

BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



APRIL 2016



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The waters of Nine Mile Creek show the reflection of surrounding trees and rocks on a spring day. Photo courtesy of Jarid Rollins.

SEND US YOUR BEST SHOT

Winter, spring, summer or fall, the beauty of Nine Mile Creek does not disappoint. Send in your best shot of the creek for the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District photo contest. Photos can be of Nine Mile Creek or anything within the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District, including lakes, parks, wildlife, plants and outdoor recreation. The deadline for submissions is September 23. For photo requirements, rules and entry forms, visit www.ninemilecreek.org, or contact Erica at esniegowski@ninemilecreek.org. Winners of the contest will have their photos published in the 2017 Nine Mile Creek photo calendar. The calendars are distributed free of charge throughout the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District.



WHAT'S DEVELOPING IN 2016

New development is not slowing down in Bloomington after a record-setting year in 2015. Many new projects are in the pipeline and others are scheduled to open this year.

Development happens in cycles, according to Community Development Director Larry Lee.

"Last year and this year we have been in an apartment and hotel cycle. In the future those will cool down and other types of uses—like retail and office—will pick up," Lee said.

In step with the current development cycle, many hotels are taking shape in the City. Construction began on Alpha B, a 148-room hotel east of 24th Avenue, *pictured above right*. The development will include an attached restaurant, coffee shop and retail space. Alpha B is scheduled to host its first guests this November. Cambria Suites is proposing to build a new hotel on Lindau Lane that will include two restaurants and

a banquet space. The Hyatt Regency Hotel at Bloomington Central Station opened in March.

Bloomington will also see new housing options for renters in 2016. Norman Pointe Residential, a 179-unit apartment building, will break ground in the Normandale Lake District. In South Loop, Lennar's IndiGO will offer its first available units to tenants in June.

A Minnesota-based rock climbing facility, Vertical Endeavors, will set up shop in a vacant industrial building near James Avenue South and West 97th Street. The building was previously occupied by a plastics manufacturer. The tower where the plastic bags were blown and cooled will now be used for the rock climbing walls.

The pub-style restaurant Willy McCoy's opened in March at France Avenue and Old Shakopee Road, *pictured above left*. It is Bloomington's first restaurant with rooftop seating.

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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

GARBAGE AND RECYCLING SERVICES: A SUSTAINABLE NEW INITIATIVE

By Mayor Gene Winstead

As we celebrate Earth Day April 22, we consider ways to sustain and care for the environment. Our community strives to maintain environmental sustainability by incorporating new initiatives.

This fall, Bloomington will join the ranks of more than 72 percent of cities nationwide that have organized collection services. This program will reduce the number of garbage trucks on your collection day, mitigate air and noise pollution, minimize wear and tear on the roadways and, in most cases, save each household money. The start of the new program has been rescheduled for fall 2016. The City is working with the seven licensed haulers to ensure a smooth transition to the new system. The current open hauling system will continue until organized collection begins. At that time, any individual agreements or payments under the present system should come to an end. Haulers will coordinate reimbursement to households for services not received after the start date.

Details outlining the new program will be included in residential utility bills and available on the City's website at blm.mn/garbage. We appreciate your cooperation and patience as we begin this new program.

If you have questions, contact Jennifer Nguyen Moore, Public Works Project Coordinator, 952-563-4659 or email jnguyenmoore@BloomingtonMN.gov.

CONSIDERING OPTIONS FOR HYLAND GREENS

Described as a "gem in the heart of Bloomington," Hyland Greens Golf and Learning Center is a well-loved, but not a well-used, City amenity.

A steady decline in usage has led to continuing operating losses since 2005. In past years, the overall golf facilities fund has been able to sustain Hyland Greens, but that is no longer the case. With losses forecast to continue through 2020, the City Council formed the Hyland Greens Task Force in fall 2015. The task force was made up of 14 individuals—about two-thirds community members and one-third City staff.

The group met seven times to discuss potential solutions for Hyland Greens. In February, they recommended that the City continue operating Hyland Greens as a golf course. Recommendations ranged from hiring a consultant to evaluate ways to improve the course's bottom line to exploring the possibility of developing the east side of the course.

The City is already launching new marketing efforts and working to implement online tee time registration. A request for proposals process is underway to hire a consultant to analyze golf course operations at both Hyland Greens and Dwan golf courses. The consultant will analyze areas such as staffing, fees and hours of operation. A report is expected later this year. Visit the City's website at blm.mn/hyland for more information.



HIT THE COURSE

Are you ready to get outside and spend some time on the greens? Now that spring has arrived, Hyland Greens Golf Course and Learning Center, 10100 Normandale Boulevard, and Dwan Golf Club, 110th Street and Xerxes Avenue, are the places to be.

Practice your swing close to home at Hyland Greens' expansive driving range and practice facility. The driving range has 36 all-grass hitting stations. You can also check out the state's first fully accredited FootGolf course. FootGolf is a sport that combines the best of soccer and golf.

Dwan Golf Club, an 18-hole par 68 course, has a lot to offer with 5,485 yards of tree-lined fairways. Get a head start on your golf game by visiting the City's website to take a video tour of the course before you go. For more information or tee times, call 952-563-8702 or visit the City's website at blm.mn/dwan or blm.mn/hyland.



CITY'S VIDEOS RECEIVE OUTSTANDING VIEWERSHIP

The City's YouTube channel met an exciting benchmark in January—it reached half a million views. Since beginning the channel in 2010, City employees have posted 1,015 videos. Bloomington Today news stories and other videos are posted weekly and are broadcasted to 613 subscribers. Check out what you might be missing, visit blm.mn/btv or blm.mn/youtube.

NEW FAIR HOUSING BASICS VIDEO IN FIVE LANGUAGES

Finding safe, affordable rental housing can be a challenge for new arrivals to Minnesota, especially for immigrants and refugees dealing with language and cultural barriers. Many don't know their rights as tenants or their responsibilities.

To help new Minnesotans understand their rights and responsibilities, Twin Cities PBS (TPT) program "ECHO" created a short video in five languages, which was partially funded by Bloomington's Housing and Redevelopment Authority. The video covers the basics of tenant and landlord rights and obligations. If both tenant and landlord follow the rules, a rented house or apartment becomes a safe, friendly place for these new neighbors to live, and help is available to find housing or solve housing problems. An English Language Learning curriculum has also been created with Minnesota Literacy Council. The program "A Good, Safe Place to Live" is available in these languages: Hmong, Karen, Somali, Spanish and English. It premieres on April 11, 9 p.m., on TPT's Minnesota channel.



ON THE LAKE BOTTOM: OLD CEDAR AVENUE BRIDGE

Backstage Pass is a new series that will give you a look at the inner workings of the City of Bloomington. First up is the restoration of Old Cedar Avenue bridge. The project took crews all the way to the bottom of Long Meadow Lake this winter.

Reconstructing the piers of a bridge is a complex job. With original construction of the bridge dating back to 1920, it is no surprise that some of the bridge's concrete piers were deteriorating. To rebuild them, crews had to work from the foundation up, *pictured above*. Concrete piers are made up of several elements—the cap, stem wall, columns, footings and piling, which are long poles. The original piling was installed straight down, and the other elements were constructed on top like building blocks. To replicate the concrete forms used in 1920 and maintain the original look of the bridge, contractors built forms lined with pine boards to shape the concrete. Changes in Minnesota's timber industry meant the rough sawn lumber needed to build the forms looked different than it did back in 1920. To accommodate these changes, contractors used a different type of board that more closely resembled the original.

PUBLIC HEALTH PARTNERS WITH DENTISTS TO DECREASE TOBACCO USE

Bloomington Public Health's collaboration with local dental clinics to pioneer an effort to help patients quit smoking is gaining statewide momentum. The Minnesota Dental Association is working with the Minnesota Department of Health and Bloomington Public Health to launch tobacco cessation efforts at dental clinics throughout Minnesota by 2017. Clinics will be trained to screen patients for tobacco use, provide counsel and refer patients to the Call it Quits Program, a free program that helps patients deal with cravings and stress. The program will be highlighted during National Public Health Week, April 4 – 10.

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE ON THE PLANNING COMMISSION

The City Council is seeking applicants to serve on the Planning Commission starting July 1. The Planning Commission holds public hearings and makes recommendations to the Council on land use, long-range development strategies, development applications and zoning. For more information or an application, call 952-563-8780. An interview process may be necessary. To download an application visit blm.mn/planning-app. Applications must be received by Wednesday, May 11, for consideration at the City Council meeting on May 16.

COFFEE WITH A COP BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS ONE CUP AT A TIME

The Bloomington Police Department is inviting community members to have a cup of coffee with their officers at Coffee with a Cop. There will be no agenda, speeches or specific topics. Just informal conversations about what matters to residents.

- **Tuesday, April 12, 6 – 8 p.m.**, Culver's, 7801 Nicollet Avenue South
- **Monday, May 9, 2 – 4 p.m.**, Bakers Square, 611 West 98th Street
- **Wednesday, June 1, 2 – 4 p.m.**, Mugshots Coffee Company, 10518 France Avenue South

This event is cosponsored by the Bloomington Human Services Division.



ATTEND A HOME IMPROVEMENT SEMINAR

The Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority will host three home improvement seminars this summer on **Thursdays, June 9, July 14 and August 11**. Seminars take place at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, at 7 p.m. Visit blm.mn/homeseminars for more details.

GET A HOME IMPROVEMENT LOAN

Upgrade your home and improve your neighborhood with a home improvement loan from the Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority. Loans of up to \$35,000 are available to Bloomington homeowners with no monthly payments. Upgrade your roof, windows, doors or siding. The loan will accrue interest at an annual rate of two percent for a period of 10 years and will not have to be repaid until you sell your home. Income limits and equity requirements apply. For more information or to receive an application, call the Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority at 952-563-8937, or visit blm.mn/hraloans.

LOANS FOR CONDO OR TOWNHOME ASSOCIATIONS

The Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority will be accepting applications for the Housing Improvement Area program until May 16. The Housing Improvement Area program provides loans to townhome or condo associations unable to obtain private financing for necessary common area improvements. For more information or to receive an application, contact the Bloomington HRA at 952-563-8937 or visit blm.mn/hia.

MEET YOUR BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Meet Officer Kristin Boomer. She has served this community and others for 19 years. She's worn many hats during her time with BPD. She's worked on patrol, as a Detective, as a Field Training Officer, as an Honor Guard and Crime Technician, but her most important job is super mom!



PUBLIC WORKS OPEN HOUSE

Have you ever been curious about how street sweeping equipment works? Want to know what it's like to sit in the driver's seat of a snowplow? The Public Works Open House will provide these opportunities and more.

In celebration of National Public Works Week, Public Works is hosting an open house for residents on **Saturday, May 21, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.**, at the Public Works Building, 1700 West 98th Street. At the event City staff will demonstrate the nature of Public Works services in support of everyday quality of life. There will be equipment displays and demonstrations, snacks, games and prizes.

IN MEMORIAM

Known as "the people's mayor," Kurt Laughinghouse served as Bloomington's mayor in the 1980s. He passed away in December 2015. During his time in office, he renegotiated the contract between the City and Mall of America developers. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War and was later active with Veterans for Peace. Laughinghouse was also a champion of public education and served as a member of the Bloomington School Board.

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 and 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, TTY 952-563-8740.

Residents are encouraged to recycle, reuse or donate items before disposing of them. For more information, visit blm.mn/reusable.

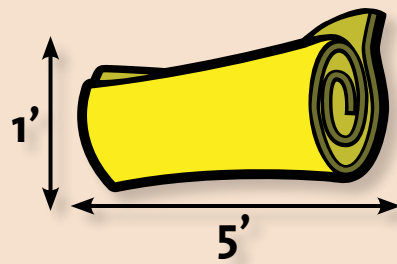
QUESTIONS? CALL 952-563-8760

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

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

ACCEPTED AT THE CURB

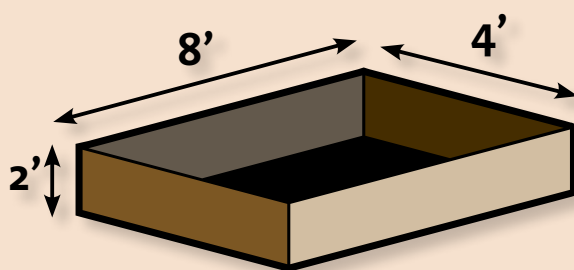
- **General junk:** Boxed or bundled with twine—under 100 pounds per item.
- **Carpets/pads:** Rolled and securely tied with twine. Under five feet long and one foot in diameter. Larger rolls not accepted.



- **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. Remove or bend nails. **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.

[BLM.MN/CLEANUP](http://blm.mn/cleanup)



Photo courtesy of Metropolitan Airports Commission.

HARNESSING SOLAR POWER

The future of sustainability at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport is bright. The airport became Minnesota's largest solar generation site with a three-megawatt solar installation in December.

Located on the top decks of two Terminal 1 parking structures, the power generated by the 8,700 solar panels will go directly to the Terminal 1 complex. It is estimated that the installation will generate close to 20 percent of the airport's total peak power capacity. As a result of the installation, greenhouse gas emissions will be reduced by more than 6,800 metric tons annually. That is the equivalent of taking more than 1,400 passengers off the road in one year. Nearly half of the solar panels were purchased from Ten K Solar, which is headquartered in Bloomington.

The project also included other energy-saving actions. More than 7,700 metal halide light fixtures in all four parking ramps were converted to energy-saving LED technology. Four new electric vehicle charging stations were also installed in the ramps, bringing the total number of charging stations to 18.

These efforts have already been recognized nationally. MSP Airport recently received the Airports Going Green Award presented by the Chicago Department of Aviation and the Minnesota Department of Transportation's 2015 Technology and Innovation in Environmental Stewardship Award.

Ameresco, a leading energy efficiency and renewable energy company, developed the solar infrastructure and LED lighting upgrade. Ameresco will also maintain and operate the system on behalf of the Metropolitan Airports Commission. Xcel Energy, also a key contributor, provided a \$2.1 million grant from its renewable development fund.

MSP Airport has plans to install more solar panels this year on top of a parking ramp near Terminal 2.



DONATE USED FURNITURE

Before you toss your gently used furniture, consider donating it. Bridging, a Twin Cities-based nonprofit organization, provides furniture and household goods to families and individuals transitioning out of homelessness and poverty.

Bridging provides furniture and household goods for a basic home setup to more than 80 families and individuals per week in the Twin Cities. That means they give about 80 sofas, 100 dressers, 160 lamps and 240 place settings of dishes on a weekly basis to those in need.

Based out of Bloomington and Roseville, Bridging accepts donations of quality, gently used and new furniture and household goods. Donations are accepted at both locations during drop-off hours. Fee-based pickups are available in the seven county metro area. Donate in Bloomington at 201 West 87th Street. Drop-off hours are Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Bridging is closed on Sundays. The most-needed items are dressers, kitchen tables, lamps, mattresses and box springs. Questions? Call Bridging at 952-888-1105 or visit www.bridging.org.





LET'S GO FLY A KITE

Human Services will host its annual Kite Day event in celebration of children on **Saturday, May 7, 12 – 3 p.m.**, at Valley View Playfield, 90th Street and Portland Avenue. Kite flyers of all ages are welcome. Bring your own kite. Kites will be provided to those 18 and younger, while supplies last. There will also be live music, entertainment, food, prizes and more. To volunteer at the event, contact Human Services at 952-563-4944, TTY 952-563-4933.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

At the April 4 City Council meeting, a proclamation will be presented to recognize April 10 – 16 as National Volunteer Week in Bloomington. The Mayor and City Council will also honor its volunteers at an All-City Volunteer Breakfast.

Human Services has a group of volunteers who donate their time supporting a number of programs and activities, including the programs for ages 50 and older, Fare For All distribution, community events such as Kite Day and others throughout the year. With 332 volunteers in 2015, collectively they donated more than 31,000 hours of their time, valued at more than \$777,000.

Looking for volunteer opportunities? For more information, visit blm.mn/volunteer or contact Human Services at 952-563-4944, TTY 952-563-4933.

ASIAN PACIFIC LEGAL EXPERIENCE IN AMERICA

Celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month this May. The Bloomington Human Rights Commission will be sponsoring the Asian Pacific Legal Experience in America exhibit at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, May 3 – 22. It is free and open to the public. Created by 12 lawyers to support the legal journey of Asian Americans, this exhibit features historical events such as the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the Japanese America Incarceration in World War II and the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965.

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH: BLAZE A TRAIL

Join Human Services in celebrating Older Americans Month. This year's theme is Blaze a Trail. As a month of fresh beginnings, May is a time to recognize older Americans and the contributions they make in our community. Older Americans Month is an opportunity to highlight the ways adults 50 and older are advocating for themselves, their peers and their communities.

A number of events and activities will be held throughout May: Bring a friend and welcome spring by making a May Day Flower Arrangement.

- May 2, 10 – 11 a.m.

Celebrate your day at the Birthday Bash and Bingo Lunch.

- May 12, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Treat yourself at our Ice Cream Social with music by the Medicine Show.

- May 19, 12:30 – 2 p.m.

Be proactive about your health and join us for Arthritis and Nutrition Management Tips (In collaboration with Allina Health).

- May 25, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Learn something new at our Do It Yourself project and lunch at Bloomington Home Depot.

- May 27, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

For more information, visit blm.mn/olderamericansmonth or contact Human Services at 952-563-4944, TTY 952-563-4933.



CITYWIDE GARAGE SALES

It's that time of year again. The Citywide Garage Sales will be Thursday, May 19 – Saturday, May 21. Sales will be held rain or shine and are sponsored by the Bloomington Optimist Youth Foundation in cooperation with Bloomington Human Services. For more information, visit blm.mn/garagesale or contact the Bloomington Optimist Youth Foundation at 952-831-3798.



SEEKING LIVING WELL EXPO VENDORS

Interested in participating in the Living Well Expo this fall? Human Services is now accepting vendor applications for 2016. Businesses and organizations providing services and resources to adults 50 and older on how to live a healthy, happy and balanced life are invited to participate. Space for the event is limited. For more information, visit blm.mn/livingwellexpo or contact Human Services at 952-563-4944, TTY 952-563-4933.

THE BEST IN BULLYING PREVENTION

The PACER Unity Awards honor individuals and groups who have made positive contributions in addressing and preventing bullying. An awards ceremony will take place **Wednesday, May 25, 7 p.m.**, with a reception at 6:30 p.m. at Civic Plaza. For more information or to find out how to nominate an individual or group, contact the Human Rights Commission at 952-563-8733, TTY 952-563-8740.

BETTER CHOICES, BETTER HEALTH

Take charge of your health. Developed by Stanford University, Better Choices, Better Health is a six-week program for those 60 and older. The program will be Tuesdays, April 19 – May 24, 1 – 3 p.m., at Creekside Community Center.

- Find practical ways to deal with pain and fatigue.
- Discover better nutrition and exercise choices.
- Learn to advocate for yourself.
- Set and follow through with personal health goals.

Call for fees. Registration is required by Tuesday, April 12. Contact the Normandale Center for Healing and Wholeness at 952-929-1698. This program is provided in collaboration with the Normandale Center for Healing and Wholeness, with support from the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging.



BE PART OF A LEAGUE ADAPTIVE SOFTBALL

Competitive and recreational adaptive softball leagues for adults 19 and older and youth ages 10 – 18 begin June 13. Adult leagues play Tuesdays June 14 – August 9 and youth leagues play Mondays, June 13 – August 8, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., at Tarnhill Park, 9650 Little Road. Cost to play is \$65 and includes a team shirt and photo.

SUMMER SAND VOLLEYBALL

Parks and Recreation is accepting registration for Adult Co-Rec summer sand volleyball. Leagues will take place on Wednesdays and Thursdays beginning Wednesday, **June 1**, at Dred Scott Playfield, 10820 Bloomington Ferry Road. For more information, call 952-563-8877.

BORN AGAIN JOCKS

Join the Born Again Jock's summer golf league beginning Monday, May 2, at Dwan Golf Club. For more information, contact Joe Wilson at 952-881-7731. Join the Born Again Jock's softball league beginning Tuesday, May 3. For more information, call Larry Jungwirth at 952-888-2239 or Lyman Demaray at 952-888-6130.



STEP TO IT CHALLENGE

Do you want to get in shape this spring? The Step to It Challenge, a four-week, friendly competition beginning May 1, is a great way to get moving. More than 20 Twin Cities communities will compete. Track your daily activities online for a chance to win prizes and be honored by Hennepin County and the Minnesota Twins at a Twins home game during the 2016 season. Visit blm.mn/steptoit for more information.



BUSH LAKE BEACH

You don't need to pack your bags and head up north to soak up the sun at the lake. You can have a picnic lunch, build a sandcastle with the kids, practice your backstroke or just relax right in your own backyard at beautiful Bush Lake Beach, 9140 East Bush Lake Road. A daily or seasonal parking permit is required for entrance to East Bush Lake Park, June 1 – August 31. East Bush Lake Park is staffed June 8 – August 21 daily with lifeguards on duty from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. Season parking permits are now available for purchase. Cost is \$36 for the season (June through August) or \$7.25 daily.

VISIT THE BLOOMINGTON FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER

Bloomington Family Aquatic Center, 201 East 90th Street, features a zero-depth entry pool, interactive play areas and water slides, diving boards, and a renovated bathhouse and concession stand.

When: June 8 – August 21 and weekends through Labor Day.

Weekdays: 12 – 8 p.m. Tot swim and lap swim start at 11 a.m.

Saturdays: 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Sundays: 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Holidays: 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

SKIP THE LINE

Skip the opening weekend lines and purchase your Bush Lake Beach season parking pass or Bloomington Aquatic Center season pass. Passes are now available at the Parks and Recreation counter at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

CAMP KOTA AND KOTA KIDS

One of Bloomington's longest-running programs is back again for another summer. If your kids love meeting new people, challenges, learning about nature, singing crazy songs and having fun, then Kota or Kota Kids is for them.



Kota or Kota Kids is for them.

Dates: **July 11 – 15, July 18 – 22, July 25 – 29, August 1 – 5**, (Kota Kids do not attend camp on Friday of each week.)

Times: 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Location: 9140 East Bush Lake Road

Ages: Grades K-1 for Kota Kids; grades 2-7 for Camp Kota

Cost: \$155 Kota Kids per week; \$185 Camp Kota per week

FISHING IS FUN

Pack up the tackle box, grab a fishing rod and head to the lake. Bloomington Optimist's Kids Fishing Fair is scheduled **Saturday, June 4, 9 a.m.**, at West Bush Lake Park, 9401 West Bush Lake Road. There will be fishing demonstrations and prizes for whoever catches the largest fish. Kids ages 14 and under and their parents are invited to this free event. For more information, call 612-251-6115.

ADULT KICKBALL LEAGUE

Grab your friends and join us for a blast from your gym-class past with this new kickball league. Co-rec teams will play 10 games with officials and bases. League fee

includes regular season and playoffs, kickball (1 per team), field, game official and league champion prizes. Registration begins on February 25 and ends on April 29. Games will be played Thursdays, May 12 through late July, at Valley View Playfield #3. There will be 10 single-header games and single-elimination playoffs. The cost to participate is \$275. This program is offered in cooperation with the city of Richfield.

ADULT BAGGO LEAGUE

Baggo has been a backyard and tailgating favorite, but now you have the chance to test your skills in a fun recreational league. Teams of two can sign up for eight weeks of league play followed by single-elimination playoffs. Games will be held on Tuesday nights, June 7 – August 9 (no games July 5 or August 2). The league is open to players 18 years of age or older. The deadline to register is May 24. Baggo boards and bags will be provided. The cost to participate is \$50 per team. Games will be held at Taft Park at Highway 62 and Cedar Avenue. This league is offered in cooperation with the city of Richfield. For more information, call 612-861-9396.

ADULT SPIKEBALL LEAGUE

Spikeball is a sport that's described as being like volleyball and foursquare on steroids. This two-versus-two sport takes place in a circle as opponents bounce the spikeball off a center net in an effort to stop the other team from being able to return it. Join us for this league that offers a new twist in a classic sandy setting. Games are held on Monday nights, June 6 – August 8, at Dred Scott Playfields sand volleyball courts. Cost to participate is \$65 per team. Registration is open until May 20. This league is offered in cooperation with the city of Richfield.



PLAYGROUND PARTNERSHIP

Enjoy a variety of games, sports, and arts and crafts at Westwood Park, 3490 West 109th Street, or Smith Park 8155 Park Avenue South.

Dates: July 5 – 8, August 22 – 26.

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Ages: Grades 2 – 7.

SUMMER ADVENTURE PLAYGROUNDS

Dates: Monday – Friday, June 14 – August 18.

(No program July 4 – 8.)

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Locations: Brye, Kelly, Poplar Bridge, Running, Sunrise, Smith and Westwood Parks.

Ages: Grades 2 – 7.

Cost: \$115 on or before June 2; \$120 after June 2.

GALAXY SUMMER OF SERVICE

Dates: Monday – Friday, June 13 – August 12.

(No program July 4 – 8.)

Time: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Location: Valley View Middle School, 8900 Portland Avenue South.

Ages: Grades 6 – 7.

Cost: \$200 for summer; \$50 per week.

SUMMER GALAXY 2.0

Dates: Monday – Friday, June 13 – August 12.

(No program July 4 – 8.)

Time: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Location: Valley View Middle School, 8900 Portland Avenue South.

Ages: Grades 8 – 10.

Cost: \$200 for summer; \$50 per week.



BOWLED OVER

A group of seniors from Penelope 35 apartments recently sculpted bowls during an Artistry workshop using ceramic techniques their instructor picked up in France and Morocco.

“I was awed by the beauty and delicacy of their work,” said Artistry Executive Director Andrea Specht.

The ceramics workshop is one part of Artistry’s partnership with the Penelope 35 senior apartments in Bloomington, which is funded by the Minnesota State Arts Board. Penelope 35 is nonprofit housing that provides affordable housing for low-income elderly and disabled persons. Through the partnership, skilled teaching artists are leading on-site workshops for seniors in clay, painting, drawing and other media.

A SUMMER TO REMEMBER

Create memories with your friends at Bloomington Parks and Rec youth programs this summer. For more information about these programs or to register, call 952-563-8877 or visit blm.mn/parksprograms.

THE VIEW

Dates: Monday – Friday, June 14 – August 19

(No program July 4 – 8)

Time: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Location: Valley View Middle School, 8900 Portland Avenue South

Ages: Grades 2 – 5.

Cost: \$135 on or before June 2; \$140 after June 2.

MINI-VIEW

Dates: Monday-Friday, June 14 – August 19

(No program July 4 – 8)

Times: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Location: Valley View Elementary, 351 East 88th Street.

Ages: Grades Pre-K, Kindergarten and 1.

Cost: \$135 on or before June 2, \$140 after June 2.

CENTER FOR THE ARTS

PERFORMANCES THAT ARE SURE TO ENTERTAIN



Arne Fogel and Jennifer Eckes Days of Wine and Roses

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

Friday and Saturday, April 8 – 10, 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



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.

Wednesdays – Saturdays, May 19 –

June 12, 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 like a fairy tale—funny, touching, memorable and completely enchanting.

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.

Fridays and Saturdays, June 10 – June 19,

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

Adults \$29, seniors and students \$26

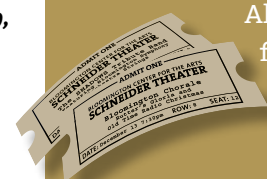
BOX OFFICE

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.





TRIMMING TREES

If Public Works crews aren't busy plowing in the winter, there's a good chance they're trimming trees. Any branches hanging less than 15 feet above the road are trimmed. This process prevents City trucks and other large trucks from hitting low-hanging branches. On average, one street takes about 30 minutes to complete.

Last winter, Street Maintenance workers trimmed 214 trees. Employees feed trimmed branches through a wood chipper. The wood chips are stored until spring and reused on City trails. They are also available for resident use at no charge.



CELEBRATING ART AND NATURE

Pollinators are getting the star treatment this summer as the main topic for the annual Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge Partner School Art Show. Students from three schools in Minneapolis and Bloomington's Poplar Bridge Elementary will create artwork with a nature-based emphasis, which will be presented in the art gallery at the Bloomington Visitor Center. Student artwork will be displayed through the end of June.

An interactive artist reception will take place **Saturday, June 4, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.**, with events and demonstrations. Local artists Gerry Anderson, Sandra Muzzy, Genevieve Chamberland and Bloomington's Artistry will be at the event to perform demonstrations and lead nature-focused art activities.

The Outdoor Painters of Minnesota will also be available to answer questions and discuss their artwork at the Bloomington Visitor Center on June 4. Peace Coffee has donated its Pollinator Blend coffee for the free event as well.



STREET SWEEPING BEGINS

Now is melting, trees are budding and it's time for some spring cleaning. Street Maintenance is about to start its annual street-sweeping program to rid roads of dirt, sand and debris.

Street sweeping is part of the City's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program. It beautifies the city and prevents pollution in local bodies of water because it stops debris from entering the storm water system. A clean sweep of all 342 miles of Bloomington streets takes four to six weeks. Street sweeping is also a bargain for homeowners. Owners of single-family median-value homes in Bloomington pay only 57 cents each month out of their storm water utility bill for two street sweepings. Visit the City's website to see a progress map and when your street will be swept.

Do not rake leaves or grass clippings into the street. They are a major source of pollutants for area bodies of water and can clog pipes, which leads to backups or flooding.

HOW TO COMPOST

Embrace a new way to reduce your waste with composting, a process that converts waste to organic soil or mulch. The finished compost provides nutrient-rich soil, great for your garden or houseplants. Whether you own a home with a backyard or live in an apartment, there are ways to compost in the space you have available.

What can be composted?

Green or nitrogen-rich items: Vegetable scraps, coffee grounds and filters, tea leaves and tea bags, egg shells, nut shells, plant trimmings and grass clippings. Brown or carbon-rich items: leaves, fruit scraps and pine needles.

Backyard composting

Plan to contain your compost pile in some kind of structure. Typical dimensions of a compost pile are 5' x 5' x 5'. Build a simple structure with items like woven wire fencing and metal posts. Locate the compost container where it is somewhat protected from drying winds, but still receives partial sunlight to help heat it. Containers must be at least 10 feet from lot lines and no closer than 50 feet from adjacent dwellings. Build your compost pile in layers with green and brown ingredients. The microorganisms responsible for producing compost need a balance of green/brown ingredients, moisture and oxygen.

Indoor composting

To compost indoors, you'll need red wiggler worms and a bin. There are specially designed vermiculture bins available for purchase, or you can make your own. Collect food scraps a few days before you want to begin. The worms will be able to work faster if the food has already started decomposing. Store scraps in a sealed container and refrigerate if needed. Dig a hole in the bedding in the bin; place the food then the worms in the hole and cover them.

For more information about composting, contact the Hennepin County Extension Service at 612-348-3777, or contact Jennifer Nguyen-Moore at 952-563-4659 or jnguyenmoore@BloomingtonMN.gov.

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. 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. For more information or additional order forms, visit blm.mn/treesale.

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 five 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.

