

# BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



AUGUST 2018

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## GETTING IT WRIGHT: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND RENEWAL

With paintbrushes in hand, upbeat music playing and large sheets of canvas draped over each table, the sixth of seven community painting parties kicked off at Wright's Lake Park, 8501 17th Avenue South, on a sunny day in June. Each painting party is sort of a paint-by-numbers event that contributes to the Wright's Lake Park Mural. [Read more on page 3.](#)

## IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF NORMANDALE LAKE

The trails around Normandale Lake are some of the most used in Bloomington. Pedestrians, bicyclers and other visitors to the area may have noticed the high concentration of weeds and algae in the lake. To address these concerns and improve the lake's water quality, the City is working with the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District to remove the invasive curly-leaf pondweed and reduce algae growth.

"At the end of the day we hope to make the lake a better place," said Nine Mile Creek Program Manager Erica Sniegowski. "We want it to be a place people enjoy recreating around. A healthier lake that meets the state water quality standards."

### THE PROCESS

This project is broken into three steps.

1. Nine Mile Creek Watershed District will drain three feet of water from the lake in mid-August so the lake bottom will freeze over the winter. The goal of this is to freeze curly-leaf pondweed seeds so they die off.

2. Once the snow melts in the spring, the outlet pipe will be closed and the lake will refill. Staff expects some curly-leaf pondweed to survive the winter freeze since it is a hardy, invasive plant. To eradicate the remaining curly-leaf pondweed, the watershed district will apply targeted herbicide treatments each spring for five years.

3. To address the large algal blooms, an alum treatment will also be applied to the bottom of the lake in the spring before it refills. The alum treatment will bind with phosphorus at the bottom of the lake, preventing its release and depriving algae of one of its main food sources.

### WILL THIS PROJECT AFFECT TRAIL USE IN THE AREA?

No trails will be completely closed during the project, according to Bloomington Water Resources Specialist Steve Gurney. Even in the area below the dam, where most contractors will be accessing the lake, there will be at least one lane of trail open at all times.



### WILL AREA WILDLIFE BE AFFECTED?

The lake drawdown will begin in mid-August, giving turtles plenty of time to move out of the area. The City will put up fencing along the lake that will steer turtles to safe crossing points. The fish in Normandale Lake should be able to survive in the shallow water that will remain in the area.

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Adopt a storm drain in your neighborhood to keep your area waterbodies clean. Visit [adoptadrain.org](http://adoptadrain.org) or call Water Resources Specialist Steve Gurney at 952-563-4606 for more information. For more information on the Normandale Lake project, visit [blm.mn/normandale](http://blm.mn/normandale).





# MAYOR’S MEMO

## OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS IN BLOOMINGTON’S SOUTH LOOP

By Mayor Gene Winstead

Bloomington’s South Loop District contains many amenities—Mall of America, homes, hotels, sculptures, restaurants, apartments, four light rail stations—and it’s all next to the Minnesota National Valley Wildlife Refuge and the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

Now we can add an opportunity zone to the list of what is in South Loop. The district was designated as such by the federal government this summer based on a recommendation from the governor, which was informed by feedback from local officials.

Local decision-makers were asked to recommend eligible low-income

census tracts in their cities based on the needs of the community and other partners already serving the area.

The goal of an opportunity zone is to encourage long-term investment in these areas. The idea is to accomplish this by providing opportunity funds that allow U.S. investors holding unrealized gains in stocks and mutual funds to pool their resources in projects located in opportunity zones.

Through this program, U.S. investors are eligible to receive: a temporary tax deferral for capital gains invested in an opportunity fund; lower capital gains tax when reinvested in an opportunity fund; or a permanent exclusion from

taxable income of capital gains from the sale or exchange of an investment in a qualified opportunity zone fund if the investment is held for at least 10 years.

There are 128 low-income census tracts designated as opportunity zones throughout Minnesota. This is a new community development program established by Congress in the Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017. We don’t have all the details of how it will roll out yet, but there is potential for this program to clear a path to further equity and inclusion in Bloomington. A more equitable and inclusive city is a stronger city.



# MALL OF AMERICA TRANSIT STATION IMPROVEMENTS MOVE FORWARD

MOA Transit station improvements will soon be underway after Metro Transit accepted a bid within budget in June. The total project budget is \$25 million.

The biggest problem with the current transit station is that buses, MOA employees and contractors all enter through the same security gate, causing traffic issues. The new design will separate buses from other traffic, make the station more recognizable from outside and create a better pedestrian experience. Construction is scheduled to start this summer and will be complete by the end of 2019.



# BLOOMINGTON AMONG MINNESOTA’S BEST IN COMMUNICATIONS

At the recent Minnesota Association of Government Communicators’ Northern Lights awards ceremony, Bloomington had the strongest showing of any organization in the state. The Communications Division brought home nine awards, including five, first-place awards—the highest in both cases among all entrants. The City won Northern Lights Awards (first place) for the 2017 State of the City event, the Dog Sledding at Bush Lake Beach video, the Story Behind the Butterflies video, the Bloomington Police Welcome Super Bowl Visitors video, and the cable news show Bloomington Today; MAGC Silver Awards for the *Corporate Report to the Community 2017* and the *Briefing*; as well as Awards of Merit for the Oak Grove’s New “Kids” at School video and the *Insider* employee newsletter.

The Northern Lights contest celebrates MAGC member organizations’ accomplishments over the past year. Bloomington has received more than 70 awards from this local contest since 2004.

# BRIEFING

## Volume 26, Number 4

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](mailto:jhill@BloomingtonMN.gov) Website: [BloomingtonMN.gov](http://BloomingtonMN.gov)

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**Councilmember District IV**  
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Elected officials presented for informational purposes.

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### EXECUTIVE STAFF

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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.





# WRIGHT’S LAKE PARK MURAL COMES ALIVE

The City, Artistry and artists from Good Space Murals have been engaging residents and stakeholders since last summer to determine the design of the Wright’s Lake Park mural and to paint it. Creative Placemaking Director Alejandra Pelinka says that involving community stakeholders in every part of the project is important so people feel a sense of ownership of the finished product.

## IT’S MORE THAN A MURAL

As part of the focused renewal strategic plan priority, neighborhood initiative programs focus City and Housing and Redevelopment Authority

resources in specific areas. The focus neighborhood for 2016 – 2017 bordered Wright’s Lake Park. The initiative provides resources for housing rehab, sidewalks and park improvements and loans for curb-appeal enhancements. In 2017, the City Council authorized \$1 million to be used for these loans. Twenty-five curb appeal loans and 45 home improvement loans were approved in the area through the year.

Parks and Recreation has also been working to improve Wright’s Lake Park. In the last year, the playground equipment, bleachers and player benches were replaced. The City also

installed new drinking fountains with water bottle fillers, bike racks, park benches, a pavilion with a grill, picnic tables and electrical outlets, a trail pathway, netting at the tennis courts and double lining for pickleball.

## THE FINISHING TOUCHES

To encourage further collaboration and engagement, the muralists chose the parachute cloth method to produce the mural: the whole thing is painted on pieces of canvas at different places throughout the community and glued together at the mural site like a giant mosaic. The installation will take place in August.



# SAVE THE DATE GET CREATIVE IN SOUTH LOOP

The City and Artistry are celebrating another year of Creative Placemaking in the South Loop! Join us for a Creative Happy Hour on Friday, September 28, 5 p.m., in Bloomington Central Station Park, 8101 31st Avenue South. Enjoy fun and funky music, food, beverages and creative activities. Learn about recent projects and grab a self-guided tour map. This event takes place before a dance performance curated by Pramila Vasudevan in the adjacent HealthPartners parking ramp. The performance will reflect on “how we find poise in constant transience” and will include more than 40 performers. For more information, visit [blm.mn/placemaking](http://blm.mn/placemaking).

creativespark

# WE WANT YOUR CREATIVE IDEAS

The City and Artistry are seeking project and event proposals that engage South Loop residents, workers and visitors in creative ways that may be temporary, experiential or permanent. Proposals may include performances, interactive art projects, temporary art installations, special events and more!

Four proposals will be selected. The City will support projects with stipends from \$500 – \$5,000. An information session is scheduled on Saturday, August 4, 1 – 3 p.m., at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, 3815 American Boulevard East. Download the application at [blm.mn/placemaking](http://blm.mn/placemaking) and submit by August 17. Questions? Contact Artistry’s Rachel Daly at [rdaly@artistry.org](mailto:rdaly@artistry.org) or 952-563-8570.

# PAY YOUR UTILITY BILL ONLINE

Sign up for paperless billing and receive your utility bill your way. Register at [blm.mn/utilitybillpay](http://blm.mn/utilitybillpay) using your City utility account number and sign up to receive email or text message notifications. No computer? No problem! Call our new, automated phone line at 1-844-368-4567 (toll free), available in English and Spanish, where you can make payments or check your account balance at any time.



# KNOW THE CODE: BONFIRES

When burning a recreational fire in your yard, use common sense, be considerate of your neighbors and follow the City code. Recreational fires must be conducted between 7 a.m. and midnight when the wind speed is less than 10 miles per hour. A fire must be extinguished immediately if a City official determines it is creating a fire safety hazard.

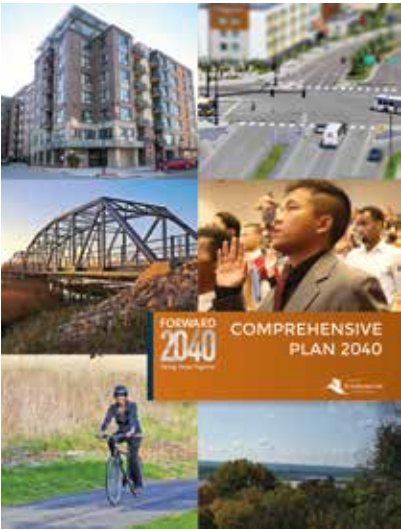
- Fires must be located at least 25 feet away from any structures or combustible materials and constantly attended to by a person within sight of the flames.
- Fire extinguishing equipment must be readily available.
- Only use dry, clean wood such as cordwood or Presto logs.
- Burning wood that has leaves or needles, or wood that is rotten, wet or treated with paint or glue is prohibited.
- The fire stack must not exceed three feet wide by two feet high.

For more information, contact Fire Marshal Laura McCarthy at 952-563-8933.

# WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE FORWARD 2040 PLAN UPDATE?

You can review and comment on the draft Forward 2040 Comprehensive Plan update online at [blm.mn/forward2040draft](http://blm.mn/forward2040draft), or give your feedback in person. City planning staff will be on hand at the Bloomington Farmers Market on August 11 and 25 to provide information and answer

questions. Town hall meetings will be held in late August and September to obtain community feedback. Dates and locations are posted on the Forward 2040 project website and will be distributed via the project’s E-Subscribe list. For more information or to sign up to receive email updates, visit [blm.mn/forward2040](http://blm.mn/forward2040).



# DID YOU KNOW? BLOOMINGTON’S POPULATION ON THE RISE

The Met Council estimates Bloomington’s population to be 88,885, which is 6,000 more than its population in 2010. Much of Bloomington’s population growth can be attributed to seven large apartment buildings constructed since 2010 and an increase in the average household size, according to Bloomington Planning Manager Glen Markegard.

“Population growth is important because there is a lot of state and federal funding distributed on a per capita basis,” Markegard said. “With a higher population estimate, more projects can be completed in Bloomington.”



# CHOOSE TO reuse

## CHOOSE TO REUSE

Support local businesses, get great deals on quality products and protect the environment by using free Choose to Reuse coupons.

Coupons are valid from August 1 through October 31 at 59 local retailers that rent, repair, resell, consign and exchange used goods.

There are several ways to get your Choose to Reuse coupons:

- Download the Chinook Book App (Google Play or iTunes). Choose to Reuse coupons will load right onto your smartphone.
- Order the print version of the Choose to Reuse coupon book online at [blm.mn/couponbook](http://blm.mn/couponbook).
- Pick up one at Hennepin County Service Centers and libraries, all Three Rivers Park District locations, Civic Plaza, Public Health, Creekside, Motor Vehicle and Public Works or visit [hennepin.us/choosetoreuse](http://hennepin.us/choosetoreuse).



## SLASH YOUR TRASH

If you're interested in taking steps to prevent waste but aren't sure where to start, Hennepin County's Zero Waste Challenge is a great way to learn more and get hands-on help.

The county is looking for 50 households to participate in the eight-month-long challenge that takes an in-depth look at the goods we buy and waste we create to uncover opportunities to recycle more and reduce waste.

The challenge runs from September 10, 2018, to April 30, 2019. Registration is open at [hennepin.us/zerowastechallenge](http://hennepin.us/zerowastechallenge), and interested households should complete the online application online by Sunday, August 19.



## EARTH ACTION HERO: YOU! SIGN UP FOR ORGANICS RECYCLING DROP OFF

About a third of what people throw away could be composted. Instead of trashing your food scraps and food-soiled paper products, bring them to one of the City's two new organics recycling drop-off sites. Organics recycling includes food scraps and non-recyclable paper items. This is a free program for all residents.

Organics collected at the drop-off locations will be turned into compost, which will be used to add valuable nutrients back into the soil. When compost is added to soil, it reduces the need for fertilizers and pesticides and increases water retention, allowing for more efficient water use. The compost will be used primarily by commercial landscapers, in road construction projects and in gardens.

If you want to drop off your organics, be sure to register at [blm.mn/organics](http://blm.mn/organics). After you sign up, you'll be

able to stay connected with updates and tips and receive a welcome kit (including compostable bags) with more details on how to recycle organics. Signing up will also help the City track the success of the program.

To get started at home, place an organics recycling container lined with a paper bag or certified compostable plastic bag in a convenient location. Drop off organics recyclables at Valley View Park, 201 90th Street East, or West Bush Lake Park, 95th and West Bush Lake Road. Sites are open daily one half hour before sunrise until 10 p.m.

Business organics are not accepted at either City location. Organics are accepted from businesses at the Hennepin County drop-off site at 1400 96th Street West.

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

Garbage and yard waste collection will be delayed one day for the entire week as a result of the Labor Day holiday on Monday, September 3. To ensure your materials are collected, have your garbage 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](http://blm.mn/garbage).

\* No pick up; pick up one day later.

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RECYCLE WEEK HOLIDAY\*

## THE CITY IS GETTING GREENER

Last year, Bloomington joined the GreenStep Cities program and has already gone from Step 1 to 3—something only three other cities in the state have achieved that quickly. The program is voluntary and aims to help cities achieve better sustainability and quality of life. To reach Step 3, a city must demonstrate a series of best practices in land use, environmental management, resilient economic and community development, transportation, and buildings and lighting.

Some of the best practices the City has completed are optimizing traffic signals around Mall of America; conducting a natural resource inventory; using recycled material in asphalt and road-bed projects; using community volunteers to aid in parks maintenance and revitalization; and partnering with community organizations to promote efficient water use among residents and businesses. The City was recognized at the annual League of Minnesota Cities conference in June for its accomplishment.



We're a  
GreenStep  
City

## ENERGY ACTION PLAN HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Earlier this year, the Bloomington City Council approved an Energy Action Plan with the goal of reducing home and business energy-related emissions by 75 percent by the year 2035. The plan includes 19 strategies to achieve this via energy efficiency and renewable electricity. The Sustainability Commission and City staff are already at work on these initiatives and are creating opportunities for participation from the community.

Homeowners can get involved through the Home Energy Squad program. Find out more at [blm.mn/hes](http://blm.mn/hes). For businesses and institutions, the Sustainability Commission is coordinating an "Energy Best Practices" program to share experiences with efficiency and renewable energy. Another way to lower your energy emissions is to enroll in a renewable electricity subscription program from Xcel Energy.

The City is also looking inward to lead by example. Staff have begun work on lowering energy emissions from city-owned buildings and fleet vehicles.

For more information about the Energy Action Plan and ways that you can get involved, go to the Sustainability Commission website at [blm.mn/sustainability](http://blm.mn/sustainability).







# STUDENTS’ VOICES SHINE AT DIVERSITY DAY

Hundreds of students from Kennedy and Jefferson high schools gathered on the east lawn at Civic Plaza in May getting to know each other and listening to other students’ original poetry about diversity and inclusion. It was the first time the schools’ Diversity Day activities were held at Civic Plaza, which wasn’t the only change for the event.

To ensure the highest level of student engagement this time around, Human Services’ Amanda Crombie and Emily

Larson facilitated many group discussions with students about what they’d like to see at the event. As a result, the event t-shirts were designed by students, event speakers were student poetry contest winners, there was an interactive ice breaker game between students from both schools and the event was held at a central location.

The Human Rights Commission, Human Services and the District Office of Educational Equity have partnered for Diversity Day since 2005.



# BECOME A YOUTH COMMISSIONER

Give back to your community and get involved with the Human Rights Commission in a leadership position. Terms last for one year and start September 1. Applicants must be 16 – 23 years old and Bloomington residents. The commission meets on the third Monday of the month from 5:30 – 7 p.m. at Civic Plaza. Applicants must be able to attend at least 75 percent of the meetings. The Sustainability Commission is also seeking a youth commissioner to start on September 1. Find both applications and more information online at [blm.mn/youth](http://blm.mn/youth).

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR SHREDDING EVENT

Human Services is hosting a free paper shredding event Saturday, September 22, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., in the northeast parking lot of Bloomington Public Works, 1700 West 98th Street. Each car is allowed two standard paper shopping bags of paper to shred. Nothing can be dropped off prior to 10 a.m. For more information, call 952-563-4944. This program is supported by Home Instead Senior Care, Change Agents, Brilliant Moves and Estate Smart.



# TEEN VIDEO BOOT CAMP

Teen Video Boot Camp is for youth ages 12 – 17 who are interested in video production. The new youth program is presented by Bloomington Community Access Television and Southwest Community Television in Edina. In one week, students will learn how to use professional video production equipment and produce their own short films.

The program is free and will take place Monday, August 20 – 24, 1 – 4 p.m., with a screening of films for students and parents on the last day. For more information or to sign up, contact Ben Vinar at 952-563- 4980 or [bvinar@bloomingtonmn.gov](mailto:bvinar@bloomingtonmn.gov). There are a limited number of spots available, so sign up today!



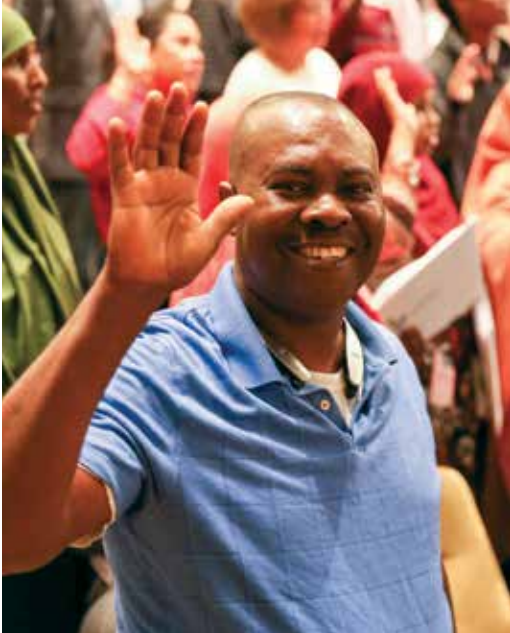
# MIDWEEK MUSIC AND MARKET

Can’t make it to the Saturday Farmers Market? You are in luck. Arts in the Parks and the Bloomington Farmers Market have partnered to host Midweek Music and Market. Enjoy live music, fresh produce, prepared foods, lawn games and more on Wednesdays, July 11 – August 15, 4 – 8 p.m., in the east lot and lawn at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

The Saturday market runs through October 20, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. For market details, visit the market’s Facebook page at [blm.mn/fbookfarmers](http://blm.mn/fbookfarmers).

# ATTEND A FREE HOME IMPROVEMENT SEMINAR

The Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority will host a free home improvement seminar, What’s New in Flooring, on Wednesday, August 8, 7 p.m., at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. You’ll learn about all your flooring options from carpet, hardwood and laminate to tile, vinyl and more. There’s no limit to the options available for your home.



# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

Each year the Human Rights Commission recognizes the International Day of Peace on September 21, established by the United Nations General Assembly to strengthen the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and all people. Bloomington is also a recognized Peace Site, which represents the community’s commitment to seek peace within ourselves and others, reach out in service, protect the environment, respect diversity and be responsible citizens of the world.

The Human Rights Commission (HRC) is hosting a naturalization ceremony in honor of the International Day of Peace on Friday, September 14, 2 p.m., in the Schneider Theater at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

In addition, the Children of Immigrants Art Exhibit created by community members and organized by the HRC will be on display September 9 – October 5 at Civic Plaza and on September 8 at the Bloomington Farmers Market at Civic Plaza. The exhibit explores the impact of the political discussion and changes in the enforcement revolving around immigration on children.

You can also see the exhibit October 22 – November 16, at Augsburg Park Library, 7100 Nicollet Avenue, Richfield, and December 3 – December 21, at Civic Plaza.



# STAY IN THE LOOP SIGN UP FOR E-SUBSCRIBE

Receive updates in your email inbox about everything from ongoing construction projects to the weekly farmers market. Visit [blm.mn/esubscribe](http://blm.mn/esubscribe) to sign up for this free service and receive updates about what interests you.





BE AN ELECTION JUDGE

The City Clerk’s Office needs judges affiliated with a major political party to serve on November 6. Declaring a political party affiliation is not required. However, state law requires party balance at the polls. As an election judge, you’ll learn about elections, get paid and play a role in one of the most pivotal parts of our democracy. There is a growing need for multilingual election judges who speak Spanish, Somali, Hmong and/or Vietnamese, as well as other languages. To get involved, contact the City Clerk’s Office at 952-563-8729 or cityclerk@BloomingtonMN.gov. Residents who are eligible to vote are eligible to be election judges. State law requires employers to excuse employees from work without loss of salary to serve as election judges. Deadline to apply is August 24.

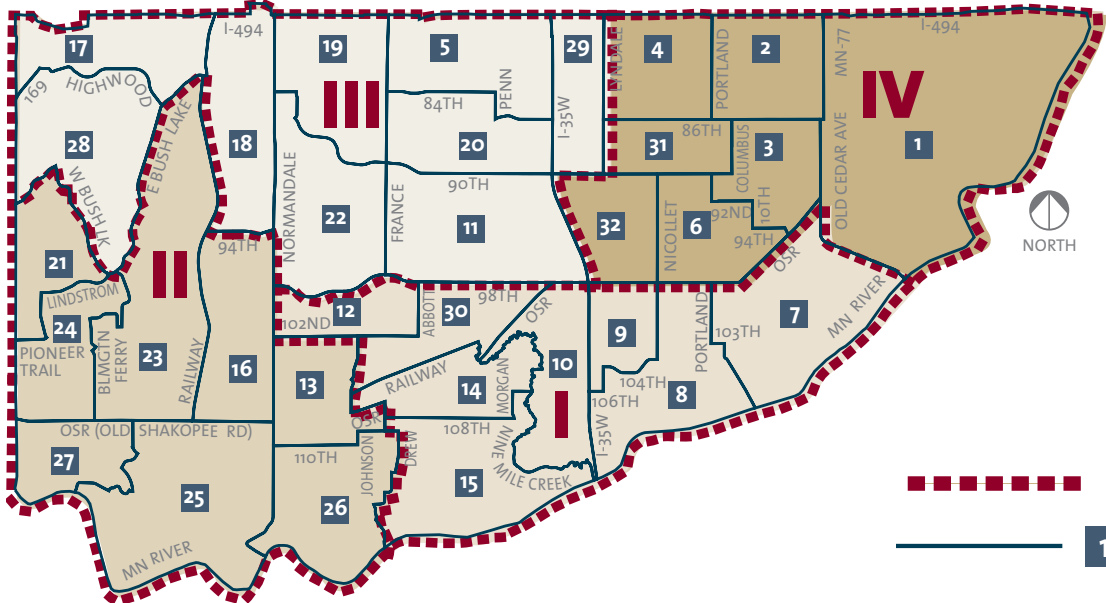


PREP YOUR PASSPORT

Do you need a passport for your next trip? The City Clerk’s Office offers passport services for new passports by appointment-only Monday through Friday, 8:20 a.m. – 3 p.m. Schedule an appointment at blm.mn/passport. You need an appointment if you are a first-time applicant, under 18 or if your previous passport was issued more than 15 years ago, was issued when you were under the age of 16, is badly damaged, lost or stolen; was in a different name and you are unable to submit proper documentation to reflect the name change, or was a limited-validity passport. No appointment is necessary for photos. You can renew an expired passport by mail. For more information, visit blm.mn/passport.

BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY  
Old Town Hall

Ten years ago, Bloomington’s Old Town Hall was refurbished to its original splendor and unveiled during the City’s sesquicentennial celebration. At the corner of Penn Avenue South and Old Shakopee Road, the Old Town Hall is one of few remaining pieces of architecture from Bloomington’s 19th century foundation and one of the oldest town halls in the metro area. Built in 1892, the building was once the community’s main assembly place for public meetings, church services and social gatherings. It’s also the current home to the Bloomington Historical Society, which operates a history museum there featuring artifacts and exhibits of Bloomington’s past. For more information, visit blm.mn/bhs.



CAST YOUR BALLOT TUESDAY, AUGUST 14

A primary election will be held on Tuesday, August 14 in Bloomington. Polling places open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. Federal, state, county and judicial offices will be on the ballot. **Verify your polling place before Election Day.** Find your polling place and see a sample ballot at blm.mn/election or call the City Clerk’s Office at 952-563-4925.

New polling locations

- **Precinct 17**, Hyland Hills Ski Area Chalet, 8800 Chalet Road
- **Precinct 25**, MN Masonic Heritage Center, Dan Patch Hall, 11411 Masonic Home Drive
- **Precinct 27**, Bethany Church, 6900 Auto Club Road
- **Precinct 28**, Peace Lutheran Church, 8600 East Bush Lake Road

Eligible and registered voters are required to vote at the assigned polling place for your legal residence (where you sleep). You can view a sample ballot online at blm.mn/sampleballot.

WHEN ARE VOTER IDS REQUIRED?

Voters are not required to present identification to the judges upon check in unless they are registering for the first time or updating their voter information. Election judges will inform voters when identification is necessary.

ABSENTEE VOTING

Any registered voter in Bloomington can vote by absentee ballot. In-person voting is conducted after completing an application at

Bloomington Civic Plaza on the following dates: June 29 – August 13, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., August 11, Saturday 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. (extended hours), and August 13, Monday 4:30 p.m. – 5 p.m. (extended hours).

Absentee voting is also available by mail. Contact Hennepin County Elections at 612-348-5151 to have an application mailed or complete an online application at blm.mn/hennncovote.

After the application is completed and received by Hennepin County, the ballot materials will be mailed directly to the voter. A postage-paid envelope will be provided to return the voted absentee ballot for counting.

All absentee ballots are counted and vote totals are included with the election results from the polls.

THANK YOU, SUMMER FETE DONORS!

DETONATION SPONSORS

Bloomington Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Everett R. McClay Post No. 129

STARS & STRIPES DONORS

Sperides Reiners Architects  
Geritom Medical  
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Raindance Sprinkler Systems  
Jimmy Johns





# MEET A BLOOMINGTON FIREFIGHTER

Fire Captain Paul Ludden has been a Bloomington firefighter for 10 years. He serves out of Station 2.

**Q:** What is your day job?

**A:** I'm a carpenter by trade. I've been doing that since 1998.

**Q:** Where are you from and what brought you to Bloomington?

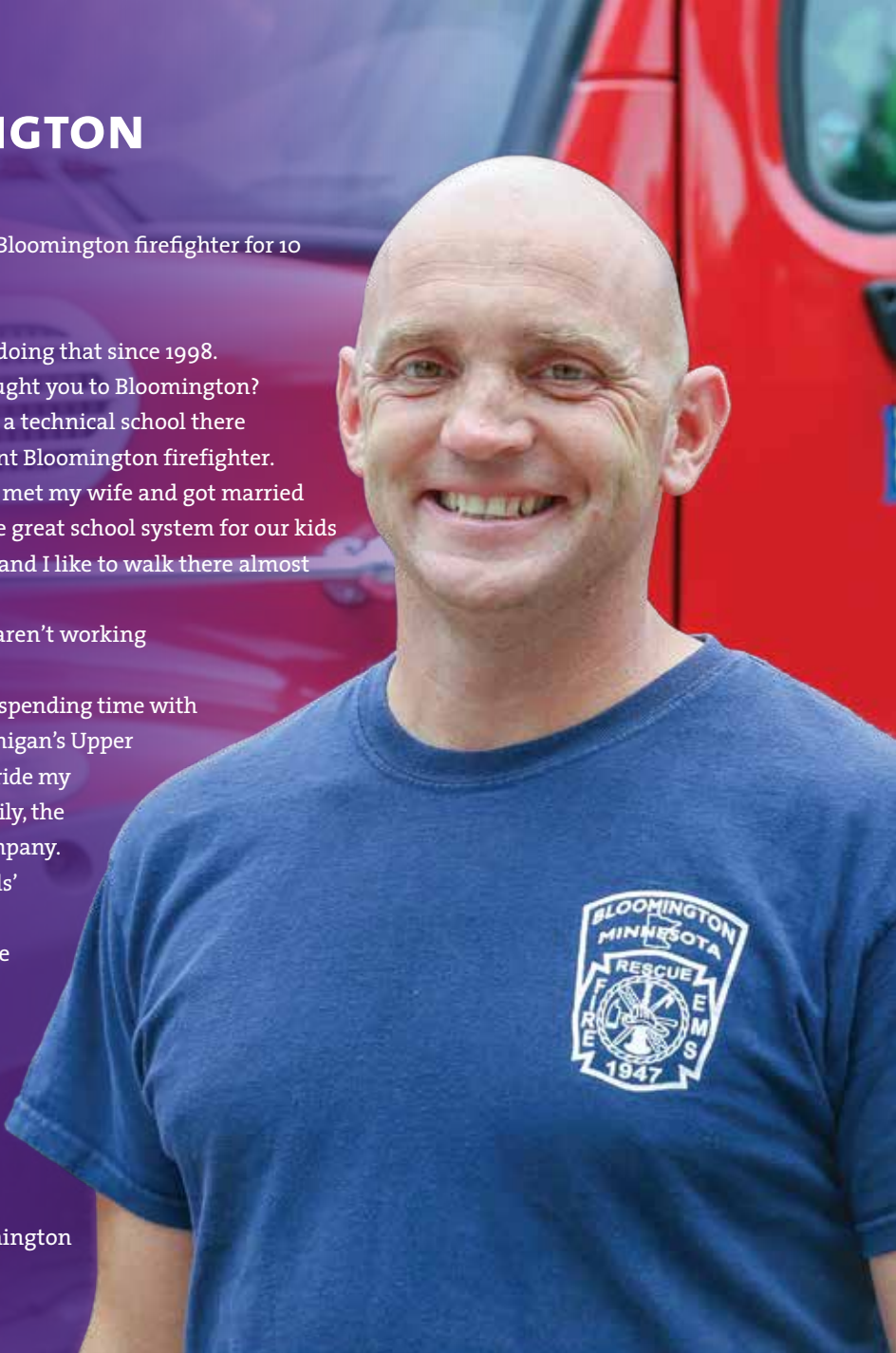
**A:** I grew up in Michigan and went to a technical school there where I met Ryan Peterson, another current Bloomington firefighter. He's the reason I moved to Bloomington. I met my wife and got married and that is why I stayed. We really love the great school system for our kids here. We live near Moir Park and my wife and I like to walk there almost every day.

**Q:** What do you do for fun when you aren't working or volunteering?

**A:** I work most of the time, but I enjoy spending time with my family and going up to my land in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. I go up mainly in the fall. I also ride my motorcycle. Most of my life consists of family, the Bloomington Fire Department and our company. My wife and I spend a lot of time at our kids' sporting events—both my daughters play softball and my son runs track and is on the swim team. I also do Cross Fit four or five times a week.

**Q:** What do you like most about being a Bloomington firefighter?

**A:** I like being able to use the skills I have to help people and give back to the community. I'm really happy to be here. I feel like I'm meant to be part of the Bloomington Fire Department. It's like a family.



## MEET BLOOMINGTON'S NEWEST OFFICER

One of Bloomington's newest police officers loves helping residents, protecting his community and playing fetch. K9 Officer Blue, a Belgian malinois, started his official duties in June after successfully completing 12 weeks of obedience training in Saint Paul. Blue lives and works with Officer Dennis Koosmann, *above*. The duo has already been featured once on *KSTP* for their work.

## SAVE THE DATE EXPLORE YOUR FIRE STATION

This year's Fire Department open houses are scheduled Saturday, October 13, 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, call 952-563-4801.



## GETTING IN THE SWING TAKE ADULT GOLF LESSONS

The City is partnering with GolfTrack to bring adult golf lessons to Hyland Greens Golf and Learning Center this summer on Saturdays, August 4, 18 and 25 from 9 – 10 a.m. for women's only lessons and 10 – 11 a.m. for all-adult lessons. Take advantage of Hyland's private practice park with par 3 holes, manicured fairways, sand trap and putting green while learning the ins and outs of the game. Lessons cost \$34 per session. A minimum of four golfers is required to run each session. To register or for more lesson options, call GolfTrack at 480-420-5537.



## CAR SEAT CLINICS

Did you know that nearly 75 percent of child safety seats are installed incorrectly? Visit Bloomington Fire Department's monthly car seat clinics to make sure your precious cargo is safe. Fire Department staff will check your child safety seat and make any adjustments necessary. 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. If you have them, bring the owner's manuals for your car and the car seat.



## POLICE AND RESIDENTS RECOGNIZED

The Bloomington Police Department recently held its annual Behavior Recognition Awards to honor residents, BPD staff and officers who went above and beyond in serving the community last year. Among those honored were residents Rebecca Enzebauer, Marcin Antosz, Matthew Johnson, Jason Ohotto, Trevor Schrupp, Ted Johnson, Carrie Orme, Victor Villegas, Clayton Diersen, and Josh and Mary Presson, and 2018 Optimist Club and BPD Officer of the Year Detective Heather Jensen. Detective Jensen is considered the go-to person in human trafficking cases in Bloomington and surrounding jurisdictions. She's been involved in many successful narcotics trafficking cases with her special investigative unit in the past year. Detective Jensen has also presented to many community and student groups about the dangers of drug addiction.

## PUBLIC WORKS OPEN HOUSE A HIT

Nearly 500 visitors attended the Public Works Open House in May. The event displayed the essential quality of life services Public Works provides. Some of this year's highlights were the dual excavator demonstration, snow plow and tractor rides, Utility mini golf, radar runs, seedlings from Forestry and expanded family water plant tours.

"It's great to see more and more residents showing up every year," said Bloomington Civil Engineer Amy Marohn. "It gives Public Works employees the opportunity to connect with the people we serve year-round and teach them about what we do." See a video about this event at [blm.mn/pwvid](http://blm.mn/pwvid).





# 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.

## CHECK OUT THIS AMAZING LINEUP OF SHOWS

### PERFORMANCE SERIES MULTIPASS SAVE UP TO 20%

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



#### PHIL THOMPSON PRESENTS BILLY & ELTON: THE HITS

Billy Joel and Elton John are two of the world’s most celebrated “piano men.” With Billboard charting hits from the 1970s – 2000s, their music stands the test of time.

September 21, 7:30 p.m.  
Tickets \$32



#### ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO’S NEST CHAMELEON THEATRE CIRCLE

Check out this show about the institutional process and the human mind as well as a critique of behaviorism and a celebration of humanistic principles.

October 19 - November 11, 7:30 p.m., except  
Sundays at 2:30 p.m.  
Adults \$25, seniors and students \$22  
Tickets: [chameleonthatre.org/tickets](http://chameleonthatre.org/tickets)



#### MEDALIST CONCERT BAND SALUTE TO VETERANS

This Veterans Day, join the Medalist Band in honoring the men and women who served or are currently serving our country.

November 11, 4 p.m.  
Adults \$17, seniors and students \$15



#### BLOOMINGTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ROMANTICALLY YOURS

Manny Laureano and the BSO will pay tribute to the Romantic period with performances of Brahms’ Piano Concerto No. 1 with Daniel Rieppel, and Tchaikovsky’s passionate Sixth Symphony “Pathétique.”

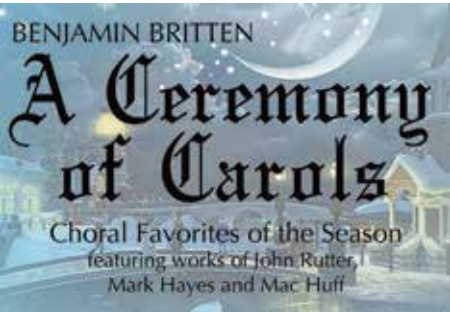
November 18, 3 p.m.  
Adults \$15, seniors \$12, students free



#### CONTINENTAL BALLET COMPANY THE 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.

December 1 and 8, 7:30 p.m.  
December 2 and 9, 3 p.m.  
Adults \$25, seniors and students \$19,  
under 13 \$13, For tickets call 952-563-8562



#### BLOOMINGTON CHORALE A CEREMONY OF CAROLS

Choral favorites of the season featuring works by Benjamin Britten, Mark Hayes, Mac Huff and John Rutter.

December 14, 7:30 p.m.  
December 15, 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 classics, in this popular holiday program.

December 16, 4 p.m. and 7 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.

December 19, 7:30 p.m.  
Tickets \$32



#### MY BEAUTIFUL INFINITY CHAMELEON THEATRE CIRCLE

In the mind’s eye, artist M.C. Escher becomes trapped in the very “impossible constructions” he made famous in his drawings, written by David Vazdauskas.

February 1 - 17, 7:30 p.m.,  
except Sundays at 2:30 p.m.  
Adults \$25, seniors and students \$22  
Tickets: [chameleonthatre.org/tickets](http://chameleonthatre.org/tickets)



#### ANGELICA CANTANTI YOUTH CHOIR THE MUSIC OF THE BEATLES

Join us for a fun afternoon to support our scholarship fund in honor of longtime Director Rita Docter.

February 24, 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.  
Tickets \$50



#### PHIL THOMPSON PRESENTS LEGENDS OF COUNTRY

Celebrate country music’s biggest hits with an incredible tribute concert filled with songs by Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, Garth Brooks, Kenny Rogers and Toby Keith.

March 2, 7:30 p.m.  
Tickets \$32



#### MEDALIST CONCERT BAND 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

This anniversary concert features notable works from Medalist’s 50-year history, plus an original piece for this occasion.

March 3, 4 p.m.  
Adults \$17, seniors and students \$15

## BOX OFFICE

**Order tickets by phone:** Call 952-563-8575 • **Online:** Go to [blm.mn/bcatix](http://blm.mn/bcatix)  
**In person:** Office hours vary. Call 952-563-8575 for current hours. Does not include tickets for Chameleon Theatre Circle or Continental Ballet Company. 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.