

PAGE 2

PAGE 3

PAGE 4

PAGE 6



## CELEBRATING ONE OF MINNESOTA'S NATURAL TREASURES

Stretching 72 miles along the Minnesota River, the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge is an urban oasis for nature and nature lovers alike. While initially established to provide valuable habitat for migratory birds, the reserve now serves as a key site in Minnesota for monarch butterfly conservation efforts.

The refuge will hold its 40th anniversary celebration on Saturday, October 8 with a public celebration that coincides with National Wildlife Refuge Week. Events will be held at the Bloomington Education and Visitor Center, 3815 American Boulevard East. The day-long celebration will include family-friendly and hands-on activities such as birding, exploration, fishing, hiking and more. Anniversary celebration activities will continue throughout the year. To learn more, visit [fws.gov/refuge/minnesota\\_valley/](http://fws.gov/refuge/minnesota_valley/), call 952-854-5900 or find the refuge on social media at @MNvalleyNWR or [facebook.com/MNvalleyNWR](https://facebook.com/MNvalleyNWR).

## SURVEYS FIND BLOOMINGTON'S SAFETY IS A TOP ASSET RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES PLEASSED WITH PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES

Both residents and businesses remain satisfied with Bloomington's quality of life and City services, particularly police and fire, according to recent surveys conducted by an independent research firm. This was the fifth year in a row that the National Citizen Survey™ and the second consecutive year that the National Business Survey™ were conducted in Bloomington. The polls were performed by the National Research Center of Boulder, Colorado.

The vast majority of residents rated the quality of life in Bloomington as excellent or good, with 85 percent scoring their quality of life positively. In addition, 86 percent of residents think that Bloomington is an excellent or good place to live. Most residents would recommend Bloomington to others and plan on remaining in the city for the next five years. While these ratings were similar to national benchmarks, some ratings trended downward between 2015 and 2016 including Bloomington as a place to raise children, overall image and sense of community.

Bloomington business owners and managers continue to value the community as a place to do business. More than 8 out of 10 positively rated Bloomington as a place to work, overall image and appearance of the city.

A total of 1,021 residents completed the National Citizen Survey™ between May 2 and June 13, 2016. The online National Business Survey™ was conducted among 332 Bloomington businesses between April 29 and June 10, 2016.

For more information and complete survey results, visit the City's website at [blm.mn/survey-2016](http://blm.mn/survey-2016).

### Highlights

- Almost all residents reported feeling safe in their neighborhoods and in shopping areas.
- Ninety percent of respondents gave high ratings to police and 96 percent to fire services.
- Resident scores for value of services for taxes paid rose by 3 percent to 68 percent, placing Bloomington in the top 20 percent of benchmark communities nationwide.
- The City's drinking water ranked first among its peer cities for the fifth year in a row and 11th among all jurisdictions polled nationwide with a 90 percent approval rating from residents.
- The availability of affordable, quality housing is a concern for residents with 58 percent rating it as excellent or good, down seven percent from 2015.
- Eighty-three percent of business respondents were positive about Bloomington as a place to do business; 93 percent plan to keep their business here over the next five years.

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## MAYOR'S MEMO LOOKING TO BLOOMINGTON'S FUTURE

By Mayor Gene Winstead

The City is in the process of creating a vision for Bloomington's future with a new strategic plan, Forward 2040. This new plan comes at a good time because Bloomington is changing.

The city's population has remained relatively stable since 1970, but has become much more diverse and added thousands of new jobs. We expect Bloomington will grow even more in the coming years. By 2040, the Metropolitan Council predicts that Bloomington will have 6,000 additional residents and 17,000 additional jobs.

The vision established through the Forward 2040 planning process must respond to current realities as well as chart a course for the city's future. The plan will establish a 20-year vision through a set of goals and policies that guide future land uses and investments in City services such as parks, community facilities, transportation, and sewer and water systems. Minnesota law requires all cities, counties and townships within the seven-county metropolitan region to update their comprehensive plan every 10 years.

Resident engagement is a cornerstone of the strategic planning process. This summer, City employees hosted three town hall meetings to gather ideas and input from residents. One meeting focused on different areas that are important parts of Bloomington's future such as sustainability, diversity and engagement, and City amenities.

Another focused on Bloomington's aging infrastructure. Much of Bloomington's public infrastructure and housing were built to accommodate the City's rapid growth in the '60s and '70s. Roads are routinely upgraded through the City's Pavement Management Program and private homes are continually renovated by their owners, but other public infrastructure will be nearing the end of its serviceable life over the next couple decades. For example, the City's fire stations and some park buildings are more than 35 years old. There are also many sewer pipes and water mains that are more than 45 years old. These public facilities are critical to the quality of life in Bloomington and replacement must be done in a strategic manner.

In September, the City Council appointed an advisory committee to assist staff with Forward 2040. Half of the advisory committee members are representatives from the City's various boards and commissions. The other half represent the citizenry at large. The advisory committee will meet monthly, beginning in October, through 2017. Over the next year, staff will be working with the advisory committee to draft policies and strategies, which will be subject to public review in a series of meetings that will occur next summer and fall. In the meantime, those interested in following progress on the plan update should keep an eye on the project webpage at [blm.mn/forward2040](http://blm.mn/forward2040), follow the City on Facebook and Twitter (@Bloomington\_MN) or sign up for E-Subscribe to receive updates and notification of upcoming Forward 2040 events.

### NEW HOUSING OPTIONS IN SOUTH LOOP

A little more than a year after breaking ground on its IndiGO project, Lennar Multifamily Communities held a grand opening for the 395-unit apartment building in the South Loop in September. There are a variety of interior amenities for tenants, including a spa with saunas, a fitness center, a yoga studio and a dog spa. There will also be an outdoor resort pool deck, a secure bike garage, a dog walking area, a Zen garden, outdoor jumbo chess and a children's play area.

### BRIGHTENING UP CITY STREETS

Xcel Energy's plan to update metro streetlamps with new LED lights will brighten up your neighborhood this fall. Most residential neighborhoods will be affected by this change. The project began in August and is projected to continue through December weather permitting.

### PUTTING ON THE FINISHING TOUCHES

The Old Cedar Avenue bridge rehabilitation project has entered its final stages. The contractor recently put a fresh coat of paint on the five spans of the bridge and installed a new railing. Now, the temporary bridge is in the process of being removed. This work is expected to continue through October. The new pedestrian bridge is projected to open to walkers and cyclists in November.

## BRIEFING

Volume 24, Number 5

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 disk 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)  
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Elected officials presented for informational purposes.

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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.



## POLICE AND RESIDENTS CONNECT AT NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

**H**undreds of communities around Bloomington gathered on August 2 to celebrate the 33rd Annual National Night Out. The event promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make neighborhoods a safer, better place to live. Today, more than ever, these partnerships are the thread that holds our communities together. The Police Department, Fire Department and Allina EMT's enjoyed great food and conversations at the nearly 350 neighborhood parties they attended. Many neighborhoods organized a food drive in connection with their block party and their efforts created an astonishing return of more than 14,500 pounds of food and products that were donated to VEAP.

## TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT NEIGHBORHOOD OPEN HOUSE

**A**re 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 2017 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 17, 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 [pjarvis@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:pjarvis@BloomingtonMN.gov)



## COUNTY COURT RELOCATION MOVES FORWARD

**H**ennepin County and the City are working together to move the Fourth District County Court facilities from the Southdale Regional Center in Edina to Civic Plaza. In September, Bloomington City Council will vote to approve or deny the development and lease proposals for the new, 36,000-square-foot addition at Civic Plaza. Hennepin County is moving the court facilities because the current location is outdated and would be too expensive to improve. The facility will cost \$15.7 million and will be funded by Hennepin County. The County will share operating and maintenance costs and the City will provide property management. The addition is projected to be finished in 2017.



## PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR WINTER

**B**y the time that first leaf falls, homeowners are already rolling up their sleeves and digging into seasonal projects. Get ahead of the game and prepare your home for winter 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 for \$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](http://www.mncee.org/hes-bloomington).

## NEW BURIAL OPTIONS AT CITY CEMETERY

**T**he Bloomington City Cemetery has expanded to include cremation burial lots and freestanding columbarium niches alongside a landscaped walkway. Contact the City Clerk's Office for sales information at 952-563-8729. Sales are open to anyone. Preferred pricing is offered to current and former City residents and family members.

## GET READY FOR WINTER TRAVEL

**G**etting ready for a warm-weather vacation outside the U.S.? The Bloomington City Clerk's Office offers passport services by appointment only. Schedule your appointment on the City website at [blm.mn/passports](http://blm.mn/passports).

You need an appointment if you are a first-time applicant, are 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.

Photo services are offered for \$15. No appointment is necessary.



## MEET BLOOMINGTON'S NEW CITY ATTORNEY

**M**elissa Manderschied started as Bloomington's new City Attorney in August. She filled the vacancy left by former City Attorney Sandra Johnson who retired in June after 25 years with the City.

Manderschied has been with the Minnesota law firm Kennedy and Graven for nearly 10 years, providing general and specialized legal counsel services for cities, economic development authorities, housing and redevelopment authorities, public housing authorities and nonprofits. She holds a J.D. from William Mitchell College of Law, a master's degree in planning from the University of Tennessee, and a bachelor's degree in international relations from Centre College in Kentucky. Melissa was also a Humphrey Policy Fellow at the University of Minnesota. Melissa grew up in Lake Lillian, Minn.

## SUSTAINABLE BLOOMINGTON

**C**limate change is a global concept, but its effects are easy to see locally. Higher temperatures, more rain, change in tree species and more frequent severe storms are some effects of climate change that are prevalent in Minnesota and Bloomington. These changes impact City operations in many ways. Drastic temperature shifts cause pavement to age and crack faster. Larger rainfalls affect wells and aquifers. Conserving energy has become more important.

Over the years, these factors have prompted the City to continue looking for new ways to keep daily operations sustainable. A few sustainable practices Bloomington has put in place include: maintaining a diverse urban forest through an annual tree sale and diversified plantings in City parks, the installation of LED traffic lights to conserve energy, and maintaining native prairie grass plantings lessening required mowing.



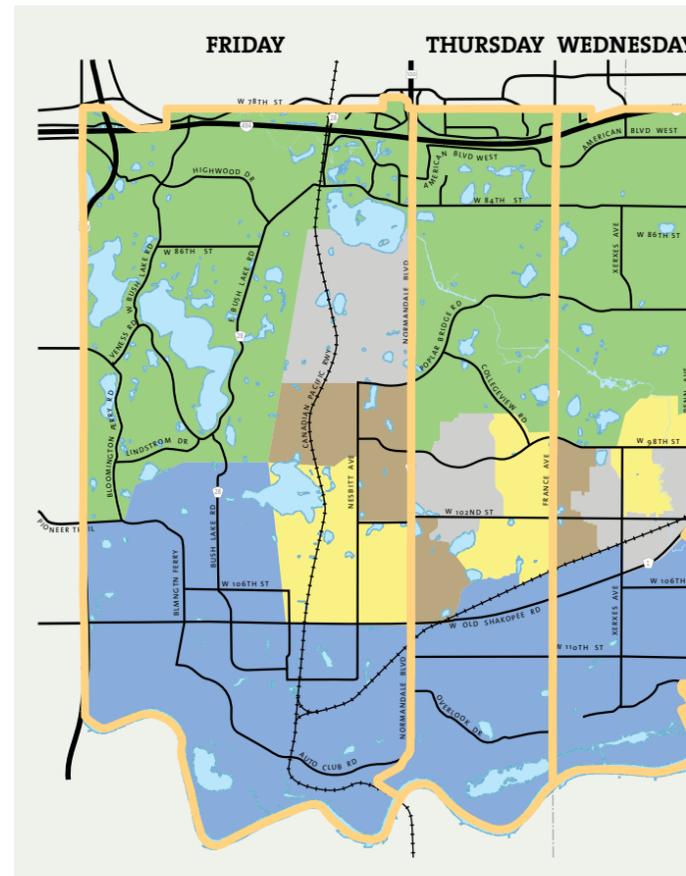
# GARBAGE AND RECYCLING INFORMATION

## CART PLACEMENT

Place your carts out at the curb by 7 a.m. on your service day. Service collection times may change from what you are accustomed to. Having your containers out by 7 a.m. will ensure your materials are collected. Carts should be placed in a safe and accessible location, not in the street. Keeping carts off the street allows City crews to efficiently sweep and shovel without obstruction. Place cart at least three to five feet away from other objects such as other carts, mailboxes, vehicles, trees and brush.

## DOES YOUR HOUSEHOLD GENERATE A LARGE VOLUME OF RECYCLING?

We appreciate residents who recycle as much as they can. Residents will have an option to upgrade the recycling cart size to the largest size (approximately 90 gallons). Residents will also have the ability to request an additional recycling cart if needed. This extra cart will be provided without an added fee. Haulers will begin to gradually deliver larger or additional carts starting in fall 2016.



## HAVE YOUR GARBAGE NEEDS CHANGED?

Garbage, recycling and yard waste service needs may change once the new program begins. Since it is a new program, the City is asking residents to try the current cart provided for 90 days. You may notice that the cart provided works for your needs. If the cart still does not fit your needs by January, let us know. We can help provide the appropriate cart size. Remember, recycling and yard waste subscriptions offer the pickup of an unlimited amount of materials. If you have an extra bag of recycling or yard waste material, simply place the extra bag next to your cart.

To change your service levels, contact Utility Billing at [utilitybilling@BloomingtonMN.Gov](mailto:utilitybilling@BloomingtonMN.Gov) or 952-563-8726. Haulers will deliver and exchange carts as soon as they are able. We appreciate your patience.

## YARD WASTE COLLECTION

Yard waste will be a subscription service in the new garbage and recycling program. Full season yard waste subscription service will be available April 15 to November 30; subscribers will pay an annual rate of \$79.50 for yard waste collection. Partial, first season of yard waste subscription service will be available August 1 to November 30; subscribers will be billed at a reduced rate of \$49.75 for their partial year of subscription. The reduced rate for partial subscription is only available to new clients or those who moved after yard waste season began. The following year(s) will be billed at the annual rate, unless yard waste is terminated by the household.

Residents may also pay \$4 per bag for on-call services. For on-call yard waste service, visit Utility Billing to purchase stickers. Residents must adhere one sticker to each on-call bag. To schedule an on-call collection, contact Utility Billing at least 48 hours prior to your collection day. The hauler will collect yard waste materials on your garbage day.

Weather permitting, the full season yard waste collection will run from April 15 through November 30. If there is significant snowfall before the end of November, yard waste collection will end at that time. Yard waste collection is weekly and includes all garden waste, grass clippings, leaves, weeds, soft garden materials, shrub and tree waste, prunings, and wood chips. Remember, twigs and branches must be approximately three feet in length and three inches in diameter. Please place in bags, containers or on the ground tied in bundles. Bags and bundles should not be heavier than 40 pounds.

## BULK WASTE MATERIALS

Bulk items such as home furnishings, construction or remodeling debris, appliances, electronics are not included in the normal weekly, carted service. Bulk materials are collected separately and charged by the item. Visit [blm.mn/garbage](http://blm.mn/garbage) for a full list of bulk and electronic waste fees. To request a bulk waste material collection, contact Utility Billing at least 48 hours prior to your collection day. The hauler will collect your bulk materials on your garbage day. The charge for the bulk material collection will appear on your next utility bill.

## WHEN DO I GET MY FIRST BILL?

You will see your new garbage and recycling charges on your first statement following the October 3 official start date. Your initial garbage and recycling charges will be pro-rated. Your subsequent statements will include full charges unless you have suspended service for a month or more. If you have paid past October 3 with your current hauler for garbage and recycling services, contact your hauler for reimbursement.

## KEEP 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 storm sewer drains where they are carried to nearby lakes and ponds. Leaves—as well as grass clippings and other yard waste—contain phosphorus and other nutrients that feed algae. This can cause excess algae growth, which negatively impacts other plants and wildlife. Additionally, leaves and grass clippings block storm drains and can cause flooding.

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

## UPDATED PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

There have been some changes to the garbage and recycling program opportunities since the August *Briefing* was distributed.

### Door-step procedure

There is no longer a one-time administration fee for residents who apply for door-step service.

### Garbage opt-out or exemption procedure

Eligible residents include residents who self-haul their garbage and recycling. There are other rare cases in which residents may be able to opt out of service. These will be evaluated by the committee on a case-by-case basis.

Both applications are available online at [blm.mn/garbage](http://blm.mn/garbage).

For more information on the program, visit our website at [blm.mn/garbage](http://blm.mn/garbage) or contact the Public Works Maintenance Division at 952-563-8760 or [maintenance@bloomingtonmn.gov](mailto:maintenance@bloomingtonmn.gov).

## RECYCLE EVERYWHERE

About half of home recyclables never make it to the recycling bin. Most people do well recycling in the kitchen, but recyclables from bathrooms, laundry rooms and home offices are often thrown out with the trash. Expand your recycling habit and recycle everywhere in your home with these tips and tricks.

### Make it easy

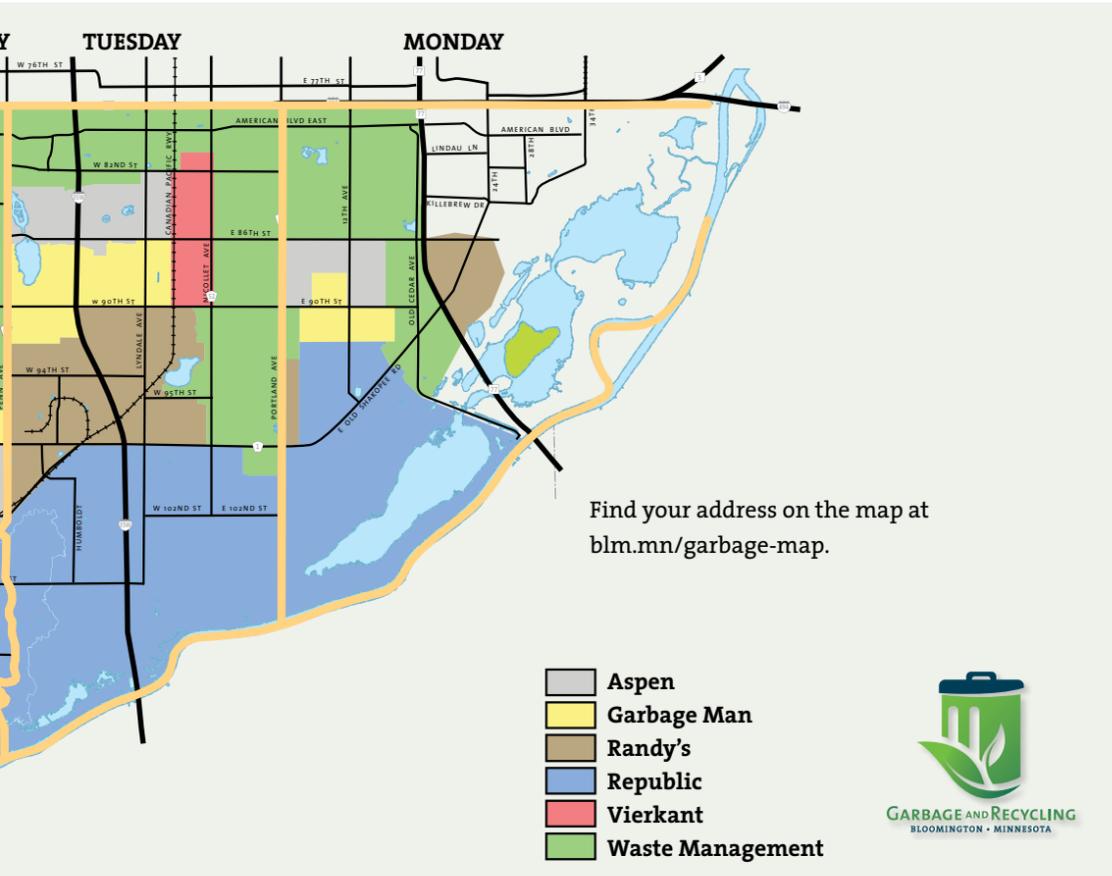
Start by putting a recycling bin, bag or box next to every garbage can in your house. If you have limited space, get creative. Hang a bag on the doorknob of your bathroom, laundry room or office for recyclables. Put a divider in your wastebasket to make it trash on one side and recycling on the other.

### Make it fun

Make recycling fun and involve the whole family. Have kids make a “please recycle” sign that shows what items can go in the recycling bin. Place a basketball rim above the recycling bin so your family can slam dunk their recyclables. Make it a challenge. Try to generate only one bag of trash a week. Learn more recycling tips and access resources at [www.hennepin.us/recycleeverywhere](http://www.hennepin.us/recycleeverywhere).

## CORRECTION

The August *Briefing* incorrectly stated that tires should be put in the trash. Dispose tires at the South Hennepin Recycling and Problem Waste Drop-Off Center located at 1400 West 96th Street.



## WHAT ARE THE PRICES FOR GARBAGE AND RECYCLING?

Fees will be charged every other month on your utility bill. All taxes and fees are included in the unit pricing listed below.

**Small cart (about 35 gallons) = \$31.10 for two months of service**

- Includes weekly garbage service: \$19.76
- Includes recycling service every other week: \$11.34
- Garbage overflow, if needed, per bag: \$4.75

**Medium cart (about 64 gallons) = \$37.78 for two months of service**

- Includes weekly garbage service: \$26.44
- Includes recycling service every other week: \$11.34
- (Garbage overflow, if needed, per bag: \$4.75)

**Large cart (about 95 gallons) = \$44.44 for two months of service**

- Includes weekly garbage service: \$33.10
- Includes recycling service every other week: \$11.34
- (Garbage overflow, if needed, per bag: \$4.75)

### What are the yard waste prices?

- Full season subscription (Apr 15 to Nov 30) = \$79.50
- Partial season subscription (Aug 1 to Nov 30) = \$49.75 Only available to new clients, or to those who moved after yard waste season began.
- On-call per bag = \$4

If you would like yard waste service in addition to garbage and recycling service you may contact Utility Billing at 952-563-8726 or [utilitybilling@BloomingtonMn.gov](mailto:utilitybilling@BloomingtonMn.gov) to sign up for yard waste subscription service after October 3. Prior to October 3, contact your original hauler.

### What are the bulk waste fees?

- Small items, no freon (less than 50 pounds) = \$30 per item  
Examples: Small furniture, lawn furniture, lawn mower, ottoman, small chair, bookcase, small table, small desk, wooden chair, end table, etc.
  - Small items with freon (less than 50 pounds) = \$30 per item plus tax  
Example: Dehumidifier.
  - Large appliances, no freon (more than 50 pounds, more than 50 percent metal) = \$50 per item  
Examples: Stove, snow blower, hide-a-bed, etc.
  - Large appliances with freon (more than 50 pounds, more than 50 percent metal) = \$50 per item plus tax  
Examples: Refrigerator, freezer.
  - Large furniture (more than 50 pounds, less than 50 percent metal) = \$50 per item  
Examples: Sofa, love seat, mattress, box-spring, reclining chair, wooden picnic table, etc.
  - Electronics waste fees
    - Small electronics (less than 20 pounds, no screens or monitor) = \$25 per item  
Examples: Computer hard drive, keyboard, VCR, or DVD units, etc.
    - Large electronics (more than 20 pounds or has screen or monitor) = \$40 per item  
Examples: Computer monitor, television, etc.
- Electronics waste is not subject to tax.

## WHO DO I CONTACT WITH BILLING OR SERVICE ISSUE QUESTIONS?

For billing questions, contact Utility Billing at 952-563-8726 or [utilitybilling@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:utilitybilling@BloomingtonMN.gov). For program questions, contact Public Works Maintenance at 952-563-8760 or [maintenance@BloomingtonMn.gov](mailto:maintenance@BloomingtonMn.gov). For service questions relating to missed pickups or driver concerns contact your hauler. The phone number is listed on your utility bill.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAM, PLEASE VISIT [BLM.MN/GARBAGE](http://BLM.MN/GARBAGE)

## 2016 AND 2017 RECYCLING CALENDAR

Note: Christmas Day 2016 and New Year's Day 2017 fall on a Sunday and will not impact collection services. Services will remain on the usual garbage day.

**RECYCLE WEEK**

**HOLIDAY\***

\* No pickup; pickup one day later.

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August 2017						
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		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

September 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

November 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## COLLECTION DAY ZONES



- FRIDAY
- TUESDAY
- THURSDAY
- MONDAY
- WEDNESDAY



### EXPLORE YOUR FIRE STATION

Each year during National Fire Prevention Week, the Bloomington Fire Department celebrates by opening all its fire stations to the public for an afternoon of food, fun and education. This year's open houses will take place Saturday, October 15, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Station events include:

Station 1 – HCMC Burn Unit and a Blood Drive

Station 2 – Pluggie (robotic fire hydrant) and a car seat clinic (by appointment only)

Station 3 – Center Point Energy and C.E.R.T.

Station 4 – Plow truck from Public Works

Station 5 – Safety House

Station 6 – Bloomington Police Department

### CELEBRATING NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

This November, the Human Rights Commission will be honoring Native American heritage month by sponsoring the *Why Treaties Matter* exhibit at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. This exhibit explores Dakota and Ojibwe Indian Nations and their relationship with the U.S. government in Minnesota. Understand how treaties affected the lands of these indigenous people and why they still matter today. Curator Jim Jones Jr. will discuss the exhibit Wednesday, November 2, and Tuesday, November 1, at 2 p.m.

There will also be a reception with the curator on Tuesday, November 15, 6 – 7 p.m. Native American activist Don Bartlette who advocates for minorities, victims of alcohol addiction, troubled youth and people with disabilities will deliver the keynote speech at 6 p.m. He has received international recognition for his achievements and was nominated for the Marty Mann award.

### 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 11, 10 a.m. – noon. For more information, contact Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8693 or visit the City's website at [blm.mn/buckthorn](http://blm.mn/buckthorn).

## MEET A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER

District Chief Pete Fisher has been a volunteer firefighter for 18 years. He serves out of Station 1.

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

**A:** I have been a firefighter and paramedic for the City of Edina for 15 years.

**Q:** How did you become interested in starting a career in public safety?

**A:** I was a young guy when I started and I thought it sounded like fun. It's a great job. I liked the idea of helping people and protecting my community.

**Q:** Could you tell us about your family?

**A:** I have a wife and two young kids—one is in kindergarten and the other is in the first year of preschool.

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

**A:** When I get a chance, I like to read. These days, much of the reading I do is out loud to my kids.

**Q:** What do you like about living in Bloomington?

**A:** I love all the parks, which are close enough to our house for my family to bike to.

## HONORING OUR VETERANS

Human Services will host a series of events and activities during the month of November to honor veterans and active duty military personnel at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South, and Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

### VETERAN'S PHOTO WALL

November 1 – 30 at Creekside and Civic Plaza

The Veteran's photo wall includes more than 285 photos of men and women from all branches of service and continues to grow each year. If you would like to submit a photo, visit Human Services at Creekside or Civic Plaza or contact Human Services at 952-563-4944, TTY 952-563-4933 Your original photo will be scanned and returned to you. Photos may also be submitted electronically by emailing [humanservices@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:humanservices@BloomingtonMN.gov). Please include name, branch and years of service with your photo.

### VETERAN'S APPRECIATION LUNCH

Thursday, November 10, 11:15 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. at Creekside

Keynote speaker, Bob Jaspersen, will share his experiences as an Air Force pilot in the 1970s. His squadron was assigned temporary duty in Southeast Asia where, in five months, he flew 115 missions over both South and North Vietnam. During his short tour he was awarded seven Air Medals, the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Silver Star.

The lunch is free for Veterans and \$6.50 for guests. Registration is required by contacting Creekside Community Center at 952-563-4944, TTY 952-563-4933.



### COFFEE AND CONVERSATIONS ON VIETNAM

Vietnam veterans are invited to meet and share stories with their fellow veterans on Wednesday, November 30, 9 – 11 a.m. at Creekside Community Center. A complimentary continental breakfast will be provided. Registration is recommended. To register, contact Creekside Community Center at 952-563-4944, TTY 952-563-4933 or [reservations@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:reservations@BloomingtonMN.gov).

## EXPLORING THE OLMSTEAD ACT

Bloomington Human Services and Arc Greater Twin Cities will host an Olmstead Plan Housing and Services event Tuesday, November 1, 6:30 p.m. Olmstead Plan Housing and Services provides a person with a disability the opportunity to make an informed choice to live in an integrated setting. People can choose where they live, with whom and in what type of housing. Supports and services are changing the way housing is providing and will allow sufficient flexibility to support an individual's choice on where they live and how they engage in their communities.

Learn about the history of the Olmstead Act, details on the Minnesota Olmstead Plan and hear from a panel of experts. This free event is geared toward persons with disabilities, their families, community members and professionals.

Registration is recommended. Contact Human Services at 952-563-4944, TTY 952-563-4933 or [humanservices@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:humanservices@BloomingtonMN.gov).



## FARMERS MARKET OPEN THROUGH OCTOBER 15

The Farmers Market is a weekly gathering held in the east parking lot of Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, on Saturdays, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. The last outdoor Farmers Market will be held at Civic Plaza on Saturday, November 12 and December 10, 9 a.m. – noon. The December 10 market takes place during Artistry's Gifts in the Gallery show and sale December 7 – 21, which features handmade gifts from dozens of local artists.



### START SEEING SNOWPLOWS

Winter is just around the corner, 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.
- 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.



### SHARPEN YOUR SKATING SKILLS

Want to learn to skate circles around your friends? Enroll in Bloomington Ice Garden Skate School. There are classes for all skating levels available year-round. For more information or to enroll, visit [webtrac.BloomingtonMN.gov](http://webtrac.BloomingtonMN.gov), call BIG at 952-563-8841 or email [BloomingtonSkateSchool@yahoo.com](mailto:BloomingtonSkateSchool@yahoo.com).

### 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 Monday, October 31, 6 – 8 p.m., at Bloomington Ice Garden, 3600 West 98 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.

### 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 Paul Johnson at 612-866-4428 or Garry VandeGarde at 952-944-9409.

## BLOOMINGTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS 2016 – 2017 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.

### BOX OFFICE

Order tickets by phone at 952-563-8575 Online at [www.centerstageticketing.com/sites/bloomington](http://www.centerstageticketing.com/sites/bloomington) or in person at the box office. Office hours vary. Call 952-563-8575 for current hours.

**What Judy Means to Jazz:** Join singer Maud Hixson and pianist Rick Carlson as they celebrate Judy Garland's career in vaudeville, movies and concerts. Friday and Saturday, November 4 – 5, Sunday, November 6, 2 p.m., in the Black Box Theater. All tickets \$22.



**Medalist Concert Band: American Celebrations**— As Americans, we have a lot to celebrate, including our nation's beauty, our proud history and rich culture, and even our favorite past times and performers. Sunday, November 13, 4 p.m. Adults \$14, Seniors and Students \$12.



**Bloomington Symphony Orchestra: BSO and Beethoven**—The BSO performs an energetic concert including Overture to William Tell and Beethoven's Seventh Symphony. The show also features



Concertmaster Michael Sutton. Sunday, November 20, 3 p.m. Adults \$14, Seniors \$12, Students free with identification.

### Inez Greenberg Gallery

40th Annual Members' Juried Art Exhibition - A true potpourri of artwork in one location! Artistry's member artists get a chance to showcase their talents October 21 – November 25. The annual competition highlights many mediums, styles and techniques and will be juried this year by Circa Gallery Director Teresa Engeltjes. Thirteen awards will be given, including a \$500 Best of Show award. Opening reception and awards ceremony on Friday, October 21, 6 – 8 p.m. The 40th Annual Members' Juried Art Exhibition is sponsored by Larkin Hoffman.



### Atrium Gallery

Abstract Not Abstract – Artist Tom Westberg uses newspaper, which has built-in qualities of both negative and positive space as his primary substrate for his abstract expressionist paintings. This show will be open September 29 – November 10 with an opening reception on Thursday, September 29, 6 – 8 p.m. Westberg's paintings help him create an alliance between structure, tone, line and spatial illusion. "Even the most abstract of shapes has a rudimentary connection to the real world. Just as likely, real objects have a relation to the abstract," he said.





# GENERAL ELECTION

**CAST YOUR BALLOT ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8**

Exercise your right to vote in Bloomington's 2016 General Election. To watch candidate interviews, visit the City's website.

**WEBSITE KEYWORD: VOTING.**

## PRE-REGISTER BY OCTOBER 18

Are you an eligible voter but not registered? Register to vote at [mn.us/VoterRegistration/VoterRegistrationMain.aspx](http://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterRegistration/VoterRegistrationMain.aspx) the process even works on your phone. Do you have updates to your name or address - even an apartment number? You must re-register. Update your voter information by using the link provided. The deadline to pre-register is October 18. Help reduce long lines at the polling place on Election Day by pre-registering.

## ABSENTEE VOTING

Voting by absentee ballot is allowed for any eligible voter of the City. It's available for in-person voting only at Bloomington Civic Plaza on the following dates:

- Mon. – Fri., Sept. 23 – Nov. 7, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Sat., Nov. 6, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Tue. – Thurs., Nov. 1 – 3, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Absentee voting is also available by mail. Contact Hennepin County Elections for more information at 612-348-5151 or complete an online application at [www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-early-by-mail/](http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/vote-early-by-mail/).

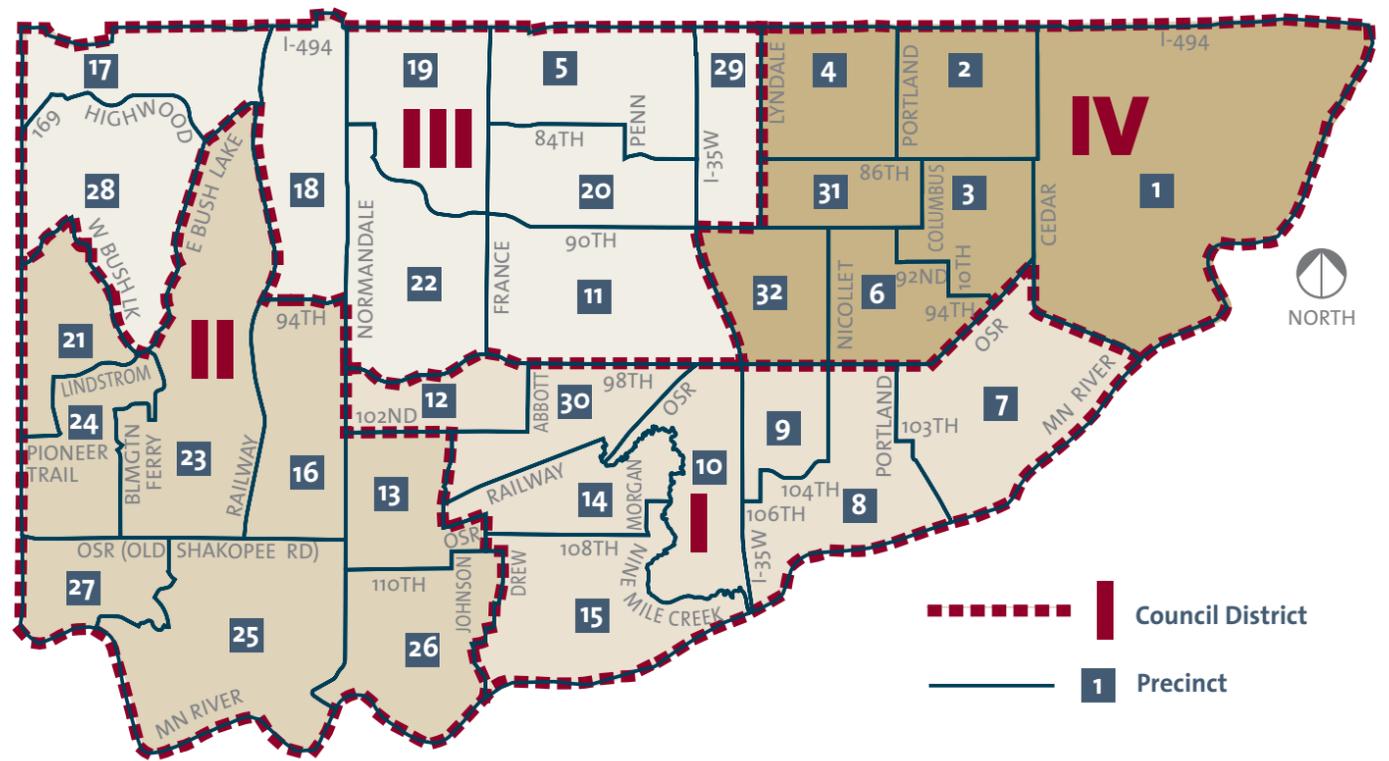
Bloomington Civic Plaza is a polling place on Election Day and 46 days preceding Election Day for absentee voting. Campaigning is NOT allowed anywhere on the property or parking lots. Illegal campaigning includes but is not limited to the display and distribution of campaign materials, attire, buttons, signs, literature, etc. Please keep polling places politically neutral.

## POLL BOOKS - VOTER SIGNATURE CERTIFICATES

On Election Day, voters will affirm an oath by signing a voter signature certificate printed from the Poll Books. This small certificate is an individual roster and is retained by the Poll Book Judges. Upon signing and returning it to the judge, the voter receives an initialed voter receipt to obtain a ballot. The example below does not contain real voter information.

# 2016 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 City of Bloomington (Bloomington Civic Plaza) 1800 West Old Shakopee Road	East entrance East lot
<b>NEW POLLING PLACE</b>	
12 Crosspoint Church 9801 France Avenue South	Main entrance (E) East lot
13 Bloomington Covenant Church 10150 Xerxes Avenue South	Main entrance (E) East and North lots
<b>NEW POLLING PLACE</b>	
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
<b>NEW POLLING PLACE</b>	
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
<b>NEW POLLING PLACE</b>	
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](http://BLM.MN/VOTING).**