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FREEWHEELING DESIGN

You may have noticed the creative flair of the new 86th Street bridge that opened to drivers and pedestrians last November. The decorative railings feature different types of metal bicycle silhouettes that stand out whether you're driving under it on I-35W or crossing the bridge itself. That's by design, according to City Traffic and Transportation Engineer Kirk Roberts.

"This is something new to us, and it's meant to create a sense of place and identity for the city," Roberts said.

The City worked with consulting staff to determine the design theme. With the recent addition of bike lanes, 86th Street has become increasingly important for cyclists and is the main east/west bike route in Bloomington. That made the

bicycle theme a natural fit.

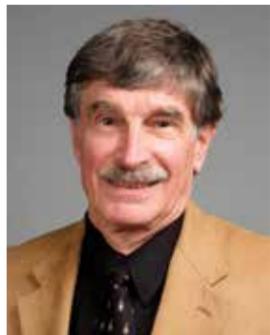
"What I like most about the design is that it uses a global symbol," Roberts said. "For many, having a bicycle as a kid was their first sense of freedom, and even as adults most can relate to the simple joy of riding a bike. We hope that some of the more than 100,000 daily drivers on I-35W notice that."

MnDOT replaced the old 86th Street bridge after a truck with an oversized load caused structural damage in 2017. The new bridge provides wider sidewalks and a higher clearance over I-35W.

"All of the bridges across I-35W are unifying features for Bloomington," Roberts said. "So the bridge itself is a symbol for the idea of 'One Bloomington.'"

OUTGOING COUNCILMEMBERS REFLECT ON SERVICE

Former Councilmembers Jon Oleson, Kim Vlasisavljevich and Eldon Spencer reflect on what their time spent serving on the City Council meant to them.



JON OLESON

Jon Oleson is a former Bloomington Planning Commission member, retired public school teacher and administrator. He was elected to serve as Councilmember for District IV in 2013. Oleson and his wife Sandy have been active members of the community

since they moved to Bloomington in 2003. Oleson has been a member of the Bloomington United for Youth board, co-chair of the Teen Job Fair and a mentor to teens at his church.

"I've really enjoyed interacting with my constituents. The opportunities and challenges of solving problems, sharing ideas, providing information and simply getting to know each other was rewarding," he said.

KIM VLAISAVLJEVICH

Kim Vlasisavljevich was appointed as an At-Large Councilmember in 2016. She has



a finance and strategic planning background and has lived in Bloomington for six years. Vlasisavljevich's civic participation includes promoting diversity through her work with the INROADS mentoring program and WomenVenture business consultants.



"I enjoyed representing the community and working with council and staff to move forward Bloomington's strategic priorities," Vlasisavljevich said.

ELDON SPENCER

Eldon Spencer was appointed to the vacant Council District II seat in 2017. Spencer filled the

remainder of Andrew Carlson's term after his election to the Minnesota House of Representatives. Spencer, who is an attorney and partner in the Minneapolis law firm Leonard, O'Brien, Spencer, Gale and Sayre, has lived in Bloomington for 29 years. He served on the Planning Commission for six years, including serving as its chair, and is the past president of Bloomington DayMakers Rotary Club. Spencer says he enjoyed working to pass T-21, an ordinance that raised the legal age for tobacco sales to 21, preserving City parkland and promoting environmental sustainability initiatives.

"I'm also proud of working to lower the preliminary tax levy increase below the five percent level it was originally proposed to exceed," Spencer said.

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BRIEFING

Volume 26, Number 1

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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 only).

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



Photo courtesy Hennepin County.

MAYOR'S MEMO ORGANICS RECYCLING COMING TO BLOOMINGTON

By Mayor Gene Winstead

Along with the new year, a new City service will rollout. An organics recycling drop-off program will start April 21, coinciding with Earth Day weekend. There will be several drop-off locations in Bloomington—one in the east, central and west portions of the city. Residents will be able to discard organic materials at any of these sites after signing up for the free service. Acceptable materials for organics recycling include:

- **Food scraps:** fruit and vegetables, meat, fish and bones, dairy products, bakery and dry goods.
- **Nonrecycled paper:** napkins, paper towels, pizza boxes, and compostable certified paper cups and bowls.
- **Certified compostable foodware:** cups, plates, bowls and cutlery made from certified compostable plastics or certified compostable plastic-coated paper.

Materials collected at the drop-off sites will be picked up by the City's solid waste contractor on a recurring scheduled basis. The materials will be taken to a facility where they will be transformed into a nutrient-rich compost.

By composting this organic material, the City is achieving its goal of diverting waste from the incinerator and landfills as detailed in the environmental sustainability priority section of the City's One Bloomington plan. Staff will incorporate measures to ensure the enclosures and receptacles are clean and odor free. These receptacles will be washed or replaced throughout the year and enclosures will be monitored regularly.

This program will be offered to residents at no additional cost. More information about signing up for the service and specific drop-off locations will be in the April *Briefing*.

COUNCIL APPROVES NEW WATER RATES

Residents will see new water rates in 2018. The City Council unanimously approved the rate changes late last year to help fund operating costs and the repair and replacement of water infrastructure. A majority of residents will pay 30 cents more per thousand gallons.

Households with high water usage will see an increase of 52 cents per thousand gallons. The threshold between low and high water usage was also lowered to 6,000 gallons per month. The average household uses less than 5,000 gallons per month and will not be affected by the change.

I-35W BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN LATE 2018

Construction on the replacement of the existing bridge on I-35W across the Minnesota River and the interstate bridge over 106th Street is set to begin in 2018.

The City completed a study to help plan for the future of the 106th Street West interchange, including the adjacent River Terrace and West Bloomington Freeway intersections. It looked at options for improving roadway safety and operations for drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists and public transit. City staff discussed recommendations at a public hearing in October.

The Council adopted the recommendations from the study, which included a new interchange at I-35W and 106th Street with a traffic signal on the east ramp, and closure of the two local streets on the west side of the freeway. Work on 106th Street will take place after the Minnesota Department of Transportation completes work on the interstate bridges, which should wrap up by 2020.



The \$130 to \$150 million MnDOT project also includes raising the grade of the freeway south of the river out of the 100-year flood plain and adding a northbound truck lane from Cliff Road to 106th Street.

HENNEPIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE CANCELED

Hennepin County notified the City in late 2017 that it was canceling the south suburban court project at Bloomington Civic Plaza. Construction project bids came in higher than budgeted. The County has indicated that Bloomington court cases will be assigned to the district courts facility in downtown Minneapolis, although a final decision is not anticipated for several months.





ILLUMINATE south loop

Artist Robin Schwartzman and Paul Tinetti assemble the *Duck, Duck, What?* piece for Illuminate South Loop.



ONE BLOOMINGTON

One Bloomington, the City Council's strategic plan, aims to strengthen our community by including all residents, working together to accomplish six strategic priorities.

The six strategic priorities are:

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

ILLUMINATE SOUTH LOOP

The City and Artistry in partnership with Northern Lights.mn are proud to announce Illuminate South Loop, a free, three-day art event that will take place at Bloomington Central Station Park, 8100 33rd Avenue South, February 1 – 3. The event will be a unique addition to the lineup of activities leading up to Super Bowl LII. This creative placemaking initiative focuses on leveraging the power of the arts, culture and creativity to engage the community.

Located just off the METRO Blue Line light rail at Bloomington Central Station, Illuminate South Loop will feature brilliantly illuminated art installations and performances produced by artists.

The outdoor evening experience will also include bonfires, warm drinks and regional fare from Chef Paul Lynch of Urbana Craeft Kitchen at the Hyatt Regency. For more information, visit blm.mn/illuminate.

WRIGHT'S LAKE MURAL

The artists of GoodSpace Murals recently led three design visioning sessions to collect public input on what should be included in the mural facing Wright's Lake Park, 8501 17th Avenue South.

They will present a draft design of the mural to the community this spring and will lead participatory painting sessions this summer. For more information, dates and times visit blm.mn/placemaking.

LEGAL AGE NOW 21 FOR TOBACCO SALES IN BLOOMINGTON

In November, the Bloomington City Council enacted an ordinance to increase the legal age for tobacco sales to 21. The ordinance took effect November 30. It prohibits the sale of tobacco-related products, including electronic delivery devices, to people under 21 years old; requires tobacco retailers to check identification of customers under 30 years of age; and

requires tobacco retailers to train their employees on the legal requirements to sell tobacco-related products.

The full ordinance is available to the public at the City Clerk's Office from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. You can also find it online at blm.mn/code

KEEPING BLOOMINGTON'S TREES HEALTHY

The City has been fighting the emerald ash borer for three years since 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.

With more than 7,000 ash trees on public property in the city, staff selected 300 trees to be removed this winter. The ash trees were replaced with 275 native trees from a mix of 15 varieties. This diversity will add resiliency to the city's urban forest, reducing future risk from invasive pests and climate change. In 2017, volunteers from the Bloomington Rotary Club also donated and planted 77 trees.

The City will conduct another tree survey in 2018 to determine whether there are more infested trees. For more



Photo courtesy Jeffrey Hahn, University of Minnesota Extension

information, visit blm.mn/eab or contact Dave Hanson at 952-563-8765 or dhanson@BloomingtonMN.gov.

COUNCIL APPROVES 2018 TAX LEVY

The City Council adopted a property tax levy of \$58,393,517, an increase of 4.5 percent. This means the monthly cost of tax-supported services for the owner of a \$246,400 median-valued home is \$78.26 for 2018, an increase from the 2016 amount of \$74.64 and the 2017 amount of \$71.17. The increase in monthly cost from 2017 is the result of a one-time increase in the tax base when Mall of America came out of tax increment financing. From 2017 to 2018, the median-valued home increased from \$225,900 to 246,400, a growth of 9.1 percent.

In Minnesota, local governments set a total property tax dollar amount instead of a tax rate as is done in some other states. Following state law, this is prorated to each property

based on the property's value. With this property tax levy, the City's share of 2018 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 2016 home sales reflected the increase in value and are the basis for the 2017 assessment for taxes payable in 2018.

Since 1998, the City's annual base property tax levy increase has averaged 3.84 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.



NAIL DOWN HOME IMPROVEMENT PLANS

Looking for home improvement inspiration? Check out the 2018 Home Improvement Fair hosted by the City and the Housing Redevelopment Authority, Saturday, February 24, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. This free event will showcase vendors from across the metro with exhibits and how-to seminars to help you make your dream home a reality.

Fairgoers will have the opportunity to ask experts about general remodeling, designing and landscaping. 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, e-mail bhartman@BloomingtonMN.gov or visit blm.mn/homefair.

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 currently maintain three triple-A ratings.

CURBSIDE CLEANUP

Curbside Cleanup is only available to single-family homes and some townhomes. Eligible residents will see "Citywide Curbside Cleanup" on their utility bills. Prepare for your 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 952-563-4636 or TTY only 952-563-8740. For more information, visit blm.mn/curbside. To receive email reminders, visit blm.mn/esubscribe.

2018 CLEANUP SCHEDULE		
East of Portland	→	April 7
Penn to Portland	→	April 14
France to Penn	→	April 21
Normandale to France	→	April 28
West of Normandale	→	May 5

To keep program costs low, quantity limits on accepted items are enforced. Item quantity limits are specified below. Any items exceeding the specified limits will remain on the curb and residents will need to arrange for bulk material disposal. Excess materials could cost you more. To report illegal dumping or scavengers making a mess, call 911.

QUESTIONS? CALL 952-563-8760

ACCEPTED AT THE CURB

- General junk, household building materials, lumber, windows and doors:** Pile limited to what fits in ONE level standard-size pickup truck bed. Lumber stacked and no longer than five feet. **NO railroad ties. NO business materials used for contractor work.** General junk must be boxed or bundled with twine and weigh under 100 pounds per item.

- Carpets/pads:** Rolled and securely tied with twine. Under five feet long and one foot in diameter.

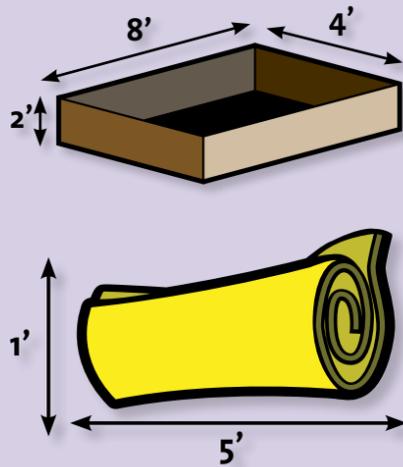
- Appliances:** Water heaters and softeners, microwaves, washers, dryers, stoves, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, freezers, dishwashers, trash compactors, garbage disposals, water coolers, refrigerators (remove door or tie securely shut). **Limit of two appliances per house. DO NOT set out appliances until the morning of your pickup date.**

- Unusable furniture:** Disassemble or tie down hide-a-way sofa beds so they cannot open when handled. Limit: two.

- 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 bed.

- Mattresses/box springs.** Item limit: two.

- Large metal ONLY:** Large scrap metal items that do not fit in the trunk of a car (swing sets, 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.
- Exceptionally heavy and bulky items: Pianos or organs, for example.

- Electronic items:** TVs, computers, stereos and cell phones, printers.

- Miscellaneous building items:** Contractor materials, railroad ties, treated wood, concrete, bricks or shingles (asbestos).

- 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.



DONATE AND RECYCLE FIRST

Before you sort your items for the Curbside Cleanup, consider donating or recycling your gently used clothing, furniture and household items. If the item is something you would give to your friend or neighbor, donate it. Doing so will divert usable and repairable items from the waste stream. Contact the organizations listed below to find out more about donating or recycling your items.

Donate

- Arc's Value Village: visit blm.mn/arcs or call 952-818-8708.
- Bridging: visit blm.mn/bridging or call 952-888-1105.
- Choose to Reuse: visit blm.mn/hcreuse.
- Savers: visit blm.mn/savers or call 952-881-7300.
- Twin Cities Free Market: visit blm.mn/tcfm.

Recycle

- Hennepin County Drop-off for Textiles: visit blm.mn/hctex.
- Second Chance Recycling: visit blm.mn/secondchance.

For a full list of organizations where you can donate or recycle your items, visit our website at blm.mn/donate. Donating and recycling will help someone in need and reduce waste—a win-win situation!

WINTER CART PLACEMENT

In the winter, it is important to place your garbage and recycling carts in an appropriate location. If there is snow or ice, shovel out a safe, accessible space and path for your carts. Place carts at least three to five feet away from other objects such as mailboxes, other carts, vehicles, trees and bushes.

RECYCLING CALENDAR 2018

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RECYCLE WEEK HOLIDAY*

* No pickup; pickup one day later.



HONORING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The Human Rights Commission invites you to hear the only detailed account of Ona Judge, an 18th century fugitive, as Erica Armstrong Dunbar, *above*, tells it in her book, “Never Caught: The Washingtons’ Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge” on Tuesday, February 13, 6 – 8:30 p.m., at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

At age 22, Judge courageously risked everything and fled life as George and Martha Washington’s slave in search of freedom. The attempt to recapture Judge went on for years, long after Washington’s presidency. For more information, call 952-563-8733, TTY only 952-563-8740 or email humanrights@BloomingtonMN.gov. To register for the event, visit blm.mn/nevercaught.

SHOP THE BOUTIQUE AT CREEKSIDE

Looking for unique gifts? The boutique sells one-of-a-kind handmade embroidered dish towels, quilts, knit hats, mittens and scarves. You can even find handmade gear supporting local sports teams such as the Vikings, Gophers and Wild. Stop in weekdays 10 a.m. – 2:45 p.m. and Tuesday evenings 5 – 7 p.m., at Creekside, 9801 Penn Avenue South.



FREE TAX PREP SERVICES

Human Services is partnering with Prepare + Prosper and AARP Tax-Aide to provide free tax assistance at Creekside, 9801 Penn Avenue South.

AARP Tax-Aide will provide free tax preparation services to taxpayers with low- to middle-incomes on a first-come, first-served basis on Mondays and Tuesdays, February 5 – April 17, 9 a.m. Prepare + Prosper will provide free tax preparation and financial services for individuals making \$35,000 a year or less

and families with income of \$55,000 or less by appointment. Appointments are available Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings, January 20 – April 14. Appointments are required and scheduled up to three weeks in advance by contacting prepareandprosper.org or 651-287-0187.

For more information, call 952-563-4952 or visit the City’s website. Taxpayers with complex tax returns are advised to seek paid tax assistance.

PARTNERING TO SERVE RESIDENTS

Human Services contracts with many nonprofit organizations to better serve residents. One of those organizations is Bloomington Meals on Wheels.

The nonprofit has hundreds of volunteers who prep and deliver meals to homes in Bloomington. Anyone can order meals for \$4.50 a day. Bloomington Meals on Wheels was founded in 1973 and currently serves more than 60 clients in the city. Check out the recent video feature on this service at blm.mn/mealsonwheels.

GOLF AT A GREAT PRICE

This year, Dwan Golf Club and Hyland Greens are debuting a few new ways to get your golf game on for less.

Dwan is introducing the senior punch card. With this card, players age 62 and up can pre-purchase 10, 18-hole rounds of golf and get two for free. There are two different versions of the card, one for patrons, \$250, and one for nonpatrons, \$320.

Golfers age 17 and under can take advantage of the new junior mega pass. Priced at \$250, the junior mega pass adds unlimited golf at Dwan to the perks of unlimited golf, FootGolf and driving range use at Hyland Greens that are included with the traditional \$99 junior pass.

These passes plus Dwan Patron and Hyland Frequent Player cards are available for purchase at the Community Services counter at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. When the golf courses reopen in March, the cards and passes will be available at the Hyland Greens and Dwan clubhouses.



HIT THE ICE AT BIG

Want to learn to skate circles around your friends? BIG Skate School has classes for all skating levels and ages year-round. For more information or to enroll, visit blm.mn/skateschool or call 952-563-8843.

Are you interested in open hockey or open skating? BIG is the place to go! BIG hosts men’s open hockey Mondays and Fridays, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., for \$6. Admission for goalies is free. Open skating starts in September on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 6:45 – 7:45 p.m.; Sundays, 2 – 3:30 p.m. Adults are \$4 and children 17 and under are \$3. Call 952-563-8841 or visit blm.mn/ice to view the schedule. Schedules are subject to change.

BE ACTIVE THIS WINTER

Don’t let the cold weather keep you from being active. Check out the following programs Human Services offers to get you out and about. For more information, call 952-563-4944 or TTY only 952-563-8740.

THE WALKING CLUB

Take advantage of the health benefits this year-round walking club has to offer. Enjoy building relationships while staying active, fit and mobile. Walkers meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8 a.m. during the winter months at Mall of America.

MIND AND BODY

Improve your strength, balance, flexibility, self-esteem and more through the Mind and Body programs available at Creekside. Offered daily, Monday through Saturday.

THE WOODSHOP AT CREEKSIDE

The woodshop is available to individuals 50 and older. Interested woodworkers must pass a proficiency test. The woodshop is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8 – 11 a.m. Woodcarving is available on Wednesdays from 9 – 11 a.m.

LEARN CHESS

Exercising your brain has benefits! Whether experienced or new to the game, join the fun. Players meet the second Wednesday of the month from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. This is a free drop-in activity that welcomes adults of all abilities and ages.



2018 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 16: Returning team registration period.

February 26: New team registration period opens.

March 30: Deadline to withdraw from league and receive refund, less a \$50 service fee.

April 17 – 18: Manager's meetings will be held. Times and locations will be available on the City's website.

April 20: Softball season begins.

2018 TEAM REGISTRATION FEES

RESIDENT LEAGUE FEES

Double Header Leagues: \$860
Single Game Leagues: \$565

NONRESIDENT LEAGUE FEES

Double Header Leagues: \$885
Single Game Leagues: \$590



Camp Kota participants scale a mobile rock climbing wall.

PLAN YOUR SUMMER EXPERIENCE

Looking for new, fun ways to engage your children this summer? Parks and Recreation offers several programs to meet your children's interests and keep them active, all while being easy on your pocketbook. From backyard classics such as kickball to arts and crafts and even nature exploration, you are bound to find something to entertain your family this summer. Check out the Bloomington Summer Experience catalog for details and rates.



WATER AEROBICS

Test the waters in a low-impact class that combines cardio, strength and stretching at Bloomington Family Aquatic Center this summer. Water aerobics breaks through the limitations of land-based classes to help you move your body differently. Participants can expect to build muscle, improve balance and burn calories in an environment that reduces stress on joints. Classes include a variety of shallow water work using different equipment to increase strength and endurance. Classes take place on Sunday evenings June through August. Registration opens March 15, cost is \$5 per class.

BORN AGAIN JOCKS

Want to enjoy playing sports again? Join the Born Again Jocks organization for men 55 and older. There are no annual dues, but there may be possible sports participation costs. For more information, visit bornagainjocks.com.

GROW SOME GREEN

Planting trees to grow 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, the City holds an annual public Arbor Day tree sale. Based on last year's sales, 300 trees will be available for purchase this spring. Visit blm.mn/treesale for an online order form or mail in the order form below.



ANNUAL EGG HUNT

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

When: Saturday, March 31, Hunt begins at 11 a.m.

Where: Normandale Lake Bandshell, 5901 West 84th Street

YOUTH LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Are you 13 years or older looking for something fun to do this summer? Parks and Recreation offers plenty of leadership positions in youth programs and adaptive softball. The application deadline is February 25. To apply, visit blm.mn/parks-volunteer.

ARBOR DAY TREE SALE 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; refunds will not be issued.*

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

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

_____ Autumn Blaze maple	_____ Serviceberry	_____ Imperial Honey Locust	_____ Japanese tree lilac
_____ Black Hills spruce	_____ Prairie Fire crab apple	_____ River birch	_____ Snowdrift crab apple

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

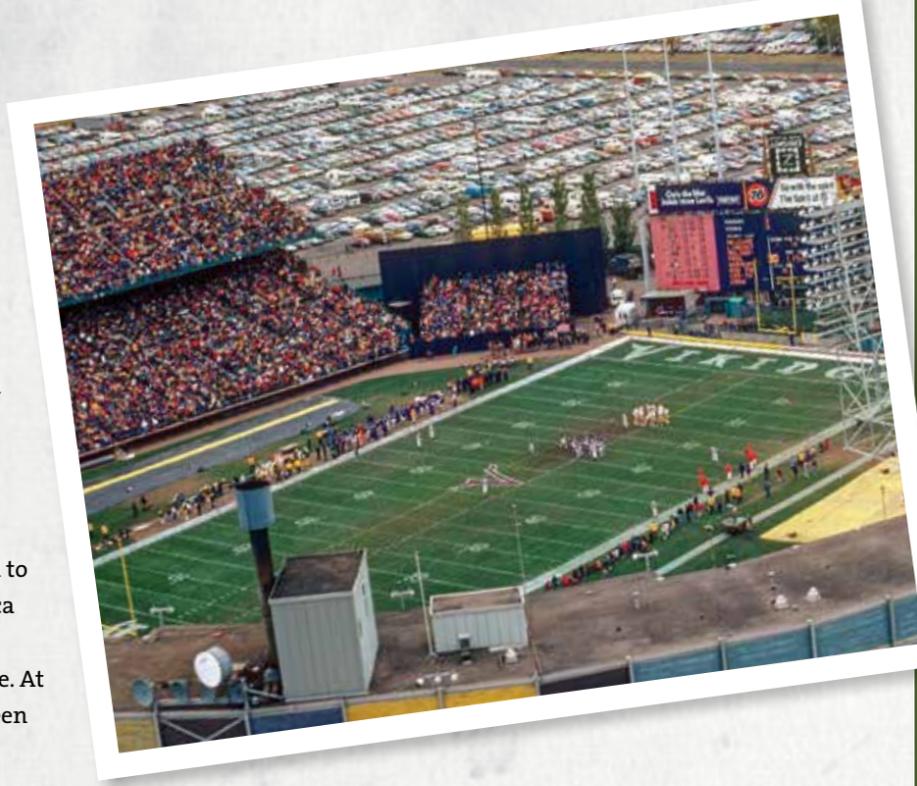
Pick up trees at 1800 West Old Shakopee Road on **Saturday, May 5, 9 – 11 a.m.**

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



BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY

With Minnesota hosting its second-ever Super Bowl this month (the first was in 1992), it's a fitting time to reflect on Bloomington's football past. The Met Stadium stood in South Loop until 1981. The stadium was home to the Minneapolis Millers, a minor league baseball team, and later the Minnesota Vikings and Twins. In 1981, the Met closed its doors and Minnesota's professional sports teams moved to Minneapolis. A few years later Mall of America took the Met's place. You can still find the stadium's home plate in Nickelodeon Universe. At right is a photo of the Vikings playing the Green Bay Packers at the Met Stadium.



PREVENT FIRES AT HOME

Did you know that the majority of fire-related deaths and injuries happen at home? A home inspection can provide the opportunity to address fire safety issues before they become a problem.

The Bloomington Fire Department wants to help residents make their homes safer to reduce the possibility of a fire through its Home Safety Survey Program.

BFD invites homeowners in owner-occupied, single-family homes to take part in a free Home Safety Survey. An adult must be present during inspections.

During the Home Safety Survey inspection, a fire inspector will do the following:

- Check your home and offer fire safety tips and suggestions to safeguard your family from the threat of fire.
- Help you with planning your family's escape plan, cooking safety and general fire safety.
- Assist in installing a smoke alarm, carbon monoxide alarm, and StoveTop Fire Stop®, free of charge (while supplies last), if needed.
- Complete the typical inspection in less than an hour.
- Give a copy of the inspection findings to you along with suggestions.

One participant said: "Wow, are we glad we called for a Home Safety Survey! The inspector was very efficient, pleasant and helpful. We couldn't have asked for better service."

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



MEET A BLOOMINGTON FIREFIGHTER

When Public Works Maintenance Worker Matt Solberg isn't plowing and sweeping streets, trimming trees or patching potholes, he serves out of Fire Station 1. He has been a Bloomington firefighter for 16 years.

Q: What made you want to become a firefighter?

A: When I was young, I lived by Station 3 and I'd see the fire trucks go by every day. We'd run outside and wave and the firefighters waved back and honked. I mean, those guys cared about us and that really made me interested in being like them one day.

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

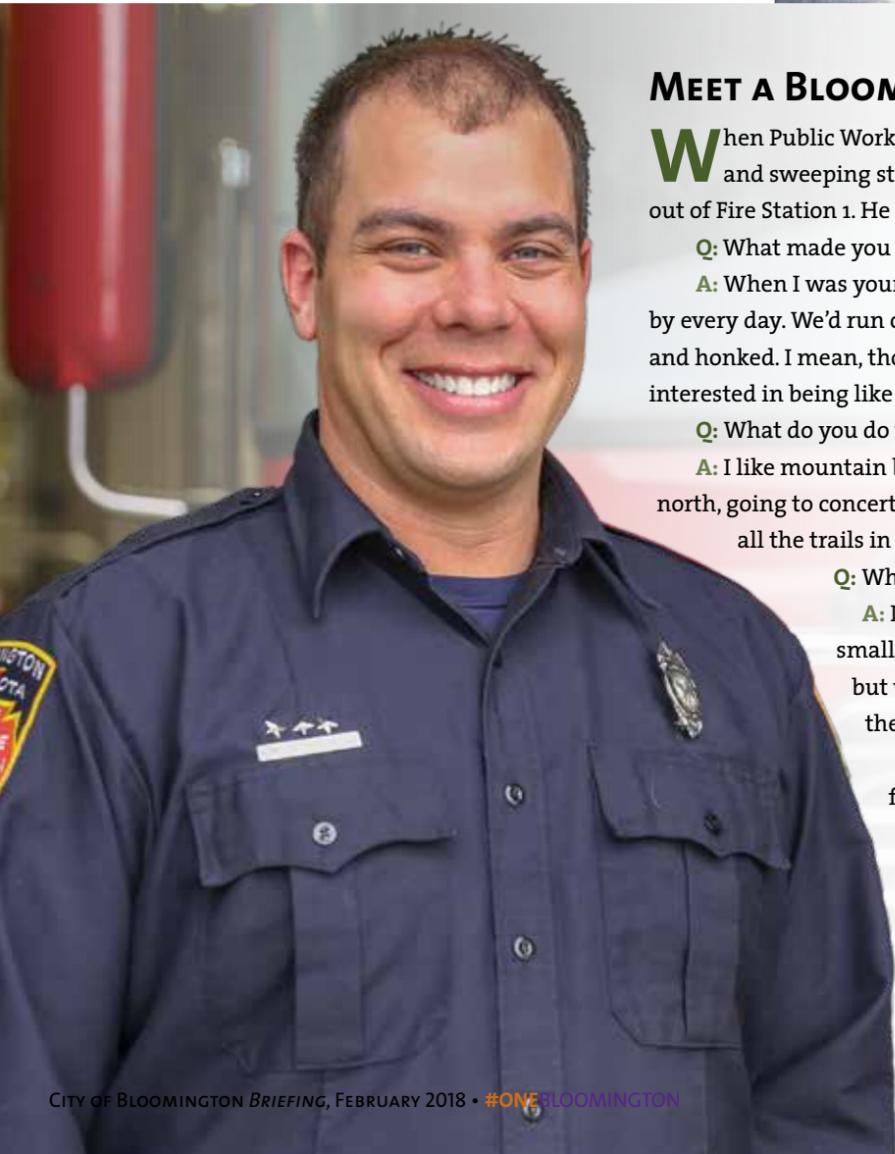
A: I like mountain biking in the river bottom, hunting and fishing up north, going to concerts, golfing with my wife, Abby, and going for walks on all the trails in Bloomington with my wife and white lab Buck.

Q: What do you like about living in Bloomington?

A: I've lived here my whole life. I like it because it's like a small town in some ways—everybody knows each other—but we still have all the conveniences of being close to the Twin Cities.

Q: What's your favorite thing about being a firefighter?

A: I do a lot of fire prevention education with young students and it's fun to teach them about fire safety. A lot of students ask the same questions like "How much does your fire gear weigh?" (For the record, it weighs between 60-100 pounds, depending on which tools you're carrying).



PREVENT SEWER BACKUPS

Preparation is essential when it comes to protecting your plumbing from the cold.

Over time, homeowners may experience problems such as collapsed pipes or tree roots growing into service lines that can cause stoppages with their sewer service lines. If your sewer backs up more than once a year, it may be time to clean or repair the line. Before contacting a contractor, call Utilities at 952-563-8777. They will check the City's mainline condition in the street for a possible blockage. This service is free.

SIGN UP FOR EMERGENCY ALERTS

Bloomington's Citizen Alert system sends time-sensitive emergency notifications directly to your home phone, cell phone or email. Sign up on the City's website to receive notifications about natural disasters, flooding, gas leaks, police activities and more. For more information, visit blm.mn/citizenalert.

UPDATE YOUR HOME

Do you want to improve the energy efficiency of your home or fix outdated heating or plumbing? Bloomington HRA home rehabilitation loans could provide the help you need to get the job 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 two 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 principle place of residence.

These loans are offered in an effort to help maintain the condition of housing and neighborhoods in Bloomington. All applications will be processed according to need. 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 to request an application be mailed to you.



COMING SOON TO THE BLOOMINGTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS

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.

PERFORMANCE SERIES MULTIPASS SAVE UP TO 20%

- Order tickets to four or more performances and save \$3 per ticket.
- Good for 2018 performances.
- Tickets now available for all performances.
- Discount may be applied to adult and senior/student tickets. Not valid with other discounts.

CHECK OUT THIS AMAZING LINEUP OF SHOWS



ANGELICA CANTANTI YOUTH CHOIRS ANNUAL FUNDRAISER CONCERT FEATURING MUSIC FROM DISNEY!

Join us for a fun afternoon to support our scholarship fund in honor of longtime director Rita Docter. Dessert reception is included.

Sunday, February 25, 3 p.m.
Tickets \$45



MEDALIST CONCERT BAND CREATE A CONCERT!

Join audience members in choosing what pieces the Medalist Band will perform. Vote for your favorites!

Sunday, March 4, 4 p.m.
Adults \$17, seniors and students \$15



CONTINENTAL BALLET COMPANY 30TH ANNIVERSARY

To celebrate its 30th Anniversary, the Continental Ballet is offering two beloved fairy tales told through dance! They will perform *Cinderella* March 17 – 18 and *Sleeping Beauty* March 24 – 25.

March 17 – 25
Adults \$25, seniors and students \$19,
children under 13 \$13



ARTISTRY SUMMER CAMP PREVIEW

Check out a few of the new camps Artistry will offer this summer. Registration for the summer camps will be available in mid-March.

Find the following exciting selections plus many more, including returning favorites, in the Summer Experience catalog hitting mailboxes soon.

SPACE ART

This week will take campers to the moon and beyond as they design and construct their own solar system mobile, make galaxy paintings and make 3-D relief moons. For grades 1 – 3.

June 11 – 15, July 16 – 20 or
August 20 – 24



FOGEL, ECKES AND HIXSON BINGSONGS!

Bing Crosby introduced classic songs such as *But Beautiful*, *True Love*, *Blue Hawaii* and dozens more. BingSongs! features an array of these classics as performed by Arne Fogel, Jennifer Eckes and Maud Hixson.

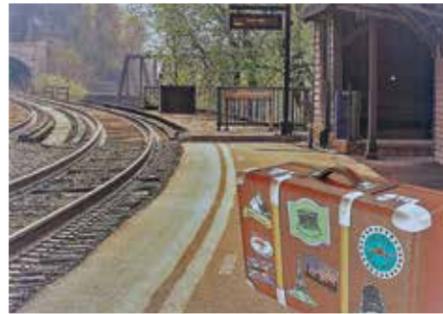
Friday, April 20, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday, April 21 and 22, 2 p.m.,
Black Box Theater



BLOOMINGTON CHORALE SONGS OF SERVICE AND VALOR

Join the Bloomington Chorale for an event saluting patriotism and others' service to our country through song.

Friday, May 11, 7:30 p.m.,
Saturday, May 12, 4 p.m.
Adults \$16, seniors and students \$12



NOTE-ABLE SINGERS HIT THE ROAD: A MUSICAL JOURNEY

Join the NOTE-able Singers on a globe-trotting journey of classic rock, jazz and blues-inspired songs. Don't be surprised if you leave the theater with a smile on your face and an extra little spring in your step!

Saturday, May 19, 7:30 p.m.
Adults \$15, seniors and students \$12
Free admission for children under 5



MEDALIST CONCERT BAND SCANDI-HOO-VIA!

Enjoy the rich musical heritage of Scandinavia and perhaps embrace your own heritage. The 2018 Earl C. Benson Concerto Competition winner will be a featured soloist.

Sunday, May 20, 4 p.m.
Adults \$17, seniors and students \$15



BARBARY COAST DIXIELAND SHOW BAND

The Barbary Coast Band has been performing Dixieland jazz across the country for more than 50 years. This versatile and talented group is always a hit. The Bobby van Deusen Trio will also be featured in their show.

Saturday, June 2, 7:30 p.m.
All tickets \$31



ALIVE & KICKIN FLASHBACK

ALL NEW Ferrell/Hansen musical theatre experience with a senior rock ensemble and high-energy songs artfully arranged around memories and musical tributes to unforgettable artists that left us too soon.

Thursdays and Sundays, 2 p.m.,
Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 p.m., June 9–17
Adults \$32, seniors and students \$28



ROYAL CLAY ADVENTURE

Campers will create an epic story in clay by building a castle and fashioning characters such as a dastardly dragon, joking jester or a royal family. For grades 4 – 6.

June 18 – 22, July 23 – 27, or
August 20 – 24

SEW CRAFTY & DYE DIY

From an ice-dyed pillowcase to ombre curtains, sun printed journal covers to stencil and resist patterns, this camp is a crafter's utopia. For grades 7 – 9.

August 13 – 17

AND MORE!

Half-day camps can be combined for a full-day experience. Scholarships are available. For more information, visit artistrymn.org.

BOX OFFICE

Order tickets by phone: Call 952-563-8575 • Online: Go to blm.mn/bcatix
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.