

BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



FEBRUARY 2016



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HAMMER OUT YOUR HOME IMPROVEMENT PLANS

The City of Bloomington and the Housing and Redevelopment Authority will host the 2016 Home Improvement Fair, Saturday, February 20, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. This free event showcases vendors from across the metro with more than 60 exhibits and how-to seminars to help you make your dream home an affordable reality. Fairgoers will have the opportunity to ask general remodeling experts, designers and landscapers about their home improvement needs. There will also be kids' activities, including a project table hosted by Home Depot. For more information, call HRA Program Manager Bryan Hartman at 952-563-8943 or e-mail bhartman@BloomingtonMN.gov.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: HOME FAIR.

GETTING AROUND BLOOMINGTON

In March, the City will submit two transportation project funding proposals to the 2016 Legislature. From unclogging the I-35W and I-494 interchange to updating Mall of America Transit Station, these proposed projects will address longstanding Bloomington transportation needs.

MALL OF AMERICA TRANSIT STATION

MOA Transit Station is the busiest transit station in Minnesota. Currently, an external security checkpoint for all vehicles causes major transit delays. The proposed project would improve efficiency of bus and train operations, increase exterior visibility for transit riders, improve station amenities and aesthetic appeal, and provide convenient pedestrian access. It is a \$25 million project with \$16.25 million currently funded. The goal is to complete the updates in time for the 2018 Super Bowl.

I-494 AND I-35W PHASE 1

The I-35W and I-494 interchange is the busiest, most congested in the state. It carries nearly 500,000 vehicles each day, and many vehicle crashes occur in the area. The Minnesota Department of Transportation's 2013 Rescoping Project recommended a "turbine interchange" that could be constructed in phases. Phase 1 will include creating temporary lanes to accommodate rerouted traffic, rebuilding the 82nd Street bridge over I-35W, and constructing access from northbound I-35W to westbound I-494. Construction of this portion of the project is estimated to cost \$85 million. If the Legislature approves funding for the project, the administration, permitting and design would start as soon as possible. The entire interchange design is projected to be completed for \$255 million.

EAST BUSH LAKE ROAD AND I-494

The interchange at East Bush Lake Road and I-494 has been without a westbound I-494 on-ramp since its construction in 1960. Since then, new office buildings, hotels, townhomes and condominiums have been built in the area, increasing the number of drivers who want to go west on I-494. A westbound ramp will help relieve traffic congestion at the interchange of TH100 and I-494. The City proposes an "inverted loop" design that provides westbound access and goes under the existing railroad tracks west of East Bush Lake Road. The design allows northbound and southbound traffic on East Bush Lake Road to access eastbound and westbound I-494. This project is now fully funded, thanks to a \$7.3 million federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality grant, \$8.5 million from Hennepin County and an \$8 million Transportation Economic Development grant from the state.



MnDOT Commissioner Charles Zelle discusses Transportation Economic Development grant awards and the interchange at East Bush Lake Road and I-494 at a January 5 press event.

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The City of Bloomington complies with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs, and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations. For more information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; 952-563-8733 (Voice); 952-563-8740 (TTY).

Upon request, this information can be available in Braille, large print, audio tape and/or electronic format.

MAYOR'S MEMO

REINVESTING IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

By Mayor Gene Winstead

Each neighborhood's appearance contributes to its residents' quality of life. Attractive housing, accessible parks and well-maintained streets are key indicators of a neighborhood's livability. The City is working on ways to help residents maintain their neighborhoods as desirable locations to live, work and play.

Most Bloomington homes are more than 50 years old. As homes get older, maintenance is increasingly important to retain property values and improve neighborhood quality and livability.

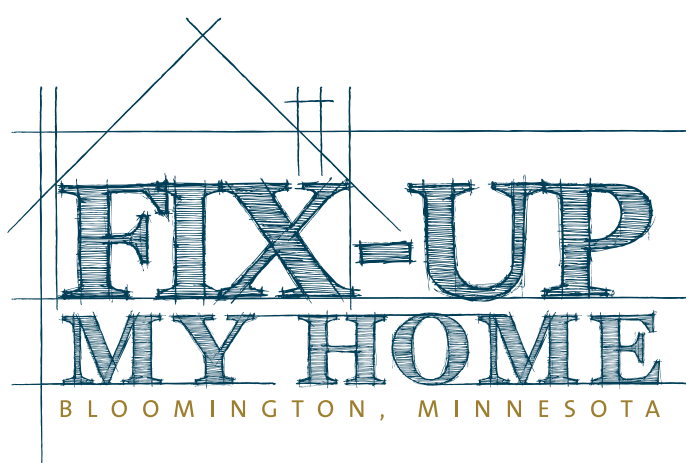
The Bloomington City Council and Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) authorized \$1.8 million in 2016 to help revitalize Bloomington neighborhoods and housing through several new and expanded programs:

The Curb Appeal Loan Program will be introduced this spring for exterior home improvements such as driveway replacement, painting, tree trimming and stump removal, and garage and garage door replacement. These are zero-percent deferred loans up to \$10,000 for income-eligible homeowners. They will be available in an initial focus neighborhood that has the boundaries of American Boulevard, Old Cedar Avenue, 90th Street and Portland Avenue. If successful, the loan program may be offered in other neighborhoods.

The City Council and HRA expanded the City's popular loans for home improvements, including roofing, siding, windows, and electrical, heating or plumbing upgrades. These are two-percent deferred loans up to \$35,000 for income-eligible homeowners. Home improvement loans are available citywide.

The City's partnership with residents to improve houses and neighborhoods has been successful. In the last 33 years, the HRA has loaned \$15 million to 1,100 income-eligible homeowners to make improvements.

The City is also exploring improvements to streets and parks in the initial focus neighborhood described above. For more information, visit the City's website or contact the HRA at 952-563-8937.



NEW TOOLS OF ENGAGEMENT

Residents now have a few new ways to stay in the loop about what is going on in their neighborhoods.

Recently, the City created an agency account on Nextdoor, a private social network neighbors use to communicate with each other about anything from block parties to service recommendations. The City will post information about safety, crime prevention, and public events on the account. Although City posts will appear on neighborhood pages, other content on those pages remains private. The City can only view direct replies to its posts. More than 3,700 Bloomington residents are already on Nextdoor in 64 self-identified neighborhoods. To view the account, visit blm.mn/nextdoor.

Instagram, a photo- and video-sharing social networking site, is another place residents can see what's going on around Bloomington. You'll find pictures of local places, faces and events on the City's new account. To view the Instagram account, visit blm.mn/instagram.



CITY CONTINUES TO FIGHT THE EMERALD ASH BORER

Since last year, the City has been fighting the Emerald Ash Borer. The invasive pest was discovered near Columbus Playlot, 10030 Columbus Avenue South, in 2014. The iridescent green beetle's larvae feed on the conductive tissues of ash tree bark, which eventually kills the tree.

Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Dave Hanson says the plan to remove ash trees in the area is well underway. In 2015, 125 ash trees were removed from park land around the playlot. When the project is finished, all of the

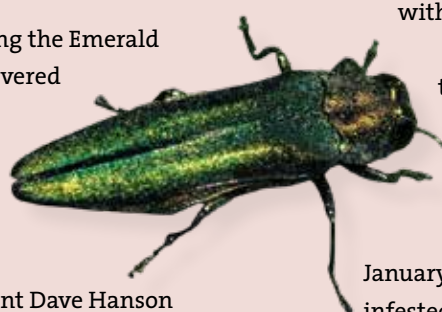
ash trees on park land within one mile of Columbus Playlot will have been removed. The ash trees are being replaced with a mix of native trees.

"Our goal is to control the spread and do the best we can to contain it," Hanson said.

Some of this work was funded by an \$80,000 grant from the Department of Natural Resources. The City will conduct another tree survey in January to determine whether there are more infested trees. For more information, visit the

City's website or contact Dave Hanson at 952-563-8765 or dhanson@BloomingtonMN.gov.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: EAB.





Designs are not fully developed, but will likely include a two-story, 28,000-square-foot addition built on the southwest end of Civic Plaza. Preliminary plans include a separate court entrance to differentiate the court facility from City offices.

HENNEPIN COUNTY COURT PLANS TO MAKE A MOVE

Hennepin County and the City are working toward relocating the Fourth District County Court facilities from the Southdale Regional Center in Edina to Bloomington Civic Plaza.

In November, the City Council approved a letter of intent that signifies the City's interest in the move. The next steps for the City and County are to formalize development and lease agreements. They will also be subject to County Board and City Council approval. The County will share operating and maintenance costs and the City will provide property management. The target completion date is in 2017.

CITY COUNCIL APPROVES 2016 TAX LEVY

After months of budget meetings, the City Council adopted a property tax levy increase of 5.75 percent to \$52,845,152. This means the monthly cost of tax-supported services for the owner of a \$219,700 median value home is \$74.73 for 2016. The increase of \$3.09 per month from 2015 is the result of several initiatives and adding back the fire pension levy. From 2015 to 2016, the median valued home increased from \$206,900 to \$219,700, a growth of 6.2 percent.

In Minnesota, local governments set a total property tax dollar amount instead of a tax rate as is done in some other states. This is based on state law, prorated to each property based on the property's value. With this property tax levy, the City's share of 2016 total residential property taxes is 31 cents out of every tax dollar paid. The remaining amount goes to the county, school district and other taxing districts. Prorated 2014 home sales reflected the increase in value and are the basis for the 2015 assessment for taxes payable in 2016.

Since 1997, the City's annual base property tax levy increase has averaged 3.66 percent on existing properties. The Bloomington levy impact is the second lowest for median-value homes in Hennepin County communities with populations over 20,000. For more information, contact Lori Economy-Scholler at 952-563-8791 or leconomy@BloomingtonMN.gov.

PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM TO EXPAND IN 2016

The City will implement franchise fees to expand its Pavement Management Program (PMP) in 2016.

The PMP maximizes efficiency in street repair and replacement by identifying the right action to take at the right time. This prolongs pavement life, keeps the City's infrastructure in good condition and supports property values. PMP funding is provided through state aids, assessments, levy taxes and, now, franchise fees. With the new expansion of PMP through franchise fees, existing trails will be maintained and street overlay maintenance will be fully funded.

The City will use franchise fees rather than additional levy taxes to fund the PMP expansion because they are a more sustainable and consistent way to ensure that street overlays and trail maintenance happen regularly.

The City Council approved the collection of franchise fees on utility bills in winter 2015. In the spring of 2016, residents will see a line item on their Xcel and CenterPoint utility bills with the charge. With the Council's approval, 86 percent of Hennepin County taxpayers will now pay franchise fees. Bloomington residents will pay a total of \$7.50 per household—\$3.75 through Xcel and \$3.75 through CenterPoint—each month.

"By dedicating the franchise fees to street overlays and trail maintenance, residents will know exactly why the fee



is being collected and where the money is being spent," City Engineer Shelly Pederson said.

As a result of adding another PMP funding source, the City's proposed 2016 tax levy was reduced by \$550,000, according to the City's Chief Financial Officer Lori Economy-Scholler.



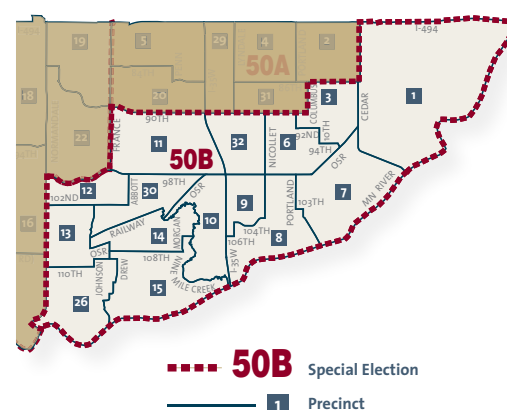
NEW FACES ON CITY LEADERSHIP TEAM

Two new staff have joined the City's leadership team. Elizabeth Tolzmann, pictured above left, is the new Assistant City Manager and Kris Wilson, pictured above right, is the new Human Resources Director.

Both Wilson and Tolzmann said it was Bloomington's reputation as a well-managed, forward-thinking community that attracted them to their new positions.

Before coming to work in Bloomington, Kris Wilson was the Assistant City Administrator in Shakopee for 10 years, a Government Relations Specialist at the Association for Metropolitan Municipalities and a Research Associate at the Citizens League. Wilson is a graduate of Luther College in Iowa and has a master's degree in public policy from Rutgers University in New Jersey.

Elizabeth Tolzmann was previously employed by Hennepin County as a Workplace Culture Specialist and, prior to that, as the Community Engagement Coordinator in Brooklyn Park. Tolzmann graduated from the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota. She has a law degree from St. Thomas University and is a certified facilitator.



SPECIAL ELECTION COMING SOON

Longtime legislator Ann Lenczewski resigned in December, creating a vacancy in Minnesota House District 50B. Andrew Carlson and Chad Anderson are running for election to represent District 50B in a special election on February 9. Polls are open 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. To locate your precinct, visit blm.mn/votesite or call 952-563-8729.

CURBSIDE CLEANUP

Prepare for your Curbside Cleanup day by setting your materials at the curb before 7 a.m. Items must be boxed or bundled with twine. **No plastic bags will be accepted.** Remember, trucks only pass through once.

Seniors or residents with disabilities who

need help moving things to the curb can contact Human Services at least two weeks prior to their scheduled pickup date at 952-563-4944 or TTY 952-563-4933.

Residents are encouraged to recycle, reuse or donate items before disposing of them. For more information, visit the City's website.

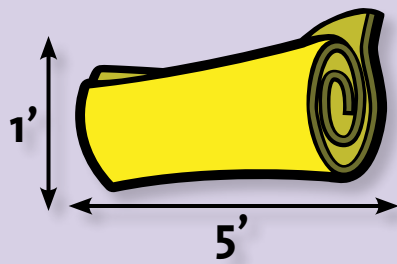
2016 CLEANUP SCHEDULE	
West of Normandale	April 16
Normandale to France	April 23
France to Penn	April 30
Penn to Portland	May 7
East of Portland	May 14

QUESTIONS? CALL 952-563-8760

To receive Curbside schedule reminders, visit blm.mn/esubscribe, click on E-Subscribe, and sign up for email updates.

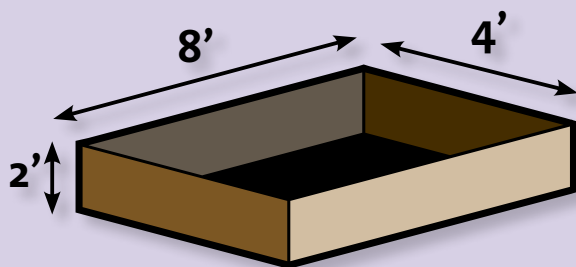
ACCEPTED AT THE CURB

- General junk:** Boxed or bundled with twine—under 100 pounds per item.
- Carpets/pads:** Rolled and securely tied with twine. Under five feet long and one foot in diameter.
- Appliances:** Water heaters and softeners, microwaves, washers, dryers, stoves, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, freezers, dishwashers, trash compactors, garbage disposals, water coolers, refrigerators (remove door or tie securely shut). Limit of two appliances per house. **DO NOT set out appliances until the morning of your pickup date.**
- Unusable furniture:** Disassemble or tie down hide-a-way sofa beds so they cannot open when handled.



- Construction materials, lumber, windows and doors:** Pile limited to what fits in ONE level standard-size pickup truck. Lumber stacked and no longer than five feet. **NO railroad ties. NO business materials used for contractor work.**

- BUNDLED brush:** Branches must be smaller than three inches in diameter and five feet in length, tied with twine and put in bundles that can be carried by one person. Brush piles must be no more than what can fit in a standard pickup truck.



- Mattresses/box springs.**
- Large scrap metal ONLY:** Large scrap metal items that do not fit in the truck of a car (swing sets, barbeque grills, bikes, treadmills, lawn mowers, snow blowers, etc.) Drain all fluids and remove tires. Smaller items should be taken to the South Hennepin Recycling and Problem Waste Drop-Off Center, 1400 West 96th Street.

NOT ACCEPTED AT THE CURB

- Small scrap metal.**
- Tires, batteries.**
- Tubs, sinks, toilets.**
- Construction items:** Contractor materials, railroad ties, concrete, bricks and shingles (asbestos).



- Electronic items:** TVs, computer monitors, stereos and cell phones.
- Hazardous waste:** Paint, motor oil, solvents, fluorescent tubes, propane and other household chemicals.
- Organic materials:** Leaves, grass clippings, sod, stumps, logs and food waste.
- Recyclable materials:** Newspapers, cans, glass, corrugated cardboard, boxboard and plastic bottles.

For tips on how to properly dispose of items not accepted at the curb, call 612-348-3777 or visit the Green Disposal Guide on Hennepin County's website at www.hennepin.us, keywords: green disposal.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: CURBSIDE CLEANUP.



THE MARVELOUS MIX

A RECIPE FOR SAFE ROADS AND WATERSHEDS

The City's Public Works Department has a simple recipe for healthy watersheds and safe roadways. The Department has been mixing anti-ice brine solution for the past 10 years to reduce the City's salt use and make it easier to clear snow and ice from the roads.

Anti-icing makes for smoother morning commutes after a storm and it does a lot for the environment and City budget, too. It reduces chloride runoff to our area watersheds because less salt is used overall. It also means less overtime for City employees working to clear the roads. Anti-icing before a storm takes one-tenth of the time and resources than de-icing afterwards, according to MnDOT.

The City's solution includes four basic ingredients: an agricultural product (the City currently uses beet juice), rock salt, calcium chloride and fresh water. The beet juice is sticky and acts as an adhesive to keep the solution on the streets as long as possible. The calcium chloride serves as a freeze-point depressant, keeping the solution itself from freezing. The salt and water do the heavy lifting by making it tough for ice and snow to adhere to the roads.

"It's like putting Pam on the pan," Street Supervisor Mike Kalis said.

Mixing the anti-ice brine solution is an exact science. The necessary proportion of ingredients changes with the weather. For example, more calcium chloride is added when it is colder to further reduce the freezing temperature of the solution. To accommodate the ever-changing Minnesota climate, City staff engineered a custom blending panel that allows changes to the ratio of each ingredient in the anti-ice mixture. The system can make 10,000 gallons in three hours. It takes between 10,000 and 14,000 gallons to treat 325 lane miles of City streets. There are only two pounds of salt in each gallon of brine solution.



RECYCLING GUIDE

PAPER

- Mail, office and school papers
- Magazines and catalogs
- Newspapers and inserts
- Phone books
- Shredded paper in closed paper bags

BOXES

- Cardboard
- Cereal and cracker boxes
- Shoe boxes, gift boxes and electronics boxes
- Toothpaste, medication and other toiletry boxes

CARTONS

- Milk cartons
- Juice boxes
- Soup, broth and wine cartons

GLASS

- Food and beverage bottles and jars

PLASTIC

BOTTLES AND JUGS

- Water, soda and juice bottles
- Milk and juice jugs
- Ketchup and salad dressing bottles
- Shampoo, soap and lotion bottles
- Dishwashing liquid bottles and detergent jugs

CUPS AND CONTAINERS

- Yogurt, pudding and fruit cups
- Disposable cups and bowls
- Produce, deli and take-out containers
- Margarine, cottage cheese and other containers

PACKAGING

- Clear packaging from toys and electronics

METAL

- Food and beverage bottles and jars

DON'T RECYCLE: Styrofoam™, plastic wrap, microwaveable food trays, paper soiled with food, paper plates and towels, drinking glasses, dishes, mirrors or containers that held hazardous products.





BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT GIVES RESIDENTS AN INSIDE LOOK

Have you ever wondered what it's like to conduct a crime scene investigation? Perhaps the idea of learning the process of a routine traffic stop is more interesting to you?

BPD's Citizens Academy gives residents the chance to learn all about what it takes to be an effective police officer, from investigations to patrol and everything in between. The free 10-week course delves into different aspects of policing like criminal law, crime analysis, crime scene investigation, and patrol and investigations duties, among others.

"The biggest benefit of the Citizens Academy is giving our citizens a chance to be involved in the police culture of the Bloomington Police Department," Officer Jerry Wukawitz said. "The Academy exposes them to the working facets of operation in a real police department."

At the conclusion of the program, participants have a better understanding of the demands placed upon their police officers and officers gain valuable insight and feedback from the residents they serve.

To be eligible to participate, you must live or work in Bloomington, be 21 years of age and have no felony convictions on your record. Class size is limited to 30 students. The 2016 Citizens Academy will be held on Thursday nights, **September 15 – November 17**. The deadline to submit an application is August 12. To apply, contact Officer Jerry Wukawitz at 952-563-8853 or visit blm.mn/ca-app.

PROTECTING BLOOMINGTON'S WATER SUPPLY

The Utilities Division administers a Wellhead and Source Water Protection Plan approved by Minnesota Department of Health. This plan addresses the six municipal water supply wells that provide the majority of the City's drinking water and uses data elements required by the State to assess vulnerability to contamination.

The plan also includes identification of issues, opportunities, objectives and plans of action aimed at continuing to meet drinking water demands with a sufficient and safe water supply. One of these objectives is to promote the proper sealing of unused, unmaintained or abandoned wells. To that end, the City is beginning a project this winter — with help from a MDH grant — to abandon the Forest Haven community well, which was used to provide drinking water to a small development west of Normandale Boulevard before the Sam H. Hobbs Water Treatment Plant was constructed.

The City hired a contractor to perform the work consistent with State law and MDH guidelines. Once underway, work should be completed in one to two weeks. More information can be found on the City's website at blm.mn/sourcewaterplan or for more information on private wells, contact the City's Environmental Health Division at 952-563-8934 or visit blm.mn/wellinspection.



MEET A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER

Eric Scott has volunteered for the Bloomington Fire Department for 19 years. He serves out of Station 1.

Q: What is your day job?

A: I run E>TRAIN, a sports training business, where I work with athletes to improve their speed and agility.

Q: What made you want to become a volunteer firefighter?

A: My dad was a policeman in Indiana. I knew I wanted to follow in his footsteps and work in public safety somehow. Back then, I wasn't sure if I wanted to work in firefighting or a police department.

Q: What do you enjoy most about being a volunteer firefighter?

A: Giving back to the community. No matter what residents have been through, they are always so appreciative and kind; we get a lot of thank-you cards here. I also love the team atmosphere. I played college sports, and after I graduated I longed for the feeling you get when you are part of a team. I found it again volunteering for the Fire Department. Now I have 150 teammates.

Q: What do you do for fun when you are not working or volunteering?

A: I have two kids, a four-year-old and a seven-year-old, and I spend a lot of time with them. We recently bought some land up north. I like taking them out and teaching them about the different animal tracks and berries you can find on the trails up there.

STAY FIT THIS WINTER

Healthy residents make a healthy Bloomington. There are many ways to keep fit in the City during the colder months. From exercise classes available at Creekside Community Center to the indoor tracks and weight rooms at the Jefferson and Kennedy Activity Centers, there is a place for you to work out and keep warm. To learn more about the recreation opportunities available, check out the online resource guide at blm.mn/recreation.

RECYCLING REQUIREMENT CHANGES

In 2014, the Minnesota Legislature expanded recycling requirements to include commercial buildings. Owners of commercial buildings in the seven-county metro area that generate four cubic yards or more of trash per week are now required to recycle at least three materials.

Who must collect recycling?

Property owners with commercial buildings (including multifamily buildings) located in Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott or Washington counties.

What must be collected? Single-sort recycling collection with three or more materials included will meet the requirement. Possible material types include paper, cans, glass, plastic, metal, cardboard or organics.

Hennepin County Environment and Energy has staff available to help make business recycling efforts a success. Businesses can get funds, bins, signs and on-site assistance here: www.hennepin.us/businessrecycling.

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UPDATE YOUR HOME

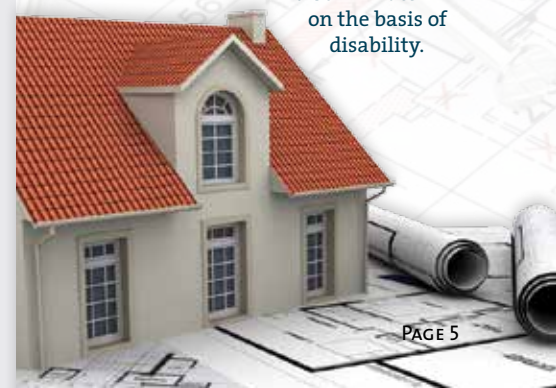
The Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority is accepting applications for its deferred Home Improvement Loan Program. These loans have no monthly payments, carry a two percent interest rate for the first 10 years and are payable upon sale of the property. Eligible improvements include window and door replacement, siding, and electrical, plumbing and heating work.

For a complete list of eligible improvements and income guidelines, visit the City's website or call 952-563-8937.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: HOME LOANS.



EQUAL LENDING OPPORTUNITIES: The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of disability.





2016 SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

Registration is now open for spring and summer adult softball leagues. Leagues play at Dred Scott Playfield, 10820 Bloomington Ferry Road and Valley View Playfield, 9000 Portland Avenue South. All leagues will be provided with softballs for games. Teams will receive their softballs at the start of the season.

SAVE THESE DATES

Through February 19: Returning team registration period.

February 25: New team registration period opens.

April 8: Deadline to withdraw from league and receive refund, less a \$50 service fee.

April 11 – 14: Manager's meetings will be held. Times and locations of games will be announced after the registration period closes.

April 22: Softball season begins.



2016 TEAM REGISTRATION FEES

RESIDENT LEAGUE FEES

Double Header Leagues:
\$800 + tax = \$858.20
Single Game Leagues:
\$525 + tax = \$563.19

NONRESIDENT LEAGUE FEES

Double Header Leagues
\$825 + tax = \$885.02
Single Game Leagues
\$550 + tax = \$590.01



START PLANNING YOUR SUMMER EXPERIENCE

This summer, the City of Bloomington will begin a new collaborative effort between Bloomington Parks and Recreation, Bloomington Public Schools and Artistry to provide the highest quality programming possible while maintaining affordable prices. The newly designed Bloomington Summer Experience catalog makes it easier than ever to find the perfect summer activities. There are endless options for summer fun!

Registration kicks off Tuesday, March 15. Look for program catalogs on the City's website and in your mailbox in early March. For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877 or visit the City's website.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: SUMMER EXPERIENCE.



ANNUAL EGG HUNT

Don't miss this annual family event for kids ages eight and younger, sponsored by Bloomington Parks and Recreation and the Bloomington Optimist Club. While you're there, check out fun family activities, information booths and musical entertainment.

When: Saturday, March 26, 10 – 11 a.m. Hunt begins at 11 a.m.

Where: Normandale Lake Bandshell, 5901 West 84th Street.

SOAK UP THE SUN POOLSIDE

Bloomington Family Aquatic Center (BFAC) resident season passes will be available beginning March 15. Get your pass before April 15 to receive \$2 off, or prior to June 7 to receive \$1 off. Passes are available at the Parks and Recreation counter

at Civic Plaza through June 7. Beginning on June 8, passes will be available daily at BFAC, 201 East 90th Street. BFAC is open **June 8 – August 21** and the two weekends before Labor Day. BFAC is also open on Labor Day.

BORN AGAIN JOCKS VOLLEYBALL

The Born Again Jocks volleyball league welcomes men 55 years and older of all skill levels. Games are held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m., at Kennedy High School, 9701 Nicollet Avenue. For more information, call Paul Johnson at 612-866-4428.

JOIN A SPRING BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Join the three-on-three basketball league! Games will be self-officiated and played half-court with scorekeepers provided. The three-on-three basketball league is offered in cooperation with the city of Richfield. Games will be played at Richfield Middle School, 7461 Oliver Avenue South, **Wednesdays, March 23 – April 20**. The cost is \$110 per team. Registration deadline is March 11.

VOLUNTEER AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Are you 13 years or older and looking for something fun to do this summer? Look no further than Bloomington Parks and Recreation. There are plenty of leadership positions available in youth programs and adaptive softball. The application deadline is February 26. To apply, visit blm.mn/parks-volunteer.

GROW SOME GREEN

Each year the City plants trees in parks and other public areas to ensure that Bloomington's urban forest continues to grow. The City has planted more than 1,000 trees over the last few years. To increase the number of trees on private properties, Park Maintenance holds an annual public tree sale. Based on last year's sales, 300 trees will be available for purchase this spring.

TREE ORDER FORM

Bloomington residents only. All trees are bare-root, one-and-a-quarter to one-and-a-half inches in diameter and cost \$50 each. *Trees are not guaranteed.*

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Fill in number of each tree type desired. First come, first served. Maximum 5 trees total per household, \$50 each. Check must accompany order.

_____ Autumn Blaze red maple _____ Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry _____ Hackberry _____ Imperial honeylocust
 _____ Northwood red maple _____ Prairie Fire crab apple _____ River birch _____ Snowdrift crab apple

Total trees X \$50 ea. = \$ Total cost

Pick up trees at 1800 West Old Shakopee Road on **Saturday, May 7, 9 – 11 a.m.**

Send check and form to City of Bloomington, Park Maintenance,
1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027.





BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY

Here's a photo taken in October 1970 of the railroad swing bridge just south of Normandale Boulevard and near Auto Club Road swinging into action to let a barge pass. See article below for more information about what is currently happening with the bridge.



SWINGING BACK INTO ACTION

The railroad swing bridge on Normandale is getting a tune-up. The Twin Cities & Western Railroad Company (TC&W) is making repairs to the swing bridge over the Minnesota River at the end of Normandale Boulevard this winter including rail and tie replacement. This will allow use of the bridge, which has not been in service since 2007.

TC&W anticipates an increased demand for rail service in this corridor over the next few years due to the shipment of corn, soybeans and wheat from the Upper Midwest. Rail usage is regulated by the Federal Government and is not subject to City control. For more information, visit blm.mn/swing or call the City's Public Works Department at 952-563-4581.

EILER HONORED

Maintenance Superintendent Jim Eiler, pictured above, picked up a new piece of hardware from the American Public Works Association in November when he was named Minnesota's 2015 Superintendent of the Year.

Eiler began his career with the City in 1978 as a seasonal Public Works employee. In his 36 years with the City, he's worked to find new ways to improve Public Works equipment and procedures. Among his many successes in that pursuit is the increased level of snow removal services. Eiler spearheaded changes that won the City awards for excellence in storage, environmental stewardship, and safe and sustainable snow fighting. In the most recent resident and business survey, an average of 88 percent of respondents rated snow removal services as excellent or good, which is above the national average.

Eiler is the latest in a sequence of Public Works leaders who have been honored. City Engineer Shelly Pederson was named 2014 Engineer of the Year, Utilities Superintendent Bob Cockriel was named 2008 Superintendent of the Year and Larry Tschida, the former maintenance superintendent, was also named Superintendent of the Year. Eiler says that this level of recognition is an indication of the high-quality service the department provides the community.

SCHNEIDERS RECEIVE LEGACY AWARD



Allan and Debby Schneider, pictured at left, never expected to receive the Bloomington Community Foundation's Legacy Award.

Despite their decades of philanthropy and civic engagement—including a \$1 million donation to the Bloomington Center for the Arts—the honor came as a big surprise to the Bloomington couple who didn't even know they had been nominated.

"It is very nice to be recognized, especially when we are still around to enjoy it," Allan said with a laugh.

The Schneiders donate to more than 75 area organizations with varying missions, but it is their dedication to the arts that stands out. The Schneider's million-dollar donation sparked a bond referendum which passed and led to the Bloomington Center for the Arts—a space at Civic Plaza where seven arts organizations operate and plays, concerts, exhibitions and recitals are held.

Along with providing residents the opportunity to enjoy different forms of art, the Bloomington Center for the Arts provides Allan the chance to work after retirement. He volunteers almost daily in the theater scene shop, building set pieces and props for upcoming productions. Debby brings her creative touch to the Center, too. She creates floral arrangements that can be found in the lobby and the entry to the Rose Schneider Gift Shop.

"[The BCA] shows what can happen when you are in a city with honest, hard-working people who want the best for their community," Allan said.

VALENTINE'S DAY LUNCH

Come and celebrate Valentine's Day with that special someone on Friday, February 12 at 11:30 a.m. at Creekside Community Center. This special lunch event will feature live entertainment from Girl Singers of the Hit Parade, a delicious meal, door prizes and more. To make a reservation, call 952-563-4944 or visit Creekside. Meal cost is \$0 – 4.50 for guests 60+ (NAPIS form required) and \$7.25 for guests under 60.

FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION SERVICES AT CREEKSIDE

Tax assistance will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis to individuals who qualify by the income guidelines noted below. Beginning Thursday, January 21, Prepare and Prosper and AARP Tax-Aide will be available to prepare your taxes at the following dates and times. Taxpayers with complex tax returns are advised to seek paid tax assistance.

PREPARE AND PROSPER

- Income must be \$35,000 or less for individuals and \$55,000 or less for families to qualify.
- Tuesdays and Thursdays, January 21 – Monday, April 18 at 5:45 p.m.
- Saturdays, beginning January 23 – April 16, at 9 a.m.

AARP TAX-AIDE

- AARP Tax-Aide will provide free tax preparation services to taxpayers with low to middle income.
- AARP Tax-Aide does not have income guidelines for service.
- Mondays and Tuesdays, February 1 – April 12, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

The Human Services Division is partnering with Prepare and Prosper and AARP Tax-Aide to make these programs available. Call 952-563-4944, 952-563-4933 TTY for more information.

COFFEE WITH A COP

Human Services invites you to Coffee with a Cop. This meet-and-greet program is designed to provide residents an opportunity to get to know the Bloomington Police Department and its officers. Coffee with a Cop will take place at various coffee shop locations throughout Bloomington every month starting in March. A listing of locations will be available on the City's website or by calling Human Services at Creekside at 952-563-4944. These events are agenda free, no speeches or specific topics; just informal conversations about what matters to you.



BLOOMINGTON ACADEMY FOR SAFE ELDERS

Human Services B.A.S.E. Program is taught in partnership with the Bloomington Police Department. For more information, contact Human Services at Creekside at 952-563-4944.

BLOOMINGTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS

2016 PERFORMANCE SERIES

The Bloomington Center for the Arts Performance Series includes awe-inspiring theater, band, chorale and jazz concerts. Performances are held in the Schneider or Black Box theaters, located in the Bloomington Center for the Arts at the corner of 98th Street and West Old Shakopee Road.



CHECK OUT THIS AMAZING LINE-UP OF SHOWS



Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs 35th Anniversary Concert

Join us for “Songs of the Decades!,” a great afternoon of music from the 50s – 90s, and help support our scholarship fund in honor of longtime director Rita Docter. Dessert reception included.

Sunday, February 21, 3 p.m.

Adults \$35, seniors \$35, 25 and under \$35



Artistry Doubt: A Parable

In this Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning mystery, the beloved priest of a parish school is suspected of having an inappropriate relationship with a student.

February 26 – March 13

Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 p.m.

Saturdays and Sundays, 2 p.m.

Adults \$27, seniors \$23, 25 and under \$19

Black Box Theater



Medalist Concert Band How “Suite” It Is!

Some of the best-loved compositions for band are suites—sets of pieces of varying character but in the same key. Join the Medalist Concert Band in exploring this musical genre.

Sunday, February 28, 4 p.m.

Adults \$14, seniors and students \$12



Continental Ballet Company's “Giselle”

One of the most beloved of the great romantic ballets, “Giselle” tells the story of a lovely peasant girl with a passion for dancing who falls in love.

March 12 – March 20

Saturdays, 7:30 p.m., Sundays, 2 p.m.

Adults \$25, seniors and students \$19, 13 and under \$13

For tickets, call 952-563-8562.



Maud Hixson and the Wolverines Trio The Music and Life of Doris Day

Take a sentimental journey with big-band singer, movie star and animal-rights activist Doris Day through her hit songs such as “Que Sera Sera” and hear how her sunny strength triumphed over her personal storms.

Saturday, April 2, 7:30 p.m.

Adults \$27, seniors \$24, students \$20



Arne Fogel and Jennifer Eckes Days of Wine and Roses

It wasn't all “British invasion.” The 1960s were a golden age for mainstream pop music as well, including hits from Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Barbra Streisand.

April 8 – 10, Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m.,

Sunday, 2 p.m.

Adults \$21, seniors \$19, students \$17

Black Box Theater



Medalist Concert Band Hands Across the Sea

John Philip Sousa's “Hands Across the Sea” march provides the theme for this Medalist Band concert, which includes selections from around the globe. Also featured is the winner of this year's Earl C. Benson Concerto Competition.

Sunday, May 15, 4 p.m.

Adults \$14, seniors and students \$12



Noël Coward's

BLITHE SPIRIT

Artistry Blithe Spirit

A novelist doing research engages a medium to conduct a séance, and comedy ensues as his annoying and temperamental first wife is inadvertently summoned back from the grave.

May 19 – June 12, Wednesdays, Thursdays,

Fridays, Saturdays, 7:30 p.m.

Sundays, 2 p.m.

Adults \$27, seniors \$23, 25 and under \$19

Black Box Theater



Bloomington Chorale Bizet to Bernstein

An inspiring evening of choruses from the legendary operas and the marvelous music of Broadway; a choral concert of music with something for everyone!

Friday, May 20, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 21, 4 p.m.

Adults \$15, seniors and students \$11

(Add \$1 to ticket price at the door)



Barbary Coast Dixieland Show Band

Together since 1967 and inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame in 2001, the Barbary Coast players take their authentic Dixieland jazz around the world and bring it back home again!

Friday, June 3, 7:30 p.m.

Adults \$30, seniors \$27, students \$23



NOTE-able Singers Once Upon a Time

Join NOTE-able Singers as they perform songs celebrating the moments that make life funny, touching, memorable and completely enchanting—like a fairy tale.

Saturday, June 4, 7:30 p.m.,

Sunday, June 5, 2 p.m.

Adults \$15, seniors and students \$12,

Kids Under 5 free.



The 60s

Take a psychedelic trip back in time to a decade when flower children were the rage and groovy music filled the air. The 60s is directed by Ivey Award-winning Michael Matthew Ferrell and Jason Hansen, and stars a talented ensemble of rockin' seniors.

June 10 – June 19, Fridays and Saturdays,

7:30 p.m., Sundays, 2 p.m.

Adults \$29, seniors and students \$26

BOX OFFICE

Order tickets by phone: Call 952-563-8575 • Online: Go to www.centerstageticketing.com/sites/bloomington

In person: Office hours vary. Call 952-563-8575 for current hours.

Programs, artists and prices subject to change. Orders received less than 7 days prior to the performance will be held for pick up at the box office.

All ticket sales are final. No refunds or exchanges.

