

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



FEBRUARY 2017

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THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND

The City is planting seeds to maintain and grow its sustainable practices with the new Sustainability Commission. Appointed by the City Council, the commission will advise the City Council and City staff on the sustainable use and management of environmental

resources, including air, water, energy, land and ecological resources, and waste. Up to nine resident members will be appointed to the commission to serve terms of three years. The commission is expected to start work in February. For more information, visit blm.mn/sustainability.

TASK FORCE RECOMMENDS NEW COMMUNITY CENTER CREEKSIDE NO LONGER A “VIALE OPTION”

After analyzing market trends and space needs, reviewing a 2015 needs assessment report and touring community centers in other cities, a task force is recommending construction of a new community center in Bloomington with the goal of better meeting the needs of residents and attracting and retaining people of all ages and backgrounds.

The current Creekside Community Center occupies a former elementary school built in 1960 at the corner of Penn Avenue South and West 98th Street. It provides a variety of programming with approximately 110,000 visits annually. While the building itself has been well maintained, it suffers from serviceability, flexibility and thermal issues typical of buildings constructed in its era. There are also recurring issues with overcrowding, lack of adequate storage and limited opportunities for expansion of present and future programs.

The City Council appointed the Community Center Task Force in fall 2015 to provide it with a framework for making decisions regarding a new community center. The 17-member task force included 11 residents, three City staff, two City Commissioners and one City Councilmember. The task force met eight times between April and August 2016.

The Community Center Task Force issued its final report to the City Council in October 2016. The task force determined that the current Creekside building was no longer a viable option, adding that making major improvements to the building would not be worth the return on investment.

The task force recommended replacing Creekside with a facility that would attract and retain people of all ages, families, diverse community members and current users. Amenities such as a gymnasium, aquatics, indoor playground, walking/running track and large and small multipurpose rooms should be included, according to the task force.

Other recommendations

- Locate the facility on a site of at least 8 – 10 acres in a central location with access to transit and trails.
- Seek out partnership opportunities to mitigate the tax impact on property owners.
- Consider bonding and other financing options available to the City for construction of a new community center.

Next steps

The task force suggested that the City solicit feedback from the community to better understand space needs in a new community center via methods such as surveys or focus groups.

More information

To view the Community Center Task Force report, visit blm.mn/cctaskforce.

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MAYOR’S MEMO

AN INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE CITY

By Mayor Gene Winstead

In 1970, only 1 percent of Bloomington residents were nonwhite. In 2014, 24 percent of residents were nonwhite. And our future looks more diverse than ever, with 48 percent of Bloomington kindergarteners being nonwhite.

There is no doubt the demographics of our community are changing. The City Council recognized embracing and celebrating these changes as a priority in its three-year strategic plan.

There are three main things we’re going to do to be an example of inclusion and equity at the City moving forward. First, we are going to diversify our workforce. When someone visits Civic Plaza, they should see themselves represented in the staff they interact with. Second, we’re going to diversify our advisory commissions. We want to be sure all points of view are included in the decisions we make. Third, we’ll utilize a racial equity toolkit to evaluate the programs and services the City offers. Any time we’re adopting a new program, a new policy or we’re reorienting services to the community, we want to be sure that we are doing that through the lens of equity.

City staff have responded to opportunities to have open and honest conversations about race through a video series, a book club and lunch-and-learn sessions. More than 100 staff members have taken part in at least one of these activities to date.

A City employee group also graduated from a racial equity cohort along with 18 other state, county and local level organizations. Together, they learned what other communities have done to advance racial equity. This work is important for many reasons—most of all it builds the cultural competencies of our workforce for greater service to our community. It will also help the City attract and retain a workforce that’s representative of its population.

We’re going to see exciting things happening in Bloomington in the years to come because of the work we’re starting right now.

In the end, One Bloomington isn’t about changing a logo or a tagline. It’s about engaging and partnering with our community to share the stories and assets of all of our stakeholders. The work we do to advance racial equity and inclusion will help us make Bloomington better for everyone.



UNITED TO BUILD STRONG COMMUNITY

One Bloomington, the City Council’s strategic plan, is written with the goal of strengthening a community that includes all residents, working together to accomplish the same goals. Through this plan’s strategic priorities, the City will focus on improving the awareness and reputation of Bloomington and its strengths across the region and state. The six strategic priorities are:

- Equity and inclusion
- Environmental sustainability
- Community amenities
- Focused renewal
- High-quality service delivery
- Community image

LEADERS GATHER AT ONE BLOOMINGTON SUMMIT

Nearly 70 community leaders gathered at Civic Plaza in December to talk about how to improve the community’s image. This initiative grew out of the City Council’s strategic priorities. Attendees heard about changing demographics and resident survey results then broke out into two groups to brainstorm. The groups discussed and categorized ideas with the assistance of City facilitators. Some of the overall categories included:

- Ignite partnerships
- Create a bold vision
- Tell stories that sell Bloomington
- Embrace diversity
- Create community through neighborhoods
- Strengthen civic engagement

Participants’ evaluations noted that they were excited to hear from a cross section of community leaders. “Great start of a community-wide conversation,” said one attendee.



“Many ideas and suggestions to consider—people are concerned and thoughtful,” said another.

Staff will review the data gathered and contact participants about next steps and how to stay involved. If you would like to be involved, contact Diann Kirby at dkirby@BloomingtonMN.gov, 952-563-8717.

BRIEFING

Volume 25, Number 1

The *Briefing*, published bimonthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to our residents and businesses. Direct comments and requests for Braille, larger print or computer file to Communications Administrator Janine Hill, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027; PH 952-563-8819; TTY: 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715; E-mail: jhill@BloomingtonMN.gov
Website: BloomingtonMN.gov

BLOOMINGTON CITY COUNCIL



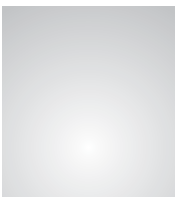
Mayor
Gene Winstead
952-888-1258 (h)
952-563-8782 (w)
gwinstead@BloomingtonMN.gov

Councilmember At Large
Kim Vlaisavljevich
612-226-7759
kvlaisavljevich@BloomingtonMN.gov



Councilmember At Large
Tim Busse
952-457-7506
tbusse@BloomingtonMN.gov

Councilmember District I
Dwayne Lowman
952-479-0226
dlowman@BloomingtonMN.gov



Councilmember District II
Appointment pending

Councilmember District III
Jack Baloga
952-944-5194
jbaloga@BloomingtonMN.gov



Councilmember District IV
Jon Oleson
651-208-6586
joleson@BloomingtonMN.gov

Elected officials presented for informational purposes.

COUNCILMEMBERS

council@BloomingtonMN.gov

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Jamie Verbrugge, <i>City Manager</i>	952-563-8780
citymanager@BloomingtonMN.gov	
Elizabeth Tolzmann, <i>Assistant City Manager</i>	952-563-8780
etolzmann@BloomingtonMN.gov	
Larry Lee, <i>Community Development</i>	952-563-8947
llee@BloomingtonMN.gov	
Diann Kirby, <i>Community Services</i>	952-563-8717
communityservices@BloomingtonMN.gov	
Lori Economy-Scholler, <i>Finance</i>	952-563-8791
finance@BloomingtonMN.gov	
Ulie Seal, <i>Fire</i>	952-563-4801
fire@BloomingtonMN.gov	
Kris Wilson, <i>Human Resources</i>	952-563-8710
humanresources@BloomingtonMN.gov	
Melissa Manderschied, <i>Legal</i>	952-563-8753
legal@BloomingtonMN.gov	
Jeffrey Potts, <i>Police</i>	952-563-8601
police@BloomingtonMN.gov	
Karl Keel, <i>Public Works</i>	952-563-8731
publicworks@BloomingtonMN.gov	

General phone number 952-563-8700

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.



AN ARTFUL ENTRANCE

Late Bloomington sculptor Ethel Hollinbeck never knew her artwork would be featured at Civic Plaza. The Hollinbeck family donated one of her abstract sculptures, *Genesis*, to the City this fall. It can be found near the east entrance to Civic Plaza. “We’re pleased to have *Genesis* displayed here,” said Center for the Arts Manager Jim Urie. “It will be admired for many years to come. We’re grateful for the Hollinbeck family’s donation of not only the sculpture, but also the funds to restore and install it.”

Genesis is composed of three intersecting ribbons of stainless steel about eight feet high and four feet wide. It is installed on a Kasota limestone pedestal. The City, Artistry and former mayor Neil Peterson facilitated the acquisition and restoration of the sculpture.

Hollinbeck’s sculpture is an important addition to Civic Plaza’s outdoor collection of artwork that also includes Dale Peterson’s *Growth* sculpture and Erik Pearson’s *Creating Together* mural.

EXCELLENCE IN FINANCE

The City recently received three triple-A ratings from Moody’s, Standard & Poor’s and Fitch Ratings, the highest bond ratings awarded by these agencies. Bloomington is one of only 32 cities nationwide that have achieved three triple-A ratings.

CITY COUNCIL APPROVES 2017 TAX LEVY

The City Council adopted a property tax levy increase of 5.75 percent to \$55,883,748. This means the monthly cost of tax-supported services for the owner of a \$225,900 median value home is \$71.17 for 2017, a reduction of \$3.47 from 2016. The decrease in monthly cost from 2016 is the result of tax code changes for Mall of America. From 2016 to 2017, the median valued home increased from \$219,700 to \$225,900, a growth of 2.8 percent.

In Minnesota, local governments set a total property tax dollar amount instead of a tax rate as is done in other states. Based on state law, this is prorated to each property based on the property’s value. With this property tax levy, the City’s share of 2017 total residential property taxes is 30 cents out of every tax dollar paid. The remaining amount goes to the county, school district and other taxing districts. Prorated 2015 home sales reflected the increase in value and are the basis for the 2016 assessment for taxes payable in 2017.

Since 1997, the City’s annual base property tax levy increase has averaged 3.76 percent on existing properties. The Bloomington levy impact is lower than 10 of 11 peer communities for median-value homes in Hennepin County.

For more information, contact Lori Economy-Scholler at 952-563-8791 or leconomy@BloomingtonMN.gov.

KEEPING LOCAL TREES HEALTHY

The City has been fighting the Emerald Ash Borer since 2014 when the invasive pest was discovered near Columbus Playlot, 10030 Columbus Avenue South. 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 2016, 230 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; the City planted 227 new trees last year.

There were two volunteer tree planting events in 2016. United Properties donated and planted 100 trees in three parks—Southglen, Heritage Hills and Tarnhill. And the Bloomington Lion’s club donated and planted 60 trees at Smith Park.



Photo courtesy Jeffrey Hahn, University of Minnesota Extension

The City will conduct another tree survey in 2017 to determine whether there are more infested trees. For more information, visit blm.mn/eab or contact Dave Hanson at 952-563-8765 or dhanson@BloomingtonMN.gov.

COFFEE WITH A COP

Bloomington police officers opened their department doors for the final Coffee with a Cop event of the year in December.

With coffee, hot chocolate and donuts on hand, BPD had more than 100 visitors. Bloomington’s Coffee with a Cop event series kicked off in the fall of 2015.

“It’s been successful,” said Sergeant Tom McCullough. “Officers have met hundreds of residents since we started, made real connections and built relationships. That’s what it’s all about.”

The event also served as a Toys for Tots donation site. BPD received more than double their usual donations, collecting 1,250 toys in 2016.

UPDATE YOUR HOME

Do you have a leaky roof or an outdated electrical system? Bloomington HRA Home Rehabilitation loans could provide the help you need to get the work done.

Loans of up to \$35,000 are available to Bloomington homeowners who are looking to make repairs to their homes to meet health or safety requirements such as code repairs for electrical, heating and plumbing; lead paint stabilization; energy efficiency improvements and exterior improvements. There are no monthly payments. The loan will accrue interest at an annual rate of 2 percent for a period of 10 years. The homeowner will not need to repay the loan until they sell, transfer title or the property is no longer the borrower’s principal place of residence.

These loans are offered in an effort to help maintain the condition of housing and neighborhoods in Bloomington. All homes built before 1978 will be required to have a Lead Risk Assessment.

To fill out an application, visit blm.mn/loans or call 952-563-8937.

CURBSIDE CLEANUP

Curbside Cleanup is only available to single family homes. 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 pass through only 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 952-563-8733 or TTY 952-563-8740. Residents are encouraged to recycle, reuse or donate items before disposing of them. For more information, visit blm.mn/curbside.

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.
- Household building 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 metal ONLY:** Large scrap metal items that do not fit in the trunk 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.

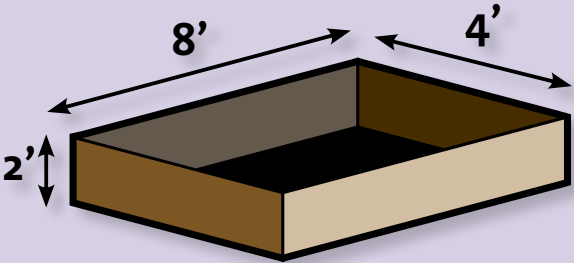
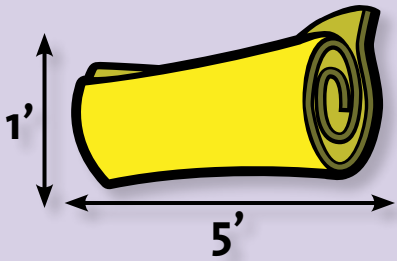
NOT ACCEPTED AT THE CURB

- Small metal.**
- Tires, batteries.**
- Tubs, sinks, toilets.**
- Construction items:**

Contractor materials, railroad ties, concrete, bricks or shingles (asbestos).

- Exceptionally heavy and bulky items:** Such as pianos or organs.
- Electronic items:** TVs, computers, stereos and cell phones, printers.
- 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/green-disposal-guide.



2017 CLEANUP SCHEDULE

West of Normandale	April 8
Normandale to France	April 15
France to Penn	April 22
Penn to Portland	April 29
East of Portland	May 6



YARD WASTE COLLECTION 2017

Full-season yard waste subscription service will be available April 15 to November 30 (weather permitting). Subscribers will pay an annual rate of \$79.50 for unlimited yard waste collection; this will be billed by the City as a one-time charge on your utility bill in early 2017. If you were a full-season subscriber last year, there is no need to call. You will automatically be enrolled in the full-season yard waste subscription service for 2017. If you signed up for a partial-season service late last year, you will also automatically be enrolled in the full-season yard waste subscription service for 2017. If you are new to Bloomington or just to the yard waste program and would like a yard waste subscription in 2017, call Utility Billing at 952-563-8726 to sign up for service. If you no longer require a yard waste service in 2017, please call Utility Billing to cancel your service before April 15. Yard waste charges will not be prorated or refunded. In response to many requests, one additional yard waste cart may be made available to properties enrolled in a full-season subscription service. The annual fee associated with the additional yard waste cart will be \$35.

Residents with minimal yard waste may prefer to utilize the “on-call” yard waste services. Stickers may be purchased for \$4 each in the Finance Department at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. Residents must adhere one sticker to each “on-call” bag of yard waste. To schedule an “on-call” collection, contact Utility Billing at least 48 hours prior to your collection day. The hauler will collect yard waste materials on your garbage day.

Yard waste collection is weekly and includes all garden waste, grass clippings, leaves, weeds, soft garden materials, shrub and tree waste, prunings and wood chips. Remember: twigs and branches must be no more than three feet in length and three inches or less in diameter. Place yard waste in Kraft paper bags, BPI certified compostable bags, the distributed yard waste cart or on the ground tied in bundles. Bags and bundles should not be heavier than 40 pounds.



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.



MEET A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER

Ryan Porietis has been a volunteer firefighter for nearly three years. He serves out of Station 3 as a senior firefighter who mentors new recruits. In 2016, he was voted Firefighter of the Year by Bloomington Fire Officers.

Q: What is your day job?

A: I'm a contractor.

Q: What is your family like?

A: My wife and I have a six-year-old son and a three-year-old daughter. There's never a dull moment.

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

A: We spend a lot of time playing around with the kids. Lately, my daughter has been wanting to help me and her brother out with projects around the house. We also do a lot of cabin runs in the summer and snowboarding and skiing in the winter.

Q: What made you want to become a firefighter?

A: I've always had an interest in it. When I was three years old, I went to the Station 1 open house with my family and accidentally hit the brake when I was sitting in a fire truck. It rolled right into the street. That was the first time I drove a fire truck. My mom will never let me forget that.

Q: What do you love about living in Bloomington?

A: I was born and raised here and what I like most is that small town feel, even though Bloomington is a city of almost 100,000 people.

Q: What five words would you use to describe yourself?

A: Motivated, compassionate, helpful, friendly and talkative.



LEARN ABOUT CRIME AND SAFETY

Learn more about crime and safety at a workshop hosted by the Bloomington Police Department on March 18. Many Neighborhood Watch block captains will also be in attendance. If you are a resident who is interested in attending this event and are not a block captain, or would like to become active in Neighborhood Watch, contact Crime Prevention Specialist Katie Swatosh at 952-563-8808, kswatosh@BloomingtonMN.gov.

KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXTDOOR

The City has been posting on Nextdoor, a private social network neighbors use to communicate, to keep residents in the loop about upcoming events, crime prevention tips and crime alerts. Many Bloomington residents already use the site. Join the community at nextdoor.com and stay informed about what's happening in your neighborhood.



STAY IN THE LOOP

From current construction projects to arts programs, E-Subscribe makes it possible to stay informed about City projects and events that interest you.



Thousands of people have already signed up for E-Subscribe to receive information on a variety of topics. Sign up at blm.mn/e-subscribe. The following topics have the most subscribers:

1. Farmers Market (6,028)
2. Snow Emergency Alerts (4,955)
3. Curbside Cleanup (4,508)
4. Seasonal Jobs (3,610)
5. Bloomington Briefing (3,294)

GO WITH THE FLOW

Cold weather can freeze water pipes and water meters. Take these precautions to ensure your water keeps flowing. Water meters are often located in old well pits or other enclosed areas in basements. Typically, these areas do not have sufficient heat circulation. The meters become cold and freeze. Interior water pipes can be exposed to the same conditions. These conditions can be minimized by ensuring adequate heat is available in these areas.

Cold weather also makes reading water meters a challenge. Reading equipment is directly impacted by the cold temperatures. Batteries drain quickly and the display unit becomes difficult to read. Gaining access to the outside reader is difficult with heavy snow coverage. Help meter readers gain access to the meter located on the house by ensuring a clear path is available through snow. If you have any questions, contact the Utilities Division at 952-563-8777. For more information, visit blm.mn/pipes.

PUBLIC HEALTH RECEIVES GRANT TO HELP FAMILIES

The Minnesota Department of Health awarded Bloomington Public Health \$623,000 for its Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting program (MIECHV), Healthy Families America. The grant will cover programming beginning March 2017 through September 2019.

This funding allows Public Health to provide evidence-based services focused on child development that help parents with histories of their own adverse childhood experiences and poverty. The services are for first-time parents beginning at pregnancy through the child's fourth birthday.

Public Health first received MIECHV funding when the program started in 2011. This is the first year this grant process was competitive in Minnesota. Public Health has demonstrated competency in using this model with an 86 percent home visiting completion rate, far above the national average of 50 percent. In 2016, Public Health completed 932 home visits to 52 participants.



PREVENT FIRES AT HOME

Did you know that the majority of fire-related deaths and injuries happen at home? A home inspection provides the opportunity to address safety issues before they become a problem. The Bloomington Fire Department wants to help reduce the potential for fires through its Home Safety Survey Program. This program assists residents in making their home safer and reduces the possibility of fires. BFD invites homeowners in owner-occupied single-family homes to take part in a FREE Home Safety Survey. Appointments are available Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

What should you expect during a survey inspection?

- A Fire Inspector will check your home and offer fire safety tips to safeguard your family from the threat of fire.
- The Fire Inspector will help you with planning your family's escape plan, cooking safety and general fire safety.



- If needed, the Fire Inspector will assist you with installing a smoke alarm, carbon monoxide alarm, and StoveTop Fire Stops®, free of charge (while supplies last).
- Fire safety inspections typically last less than an hour.
- An adult must be present during the inspection.
- A copy of the inspection findings will be given to the resident along with suggestions.

To schedule a Home Safety Survey, call 952-563-8930 or email fireprevention@BloomingtonMN.gov.



2017 SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

Registration is open for spring and summer adult softball leagues online at blm.mn/sports. Leagues play at Dred Scott Playfield, 10820 Bloomington Ferry Road and Valley View Playfield, 501 East 90th Street West. All leagues will be provided with softballs; teams will receive them at the start of the season.



SAVE THESE DATES

- Through February 17: Returning team registration period.
- February 27: New team registration period opens.
- March 31: Deadline to withdraw from league and receive refund, less a \$50 service fee.
- April 18 – 19: Manager’s meetings will be held. Times and locations will be available on the City’s website.
- April 21: Softball season begins.

2017 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



PLAN YOUR SUMMER EXPERIENCE

Looking for opportunities to engage your children this summer? Look no further. Bloomington Parks and Recreation offers several different programs to meet your children’s interests and keep them active all while being easy on your budget. From backyard classics such as kickball to arts and crafts and even nature exploration, you are bound to find something to entertain and delight your family this summer. Check out the Bloomington Summer Experience catalog for details and rates on the City’s website in late February.



ANNUAL EGG HUNT

Don’t miss this annual event for families with 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, April 15, Hunt begins at 11 a.m.

Where: Normandale Lake Bandshell, 5901 West 84th Street

BUMP, SET, SPIKE

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 612-886-4428.



CHILL BY THE POOL

Bloomington Family Aquatic Center (BFAC) resident season passes will be available beginning March 14. 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 June 8, passes will be available daily at BFAC, 201 East 90th Street. BFAC is open June 10 – August 20, the two weekends before Labor Day and on Labor Day.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Are you 13 years or older looking for something fun to do this summer? Bloomington Parks and Recreation offer plenty of leadership positions in youth programs and adaptive softball. The application deadline is February 26. To apply, visit blm.mn/parks-volunteer.

GROW SOME GREEN

Planting trees to continue the growth of Bloomington’s urban forest is a priority for the City. Park Maintenance staff has planted more than 1,000 trees over the last few years in parks and other public areas. To grow 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 maple	Serviceberry	American Linden	Japanese tree lilac
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 6, 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

Checkmate! These 1968 Lincoln High School students and chess team members are refining their skills at practice before their next match. BPS is celebrating its 100th year in 2017 with a few centennial events. The celebration began with the 2016 Heritage Days parade and will culminate in a 100th birthday party and all-class reunion at the Doubletree Hotel on May 19.

Photo courtesy 1968 Lincoln High School yearbook.



FREE TAX PREP SERVICES

Human Services is partnering with Prepare and Prosper and AARP Tax-Aide to provide free tax preparation assistance to individuals who meet income-qualifying guidelines. AARP Tax-Aide is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Prepare and Prosper is available on a lottery system. Beginning Saturday, January 21, Prepare and Prosper and AARP Tax-Aide will be available to prepare your taxes on the following dates and times.

- Tuesdays and Thursdays, January 24 – April 13, sign in 5:15 p.m., tax sessions begin 5:45 p.m.
- Saturdays, January 21 – April 15, sign in 8:15 a.m., sessions begin 8:45 a.m.
- Mondays and Tuesdays, February 6 – April 17, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Prepare and Prosper income-qualifying guidelines are \$35,000 or less for individuals and \$55,000 or less for families per year. AARP Tax-Aide will provide free tax preparation services to taxpayers with low to middle income.

To receive assistance, you must meet eligibility criteria as noted. Service order is determined randomly and everyone present at sign in time has an equal chance of being served. Please do not arrive more than 10 minutes before the sign in



time. Taxpayers with complex tax returns are advised to seek paid tax assistance.

For more information, contact the tax information line at 952-563-4952 or visit the City's website at blm.mn/tax-assistance.

HONORING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

In honor of Black History Month, the Bloomington Human Rights Commission will host the exhibit: Frederick Douglass from Slavery to Freedom. Developed by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, this exhibit explores the life of Frederick Douglass and his escape from slavery. As one of the most famous men of the 19th century, Douglass not only fought to end slavery, but championed civil rights for all Americans.

This exhibit will be on display at Bloomington Civic Plaza February 8 – 28. For more information, visit the City's website at blm.mn/frederickdouglass.

BLOOMINGTON ACADEMY FOR SAFE ELDERS

The B.A.S.E. program provides resources, safety education and crime prevention tips to residents of Bloomington who are age 50 or older. Human Services partners with Public Health, Public Works, Bloomington Police, Fire Department and other organizations to provide expert perspectives on topics such as scams, fire prevention, emergency preparedness, home safety, hands only CPR/AED training, driver safety and more. This weekly eight-week workshop runs from Wednesday, April 5 – May 24 from 9 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. at different city locations. Call 952-563-4944 to register before Wednesday, March 22. Space is limited for this free workshop.



BODY AND MIND FITNESS

Try something new this winter! Ageless Grace® is a group fitness class based on everyday movements that focus on healthy longevity of the body and mind. The movements are designed to be performed seated in a chair and can help improve balance, self-esteem, joint mobility and more. Offered Mondays, 9 – 9:45 a.m. at Creekside Community Center. For more information or to register contact Human Services at Creekside, 952-563-4944, TTY 952-563-4933.

TUNE UP FOR SPRING

The weather outside might be frightful, but spring cycling will be delightful in just a few short months. Take advantage of the cold weather and jump ahead of the lines at the local bike shop for a tune-up to prepare for the first ride of the year. Check these things to make sure you're road ready:

- **Tires:** Squeeze the tires; they should feel rock hard. Check for excessive wear to the tires, meaning worn or bald treads or fraying sidewalls. Replace if any of these signs exists.
- **Chain:** Check the chain to see if it's loose or sagging. It should not move more than a half inch. Turn the pedals backwards to see if the chain travels smoothly.
- **Brakes:** Squeeze the brake levers, putting your thumb between the lever and the handlebar. It should not pinch your thumb. Ensure each brake engages as you move the bike forward.
- **Brake pads:** They should be at least an eighth of an inch thick at any point. Check to see if the wheels spin freely without any grabbing or rubbing against the wheel rims.



BCAT

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION

Have you ever wanted to produce your own TV show or learn how to operate video and audio equipment? At Bloomington Community Access Television (BCAT), you can. For information on memberships, classes and more, contact Communications Specialist Ben Vinar at 952-563-4980 or bvinar@BloomingtonMN.gov, or visit www.bcat16.org. And tune into BCAT Channel 16 today!

BLOOMINGTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS

2017 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 LINEUP OF SHOWS

PERFORMANCE SERIES MULTIPASS SAVE UP TO 20%

- Order tickets to four or more performances and save \$3 per ticket.
- Good for 2016 and 2017 performances.
- Tickets now available for all performances.
- Discount may be applied to adult and senior/student tickets. Not valid with other discounts.



Artistry Bad Dates

In this comedic one-woman show featuring Christina Baldwin, a single mom has stepped back into the dating scene and shares her unfortunate but highly entertaining encounters while sifting through her wardrobe and enormous collection of shoes.

Feb 11 – 26, Tues – Sat at 7:30 p.m., Sun at 2 p.m.

Adults \$30, Seniors \$26, 18 and under \$21

Black Box Theater



Jack Brass Band Mardi Gras Celebration

The Jack Brass Band brings the party to the audience with a tradition and groove that will make you want to get up and dance to the New Orleans sound.

Saturday, February 25, 7:30 p.m.

All tickets \$20

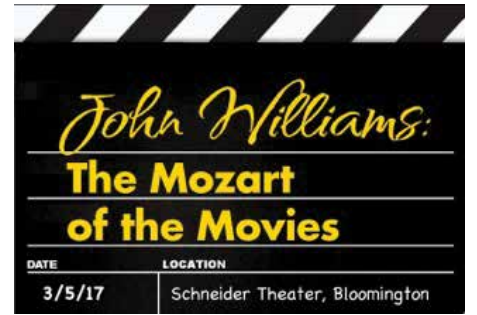


Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs Music from the Movies

Celebrate Hollywood and music from your favorite films at this special event to support our scholarship fund established in honor of longtime director Rita Docter. Hosted by guest Sue Scott from a Prairie Home Companion. Dessert reception included.

Sunday, February 26, 3 p.m.

All tickets \$40



Medalist Concert Band John Williams: The Mozart of the Movies

Think of a movie with a great theme song. Chances are, it was written by award-winning composer John Williams.

Sunday, March 5, 4 p.m.

Adults \$14, seniors and students \$12



Continental Ballet Company Coppelia

This is the story of a doll maker who tries to bring a beautiful doll to life. The villagers discover this and a live girl dresses as the doll to play a trick on the doll maker. This ballet is appropriate for all ages.

Saturdays, March 18 – 25, 7:30 p.m.

Sundays, March 19 – 26, 3 p.m.,

Adults \$35, Seniors \$35, 25 and students \$35

Call 952-563-8562 for tickets



Arne Fogel and Maud Hixson Great Songwriting Teams of Broadway and Hollywood

The performance features Rodgers and Hart, the Gershwins, Lerner and Loewe and the sensational songwriters tag-team medley co-starring Fogel and Hixson, with special guest Jennifer Eckes.

Friday – Saturday, Mar. 31 – April 1, 7:30 p.m.,

Sunday, April 2, 2 p.m.

All tickets \$22, Black Box Theater



Artistry Wit

Wit is a brilliantly crafted look at the last chapter of Dr. Vivian Bearing's life. Ms. Bearing, played by Sally Wingert, is a professor of 17th century poetry who wrestles with the ultimate question of what it means to be alive. This is not recommended for younger viewers.

May 6 – 28, Wed – Sat at 7:30 p.m., Sun at 2 p.m.

Adults \$30, Seniors \$26, 18 and under \$21

Black Box Theater



Bloomington Chorale A Night at the Theater

Celebrating 35 Years of Music with "A Night at the Theater." Featuring music from Pixar movies and welcoming back Dr. David Docter as original chorale director.

Friday, May 19, 7:30 p.m.,

Saturday, May 20, 4 p.m.

Adults \$16, seniors and students \$12



Medalist Concert Band Music for a Festival

Music is at the center of every festival, whether a small-town Fourth of July or a royal coronation. Featured soloist: winner of the 2017 Earl C. Benson Concerto Competition.

Sunday, May 21, 4 p.m.

Adults \$14, seniors and students \$12



Barbary Coast Dixieland Show Band

In 1967, the band was formed to play at "Jimmy's on the Levee" in downtown Saint Paul. How time flies! This 50th anniversary concert will feature special appearances by some of the original members. Don't miss it.

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

All tickets \$30



The Best of NOTE-able Singers

Let us entertain you! NOTE-able Singers and their band of musicians perform their favorite songs from past seasons in a musical theater style production. There will be singing, dancing and much more.

Sunday, June 4, 2 p.m.

Adults \$15, seniors and students \$12



Alive & Kickin'

"A touching and moving musical experience," "Inspirational!" and "My face hurt from all the smiling." Come see an all new Michael Matthew Ferrell and Jason Hansen production.

Thurs – Sun, June 9 – 18, 7:30 p.m., 2 p.m.

Adults \$32, seniors and students \$28,

Opening night gala \$40



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 seven days prior to the performance will be held for pick up at the box office.

All ticket sales are final. No refunds or exchanges.