

BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



MAY 2023

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Good Plant Care ranked Normandale’s Japanese Garden in the top 100 of public gardens in the country.

INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY A LOOK AT PRIORITIES

Since 2021, hundreds of community members and City staff have worked together to create a five-year strategic plan, a mission to guide the City in cultivating an enduring and remarkable community where people want to be. Addressing Bloomington’s aging resources became a key objective, and three projects emerged as top priorities to be renewed, upgraded or replaced. They include:

NINE MILE CREEK CORRIDOR RENEWAL

- Need: The City’s 2022 Natural Resources Prioritization and Management Strategies ranked Nine Mile Creek and Moir/Central Park as the highest priority for restoration.
- Benefits: This major natural resource would be restored and year-round recreational opportunities would be increased.



BLOOMINGTON ICE GARDEN UPGRADE

- Need: This popular facility needs modernization and major updates to mechanical systems, including refrigeration for all three ice sheets.
- Benefits: The upgrade would improve guest experience and make it possible to continue ice rental and hosting dozens of tournaments and figure skating events annually.



PUBLIC HEALTH AND CREEKSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING REPLACEMENT

- Need: These obsolete buildings do not meet the needs of the communities they serve.
- Benefits: Combining them into one facility would provide a more effective environment to deliver vital health, fitness and recreational services as well as social activities.



POTENTIAL FUNDING FOR IDENTIFIED PROJECTS

Sales and property taxes are two primary ways to pay for community improvements. The estimated cost for all three projects is \$155 million. Here’s the estimated cost for each funding option:

- Sales tax option, mentioned above, would cost \$70 - \$105 annually for each of Bloomington’s 42,000 households.
- Property tax option would cost \$230 annually for each property owner of a median value home in Bloomington.

For more information about these projects, visit blm.mn/invest.



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MAYOR’S MEMO

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN BLOOMINGTON

By Mayor Tim Busse

You might recall that last fall the City Council approved restructuring the Housing and Redevelopment Authority and the Port Authority in a way that refocused their work to better serve Bloomington’s housing and economic development goals.

For three decades, the Bloomington Port Authority has been a successful economic development agency that works to expand the city’s tax base, promote and attract quality job opportunities, and support real estate redevelopment and economic development.

The restructuring—which was the result of an analysis done by an outside consultant—expands the Port Authority’s focus on business development, expansion and retention. It also restructures the division to support these priorities.

I think it goes without saying that business development, expansion and retention are vital parts of cultivating an enduring and remarkable community where people want to be. The Port Authority’s role is just one part of an overall City strategy to build and strengthen our business community.

Regionally, Bloomington has an active role in the Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce. The City was an original investor in Greater MSP, a regional economic development partnership, and we work almost daily with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

Closer to home, City staff and elected officials work very closely with the Bloomington Convention and Visitors Bureau to ensure the strength of the hospitality industry. We partner with Hennepin County and the Metropolitan Council whenever possible. And I’m sure you’ve heard that we’re in the process of creating a small business development center on the city’s east side, *see page 3*.

We also acknowledge that Bloomington is part of a global economy. Bloomington is active with the Minneapolis/St. Paul foreign trade zone. We’ve hosted Hiroshi Tajima, the consul general of Japan, and in February I attended an event in Chicago at the consulate general’s office. Last year, I was proud to be part of an event with the German American Chamber of Commerce. And of course, if we land Expo 2027, it will affirm that our reach is truly global.

With a strong and stable economy, good transportation infrastructure in place, and a hardworking, well-educated workforce, we know that Bloomington is a great place to do business. I feel good about the existing and growing efforts we have in place to tell that good story to businesses both big and small. We have seen results—SICK Industries locating their North American headquarters here is the most recent example—but like a lot of our work, this is a marathon, not a sprint. I’m confident that our steady, systematic work will continue to pay off for Bloomington in terms of jobs and economic development for years to come.

EXPO 2027 DECISION COMING JUNE 21

Bloomington is one of five sites around the world being considered as the location for Expo 2027. An expo is a world’s fair, a months-long event in which countries unveil and showcase their most remarkable achievements. In June, the Bureau of International Expositions will select a site.

In March, the Minnesota USA Expo bid committee hosted a symposium in Paris to show people what makes Bloomington a great candidate to host Expo 2027.

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, to plan and host 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.



Left to right: Community Development Director Karla Henderson, Bloomington Convention and Visitors Bureau President Bonnie Carlson, Councilmembers Patrick Martin and Jenna Carter, Mayor Tim Busse, Councilmember Lona Dallesandro, City Manager Jamie Verbrugge and Bloomington Convention and Visitors Bureau Vice President of Marketing Jan Kroells in Paris.

EARNED SICK AND SAFE LEAVE ORDINANCE GOES INTO EFFECT JULY 2023

A new earned sick and safe leave ordinance affecting employees of Bloomington businesses begins July 1, 2023. Under the new ordinance:

- Businesses with five or more employees must grant employees a minimum of one hour of paid sick and safe leave for every 30 hours they work, up to a maximum of 48 hours annually.
- Employers with fewer than five employees must grant unpaid leave and can choose to provide paid leave.
- Current employees will be able to use accrued time as soon as they have accrued it. New employees will be able to start using their accrued time 90 days after they begin employment. For example, employees hired July 1 can use accrued time beginning October 1, 2023.

For more information about the ordinance, developed through a taskforce of Bloomington businesses, unions and policy directors, visit blm.mn/essl.

BRIEFING

Volume 31, Number 05

The *Briefing*, published monthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to residents and businesses. Direct your comments and requests for Braille, larger print or computer file to Communications Administrator Janine Hill, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3071; PH 952-563-8819; MN Relay 711; FAX 952-563-8715; Email: jhill@BloomingtonMN.gov
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The City of Bloomington does not discriminate against or deny the benefits of its services, programs, or activities to a qualified person because of a disability. The City will provide a reasonable accommodation or modify its policies and programs to allow people with disabilities to participate in all City services, programs, activities, and employment. The law does not require the City to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden on the City. To make a request for a reasonable accommodation, ask for more information, or to file a complaint, contact the Community Outreach and Engagement Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; 952-563-8733, MN Relay 711.



SEE *BLOOMINGTON. TOMORROW. TOGETHER.* PROGRESS ONLINE THIS SUMMER

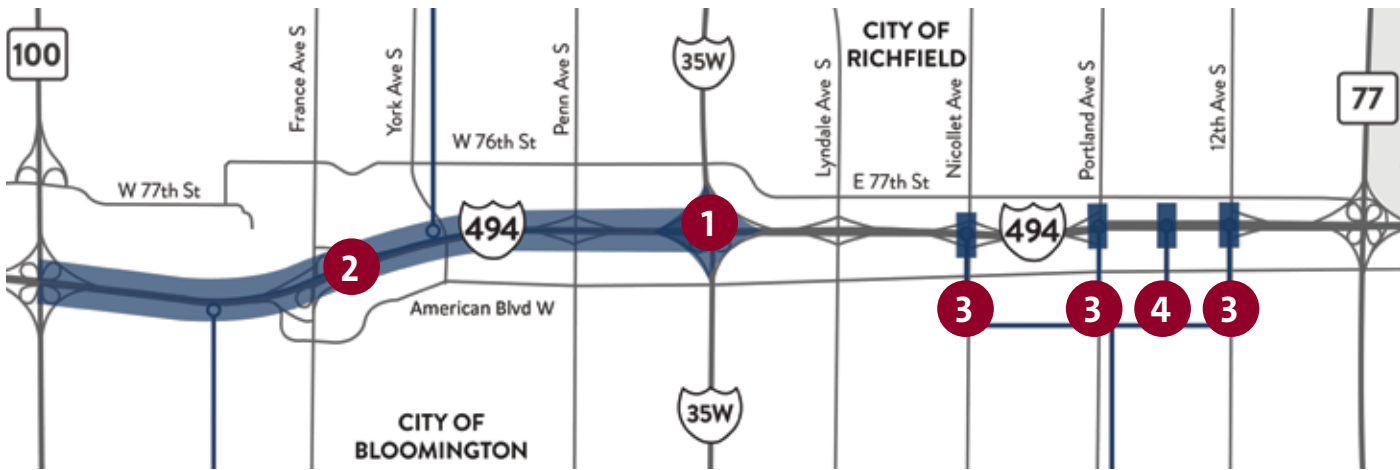
Hundreds of community members and City staff have been involved in bringing the City’s new five-year strategic plan, *Bloomington. Tomorrow. Together.*, to life over the last few years. The planning process started in fall 2021 with community events during which residents and stakeholders shared their visions for the future of Bloomington. A core team of community members and City staff set the course for the plan. Action teams identified steps to take to achieve the goals. The work resulted in a mission: To cultivate an enduring and remarkable community where people want to be.

Working from this mission and the core values, strategic objectives and strategies created by the community members who took part in the planning process, City staff built created by the community-based planning groups, City staff built a measurable work plan in late 2022. The plan has three priority areas—a connected, welcoming community; a healthy community; and a community with equitable economic growth—along with nine desired outcomes and 27 initiatives.

Residents will soon be able to see the City’s progress toward its *Bloomington. Tomorrow. Together.* goals online. A data dashboard will be up and running this summer and City staff will begin entering quarterly data reports in July.

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER UNDERWAY

The small business development center advisory committee has driven community engagement efforts on this project. The results have shaped the vision for the project, including programming, resources and design. The group met from June 2022 through April 2023. Now the team is extending its outreach to the neighborhood and wider community. The goal is to learn from neighbors about the qualities and stories that make the neighborhood special, which will inform future placemaking installations and build awareness of the project and new connections to it. Engagement activities, including pop-ups, workshops and an open house will take place this summer. For updates about the project or to learn more about the community events planned, visit blm.mn/small-business.



I-494 CONSTRUCTION STARTING THIS SUMMER

Planning for I-494: Airport to Highway 169 improvements was completed in 2022. Construction on the first project to implement the vision begins this summer. The improvements include more than \$300 million in construction, which is projected to continue through 2026. The project includes:

1. I-494/35W interchange improvements, with a northbound to westbound flyover ramp.
2. E-ZPass lanes in both directions between Highway 100 and I-35W.
3. Bridge reconstruction of Nicollet Avenue, Portland Avenue and 12th Avenue to prepare for E-ZPass to the east.
4. New pedestrian bridge at Chicago Avenue.

Moving forward, the Minnesota Department of Transportation will continue to seek funding for the future phases of I-494: Airport to Highway 169 to implement the full vision and see the benefits of smoother traffic and better connections. Learn more at blm.mn/494.



BLOOMINGTON’S NEW CENTER FOR THE ARTS MANAGER

With three degrees, including a master’s degree in the arts, and a decade-long career as a college music professor, Ian Brekke is well-suited for his new role as manager of the Bloomington Center for the Arts (BCA). He now leads all BCA operations, including hosting a broad range of arts events, community functions, outreach opportunities, City meetings and private rentals.

“I am so honored to serve in this position,” Brekke said. “Pivoting from a career in education, this role allows me to continue serving the arts in a new and exciting way.”

Recently returning to his home state of Minnesota from California, Brekke hopes to make the BCA “the cultural hotspot of Bloomington” and he encourages residents to attend events, visit art galleries, take classes and even host their own events at the BCA.

“I believe there is no way to separate art and culture,” Brekke said. “The arts we feature at the BCA should reflect our community.”

For more information about the happenings at the BCA, visit blm.mn/bca.



WELCOMING WEDNESDAYS FOR SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS

Learn about startup and small business resources available in Bloomington in the new series Welcoming Wednesdays. These events will be held on the second Wednesday of the month, 12 – 2 p.m., at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. The host for 2023 will be Jeff Aguy, pictured above, founder and CEO of 2043 SBC.

“This will be an ongoing series to connect with our business community before the small business development center is open,” Assistant Port Authority Administrator Barb Wolff said.



YOUR STREET’S STORM DRAIN IS CALLING

Have you noticed trash or other debris in your neighborhood storm drains? This is a call to adopt the drain.

Adopt-a-Drain volunteers spend about 15 minutes once or twice a month raking, sweeping and removing debris from drains and nearby streets and sidewalks.

Preventing debris from entering storm drains helps keep our waters clean. Water flows from storm drains directly into ponds, lakes, streams and wetlands. Debris and dirty water cause many issues. Plastics and other trash harms wildlife and degrades environmental health and natural beauty. Even grass clippings and leaves can cause blue-green algae blooms in ponds and lakes.

Answer the call from your local drain. Sign up today to adopt a drain at adopt-a-drain.org.



GROW AT CREEKSIDE’S PLANT EXCHANGE

Whether you are an expert gardener or just beginning, the free plant exchange at Creekside Community Center is an opportunity to donate, exchange or adopt indoor, outdoor and vegetable plants. Join the fun on Saturday, June 3, 8 – 11 a.m., at 9801 Penn Avenue South.

“It is exciting to see what plants people bring and to talk about plants,” said Michelle La Beau, Garden Club volunteer. “There is also a master gardener at the event so people can ask questions and get tips.”

The plant exchange is presented by the Creekside Garden Club, a group of volunteers who plant and maintain gardens and planters at Creekside.

Interested in joining the Garden Club or have questions about the plant exchange? Contact Creekside at 952-563-4944 or Creekside@BloomingtonMN.gov.



COMPOST GIVEAWAY CLOSES THE ORGANICS LOOP
YOUR PARTICIPATION IN ORGANICS RECYCLING MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE

Ever wonder what happens to your food scraps and other organic material like paper towels and greasy pizza boxes that you put in your curbside organics cart?

For Bloomington residents, the material is sent to the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community’s Organics Recycling Facility where it is combined with yard waste and composted. There it breaks down into a soil-like product called finished compost.

To close the loop, the City is giving away the nutrient-rich finished compost at no cost. Get your compost at a giveaway event Saturday, May 6, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., at the Western Maintenance Center, 10500 Hampshire Avenue South. Residents can pick up three bags of finished compost while supplies last. For more details, visit blm.mn/organics.

CITYWIDE ROLLOUT OF REUSABLE AND RECYCLABLE BULKY ITEM PICK-UP BEGINS IN JUNE

It can be difficult to know what to do with bulky items like couches, end tables, mattresses, bikes and building materials you no longer need. Often, these items are still in good condition for someone else to use or have components that could be recycled. When these items are picked up during Curbside Cleanup, they end up in a landfill.

To help keep these items out of the garbage, the City is launching a new curbside program for reuse and recycling of many bulky, hard-to-manage items. The service will offer residents a once-a-month opportunity for a limited quantity of items to be picked up for reuse and recycling. The program piloted to 4,000 homes in 2022 and rolls out citywide in June 2023. Learn how to get started using the new service at blm.mn/bulkies.



2023 YARD WASTE COLLECTION HAS BEGUN

The 2023 yard waste collection season began April 10 and continues through Friday, November 24, weather permitting.

Yard waste collection is a weekly subscription service available for a fee of \$89.51 for the yard waste collection season. Residents with yard waste service can request one additional yard waste cart for a \$39.41 fee. It’s acceptable to set out up to 20 bags of yard waste in addition to the cart(s) each week. To sign up for yard waste, contact Utility Billing at utilitybilling@BloomingtonMN.gov or 952-563-8726.

Residents can also pay per bag for on-call service by purchasing yard waste stickers for \$4.50 each. Call 952-563-8757 to request stickers.

For more information, visit blm.mn/yardwaste.





OUTDOOR FARMERS MARKETS COMING SOON!

Ready, set, shop for the freshest food from local farms. The Bloomington Farmers Market is back every Saturday, June 10 through October 14, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m., in the east parking lot at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

The Midweek Music and Market mini market with food trucks and music runs every Wednesday from July 12 – August 23, 5 – 8 p.m., in the east lot at Civic Plaza. *See more on page 8.*

Each week, more than 40 vendors will offer goods at the market. Along with fresh foods, visitors can also enjoy crafts and other local maker wares, as well as ready-to-eat food and community tables to visit with local nonprofit groups. Mark your calendars and get all the details at blm.mn/market.

MOBILE RECREATION BRINGS FUN TO BLOOMINGTON PARKS

Bloomington Parks and Recreation is committed to bringing fun to youth 18 years old and younger. So get ready for Mobile Recreation’s free programming at parks throughout Bloomington, Tuesdays, June 6 – July 25, 1 – 3 p.m.

No registration is required. Just drop by any of the parks listed below for tons of summer fun, including arts and crafts, kickball, parachutes, pop-up disc golf, slacklining, spike ball and much more.

June 6: Bush Lake Beach, 9140 East Bush Lake Road.
June 13: Wright’s Lake Park, 8501 17th Avenue South.
June 20: Moir/Central Park, 10320 Morgan Avenue South.
June 27: Brye Park, 10500 Xavier Avenue South.
July 11: Bryant Park, 1001 West 85th Street.
July 18: Tarnhill Park, 9650 Little Road.
July 25: Valley View Playfields, 9000 Portland Avenue South.



LEARN ABOUT THE FIRST PEOPLE OF BLOOMINGTON AND THE MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY

In honor of the Dakota, the first people of Bloomington and the Minnesota River Valley, adults and youth of all backgrounds are invited to the 12th annual Dakota Language Camp for an interactive introduction to Dakota language, culture, values and traditions Tuesday – Thursday, June 27 – 29, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., at Pond Dakota Mission Park, 401 East 104th Street. Learn about Dakota culture and how it is rooted in the land through traditional games, crafts, songs, dancing, food, nature walks and more.

The language camp costs \$50. Lunch is provided. Children under age seven must be accompanied by an adult or teen sibling who is also enrolled in the camp. Register at blm.mn/webtrac.

The Dakota Language Camp is collaboratively presented by Bloomington Parks and Recreation and the University of Minnesota Dakota Language Department, which creates the program and provides experienced teachers.



CHECK OUT BLOOMINGTON CHORALE UKE JAMS

Bloomington Chorale is taking its ukelele jams weekly. Uke jams are held Saturdays, 7 – 9:30 p.m., in the Rehearsal Hall at the Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. The first 75 minutes of the event are focused on ukulele playing, and in the last 75 minutes, people can play other instruments like guitars, recorders, basses, and even percussion. Everyone is welcome to join in and have fun, even if they have never played the ukulele before. The Bloomington Chorale has extra ukuleles and they will help beginners learn some basic strumming quickly. For more information, email Info@BloomingtonChorale.org or call 952-563-8582.



SKATE THROUGH THE SUMMER

No need to hang up your skates. Bloomington Ice Garden offers skating opportunities year-round. Check out:

Open Skating: Sundays, June 4 – August 20, 5:30 – 7 p.m., and Tuesdays, June 6 – August 29, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

Developmental Ice: Mondays and Fridays, 6 – 7 a.m.

Adult Open Hockey: June 4 – August 20, Sunday evenings, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

Pro’s Ice: \$11 per hour per person.

Group skating lessons: Lessons for all ages run seven weeks.

PARTY AT BIG

BIG is also a great place to host a birthday party or milestone event. Friendly staff provide a safe, cool and clean space, and clean up afterwards.

You can rent an entire sheet of ice, rental skates included, for \$250 plus tax. Food and beverages are arranged through concessions, or you can bring your own. Skating instructors are also available.

To get more details about skate and party opportunities at BIG, call 952-563-8841, MN Relay 711, or visit blm.mn/big.

You can rent an entire sheet of ice, skates included, for \$250 plus tax.



JOIN THE NOTEABLE SINGERS TO EXPLORE “GIRL GROUPS”

Join the NOTEable Singers for an evening of song and dance as they explore how “girl groups” have evolved from the 1930s to the present. From the Andrews Sisters and the Pointer Sisters to the Weather Girls, the Spice Girls and the Indigo Girls, enjoy music from every era that has made “girl groups” so popular and influential on Saturday, June 3, 5 p.m. in the Schneider Theatre, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. Tickets cost \$20 for adults and \$17 for seniors. Visit blm.mn/bcatix.



COPS AND CONES

Celebrate summer with a sweet treat at Cops and Cones June 6, July 11 and August 22, 1 – 2:30 p.m., at Scoops Ice Cream, 7700 West Old Shakopee Road. There will be a special visitor at each event—Chief Booker Hodges in June, a squad car in July and a K9 officer in August. Kids 18 and younger can receive a free kid-size ice cream. The Bloomington Police Department hosts Cops and Cones to connect with the community, break down barriers and strengthen relationships. For more information, call 952-563-4900.



HONORING 911 PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS

Telecommunicators play a critical role in public safety. They are the first link between callers and emergency services. They gather details that make it possible to send appropriate aid to help those in need and keep first responders safe.

During National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, April 10 – 16, the Bloomington Police Department recognized its dispatchers and the high-quality service they provide to all who live, visit or work in Bloomington.

In 2022, Bloomington’s eight dispatchers handled more than 166,400 phone calls and entered more than 64,900 computer-aided dispatch events.

During a proclamation recognizing National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, Mayor Tim Busse thanked each dispatcher for their compassion, understanding and professionalism over the last year.



Kristen Willenbring poses with her two sons at Fire Station 5.

MEET A BLOOMINGTON FIREFIGHTER

Meet Kirsten Willenbring, a firefighter at Station 5, who has served residents for 23 years.

Willenbring first considered a firefighting career in high school. She attended Hennepin Technical College for basic firefighter training, and then Inver Hills Community College for an Emergency Medical Technician certificate.

“Training is a primary focus here at the Bloomington Fire Department,” Willenbring said. “Things have changed a lot in the past 20 years and we are fully equipped to handle it.”

A helper by nature, Willenbring also became a registered nurse in 2009, and holds a second job as a post-anesthesia nurse.

“I have learned so much as a firefighter that I use in all areas of my life. It has been a great part-time career for me,” she said.

To learn more about the Bloomington Fire Department, visit blm.mn/fire.



RECOGNIZING AND REMEMBERING POLICE

This year, National Police Week and Peace Officers Memorial Day will be recognized May 14 – 20 and May 15, respectively. The first National Police Week and Peace Officers Memorial Day were suggested by President Kennedy in 1962. It was resolved by Congress that May 15 be designated Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which it falls be designated as Police Week.

The service and sacrifice of all officers killed in the line of duty is honored annually during the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund vigil in Washington D.C. The candlelight vigil will honor those who lost their lives in 2022.

Mayor Tim Busse read a proclamation recognizing both events at the May 1 City Council meeting along with a proclamation on behalf of the Bloomington Optimist Club. The proclamation, recognizing Respect For Law Week, is meant to increase public awareness of the importance of law enforcement officers and to show appreciation for the role they play in the community.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT IS ONLY A CALL, TEXT OR CHAT AWAY

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and Bloomington Public Health wants you to know help is available for people you care about—family, friends, neighbors—who have mental illness.

“Eva, a mother of two children and past Public Health client, reached out to our staff to thank them for the care they provided,” shared Molly Snuggerud from the Public Health Division. “When Eva was struggling with her first baby and severe depression, staff helped her find resources, in her own language, and set up weekly visits to help her along the way. Today, she and her family are thriving.”

Learn more about Public Health services at blm.mn/ph/services.

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW NEEDS SUICIDE OR MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS SUPPORT:

Call, text or chat 988 or visit the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988lifeline.org. Free and confidential support is available 24/7.



MAKE A DAY OF IT

GET AN INSIDE LOOK AT CITY SERVICES AT OPEN HOUSES IN MAY

HANDS-ON FUN WITH PUBLIC WORKS

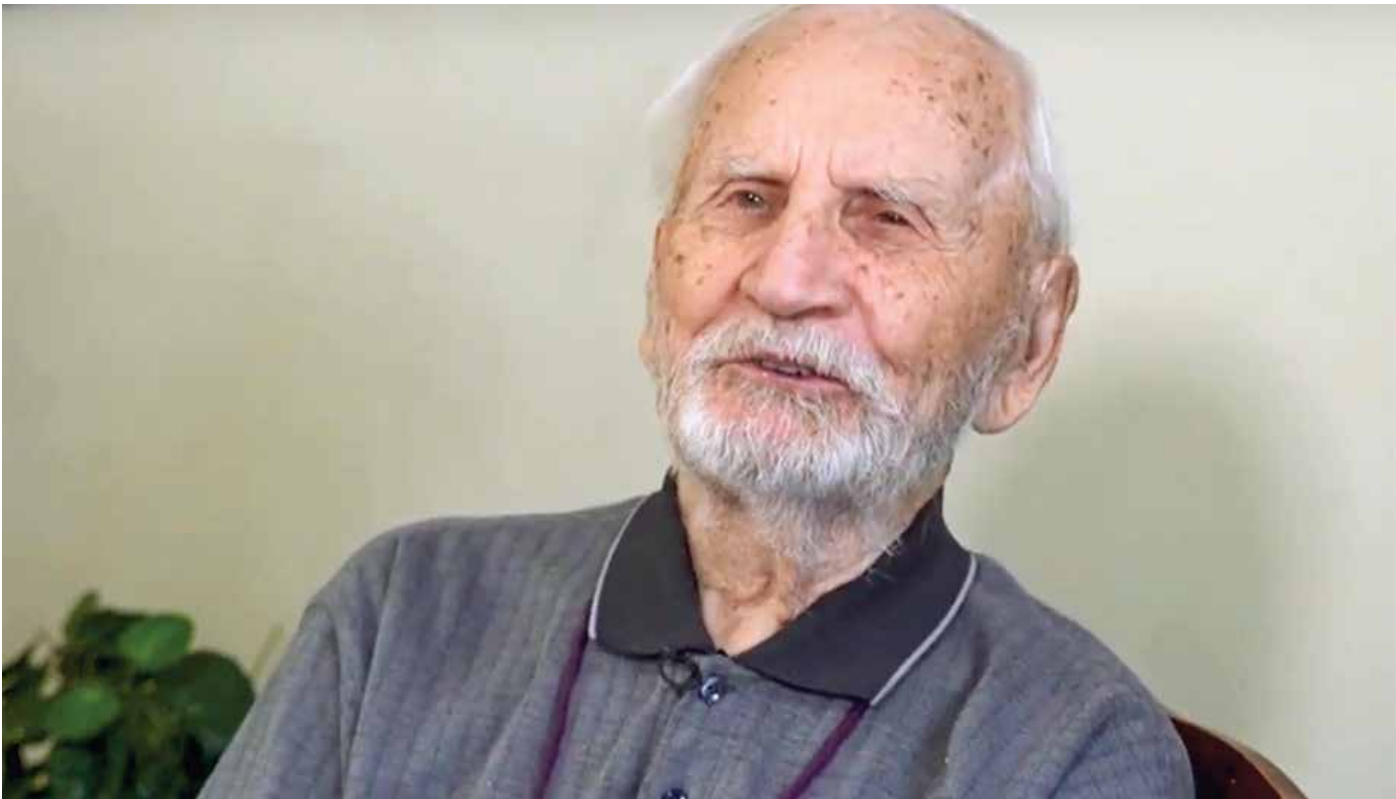
Mark your calendar for a great opportunity to meet the people who keep Bloomington’s infrastructure running. After a three-year hiatus, Bloomington Public Works will open its doors to the public for equipment rides, demonstrations, interactive displays, snacks, prizes and other family fun at a free open house on Saturday, May 20, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., at Bloomington Public Works, 1700 West 98th Street. Parking is available in the Civic Plaza parking lot on the south side of West 98th Street. Find the most up-to-date details on the open house at blm.mn/pwoh.

CELEBRATE BLOOMINGTON POLICE’S 70TH ANNIVERSARY

Get an inside look at the Bloomington Police Department and celebrate its 70th year of community service during an open house on Saturday, May 20, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., in the east lot at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

Come and see police equipment from different departments like the Emergency Response Unit, bomb squad and K9 Unit. You can also tour the Police Department and meet people from other departments like patrol, crime prevention, animal control, reserves, chaplains, explorers and more! Plus, there will be food trucks and music.

If you want to learn more about the Bloomington Police Department and other events, visit blm.mn/police.



NOTABLE NEIGHBOR: FOR EDWARD ADAMSKI LIFE IS GOOD

Making friends comes easily to Edward Adamski, a 95-year-old World War II Navy veteran who is always up for a game of cards or giving people rides to appointments or to run errands. Age is no barrier for this Bloomington resident.

“When you grow up in the Depression, you learn to help people,” Adamski shared. “You would be surprised at how many friends you can have.”

Adamski may be nearing a century, but that isn’t slowing him down. A resident of Bloomington for the past 20 years, he is a regular at Creekside Community Center’s Monday canasta games and, if asked, readily shares his lengthy daily to-do list.

Resident and friend Chris Uting is inspired by Adamski and what she sees in him. “Bloomington should be very proud of having such a resident. Those of us who live in the same building with him depend on him for many things. He has helped numerous residents and our community in many ways.”

Get inspired, too. Watch an interview with Edward and Chris at blm.mn/adamski.



VOLUNTEER TO HELP BLOOMINGTON SENIORS

Help your older neighbors take care of the homes they love. Senior Community Services’ Household and Outdoor Maintenance (HOME) program is recruiting volunteers for spring clean-up, summer lawn mowing, gardening, weeding, minor home repairs and painting projects, and technology support for local seniors.

Youth ages 7 – 15 are welcome to volunteer when accompanied by an adult; ages 16 and older may volunteer on their own. There are flexible opportunities for individuals, families and groups.

The HOME program offers affordable services to adults over age 60 in Hennepin County and relies heavily on volunteers to fulfill service requests and make the program successful. To learn more or sign up, visit seniorcommunity.org/volunteer, email scsvolunteer@seniorcommunity.org or call 952-767-7894.

CHECK OUT LET’S TALK BLOOMINGTON

The City is currently seeking feedback on several projects with its online engagement tool, Let’s Talk Bloomington, at blm.mn/letstalk. Register to join in the conversation. One project posted now is:

BRYANT AND TRETBAUGH PARK UPDATES

In 2021, the City adopted a new Park System Master Plan, which reflects about two years of public input on priorities for Bloomington parks. Last August, City staff consulted residents for input on plans for nine parks: Brookside, Bryant, Kelly, Poplar Bridge, Running, Smith, Sunrise Southwood and Tretbaugh.

Based on the input received, staff completed a final draft concept plan for Tretbaugh and Bryant parks. Check out the plan on blm.mn/letstalk. The plan is to update these parks in 2024. Concept plans for the remaining seven parks will be out for review later in 2023.







arts in the Parks

Arts in the Parks offers everything from moonlight movies to fireworks. Musical performances range from classical to bluegrass. All programs are free and open to the public. For more information, visit blm.mn/aip or call 952-563-8878.

TUESDAY NIGHT NORMANDALE LAKE PERFORMANCE SERIES

7 P.M. AT NORMANDALE LAKE BANDSHELL, 84TH STREET AND CHALET ROAD.

The sounds of summer echo throughout the Normandale Lake Bandshell with Bloomington's best music and dance. All shows begin at 7 p.m. and are free to the public.

June 6 NOTEable Singers 	June 13 Bloomington Choral 	June 20 Bloomington Symphony Orchestra 	June 27 Continental Ballet 
July 11 Brio Brass	July 18 Jazz on the Prairie Big Band	July 25 Medalist Concert Band	

MIDWEEK MUSIC AND MARKET SERIES

5 – 8 P.M. AT CIVIC PLAZA, 1800 WEST OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD.














Music, food trucks, a beer garden and a farmers market—everything you need to enjoy your Wednesday evenings. Music starts at 5:30 p.m.

July 12  Steve Clarke and the Working Stiffs 	July 19  Paul Holland Blues Band 	July 26  Dred I Dread 	August 2  Atomic Beat 
August 9  Tuxedo Band	August 16  World Jazz Collegium	August 23  Ken Valdez Band	

THURSDAY NIGHT BLOCKBUSTER SERIES

FOOD SERVICE 6:30 P.M., SHOWS BEGIN 7 P.M. AT NORMANDALE LAKE BANDSHELL, 84TH STREET AND CHALET ROAD.

Don't miss Thursday Blockbusters and the Evening Performance Series at the Normandale Lake Bandshell. Food and beer service starts at 6:30 p.m. and shows start at 7 p.m.

June 8  Chico Chavez Orchestra 	June 15  International Reggae Allstars 	June 22  Classic Rock Bash Tuxedo Band 	June 29  Country Jam Tim Sigler Band 
July 13  '90s Revisited Flannel	July 20  Blues and BBQ Lamont Cranston Band	July 27  Latin Music Night Salsa del Soul	August 3  '80s Music Explosion Time Machine
			August 10  Rockin' the Blues The Brotherhood

SUNDAY FUNDAY

New in 2023, Sunday Funday offers free, family-friendly live music and food. This series is sure to be a fun way to spend summer afternoons in Bloomington. Events take place 4 – 6:30 p.m. at locations throughout the city.

June 18 John Philip Sousa Memorial Band Pond Dakota Mission Park, 401 East 104th Street	June 25 Tropical Zone Orchestra Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road	July 9 Shakespeare in the Park Normandale Lake Bandshell, 84th Street and Chalet Road	July 16 Summer Musical in the Park Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road
July 23 Inflatables and fun Wright's Lake Park, 8501 17th Avenue South 	July 30 Bob and the Beachcombers Bush Lake Beach, 9140 East Bush Lake Road 	August 6 Blue Groove Bluegrass Running Park, 9501 12th Avenue South 	August 13 Kidsdance DJ and Pop-up splash pad Westwood Park, 3490 West 109th Street 





MONDAY MORNING KIDS' SERIES

Enjoy the start of the week June 5 – August 14, at Moir Park, 10320 Morgan Avenue South, and Valley View Park, 401 East 90th Street. Bring your families and friends to enjoy music, dancing and lots of fun starting Mondays at 10:30 a.m. this summer.

- June 5 Rachael Kroog (Moir)**
Be ready to have fun and dance along with Rachel and her original songs.
- June 12 Brodini (Valley View)**
High energy, interactive comedy magic.
- June 19 Wiggle, Jiggle, and Jam (Moir)**
Family fun that puts the move in music.
- June 26 Dazzling Dave (Valley View)**
Check out the amazing talents of yo-yo master Dave and try your hand at yo-yo tricks.
- July 10 Todd 'n' Tina (Moir)**
Award-winning kids' music.
- July 17 The Bazillions (Valley View)**
Enjoy kid-friendly rock 'n' roll.
- July 24 Wonder Weavers Storytellers (Moir)**
Kids of all ages will be captivated by these amazing storytellers. *Pictured above.*
- July 31 Bob the Beachcomber (Valley View)**
Featuring fun surfin' and rockin' music from the '60s and '70s.
- August 7 Jolly Pops (Moir)**
Great kids' music and fun.
- August 14 Acme Magic Factory (Valley View)**
The perfect combination of magic, comedy and audience interaction.



ADDITIONAL EVENTS

- June 10** 
Kites and Bites
Valley View Park, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Enjoy food trucks, music and kites at Valley View Park playfields, 90th Street and Portland Avenue South.
- July 3** 
Summer Fete
Normandale Lake Bandshell, 5 – 10:30 p.m.
The annual Summer Fete festival features music, food, and a grand finale fireworks show that is one of the largest in Minnesota. Join the fun at 84th Street and Chalet Road. Learn more at blm.mn/summerfete.



Bring your appetite! You'll find a variety of food and drink options at events marked with a fork-and-spoon icon.