

B L O O M I N G T O N BRIEFING



OCTOBER 2018

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CITYWIDE HALLOWEEN PARTY FOR KIDS

Celebrate Halloween at the annual citywide party. Enjoy Trick-Or-Treat Alley, carnival games, prizes, free ice-skate rentals and free open skating! Be sure to enter the coloring contest using the art on page 6. See your colored art displayed at the party and possibly win prizes.

Preschoolers through fourth graders (accompanied by an

adult) are welcome to attend the event Wednesday, October 31, 6 – 8 p.m., at the Bloomington Ice Garden, 3600 West 98th Street. Halloween costumes are optional.

This free event is sponsored by the Bloomington Optimist Club and Bloomington Parks and Recreation. For information, call 952-563-8877 or visit blm.mn/Halloween.



SURVEYS FIND BLOOMINGTON'S QUALITY OF LIFE REMAINS HIGH FIRST-RATE CITY SERVICES KEY TO GREAT LIVABILITY

A majority of residents and businesses remain pleased with the quality of life in Bloomington, according to recent surveys. Ninety-three percent of residents who responded to the National Citizen Survey™ said Bloomington is an excellent or good place to live. Eight in 10 business owners rated Bloomington as an excellent or good place to do business. Ninety-four percent of residents and 86 percent of businesses would recommend Bloomington to others.

High marks for City services

A majority of residents and businesses gave positive ratings to every aspect of the City's governance. Four in five respondents gave high marks to the overall quality of City services and to the customer service provided by City employees.

Since the City's first National Citizen Survey™ in 2012, almost all residents have rated their overall quality of life as excellent or good. Bloomington, both as a place to live and raise children, has a long history of favorable ratings from residents.

Other findings

The top-rated municipal services in both the resident and business surveys were fire, police, fire prevention, drinking water, parks and sewer services.

With a 90 percent approval rating, the City's drinking water ranked first among its peer cities for the fifth year in a row and 10th among all jurisdictions polled nationwide.

Nine in 10 residents feel safe in their neighborhoods and in shopping areas.

While resident scores for value of services for taxes paid dropped by 10 percent to 63 percent from 2017, Bloomington ranks in the top 25 percent of benchmark communities nationwide in that category.

The lack of a qualified workforce limits business operations in Bloomington, with 44 percent of owners and managers noting the shortage of quality applicants impedes their operations to a large or moderate extent.

This was the seventh year in a row for the National Citizen Survey™ and the third year for the National Business Survey™ in Bloomington. The polls were performed by the National Research Center of Boulder, Colorado.

The data will be used to identify trends and improvements in municipal services and to monitor how residents and businesses opinions of City services change over time.

More information

For more information and complete survey results, visit the City's website at blm.mn/2018-surveys.

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MAYOR’S MEMO

VOLUNTEERING IN THE CITY

By Mayor Gene Winstead

One volunteer can make a big difference even in a city of 88,885 people. Giving back, paying forward—either way, volunteering is an important form of community service. In 2017, more than 1,200 volunteers donated an average of 42 hours each. Their combined volunteer work is valued at approximately \$1.4 million.

We are also home to some outstanding nonprofit organizations that rely on a tremendous network of volunteers to help fulfill their missions and provide their services. Corporate volunteerism thrives in companies that support the community by providing opportunities for their employees to give back in the city where they work. The City of Bloomington has finite resources, so we rely on the partnerships we have with these organizations. Volunteers help with special events, environmental projects,

serving lunch to seniors, theatre ushering and so much more. But getting people to give their time in a 24/7 world is challenging. Bloomington’s latest citizen survey results showed that just 34 percent of survey respondents said “yes” when asked if they had volunteered in the last 12 months. Strengthening civic engagement builds stronger community ties and a stronger Bloomington. Volunteering is a great way to get more active locally, acquire new skills, meet new people and make new friends. You, your family, small business, corporate employer or other organization can make a difference helping with park cleanups, the Halloween party, Fare for All, serving on the medical reserve corps and more. Great opportunities to volunteer abound for individuals and businesses alike. Recently, Black and Veatch took part in a park cleanup day. Its

participants were all smiles on a picture-perfect summer day, *above*. Corporate events are great for team building and an enjoyable way to make a positive impact in the community. Most volunteer shifts run two to three hours. Typically, a City staff member will provide beginning instruction or a walk-through, and the volunteers take it from there. Currently, the City has more than 750 volunteers. But there’s still a need for more volunteers year-round and citywide. We also have opportunities for teens to volunteer for park programming and on advisory commissions. To take part and help your community, call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877, Human Services at 952-563-8733 or visit blm.mn/volunteer. Discover the fun of volunteering as you meet other volunteers. You and your City will be glad you did.

SURVEY REVEALS SUPPORT FOR NEW COMMUNITY CENTER

A recent survey found that residents and local YMCA members support a community center collaboration between the City and YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities, a leading nonprofit dedicated to strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. The purpose of the survey was to measure the level of interest in a new community center, the favorability of a YMCA-City partnership, identify key features and services, gauge YMCA membership potential, evaluate the level of funding support and test a possible location. Two-thirds of those polled agreed that it is a good idea for the City and YMCA to partner on a joint community center. Sixty-three percent of residents thought Bloomington should replace Creekside Community Center with a new center. Sixty-five percent of residents thought that a new community center would improve the quality of life in Bloomington. Two-thirds of respondents favored building the facility in the vicinity of Civic Plaza. Seventy-four percent of residents and 86 percent of YMCA members responded favorably when asked if they would like to see the YMCA become part of the Bloomington community. In terms of general programming, interest was greatest for an indoor track, cardiovascular and strength conditioning machines, group fitness classes, whirlpool and sauna, water



aerobics and an indoor lap pool. More water and aquatics facilities topped the list of unmet community needs, according to residents. The survey of 579 respondents included 303 Bloomington residents and 276 Southdale YMCA members who live in the area. It was conducted by phone and online June 5 – July 3. The survey was administered by ANA Research of Fridley and has a 5.65 percent margin of error. These survey results will be used to inform work on a potential community center. Residents will hear more about the proposed project during town hall meetings scheduled for each City Council district in October. For more information, contact Director of Community Services Diann Kirby at 952-563-8717 or dkirby@bloomingtonmn.gov.

BRIEFING

Volume 26, Number 6

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 55431-3071; PH 952-563-8819; TTY: 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715; E-mail: jhill@BloomingtonMN.gov Website: 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 (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 only). Upon request, this information can be available in Braille, large print, audio tape and/or electronic format.



TRAFFIC NEWS YOU CAN USE

MOA TRANSIT STATION GROUNDBREAKING

Did you know Mall of America (MOA) ranks as a top transportation hub statewide? More than 5,000 people use the transit center each weekday. Minnesota’s busiest transportation hub—served by the Metro Blue Line light rail, Metro Red Line bus rapid transit, more than 10 bus routes, and the potential for a streetcar along the Riverview Corridor—is getting a makeover.

When the \$25 million reconstruction is complete, buses will have their own entrance area and will move through

security with greater efficiency. The upgraded transit center will directly link to MOA east entrance. The new design with updated lighting and signage will increase visibility and aesthetic appeal within the station and from 24th Avenue. Demolition and construction are underway, with a forecasted summer 2019 completion. Transit operations will continue during construction. As a project partner, the City is allocating \$5 million (derived from property tax increment financing from MOA) to the transit station’s upgrade.

I-35W BRIDGE WORK CONTINUES

MnDOT, in partnership with the City of Bloomington, Dakota County, Hennepin County and the City of Burnsville, is replacing the bridge and pavement on I-35W between Cliff Road and 106th Street, raising I-35W out of the floodplain and improving pedestrian access across the river. Drivers should expect the 106th Street southbound entrance

ramp to I-35W south to remain closed and alternating lane closures in both directions on I-35W between Cliff Road and 106th Street through October. The projects are expected to be complete in fall 2021. Visit the MnDOT website for up-to-date project information and road closure information at blm.mn/mndot35.

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 15, 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.



GARBAGE AND RECYCLING

MN SUPREME COURT RULING

The City implemented an organized garbage and recycling program to improve quality of life for residents in 2016. The program aims to reduce the number of garbage trucks on collection day, mitigate air and noise pollution, minimize wear and tear on roadways and, in most cases, save households money.

Before the program was implemented in 2016, a group of five residents challenged the City Council’s decision to begin the program in the Court of Appeals. The court upheld the City’s implementation of organized garbage and recycling collection at that time.

In June, the Minnesota Supreme Court reversed that decision by the Court of Appeals. The Supreme Court’s ruling opened up the possibility of organized garbage and recycling collection being put to a vote.

The organized garbage and recycling collection remains in place for the foreseeable future. There will be no change in collection services nor is this issue scheduled to be on an upcoming ballot at this time.



WRIGHT’S LAKE PARK MURAL TAKING SHAPE

Artists from GoodSpace Murals started applying the canvas sheets community members painted to the retaining wall alongside Trunk Highway 77 in Wright’s Lake Park, 8501 17th Avenue South in August. Work on the mural began more than a year ago with community visioning sessions and painting parties. The finished mural will be unveiled at a celebration event on Monday, October 15, from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m., at Wright’s Lake Park. A lunch will be provided. For more information, visit blm.mn/placemaking or call 952-563-8744.



WANT TO TALK ABOUT BLOOMINGTON’S FUTURE? ATTEND A TOWN HALL FORUM

The City Council is taking steps to engage more with the community on issues and topics that are of interest to residents and business owners. Starting in October, the Council will host town hall forums to talk about things such as City budgeting, facilities and a new community center.

The City Council has a strategic plan that includes maintaining high-quality services and community amenities. To ensure the City continues to meet resident expectations, staff has been working with the Council to plan for the replacement of fire stations, park buildings, playgrounds and aging City buildings as well as improvements at the Bloomington Ice Garden, Dwan and Hyland Golf Courses and the Bloomington Family Aquatic Center. Planning for a new community center to replace Creekside is also underway.

Councilmember Shawn Nelson will meet **District II residents October 4**, at Community of the Cross Lutheran Church, 10701 Bloomington Ferry Road. Councilmember Patrick Martin will meet **District IV residents October 9**, at Evergreen Church, 2300 East 88th Street. Councilmember Dwayne Lowman will meet **District I residents October 11**, at Oak Grove Middle School, 1300 West 106th Street. Councilmember Jack Baloga will meet **District III residents October 18**, at St. Michael’s Church, 9201 Normandale Boulevard. An **all-city** town hall forum will be held on **October 30**, at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. All meetings take place **6 – 8 p.m.**

You can find your council district online at blm.mn/districtmap. Find more information about the forums or RSVP to the events online at blm.mn/townhall or call 952-563-8782.



RECYCLING RIGHT

Ever throw something into the recycling cart you’re not sure about? That’s wish cycling. Proper recycling conserves environmental and financial resources. Wish cycling costs haulers and consumers loads of time and money to collect, transport and dispose of non-recyclable materials.

Do your part and keep these items out of your curbside recycling:

- Plastic shopping bags, film and wrap.

- Food waste.
- Shredded paper.
- Hoses, wires or cords.
- Items less than two inches in diameter.
- Food-soiled paper.
- Disposable diapers or dog waste.

- Containers that held hazardous products including: Hazardous waste, household chemicals, aerosol cans or batteries.
- Styrofoam (polystyrene) cups and other containers.
- Paper coffee cups, paper plates, paper towels, paper napkins, tissues, pizza boxes or brightly colored paper.

- Glass dishes, drinking glasses, window glass, pottery or ceramics.
- Clothes hangers.
- Needles.

Visit blm.mn/recycling or call 952-563-8760 for alternative disposal options.

CHOOSE TO REUSE

Looking for an easy way to support local businesses, get great deals on quality products and protect the environment? Check out free Choose to Reuse coupons. Coupons are valid through October 31 at 59 local retailers that rent, repair, resell, consign and exchange used goods.

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



EARTH ACTION HERO: WATERSHED WARRIORS

Be nice to Mother Earth—adopt a storm drain. Better natural water starts with each of us, and it’s easy to get involved. The City and Nine Mile Creek Watershed District partnered to take part in the Adopt-a-Drain program created by the Center for Global Environmental Education at Hamline University. More residents are joining in the effort each week. Since the program began in 2017, 130 participants have adopted 200 storm drains. Most adopt drains near their homes. There are 14,636 storm drains in Bloomington.

Residents who adopt a storm drain are asked to report debris removal once in the fall and spring, either online or by returning a postcard. (More frequent debris removal may be needed.) As a thank you, those who sign up receive an attractive yard sign. This is an ideal way to promote clean water practices

in any neighborhood. It only takes a few quick steps to get started:

- Sign up at Adopt-a-drain.org.
- Keep your storm drain clear of leaves, grass and other debris.
- Post the program-provided sign in your yard.

Longtime Bloomington resident Lisa Boudreau, *pictured above*, adopted seven storm drains on her street and is committed to improving water quality in her neighborhood and beyond. “It’s something I never thought about until I noticed over the years how green our pond looks behind our house,” she said. Boudreau became a storm drain advocate to make a difference. “I’ve only cleaned the drains once, just recently, and will monitor to see how often they need to be cleaned. So far, I’ve found twigs, leaves, grass clippings and a few dog waste bags.”

Storm drain maintenance extends year-round, but autumn is an especially important time. Unless cleared, leaves go down the storm drain, trigger clogs and end up in the watershed, not the waste water treatment plant. Organic matter causes algae growth that can degrade water quality. While the City does street sweeping in the fall, you can help by keeping leaves out of storm drains and the street. Because of the brief window available, the City is not able to get to every neighborhood just as the last leaf falls. For information about the Adopt-a-Drain program, visit blm.mn/stormdrains or adopt-a-drain.org, or call 952-563-4581 or email publicworks@BloomingtonMN.gov.

INTERESTED IN SIGNING UP FOR YARD WASTE SERVICES?

It’s that time of year when the leaves are falling and yard waste grows. Partial, first-season yard waste subscription service is available through November 30 (weather permitting); subscribers will be billed at a reduced rate of \$50.75 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 of \$81.09 unless yard waste is canceled by the household.

Residents may also pay \$4.08 per bag for on-call yard waste removal services. For on-call service, visit the Finance Department 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 the billing office at least 48 hours prior to your collection day.

Weather permitting, full-season yard waste collection runs from April 15 to November 30. If there is significant snowfall before the end of November or in the spring, yard waste collection will stop 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

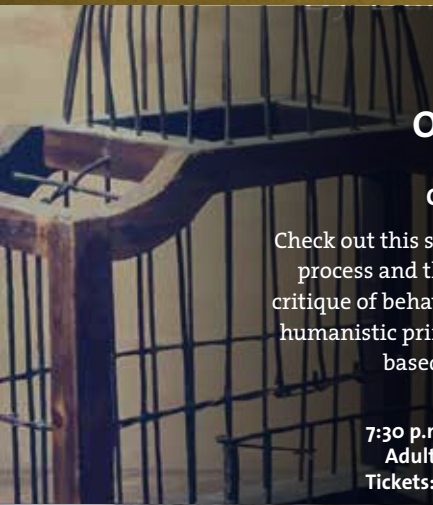


chips. Remember, twigs and branches must be approximately three feet or less in length and three inches or less in diameter. Place them in bags, containers or on the ground tied in bundles. Bags and bundles should not be heavier than 40 pounds. Contact Utility Billing at utilitybilling@BloomingtonMN.gov or 952-563-8726 for information.

COMING SOON TO THE

BLOOMINGTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The Bloomington Center for the Arts Performance Series hosts an array of amazing 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 West 98th Street and West Old Shakopee Road.



One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

Chameleon Theatre Circle

Check out this show about the institutional process and the human mind as well as a critique of behaviorism and a celebration of humanistic principles. By Dale Wasserman based on the novel by Ken Kesey.

October 19 – November 11, 7:30 p.m., except Sundays at 2:30 p.m.
Adults \$25, seniors and students \$22
Tickets: chameleontheatre.org/tickets



Medalist Concert Band

Salute to veterans

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

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



Maud Hixson

The Cole Effect:
Cole Porter's Songbook

This program features songs from master composer and lyricist of the Great American Songbook by Cole Porter.

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

BLINK OF AN EYE photography



Bloomington Symphony Orchestra

Romantically Yours

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

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

GET INVOLVED WITH THE CREEKSIDE POETRY GROUP

Members of the Creekside poetry group work on their craft with peers and learn from special guests. Morgan Grayce Willow, an award-winning Loft Literary Center teaching fellow, visited the group this summer. She discussed three short poetry forms: cinquain, tanka and triolet. Participants then applied what they learned and received

positive critiques. The group meets the third Wednesday of each month 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at Creekside, 9801 Penn Avenue. Join them for the 9th Annual Poetry Contest Reception Saturday, October 13, 2 – 4 p.m. at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, to celebrate and listen to contest winners read their poems aloud. Visit blm.mn/poems to read them.



SEMINAR COVERS MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT CHANGES

Medicare supplement options are changing for most Minnesota seniors. If you have Blue Cross Platinum Blue, Medica Prime Solution or Health Partners, your plan will not renew for 2019. You may be automatically enrolled in another plan with higher copays and out-of-pocket maximum. Your doctor may not be in-network.

Presenter Leslee Gold from Minnesota Medicare Consultants offers free seminars in partnership with Bloomington Human Services at Civic Plaza, Council Chambers at 1800 West Old Shakopee Road:

- Tuesday, October 9, 1 – 3 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 14, 1 – 3 p.m.
- Thursday, December 6, 9 – 11 a.m.

Registration is required at least two business days before the seminar date. Contact Human Services, 952-563-4944, TTY ONLY 952-563-8740 or Reservations@BloomingtonMN.gov. This is an educational presentation, not a sales presentation. The City of Bloomington does not sponsor or endorse or have a relationship with the sponsor.



VISION LOSS SUPPORT OFFERED

Do you know a senior experiencing vision loss, or perhaps you are a senior with vision loss issues? Join us Monday, October 29, 10 – 11 a.m., for a free presentation from Minnesota State Services for the Blind (SSB) Outreach Coordinator Lisa Larges. SSB serves those experiencing vision loss and can help people adjust to vision loss even in the early stages. Learn about free services available to seniors and options SSB provides at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South. The event is supported by Home Instead Senior Care. Register by Wednesday, October 24. Contact Human Services, 952-563-4944, TTY ONLY 952-563-8740 or reservations@BloomingtonMN.gov.



BE A BLOOD DONOR

Donating blood can help save lives. Step up and participate at the Bloomington Community Blood Drive Wednesday, October 17, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. Online registration is preferred, but walk-ins are welcome. For more information, contact the American Red Cross at 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit blm.mn/bdrive.



FLU SHOT CLINICS

Sudden fever, dry cough, headache, muscle pain, fatigue, exhaustion, sore throat, sneezing or stuffy nose—even healthy people are susceptible to the flu. Protect yourself with an annual flu shot. Attend an upcoming flu shot clinic offered by Public Health:

- Christ the King Lutheran Church, 8600 Fremont Avenue South, Wednesday, October 10, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- Bloomington Community Clinics, Oak Grove Middle School, 1300 West 106th Street, on Tuesday, October 23, 4 – 6 p.m.
- Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Thursday, October 25 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South, hosted by Human Services, Wednesday, October 3, 5 – 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 17, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., and Tuesday, October 30, 5 – 6:30 p.m.

Anyone can come and no appointment is necessary. Bring your insurance card or inform the nurse if you do not have one. A parent or guardian must accompany children under 18. For information, contact Public Health at 952-563-8900 or publichealth@BloomingtonMN.gov.



Dakota Language Camp celebrates Dakota, an ancient Minnesota language spoken by Native Americans.

"It's a language that just rolls off your tongue, beautiful, very pictorial," Cultural Arts Coordinator Jay Ludwig said.

In Dakota, words flow in natural harmony with sentences ending with verbs. One has to listen closely to understand the true meaning. It is the Dakota way.

Early settlers Samuel and Gideon Pond first put the language in written form. Missionaries like the Ponds wanted to teach the Bible in the language of the Dakota people.

Today the language is languishing with the passing of elders. The Dakota Language Camp gets kids excited about speaking their native tongue. The hope is participants will spread that enthusiasm to their parents.

During the ninth annual event, sponsored by Parks and Recreation, 58 participants learned to speak through songs, games, crafts and feasting. The three-day camp was held at the historic Pond House in the 40-acre Pond Dakota Mission Park along the bluffs of the Minnesota River Valley. Prairie fields lined with trees provided the ideal backdrop for walks, games and other outdoor activities, even a tipi.

YMCA GOLF CAMP

Filled by fields of greens lined with leafy trees rustling in the summer sun, Hyland Greens Golf and Learning Center is a beautiful place for a golf camp. This year the YMCA Golf Camp taught young aspiring golfers course rules, regulations and golf etiquette. Golf camps keep players in the swing as they perfect their games.

“They come in, get a basket of balls and practice putting and chipping—they play the golf course,” Hyland Greens Manager Jerry Marick said. “It’s a great, fun experience.”

Two YMCA golf camps were held this year and dozens of golfers ages 7 to 13 participated. More golf camps will take place next season. For more information, visit blm.mn/hgreens or call 952-563-8868.

BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY

A HEFTY HARVEST

Frank J. Pahl settled in Bloomington in 1907 where his family farmed vegetables and rhubarb. Pictured here it looks like Frank has overlooked Richard J. Pahl under the truck piled high with pumpkins, cabbages and squash. Photo courtesy of the Bloomington Historical Society.



BRINGING IN THE FALL HARVEST AT THE FARMERS MARKET

Farmers have been bringing their produce to Bloomington markets since the development of agriculture here in the late 1800s. Today, you can get your bounty of edible goodness from the Bloomington Farmers Market.

The market is open every Saturday through October 20, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Enjoy the best in local produce and products from nearly 50 vendors. A Thanksgiving cornucopia of fruits and veggies is to be had in the east lot of Bloomington Civic Plaza. Fall brings a harvest of produce not to be missed—Minnesota grown apples, plus pumpkins and other winter squash, and more.

The market moves for two Saturdays, November 10 and December 8, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., inside Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. For information, visit blm.mn/market or call 952-563-8877.



WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE BEHIND FIRE STATION 3?

Join creative placemaking staff for free donuts and coffee, and share your ideas on what should be built in the vacant City lot behind the new Fire Station 3. Come to the site at 86th Street and Old Shakopee Road near the Bass Ponds trail on Saturday, October 6, 9 – 11 a.m. Some ideas for potential creative placemaking projects for the site are a painted sidewalk or artistic benches arranged in a social seating area. City staff are currently planning the new Fire Station 3 building. Construction on that project is not officially scheduled. For more information about the community meeting, visit blm.mn/placemaking or call 952-563-8744.

HALLOWEEN COLORING CONTEST FOR KIDS

Hey kids, don't forget to enter the coloring contest for a chance to win prizes! Start from the artwork pictured below and use markers, crayons or colored pencils to create your own masterpiece. Open to preschool to fourth-grade children. First-, second- and third-place prizes will be awarded

for each age group. Return your colored entry (either by U.S. mail or drop-off) along with a completed entry form that indicates your full name, address and phone number by **4:30 p.m., Monday, October 22**, to Parks and Recreation, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431.



NAME _____ GRADE _____ PHONE _____

MEET A BLOOMINGTON FIREFIGHTER

Joe Muewissen Jr. has been a Bloomington firefighter for 12 years. He serves out of Station 2.

Q: What made you want to become a firefighter?

A: My father was a firefighter. I grew up going to the fire station, rolling the hose and listening to stories from all the other firefighters. It made me really want to become one when I was old enough. Back then the thing I liked most was the cool equipment and stories. Now the thing I enjoy is helping my neighbors.

Q: What is your day job?

A: I am a full-time firefighter and I pick up extra duty shifts with my Army unit when they are available.

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


A: I play softball in the summer and broomball in the winter.

Q: What do you love about living in Bloomington?

A: I've lived in Bloomington since I was 3. I left for a few years for school, but I came back because Bloomington is a really good community and is close to everything.

Q: What are some of your hobbies?

A: I'm a Star Wars junkie. I've read all the books and watched all the movies. My favorite has to be *The Empire Strikes Back*.



RULES OF THE ROAD: STAY SAFE AROUND SCHOOL BUSES

According to the Minnesota Association for Pupil Transportation, the majority of children injured or killed while going to and from school are not injured or killed on the bus, but outside the bus by drivers who don't stop for the flashing red lights and extended stop arm.

With the start of another school year right around the corner, now is a good time to think about school bus safety. These tips apply not only to motorists, but to the students who are waiting, boarding and unloading from the bus.

STUDENTS:

- Have a safe place to wait for your bus away from traffic and the street.
- Stay away from the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the driver signals you to enter.



- When being dropped off, exit the bus and walk 10 giant steps away.
- Use the handrail to enter and exit.
- Stay away from the bus until the driver gives the signal that it is safe.

MOTORISTS:

- Always stop for a school bus when the red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended—even on a two- or three-lane road.

- If you intend to turn onto a street where a school bus is stopped and the red lights are flashing, stay stopped in your original lane until the lights are turned off.
 - Failing to stop for a school bus is chargeable as a gross misdemeanor punishable by a \$3,000 fine and/or a one-year jail sentence.
- For more information, contact Sergeant John Martin at 952-563-8689 or jmartin@BloomingtonMN.gov.



GET TO KNOW YOUR FIRE STATION

Get to know your fire station. Each year during National Fire Prevention Week, the Bloomington Fire Department celebrates by opening all its stations to the public for an afternoon of fun, food, and fire prevention education. This year's fire station open houses will take place Saturday, October 13, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Station events include cookies, juice, a coloring contest, fire equipment demonstrations and a plow truck. There will also be a car seat clinic at Station 1, by appointment only. To make a car seat clinic appointment, call 952-563-4801.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Nearly one in four women and one in seven men report experiencing severe physical violence during their lifetimes, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

“Domestic violence impacts all communities—it is a global issue as well as a local issue.” Crime Victim Liaison Biiftuu Ibrahim Adam said. “Domestic violence is not only physical. It can involve verbal abuse, emotional, psychological, sexual and economic abuse. This can happen to anyone.”

October marks Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a time of mourning those who have died, celebrating those who have survived and acknowledging the work being done by advocates, service providers, attorneys, law enforcement and more.

“Domestic violence cannot be solved by one group alone,” Adam said. “Only when we work collectively can we solve the issue.”

- How can you get involved?
- Educate your community and yourself about domestic violence.
 - Aid in raising awareness. Get social with #DVAM2018.
 - Volunteer or donate to an agency that is doing the work.
- Know the resources.
- Minnesota Day One Crisis Line, a 24-hour hotline and shelter line statewide, 866-223-1111 or text at 612-399-9995.
 - Standpoint Action Line, free legal advice regardless of income statewide, 612-343-9842.
 - Cornerstone Advocacy Service, a 24-hour crisis line for local cities, 952-884-0330.



CELEBRATING NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Thousands of residents got together and enjoyed a sunny evening with neighbors at Bloomington's 35th annual National Night Out event this summer. Crime Prevention Specialist Katie Chase coordinated 369 parties throughout the city. Police and Fire Department staff visited many of the neighborhood parties to make neighborhood connections, answer questions and give partygoers an inside look into their jobs. Members of the Bloomington Bomb Squad stopped by the party in Hopkins Circle to give a behind the scenes look at the equipment they use to detect and disarm explosive devices, *pictured above*.



ON PATROL BE AWARE OF PHONE SCAMS

The Bloomington Police Department has seen a recent increase in reports about scam phone calls from callers claiming to be with the IRS or a grandchild in trouble. You should always be skeptical of callers asking for personal or banking information. When in doubt, don't give it out.

If you receive a scam phone call and do not suffer a financial loss or loss of personal information, there is no need to report the incident. Bloomington Police can only take action if there has been a loss.

If you receive a scam phone call from someone impersonating the IRS, call the agency to report it at 1-800-366-4484 and choose option 8. The IRS does not demand immediate payment using a specific payment method such as prepaid debit card or wire transfer. Generally, the IRS will first mail you a bill if you owe any taxes.



GENERAL ELECTION

CAST YOUR BALLOT ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Exercise your right to vote in Bloomington’s 2018 General Election. To watch candidate interviews, visit the City’s website at blm.mn/vote.

PREREGISTER BY OCTOBER 16

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, or even a new apartment number? You must reregister to update your voter information using the link above. The deadline to preregister is October 16. 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. 21 – Nov. 5, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
 - Extended hours: Sat., Nov. 3, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
 - Mon., Nov. 5, 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/henncovote. A postage-paid envelope is provided to return your completed absentee ballot for counting.

ILLEGAL CAMPAIGNING

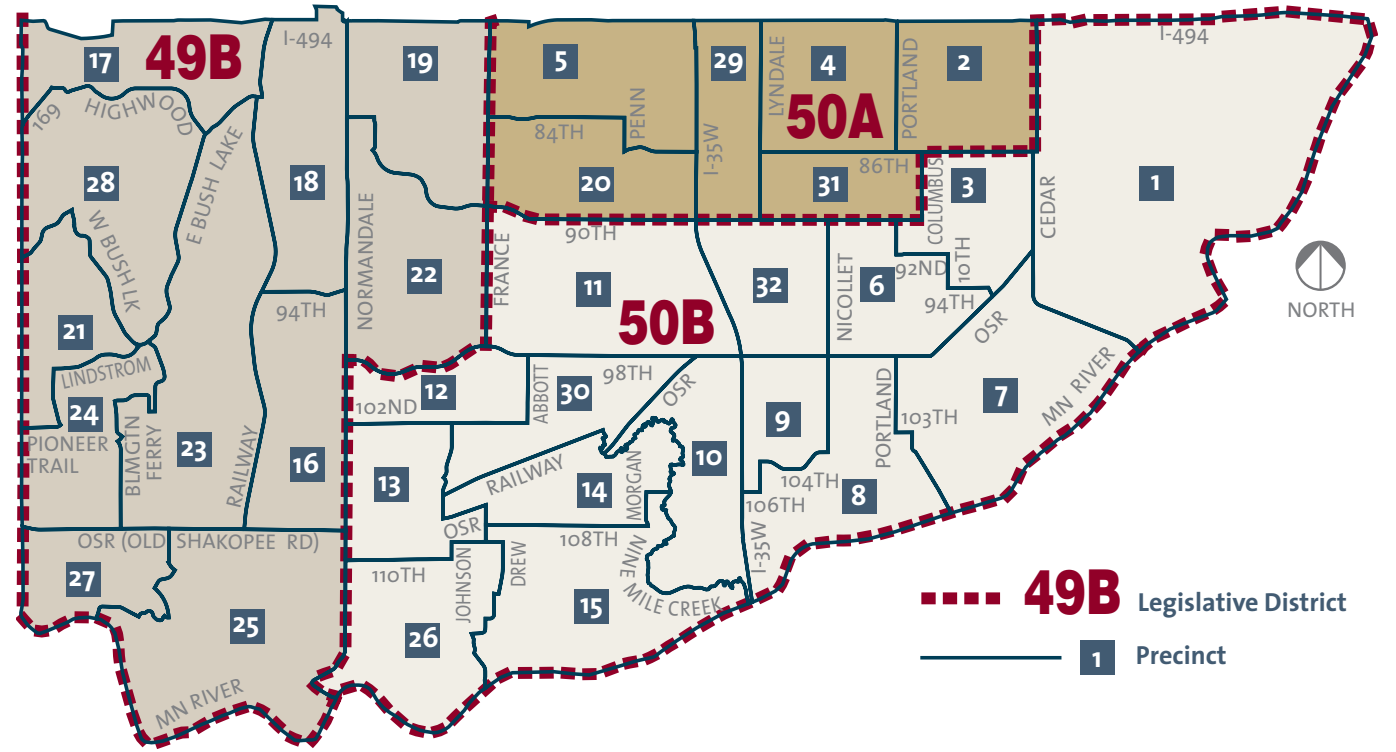
Did you know that Bloomington Civic Plaza is a polling place on Election Day and for 46 days preceding Election Day for absentee voting? Therefore, campaigning is NOT allowed anywhere on the property or parking lots. Illegal campaigning includes, but is not limited to, the display or distribution of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

POLLBOOKS: VOTER SIGNATURE CERTIFICATES

On Election Day, voters will affirm an oath by signing a voter signature certificate printed from the pollbooks. This small certificate is an individual roster and is retained by the pollbook judges. Upon signing and returning it to the judge, the voter receives an initialed voter receipt to obtain a ballot.

2018 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 (new name) 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 Main lot (E)
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 MN Masonic Heritage Center 11411 Masonic Home Drive NEW POLLING PLACE	Dan Patch Hall Ent. West lot
26 Transfiguration Lutheran Church 11000 France Avenue South	Main entrance (W) West lot
27 Bethany Church 6900 Auto Club Road NEW POLLING PLACE	West entrance West and North lots
28 Peace Lutheran Church 8600 East Bush Lake Road NEW POLLING PLACE	Main entrance North lot
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 building expansions and 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.



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