

BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



AUGUST 2017



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EXPLORE YOUR FIRE STATION

SPARKit, a mobile pop-up park, will engage visitors in conversations using table games and fun.

Photo courtesy: Bruce Silcox.

ENGAGE IN THE ARTS

You'll find more than shopping, sculptures, hotels and restaurants in South Loop this season. The City is partnering with Springboard for the Arts to bring interactive artist-led activities to the area and other Bloomington neighborhoods to get residents involved in creative placemaking. With free activities ranging from painting to table tennis, there will be something for everyone. The events will also serve as opportunities to share your thoughts on what creative projects and events you'd like to see in South Loop. Dates, locations and specifics about each event are available at blm.mn/placemaking or call Creative Placemaking Director Ale Pelinka at 952-563-8744.

THE RESULTS ARE IN! BRIEFING RECEIVES HIGH MARKS

The *Briefing* has been around for more than 25 years. Through the years, it has been through many phases of change and improvement. To find new ways to serve the public and to know if the newsletter has been achieving its goals, the City wanted to hear what readers thought about the *Briefing*. More than 140 people responded to the *Briefing* survey that was offered in print and online last spring.

When asked about sources of information, 93 percent of respondents said the *Briefing* was a common source for City news, followed by the City's website, the *Bloomington Sun-Current* and the *Star Tribune*.

"I just moved to Bloomington two weeks ago and the *Briefing* was the first thing in my mailbox. I started reading the Mayor's Memo and loved it, then read the whole thing cover to cover," one respondent said. "This publication has been really helpful with providing information."

The *Briefing* is highly valued by Bloomington residents. More than 85 percent of survey respondents

said the newsletter was "very valuable" or "valuable" as a communications tool.

"I love the *Briefing*! It is very informative and very easy and fun to read! It's the perfect size—it doesn't take a month to read. I look forward to every issue! Thank you!" one reader said.

Six times per year, the *Briefing* is distributed to approximately 38,000 households and 5,000 businesses. Seventy-five percent of *Briefing* production is done in-house. The City uses outside resources for printing and mailing. Each issue costs 25 cents to print and mail.

Communications will incorporate respondents' suggestions for features they would like to see added, including neighborhood spotlights, City Council updates, volunteer

opportunities, a phone directory and residential property maintenance tips.

For more information, call Communications Administrator Janine Hill at 952-563-8819.

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Where do you get your information about the City of Bloomington?

93%
Briefing

How valuable is the Briefing?

85%
Valuable or very valuable

How would you prefer to receive the Briefing?

81%
In print

Which feature(s) do you enjoy most?

83% Parks, recreation and arts
81% Development updates
81% Upcoming events
75% Recycling, environment

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
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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.



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER

MAYOR'S MEMO

A WELL-MAINTAINED AND AFFORDABLE CITY

By Mayor Gene Winstead

Bloomington's housing market is strong. When people move here, they stay here—on average 16.5 years. Houses are on the market an average of only 28 days before being sold. While there is currently a variety of housing available, the City is working to provide more affordable housing to meet the Met Council's 2030 affordable housing target—one part of recent focused renewal efforts.

The focused renewal priority is part of the City Council's One Bloomington plan. The Housing and Redevelopment Authority has been working with several different organizations to help low- to moderate-income home buyers find their place in Bloomington.

Habitat for Humanity started construction on a new house on Wentworth Avenue South earlier this summer. The HRA helps Habitat for Humanity locate vacant City-owned lots. Habitat for Humanity then builds a home for a family in need at a price that's affordable for them.

When the house is finished, Habitat for Humanity sells the house at no profit—charging only for the materials used. This isn't the first time Habitat for Humanity has built a home in Bloomington. To see the story of a family who recently bought one of these homes, visit blm.mn/hfh.

The HRA is also working with the West Hennepin Affordable Housing Land Trust to purchase and rehab homes

in Bloomington. After the rehab work is done, the home is sold to a low-or moderate-income, first-time home buyer.

Keeping homes, streets and businesses looking good and functioning well is also a priority. Last year, the Bloomington City Council and HRA authorized \$1.8 million to help revitalize neighborhoods and housing through several new and expanded loan programs. They include the Curb Appeal Loan Program for exterior home improvements, and sidewalk and park improvements that initially focused on the neighborhood inside the boundaries of American Boulevard, Old Cedar Avenue, 90th Street and Portland Avenue. Since the Curb Appeal Loan program started in 2016, 35 loans have been committed. To find out more about this program, visit blm.mn/fix.

The City Council and HRA also expanded the City's popular loans for home improvements to help keep neighborhoods looking good. Approved repairs include roofing, siding, windows and electrical, heating or plumbing upgrades. This program has been successful. In 2016 alone the HRA loaned \$2.4 million to 90 eligible homeowners with 82 additional applications out for bid.

As another part of ongoing renewal efforts, the City is engaging business owners in targeted commercial areas in discussions about potential rehab projects.

A CAREER THAT SHAPED BLOOMINGTON

When Community Development Director Larry Lee started at the City as an associate planner in 1978, the comprehensive plan was a typed document with hand-drawn illustrations, Mall of America didn't exist, the Twins and Vikings played at Met Stadium and the North Stars at Met Center, and South Loop was about 40 percent farm fields.

Throughout his almost 40-year career at the City, Lee was a member of teams that changed the landscape of Bloomington. He will retire on August 31.

Bloomington's best-known landmark is Mall of America and Lee was involved from the beginning. He was instrumental in introducing developers Triple Five to Bloomington and has been involved in all the site's development phases. With future phases still being planned, he jokes that it will be hard for him to leave "an unfinished project."

South Loop, home to MOA, represents another focus of Lee's career. He helped the City rebrand the district (formerly called

Airport South) as a distinctive urban center where people live, work and play. He also championed the City's creative placemaking partnership with Artistry—using public art and events to create a unique sense of place. He lobbied for South Loop's infrastructure strengths—retaining Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport at its current location and connecting light-rail transit to Mall of America.

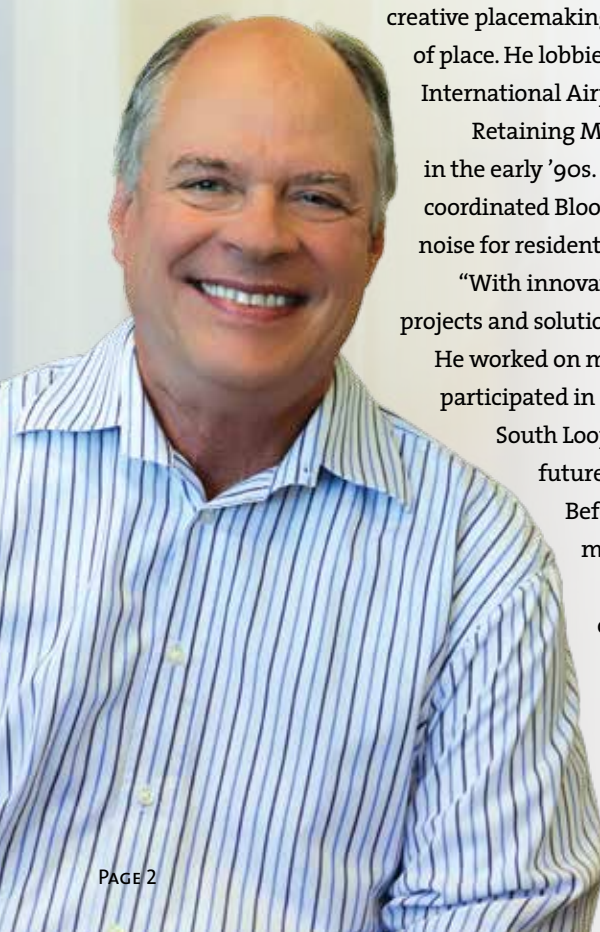
Retaining MSP Airport at its current location was Bloomington's primary legislative priority in the early '90s. When the Legislature and Governor decided to keep MSP Airport here in 1996, Lee coordinated Bloomington's responses to rezone and acquire property in the city to mitigate aircraft noise for residents while maintaining the benefits of being next to an international airport.

"With innovative ideas and the ability to carry them out, Larry has been a catalyst for creative projects and solutions in Bloomington," City Manager Jamie Verbrugge said.

He worked on many of the City's comprehensive plans and State Legislative initiatives, participated in creating the three development districts (Normandale Lake, Penn-American and South Loop) and smaller neighborhood redevelopments, and interpreted Bloomington's future in the metropolitan area to City Councils, residents, developers and the media. Before becoming community development director, he served as assistant city manager for six years.

Lee has also been deeply involved in the Bloomington community outside of work, serving on the Bloomington Convention and Visitors Bureau board of directors, as a member of Bloomington Rotary Club and the Urban Land Institute, on the VEAP board of directors and working closely with Artistry.

"Larry has always been a leader who is incredibly forward thinking," said Mayor Gene Winstead. "You can see how Bloomington has developed into this great community because of his work."





Last spring students from Jefferson and Kennedy high schools took part in the annual Peace Run to celebrate Peace and Diversity Day, an event coordinated by the Human Rights Commission and Bloomington Public Schools.



UNITED TO BUILD A 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. In 2017, each issue of the *Briefing* will be themed after a priority within the One Bloomington plan.

FORWARD 2040: STRATEGY REVIEW

Work is progressing on the update of the City's comprehensive plan, Forward 2040. Draft policies and strategies to guide future development and investments in public infrastructure and facilities will be presented at a series of community engagement meetings this fall for

The six strategic priorities are:

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

public input. There will also be social media opportunities to provide input. After dates and locations have been determined, information will be posted at blm.mn/forward2040 and sent to E-Subscribers. For more information and to sign up to receive project updates, visit blm.mn/forward2040.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

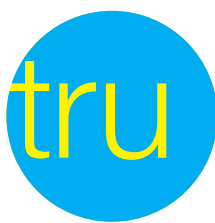
Following the 2017 legislative session, two important Bloomington projects received funding.

The approved bonding bill included \$8.75 million for improvements at Mall of America Transit Station. The project will improve efficiency of operations, increase exterior visibility for transit riders, improve station amenities and aesthetic appeal, and provide convenient pedestrian access. With the funds from the bonding bill, the project is fully funded at \$25 million, will start construction in the spring of 2018 and be completed a year later.

The METRO Orange Line, a 17-mile planned highway bus rapid transit line that will connect Bloomington with Minneapolis, Richfield and Burnsville along I-35W, also received \$12.1 million as part of the bill. If federal funding is secured, construction of the Orange Line could start as early as mid-2018.

NEW HOTELS COMING TO SOUTH LOOP

South Loop will soon have more lodging options for visitors. Hilton chose Bloomington as the first Minnesota location for its new budget-friendly hotel brand, Tru. The Bloomington Planning Commission approved the plan for the four-story, 182-room hotel in May. The building will house two Hilton hotels under the same roof—half will be Tru and the other half will be a Home2 Suites. A Cambria Suites hotel is also expected to break ground this year.



CONTACT US

CITY PHONE NUMBERS AND EMAIL ADDRESSES

Have a question or concern and don't know whom to contact? The following are the most frequently called and emailed City contacts.

Police/Fire/medical emergency 911
If you cannot complete a call using 911, call 952-563-4900.

Police nonemergency 952-563-4900
police@BloomingtonMN.gov

Animal Shelter 952-563-4942
police@BloomingtonMN.gov

Pet licenses 952-563-8728
licensing@BloomingtonMN.gov

Center for the Arts 952-563-8889
centerforthearts@BloomingtonMN.gov

Creekside Community Center
952-563-4944
humanservices@BloomingtonMN.gov

Dwan Golf Club 952-563-8702
golf@BloomingtonMN.gov

Hyland Greens Golf Course 952-563-8868

Human Services referrals for housing, financial assistance, health insurance, food or transportation needs, legal 952-563-4636
humanservices@BloomingtonMN.gov

Building, electrical, heating and plumbing inspections 952-563-8930
inspections@BloomingtonMN.gov

Fire inspections 952-563-8933
fireprevention@bloomingtonmn.gov

Mayor/City Council 952-563-8782
council@BloomingtonMN.gov

Motor Vehicle 952-563-8719
motorvehicle@BloomingtonMN.gov

Noise, weeds or problem properties 952-563-8934
envhealth@BloomingtonMN.gov

Parks and Recreation 952-563-8877
parksrec@BloomingtonMN.gov

Passports 952-563-8728
passports@BloomingtonMN.gov

Property information 952-563-8722
assessing@BloomingtonMN.gov

Public Health 952-563-8900
publichealth@BloomingtonMN.gov

Recycling 952-563-8760
maintenance@BloomingtonMN.gov

Section 8 Housing 952-563-8937
hra@BloomingtonMN.gov

Sewer and water 24-hour emergency 952-563-4905

Voter registration 952-563-8729

Snow emergency line 952-563-8768

TTY (Text telephone) 952-563-8740

Volunteer opportunities
952-563-4944
humanservices@BloomingtonMN.gov

Water and sewer utility billing 952-563-8726
utilitybilling@BloomingtonMN.gov

Water leaks 952-563-8777



SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Bloomington City Council created the Sustainability Commission to focus attention on environmental sustainability—one of its six strategic priorities—in 2016, and appointed the first commissioners in January.

The current commissioners are (front l to r) John Jaimez, Rob Bouta, Sherie Bartsh, Paul Erdmann, (back l to r) vice chair Steven Flagg, chair Tim Sandry, Joe Strommen City Councilmember Dwayne Lowman and Steve Thomforde (not pictured).

The commission is supported by Deputy Director of Public Works Mary Hurliman. The ordinance establishing the commission charters it to focus on the following four areas: energy and carbon, solid waste, surface and ground water, and ecological land use.

To see the initiatives that the commission is focused on in 2017, visit blm.mn/sustainability. If you have any questions or comments for the commission, e-mail mhurliman@bloomingtonmn.gov.



DRAWING ATTENTION TO NATIVE PLANTINGS

Parkkeeper II Matt Elasky, *above*, had an opportunity to get creative and try something new at work this spring: fabricating large-scale, artistic metal sculptures. The two butterfly sculptures recently installed at the Public Works building, 1700 West 98th Street, are the first of a series of sculptures to come that will serve as markers for native planting areas in Bloomington.

“The idea is to draw more attention to some of the native plantings we have,” said Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Dave Hanson.

Native plantings reduce the amount of mowing by Public Works crews. They also serve as vital habitats for birds, pollinators and other wildlife. More sculptures will be added to native planting areas throughout the city in the coming years.

This summer, sculptures will be installed at the off-leash area on Nesbitt Avenue. The 25-acre, off-leash recreation area on 111th Street between Nesbitt and Hampshire avenues has a three-quarter mile walking path, grassy hills, a pond and a water fountain area for dogs and their owners.

DID YOU KNOW?

The City has 50 native planting areas ranging from undisturbed prairie fields to small rain gardens. The newest is at the off-leash area on Nesbitt Avenue. Thanks to a visitor who contacted the City after noticing milkweed growing at the site, crews have made extra efforts to let the milkweed grow for pollinators.



FIGHT FOOD WASTE

Have you ever bought a basket full of fresh produce and before you know it, it's all gone bad? Here are some tips to help you fight food waste:

- Practice meal planning.
- Make meals in batches.
- Make an “eat first” bin in your fridge.
- Freeze leftovers for later.
- Understand food labeling.

“Use by” and “Best used by” are mostly suggestions. Rely on sight, smell and your judgement to determine if something has gone bad.

For more tips to reduce food waste and information, visit savethefood.org.

GARBAGE AND RECYCLING: CHANGE IN PICK-UP FOR LABOR DAY

Garbage and yard waste collection will be delayed one day as a result of the Labor Day holiday on Monday, September 4. To ensure your materials are collected, have your garbage, recycling and yard waste carts out by 7 a.m. or the night before your collection day. Routes may change and your driver may collect in your neighborhood at a different time of day from week to week. For more information about the program visit blm.mn/garbage.

 RECYCLE WEEK

 HOLIDAY*

* No pickup; pickup one day later for the rest of the week.

August 2017						
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30	31		

September 2017						
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October 2017						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



SAVE WATER

Use a rain sensor shut-off device to prevent water waste with your in-ground irrigation system. The state of Minnesota enacted a law in 2005 requiring that all automatically operated landscape irrigation systems include rainfall sensors. It requires that the sensor technology inhibits or interrupts the operation of the system during periods of sufficient moisture. If you have a timer on your irrigation system, make sure that you are not watering during the heat of the day, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., as most of the water from your system will evaporate before soaking into the soil.



HOW MUCH WATER DO YOU USE?

There's a fun and easy way to see how “water wise” you are at home. Visit blm.mn/waterwise to see how your water habits impact the environment and your water bill. The results may surprise you. After filling in your information, you'll receive tips on a few ways to save water and money with small changes to your habits.

The City encourages the wise use of water. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Utilities at 952-563-8777. For additional tips on how to save money and water, visit blm.mn/watersave.



GIVING BACK ONE QUILT AT A TIME

The people who gather to stitch together pieces of donated fabric at Creekside’s quilting group do so for a reason. The finished quilts are given to those in need. Talk about reuse and repurpose!

Arline Jakeman, at left, the leader of the crafts and quilting group, wanted to ensure the quilts were available to individuals experiencing traumatic events, such as house fires. Twenty-four quilts were donated on behalf of the quilters to the Bloomington Fire Department. Jakeman wants those in need in the community to know that there are people who care about their well-being, and she hopes the quilts will provide comfort.

The department responds to an estimated 1,800 calls per year. Fire Chief Ulie Seal, at right, said these quilts will come in handy especially on days when it is cold and wet and a resident is waiting outside.

If you’re interested in participating or donating to the crafters and quilters, contact Creekside Community Center at 952-563-4944, TTY 952-563-4933.

GOOD FOOD, FARE PRICE

Fare For All is a cooperative food-buying program offering up to 40 percent savings on brand-name products. There are no qualifications or income restrictions. Fare For All provides packages of fresh fruit and vegetables as well as frozen meat. Pay with cash, credit or EBT. Upcoming sales are scheduled on the following Wednesdays from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., unless otherwise noted: August 16, September 20, 12 – 2 p.m., October 18, November 8 and December 13, at Creekside, 9801 Penn Avenue.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

International Day of Peace is observed on September 21 each year. The United Nations General Assembly declared it as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, within and among all nations and peoples.

The Human Rights Commission is hosting a naturalization ceremony in honor of the International Day of Peace Tuesday, September 12, 2 p.m. in the Schneider Theater.

About 200 immigrants will be sworn in as United States citizens at the ceremony. A U.S. District Judge will preside over the ceremony, with assistance from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Additional events:

- Peace of My Mind American stories exhibit, September 14 – October 1, and a community event, at 7 p.m., with reception at 6 p.m., on September 21. This exhibit is the result of award-winning Bloomington photographer John Noltner’s journey across America, asking the question, “What does peace mean to you?” Fifty-eight people from diverse backgrounds share their stories paired with compelling portraits.
- The 10th anniversary of the peace pole at Civic Plaza will also be commemorated as part of the proclamation at the City Council meeting at 7 p.m., September 11. For more information, call 952-563-8733.

connect
WITH HUMAN SERVICES

Whether you’re looking for information about financial assistance, volunteer opportunities, housing assistance or other programs, Human Services can help. Connect with us on resources, services or support.

952-563-INFO(4636) or humanservices@BloomingtonMN.gov



NEED HELP FINDING WORK?

The African Workforce and Entrepreneurial Development (AWED) organization serves all immigrant groups, individuals with low income and those in need of coaching or mentorship to find employment. AWED matches people

to an array of wraparound services and ongoing support in a judgement-free environment. AWED, located at Creekside Community Center, will offer services several weeknights and one Saturday a month. Call AWED at 952-290-0948.

WE HAVE A WINNER!

In fact, we have two! Two shows produced by community members in the studio at Bloomington Community Access Television (BCAT) won national awards at this year’s Hometown Media Awards, put on by the Alliance for Community Media.

The Spanish language show *Rocio TV* won in the Informational Talk Show-Series category, and producer Patty Piatz won in the Local Performances category for a Scottish-Irish Medley she produced, which was performed by her daughter and one of her friends.

The annual Alliance for Community Media conference took place in Minneapolis this year.

For more information on Alliance for Community Media, the conference and the awards, visit www.allcommunitymedia.org. To find out how you can get involved with BCAT and create your own show, contact Communications Specialist Ben Vinar at 952-563-4980 or bvinar@bloomingtonmn.gov.

RECOGNIZE CHAMPIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The Omar Bonderud Award is presented by the Bloomington Human Rights Commission to an individual or organization that has made a significant contribution to ensuring the rights of people in Bloomington. Omar Bonderud was the first chairperson of the Bloomington Human Rights Commission, formed in 1968. Applications for the Omar Bonderud award will be accepted through August 25. Find the application on the City’s website blm.mn/bonderud. For more information, call 952-563-8733.



KEEPING IT FRESH POP-UP FARMERS MARKET

The Bloomington Farmers Market will be popping up at Normandale Park again this summer on the second Tuesday of each month, August 8 and September 12, 3 p.m. – 7 p.m. The market will be held in the Chalet Parking Lot, 8500 Chalet Road. Shoppers will find a smaller version of the Saturday market, which connects the growers and producers directly to the public and emphasizes quality and freshness.

ATTEND A HOME IMPROVEMENT SEMINAR

Learn about the ins and outs of smart home technology. With a growing variety of products on the internet, Jon Pues of Sightline Technology will show you everything from a plug-in light module to basic home automation. The seminar will be held in the Rehearsal Hall at Civic Plaza on Thursday, August 10, at 7 p.m.



PUBLIC WORKS OPEN HOUSE

Nearly 400 residents attended the Public Works open house in May. The event displayed the services provided by Public Works staff. Some of this year's highlights were the dual excavator demonstration, snow plow and tractor rides, Utility mini golf, radar runs, survey equipment demos, seedlings giveaway and expanded family water plant tours.



BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY

Going back to school after summer break is no picnic, but these students found some time to relax outside on their first day at the newly constructed Bloomington High School in the 1950s. Bloomington High School was later renamed Lincoln High School and is now the district's community education campus. This year marks Bloomington Public Schools centennial celebration. The district acknowledged the occasion with a 100th birthday party and all-school reunion in May.



DWAN KEEPS THEM COMING BACK

With countless putts, swings and hours on the course, 97-year-old Bloomington resident Stan Swanson, *pictured at right with his son-in-law*, has been a dedicated patron of Dwan Golf Course since it opened in 1970—golfing twice a week through the decades.

"I keep coming back because the course is always so well manicured," Swanson said.

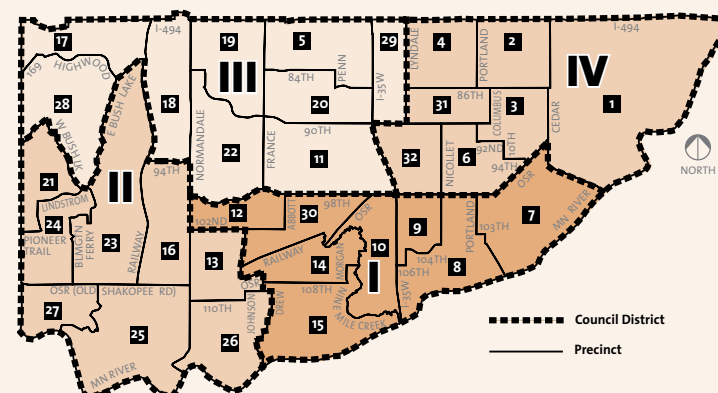
Certified as an Audubon Society Cooperative Sanctuary in 2011, Dwan provides a beautiful and environmentally friendly course for golfers. With 5,485 yards of walkable tree-lined fairways, undulating greens and a fun yet challenging layout, Dwan is ideal for all golfers. When asked about the secret to staying healthy well into his 90s, Swanson said that golfing regularly at Dwan has helped him stay active.

"You just have to keep moving. That's the key."

2017 PRIMARY ELECTION: CAST YOUR BALLOT ON AUGUST 8

A primary election will be held on Tuesday, August 8, in Bloomington. Polling places open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. To see a sample ballot, visit blm.mn/sampleballot. To find your polling place, visit blm.mn/votesite.

A primary election is required by the City Charter if three or more candidates file for the same office. The purpose of the August election is to determine which two candidates will move onto the General Election in November for the at large and district II council seats.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The City would like to thank these sponsors for their donations to this year's Summer Fete.

DETONATION SPONSORS (\$500+)

- American Legion Post 550
- Richfield-Bloomington Credit Union
- Nickelodeon Universe
- Mall of America
- State Farm
- Bloomington Convention and Visitors Bureau

STARS AND STRIPES SPONSORS (\$250 – \$499)

- Plekkenpol Builders, Inc
- Everett McClay VFW Post #1296
- Chu Vision Institute
- David Fong's
- Jimmy Johns
- Raindance Sprinkler Systems
- Gyropolis
- Tria Orthopedic
- Elizabeth and Jeremy Colsen

PATRON SPONSORS (\$100 – \$249)

- Joe Senser's
- Eagle Mechanical Ltd.
- Geritom Medical Inc.
- Sperides Reiners Architects
- Rocky Blake
- Rand Brugger
- Nancy Cuno-Schmitz
- Walter and Lesley Dorman
- Ernest Drager
- Michael Erickson
- Jennifer Harris
- Karen and Chris Hodgson
- Donna and Dan Laufenberg
- Mark McGree
- Lisa Montagne
- Steve Nelson
- Kurt and Laura Nisi
- James Phelps
- Kimberly Vlaisavljevich
- John Weinard, Jr.
- Steve Peterson and Kalli Bennett
- Jerry Dargis and Mary McGuiggan



MEET A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER

Bloomington Fire Captain and Fire Prevention Officer Tony Gutierrez has been a volunteer firefighter for more than 11 years. He serves out of Station 1.

Q: What is your day job?

A: I am a full-time firefighter for South Metro Fire, which serves the cities of West Saint Paul and South Saint Paul.

Q: Do you have any family you'd like to mention?

A: I would like to mention my wife Sara, who at times can and will show her concern for my safety, my kids, Tyler, who is currently serving in the Marines, daughter Lilly and son Riley. I also have the honor of serving on the same department as my brother Mateo. We serve at different stations, but that's ok. Plus, my extended family—those I am related to and those I serve with in the Fire Department.

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

A: I like bowling, attempting to fish and hanging out with family.

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

A: I have wanted to be a firefighter since I was about four years old. I remember growing up near 86th Street and hearing the fire engine going by. I always thought they were saving people.

Q: What do you love about firefighting?

A: There is a lot I love about being on the Fire Department. I get the opportunity to give back to the community I grew up in. I take care of the public education for the department. I get to talk with the kids about being safe.

Q: What do you love about living in Bloomington?

A: I love living in Bloomington because it's where I grew up. I went to Valley View Elementary, Oak Grove Intermediate, Olson Middle School and Kennedy High School. It's a great city and it's always getting better.



SAVE THE DATE

EXPLORE YOUR FIRE STATION

This year's Fire Department open houses are scheduled Saturday, October 14, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., at all Bloomington fire stations. Bring the kids to meet Sparky, enjoy activities, station tours, fire equipment demonstrations and more. For more information, visit blm.mn/fireopen.



PREVENT HOUSE FIRES

Did you know that the majority of fire-related deaths and injuries happen at home? 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 through 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 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 FireStops®, free 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.

CAR SEAT CLINICS

Did you know that nearly 75 percent of child safety seats are installed incorrectly? Make sure your child's car seat is installed correctly at one of Bloomington Fire Department's monthly car seat clinics. Fire staff will check your child safety seat and make any adjustments necessary to keep that precious cargo safe. Car seat clinics are held the third Wednesday of every month, 6 – 8 p.m., at Fire Station 1, 10 West 95th Street. To schedule your visit, call 952-563-4801.



AWARD-WINNING COMMUNICATIONS

This year, the City had its best-ever showing at the 2017 Northern Lights Awards, an annual contest organized by the Minnesota Association of Government Communicators. The City tied with Saint Paul at the top of the contest's leaderboard, taking home nine awards, including first place honors for the *Corporate Report to the Community 2016*, and Police's Running Man Challenge video, which was also a Best of Show nominee and a Best for Least award winner; second place awards for the employee newsletter, *Bloomington Today*, a community interest video *Ice Arena Manager Retires After 45 Years* and State of the City 2016; and third place awards for the *Briefing* and video *Better Together—TRAIL Helps Adaptive Softball Players Play Ball*.



POLICE HONORED

The Bloomington Police Department recently held its annual Behavior Recognition Awards to honor those who went above and beyond in serving the community last year. Among those honored was 2017 Optimist Club Officer of the Year Officer Heidi Miller, pictured at left with Chief Jeff Potts. As part of the Bloomington Police Department since 1992, Officer Miller has served in many roles. She's worked in property crimes, investigations and is currently in the crime prevention unit. Officer Miller is the face of BPD—she writes, directs and hosts the department's cable television show, Roll Call. She also leads training sessions for businesses and residents, is the police liaison for businesses and was integral to the success of the 2015 National Night Out.



BLOOMINGTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS

2017-2018 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 and 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.
- Discount may be applied to adult and senior/student tickets. Not valid with other discounts.
- Discount may not be applied to Chameleon Theatre Circle or Continental Ballet Company.

CHECK OUT THIS AMAZING LINEUP OF SHOWS



Chameleon Theatre Circle Independence

In a challenging domestic drama, three sisters converge on Independence, Iowa, the home of their ailing mother, to resolve issues that tore their family apart.

October 27 – November 12
Adults \$25, seniors and students \$22
Black Box Theater
chameleontheatre.org/tickets



Maud Hixson and the Wolverines Big Band

This concert will premiere a program of new vocal arrangements and classic repertoire from the band's 44-year history.

Friday, November 10, 7:30 p.m.
Adults \$25, seniors \$20 and students \$10



Medalist Concert Band Go West!

Journey into the American West and explore its culture and history through music.

Sunday, November 12, 4 p.m.
Adults \$17, seniors and students \$15



Bloomington Symphony Orchestra Beethoven's 5th... Bloomington Style!

The BSO will pair Beethoven's Fifth Symphony with Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3, Darin Tysdal, soloist.

Sunday, November 19, 3 p.m.
Adults \$15, seniors \$12, students free



Continental Ballet Company Nutcracker

Join us for Tchaikovsky's timeless tale of Clara's voyage to the land of the Sugar Plum Fairy with her magical godfather Drosselmeyer. Choreography by Riet Velthuuisen.

December 2-10 Adults \$25, seniors and students \$19, Children under 13 \$13
Tickets: 952-563-8562



Bloomington Chorale Holidays with the Masters

Seasons greetings from Bach, Handel, Mendelssohn and Vivaldi along with holiday favorites through the New Year.

Friday, December 15, 7:30 p.m.,
Saturday, December 16, 4 p.m.
Adults \$16, seniors and students \$12



Medalist Concert Band Sounds of the Season

Enjoy all of your favorites, both traditional carols and modern classic, in this popular holiday program.

Sunday, December 17, 4 p.m.
Adults \$19, seniors and students \$17



Monroe Crossing A Bluegrass Christmas

Fill your holiday season with musical merriment as Monroe Crossing dazzles audiences with an electrifying blend of classic bluegrass, gospel and heartfelt originals.

Wednesday, December 20, 7:30 p.m.
All tickets \$31



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.
All 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



Arne Fogel 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.

Fri and Sat, April 20-21, 7:30 p.m.,
Sun, April 22, 2 p.m.
All tickets \$22
Black Box Theater



Bloomington Chorale Songs of Service and Valor

Saluting patriotism and service to our country.

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 NOTE-able Singers for an evening showcasing many kinds of journeys. Songs will range from family classics to new melodies that will take you to places you've never been.

Saturday, May 19, 7:30 p.m.
Adults \$15, seniors and students \$12
Children under 5 free



Medalist Concert Band Scandi-hoo-via!

Enjoy the rich musical heritage of Scandinavia and perhaps embrace your own heritage as well. Featured soloist: 2018 Earl C. Benson Concerto Competition award winner.

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



Barbary Coast Dixieland Show Band

Bloomington's own Barbary Coast has been performing authentic Dixieland jazz across the country for more than 50 years. A versatile and talented group, Barbary Coast is always a hit with live audiences.

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



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.

More information coming soon.

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. Does not include tickets for Chameleon Theatre Circle or Continental Ballet Company. All performances held in Schneider Theater unless otherwise noted. Programs, artists and prices subject to change.
All ticket sales are final. No refunds or exchanges.

