.mn/donate. Learn more about the process the City used when changing its bulky item management program at blm.mn/bulkies.



Volunteers and residents participate in the garden tool swap event.



Find us online
BLOOMINGTON [MN.gov](https://blm.mn)



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

ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER

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



MAYOR’S MEMO

INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY: A PLAN FOR RENEWING PUBLIC FACILITIES

By Mayor Tim Busse

As a city that was built out in the 1950s and 1960s, Bloomington has many facilities that need to be renewed, upgraded or replaced. The City Council has asked the state legislature to approve a proposal to renew and invest in Bloomington’s recreational, sports and health facilities that residents could vote on in November 2023. Three projects have been identified that could be funded this way: Nine Mile Creek Corridor renewal; Bloomington Ice Garden renovation; and a new community health and wellness center.

If approved by the legislature, the sales tax proposal would be put before Bloomington voters for final approval November 2023.

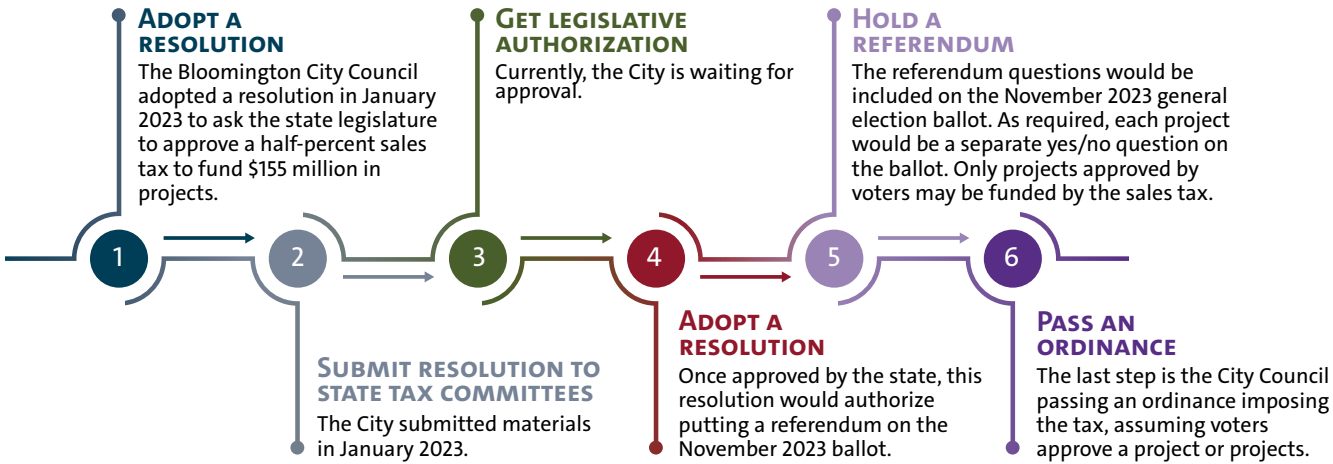
SALES TAX VERSUS PROPERTY TAX

Cities have two primary ways to pay for community improvements—sales taxes and property taxes. Here’s how the cost could break down for each funding option:

- If the projects were funded by sales tax, it would require \$70 – 105 in additional sales tax for each of Bloomington’s 42,000 households per year. With this option, the majority of the necessary funding would be paid by nonresidents.
- If the projects were funded through property taxes, the property tax bill for a median-value home would increase by \$230 per year.

Let’s take a look at the steps in the process of starting a local sales tax. We are currently on step three.

STEPS TO A GENERAL LOCAL SALES TAX:



For updates about the proposed sales tax, visit blm.mn/bst.

MEET THE WELCOME TO BLOOMINGTON DESIGN GROUP

The Welcome to Bloomington Design Group has been working together since October to find new and better ways to make people who are new to Bloomington, and those who have long been underrepresented in Bloomington, feel more welcome.

In February, a group of more than 24 City staff, elected officials and residents got together to celebrate the group’s progress in designing a program to make sure new residents and underrepresented groups will feel welcome in Bloomington. The group hopes to facilitate connections and create an inclusive community that aligns with the *Bloomington. Tomorrow. Together.* strategic plan priority of being a welcoming, connected community. Here are four ideas the group has been working on to bring their vision to life:

- Create a Bloomington bucket list. This list will include places to go, activities to participate in and must-see attractions in the city.
- Host an annual cultural fair, including multicultural performances and entertainment, food trucks, crafts and multigenerational activities.
- Organize monthly meetings where City staff can provide general information for new residents about Bloomington, and about services the City provides. The meetings could be held around the city and at Civic Plaza.
- Hold local, welcoming events and activities that are neighborhood organized and neighborhood specific.

To learn more, watch the mayor talk about the design group’s activigties at blm.mn/cm-welcome.



BRIEFING

Volume 31, Number 04

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
Chao Moua
763-229-7582
cmoua@BloomingtonMN.gov



Councilmember At Large
Jenna Carter
612-284-8751
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.



DECISION ON EXPO 2027 LOCATION COMING IN JUNE

Bloomington is one of five sites around the world being considered as the location for Expo 2027. An Expo is a world’s fair, which is used by countries to showcase and unveil their most remarkable achievements. In June, the Bureau of International Expositions will select one of the five sites being considered.

If the specialized expo is held in Bloomington, the economic impact could be greater than \$2 billion. The bid committee expects more than seven million unique visitors to attend. The admissions and lodging taxes collected during the three-month-long event would generate direct general fund revenue that would benefit residents. Building the infrastructure needed for the event would also generate jobs in Bloomington.

The international campaign is a joint effort between the Expo 2027 bid committee and the United States federal government. Minnesota USA Expo 2027 is an independent nonprofit organization established to coordinate the bid process and, if successful, planning and hosting the event. The organization is not affiliated with or governed by the City of Bloomington. Mayor Tim Busse and City Manager Jamie Verbrugge serve as ex officio members of the Minnesota USA Expo 2027 board of directors.

BIRD SCOOTERS WILL BE BACK

Bird, an electric-vehicle-sharing company, started deploying its dockless scooters throughout Bloomington last fall. Much like other birds that leave for the winter, the Bird scooters are migrating back to the city this spring.

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 cost is determined by the amount of time the rider used the scooter.

Dockless scooters are new to Bloomington. They were 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 250 scooters in the city until November 15, weather permitting.

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. 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.



NEW TRANSIT OPTION IN DESIGN PHASE: SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK

Ramsey County is seeking community feedback on the design of the Riverview Corridor Modern Streetcar Project. This 12-mile transit investment will enhance neighborhood connections and improve regional mobility between downtown St. Paul, the Minneapolis – St. Paul International Airport and Mall of America. The project seeks to:

- Improve transit connections to jobs, education, health care, recreation areas, activity centers, and regional and national transportation networks.
- Support, protect and enhance corridor resources, neighborhoods, businesses, and the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers.
- Improve multimodal transportation facilities in the corridor to support community health.
- Develop a cost-competitive project with local and regional support.

Learn more at RiverviewCorridor.com. Look for opportunities to provide feedback on the Riverview Corridor project in late spring at in-person meetings and on the project website.



CITY WELCOMES NEXT PORT AUTHORITY ADMINISTRATOR

The City’s new Port Authority Administrator Holly Masek started in February. She brings urban design, redevelopment, real estate and public space consulting experience to Bloomington.

“I am very excited to have Holly on board,” Community Development Director Karla Henderson said. “Holly brings a unique cross-section of working in urban planning, creative placemaking, real estate development and tourism. She understands the development of spaces and how people are connected to space. Her past experiences align nicely with the City’s strategic priorities as the Port Authority expands its capacity citywide. I look forward to seeing the growth of the Port team and its future accomplishments under her leadership.”

Masek was previously the executive director for the Rochester Downtown Alliance where she developed long-term strategy and directed day-to-day operations for downtown Rochester’s 44-block special service district. She has also worked for the Ashkenazy Acquisition Corp., Biederman Redevelopment Ventures and the Boston Planning and Development Agency.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Boston University in human geography and a master’s in urban planning from Harvard University.

In her role as Bloomington’s Port Authority administrator, Masek will lead efforts and initiatives focused on fostering commercial and industrial real estate development; retaining, attracting, and growing businesses; and providing housing options in all forms across a diverse income spectrum in Bloomington.

“I am honored to be joining the team at an exciting time in Bloomington’s development, especially with the potential for the city to step onto the global stage in 2027. I look forward to immersing myself in the Bloomington community while continuing to grow relationships across Minnesota.”



It’s NOT COOL TO LEAVE (DOG) STOOL

Pet waste makes quite an ugly sight, especially in spring as the snow melts. More importantly, pet waste is not a natural compost; it is a serious pollutant. City code requires the custodian of any dog to scoop poop from any property other than the owner’s immediately, and dispose of it in a sanitary manner.

Why is poop so bad? Pet waste contains bacteria and other parasites that end up in streams, rivers and lakes which can spread disease. Pet waste also fosters weed and algae growth.

This is a big problem in Bloomington. Both Nine Mile Creek and Purgatory Creek have been included on Minnesota’s impaired waters list for E-coli. People can get sick when swimming, boating or wading in contaminated water.

Everyone with a pet can help. Just remember to bring pet waste baggies when you walk your dog. Spread the word. Together, we can keep Bloomington clean!



SWEEPERS ARE CRUISING THE STREETS

Residents may have recently noticed City street sweepers out and about. Spring sweeping typically begins in early April and continues into May. Crews are responsible for sweeping 342 miles of road. Street sweeping helps keep debris out of local waterbodies. The work takes about four to five weeks to complete.

Stay safe and give the street sweepers space. Just as with other road equipment, sweepers often move slowly and may have obstructed views.

For more details and a map of the street sweeping schedule and progress in Bloomington, visit blm.mn/maint.



EVERY DAY IS EARTH DAY IN BLOOMINGTON

While Earth Day is April 22, and Earth Month is all of April, the City focuses on the earth and its shared resources every day. Here are just a few highlights from Bloomington’s 2022 environmental initiatives.

ECOLOGICAL LAND STEWARDSHIP

The City adopted a Natural Resources Prioritization and Management Plan for areas outside of the Minnesota River corridor. Community turnout was high for City-coordinated events that aid in restoration efforts, such as garlic mustard pulls and buckthorn busts.

ENERGY

The City launched the time-of-sale Energy Disclosure program. As of March 2023, more than 1,000 homes have participated. View home energy scores and reports at mncee.org/tos and click on “Find Energy Scores.”

SOLID WASTE

The City introduced the curbside organics recycling program. As of February 2023, more than 5,600 homes were composting curbside, resulting in 1,191 tons of food scraps and other organic material being diverted from the garbage.

TRANSPORTATION

Bike lanes were added or improved on several roadways, including American Boulevard, 106th Street, Veness Road and Ensign Avenue. Enhanced crosswalks were added over American Boulevard near Portland Avenue, Normandale Lake Boulevard and at West 83rd Street.



SURFACE WATER

The City kicked off an update for improving the health of Penn Lake, and successfully completed a large restoration project on Oxboro Lake. Learn more about City sustainability initiatives at blm.mn/sustain.

NOTABLE NEIGHBOR: JOHN GIBBS

The Three Rivers Park District board of commissioners unanimously elected longtime Bloomington resident Commissioner John Gibbs as board chair in January. Gibbs has represented District 5 (Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Richfield) on the Three Rivers Park District board since 2010.

“Three Rivers is truly a world-class park system, and I’m excited to lead the board this year as we focus on making the parks even more vital to the quality of our region and meaningful in people’s lives,” Gibbs said.

Gibbs named three main priorities for Three Rivers: establishing a welcoming environment and infrastructure for all visitors; maintaining fiscal responsibility; and encouraging meaningful partnerships.

In Bloomington, recent accomplishments of Gibbs and the board include the \$15 million upgrade of the Hyland Hills Ski Area, establishment of snowmaking for Nordic skiing at Hyland Lake Park Reserve, and the reopening and enhancements at Hyland Greens Golf Course.

To find out more about Three Rivers Park District, visit ThreeRiversParks.org.





CELEBRATE BLOOMINGTON POLICE’S 70TH ANNIVERSARY AT AN OPEN HOUSE

Rain or shine, everyone is invited to take an inside look at the Bloomington Police Department and celebrate its 70th year of community service at its annual open house on Saturday, May 20, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., in the east lot at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

Visitors will have the opportunity to see displays of police equipment from the SWAT team, bomb squad and K9 unit. They will also be able to tour the Police Department and meet representatives from patrol, crime prevention, animal control, reserves, chaplains, explorers and more! As a bonus, there will be food trucks and music. For more information about the Bloomington Police Department and other events, visit blm.mn/police.

DISPOSE OF UNUSED MEDICATIONS APRIL 22

In April and October, the Bloomington Police Department partners with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration for a drug take back event. This year’s spring event is Saturday, April 22, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., at the Bloomington Police Department, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

The non-medical use of prescription drugs ranks second only to cannabis as the most common form of drug abuse in America. Unused and expired prescription medications are a public safety issue. Proper disposal of unused drugs saves lives and protects the environment.

If you are unable to attend the drug take back event, many pharmacy medicine drop boxes are available in Bloomington for proper disposal. Some local drop boxes can be found at CVS, 8936 Lyndale Avenue, Fairview Pharmacy, 600 West 98th Street and Walgreens, 9800 Lyndale Avenue. Medicines should be brought to a medicine drop box for safe and proper disposal.

For more information and a full list of medicine drop boxes, visit hennepin.us/medicine.



MOBILE HEALTH HUB ON THE ROLL

To bring health services to more residents, Bloomington Public Health is rolling out a mobile community health hub in the three communities it serves: Bloomington, Edina and Richfield.

Offerings will include immunizations, screenings, Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Supplemental Nutrition appointments and more. Interested in bringing the mobile health hub to your site? Email healthhub@BloomingtonMN.gov or call 952-563-8900.



KNOW THE CODE: RECREATIONAL FIRES

When burning a recreational fire in your yard, use common sense, be considerate of your neighbors and follow the City code. Conduct fires between 7 a.m. and midnight when the wind speed is less than 10 miles per hour. Extinguish a fire immediately if a City official determines it is creating a fire safety hazard.

- Locate fires at least 25 feet away from any structures or combustible materials
- Keep fires constantly attended to by a person within sight of the flames.
- Keep fire extinguishing equipment readily available.
- Only use dry, clean wood such as cordwood or Presto logs.
- Do not burn wood that has leaves or needles, or wood that is rotten, wet or treated with paint or glue.
- Fire stacks must not exceed three feet wide by two feet high.

For more information, contact Fire Prevention at 952-563-4801.

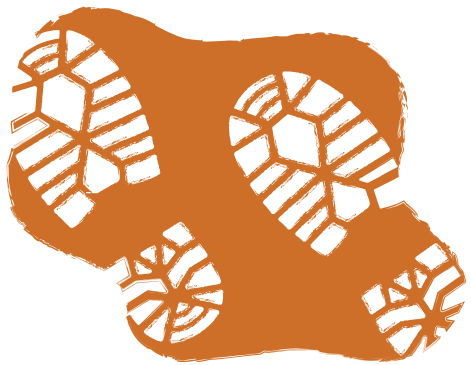
REDUCE YOUR RISK OF HOUSE FIRES FREE HOME SAFETY SURVEYS

Did you know that the majority of fire-related deaths and injuries happen at home? The Bloomington Fire Department wants to help you make your home safer and reduce the risk of fires through its free home safety survey program.

What should you expect during a survey inspection? A fire inspector will check your home and offer fire safety tips. They will help you with your family’s escape plan, cooking safety and general fire safety. If needed, the fire inspector will assist you with installing a battery-powered smoke alarm, carbon monoxide alarm and StoveTop FireStops®, free while supplies last.

Inspections typically last less than an hour. An adult must be present during the inspection. A copy of the inspection findings will be given to the resident along with suggestions.

To schedule a home safety survey, call 952-563-8933 or request a home safety inspection online at blm.mn/fireinspection. Appointments are available Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
WALKING CLUB

WALKING CLUB STEPS UP EXERCISE AND FUN

Bloomington Parks and Recreation is offering a new, free walking club Tuesdays, at 10 a.m., beginning in May. Along with all the benefits of walking, club participants can socialize, learn more about Bloomington parks and enjoy nature.

The walking club is geared towards active seniors, but everyone is welcome! A staff member will guide participants on one-to-three-mile walks of varying intensity. Participants set their own pace.

Advanced registration is recommended. A detailed map and trail description will be provided in advance. In May routes include trails at Normandale Lake, Hyland Park Reserve, Moir Park and Bush Lake Beach. For more information, call Creekside Community Center at 952-563-4944.

BENEFITS OF WALKING

- Walking offers health benefits to people of all ages, including:
1. Strengthening your heart.
 2. Lowering blood sugar.
 3. Easing joint pain.
 4. Boosting immune function.
 5. Burning calories.
 6. Improving mood.
 7. Extending life expectancy.
 8. Toning legs.
 9. Enhancing creative thinking.
- Source: Healthline.com.*



JUMP INTO SUMMER AT THE POOL

Daily, from early June through mid-August, the water at Bloomington Family Aquatic Center is waiting for you. So come on in and enjoy the zero-depth entry pool or play with the interactive water features at BFAC, 201 East 90th Street. Looking to make a splash? The aqua climbing wall, water slides and diving boards are ready for you.

POOL PASSES

2023 Bloomington Family Aquatic Center season passes are now available for purchase. Fees are as low as \$40 depending on age and city of residency. **If you purchase your pass before May 1, you'll get a \$6 discount.** Passes can be purchased several ways.

- Online through June 6.
- In person through June 9 at the Parks and Recreation Department, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.
- In person, June 7 – 9, 4 – 7 p.m. at BFAC.
- In person, June 10 – August 20 during regular business hours at BFAC.
- Visit blm.mn/bfac for all the details.

ADULT AQUA EXERCISE CLASS

Ready for a great workout? Sign up for a cardio and strength combo class! Fifty-minute classes are held June 11 – August 20, Wednesdays, 7 p.m., and Sundays, 6 p.m. Classes are included for those 14 years old and older with season passes and those entering with paid daily admission.

LESSONS FOR EVERY LEVEL

Bloomington Community Education Aquatics teaches swim lessons for all ages and experience levels. Whether you have never been in a pool or just want to a refresher, there's a class for you. Friendly and knowledgeable staff are American Red Cross trained to teach you or your children how to swim through the Learn to Swim program.



FEE ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Bloomington Parks and Recreation offers fee assistance for its programs and facilities to those who qualify. Learn more at blm.mn/fee-assist.



**GET ACTIVE
TAKE A SWING: DWAN IS READY**

People of all skill and experience levels are welcomed to golf at Dwan Golf Course this season, dawn to dusk. "Interest in the upcoming season is higher than in the past five years," said Dwan Golf Course Assistant Manager Scott Roth, PGA. "Snow has helped with moisture levels and staff is ready to serve our customers."

**2023 GREEN FEES
PATRON CARD HOLDERS/JUNIORS (AGE 17 AND UNDER)**

- 18 holes: \$33.
- 9 holes: \$23.

PUBLIC

- 18 holes: \$40.
- 9 holes: \$27.

NEED CLUBS?

- Rental Clubs, 18 holes: \$28.
- 9 holes: \$19.

Dwan Golf Course also hosts a variety of weekly leagues. From seriously competitive to casual, Dwan has a league just right for you. Get all the details at blm.mn/golf.

**EAGLE'S VIEW OF
DWAN'S COURSE**

- 18-hole, Par 68 and 70 golf course.
- Woods tees: 5,485 yards.
- Bluff tees: 5,240 yards.
- Valley tees: 4,635 yards.
- River tees: 3,385 yards.
- Practice chipping and putting greens.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

HAVE HANDS-ON FUN AT THE PUBLIC WORKS OPEN HOUSE

To launch National Public Works Week, May 21 – 27, Bloomington’s Public Works Department is hosting a free open house, Saturday, May 20, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. After a three-year hiatus, Public Works staff is revved up to open their doors to bring back equipment rides, demonstrations, interactive displays, snacks, prizes and other family fun.

Mark your calendar for this opportunity to get to know the people and the equipment that keep Bloomington a great place to live. Watch for the most up-to-date details at blm.mn/pwoh.



DISCOVER DANCE PERFORMANCE AND LEARNING SERIES

All ages can discover and experience the joy and power of dance! The Bloomington Center for the Arts is proud to present the Discover Dance Series dance festival with performances by multiple local dance companies in a range of styles.

Three evening performances will showcase Alternative Motion Project (modern), Concerto Dance (jazz), the Continental Ballet Company (ballet), and Rhythm Street Movement (tap): Thursday – Saturday, June 15 – 17, 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 plus fees.

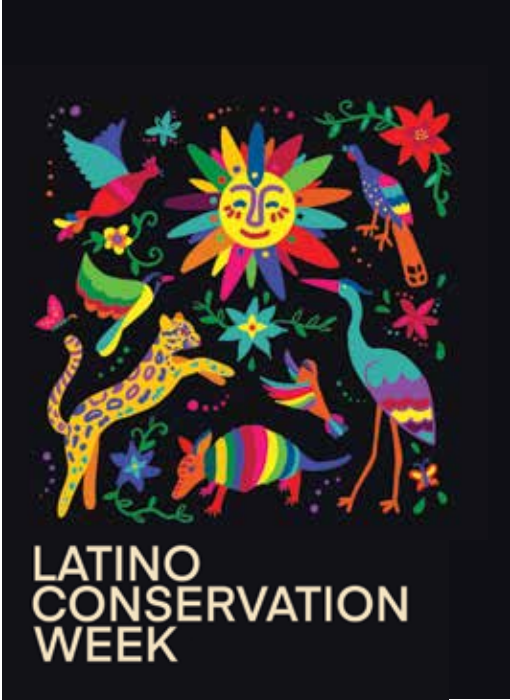
Master classes will also be offered by each company on Saturday, June 17, 1 – 3:30 p.m. Geared for dancers ages 12 and up, registration is free with a performance ticket or \$10 for the class alone. For tickets, visit blm.mn/bca.

CELEBRATE THE MAGIC OF STORYTELLING AT STORYFEST

Mark your calendar for April 29. Story Arts of Minnesota, in partnership with the Bloomington Center for the Arts, is offering StoryFest 2023: Shared Stories, Shared World for the first time in five years.

Held at the Bloomington Arts Center, story lovers can attend various workshops, hear story concerts, and partake in story circles with tellers and listeners from all over Minnesota. Everyone, adults and youth, will have opportunities to sharpen their storytelling skills and broaden relationships with other storytellers.

Throughout the day, StoryFest will showcase stories from underrepresented and silenced communities. The day will conclude with an afternoon youth concert and an evening adult storytelling concert. For more information, visit storyartsmn.org.



LATINO CONSERVATION WEEK: MI CASA ES SU CASA

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, the City of Bloomington and Indigenous Roots present Latino Conservation Week Festival. Celebrate the cultures that make up the Latino community and the nature that connects us all. Join us for a day of music, art and food. Everyone is welcome at this free event on Saturday, July 22, 1 – 5 p.m., at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Education and Visitor Center, 3815 American Boulevard East.

Learn more at blm.mn/latinoconservationweek.



NEW TO PARENTING? CHECK OUT THE BABY RESOURCE FAIR

Join the City and District Early Learning Center for a free, fun educational event for new and expecting parents on Saturday, April 15, 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., at Pond Early Learning Center, 9600 3rd Avenue South. You’ll learn about baby CPR, immunization, what to look for in a daycare and more. There will be free raffles, giveaways, and snacks and treats. For more information, Contact Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator Amanda Crombie at acrombie@BloomingtonMN.gov.

UP TO CODE: KEEPING BLOOMINGTON AT ITS BEST

Residents play an important role in maintaining property values and the appearance of Bloomington neighborhoods. The City code describes standards for property maintenance and relies on residents to take care of their properties. Here are some common standards set forth in the City code regulating your house and neighborhood.



PARKING

Vehicles must be parked in the garage or on an approved driveway. Unlicensed or inoperable vehicles must be stored in the garage. This includes vehicles with expired tabs. No more than four vehicles may be parked outside of a garage, excluding visitors. Trailers that exceed six feet in height or have a bed length of more than eight feet six inches cannot be stored outside of the garage. One trailer under this size may be stored outside, no closer than five feet to side yard property lines. A utility trailer may also be parked in the driveway if it is at least 30 feet back from the street. Nonresidential vehicles taller than seven feet six inches or longer than 22 feet cannot park in residential areas.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

All recreational vehicles parked or stored near a dwelling must be owned or leased by an occupant of that dwelling. Guests may park recreational vehicles on a driveway for a period not exceeding seven days in any consecutive six-month period, provided all other standards are met. Any recreational vehicle less than 40 feet in length may be temporarily parked in the driveway for the sole purpose of loading or unloading and routine maintenance for a period not exceeding 72 hours within seven consecutive days. If the recreational vehicle extends more than eight feet in front of the dwelling it must meet the following additional standards:

- Must be set back at least five feet from any property line, at least ten feet from any sidewalk, and at least 20 feet from the back side of any street curb or edge of pavement.
- Must not exceed 11 feet in height at any point.
- Must not exceed 25 feet in length, including trailers.
- Must be parked or stored no more than 30 feet closer to the street than the principal building on the same site.
- Must be parked or stored on a conforming or legally nonconforming driveway or off-drive parking area.

Recreational vehicles parked at homes that are on corner lots have additional requirements. Some recreational vehicles also have seasonal requirements depending on the type. A permit is not required to store recreational vehicles in compliance with the City code. Many properties are unique. If you are unsure about a requirement, please call 952-563-8920 or email City staff at planning@BloomingtonMN.gov for clarification.



HOME MAINTENANCE AND OUTDOOR STORAGE

Store materials, machinery and equipment in a building or fully screened area so they are not visible from adjoining or adjacent lands. Home exteriors must be maintained free from peeling, chipping and other deterioration. This includes siding, windows, trim, roof, doors, driveways, sheds and fences. The size and location of firewood stacks are also regulated by City code.



REFUSE, LITTER AND WEEDS

The City Council is considering participating in No Mow May this year. Check the City's website for details. When tall grass inspections begin, grass must be cut before it reaches eight inches in height and before it goes to seed. All noxious weeds must be removed. All twigs, tree and shrub branches that fall in the yard must be removed immediately or stored in an enclosed container. Brush piles are not allowed on residential properties. Garbage must be stored within a building or an enclosed container. All refuse, recycling, compost, twigs and brush should be placed at the assigned collection location no more than 12 hours before collection day. Waste containers must be removed no more than 12 hours after collection day. Garbage and recycling containers for single-family, detached homes must be set back 30 feet from any four-season living area other than the owner's. Garbage and recycling containers cannot be stored more than five feet in front of the principal building along any public right of way.



HOME BUSINESSES

Certain businesses are prohibited in residential zones, including manufacturing, vehicle repair and retail where customers come to the house. Home businesses are separated into two types: Type 1 businesses include beauty shops, tutoring and piano instruction, but these have limits on the number of daily customers allowed. Type 2 businesses require Council approval.

OTHER CITY CODES

This is not a complete list of City codes. To read all City codes, visit blm.mn/code.

NOTICE A PROBLEM?

Let us know if a neighborhood property is becoming a problem. To report a nuisance or ordinance violation, call Environmental Health at 952-563-8934 or email envhealth@BloomingtonMN.gov.