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BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING

JUNE 2025

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
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BLOOMINGTON'S OUTDOOR FARMERS MARKET OPENS ON SATURDAY, JUNE 7. MAKE YOUR WAY TO THE MARKET EVERY SATURDAY, 8 A.M.-1 P.M., IN THE EAST LOT AT CIVIC PLAZA, 1800 W. OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD. ZUCCHINI, RHUBARB, CARROTS AND BEETS ARE JUST A FEW OF THE TYPES OF SEASONAL PRODUCE YOU'LL FIND. LEARN MORE AT [BLM.MN/MARKET](https://blm.mn/market).



Artist Ta-coumba T. Aiken creating a mural at the 2024 Juneteenth celebration.

CELEBRATE JUNETEENTH IN BLOOMINGTON

Join us on Saturday, June 21, 12-5:30 p.m., at Valley View Middle School Field, 8900 Portland Ave., for a day of history, culture and community. The City’s Juneteenth celebration honors the resilience, freedom and contributions of Black communities while reflecting on the holiday’s historical significance. Enjoy live performances, speakers, family-friendly activities and free food while supplies last. All are welcome! In the case of rain, the event will be held inside Valley View Middle School.

BLOOMINGTON PRIDE MN CELEBRATION RETURNS JUNE 22

Everyone is invited to the fifth Annual Bloomington Pride Festival on Sunday, June 22, 1-6 p.m. Hosted by Bloomington Pride MN, a nonprofit dedicated to empowering and celebrating the LGBTQ+ community, this vibrant event brings thousands together for a day of joy, inclusivity and pride. Enjoy live entertainment and music, food trucks, vendors, community and culture. Get all the details at bloomingtonpridemn.org.



CELEBRATE NATIONAL HOMEOWNERSHIP MONTH

June is National Homeownership Month—a time to celebrate homeownership and explore affordable housing opportunities. The Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority is committed to making homeownership accessible, affordable and equitable for families and individuals who may not have access through traditional markets.

HRA’s MISSION

The mission of the HRA is to create a stable and inclusive community through dignified housing choices.

UPCOMING EVENTS

HOME STRETCH WORKSHOP

Learn how to make informed financial decisions when purchasing your first home. Participants will earn a first-time homebuyer certification to qualify for downpayment assistance programs. Check here for upcoming workshops offered in Bloomington at blm.mn/journey.

JOURNEY TO HOMEOWNERSHIP WORKSHOPS

Free one-hour introductory workshops designed for first-time homebuyers. Workshops are available in multiple languages. Check blm.mn/journey for upcoming workshops.

HRA RESOURCES

HOME IMPROVEMENT LOAN PROGRAM

It is anticipated that applications will begin being accepted later this summer. Learn more and apply online at blm.mn/homeloans.

Visit blm.mn/hraresources to access the 2024 Annual Housing Report and more resources. Let’s make homeownership a reality for everyone in Bloomington.

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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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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.



PROTECT OUR LAKES BY JOINING THE LAKE PLEDGE TODAY

Bush Lake and Penn Lake are Bloomington treasures, and they need your help to thrive. Individuals and groups can take simple, effective actions to protect local waters and stop the spread of harmful aquatic invasive species by signing up for the Lake Pledge.

Developed in partnership with lake associations to help slow the spread of aquatic invasive species, Lake Pledge is taking on invasive species that threaten native fish and plants, damage lake recreation, harm human health and lower property values.

“Together, we can show that Bloomington really cares about its lakes,” said Tony Brough, Hennepin County Water Resource Group member and proud new caretaker, along with his wife Denise, of the Izaak Walton League—Bush Lake Chapter cabin property. “Small actions by many people can create lasting change.”

Right now, Christmas Lake, Weaver Lake, and Cedar Island Lake are leading the competition. Sign up today at lakepledge.com to rally for Bush Lake and Penn Lake and make them the best lakes in Minnesota.



ARTISTRY PRESENTS “SINGIN’ IN THE RAIN”

Artistry will present “Singin’ in the Rain” at the Schneider Theater from July 31 to August 24 at the Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road. Based on the 1952 film, this production features classic Hollywood songs and standards, well-known dance numbers and several hilarious situations sure to entertain all fans.

Performances take place Thursdays through Sundays, with select weekday and matinee showings. Tickets range from \$34-\$64. For showtimes and tickets, visit artistrymn.org.

ARTS IN THE PARKS: SUMMER FETE COMING SOON

Join us Thursday, July 3, 5-10:30 p.m., for what has become the true “ringing in” of Independence Day in the Twin Cities. This festival, which culminates in one of Minnesota’s largest fireworks displays, takes place annually on July 3 at Normandale Lake Park, W. 84th St. and Normandale Blvd.

Visit blm.mn/artsparks for more Arts in the Parks events.

SENIOR PROGRAMS MOVING TO LOGAN LODGE

As Creekside Community Center prepares to close in mid-2025 to make way for the new Community Health and Wellness Center, 95% of senior programs will relocate to Logan Lodge, 9930 Logan Ave. S. The space opens June 16 and will serve as a temporary home for several popular programs.

Card groups, needleworking, crafting programs and other activities will move to Logan Lodge while fitness programs will take place at the Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road.

For more information or to sign up for the 50+ program mailer, visit bloomingtonforward.org/chwc.



TURTLES GET A SAFER ROUTE — AND SO DO WE!

Big news for our small, shelled neighbors. A study by the Minnesota Zoo’s Field Conservation Department found that East Bush Lake Road is a dangerous crossing for turtles, especially near the Richardson Nature Center, due to heavy traffic and sharp curves.

Now, help is on the way. This summer, the City will replace the existing culvert with a wildlife-friendly archpipe, giving turtles and other critters a safe path under the road. It’s a win for wildlife and a win for public safety.

Heads up: East Bush Lake Road will close for a couple of weeks during construction for the turtles, but don’t worry, work will be done before Hennepin County resurfaces East Bush Lake Road between Old Shakopee Road and Chalet Road later this summer.



HEALTHY LIVING & SUSTAINABILITY FAIRS OFFER RESOURCES, TOOLS AND FREEBIES

Join us at Bloomington’s Healthy Living & Sustainability Fairs for resources, tools and freebies to help you live healthier and greener! Bloomington Public Health and Sustainability staff will offer expert advice on everything from reducing waste and saving energy to accessing free health resources. Fairs are on Wednesdays, June 25, July 23 and August 13, 2-4 p.m., at the Penn Lake Library, 8800 Penn Ave. S. Plus, enjoy giveaways like compost bins, LED bulbs and reusable water bottles. Free snacks and refreshments are also provided while supplies last.

Come to one or all and bring a friend. For more information, visit blm.mn/libraryfairs.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR: HOME ENERGY WORKSHOP

Enjoy a no-cost, light dinner and hear experts share information about home energy efficiency, electrification and solar energy at the Home Energy Workshop on Wednesday, August 7, 6:30-8 p.m., Black Box Theater, Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road.

RSVP online at blm.mn/homeenergy. Questions? Contact Jamila Boudlali at jboudlali@BloomingtonMN.gov or 952-563-8732.



SUPPORT CRIME PREVENTION AT THE BOOK 'EM SALE

The Bloomington Crime Prevention Association invites you to join in its 30th Annual Book 'Em Used Book Sale, at 10779 Hampshire Ave. S., to support local crime prevention programs. Here's what you need to know:

- Preview night:** June 6, 4-8 p.m.
- Admission:** \$10 per person. BCPA member cardholders get in free.
- Sale dates:** June 7-21.
- Hours:** Monday-Friday, 1-7 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.- 5 p.m.
- What's offered:** Volunteers have inspected, sorted and organized an array of items by subject. Find books, Blu-rays, DVDs, CDs, movies, records, puzzles and even games all arranged for a fun and easy browsing experience.
- All proceeds from the sale are turned into grants for Bloomington organizations committed to crime prevention, making this event a win-win.
- For more details, visit bcpamn.org or email board@bcpamn.org.



PUBLIC HEALTH'S IMPACT IN 2024

Bloomington Public Health serves Bloomington, Edina and Richfield. Its 2024 annual report showcases BPH's mission to promote, protect and improve community health. Highlights include:

- Addressing the mental health crisis through collaborative efforts with stakeholders.
- Supporting early childhood development.
- Responding to infectious diseases—timely and effective measures to respond to outbreaks and protect public health.

Read the full report at blm.mn/health2024.

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REGISTER YOUR NATIONAL NIGHT OUT PARTY TODAY

Join the celebration on National Night Out, August 5, a beloved summer tradition bringing neighborhoods together for fun, connection and community safety. Now in its 42nd year, NNO is all about building stronger ties with your neighbors and with your local Police and Fire departments. From ice cream socials and potlucks to games and chalk art, every party is a unique summer highlight for residents and public safety teams alike.

Whether it's your first year or you've been doing this for decades, make this one memorable! To have a Police or Fire crew stop by, be sure to register your party by July 24. Sign up at blm.mn/nno or call 952-563-8808.

OPTIMIST CLUB HONORS OUTSTANDING POLICE STAFF

The Optimist Club and the Bloomington Police Department recently recognized Detective Kristin Boomer with the Respect for Law Officer of the Year award.

Detective Kristin Boomer, *photo top right*, was recognized for her professionalism, investigative skill and compassionate service. Since joining BPD in 2006, she has contributed to key initiatives including:

- State-level working groups on public safety reform.
- Domestic Abuse Fatality Review Board.
- ICAC Task Force and trauma-informed investigation training.
- Policy development and peer support.

Detective Boomer's leadership and dedication continue to leave a lasting impact on the department and community.

The Bloomington Police Department also recognized Christine Thelen, *photo middle right*, as their Civilian Staff Member of the Year. Thelen was honored for her service and commitment to community engagement and internal support. Highlights of her impact include:

- Organizing a volunteer event at Feed My Starving Children, resulting in nearly 300 boxes packed—enough to feed 177 children for a year.
- Securing a grant for sensory kits to support neurodivergent and nonverbal individuals during police interactions.
- Advocating for civilian staff through union representation and workplace support.

Stay up to date on BPD online at blm.mn/police.



PROPOSED CHANGES TO SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL

To improve winter walking conditions and better align with other City snow removal operations, the City of Bloomington has hosted conversations about adjustments to its sidewalk snowplowing routes. Public engagement on proposed changes began in March via the Let's Talk Bloomington, virtual open houses and in person events including the Indoor Farmers Market.

To achieve completion times comparable to street plowing, certain sidewalk plowing routes on low-volume residential roads would be shortened and the existing ordinance requiring property owners to clear adjacent sidewalks would be enforced.

Residents are invited to review the proposed route map and submit feedback on Let's Talk Bloomington at blm.mn/sidewalk-snow. The City Council will decide on a proposed route reduction in July. Questions? Call 952-563-8765.

