

BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



OCTOBER 2017

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SOUTH LOOP IS ON TRACK

Activity in South Loop is speeding up. Plenty of new art, development and events have come to the district in the last year. The X Games raced into the area drawing a full crowd with its first Minnesota event, flat track racing, last summer, pictured above. Creative Placemaking projects *ARTBOX* and *Landform* joined existing sculptures such as *Convergence* in the district. New hotels and restaurants have also set up shop in South Loop. Hazelwood Food + Drink opened across from Mall of America in August. Visitors will also have new lodging options with the Hilton Tru and Home2 Suites hotels that will soon be under construction.



SATISFACTION WITH CITY SERVICES RISES IN 2017

Whether it's safe roads, neighborhoods or tap water, residents don't have to look far to find signs of high-quality City services in Bloomington. Satisfaction with those services and the City overall is growing, according to a new poll conducted by an independent research firm.

This was the sixth year in a row that the National Citizen Survey™ was conducted in Bloomington. The 960 residents who responded delivered some of the highest ratings the City has ever seen. Out of the 129 areas surveyed, 55 received new record-high ratings or tied previous records and 39 areas improved from 2016.

"I think we can feel very good about these results," Community Services Director Diann Kirby said. "But that doesn't mean we stop and rest on our laurels. This gives us something more to work on and continue to provide high-quality services."

The results show that Bloomington continues to have strong livability scores. Nine out of ten respondents would recommend the city to others and plan on remaining here for the next five years. Ninety-five percent of respondents rated Bloomington as a place to live as excellent or good, up from 90 percent in 2016. Resident satisfaction with overall quality of life in Bloomington also improved from 85 percent in 2016 to 92 percent in 2017.

The strength of the Bloomington's economy, police and safety are critical issues respondents identified as priorities moving forward. Nine out of ten respondents reported feeling safe in Bloomington's neighborhoods and shopping areas. Ratings for the City's overall direction, value of services for taxes paid and customer service also grew between 2016 and 2017.

AT A GLANCE

- 92 percent of respondents are satisfied with the overall quality of life in Bloomington.
- 95 percent of respondents rated Bloomington as excellent or good as a place to live.
- 90 percent of respondents would recommend Bloomington to others.
- 90 percent of respondents plan to remain in the city for the next five years.
- 90 percent of respondents feel safe in Bloomington neighborhoods and shopping areas.
- 960 residents completed the National Citizen Survey™ between May 5 and June 7, 2017.

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MAYOR’S MEMO

COMMUNITY IMAGE

By Mayor Gene Winstead

I love living in Bloomington and, according to the most recent National Citizen Survey™ results discussed on the cover, I’m not alone. Ninety-five percent of respondents rated the city favorably as a place to live, and nine out of ten said they’d recommend it to others. It’s difficult to choose just one reason why that is—the beautiful neighborhoods, vibrant business community, convenient location, innovative school district and increasing amount of public art all play a part for me.

With that being said, last year’s National Citizen Survey results showed an area of concern surrounding Bloomington’s overall image and reputation. Satisfaction in the city’s image went down seven percent from 2015 to 76 percent in 2016. While the most recent survey results have shown improvement in that area (81 percent of respondents rated Bloomington’s image favorably), working to improve community image has been an area of focus for City staff.

As a reflection of that focus, community image is featured in the City Council’s One Bloomington plan as one of the six strategic priorities. The One Bloomington media campaign is an element of the City’s work on community image. We’ve highlighted stories of community partnerships and collaboration in our print and video productions and the 2017 State of the City address to show the strength and character of our community.

The City also hosted a One Bloomington summit in 2016 with nearly 70 community leaders in attendance to brainstorm ideas to improve the community’s image. Some of the categories that rose to the top of the list were: igniting partnerships, creating a bold vision, telling stories that sell Bloomington, embracing diversity and strengthening civic engagement.

After the summit, numerous attendees and stakeholders volunteered to serve on One Bloomington action groups to discuss community image, community amenities and inclusion and equity. The action groups held a kickoff meeting in August where they took part in an action planning workshop. The groups already have plans to continue meeting and lead grassroots efforts to improve the city’s image, amenities and inclusion and equity.

Upcoming projects aimed at improving the city’s image include a citywide creative placemaking plan, working with Bloomington Public Schools to market the community and implementing custom community engagement strategies for City-owned amenities and parks.

NEW CONNECTIONS AT OLD CEDAR AVENUE BRIDGE

Pedestrians, bikers and nature lovers alike have made good use of the Old Cedar Avenue bridge since it opened in 2016 following its restoration. The bridge closed again in early September to accommodate reconstruction that will make the trails near the bridge even easier to use and enjoy. Crews will reconstruct more than a half-mile of Old Cedar Avenue from Old Shakopee Road to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge parking lot in Bloomington, and the parking lot itself, to improve access to trails. The parking lot construction will limit pedestrians’ ability to hike through from Refuge headquarters to Lyndale Avenue. Contractors will also build a new off-road trail from Old Shakopee Road to the bridge and across to the Minnesota River as well as trailhead signs and water filling stations.



GO GREEN, GO PAPERLESS

Sign up for paperless billing and receive your utility bill your way. Register online at blm.mn/utilitybillpay using your City of Bloomington utility account number and sign up to receive email or text message notifications. It’s easy and convenient. The number of paperless billing users has more than tripled since June. You can sign up for autopay with either a checking account or a credit card. One-time payment options are also offered. No computer? No problem! Call our new, automated phone line at 844-368-4567, available in English and Spanish, where you can make payments or check your account balance at anytime.

STRATEGY REVIEW

Over the summer, the Forward 2040 Advisory Committee worked with City staff to draft policies and strategies on the main topics covered in the comprehensive plan: land use, transportation, community facilities and parks, utilities and housing. The draft policies and strategies will be presented for public input at two community engagement meetings: October 25, at Kennedy High School, 9701 Nicollet Avenue, and November 8, at VEAP, 9600 Aldrich Avenue South, both from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. More information on those meetings will be available at blm.mn/2040 and emailed to those who signed up to receive updates. Residents will also have opportunities to provide input on social media. For more information or to sign up to receive project updates by email, visit blm.mn/2040.

BRIEFING

Volume 25, 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 file to Communications Administrator Janine Hill, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027; PH 952-563-8819; TTY: 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715; E-mail: jhill@BloomingtonMN.gov
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The City of Bloomington complies with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs, and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations. For more information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; 952-563-8733 (Voice); 952-563-8740 (TTY).

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



Photo courtesy St. Paul Riverfront Corporation.

GETTING CREATIVE TO ENGAGE RESIDENTS

The City and Artistry are working with Springboard for the Arts to host artist-facilitated community engagement activities ranging from stop-motion animation and table tennis to using a 100-year-old letterpress. The aim of these activities is to gather feedback about potential creative placemaking efforts and raise awareness of what South Loop has to offer. The next event will also include a design input session for the Wright’s Lake Park mural, along State Highway 77 and Old Cedar Avenue facing the park. It is scheduled Saturday, October 14, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., during the Fire Station open house at Station 3, 2050 East 86th Street. The following event will be Saturday, October 28, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., at the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, 3815 American Boulevard East.

UNITED TO BUILD A STRONG COMMUNITY

One Bloomington, the City Council’s strategic plan, is written with the goal of strengthening our community including all residents working together to accomplish the same goals. The plan’s six strategic priorities are: community amenities, community image, environmental sustainability, equity and inclusion, focused renewal and high-quality service delivery. For more information, visit onebloomington.com.

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. Eligible neighborhoods may request traffic management devices that may decrease traffic on their streets, reduce traffic speed and improve safety. An open house will be held Monday, October 16, 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 pjarvis@BloomingtonMN.gov.

FORGING PATHWAYS

The Bloomington Police Department is exploring new avenues to build a more diverse staff.

“Our communities are becoming more diverse, but the pool of candidates we had to draw from was not as diverse. We had to try something new,” Chief Jeff Potts said.

BPD is tackling this challenge with a unique new program called Pathways to Policing that removes barriers to nontraditional candidates who are interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement. Five other suburban agencies are also implementing this program. Pathways to Policing offers law enforcement training for candidates who have at least an associates degree, allowing them to complete training in four months rather than two years. Candidates are also paid wages and benefits to attend the training program. The first session started in June and continues through October.

“Bloomington hired three new police trainees this way—Abigail Smith, Rajanee Michael and Stephen Nuah,” Chief Potts said. “Upon successful completion of the training program and passing the state licensing exam, they’ll be sworn in as Bloomington officers and begin orientation and field training.”



Abigail Smith



Rajanee Michael



Stephen Nuah

BEST IN GLASS

The Minnesota Section of the American Water Works Association recently named Bloomington tap water Best in Glass for the second time in the last three years. At the association’s fall conference, a panel of experts determined the winner out of the top three selections from a blind taste test and the People’s Choice Award winner from the Minnesota State Fair. Bloomington has earned the right to enter its water sample into the national AWWA competition in the spring and will be home to the traveling Best in Glass trophy for one year. Utility Operators Chad Bauer and Justin Johnson also earned top honors in the Hydrant Hysteria competition by being the fastest to assemble a 42-part hydrant. They completed the task in one minute and 38 seconds with no errors. Training for these types of events improves the efficiency and speed of work being done in the field.



SAVE ENERGY THIS WINTER

The City of Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority partners with the Center for Energy and Environment to encourage energy efficiency among residents. The HRA pays half the cost for residents to complete a Home Energy Squad visit, reducing the cost to residents to \$50.

The Home Energy Squad does everything from installing weatherstrip and high-efficiency shower heads to measuring air leaks in your home.

Sharon, a Bloomington resident and new homeowner, recommends the Home Energy Squad to friends and neighbors saying that she “learned a lot about her home’s energy use and received excellent tips. The visit was a great value.”

For more information or to schedule your visit, call 651-328-6220. Home Energy Squad is provided by CenterPoint Energy and Xcel Energy and delivered by local nonprofit Center for Energy and Environment.



A NEW ROAD TO HOME OWNERSHIP

Did you know thousands of Bloomington renters could be spending more on rent than they would on a monthly mortgage payment? To raise awareness of local resources and help renters become homeowners, the Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority is partnering with Minnesota Housing, a state agency that provides support and works with local lenders.

Minnesota Housing offers affordable homebuyer programs with down payment and closing cost loans up to \$12,000, fixed interest rates and low or no mortgage insurance options. To find a participating lender near you or to learn about eligibility requirements, visit the website rebrand.ly/Bloomington.

As an added incentive, the HRA is offering coupons for free homebuyer education—a \$75 value—for the first 40 people to contact them at the website listed above.



KEEP LEAVES OUT OF 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. They contain phosphorus and other nutrients that can cause excess algae growth, which negatively impacts plants and wildlife. Leaves can also 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 hauler take them with your yard waste or using them as mulch.



Photo courtesy Scott Andre.

ADOPT A STORM DRAIN

Are you looking for an easy way to protect your neighborhood’s natural water? The City is partnering with the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District and the Center for Global and Environmental Education at Hamline University to launch a new adopt-a-storm drain program in Bloomington.

Residents who adopt a storm drain will be asked to report debris removal once in the fall and spring online or by returning a postcard. In exchange for participation, those who sign up will receive a yard sign to show they are protecting our waters. Visit adopt-a-drain.org/ to sign up or for more information.

The Normandale Lake watershed area is the pilot area for the program. Visit blm.mn/nlwq for more information on Normandale Lake.



Photo courtesy Nine Mile Creek Watershed District.

EARTH ACTION HEROES: WATER QUALITY COLLABORATION

What do you get when the City, Nine Mile Creek Watershed District and local artists collaborate? A cool new way to learn about protecting water quality.

Nine Mile Creek Watershed District and the City were awarded a Hennepin County Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Grant to design and fabricate a pop-up education cart that travels to Bloomington parks, beaches and farmers markets. The goal of the project is to teach visitors how to protect lakes and creeks by keeping invasive species out through hands-on activities, games and more.

The cart, *pictured above*, was designed by local artists Patrick McKennan and Troy Gallas of ThreeSeven and Amanda Lovelee.

Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Education and Outreach Specialist Gael Zembal says the response to the education cart has been overwhelmingly positive so far. Staff have connected with about 200 people at pop-up cart events this year.

“People love the look of the cart and really enjoy the various crafts and activities related to aquatic invasive species that we’ve had,” Zembal said. “It’s a fun and low-stress way to talk about a topic that can be a bit depressing sometimes.”

The pop-up cart is still making its rounds in the city. See it firsthand at the Hyland Hills chairlift rides on Friday and Saturday, October 6 and 7, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., 8800 Chalet Road.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION UPDATE

The City is collaborating with Xcel Energy to promote efficient electricity use in our community through the Partners in Energy program. Action team members include representatives from Donaldson, HealthPartners, Mall of America, Normandale Community College, Bloomington Public Schools, OATI, Quality Bike Products and the 494 Corridor Initiative, along with residents and members of the Sustainability Commission.

This two-year initiative will develop a community action plan for reduced electricity consumption and will provide tools and resources to guide implementation of the strategies to achieve those goals. For more information about the Sustainability Commission’s 2017 work plan and related projects, visit blm.mn/sustainability.

The City has also joined GreenStep Cities, coordinated by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. GreenStep Cities is a free program that encourages communities to make positive changes that promote cost savings and energy use reduction.

INTERESTED IN SIGNING UP FOR YARD WASTE SERVICES?

Partial, first-season yard waste subscription service is available through November 30; subscribers will be billed at a reduced rate of \$49.75 for their partial-year 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 \$79.50 unless yard waste is canceled by the household.

Residents may also pay \$4 per bag for on-call yard waste removal services. For on-call service, visit the Utility Billing office at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, to purchase stickers. Residents must adhere one sticker to each on-call bag. To schedule an on-call collection, contact our billing office at least 48 hours prior to your collection day.

Weather permitting, full-season yard waste collection runs from April 15 through November 30. If there is significant snowfall before the end of November, yard waste collection will end at that time. The collection is weekly and includes all garden waste, grass clippings, leaves, weeds, soft garden materials, shrub and tree waste, pruning and wood chips. Remember, twigs and branches must be approximately three feet or less in length and three inches or less in diameter. Place them in bags, containers or on the ground tied in bundles. Bags and bundles should not be heavier than 40 to 50 pounds.

If you have questions, contact Utility Billing at utilitybilling@BloomingtonMN.gov or 952-563-8726.

RECYCLE WEEK

HOLIDAY*

* No pickup; pickup one day later.

October 2017						
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31						



HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED VETERANS’ PHOTO WALL

The City’s collection of veterans’ photos includes more than 300 men and women from all branches of service and continues to grow each year. To submit a photo for the 2017 display, visit Human Services at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South, or Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. Your photo will be scanned and returned to you immediately. You may also email your photo to humanservices@BloomingtonMN.gov. Be sure to include the name, branch and years of service. The exhibit will be on display November 3 – 30 in the Civic Plaza lobby and November 9 – 30 at Creekside.

VETERANS’ APPRECIATION DINNER

Human Services and Northwestern Health Sciences University will host a veterans’ appreciation dinner on Thursday, November 9, 5 – 6 p.m., at 2501 West 84th Street. Dinner is complimentary for all veterans and one guest. Reservations are required by Monday, November 6. To make a reservation, call 952-563-4944 or email reservations@BloomingtonMN.gov. A resource fair will take place from 4 – 5 p.m. and 6 – 6:30 p.m. Learn about veterans benefits, Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, Agent Orange education and more. Complimentary valet parking will be available sponsored by the American Legion Post 550.

COMMUNITY EVENT: VETERANS’ WAR STORIES

Spend an evening with WCCO reporter and Gulf War veteran Reg Chapman as he moderates a panel of local veterans who served in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. Learn more about the similarities and differences in their experiences and discover ways to support veterans. The free community event will take place Thursday, November 9, 6:30 – 8 p.m., at Northwestern Health Science University, 2501 West 84th Street. Event is sponsored by the City of Bloomington Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemorative Partnership. For more information or to register call 952-563-4944 or email reservations@BloomingtonMN.gov.

STICK IT TO THE FLU, GET A SHOT

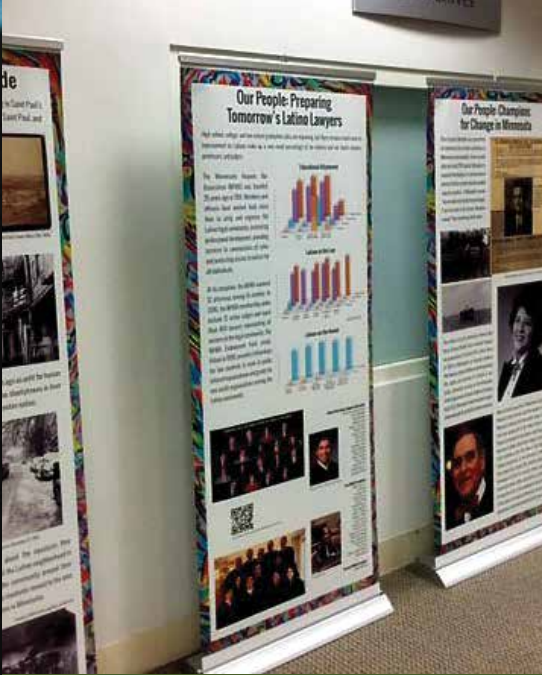
Human Services and Public Health are offering flu shots this year at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South. These clinics are open to all. Bring an insurance card or, for free shots, let the nurse know you do not have insurance. Children under 18 must have a parent or guardian present. For more locations and times, visit blm.mn/flushots.

CONNECT WITH HUMAN SERVICES

Looking for information on social services including food resources, financial assistance, housing assistance or other programs? Human Services coordinators are available to connect Bloomington residents to the resources, services, support or information they are seeking. Connect with Human Services Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., at 952-563-INFO (4636) or humanservices@BloomingtonMN.gov.

RELIEF FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS

Are you feeling tired, stressed or overwhelmed with your caregiving responsibilities? Senior Outreach and Caregiver Services, a Senior Community Services program, can help in a variety of ways. Staff can help you find resources for you or your loved one, facilitate family meetings, provide caregiver coaching or a support group and more. The program also offers CareNexion.org, a free, web-based tool that helps caregivers coordinate care, get help from others and keep people informed. If you’re a caregiver who needs an extra hand, call 612-770-7005 to speak with one of our licensed social workers. Support for Bloomington residents is funded in part through a grant made possible by Human Services.



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION LATINO LEGAL EXPERIENCE

The Human Rights Commission is sponsoring the Latino Legal Experience exhibit October 3 – 22, at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. This traveling exhibition focuses on the accomplishments and bright future of the Latino community. The banners featured in the exhibition aim to educate the public about the legal struggles of the Latino community. The exhibit was organized by the Minnesota Hispanic Bar Association, the Minnesota Chapter of the Federal Bar Association and the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota.

IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Contact Bloomington Human Services at 952-563-4944 or humanservices@BloomingtonMN.gov for information or to register for the following programs held at Creekside unless otherwise noted.

OCT 18

Fare For All, a low-cost food buying program.

OCT 21

Medicare workshop at the Civic Plaza Rehearsal Hall, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

OCT 31

Headlining *Sirens of the '60s*, 1 – 2:45 p.m.

NOV 3

Veterans benefits workshop, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

NOV 4

Medicare workshop at Oxboro Library, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

NOV 8

Fare for All, Thanksgiving holiday packs available.

NOV 9

Veterans appreciation dinner, 4 – 7:30 p.m., at Northwestern Health Science University.

NOV 20

Thanksgiving lunch, 11:30 a.m., Zorongo Flamenco Dancers 12 p.m.

NOV 23

Share in the Feast at Atonement Lutheran Church and Bloomington Covenant Church.



GET TO KNOW 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 fire station open houses will take place Saturday, October 14, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Station events include:

- All stations – Cookies, juice, coloring contest and a plow truck
- Station 1 – Safety House and car seat clinic (by appointment only)
- Station 2 – Car extrication demonstration
- Station 3 – Artist-led activities
- Station 4 – Car extrication demonstration
- Station 5 – Fire extinguisher training
- Station 6 – Car extrication demonstration

HOW TO HAVE SAFE RECREATIONAL FIRES

A recreational fire is an outdoor fire used for cooking, warming or ceremonial purposes. When burning a recreational fire in your yard, use common sense, remember to be considerate of your neighbors and follow the City ordinance.

- Recreational fires may only be conducted between 7 a.m. and midnight and 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 by ordinance.
 - The fire stack must not exceed three-feet wide by two-feet high.
- For more information, contact Fire Marshal Laura McCarthy at 952-563-8967.



BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY

What's more timeless than enjoying a high school football game on a crisp fall evening? In 1978, this Lincoln High School marching band brought the school spirit to the field during halftime. This dive into Bloomington Public Schools' yearbook archive is part of a series marking the district's centennial celebration. This year, Bloomington Public Schools celebrates its founding in 1917 and the 100 years of academic excellence that followed.

KEEPING STREETS SAFE

Assistant City Attorney Jennifer Cross hit a home run in keeping city streets safe in 2016. She was recognized as a member of the 2017 DWI Enforcer All-Star Team for taking drunk drivers off the road by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety at a Twins game in July.

Cross was recognized for her involvement in rewriting DWI laws. Recent court decisions required that these laws be changed to maintain public safety and protect residents. Cross worked as part of a team to draft and advocate for these changes. The Minnesota Legislature adopted a number of these proposals and passed new DWI legislation that took effect on July 1. She is one of two prosecutors and 41 law enforcement officers from around the state who were recognized.

"I'm honored to be part of the all-stars and will continue working to safeguard our community," Cross said.



BUILDING NEIGHBORHOOD TIES

Summer was full of events that brought police and the community together. In August, police hosted Safe Summer Nights where they grilled burgers and got to know people. More than 1,300 attendees took an inside look at police and fire equipment, met and played with K9 officers, played bags and gaga ball and swam at the Bloomington Family Aquatic Center. Thousands of residents also got together with Police in their neighborhoods to celebrate Bloomington's 34th annual National Night Out on August 2 with more than 350 parties.



MEET A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER

Robby Smith has been a volunteer firefighter for three years. He serves out of Station 3.

Q: What do you like about being a volunteer firefighter?

A: I love the people I work with at the Fire Department and the variety of skills and knowledge we need to learn and apply on scene. The calls we get can be anything from medicals, to an elevator rescue, a car fire, or a fully involved apartment fire, so you have to be prepared for anything. It's a fun job that keeps you on your toes.

Q: What made you want to become a firefighter?

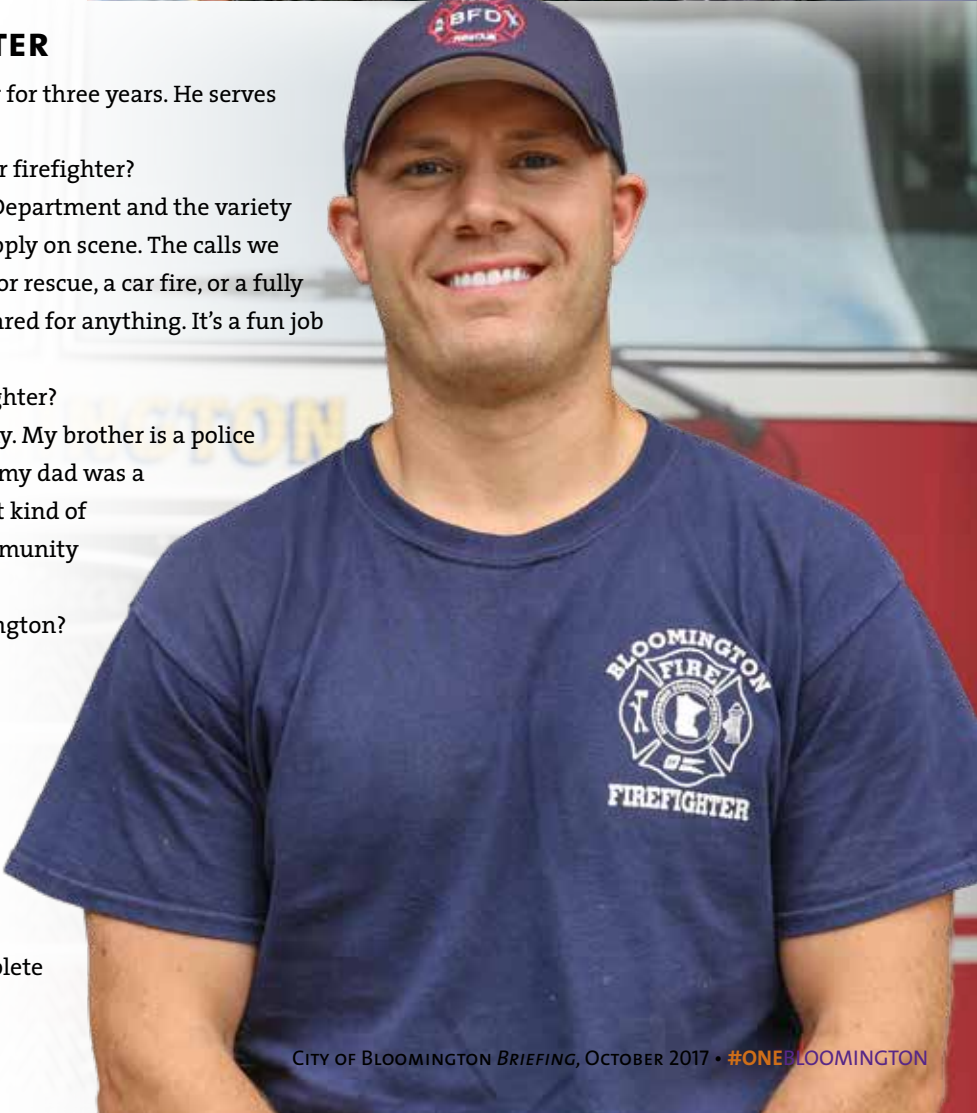
A: Careers in public service run in my family. My brother is a police officer and Emergency Medical Technician and my dad was a firefighter for 34 years. Growing up around that kind of service, I knew I wanted to give back to the community where I live.

Q: What do you like about living in Bloomington?

A: I think it's a great community that has everything you could want. There's always something fun or interesting to do.

Q: What's something you'd like people to know about volunteering as a firefighter?

A: If the fire service interests you, look into joining. You're never too old to start. I started when I was 29 and you can sign up as long as you're physically able. You need to complete 20 years of service to receive your pension.





GOLF PRO RETIRES

After nearly 30 years of service at the City and 50 years in the golf industry, Golf Course Manager Rick Sitek called it a career. He retired on August 31. Here’s some insight in to what his time on the greens meant.

Q: How’d you get into golf?

A: Pretty much by accident. I wanted to be a baseball player. Then I graduated high school and enlisted in the military. They had a nine-hole sand green golf course on base in the Philippines and not much else to do. That’s where I learned to play.

Q: What kept you at Dwan for 28 years?

A: Serving in the public sector was a good fit for me. People are more relaxed and you see a lot of activity at a public course. In our heyday, we had about 400 rounds played here a day compared to about 100 a day at a private course.

Q: What will you miss most?

A: Just being at Dwan. It’s a fun, enjoyable place to be with a great atmosphere. I’d put the condition of Dwan up against any other public course in the state. And I truly love the game. I still think it’s the hardest game to master.

BIG THINGS ARE HAPPENING AT BIG

The Midwestern Sectional Figure Skating Championships will be held at Bloomington Ice Garden November 14 – 18. Bloomington’s Figure Skating Club is hosting the event. Tickets will be available at the door. The top-placing skaters at each level will advance to the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in January. Watching accomplished skaters at the championships may inspire you to lace up your skates and sharpen your skills. BIG Skate School has classes for all skating levels and ages year round. For more information or to enroll, visit blm.mn/skateschool or call 952-563-8843. Are you interested in open hockey or open skating? BIG is the place to go! BIG hosts men’s open hockey Mondays and Fridays, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., for \$6. Admission for goalies is free. Open skating starts in September on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 6:45 – 7:45 p.m., and Sundays, 2 – 3:30 p.m. Adults are \$4 and children 17 and under are \$3. Call 952-563-8841 or visit blm.mn/ice to view the current schedule. Schedules are subject to change.

FARMERS MARKET OPEN THROUGH OCTOBER 21

The Farmers Market is a weekly community event 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, October 21. Indoor markets will take place on November 11 and December 9, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. The December 9 market takes place during Artistry’s Gifts in the Gallery show and sale, which features handmade gifts from dozens of local artists and runs December 6 – 20.

TRICK OR TREAT!

Children will enjoy a Trick or Treat Alley, games, prizes, free open skating and skate rental 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 Tuesday, October 31, 6 – 8 p.m., at Bloomington Ice Garden, 3600 West 98th Street. Donations of nonperishable food items to the VEAP food shelf are encouraged. For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877. The Citywide Halloween Party is sponsored by the City and the Optimist Club of Bloomington.

BORN AGAIN JOCKS

Want to enjoy playing sports again? Join the Born Again Jocks organization for men 55 and older. There are no annual dues, but there are possible sports participation costs. To learn more, visit the Born Again Jocks website at bornagainjocks.com.

BLOOMINGTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS ACTIVITIES

Activities are held in the Schneider or Black Box theaters, located in the Bloomington Center for the Arts at 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

BOX OFFICE

To order tickets, call 952-563-8575, visit blm.mn/bcatix or go to the box office, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. Office hours vary. Call 952-563-8575 for current hours.

The Chameleon Theatre Circle:
Independence In a challenging domestic drama, three sisters converge on Independence, Iowa, home of their ailing mother, to resolve issues that tore their family apart. October 27 – November 12, in the Black Box Theater. Adults \$25, seniors and students \$22. Tickets at chameleontheatre.org/tickets.

Maud Hixson and the Wolverines Big Band This concert will premiere a program of new vocal arrangements and classic repertoire from the band’s 44-year history. Friday, November 10, 7:30 p.m. Adults \$25, seniors \$20 and students \$10.

Medalist Concert Band Go West! Journey into the American West and explore its culture and history through music. Sunday, November 12, 4 p.m. Adults \$17, seniors and students \$15.

Bloomington Symphony Orchestra: Beethoven’s Fifth... Bloomington style! The BSO will pair Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony with Rachmaninoff’s Piano



Concerto No. 3, Darin Tysdal, soloist. Sunday, November 19, 3 p.m. Adults \$15, seniors \$12, students free.

41ST ANNUAL MEMBERS’ JURIED ART EXHIBITION

October 6 – November 10.
Sponsored by Wet Paint and Larkin Hoffman.
Opening reception and awards ceremony: Friday, October 6, 6 – 8 p.m.

Each year this exciting and popular exhibition brings together Artistry’s many talented members. It is always a varied and eclectic collection showcasing many different mediums, styles and techniques. This year’s juror, Carolyn Payne, SooVAC Executive Director, will select the exhibited artwork as well as 11 award winners including a \$500 Best of Show award.



ARTISTRY WORKSHOPS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Learn more and see all offerings at artistrymn.org, pick up a class catalog at the Bloomington box office, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, or call 952-563-8575.

- **Clay jack-o-lanterns:** Saturday, October 7, families ages 5–adult.
- **Mudpuppies Clay Exploration:** Saturday, October 14, ages 4–7.
- **Painting Expressive Faces:** Saturday, October 28, ages 5–8.
- **Hand-painted Clay Decorations:** Saturday, November 18, ages 8–12.
- **Fused Glass Make a Plate:** Saturday, October 14, ages 12–18.
- **Fused Glass Holiday Ornaments:** Saturday, November 4, ages 12–18.
- **Fused Glass Holiday Ornaments:** Monday, October 9, ages 16 and up.
- **Intro to Sun Printing:** Saturday, October 14, ages 16 and up.
- **Watercolor and Ink** Fridays, November 3 and 10, ages 16 and up.
- **Make Fabric-Covered Earrings:** Saturday, November 4, ages 16 and up.



GENERAL ELECTION

CAST YOUR BALLOT ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Exercise your right to vote in Bloomington's 2017 General Election. To watch candidate interviews, visit the City's website at blm.mn/vote.

PREREGISTER BY OCTOBER 17

Help reduce long lines at your polling place by registering before Election Day at blm.mn/prereg.

Do you have updates to your name or address—even a new apartment number? You must register again to update your voter information using the link above. The deadline to preregister is October 17. You can also register at your polling place on Election Day.

ABSENTEE VOTING

Voting by absentee ballot is allowed for any eligible voter in the city. In-person voting is conducted at Bloomington Civic Plaza on the following dates:

- Mon. – Fri., Sept. 22 – Nov. 6, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
 - Extended hours: Sat., Nov. 4, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
 - Mon., Nov. 6, 4:30 – 5 p.m.
- Absentee voting is also

available by mail through Hennepin County Elections at 612-348-5151 or with an online application at blm.mn/hennncovote. A postage-paid envelope is provided to return your voted, absentee ballot for counting.

ILLEGAL CAMPAIGNING

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

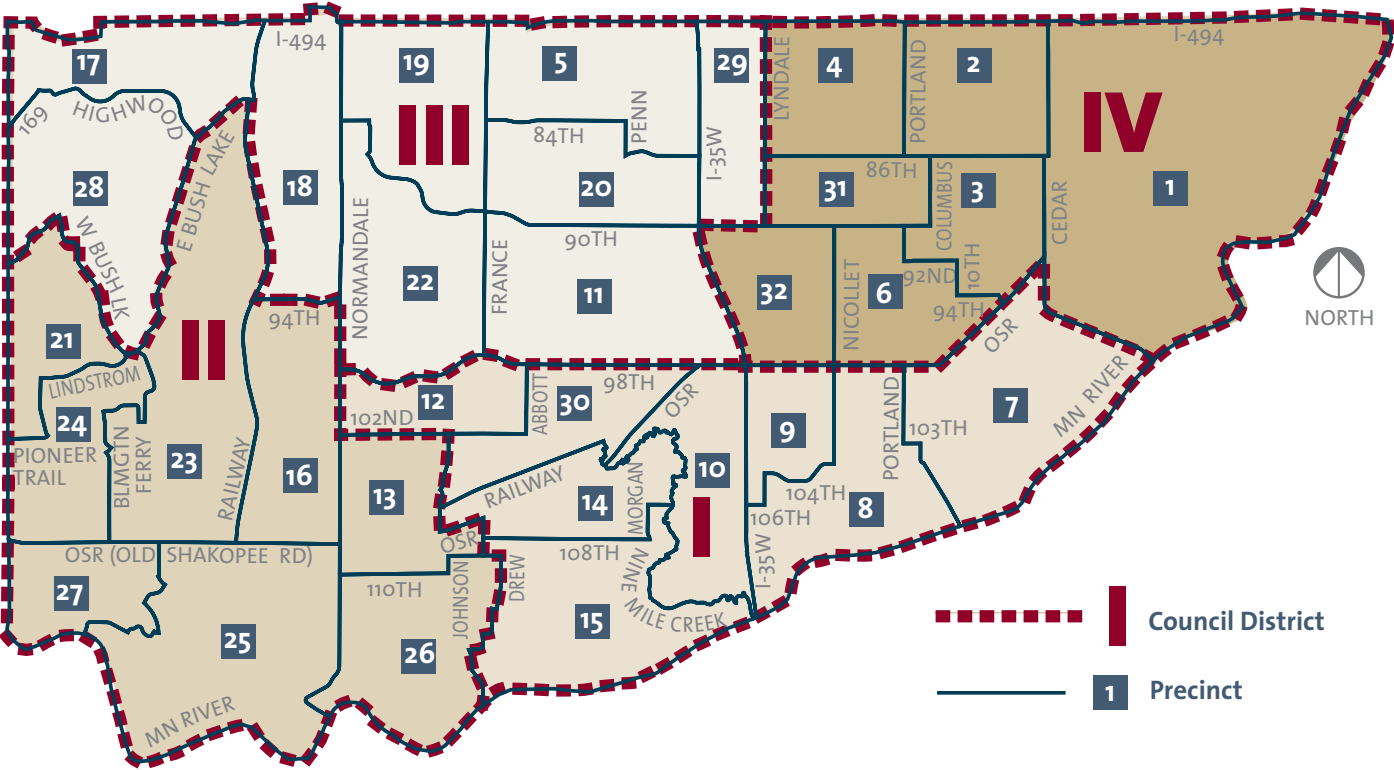
POLL BOOKS: VOTER SIGNATURE CERTIFICATES

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.

2017 BLOOMINGTON POLLING PLACES

POLLS ARE OPEN FROM 7 A.M. TO 8 P.M. ON ELECTION DAY. ALL POLLING PLACES ARE ACCESSIBLE.



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	West entrance Door 4 South lot Accessible entrance: Door 1, East 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 Grace Covenant Church 10201 Nicollet Avenue South	Southeast entrance East lot
9 Nativity of Mary Catholic Church 9900 Lyndale Avenue 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
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
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
16 Normandale Hylands United Methodist Church 9920 Normandale Boulevard South	Northeast entrance (Left doors) North lot
17 Hyland Hills Ski Chalet 8800 Chalet Road NEW POLLING PLACE	Main entrance
18 The Church of St. Edward's 9401 Nesbitt Avenue South	SW entrance Upper level, SW lot
19 St. Stephen Lutheran Church 8400 France Avenue South	Main entrance (W) West lot

Precinct/Polling location	Entrance/Parking
20 St. Mark's United Church of Christ 8630 Xerxes Avenue South	South Entrance Southwest lot
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 Accessible entrance: 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

Several polling places will remain open for voting even though construction projects continue for parking lots, nearby roads, or with building expansions/improvements. Voters may need to drive a detoured route, locate a new building entrance, or park in a different area than usual until the construction is completed. Changes to polling places may occur from time to time as sites become unusable or unavailable for voting.

In 2017, Precinct 17 polling place, previously Peace Lutheran Church, changed to the Hyland Hills Ski Chalet, at 8800 Chalet Road.



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