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# B L O O M I N G T O N BRIEFING

JUNE 2026



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CONTINUING TO SERVE: KIRK VOGLAND, LES FORDAHL AND BOB WORKS FROM BLOOMINGTON REMEMBERS VETERANS CELEBRATED THE GROUNDBREAKING OF THE VETERANS MEMORIAL IN MAY. READ MORE ON PAGE 8.



City staff and Council Members celebrate at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new fleet facility.

## BUILDING BETTER SERVICE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

In April, the City broke ground on a new fleet facility marking a major step forward in strengthening essential services for residents. A fleet assessment completed in 2019 identified significant space and staffing challenges in the current garage, which can no longer support larger equipment or the growing number of electrified vehicles.

To meet these needs, the City purchased property next to Public Works in 2022 for a modern fleet garage featuring larger bay areas, updated lifts, natural lighting, additional service bays and improved locker rooms and administrative areas. These upgrades will make room for more technicians, enhance safety and improve core service levels for residents.

The project also reserves more than 21,000 square feet of roof space for a future solar installation. Building completion is expected by August 2027.

### CEO START IS WHERE IDEAS BECOME BUSINESSES

Entrepreneurs with a vision ready to grow their business can find expert guidance and clear direction this fall through CEO Start, a program offered by the City of Bloomington and Hennepin County.

CEO Start gives aspiring and early-stage business owners an energizing space to develop ideas, build connections, and gain practical tools for success.

The fall session runs from September 23 - December 2 and brings together a peer group for weekly in-person sessions focused on business formation basics, fundamental knowledge, customer discovery, strategy, and a playbook to get real-world feedback. Participants also receive guidance from experienced business leaders and collaborate with fellow innovators.

The program concludes with a final pitch night on December 9 where participants share their refined concepts with community supporters.

Applications are being accepted June 19 - July 15. Apply at [blm.mn/ceo](http://blm.mn/ceo).

### HOME SWEET BLOOMINGTON: OPENING DOORS TO OPPORTUNITY

June is National Homeownership Month, a time to recognize how access to affordable homeownership strengthens individuals, families and the broader community. Research from Habitat for Humanity shows that homeowners gain more financial stability over time and their children often do better in school. Homeownership also encourages residents to stay engaged in their neighborhoods and reduces financial stress, which supports better overall health. Together, these benefits help create stronger and more connected communities.

### GET TO KNOW THE BLOOMINGTON HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) is committed to making homeownership accessible and affordable for those who may not have access through traditional markets.

The mission of the HRA is to create a stable and inclusive community through safe and dignified housing choices that allow residents to put down roots and thrive.

Learn more about resources available, including home improvement loans, homeownership pathway programs and workshops at [blm.mn/hraresources](http://blm.mn/hraresources).

### PERMITS ARE A SMALL STEP THAT CAN PREVENT BIG HEADACHES

As more residents dive into summer home projects, it's easy to get caught up in the excitement of upgrades and improvements. Before any work begins, whether it's a repair, an overhaul or a new addition, take a moment to make sure the right permits are in place. Permits ensure that the work meets safety standards and protects your investment.

If you're hiring a contractor, always ask to see the approved permit before work begins. Verifying permits up front can help you avoid costly issues later, especially when selling your home or filing an insurance claim. Missing permits or skipped inspections often lead to delays, unexpected expenses or required rework. For more information, visit [blm.mn/permits](http://blm.mn/permits).

### PITCH PERFECT LOVE FOR LOCAL SHOPS

Hatch Bloomington is back for 2026 with a fresh twist and a whole lot of local love. Launched as a \$100,000 pitch competition to support retail entrepreneurship, Hatch Bloomington has been reimagined this year to support the small businesses that already add to the vitality of Bloomington. Through the Hatch Bloomington Loves Local program, up to five existing Bloomington businesses will receive financial support, with \$100,000 in total funding available.

"We know small businesses are a vital part of Bloomington's economy and community," said Mayor Tim Busse. "Hatch Bloomington Loves Local is one way we can invest directly in their continued success."

If you own a current small business in Bloomington, this is your moment to grow, refresh or take your next big step. The application portal will open on June 10. For more details, visit [hatchbloomington.com](http://hatchbloomington.com).

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BLOOMINGTON LOVES LOCAL



## BRIEFING

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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.*



Neighbors gather for National Night Out in 2025.

## HELLO NEIGHBOR! IT'S NATIONAL NIGHT OUT ON AUGUST 4

Get ready to connect with your neighbors on National Night Out, Tuesday, August 4. This annual event brings neighbors together to build relationships, support public safety and strengthen partnerships with police and fire. Register your party starting June 1 to be eligible for a visit from police or fire between 6 - 8 p.m. To register or learn more, visit [blm.mn/NNO](http://blm.mn/NNO) or contact Public Safety Engagement Manager Katie Zerull at 952-563-8808 or [kzerull@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:kzerull@BloomingtonMN.gov).

### COPS AND CONES OFFERS SCOOPS, SMILES AND CONNECTIONS

Bloomington Police Department invites you to Cops and Cones, June 9, July 14 and August 25, 1 - 2:30 p.m., at Scoops Ice Cream, 7700 W. Old Shakopee Road.

Stop by to meet officers, play games and enjoy a welcoming atmosphere and a free scoop of ice cream for kids under 18. Kids can explore a squad car, meet a police dog, ask questions and get a firsthand look at the tools officers use every day.

Events like Cops and Cones reflect BPD's commitment to community connection.



Bloomington Police staff and officers speak with community members at a Cops and Cones event in 2025.

### MEET THE OFFICER: DETECTIVE KRISTIN BOOMER

Detective Kristin Boomer has served Bloomington for nearly 20 years. Over her career, she has been a patrol officer, field training officer, crime scene technician, Peer Support team member, Honor Guard member and detective. Currently, she specializes in child abuse, sexual abuse and internet crimes against children, and is part of the Minnesota Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. The Optimist Club and BPD also recognized her with the Respect for Law Officer of the Year award in 2025.

Kristin holds a degree in Sociology and Criminal Justice and continues extensive training in trauma informed investigations and evolving technology. She is a certified trainer through the International Association of Chiefs of Police and serves as president of the Minnesota Sex Crimes Investigators Association.

She credits her family, twin daughters Abby and Anna, friends and colleagues for supporting her demanding career. Outside of work, she enjoys Minnesota Wild hockey, travel, CrossFit, live music and time with loved ones and her dog, Louie, a German Shepherd Husky rescue.

#### BOOMER'S ADVICE TO FAMILIES:

Delay social media use for kids as long as possible and stay engaged in their online world.



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR: ONLINE AND IN-PERSON ENERGY EVENTS

Learn how to save energy, make your home more comfortable and take steps towards home electrification and solar at these two summer sustainability events. Register for electrify everything webinars, Tuesday, June 9 and Wednesday, June 17, 6:30 p.m., on Zoom. RSVP online at [blm.mn/electrify](http://blm.mn/electrify). The Home Energy Workshop will take place on Tuesday, July 30, 6:30 - 8 p.m., at Bryant Park Shelter, 1001 W. 85th St. RSVP online at [blm.mn/homeenergy](http://blm.mn/homeenergy).



Fireworks on display over Normandale Lake during Summer Fete.

### SUMMER FETE SPARKS A STAR-SPANGLED CELEBRATION

Turn up the summer spirit with a July 3 celebration that promises music, fun, food and fireworks. The annual Summer Fete returns to Normandale Lake Park, at West 84th Street and Normandale Boulevard, with a little extra sparkle as the U.S.A. celebrates its 250th birthday.

More than 30 food vendors will offer everything from classics to adventurous bites in four conveniently located food zones. Music begins with The Covers from 5 - 8 p.m., followed by the Bloomington Symphony Orchestra from 8:30 - 10 p.m. In between, the Angelica Cantanti Youth Choir will sing the national anthem.

The young and young at heart can dive into the nonstop energy of the 84th Street Kids Stage and Family Fun Zone for music, games, face painting, balloon animals and more. Cap it all with a fireworks show around 10 p.m. that is one of the biggest in Minnesota. Learn more at [blm.mn/summerfete](http://blm.mn/summerfete).

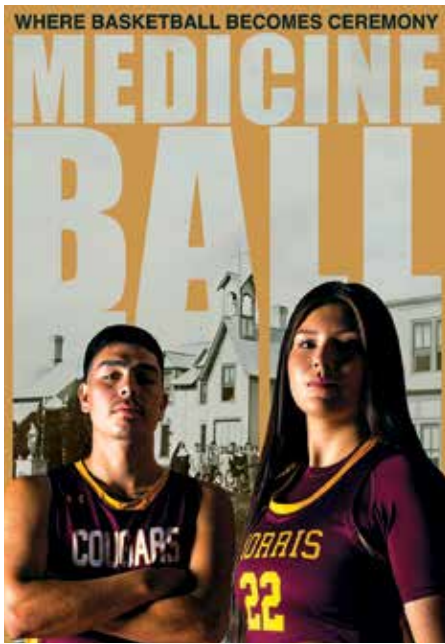


### TURN UP THE HEAT AT THE DRED SCOTT SIZZLER

Softball players, bring your best swing. The Dred Scott Sizzler is back Saturday, June 27 and Sunday, June 28, at Dred Scott Park, 10820 Bloomington Ferry Road, promising a fun weekend for teams across the region. Register by Sunday, June 21, to get in the game.

Teams can compete in multiple divisions, including MSP Open, MSP D, MSP E Rec and WSP Open, creating opportunities for a wide range of skill levels. The entry fee is \$310 per team, and each team is guaranteed three games.

Whether you are chasing a championship or just love the game, the Dred Scott Sizzler offers a high energy atmosphere and strong competition. Sign up today at [blm.mn/sizzler-2026](http://blm.mn/sizzler-2026) and get ready to play ball.



Pictured above: The movie poster for "Medicine Ball."

## "MEDICINE BALL" BOUNCES INTO THE CITY ON JUNE 26

Enjoy the next feature film in the Indigenous Film Series, "Medicine Ball," on Friday, June 26, 6:30 - 8 p.m. at the Schneider Theater, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road.

Directed by regional Emmy Award winner Leya Hale (Dakota/Diné), "Medicine Ball" follows Native college athletes as they take on life and basketball at the University of Minnesota Morris, a campus built on the grounds of a former Native boarding school.

After the film, audiences can join Hale and Sydney Beane, historian and film subject, for a question-and-answer session.

Questions? Contact Equity and Inclusion Program Manager Amanda Crombie at [acrombie@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:acrombie@BloomingtonMN.gov). Learn more at [blm.mn/ifs-medicine-ball](http://blm.mn/ifs-medicine-ball).

## SHINE A LIGHT ON YOUR LOCAL HERO

Do you know someone making Bloomington more fair, welcoming and inclusive? Now is the time to spotlight their impact. Nominations are open for the 2026 Omar Bonderud Human Rights Award and the City wants to hear from you.

Presented by the Bloomington Human Rights Commission, this award recognizes an individual or organization that has made a meaningful difference in advancing equal opportunities in employment, housing, public accommodations, public services or education.

The award honors Omar Bonderud, the first chair of the commission when it was established in 1968. Since 1974, community members and organizations have been celebrated for their dedication to human rights in Bloomington.

If someone comes to mind, do not wait. Nominations are due by September 18.

To learn more, view past recipients or submit a nomination, visit [blm.mn/bonderud](http://blm.mn/bonderud), email [humanrights@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:humanrights@BloomingtonMN.gov) or call 612-499-9766.

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City staff, Council Members and representatives from Bloomington Remembers Veterans toss dirt at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Nine Mile Creek corridor improvements and veterans memorial.

## CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY FOR THE NINE MILE CREEK CORRIDOR PROJECT

In May, a groundbreaking ceremony launched the beginning of construction for Nine Mile Creek corridor improvements, including upgrades to Harrison, Moir and Central parks, and construction of a Veterans Memorial at 1701 W. 100th St.

Harrison Park and the trailhead near it are closed for the summer. The Harrison Park community garden remains open. The Moir Park entrance to the trails will be closed when construction begins in that area later this summer, phasing in to a full park and trail closure this summer so construction can proceed safely. There will be feature stories on alternative parks and trails you can enjoy coming soon. Visit [bloomingtonforward.org/9mile](http://bloomingtonforward.org/9mile) for the most up to date information. Learn more about the Veteran's Memorial and how to purchase a memorial dog tag at [blm.mn/veterans-memorial](http://blm.mn/veterans-memorial).



A performer entertains a crowd at Bloomington's Pride Celebration.

## JOIN THE FUN AT BLOOMINGTON PRIDE MN JUNE 14

Bloomington Pride Festival bursts back to life Sunday, June 14, at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, with joy, color, community and pride.

Bring the whole family for live entertainment, music, art, crafts, story time and games for all ages. Enjoy a curated lineup of local food trucks serving diverse and delicious flavors. Discover education booths that share LGBTQ+ history, local resources and community led support initiatives.

Trained staff and volunteers will be on hand to ensure a positive, peaceful and safe experience for everyone. Learn more at [bloomingtonpridemn.org](http://bloomingtonpridemn.org).



A young dancer performs as part of a group highlighted at a past Bloomington Juneteenth Celebration.

## CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH IN BLOOMINGTON JUNE 20

Join the City's Juneteenth celebration on Saturday, June 20, 4 - 8 p.m., at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, for a day of history, culture and community. The event will honor 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 event of rain, the event will be held inside Civic Plaza.