

FIND US ON BLOOMINGTONMN.GOV



# BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING

SEPTEMBER 2025

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

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

ECRWSS  
POSTAL CUSTOMER

CELEBRATE  
HISPANIC  
HERITAGE

PAGE 2

COMMUNITY  
CENTER  
FAQ

PAGE 6

MEET  
DUNKIN

PAGE 7

READ MORE ABOUT THIS NEW MURAL AT THE OLD CEDAR AVENUE BRIDGE TRAILHEAD ON PAGE 3.





# MAYOR’S MEMO

## CITY COUNCIL SETS PRELIMINARY 2026 LEVY

By Mayor Tim Busse

Every year, the City Council approves a budget that funds the services we all rely on—from public safety to public works and parks and recreation. Like many communities, we’re feeling some pressures: funding sources that are expiring, rising costs and aging infrastructure. To address these challenges, Bloomington is trying something new this year called priority-based budgeting. It helps us take a hard look at our City programs, focus on what the community values most and make some smart, sustainable decisions for the future.

We’ve heard in the past that residents want to be involved earlier in the budget conversation. In August, the Council held a study session to dive into the 2026 budget. At that meeting, we set aside time on the agenda specifically for public comment. If you weren’t able to make the meeting, you can share your thoughts online at [blm.mn/budgetfeedback](http://blm.mn/budgetfeedback). The preliminary budget and levy will be set on September 8. We’ll continue to refine things through the fall, and the final budget will be adopted on December 22. The City’s website has a wealth of information. Learn more at [blm.mn/budget](http://blm.mn/budget).

## NEW RESIDENT? CONNECT WITH NEW NEIGHBORS AT A WELCOME MEETING

The September new resident meeting will be held on Saturday, September 13, 9-11 a.m., in the Council Chambers at Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road. The format this year will consist of networking and resources tables. Residents will have the opportunity to drop in and stop by resource tables to make connections and learn about City services. Registration is encouraged. Sign up online at [blm.mn/welcome](http://blm.mn/welcome).



## CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Join the community to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month and the independence of several Latin American countries at Celebrando las Fiestas Patrias Sunday, September 21, 3-9 p.m., at Bloomington Central Station Park, 8101 31st Ave. S. This free, family-friendly event will feature live music and dance performances, including national anthems sung by Miguel Angel Fernandez and sets by Los Parranderos and the Chinelos Band. Enjoy food trucks, kids activities, a mechanical bull, face painting and more. For more information, visit [blm.mn/hispanic-heritage](http://blm.mn/hispanic-heritage).

BLOOMINGTONMN.GOV

# BRIEFING

Volume 32, Number 09

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](mailto:jhill@BloomingtonMN.gov) Website: [BloomingtonMN.gov](http://BloomingtonMN.gov)

### BLOOMINGTON CITY COUNCIL



**Mayor**  
Tim Busse  
952-563-8782 (w)  
952-457-7506 (c)  
[tbusse@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:tbusse@BloomingtonMN.gov)



**Councilmember At Large**  
Jenna Carter  
612-284-8751  
[jcarter@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:jcarter@BloomingtonMN.gov)



**Councilmember At Large**  
Chao Moua  
763-229-7582  
[cmoua@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:cmoua@BloomingtonMN.gov)



**Councilmember District I**  
Dwayne Lowman  
952-270-2377  
[dlowman@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:dlowman@BloomingtonMN.gov)



**Councilmember District II**  
Shawn Nelson  
952-479-0471  
[snelson@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:snelson@BloomingtonMN.gov)



**Councilmember District III**  
Lona Dallessandro  
612-231-6824  
[ldallessandro@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:ldallessandro@BloomingtonMN.gov)



**Councilmember District IV**  
Victor Rivas  
952-255-9570  
[vrivas@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:vrivas@BloomingtonMN.gov)

*Elected officials presented for informational purposes.*

### COUNCILMEMBERS

[council@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:council@BloomingtonMN.gov)

### EXECUTIVE STAFF

City Manager's Office	952-563-8780
<a href="mailto:citymanager@BloomingtonMN.gov">citymanager@BloomingtonMN.gov</a>	
Elizabeth Tolzmann, Interim City Manager	952-563-8780
<a href="mailto:citymanager@BloomingtonMN.gov">citymanager@BloomingtonMN.gov</a>	
Kathy Hedin, Interim City Manager	952-563-8780
<a href="mailto:citymanager@BloomingtonMN.gov">citymanager@BloomingtonMN.gov</a>	
Kim Berggren, Community Development	952-563-8920
<a href="mailto:communitydevelopment@BloomingtonMN.gov">communitydevelopment@BloomingtonMN.gov</a>	
Lori Economy-Scholler, Finance	952-563-8791
<a href="mailto:finance@BloomingtonMN.gov">finance@BloomingtonMN.gov</a>	
Ulie Seal, Fire	952-563-4801
<a href="mailto:fire@BloomingtonMN.gov">fire@BloomingtonMN.gov</a>	
Amy Cheney, Information Technology	952-563-4885
<a href="mailto:it@BloomingtonMN.gov">it@BloomingtonMN.gov</a>	
Melissa Manderschied, Legal	952-563-8753
<a href="mailto:legal@BloomingtonMN.gov">legal@BloomingtonMN.gov</a>	
Ann Kattreh, Parks and Recreation	952-563-8877
<a href="mailto:parksrec@BloomingtonMN.gov">parksrec@BloomingtonMN.gov</a>	
Booker T. Hodges, Police	952-563-4900
<a href="mailto:police@BloomingtonMN.gov">police@BloomingtonMN.gov</a>	
Public Works	952-563-8760
<a href="mailto:publicworks@BloomingtonMN.gov">publicworks@BloomingtonMN.gov</a>	
Nick Kelley, Public Health	952-563-8900
<a href="mailto:publichealth@BloomingtonMN.gov">publichealth@BloomingtonMN.gov</a>	
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.





## CELEBRATE THE NEW MURAL AND INDIGENOUS GARDEN AT OLD CEDAR AVENUE BRIDGE

The Old Cedar Avenue Bridge Trailhead has a vibrant new look. The City of Bloomington partnered with artist Sandy Spieler and Dakota cultural educator Tara Perron, to create a four-sided mural and living Indigenous garden at the trailhead shelter, 9551 Old Cedar Ave. S.

The mural explores themes of home, kinship, water and healing, drawing from Dakota culture and community voices. The garden features native plants and traditional seed-saving practices.

Join us to celebrate the mural’s unveiling and the garden’s first season Saturday, September 20, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Learn more at [blm.mn/ocab-mural](#).



## BLOOMINGTON STREET ARTS FESTIVAL RETURNS

Celebrate art, music and community at the Bloomington Street Arts Festival Saturday, September 20, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., at Nine Mile Brewing, 9555 James Ave. S.

This free, family-friendly event features local artists, live music, interactive booths and more than 25 vendors. Enjoy hands-on activities like pendulum painting, splatter art and community weaving.

The popular sidewalk chalk art contest returns and is open to all ages. Entry is free, and space is limited.

Learn more at [blm.mn/streetarts](#).

## HOW TO COMPLETE A RANKED CHOICE BALLOT

Council Member District I		Rank your first, second and third choices in the columns below. One to be elected.	
1	1st Choice, if any. Select One	2	2nd Choice, if any. Select One
<input type="radio"/>	Candidate A	<input type="radio"/>	Candidate A
<input type="radio"/>	Candidate B	<input type="radio"/>	Candidate B
<input type="radio"/>	Candidate C	<input type="radio"/>	Candidate C
<input type="radio"/>	Candidate D	<input type="radio"/>	Candidate D
<input type="radio"/>	write-in, if any	<input type="radio"/>	write-in, if any
STEP 1		STEP 2	

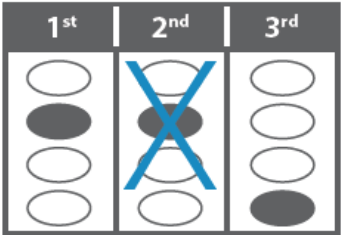
3	3rd Choice, if any. Select One
<input type="radio"/>	Candidate A
<input type="radio"/>	Candidate B
<input type="radio"/>	Candidate C
<input type="radio"/>	Candidate D
<input type="radio"/>	write-in, if any
STEP 3	

**STEP 1:** Choose your top candidate. This is your 1st choice candidate and will be the vote that is considered first.

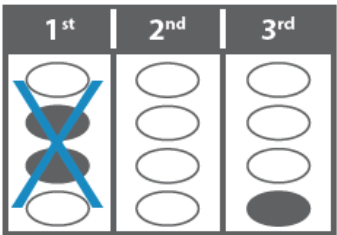
**STEP 2:** If you have a 2nd choice (not required), you may select another candidate.

**STEP 3:** If you have a 3rd choice (not required), you may select another candidate.

### BALLOT ERRORS



Voting for the same candidate in more than one ranking has the same effect as voting for that candidate once.



Do not vote for more than one candidate in the same ranking.

### HOW VOTES ARE COUNTED

On election night, all first-choice votes are counted. If no candidate has more than 50% of the votes, the candidate with the fewest number of votes is eliminated. Voters who picked the eliminated candidate as their first choice have their second-choice vote counted instead. This process repeats until one candidate has a majority.

## SHAPE THE FUTURE: VOTE IN BLOOMINGTON’S CITY COUNCIL ELECTION

Your vote matters, and this November offers you an opportunity to help shape Bloomington’s future. The City Council makes decisions that impact our daily lives, from parks and housing to public safety and other City services.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 4 and Bloomington voters will elect representatives for:

- City Council At Large.
- City Council District I.
- City Council District II.

There are also four school board seats up for election. Make your voice heard and help set the course for the city you call home. Learn more about voting, polling places and district maps at [blm.mn/vote](#).

## THINK LOCAL, VOTE LOCAL: GET TO KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES

Local elections are coming up, and the Bloomington League of Women Voters is here to help voters learn about the candidates for local office. One at-large City Council seat and four School Board seats will appear on all Bloomington ballots. Voters in Districts 1 and 2 will also choose their City Council representatives.

To introduce themselves, candidates were invited to record five-minute videos, which will be available on the City’s website in early September.

LWV Bloomington will host two public candidate forums in the Council Chambers at Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road.

- City Council Forum: Thursday, September 11, 6:30 p.m.
- School Board Forum: Thursday, September 25, 6:30 p.m.

Submit questions in advance to [lwvbloomington@lwvmn.org](mailto:lwvbloomington@lwvmn.org) or bring them to the event. Forums will be recorded and posted by October 1.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that defends democracy and encourages informed voting and active participation in government.

BLOOMINGTONMN.GOV





ONLINE WEBINARS  
TO IMPROVE HOME  
ENERGY USE

TIME-OF-SALE ENERGY  
DISCLOSURE  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 6 P.M.

Learn how Bloomington’s Time-of-Sale Energy Disclosure program helps homebuyers and sellers make smart, energy-efficient decisions. Every home sold in Bloomington receives a home energy score. This webinar will cover what the score means and how it can guide cost-saving improvements to make homes more comfortable and efficient. Homebuyers will also learn how to use the energy score to better understand long-term energy performance.

Presented by the Center for Energy and Environment in partnership with the City of Bloomington.

Register at [blm.mn/TOS-reg](https://blm.mn/TOS-reg).



ELECTRIFY EVERYTHING MN  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 6 P.M.

Thinking about upgrading your home’s appliances or heating and cooling systems? Learn how to make the switch to efficient, electric options that save money and reduce carbon emissions. This webinar will walk you through electrifying your home’s heating, cooling, cooking, clothes drying, and water heating. You’ll leave with helpful tools, contractor resources and information about available rebates. Register at [electrifyeverythingmn.org/events](https://electrifyeverythingmn.org/events).

[BLOOMINGTONMN.GOV](https://BLOOMINGTONMN.GOV)



EARTH ACTION HERO: JILL CRAFTON CHAMPIONS  
ECOSYSTEM HEALTH

As a leader with the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District, Jill Crafton has been instrumental in advancing an Ecosystem Health Action Plan. Through a series of four workshops, she helped bring together City staff from Bloomington and surrounding communities, uniting professionals in planning, water resources, public works and natural resources to address ecological gaps and barriers.

“The District’s goals, aligned with state statutes, emphasize building resilient landscapes that can recharge groundwater and protect against aquifer depletion,” Crafton said, and she celebrates the strong collaboration among Bloomington staff and their regional peers, and the power of collective action. She also monitors efforts in Bloomington and Minnetonka to address potential groundwater contamination.

True to her mission, Crafton joins local stewardship events such as garlic mustard pulls, and has been restoring her own yard with native plants since 2010. Leading by example and turning advocacy into action makes Crafton a Bloomington Earth Action Hero!

ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN

When it comes to protecting Bloomington’s water resources, everyone can help. The City’s Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination program is a key part of our stormwater management strategy. Its goal is simple but vital: keep pollutants out of the storm sewer system and ultimately out of our lakes, creeks and rivers.

Storm drains are designed to carry only clean rainwater. Sometimes, substances like oil, soaps, chemicals and trash make their way into storm drains. This is known as illicit discharge. These pollutants can harm aquatic life, impact water quality and threaten public health.

- Here’s how you can help:
- Watch for cloudy or discolored water entering storm drains or ditches.
  - Report oil sheens, soap suds or floating debris in drainage areas.
  - Look out for pipes or hoses discharging into storm drains or waterways.
- To report suspicious discharges, visit [blm.mn/eng/water-and-you](https://blm.mn/eng/water-and-you) or contact Engineering at 952-563-4870 or [engineering@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:engineering@BloomingtonMN.gov).

CHANGES MAY BE COMING TO SOLID WASTE RATES

Changes may be coming to Bloomington garbage bills in 2026. The pay-as-you-throw system will still charge by garbage cart size, but price gaps could widen so small carts cost less than large ones. A new, lower-priced, every-other-week garbage pickup could also debut for households choosing the smallest cart and producing minimal trash.

These proposed updates follow a thorough rate study and strong resident feedback, aiming to keep service affordable and cut waste.

Why the change?

This update is part of Bloomington’s effort to:

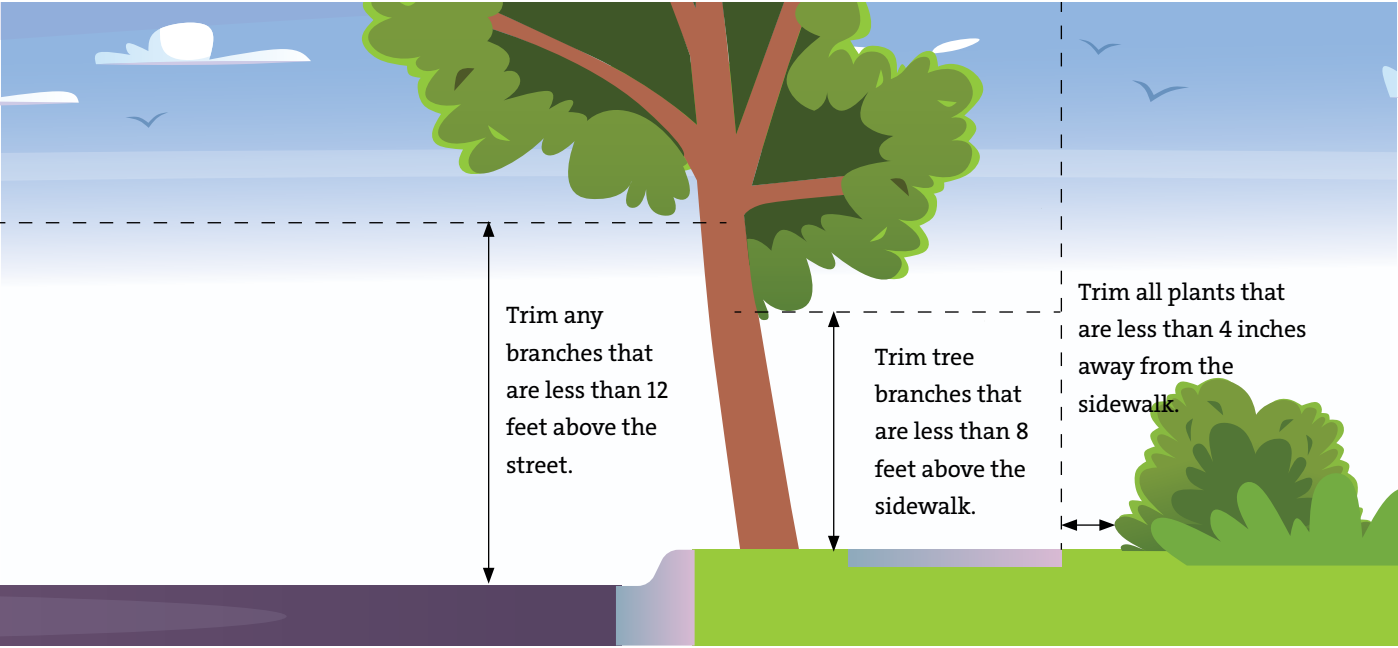
- Encourage waste reduction and smarter disposal habits.
- Support increased recycling and composting.
- Keep garbage service fair and cost-effective for all residents.

What you can do

- Consider downsizing your cart to save money—especially if you’re not filling it every week.
- Opt for the every-other-week service if you don’t need weekly pickup.
- Recycle and compost more to reduce what ends up in your trash cart.

Watch for a mailer or online form to select your cart size. Preliminary rates were presented July 28; the Council’s final decision will follow the October budget review and a November public hearing. Watch for more details in the coming months. Learn more at [blm.mn/garbage](https://blm.mn/garbage) or 952-563-8760.





Property owners are responsible for trimming back plants in the public right-of-way next to their property. The guidelines above show how much clearance there should be between plant growth and the public right-of-way.

## HELP KEEP SIDEWALKS SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE

Trees, shrubs and other plants play an important role in keeping Bloomington green and safe. Streets, sidewalks, utilities and other areas with similar public uses are known as a “public right-of-way.” These areas are for everyone’s use. To protect public health and safety, it is important to keep public right-of-way areas free of obstructions. Property owners are responsible for maintaining trees and vegetation within the right-of-way bordering their property.

Overgrown trees and shrubs can block a sidewalk or limit visibility of traffic signs, signals, vehicles and pedestrians. When the City receives reports of sidewalk obstructions,

staff will inspect the location and issue notices to property owners that include information regarding the obstruction in accordance with City Code 12.03.

**How you can help**

- Trim all plants that are less than four inches behind the edge of the sidewalk.
- Trim any branches that are less than eight feet above the sidewalk or less than 12 feet above the street.
- Trim or edge back grasses or ground cover that overhangs sidewalks.
- Avoid placing items that block sidewalks.



## YOU’RE INVITED: BLOOMINGTON BUSINESS FORUM

Calling all entrepreneurs, startups and business leaders—don’t miss the inaugural Bloomington Business Forum on Wednesday, October 1, at the Masonic Heritage Center, 11411 Masonic Home Dr.

With the theme Business Friendly, Growth Ready, this free event is your gateway to making powerful connections and learning how Bloomington supports business success. Meet City leaders, staff and community partners offering tools, grants, training and services to help your business thrive.

Whether you’re launching your first venture or scaling up, this is a great opportunity to tap into Bloomington’s business-friendly ecosystem and discover the resources ready to fuel your growth.

Come for the insights. Stay for the networking. Leave with new ideas and support.

Learn more and register at [blm.mn/businessforum](https://blm.mn/businessforum).

## BLOOMINGTON WATER TAKES THIRD PLACE IN NATIONAL CONTEST

Bloomington’s drinking water continues to shine on the national stage, earning third place in the People’s Choice Award at the 2025 American Water Works Association national conference.

This award was determined by votes from conference attendees, making the recognition especially meaningful. Bloomington was one of only three communities nationwide to be recognized in the People’s Choice category. The City earned its spot at the national competition after winning the top prize at the Minnesota AWWA Section competition in September 2024.

More recently, Bloomington entered the popular Minnesota State Fair water taste test, where visitors judged samples in the Eco Experience building. The City’s water was also submitted to this month’s Minnesota AWWA Section conference. Stay tuned for upcoming results to see how Bloomington’s award-winning water compares statewide in 2025.

For more information about Public Works services, visit [blm.mn/utilities](https://blm.mn/utilities).



## CAST YOUR VOTE FOR THE HATCH BLOOMINGTON WINNER!

The Top 3 Hatch Bloomington semifinalists, BookMother, Twin Cities Streetwear and NUNAA, have pitched their boldest business ideas—now it’s your turn to help choose the winner.

The top three finalists completed their pitches at the September 3 pitch event, and voting is open to the public. Make your voice heard by casting your vote through Tuesday, September 9, at 11:59 p.m.

Your vote will help decide who takes home the title in Hatch Bloomington 2025.

Don’t miss this exciting opportunity to help shape the future of Bloomington’s business scene.

Find voting info and finalist details at [hatchbloomington.com](https://hatchbloomington.com).



## BUILDING TRUST THROUGH STORYTELLING: BLOOMINGTON’S APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY WORKSHOP SPARKS CONNECTION

In July, the City’s Community Outreach and Engagement team hosted 40 residents and staff for an evening of storytelling, creativity and collaboration. Using Appreciative Inquiry, a strengths-based method rooted in shared visioning and storytelling, the workshop explored how to build trust across community divides.

Participants shared hopes and dreams through personal stories, dance, drawings and spoken word, inspiring ideas for bridging gaps and fostering inclusivity. The gathering energized attendees to keep shaping a more connected Bloomington.

“The workshop left me with a sense of hope that the Bloomington community remains supportive of one another, even during turbulent times like this,” said Bloomington resident and workshop participant, Jason Luu. “I think we can continue to build on this as a community so thank you for leading it.”

This workshop is part of Community Outreach’s broader strategic initiative to strengthen trust and connection between the City and community members. By using Appreciative Inquiry, the session helped create space for meaningful dialogue and relationship-building.

To learn more about this initiative and how you can be involved, contact Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator Amanda Crombie at [acrombie@bloomingtonmn.gov](mailto:acrombie@bloomingtonmn.gov).





### EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC OF “ONCE ON THIS ISLAND”

Get ready for a powerful show of music, dance and storytelling as “Once on This Island” takes the stage at the Schneider Theater October 2 - 26.

With book and lyrics by Lynn Ahrens and music by Stephen Flaherty, this vibrant Caribbean-inspired musical is based on the novel “My Love, My Love or The Peasant Girl” by Rosa Guy. Under the direction of Kelli Foster Warder and music direction by Sanford Moore, the production brings to life a spirited young girl’s journey to overcome prejudice in the name of love.

Bursting with color and rhythm, “Once on This Island” received eight Tony Award nominations during its Broadway run and won the 2018 Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical.

Don’t miss this unforgettable production that celebrates resilience and the power of storytelling. Tickets are available at [artistry.org](https://artistry.org).



### AUTUMN IS PRIME TIME TO BUST BUCKTHORN

Looking to make a difference for the environment right in your backyard? Fall is one of the best times to tackle invasive buckthorn. As other plants go dormant in late October, buckthorn stays green so it’s easier to spot and remove.

Small seedlings and trees can be pulled by hand or with a tool. If needed, Bloomington residents can borrow a weed wrench for free from Public Works. If you plan to dig up roots, be sure to call 811 or visit [gopherstateonecall.org](https://gopherstateonecall.org) first to mark underground utilities.

Find more resources and a how-to video at [blm.mn/bustbuckthorn](https://blm.mn/bustbuckthorn). Questions? Call 952-563-8760.

[BLOOMINGTONMN.GOV](https://BLOOMINGTONMN.GOV)



## COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Crews have been busy with abatement work in the Creekside building since it closed in June. Demolition of the building is expected to begin in October. In the meantime, here are answers to a few frequently asked questions about the new community health and wellness center.

#### Did the City gather resident input about the location of the new community health and wellness center?

Yes, the new community health and wellness center is part of a voter-approved citywide referendum that went through extensive community outreach and engagement and ultimately was approved by Bloomington voters in November 2023.

The location of the new center was voted on in 2023 by City Council and was included in the referendum education campaign and language as the current Creekside Community Center site, 9801 Penn Ave. Residents had many opportunities to

share their thoughts on the project with City staff and the City Council. In total, there were 19 public engagement events and many City Council meetings before the question went to voters.

#### Will there be enough parking on the site?

There will be sufficient parking. The City undertook a parking study to determine the number of parking spaces needed for the center. The proposed parking follows City Code. Parking demand was estimated based on similar nearby sites and the ITE Parking Generation Manual. The results showed that the number of proposed on-site parking spaces slightly exceeds what is needed for the building.

#### Learn more

Read more and see more renderings of the new community health and wellness center online at [bloomingtonforward.org/chwc](https://bloomingtonforward.org/chwc).



### WORK CONTINUES AT BLOOMINGTON ICE GARDEN

The Bloomington Ice Garden closed for construction in March. Since then, many improvements have been made, including updated rink viewing areas that are ADA accessible, a new concessions area and new locker rooms and restrooms. Follow along on the Bloomington Parks and Recreation

Facebook page for more. The BIG team has also partnered with Creative Placemaking staff to begin work on a mural designed by Adam Turman that will be installed in the BIG entrance. BIG will reopen before the 2025 hockey season begins. To learn more, visit [bloomingtonforward.org/big](https://bloomingtonforward.org/big).





Police Officer Desmond Daniels with Dunkin, the Bloomington Police Department’s first community comfort dog.

## MEET DUNKIN, BLOOMINGTON’S FUTURE COMMUNITY COMFORT DOG

Dunkin is a rescue dog with a big job ahead. Selected for his calm, friendly temperament through Ruff Start Rescue, he’s currently training to become the Bloomington Police Department’s first community comfort dog. Training with Minnesota Canine Consulting, Dunkin is starting with basic obedience and will gradually work up to

handling busy public settings. While the timeline can vary, the goal is to ensure he’s comfortable, responsive and ready to serve. Off duty, Dunkin enjoys playtime with his handler’s family and is already winning hearts. Once certified, he’ll support the community by offering comfort, connection and a friendly face in times of need.

## BUILDING TRUST THROUGH VALUES: POLICE DEPARTMENT LIVES ITS MISSION

In Bloomington, policing isn’t just about law enforcement. It’s about building relationships, earning trust and serving the community with respect. Since late 2022, the Bloomington Police Department has been living out its core value of respect in every part of its work through service, compassion and honesty. Developed with input from community members, City staff and police personnel, these values now shape recruitment, training, policy and performance. The results speak for themselves. BPD is currently the only large department in Minnesota that is fully staffed, has achieved a four-year low in crime and a majority clearance rate for violent crime in 2024.

BPD’s values-based model has earned state recognition, including Excellence in Innovation Awards in 2025 for its Brain Health program, and the Minnesota Ethical Leadership Award in 2025 for its commitment to character-driven policing. These awards highlight BPD’s innovative efforts to support both community and staff wellness while fostering public trust. Through initiatives like free mental health therapy, inclusive community engagement, holistic wellness, and ethical leadership development, BPD is setting a new standard for policing. Independent surveys confirm growing public confidence in the department’s mission: to always be respectful while keeping our community safe.

## MEET FIREFIGHTER MANDA JOHNSON

Firefighter and EMT Manda Johnson has served with the Bloomington Fire Department for six years. She holds a Doctor of Pharmacy degree and is a clinical assistant professor at the University of Minnesota. Her background includes residencies in acute and critical care and more than 10 years as a cardiovascular intensive care pharmacist. Johnson became a firefighter to serve her community in a more active and hands on way. Sharpened through her pharmacy work, skills like critical thinking, problem solving and attention to detail translated directly to firefighting. Her biggest supporters are her husband, Brad, son, Bohde, and the close-knit BFD team. “I’m lucky to be part of a team that constantly uplifts each other,” she said. In her free time, Manda enjoys exploring Bloomington parks with her family and German Shepherd, Skadi, grilling and watching two-year-old Bohde discover the world.



NAME:  
MANDA JOHNSON  
STATION:  
FIRE STATION 3



## STAY CONNECTED WITH AFFORDABLE HIGH-SPEED INTERNET

Need reliable internet at a price that fits your budget? Internet Essentials from Xfinity offers affordable home internet for households that qualify through programs like SNAP, EBT, Medicaid or the National School Lunch Program. Choose the speed that works best for you. Internet Essentials offers speeds up to 75 Mbps, while Internet Essentials Plus offers up to 100 Mbps. Both options include the equipment you need at no extra cost, with no cancellation fees. Stay connected for work, school and everything in between. To learn more or apply, visit [xfinity.com/getIE](https://xfinity.com/getIE), call 1-844-963-0231 or stop by your local Xfinity store.

## BUILDING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS TO HELP PREVENT SUICIDE

September is National Suicide Prevention Month. Suicide is a leading cause of death in the United States and is preventable. While anyone can be at risk for suicide, people with mental health issues experience a much higher risk of suicide. That’s why fostering protective factors like connection and community support is essential for prevention. The 2024 Community Health Assessment identified social isolation and the need for connection as a key theme. Building connected communities can look like reaching out and checking in on friends, family and neighbors, inviting and including people in community gatherings and promoting the use of community spaces such as parks. Need help if you or someone you know is having thoughts about suicide? Call or text the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: 988; Cope Mobile Crisis: 612-596-1223 or [Fasttrackermn.org](https://Fasttrackermn.org). To learn more about suicide prevention visit [Save.org](https://Save.org), [Take5toSaveLives.org](https://Take5toSaveLives.org) or [NAMIMN.org](https://NAMIMN.org). [BloomingtonMN.gov](https://BloomingtonMN.gov)





## BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY: REMEMBERING CAMP SNOOPY

Many Minnesotans fondly remember Camp Snoopy, the seven-acre amusement park at the heart of Mall of America. When it opened in 1992, Camp Snoopy was themed around Charles Schulz’s Peanuts characters, featuring a woodsy atmosphere and subtle nods to the comic strip.

In 2006, the Peanuts license ended, and the park was temporarily renamed “The Park at MOA.” During this period, many iconic Snoopy-themed elements were removed.

In 2008, the park was transformed into Nickelodeon Universe, introducing new rides and branding based on Nickelodeon’s popular characters like SpongeBob SquarePants and the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.

Though Camp Snoopy is no more, its legacy remains a cherished part of Bloomington’s history, and the space continues to bring joy as part of Mall of America’s evolving story.



## CITYWIDE RECYCLING DROP-OFF EVENT SET FOR SEPTEMBER 20

Get ready to declutter responsibly at Bloomington’s Citywide Recycling Drop-Off event on Saturday, September 20, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., at Western Maintenance Facility, 10500 Hampshire Ave. S.

Open to all Bloomington residents, the event offers a convenient way to recycle a variety of items, including appliances, bicycles, electronics, mattresses and box springs, scrap metal, tires and paper for on-site shredding.

Some items will be accepted at no cost, while others will require a fee (cash or check only). It’s a great opportunity to dispose of hard-to-recycle items properly while helping reduce waste in our community.

For more details, including a full list of accepted items and fees, visit [bloomingtonmn.gov/ub/bulky-item-collection](http://bloomingtonmn.gov/ub/bulky-item-collection).

Let’s work together to keep Bloomington clean and green!

WHAT IS ACCEPTED			WHAT IS NOT ACCEPTED
Appliances – \$10 each <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Air conditioners</li><li>Dehumidifiers</li><li>Dishwashers</li><li>Microwaves</li><li>Refrigerators</li><li>Stoves</li><li>Water heaters</li></ul> Mattresses and box springs – \$20 each	Other items accepted at no charge <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Bicycles (accepted in any condition)</li><li>Scrap metal (remove all pieces that are not metal)</li><li>Paper for on-site shredding</li></ul> Electronics – \$10 each <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Computers</li><li>Monitors</li><li>Tablets</li><li>TVs</li></ul>	Tires – \$3 each	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Building materials</li><li>Carpet</li><li>Concrete</li><li>Exercise equipment</li><li>Furniture</li><li>Household hazardous waste</li><li>Lamps</li><li>Leaf blowers</li><li>Light bulbs</li><li>Paint</li><li>Trash</li><li>Vacuum cleaners</li></ul>
Crib mattresses – \$10 each		Other electronics – No charge <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Cell phones</li><li>Computer accessories, including keyboard and mice</li><li>Cords</li><li>Game consoles</li><li>Headphones</li><li>Printers</li><li>Stereos</li><li>VCRs/DVD players</li></ul>	