

BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



★ JULY 2023 ★

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BLOOMINGTON FORWARD INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Bloomington needs to continue making investments in community amenities that bring residents together and enhance their quality of life. To do this, a local sales tax has been identified as a potential funding source for three major projects that support health, wellness, athletics and recreation in Bloomington.

The City of Bloomington received legislative authorization in May to allow voters to consider a half-cent local sales tax for up to 20 years that would finance \$155 million for three projects. 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.
- Cost: \$20 million.

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.
- Cost: \$37.27 million. (The City has already received approval of \$2.27 million from the State of Minnesota for predesign work.)

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.
 - Cost: \$101.8 million. (The City has already received approval of \$1.8 million from the State of Minnesota for predesign work.)
- For more information, visit bloomingtonforward.org.

SALES TAX WILL GENERATE REVENUE FROM NONRESIDENTS

An independent analysis by the University of Minnesota estimates that 60% of the local sales tax revenue will come from nonresidents. By using a sales tax instead of a property tax to finance the projects, nonresidents would share in the cost of paying for them when they patronize local businesses.

If the projects were funded by a sales tax, it would require \$105 in additional sales tax for each of Bloomington's 42,000 households per year. If the projects were funded through property taxes, the tax increase for a median-value home would be about \$230 per year.

IF THE SALES TAX REFERENDUM FAILS

If the sales tax is not approved, City leaders will explore other ways to invest in these projects. However, such improvements would occur more slowly and be smaller in scale and impact. Alternative funding sources may be more limited, and costs will likely be higher as the projects are spread out over many years.

VOTING INFORMATION

Election Day is Tuesday, November 7. Early voting begins on Friday, September 22.



MAYOR’S MEMO

EMPLOYERS NOW REQUIRED TO PROVIDE EARNED SICK AND SAFE LEAVE

By Mayor Tim Busse

Bloomington’s earned sick and safe leave ordinance takes effect this month. The ordinance requires employers operating in Bloomington to provide some amount of earned sick and safe leave to employees. Three of Minnesota’s largest cities—Duluth, Saint Paul and Minneapolis—have adopted similar ordinances.

The ordinance protects the well-being of Bloomington’s workforce and residents. Employees working in jobs with lower wages, higher turnover and high rates of public contact typically lack access to paid leave. Businesses with five or more employees must provide paid earned sick and safe leave.

Employers with fewer than five employees must provide unpaid leave, and they can choose to provide paid leave. The ordinance would allow employees to earn a minimum of one hour of sick and safe leave for every 30 hours worked up to a maximum of 48 hours in a year.

In addition to the business and economic pieces of the discussion, the City Council looked at the ordinance from a public health perspective. If the pandemic taught us anything, it’s that limiting the spread of contagious illness is good for public health and benefits everyone.

Sick leave would be used when employees need to care for their health or the health of another member of their household by going to the doctor, resting or healing. Safe leave would be used when an employee is experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking. The safe leave hours could be used for going to court to get a restraining order, counseling, relocation or talking to a lawyer.

According to the new ordinance, current employees can use accrued time as soon as they have accrued it. New employees can start using their accrued time 90 days after they begin employment. As part of the ordinance, accrued and available hours must be listed on employee paystubs.

Visit blm.mn/essl for more information.

EMPLOYER SIZE	SICK AND SAFE LEAVE HOURS REQUIRED	PAY FOR SICK AND SAFE LEAVE HOURS
Five or more employees	1 hour for every 30 hours worked	Required
Fewer than five employees	1 hour for every 30 hours worked	Up to employer

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The state legislature had a productive session this year. In addition to approving Bloomington City Council’s request to allow Bloomington voters to weigh in on a half-cent local option sales tax, *read more on page 1*, many other legislative decisions will have an impact in Bloomington.

BONDING BILL

The City is set to receive \$1.8 million in bonding money for design of the Public Health building and \$2.272 million for design of capital improvements and renovations to Bloomington Ice Garden. The City had sought funding of just over \$25 million for two projects.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The public safety bill includes money for cities and Bloomington has been allocated \$3.98 million in one-time funding. “This will allow for some strategic investments, likely items such as equipment and technology,” Mayor Tim Busse said.

POLICIES THAT WILL HAVE AN IMPACT

Many policy issues to come out of this session will affect Bloomington, including the legalization of marijuana, state adoption of earned sick and safe leave and affordable housing.

“It’s going to take some time to sort out exactly how Bloomington will be impacted. You’ll be hearing more about these things in the coming weeks and months,” Mayor Busse said.

BRIEFING

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The *Briefing*, published monthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to residents and businesses. Direct your comments and requests for Braille, larger print or computer file to Communications Administrator Janine Hill, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3071; PH 952-563-8819; MN Relay 711; FAX 952-563-8715; Email: jhill@BloomingtonMN.gov Website: BloomingtonMN.gov

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SMALL BUSINESS CENTER COMING SOON

Planning for Bloomington’s first small business center is underway. The project repurposes a former fire station into a space where Bloomington entrepreneurs can be supported, co-work, innovate and collaborate in a community space. The small business center will serve as a hub for innovation for everyone with an emphasis on businesses owned by Black, Indigenous and People of Color, and artist- and youth-led businesses. Construction is expected to begin in late 2023. The center is projected to be open by the end of 2024.

The small business center advisory group gathered community input about their hopes for the building, which are reflected in the rendering, *above*. Next steps are to do much deeper engagement with the neighbors near the small business center location.

“This is such a community-driven project and we want the community to be fully bought in to recognize that this is for them,” Jeff Aguy, founder and CEO of 2043 SBC and lead facilitator for the advisory group, said. ‘It’s a true collaboration between the private sector, public sector and philanthropy, but most importantly, it’s collaboration between community members.’”

Learn more and let project coordinators know what you’d like to see at the small business center open house August 5, 1 – 3 p.m., at 2050 East 86th Street.

Can’t make it to the open house? Let the City know what you think online at blm.mn/letstalk. Learn more at blm.mn/small-business.

TIPS FOR HOME AND YARD IMPROVEMENTS

Home improvement season has arrived. And Bloomington’s Building and Inspections Division would like to offer some tips for homeowners working in their homes or yards this summer.

If you’re working outside, be sure to call 811 before you dig to have utilities marked so that underground utilities, such as gas lines, are not mistakenly hit. For details or to schedule your utilities to be marked, call 800-252-1166 or visit call811.com.

If working with a contractor, outdoors or indoors, make sure they are licensed with the Department of Labor and Industry. Unlicensed contractors can result in safety issues and errors. You can check on licenses at secure.doli.state.mn.us.

Insurance companies may require proof of permitting and inspection to cover home remodels and upgrades as well as damage to remodeled homes. To check if a permit is required, call 952-563-8930 or email Inspections@BloomingtonMN.gov before starting the work.



HOW TO FILE AS A CANDIDATE FOR CITY COUNCIL

Interested in serving your community as an elected official? Candidate filing for Bloomington mayor and city council offices will be open August 1 – 15. Bloomington residents who wish to run for office must submit an affidavit of candidacy and a \$50 filing fee at the Bloomington City Clerk’s Office, located on the first floor of Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. For details about candidate filing, visit blm.mn/voting.

The November 7 ballot will include races for mayor, councilmember at-large, councilmember at-large (two-year term) and all four district councilmembers. Interested to see who has filed for office? Visit mnvotes.org and select “What’s on my ballot?”

For questions about elections, contact the City Clerk’s Office, 952-563-8729 or cityclerk@bloomingtonmn.gov.

SERVE AS AN ELECTION JUDGE

The City is hiring election judges to staff its polling places for the November 7 City and School District election. Election judges provide a vital service to their community. Those who are hired receive training and are paid for their time. For more information or to complete an online application, visit blm.mn/election-judges or call 952-563-8729.



WHAT’S IMPORTANT TO YOU FOR THE 2024 CITY BUDGET?

What City services are most worth the investment in your opinion? Let your voice be heard in the City’s 2024 budget planning process by visiting blm.mn/letstalk or stopping by one of these events:

- Saturday, July 8, 9 – 11 a.m., at the Farmers Market at Civic Plaza in the east parking lot, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.
- Monday, July 10, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., at the Todd ‘n’ Tina show at Moir Park, 10320 Morgan Ave South.
- Wednesday, July 19, 5 – 7 p.m., at the Paul Holland Blues Band show and Midweek Music and Market at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.
- Thursday, July 27, 6 – 8 p.m., at Latin Night with Salsa Del Soul at Normandale Lake Bandshell, 5901 West 84th Street.
- Sunday, July 30, 4 – 6 p.m., at the Bob & the Beachcombers show at Bush Lake Beach, 9140 East Bush Lake Road.

Learn more about the budget planning process on the City’s website at blm.mn/budget or call 952-563-8790.

SAVE THE DATE: BABY GEAR SWAP EVENT

If you have baby gear you are no longer using or if you need baby gear, this event is for you. The City of Bloomington is hosting a baby gear swap event, Sunday, August 20, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., at Moir Park, 10320 Morgan Avenue South. Swap events are one of the many initiatives offered by the City as part of its commitment to sustainability.

Watch for more swap event details in the August *Briefing* and on the City’s website at blm.mn/swaps.



Goldfish start small, but can grow large in large water bodies. The supersized goldfish shown here was caught in lower Penn Lake last summer.

KEEP YOUR FISH IN THE BOWL

Don’t dump unwanted goldfish or other aquarium fish in outside bodies of water. While it could seem like you are giving the fish its freedom, it is inhumane and illegal to release goldfish into the environment.

Goldfish are members of the carp family. These hardy creatures can live year around, even through a Minnesota winter, if the water doesn’t freeze or lose its oxygen. Once in a water body, it’s hard to remove them. Removal requires tracking and tracing, which is costly. There is also the cost of fixing any damage they cause.

“Goldfish are an invasive species,” Water Resources Specialist Jack Distel said. “They host diseases that can result in large die-offs and an unhealthy fish community.”

To report goldfish in local bodies of water, call 952-563-8748. For more information about responsible goldfish ownership, visit blm.mn/goldfish.

WATER REBATES CONSERVE MONEY AND WATER

Irrigation systems, toilets, clothes washers, and dishwashers can use a lot of water, and older models don’t necessarily use it efficiently. Newer models can reduce water use up to 40%. For example, if you replace an old toilet with an EPA WaterSense model the average family would save money on their water bill and about 6,000 gallons of water annually.

Bloomington water customers are encouraged to apply for a water bill rebate when they purchase:

- WaterSense certified toilets, irrigation smart controllers, and sprinkler bodies.
- Energy Star certified dishwashers and clothes washers,
- Water saving rain barrels.

For more details, including how to apply, visit blm.mn/waterrebates or contact Public Works at ebiales@bloomingtonmn.gov or 952-563-8730.



Duckweed typically consists of a cluster of leaves with tiny roots that hang down into the water. It prefers water rich in nutrients, such as phosphorus, found in residential and agricultural runoff.

CITY TEAMS UP TO STUDY POND PLANTS’ EFFECT ON WATER QUALITY

The City is partnering with the University of Minnesota to study how aquatic plants, particularly duckweed, affect Bloomington ponds.

Duckweed is a tiny floating plant that is often found in ponds. It can grow quickly, covering the surface of the water. The researchers will investigate how duckweed and submerged aquatic plants affect the water quality of ponds.

The project is part of the City’s efforts to improve the health and sustainability of its ponds and other bodies of water. The study’s findings will be used to help the City make informed decisions about how to manage its ponds in the future.

For information about water resources in Bloomington and what you can do to help water quality, visit blm.mn/water-resources.



PREVENTING AND AVOIDING BLUE-GREEN ALGAE BLOOMS

Blue-green algae, Cyanobacteria for those in the know, is common in Minnesota. Most of the time it is harmless. However, nutrient pollution, like phosphorus and nitrogen, can increase the algae bloom, which usually begins in July.

When blooming, the algae often has a green look and it can make humans, dogs and other animals sick. It can also cause skin irritation.

If exposed to the algae, dogs may experience vomiting, diarrhea, rash, difficulty breathing, weakness, liver failure, and seizures. Contact your veterinarian immediately if you think your dog has been exposed.

HOW YOU CAN HELP REDUCE ALGAE BLOOMS

Algae blooms thrive on nutrients, like phosphorus. This comes from fertilizer and lawn waste, like grass clippings. Reducing fertilizer use and keeping yard waste off pavement can help reduce phosphorus in waterways, and these dangerous algae blooms. For more information, visit blm.mn/water-quality.

TIPS FOR PROPER BATTERY DISPOSAL

Rechargeable batteries contain toxic metals and can’t be placed in home trash or recycling carts. They pose a threat if improperly disposed. In Bloomington, you can drop off button, lithium ion and all other rechargeable batteries at the South Hennepin Recycling and Problem Waste Drop-off Center, 1400 West 96th Street.

Single-use AA, AAA and other alkaline batteries are also accepted for recycling at the drop-off center. They do not contain hazardous material so they may be disposed of in the trash. Never place any battery in your recycling cart.

Hennepin County requires damaged lithium-ion batteries to be placed individually in a clear plastic bag. Single-use batteries should be placed in a clear plastic bag or have the positive (+) and negative (-) terminals of batteries covered in clear tape to prevent fires.

For more information, blm.mn/batteries.



OFFICER OF THE YEAR: DESMOND DANIELS

Bloomington Police Officer Desmond Daniels is the Optimist Club’s 2023 Officer of the Year and the recipient of the “Respect for Law” Award. He was honored by the Bloomington Optimist Club at its May 11 recognition dinner. Officers nominated for this award are consistently exemplary officers who have upheld the core value of BPD, demonstrating respect through compassionate and honest service.

Officer Daniels was also recognized as a Bloomington Pioneer and Changemaker this year. This series recognizes Black leaders in the community making a difference. Watch his video feature at blm.mn/desmond.

Officer Desmond has been a police officer for 16 years. He’s been with the City since 2019. He is a co-leader of the BPD Racial Equity Action Team, which organized a community gathering for police officers and residents of a local apartment complex that have had regular calls for service, among other initiatives.

“I believe being a police officer is one of the best professions in the world. Although it is very challenging, the risk is worth the reward,” Desmond said. “One of my favorite things about my job is connecting with the community. I feel it is important for police and community members to see each other outside of the times when 911 is called.”

“During the past year, Officer Daniels has gone above and beyond excellent work at his primary assignment at Mall of America and he has been very active in community engagement,” Police Chief Booker Hodges said.

DON’T MISS THE FUN: REGISTER YOUR NATIONAL NIGHT OUT PARTY

Fun, food and neighborhood friends, National Night Out is an annual favorite. The event is designed to encourage neighbors to engage in stronger relationships with each other and local law enforcement partners. Connected and engaged neighborhoods are safer neighborhoods. The 40th annual National Night Out will be Tuesday, August 1.

“National Night Out is one of the highlights of the summer for many neighborhoods,” said Crime Prevention Specialist Katie Zerull. “From ice cream socials, potlucks and games to photo boards, themed events and viewing the chalk art contest, it is a highlight for the neighborhoods and for us in public safety as well. We hope every neighborhood will join the fun.”

If you would like a Bloomington Police Department or Fire Department visitor at your party, your neighborhood must be registered. Registration is open now and closes on July 23. For more details or to register, visit blm.mn/nno or call 952-563-4900.



Pictured left to right: Officer Ian Anderson, Officer William Markham, Explorers Jaylen Denson, Luke Baukol, Nick Kattreh-Kuritz, Payton Ordahl, Officer Matt Jones, Detective Carla Magaard, and Officer Michaela Smith.

BLOOMINGTON POLICE EXPLORERS HONORED FOR EXCELLENCE IN CRIME PREVENTION

The Bloomington Police Explorers were recognized for their work at the Minnesota Law Enforcement Explorer Association’s 48th annual state conference in Rochester in May. The BPD Explorer team took home a first-place trophy in crime prevention, and third place in white-collar crime. Explorers Luke Baukol and Nick Kattreh-Kuritz also took home trophies for placing first and fifth respectively in the pistol competition events.

“Teaching my profession to young people year after year both strengthens my own skills in law enforcement and reminds me why this profession is so unique,” program advisor Detective Carla Magaard said. “I enjoy interacting with the young people in the program in a learning environment and watching them grow. Many of our explorers have gone into military or law enforcement professions and it’s rewarding to see them build skills that will help with their futures.”

To learn more about next year’s BPD Explorer program, visit blm.mn/explorers.



MEET A FIREFIGHTER: ROBERT WEIDMAN

Robert Weidman is one of 20 firefighters who were welcomed into the Bloomington Fire Department in April. Prior to the month-long training he received through the BFD, Weisman earned an associate degree in fire science, and certifications in firefighting and emergency medicine. He is currently working on a bachelor’s degree in fire administration.

“I have a passion for the fire service,” Weidman said. “I have worked full time for two other cities and a federal defense contractor. Besides part-time firefighting, I have also worked part time as a deckhand, a lifeguard, an EMT and a paramedic.”

His wife, Amy, and their two children, Arthur and Zoey, are proud of his service.

Weidman said he encourages others to seek ride-along opportunities if they are considering a career in fire service. Learn more about the BFD at blm.mn/fire.

DON’T RISK A GAP IN YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE

Renew your Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare to avoid losing coverage.

Due to a new federal law, special rules by the Minnesota Department of Human Services that kept people enrolled during the COVID-19 emergency are expiring. To keep health care coverage, people must renew their coverage.

MinnesotaCare renewals will be processed October – December 2023. Medical Assistance renewals are being processed now through May 2024, based on the month that you applied.

WATCH FOR YOUR RENEWAL IN YOUR MAIL

A renewal packet with a blue circle and marked “Important information enclosed” should be in your mailbox soon. Make sure your address and contact information are up to date, so your packet finds you.

“It is easy to miss important information in the mail,” Bloomington Public Health Project Coordinator Annika Carlson said. “We want people to avoid losing their health insurance.”

For complete information, visit mn.gov/dhs/renewmycoverage or call 651-297-3862.



**FARE FOR ALL OFFERS
GREAT FOOD SAVINGS
FOR EVERYONE**

Fare for All, a pop-up grocery store that sells packs of fresh produce and frozen meat at up to 40% off retail prices, pops into Bloomington for its monthly visit on Friday, July 21, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South.

A nonprofit organization called The Food Group organizes these food sales at Creekside in partnership with the City. There are no qualifications, income restrictions or pre-registration required. Shopping is open to all.

So stop by, fill out an order slip for the packs you want, and pay the cashier. A volunteer will even help get your order to your vehicle. For more information, call 952-563-4944 or visit thefoodgroupmn.org.

**LEARNING LINK UP
EVENT RETURNS**

Bloomington Public Schools, in partnership with the City of Bloomington and others, is bringing back the Learning Link Up resource fair on Saturday, August 12, 12 – 4 p.m., at Kennedy High School, 9701 Nicollet Avenue South.

This free event focuses on connecting families to the resources and services available to help them thrive. All school district departments, Bloomington schools, Normandale Community College, area business partners, and City departments such as Police, Parks and Recreation, Public Health, Community Outreach and Engagement and more will be at the event.

“I love working with our school district partners to connect the families we both serve,” said Nick Kelley, Bloomington’s public health administrator. “It’s not often you see district services, City services, and other partners together at a single event. It’s one reason why Bloomington remains an enduring and remarkable community where people want to be.”



**REGIONAL LIFEGUARD GAMES
SHARPEN SKILLS**

The Bloomington Family Aquatic Center, 201 East 90th Street, will host the 2023 Twin Cities Regional Lifeguard Games on July 30. Ten teams of four lifeguards each are expected to participate.

“Lifeguard games offer area lifeguards the chance to test their skills and knowledge against other lifeguards in a fun, but competitive lifeguard competition with water rescues, first aid and CPR scenarios,” Recreation Supervisor David Benson said.

The City offers an internal competition to decide which four Bloomington lifeguards will compete at the regional games. Teams sign up and the Minnesota Recreation and Parks Association issues waivers that allow them to participate. The public is not permitted inside the facility to watch, but can view the competitions from outside the fenced area of the pool space. To learn more about the events and happenings at Bloomington Family Aquatic Center, visit blm.mn/bfac.

BLOOMINGTON LIFEGUARDS BY THE NUMBERS

50-60	Lifeguards hired annually.
60	Hours of training new lifeguards receive to become certified.
8	Hours of ongoing training certified lifeguards receive every two weeks.

FRIDAY ADULT SWIM NIGHT IS BACK

Looking to kick off your weekend with a refreshing dip in a pool? Every other Friday night from 7 – 8:30 p.m., the Bloomington Family Aquatic Center hosts an adult swim. Join other adults, 18 and older, for a swim on Fridays, June 23, July 7 and 21, and August 4 and 18. Participants can use their 2023 season pass or pay the twilight admission fee of \$8 for ages 18 – 54, and \$7 for ages 55 and up. I.D.’s will be required upon entry. For more information, visit blm.mn/bfac.



BIG WANTS TO HELP YOU CELEBRATE!

Did you know that you can host parties at Bloomington Ice Garden? From birthdays to special events, BIG offers one hour of private ice rental that includes an entire sheet of ice, a private room and free rental skates for just \$250 (plus tax). Bring in your own food and beverages or purchase them from BIG concessions. Either way, BIG staff provides a cool and clean space for your party—and they clean up afterwards!

If your guests are not skilled skaters, don’t worry. Skating instructors are available at \$50 per hour per instructor to help your party guests learn to skate.

Along with parties, BIG classes and open skating times offer a great way to stay cool this summer. To make a reservation or learn more about classes and open skate, call 952-563-8841 or visit BIG@bloomingtonmn.gov.



A sample of flowers bursting with color at Dwan Golf Course over the summer.

DWAN GOLF COURSE BLOOMS WITH CARE

Pauline Wiech, *left*, and Anna Miller, *right*, have been making Dwan Golf course burst with color for the past three summers. For about six months each year, they spend 15 – 20 hours a week planting more than 2,000 seedlings and countless zinnia seeds. They also split and transplant the many perennials on the course.

“We love color, so we pick flowers that are vibrant and have big, long-lasting blooms,” Wiech said. “And that are tolerant of Minnesota’s fickle weather!” Miller added.

Working with nature and adapting to its frequent changes, Anna and Pauline plant and tend more than 40 flower beds throughout the course, parking lot and club house.

Stop by Dwan Golf Course, 3301 West 110th Street, to golf a few rounds and see the wide variety of flowers on display throughout the warm season: calibrachoa, coleus, dahlias, geraniums, hibiscus, impatiens, lavender marigolds, milkweed, portulaca, snapdragons, sweet potato vine and zinnias, just to name a few. If you don’t want to golf, you can still view the flowers around the clubhouse and parking lot.



AT YOUR SERVICE: TWO FRIENDLY FACES YOU’LL SEE AT DWAN

Lesley and Rob Fuglister are quite a dynamic golf duo and regular smiling faces at Bloomington’s Dwan Golf Course. Rob has been a starter ranger for nine seasons. His wife Lesley began working there, too, one season later as a golf shop associate.

Lesley, who takes tee time reservations and payments, is often the first point of contact for golfers.

“The best part of my job is getting to know our regular golfers and reconnecting with them every season,” Lesley said. “We all have something in common. We love to play golf!”

As a starter ranger, Rob greets golfers and directs them to their starting hole. “If they are new, I give them some tips on how to navigate the course.”

Though their jobs are different, they share the same goal to make playing at Dwan a happy and memorable experience.

“Dwan is a friendly place to work and play,” Lesley said. “Dwan is the most fun course to play in the state of Minnesota,” Rob shared. “I encourage folks to come out and find out why.”

To schedule a tee time and meet the friendly Dwan staff, visit blm.mn/dwan.



EXPLORE THE TASTES OF SUMMER AT BLOOMINGTON FARMERS MARKETS

Start your weekend with a stop at the Farmers Market running Saturdays through October 14, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Enjoy fresh foods, ready-to-eat foods, fresh plants, community tables, crafts, and live music that starts at 11 a.m.

For a midweek break, the Midweek Music and Market series offers a farmers market, food trucks and live music, on Wednesdays, July 12 – August 23, 5 – 8 p.m. Get all the details, including a list of musical performances at blm.mn/market.

SAVE THE DATE: HERE AND NOW—INSTRUCTIONS FOR LISTENING

Join a pop-up activity that will encourage deep listening in the South Loop District on Sunday, July 23, 1 – 7 p.m., at the Old Cedar bridge trailhead, 9898 Old Cedar Avenue South. This activity is initiated and guided by Tara Tanagidan To Win and Sandy Spieler. Visit blm.mn/herenow for more information.



ARTS IN THE PARKS

Check these Arts in the Parks events happening in July. Learn more at blm.mn/artsparks.

MONDAY MORNING KIDS’ SERIES

Performances occur on Mondays at 10:30 a.m., Moir Park, 10320 Morgan Avenue South, or Valley View Park, 401 East 90th Street.

July 10: Todd ‘n’ Tina (Moir)

July 17: The Bazillions (Valley View)

July 24: Wonder Weavers Storytellers (Moir)

July 31: Bob the Beachcomber (Valley View)

TUESDAY NIGHT NORMANDALE LAKE PERFORMANCE SERIES

All shows begin at 7 p.m., Normandale Lake Bandshell 84th Street and Chalet Road.

July 11: Brio Brass.

July 18: Jazz on the Prairie Big Band.

July 25: Medalist Concert Band.

THURSDAY NIGHT BLOCKBUSTER SERIES

Food and beer service starts at 6:30 p.m. Shows start at 7 p.m., Normandale Lake Bandshell.

July 13: ‘90s Revisited with Flannel.

July 20: Blues and BBQ with Lamont Cranston Band.

July 27: Latin Music Night with Salsa del Soul.

SUNDAY FUNDAY

Events take place 4 – 6:30 p.m.

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 Bush Lake Road.

LATINO CONSERVATION WEEK FESTIVAL

Celebrate the cultures that make up the Latino community and the nature that connects us all. Join the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, the City and Indigenous Roots for a day of music, art and food Saturday, July 22, 1 – 5 p.m., at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge visitor center, 3815 American Boulevard East. Learn more at blm.mn/lcw-festival.



ENJOY PUBLIC ART THIS SUMMER

There is no shortage of public art in Bloomington. Summer is the perfect time to walk or bike to local murals, sculptures and installations. Check out a few of the City's public art projects from the last two years below. Visit blm.mn/placemaking for a full list of public art projects in the city.



HOMETOWN POETRY

The goals of Hometown Poetry are to celebrate art and literature and integrate it into our communities, highlight the talent of Bloomington writers and bring a sense of surprise, delight and contemplation to pedestrians. You can find creative sign installations at Valley View Park, 9000 Portland Avenue South, Effa Playlot, 8330 4th Avenue South, Fenlason Park, 7901 1st Avenue South.



STREET SEAT

Using reclaimed materials from retired Minnesota Department of Transportation signs, artist Greg Mueller created Street Seat, an art installation and functional swing in South Loop at 8100 33rd Avenue South.



BLOOMING RIBBON

Blooming Ribbon, created by artist Kao Lee Thao, reflects the wildlife and plants in the South Loop. You can find it at 8100 33rd Avenue South.



WE MURAL

At 752 feet long, the WE Mural is one of the longest murals in Minnesota. It's at the corner of American Boulevard and 30th Avenue South. Artists are Andrés Guzmán and Xee Reiter, City Mischief featuring Thomasina Topbear and Tom Jay, Marlena Myles, Martzia Thometz, Reggie LeFlore and Ua Si Creative.

LOOKING FOR MORE? TAKE THE SOUTH LOOP PUBLIC ART AUDIO TOUR

Take a self-guided tour to learn more about South Loop art and artists with the free Otocast App available for use on your smartphone. Use the location-based app to find and interact with 35 public art projects in South Loop. Detailed descriptions, photos, directions and audio clips, including artist interviews, tell the stories behind the artwork you'll see on the tour. Learn more at blm.mn/placemaking.