

BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



OCTOBER 2015

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SCULPTURE IN THE SOUTH LOOP

The latest and most prominent artwork in the South Loop District, *Convergence*, was unveiled at the end of August. The glass and steel sculpture by Bloomington native James Brenner stands 35 feet tall and is located in the roundabout at 28th Avenue and Lindau Lane.

During the day, the sculpted jade glass shines as light passes through the steel ring, while fiber optic light strands illuminate *Convergence* at night. Nearly 3,000 flowers and grasses were planted in spirals around the piece. Brenner used the plants to represent waves of color from a Minnesota prairie summer and serve as a food source for visiting pollinators.

For more on the what's happening in the South Loop, see *page 3*.

WHAT'S DEVELOPING

Developers have been busy in Bloomington this year. From Park Place on France to Penn American Phase II preparing to open, there has been no shortage of progress in 2015. Bloomington residents will find new dining, lodging and living options around the city. Here's what's developing:



PARK PLACE ON FRANCE

Phase III is underway at France Avenue and Old Shakopee Road. The development will include a retail space; Willy McCoy's, the city's first restaurant with rooftop seating; Rita's Italian Ice and Pie Five Pizza Company.



Photo courtesy Annette Diana Neist

INDIGO GROUNDBREAKING

Lennar Multifamily Communities held a groundbreaking for its 395-unit apartment building in the South Loop in August. The building will open in phases with the first units available in fall 2016.



PENN AMERICAN PHASE II

Phase II will be open for business in fall 2015. There will be two buildings with underground parking. The building fronting Penn Avenue will be a five-story, mixed-use structure housing a Red Robin restaurant and a Home2Suites by Hilton.



FRESH THYME FARMERS MARKET ART AND OPENING

Fresh Thyme, an affordable organic grocery, opened in September near Penn Avenue and American Boulevard. Artists Myklebust + Sears used steel plates to create leaves, blossoms and fruit sections, which are hung from the building and lit with LED lights at night.



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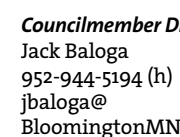


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Upon request, this information can be available in Braille, large print, audio tape and/or electronic format.

MAYOR'S MEMO

A GREAT PLACE TO BE

By Mayor Gene Winstead

Normandale Community College's Music and Theater Departments announced their 2015 – 2016 performance schedules recently, and it made me think how fortunate we are to have such a unique resource in our city.

At Normandale, students can receive a great education and even four-year degrees from Metropolitan State University, Minnesota State University Mankato and Southwest Minnesota State University. But did you know there are many opportunities for nonstudents as well?

The Japanese Garden is beautiful. It is two acres of more than 300 plants, trees and shrubs with a few flowering plants traditional in Japan.

Normandale is also a great place to take in a concert or play. You don't typically see a local college putting on five theater productions in a season, or 11 musical performances in the fall semester alone.

I love that we have resources like this in our city. Education and the arts are part of what makes Bloomington a great place to be.

UPCOMING ARTS AT NORMANDALE:

Music Department concerts take place in the Fine Arts Auditorium and begin at 7:30 p.m.

- Jazz Combo, Monday, October 19
- Concert Band and Jazz Ensemble, Thursday, October 22
- Concert Choir and Vocal Ensemble, Friday, October 23

For more information, visit www.normandale.edu/community/music-performances.

The Theater Department has five productions this season, beginning with "The Gravedigger: A Frankenstein Play," October 28 – 31, in the Premanand Fine Arts Theatre.

For a full schedule and ticket information, visit www.normandale.edu/community/theatre.

2015 SURVEY RESULTS

RESIDENT AND BUSINESS SATISFACTION IS HIGH IN BLOOMINGTON SNOW REMOVAL, DRINKING WATER, PUBLIC SAFETY MOST POPULAR SERVICES

Both residents and businesses remain pleased with Bloomington's quality of life and City services according to recent surveys conducted by an independent research firm.

Bloomington did well in many categories, especially relative to other communities polled nationwide by the National Research Center of Boulder, Colorado.

This was the fourth year in a row that the National Citizen Survey™ was conducted in Bloomington. This was the inaugural year for the National Business Survey™.

About 9 out of 10 residents and businesses rated the overall quality of life in Bloomington as excellent or good. When asked about the city as a place to live, 94 percent of residents scored the community favorably. A total of 85 percent of business owners and managers rated Bloomington positively as a place to do business.

More highlights:

- 86 percent of residents scored the services provided by the City as excellent or good, placing Bloomington in the upper 20 percent of all jurisdictions polled nationwide.
- Bloomington's police, fire and snow removal were the highest rated services on both surveys, with strong ratings from approximately 9 out of 10 respondents.
- With a 91 percent approval rating from residents, the City's drinking water was #1 among peer cities for the fourth year in a row and 9th among all jurisdictions polled nationwide.
- 85 percent of business respondents gave Bloomington high marks as a place to do business; 93 percent plan to keep their businesses here.
- When asked which issues the City should focus on in the next five years, residents gave top votes to maintaining competitive schools, addressing crime, rejuvenating aging City infrastructure and maintaining City services.

A total of 1,027 residents completed the National Citizen Survey™ between May 1 and June 5. The online National Business Survey™ was conducted among 413 Bloomington businesses between April 14 and May 26.

For more information and complete survey results, visit the City's website.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: 2015 SURVEYS.



In the loop



Wayfinding helps drivers determine how to get where they need to go using message signs. A sign at a fast food restaurant directing you to the drive-thru lane is a simple example of wayfinding. Wayfinding signs can be a standard metal sign or an electronic sign with a message that changes depending upon traffic conditions.

SIGNS TO GET YOU WHERE YOU NEED TO GO

Wayfinding improvements are underway in the South Loop District. Traffic studies have identified a need for a system to assist drivers in finding their way to destinations, balance traffic within the South Loop and relieve stresses on the area transportation system.

In 2011, electronic signs were installed on the freeways to lead drivers to the Mall of America (MOA). The messages on the signs change based on congestion levels, traffic incidents or road construction to indicate which exit to use.

Traffic monitoring cameras and wayfinding signs for local roads were installed this summer. The dynamic wayfinding signs will provide real-time guidance to drivers on routes to South Loop destinations, freeway access points and parking locations.

With the design and construction of upcoming MOA development phases focused on increasing parking and circulation efficiency, electronic parking availability signs, dynamic signs and a parking management system will be installed. They will direct motorists to the most efficient and preferred routes to ramp and surface lot parking, routes between ramp levels and preferred exits to access the freeway.

Wayfinding improvements are a coordinated effort between the Minnesota Department of Transportation, City of Bloomington and MOA.

AN ARTFUL SUMMER IN THE SOUTH LOOP

Last summer kicked off creative placemaking in the South Loop; this summer kept things going.

June began with “After the Birds Taught Me to Fly,” an original, site-specific, musical theater production by PlaceBase Productions at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. In July, artist Erik Pearson—the same artist who created the mural at Civic Plaza—painted a mural at Cypress Semiconductor on 86th Street. TownePlace Suites at 2500 Lindau Lane also installed its own art in July, a bronze sculpture by John Helton in the hotel plaza, *see photo above*. In August, James Brenner’s internally illuminated glass and steel sculpture was installed in the center of the roundabout at 28th Street and Lindau Lane, *photo on page 1*.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT NEIGHBORHOOD OPEN HOUSE

Are you concerned about traffic on local streets? The City’s Traffic Management Program uses a variety of techniques to alleviate neighborhood traffic concerns. Two neighborhoods will be selected for the 2016 program. Eligible neighborhoods may request traffic management devices that could decrease traffic on their streets, reduce traffic speed and improve safety.

An open house will be held Monday, October 19, 5 – 7 p.m., in the Public Works Training Room, 1700 West 98th Street. City staff will be on hand to answer questions and listen to resident concerns.

For more information, call Traffic Management Coordinator Paul Jarvis at 952-563-4548 or email piarvis@BloomingtonMN.gov.



EXPANDING THE PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

To keep roads in good condition, the City uses a Pavement Management Program to plan for street repair and replacement, and maximize efficiency by identifying the optimum time to replace or repair streets. After needs are identified, funding is provided through state aids, assessments and an annual tax levy.

The City is currently looking at expanding the program to repair and maintain existing trails and sidewalks, and to provide improved street overlay maintenance. A recent analysis looked at how the expansion would be funded because of the cost of improvements and the tax levy impact. One of the options is to collect franchise fees through utility companies to fund street overlay projects and a new trail maintenance program.

The proposal to expand the Pavement Management Program and collect franchise fees will be presented to the City Council this fall. If approved, gas and electric customers could see franchise fees on their utility bills in 2016.



SIGN UP FOR EMERGENCY ALERTS

Bloomington’s Citizen Alert system sends time-sensitive emergency notifications directly to your home or cell phone via voice and text alerts, and email. To sign up for Citizen Alert, visit blm.mn/citizen-alert, then follow the prompts.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: CITIZEN ALERT.



KEEP THE LEAVES OUT OF THE STREETS

Leaves are one of the main causes of poor water quality in the metro area. When left in the street, they end up in the storm sewer where they are carried to nearby lakes and ponds. Leaves contain phosphorus and other nutrients that can cause excess algae growth, which negatively impacts plants and wildlife. Also, leaves can block storm drains and cause flooding in neighborhoods.

Minnesota law bans leaves from entering landfills and burning facilities, but there are plenty of good ways to get rid of leaves on your property, such as having your trash hauler take them with your yard waste or using them as mulch.

Additionally, never pour or dump anything down storm drains. Everything that enters a storm drainage system is eventually discharged in exactly the same form as it entered. These wastes can kill plants and destroy animal habitat.

TIME TO BUST SOME BUCKTHORN

Buckthorn is an invasive plant that grows quickly, choking out beneficial native trees, shrubs and wildflowers. City staff is looking to team up with volunteers to clear buckthorn from Pond-Dakota Mission Park, 401 East 104th Street, on Saturday, October 10, 10 a.m. – noon.

For more information, contact Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8693 or visit the City's website.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: PARKS VOLUNTEER.

GET YOUR HOME READY FOR WINTER

Winter weather usually hits a little too soon and lasts a little too long. Now is the time to get ahead of the game and get your home ready for the weather with a Home Energy Squad Enhanced visit.

The visit includes a blower door test to identify air leaks, an insulation inspection, a safety check of your home's heating system and water heater, and the installation of energy saving materials.

The Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority partners with the Home Energy Squad to offer tests at \$50 for all Bloomington residents, which is half off the regular price. For more information or to schedule a visit, contact Beth at 612-335-5874 or visit www.mncee.org/hes-bloomington.



BRAVING THE WAY: BEES AT THE BLU

There is something abuzz at the Radisson Blu Mall of America. In June, it became the first hotel in the Twin Cities to host honey bee colonies from the University of Minnesota Bee Squad. Two colonies with around 15,000 bees each grew over the summer as the bees worked to establish their hives, which are thriving.

Hotel guests from all over the world now have the opportunity to learn about the key role bees play in the environment, from agricultural production to the flowers in the yard, and the dangers bees face, including mites and sickness from pesticides. The Radisson Blu is working with the Bee Squad to create videos, coloring books and a standing display to share information about the project with their guests.

"Over 50 percent of the food we eat depends on bees, so if the bees go, so does half our food," Lynch said.

The Radisson Blu Mall of America is an ideal home for the honey bee colonies. It is surrounded by freeways and the parking lots near the Mall of America, which means there is little to no pesticide use. It is also close to the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge, Long Meadow Lake and the Minnesota River, all perfect places for bees to collect the nectar and pollen they need.

Next year, the bees will begin to produce more honey and the Bee Squad will remove the excess honey for use in the already extensive selection of locally sourced ingredients used at the on-site restaurant, the FireLake Grill House and Cocktail Bar.

"The honey will find its way into the foods," Chef Paul Lynch said. The flavor of the honey will change based on what's blooming and what the bees are pollinating, so the chef will taste the honey after it is collected and decide how best to use the flavors.

"It's fantastic," Lynch said. "As a kitchen, we couldn't be happier. But it's just our small way of being part of the solution. We hope to see other businesses do similarly."



Using on-site honey and locally sourced ingredients isn't the only way the hotel strives to be environmentally friendly—though it's probably the tastiest. The Radisson Blu Mall of America was also the first hotel to be LEED certified in the greater Twin Cities area.



FARMERS MARKET OPEN THROUGH OCTOBER 17

The Farmers Market is a weekly community gathering held in the east parking lot of Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, on Saturdays from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. The last outdoor Farmers Market of 2015 will be October 17.

Indoor Markets will be held at Civic Plaza on Saturday, November 14 and December 12, 9 a.m. – noon. The December 12 market takes place during Artistry's Gifts in the Gallery show and sale December 9 – 23, which features handmade gifts by dozens of local artist, *see page 7 for more on the Gallery*.

REUSE AND SAVE

Choose to Reuse coupons are now available to help you get great deals on quality products while supporting local businesses and protecting the environment.

Hennepin County has partnered with 50 retailers to offer Choose to Reuse coupons with discounts August through October this year. Coupon books are available at Bloomington Civic Plaza, Public Works, Creekside and Public Health as well as participating retail locations, Hennepin County Service Centers and libraries, and Minneapolis Park Board and Three Rivers Park District locations. Choose to Reuse is also available on your smartphone through the Chinook Book app.

For more information, visit www.hennepin.us/choosetoreuse or call 612-348-3777.

A REMINDER ABOUT RECYCLING

Every year, 32 million pounds of usable items are thrown away in Hennepin County alone. Help control the products that are dumped into the waste stream. Buy only as much as you need, and reuse and recycle materials whenever possible. Many items—newspapers, phonebooks, cereal boxes, milk jugs or cartons, pop cans or bottles, shampoo bottles, yogurt cups, clear packaging from toys or electronics—can be recycled into something new. Items that can't be recycled may be donated.

A few recycling don'ts:

- Don't recycle Styrofoam, plastic wrap, microwavable food trays, paper soiled with food, paper plates or towels, drinking glasses, dishes, mirrors, or containers that have held hazardous products.
- Don't bag recyclables; leave them loose in the bin.
- Don't put plastic bags (shopping bags, newspaper bags) in with regular recycling.



E-SUBSCRIBE FOR THE LATEST HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

The Bloomington Human Rights Commission has launched a monthly e-newsletter to keep you informed of upcoming programs, events and hot topics in Bloomington Human Rights. To sign up for the e-newsletter, go to the City's website and click on the E-subscribe icon. Select Human Rights Commission to receive the newsletter. If you are already subscribed, login and update your preferences.

Photos: John Noltner, Courtesy IRG

Portraits of Hoda Badawi, Abdiwahab Ali, Mukhtar Thakur and Valerie Shirley from Tracks in the Snow: The Minnesota Muslim Experience since 1880.

HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

To register for Human Services activities, call 952-563-4944 or 952-563-4933 TTY, email reservations@BloomingtonMN.gov or visit blm.mn/hs. Events take place at Creekside, 9801 Penn Avenue, or Civic Plaza, 1800 Old Shakopee Road, as indicated below.

TRACKS IN THE SNOW

The Human Rights Commission is sponsoring an exhibit titled "Tracks in the Snow: The Minnesota Muslim Experience." The exhibit features 25 portraits and accompanying stories of Muslims living in Minnesota that address themes of diversity, empowerment, faithfulness, being Minnesotan and having deep roots. Each story provides a glimpse into the Muslim community. The exhibit will be on display at Bloomington Civic Plaza October 13 – November 5 during regular building hours; it is free and open to the public.



Back, from left to right: Chair Dennis Kane, Jared Lease, John Doble, Johnathon McClellan, Ibrahim Yusuf. Front: First Vice Chair Jes Kietzman, Second Vice Chair Whitney Batterson, Shelia Fishman, Daniela Kunkel.

MEET THE COMMISSIONERS

The Human Rights Commission aids and advises the City Council in ensuring that all citizens have equal opportunity in employment, housing, public accommodations, public services and education, and in other affairs that affect the social well-being of the community. The commission also mediates complaints relating to discrimination and educates and advocates on human rights.

SHARE IN THE FEAST THANKSGIVING MEALS

Human Services invites you to a free Thanksgiving meal on **Thursday, November 26, 12:30 p.m.** Meals will be served at Bloomington Covenant Church, 10150 Xerxes Avenue South, and Atonement Lutheran Church, 601 E. 98th Street. Seating will begin at noon.

To register, call 952-563-4944. Registration deadline is Friday, November 20. Please include which location you will be attending with your reservation. Food and cash donations are being accepted.

These events are cosponsored by Bloomington Covenant Church, Atonement Lutheran Church and Good in the Hood.



Photo courtesy Read Photography

HUMAN SERVICES CELEBRATES VETERANS IN NOVEMBER

Human Services will host a series of events and activities during the month of November to honor veterans and active duty military personnel. This year's events will focus on World War II, as 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the end of the war.

VETERANS PHOTO WALL

November 1 – 30 at Creekside and Civic Plaza.

The Veterans Photo Wall includes more than 280 photos of men and women from all branches of service and continues to grow each year. If you would like to include a photo for the 2015 display, visit Human Services at Creekside or Bloomington Civic Plaza. Your original photo will be scanned and immediately returned to you. Photos may also be submitted electronically by emailing humanservices@BloomingtonMN.gov. Please include name, branch and years of service with your photo.

ROSIE THE RIVETER SPECIAL LUNCH EVENT

Monday, November 2, 11:30 a.m., at Creekside.

Travel back in time with award-winning City of Lakes Chorus as they perform their Rosie the Riveter show and other popular songs from the 1940s. Meal cost is \$4.50 for guests over 60 (NAPIS required) and \$7.25 for those under 60. Reservation deadline is Wednesday, October 28.

VETERANS APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

Tuesday, November 10, 9 – 10:30 a.m. at Civic Plaza.

Keynote speaker Betty Strohfus will share her experience as a member of the Women Airforce Service Pilots during World War II. Breakfast is complimentary for veterans and active duty military and \$6.50 for guests. Register by Tuesday, November 3.



Photo courtesy Betty Strohfus

MONDAY MOVIE – UNBROKEN (2014)

Monday, November 16, 12:45 p.m. at Creekside. After a near-fatal plane crash in World War II, Olympian Louis Zamperini spends a harrowing 47 days in a raft with two fellow crewmen before he is caught by the Japanese navy and sent to a prisoner-of-war camp.

THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE WITH DAN HARTMAN

Friday, November 20, 10 – 11 a.m., at Creekside. Listen to military historian Dan Hartman as he discusses World War II's famous Battle of the Bulge and the impact it had on the war.



BFD OPEN HOUSES

Each year during National Fire Prevention Week, the Bloomington Fire Department celebrates by opening its fire stations to the public for an afternoon of food, fun and education. Fire station open houses will take place **Saturday, October 10, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.** Events include:

- Station 1, 10 West 95th Street – HCMC Burn Unit and a blood drive
- Station 2, 10601 Xerxes Avenue South – Pluggie, a robotic fire hydrant, and a car seat clinic, by appointment only
- Station 3, 2050 East 86th Street – Center Point Energy and Community Emergency Response Teams
- Station 4, 4201 West 84th Street – plow truck from Public Works
- Station 5, 10540 Bush Lake Road – Safety House, a small scale house used to educate visitors about common fire hazards
- Station 6, 8601 Lakeview Road – Bloomington Police Department



32ND ANNUAL NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

This August's National Night Out was a great success. The annual celebration is dedicated to community building, friendship and public safety. Neighborhood Watch Block Captains organized 330 parties, collecting 12,635 pounds of food and more than \$2,133.75 for the VEAP food shelf. Bloomington's Police and Fire Departments, and Allina Health visited many of the parties.

BE A NEIGHBORHOOD WARMING HOUSE VOLUNTEER

Parks and Recreation is looking for volunteers to help at neighborhood warming houses. Volunteers open and close park shelter buildings, supervise rink activities and interact with skaters. Rinks are open mid-December through mid-February, depending on the weather. Application deadline is November 13. All potential volunteers are interviewed and screened. Training takes place in December. For an application, visit the City's website.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: WARMING.



Brent Carlson – with one of the truck markers from Station 3. The markers are a tradition started by his dad, who made each truck its own marker. Now Carlson is making sure the markers are switched over whenever they get a new truck, and he's had more made as the number of trucks at Station 3 has increased.

Q&A WITH FIREFIGHTER BRENT CARLSON

Firefighter Brent Carlson has been with the Bloomington Fire Department since 1988.

Q: What is your day job?

A: I've been a firefighter at MSP airport for the last four years. Before that I was a paramedic for Allina.

Q: What do you enjoy most about being a firefighter?

A: There's the adrenaline rush and getting to ride in the big red truck, but my dad was a firefighter out of this station—Dave "Oscar" Carlson #72 retired in 1986. I used to come in with him on calls. I filled the pop machine and squeegeed the floors. I grew up here at Station 3; they nicknamed me "OJ" for Oscar Jr. on my first day with the BFD.

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

A: I love going up north to Ely, the Boundary Waters. I like to cook. I do it for the guys at the station, but it's something I love to do at home, too. I also like going to the Farmers Market, hanging out with my son—yes, we do play the Xbox—and biking.

Q: How many fires have you responded to in your career?

A: A lot. However many there are in more than 20 years of service! The important thing is that we're able to respond—that's what 911 is for.

The time has gone so fast. I can't believe I've been here my whole career. I've been a captain since 1999. So much has changed in all that time—from the tech on the trucks to the tactics and strategy; we've learned so much.



START SEEING SNOWPLOWS

It's coming soon! Snow in the yards and shovels in our hands, which means that the snowplows will be hard at work on Bloomington streets.

Each winter, the City's snowplow fleet is out in force keeping our roadways safe. Here are a few things to remember:

- Give snowplow drivers plenty of room—allow at least five car lengths between your vehicle and a snowplow.
- Stay alert—a snowplow weighs 17 times more than a car; in a crash, occupants of a car are more likely to be seriously injured.
- Slow down! Never use cruise control on wet or icy roads.
- Never drive into a snow cloud created by a plow truck.
- Keep children safe by discouraging them from playing on or tunneling through the large piles of snow left by plows.
- Keep garbage cans on the driveway, not in the roadway.
- If damage to turf or a mailbox occurs due to snow removal operations, contact Street Maintenance at 952-563-8760.

NEW GARBAGE AND RECYCLING SERVICE IN BLOOMINGTON

In June, the City Council passed a resolution approving organized collection of solid waste in Bloomington based on the proposal submitted by the seven haulers that currently provide residential service in the city. The target date for the start of the new organized collection services is April 4, 2016. The haulers licensed in Bloomington can continue to sign up customers until the new system starts. The current open hauling system will continue through April 1, 2016. At that time, any individual agreements or costs under the present open collection system should come to an end.

The City is continuing to work with the seven haulers on implementation planning to ensure the transition from the current open hauling system to the new garbage and recycling service is as smooth as possible for Bloomington residents.

For more information, visit BloomingtonMN.gov, or contact Jim Gates, Deputy Director of Public Works, at 952-563-8730 or email jgates@BloomingtonMN.gov.

PASSPORTS NOW BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

As of August 1, the City Clerk's office accepts passport applications by appointment only. The Passport Acceptance Facility at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, is open Monday through Friday, 8:20 a.m. – 3 p.m. To obtain a passport, you (including minors) must appear in person. You need an appointment if you are a first-time applicant, your previous passport was badly damaged, lost or stolen, or your previous passport was:

- Issued over 15 years ago;
- Issued when you were under the age of 16;
- In a different name and you are unable to submit proper documentation to reflect the name change;
- A limited validity passport.

To schedule an appointment or for more information about passport requirements, visit blm.mn/passport.



BLOOMINGTON'S MEDALIST CONCERT BAND ABROAD

Bloomington's Medalist Concert Band went abroad this summer, taking a group of volunteer musicians to Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and Germany's Rhine River Valley for more than a week of sightseeing and musical exchange.

"This trip has invigorated us," Medalist Concert Band President and clarinetist Sue Freese said. "It has us looking forward to what's next with the group."

The band gave four concerts in and around Amsterdam on the trip. See the video on the City's YouTube channel for details.

The band is also preparing for an alumni concert to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2018.

The Medalist Concert Band will perform at the Schneider Theater in the Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 Old Shakopee Road, on Sunday, **November 15, 4 p.m.** Titled "The Greatest Generation," the concert is a tribute to World War II-era America and Americans with selections ranging from patriot classics to "big band" hits. (Adults \$14, Seniors and Students \$12.)

REGISTER ONLINE FOR BIG SKATE SCHOOL

The Bloomington Ice Garden (BIG) Skate School runs year-round offering classes for all skating levels. This season for the first time BIG Skate School is offering online registration at webtrac.BloomingtonMN.gov. For more information, call BIG at 952-563-8841 or email BloomingtonSkateSchool@yahoo.com.

PLAY FOR WELLNESS

Playgrounds for seniors have been popping up around the world since the 1990s. Hyde Park in London has a senior playground integrated with a usual playground, which makes it convenient for grandparents to stay active while they keep an eye on their grandkids. Japan, with more than 20 percent of the population 65 or older, is building "Nursing Care Prevention Parks."

In Bloomington, Hyland Park, 10145 Bush Lake Road, has outdoor exercise equipment focusing on low-impact exercise to promote balance and flexibility. It's a fun way for older adults to stay active and keep fit. The equipment at Hyland is near the walking paths, too!

BORN AGAIN JOCKS

The Born Again Jocks volleyball league welcomes men 55 years and older of all skill levels to enjoy volleyball at Jefferson High School, 4001 West 102nd Street. For more information, call Don Wilkie at 952-895-6087 or Don Wagner at 952-831-4460.

TRICK OR TREAT!

Children will enjoy Trick or Treat Alley, games, prizes and more at this year's Citywide Halloween Party. This event is free and open to all Bloomington preschoolers through fourth graders accompanied by an adult. This year, the party takes place **Saturday, October 31, 6 – 8 p.m.**, at the Bloomington National Guard Armory, 3300 West 98th Street.

Donations of nonperishable food items to the VEAP food shelf will be accepted. For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877.

The Citywide Halloween Party is sponsored by the City of Bloomington, the Optimist Club of Bloomington and the Richfield-Bloomington Credit Union.

BLOOMINGTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS 2015 – 2016 PERFORMANCE SERIES

The Bloomington Center for the Arts Performance Series includes awe-inspiring theater, band, chorale and jazz concerts. Performances are held in the Schneider or Black Box theaters, located in the Bloomington Center for the Arts at the corner of 98th Street and West Old Shakopee Road.

Arne Fogel & Maud Hixson: Irving Berlin's Hollywood—Come hear the 20th century's best pop composer and the songs he wrote for the greatest movie musicals of all time. Friday and Saturday November 6-7, 7:30 p.m., Sunday November 8, 2 p.m. Adults \$21, seniors \$19, 25 and under \$17.



Colleen Raye: A Musical Tribute to Patsy Cline—Colleen Raye brings the presence of Patsy Cline into the room with heartfelt sincerity and skill while also talking about Cline's life. Friday, November 20, 7:30 p.m. Adults \$27, seniors \$24, students \$20.



Bloomington Symphony Orchestra: Journeys—Steal away to Italy, take a *Journey into Jazz* with special guest Charles Lazarus and enjoy Beethoven's magnificent Symphony No. 3, the Eroica. Sunday, November 22, 3 p.m. Adults \$14, seniors \$12, students free with ID.



BOX OFFICE

To order tickets, call 952-563-8575, visit blm.mn/boxoffice or order in person at the box office, office hours vary.

INEZ GREENBERG GALLERY

Annual Members' Juried Art Exhibition—Each year, this exhibition brings a varied collection showcasing different mediums, styles and techniques. Thirteen awards will be given, including a \$500 Best of Show award. October 16 – November 27. Opening reception and awards ceremony on Friday, October 16, 6 – 8 p.m. Sponsored by Kraus-Anderson Companies and Wet Paint.



ATRIUM GALLERY

An Ode to Nature, Gesture, and Mark—Artist Brenda Litman has created a series of paintings which reference nature and our journey through life by using a combination of repeated marks and symbols. Inspired by Japanese and Chinese calligraphy, the artist celebrates the power of mark to communicate in an abstract, nonliteral way. October 1 – November 13. Opening Reception on Thursday, October 1, 6 – 8 p.m.





GENERAL ELECTION

CAST YOUR BALLOT ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Exercise your right to vote in Bloomington's 2015 General Election. To watch candidate interviews, visit the City's website.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: **VOTING.**

ON THE BALLOT CITY OFFICES

MAYOR

- Jim Mead
- Gene Winstead

COUNCILMEMBER AT LARGE

- Tim Busse
- Kevin Heinen

COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT I

- Dwayne A. Lowman
- Johnathon McClellan

COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT II

- Andrew Carlson
- Tom Hulting

BLOOMINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD #271 (VOTE FOR UP TO THREE)

- Maureen Bartolotta
- Dick Bergstrom
- Nelly Korman
- Michael Poke
- Nicole Robinson
- Paige Rohman
- Carmelisa Scott

ABSENTEE VOTING

Absentee voting is available through Monday, November 2, at Bloomington Civic Plaza.

VOTING ASSISTANCE

Tell the election judge if you need assistance at your polling place. All sites are accessible and have AutoMARK voter-assist terminals to help voters who have difficulty in marking the optical scan paper ballot.

VOTER REGISTRATION

If you aren't sure if you're registered to vote, visit the Minnesota Secretary of State's website, <http://blm.mn/registered>, which allows you to verify your voter registration status.

If you are not registered to vote, you can register at your polling place on Election Day. You will need state-approved identification. For more information, call the City Clerk's office at 952-563-8729.

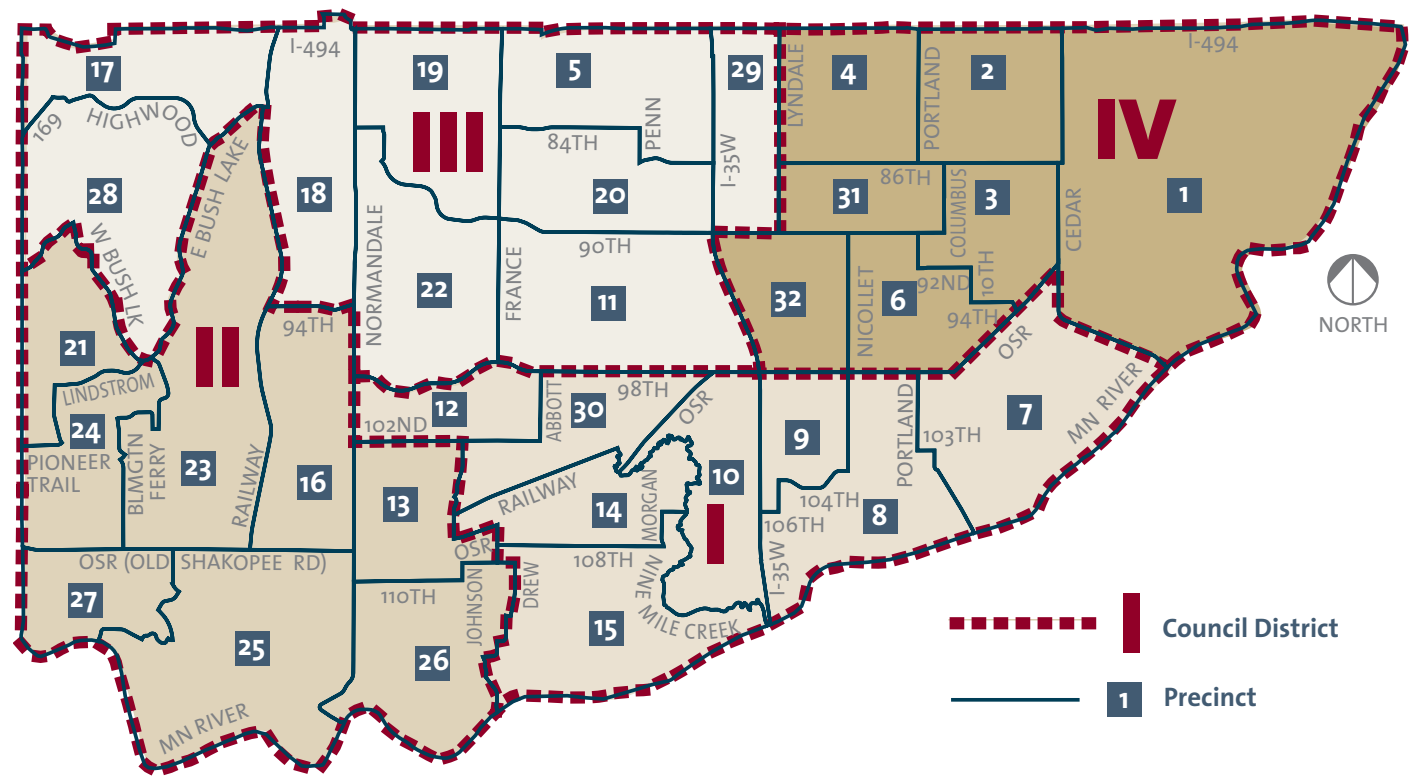
SAMPLE BALLOTS

Sample ballots are available to view online.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: **SAMPLE BALLOT.**

2015 BLOOMINGTON POLLING PLACES

POLLS ARE OPEN FROM 7 A.M. TO 8 P.M. ON ELECTION DAY.



Precinct/Polling location	Entrance/Parking
1 Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center 3815 American Boulevard East	West entrance Visitor lot (W)
2 Portland Avenue United Methodist Church 8000 Portland Avenue South	Main entrance West lot
3 Cedar Valley Church 8600 Bloomington Avenue	South entrance Door 3 South lot
4 Unity South Church 7950 1st Avenue South	Main entrance South lot
5 Southtown Baptist Church 2600 West 82nd Street	Main entrance (W) Northwest lot
6 Bloomington Lutheran Church 9350 Portland Avenue South	Main entrance North lot
7 Atonement Lutheran Church 601 East Old Shakopee Road	Southwest entrance South lot
8 Riverside Reformed Church 10201 Nicollet Avenue South	Southeast entrance East lot
9 Nativity of Mary Catholic Church 9900 Lyndale Ave South	Main entrance Door 9 South lot
10 St. Luke's Lutheran Church 1701 West Old Shakopee Road	Northeast entrance North lot
11 Bloomington National Guard Armory 3300 West 98th Street	Main entrance (W) West lot
12 Crosspoint Church 9801 France Avenue South	Main entrance (E) East lot
13 Jefferson Activity Center 4001 West 102nd Street	Main entrance (W) West lot
NEW POLLING PLACE	
14 Mount Hope Lutheran Church 3601 West Old Shakopee Road	Main entrance (S) South lot
15 Minnesota Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 10715 Zenith Avenue South	Main entrance North lot
NEW POLLING PLACE	
16 Normandale Hylands United Methodist Church 9920 Normandale Boulevard South	Northeast entrance (Left doors) North lot
17 Peace Lutheran Church 8600 East Bush Lake Road	Main entrance North lot
18 The Church of St. Edward's 9401 Nesbitt Avenue South	SW entrance Upper level, SW lot

Precinct/Polling location	Entrance/Parking
19 St. Stephen Lutheran Church 8400 France Avenue South	Main entrance (W) West lot
20 St. Mark's United Church of Christ 8630 Xerxes Avenue South	South Entrance Southwest lot
NEW POLLING PLACE	
21 Hyland Visitors Center 10145 Bush Lake Road	West entrance West lot
22 St. Michael's Lutheran Church 9201 Normandale Boulevard	Main entrance (E) Southeast lot
23 Community of the Cross Lutheran Church 10701 Bloomington Ferry Road	Main entrance (N) North lot
24 Bloomington Lutheran School 10600 Bloomington Ferry Road	Main entrance (S) South lot Disabled: East side
25 Bethany Church 6900 Auto Club Road	West entrance West and North lots
26 Transfiguration Lutheran Church 11000 France Avenue South	Main entrance (W) West lot
27 Bethany Gymnasium 6900 Auto Club Road	Main entrance South lot
28 Bloomington Fire Station #6 8601 Lakeview Road	Main entrance North lot and street
29 Christ the King Lutheran Church 8600 Fremont Avenue South	Southwest entrance Southwest lot
30 Oak Grove Presbyterian Church 2200 West Old Shakopee Road	Main entrance Northeast lot
31 St. Bonaventure Catholic Church 901 East 90th Street (Social Hall)	Main entrance East lot
32 Oxboro Evangelical Free Church 9431 Nicollet Avenue South	North entrance North lot

POLLING PLACES

Election Day voters must vote at the polling place assigned to their legal residence, so be sure to verify your polling location beforehand.

See the map above, or visit <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us>. You can also find your polling place on the City's website.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: **POLLING PLACE.**



VOTING INFORMATION: CALL 952-563-8729 OR VISIT BLM.MN/VOTING.