

# BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



NOVEMBER 2018

PAGE 2

PAGE 4

PAGE 5

PAGE 6

## VETERAN FRED FRETHEIM SILENTLY SERVED

WII veteran Fred A. Fretheim led an adventurous life as a clandestine agent, yet few know of his work. The longtime Bloomington resident kept silent until the end. Since Fred's passing in 2012, his son, Gregg, has been on a mission to share what his father did during his 28 years as an officer in the U.S. Army. He served in the Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC) as an Office of Security Services (OSS) agent—in other words, a spy.

In January 1942, Fred was among the first WWII troops to land in Ireland, as British Spitfires jetted above in an aerial salute. He served in Europe, the Middle East, Morocco and at Fort Snelling, ascended to the rank of major and encountered the legendary General Dwight Eisenhower along the way. Through it all, Fred was lucky enough to see gunfire only once overseas. Even luckier still, in a remarkable close encounter, he was not taken prisoner in the Russian Zone of Berlin.

Among his many assignments, Fred was particularly proud of his role in Operation Paperclip, targeting SS Major Wernher von Braun. The U.S. vied against the Russians to capture the famed V-2 missile scientist first. Fred helped capture von Braun and his rocket team. Von Braun went on to work on Explorer 1, the first U.S. space satellite and Saturn V, the launch vehicle that boosted the Apollo spacecraft to the moon.

Many of the artifacts Fred collected during his worldwide travels are housed at the Bloomington Historical Society. An impressive compilation of a life's work comes to life in military medals, awards, uniforms and other artifacts. His remarkable story pays tribute to the honorable service so many gave to their country during WWII and beyond.

Fred's wife, Gloria, resides in Bloomington.

*Photo courtesy of the Bloomington Historical Society.*

## WHAT'S DEVELOPING?

### FIVE NEW APARTMENT PROJECTS



New housing is on the rise in Bloomington. Five new apartment projects will provide more housing options for seniors as well as more affordable housing.

The City recognizes the importance of adding housing to meet the needs of the community. Adding more affordable housing is a goal of the One Bloomington strategic plan.

"There's currently high demand for multifamily housing. Young people are starting families later in life, the number of people over 65 is increasing and vacancies are low," Planning Manager Glen Markegard said.

Take a look at five recently approved apartment projects coming soon to Bloomington.

#### OPUS SENIOR LIVING, 6701 WEST 78TH STREET

At the former Lifetime Fitness site, The Opus Group developers plan to build a four-story building with 186 independent, assisted and memory care senior apartment units along with a day care facility. Construction is anticipated to start in 2019.



#### FRIENDSHIP VILLAGE EXPANSION, 8100 HIGHWOOD DRIVE

Lifespace Communities developers are planning 101 new independent senior units in a five-story building, plus a new 140-bed, three-story health center.

#### PENN PLACE APARTMENTS, 10041 PENN AVENUE SOUTH

Boisclair Corp is planning a new four-story building with 43 affordable workforce units. Construction is anticipated to start in 2020.

#### 108 PLACE APARTMENTS, 4008 WEST 108TH STREET

Construction on this four-story building with 42 affordable workforce units, developed by MWF Properties, is expected to begin in 2019.

#### BLOOMINGTON CENTRAL STATION APARTMENTS, 8051 33RD AVENUE SOUTH

McGough will develop 402 units, of which 40 will be affordable. This six-story building will add to the emerging neighborhood along the LRT in South Loop. Construction is likely to begin late in 2018, with projected completion in summer 2020.

FIND US ONLINE  
BLOOMINGTONMN.gov



Presort Std  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Twin Cities, MN  
Permit  
#2293

ECRWSS  
POSTAL CUSTOMER

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
1800 WEST OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD  
BLOOMINGTON MN 55431-3027





# BRIEFING

Volume 26, Number 7

The *Briefing*, published monthly 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](mailto:jhill@BloomingtonMN.gov)  
**Website: BloomingtonMN.gov**

## BLOOMINGTON CITY COUNCIL



**Mayor**  
Gene Winstead  
952-888-1258 (h)  
952-563-8782 (w)  
[gwinstead@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:gwinstead@BloomingtonMN.gov)

**Councilmember At Large**  
Nathan Coulter  
952-239-0531  
[ncoulter@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:ncoulter@BloomingtonMN.gov)



**Councilmember At Large**  
Tim Busse  
952-457-7506  
[tbusse@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:tbusse@BloomingtonMN.gov)

**Councilmember District I**  
Dwayne Lowman  
952-479-0226  
[dlowman@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:dlowman@BloomingtonMN.gov)



**Councilmember District II**  
Shawn Nelson  
952-479-0471  
[snelson@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:snelson@BloomingtonMN.gov)

**Councilmember District III**  
Jack Baloga  
952-944-5194  
[jbologa@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:jbologa@BloomingtonMN.gov)



**Councilmember District IV**  
Patrick Martin  
952-454-6657  
[pmartin@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:pmartin@BloomingtonMN.gov)

*Elected officials presented for informational purposes.*

## COUNCILMEMBERS

[council@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:council@BloomingtonMN.gov)

## EXECUTIVE STAFF

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Jamie Verbrugge, <i>City Manager</i>   | 952-563-8780        |
| <a href="mailto:citymanager@BloomingtonMN.gov">citymanager@BloomingtonMN.gov</a>                   |                     |
| Kris Wilson, <i>Assistant City Manager</i>   | 952-563-8780        |
| <a href="mailto:citymanager@BloomingtonMN.gov">citymanager@BloomingtonMN.gov</a>                   |                     |
| Eric Johnson, <i>Community Development</i>   | 952-563-8947        |
| <a href="mailto:communitydevelopment@BloomingtonMN.gov">communitydevelopment@BloomingtonMN.gov</a> |                     |
| Diann Kirby, <i>Community Services</i>   | 952-563-8717        |
| <a href="mailto:communityservices@BloomingtonMN.gov">communityservices@BloomingtonMN.gov</a>       |                     |
| Lori Economy-Scholler, <i>Finance</i>  | 952-563-8791        |
| <a href="mailto:finance@BloomingtonMN.gov">finance@BloomingtonMN.gov</a>                           |                     |
| Ulie Seal, <i>Fire</i>   | 952-563-4801        |
| <a href="mailto:fire@BloomingtonMN.gov">fire@BloomingtonMN.gov</a>                                 |                     |
| Amy Cheney, <i>Information Technology</i>  | 952-563-4885        |
| <a href="mailto:it@BloomingtonMN.gov">it@BloomingtonMN.gov</a>                                     |                     |
| Melissa Manderschied, <i>Legal</i>   | 952-563-8753        |
| <a href="mailto:legal@BloomingtonMN.gov">legal@BloomingtonMN.gov</a>                               |                     |
| Jeffrey Potts, <i>Police</i>   | 952-563-8601        |
| <a href="mailto:police@BloomingtonMN.gov">police@BloomingtonMN.gov</a>                             |                     |
| Karl Keel, <i>Public Works</i>   | 952-563-8731        |
| <a href="mailto:publicworks@BloomingtonMN.gov">publicworks@BloomingtonMN.gov</a>                   |                     |
| <b>General phone number</b>  | <b>952-563-8700</b> |

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.

# MAYOR'S MEMO

## NORMANDALE COLLEGE CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

By Mayor Gene Winstead

Bloomington entered a new era of higher education readiness when Normandale Community College opened on September 23, 1968. At the time, suburban higher education was a new concept. Few realized the importance of junior colleges and technical colleges outside the urban core.

Now the motto, “your college, your community” aptly describes how Normandale’s role is intertwined in the fabric of our city. The college holds a key to learning that opens doors for all of us to succeed. If you haven’t taken classes there, a family member, friend or coworker you know probably has. Over the years more than 300,000 students have attended the college.

Today Normandale ranks as the largest two-year college in Minnesota, with a notable record of growth. The curriculum covers more than 60 liberal arts and science areas. Degrees and programs prepare students for professional and technical careers and lead to bachelor’s degrees at four-year colleges and universities. Normandale offers skilled preparation for upper division academic study as well as

jobs in the workplace. Academic institutions and employers throughout the Midwest recognize Normandale’s commitment to student excellence. It’s an impressive tradition and reaching 50 is cause for a celebration.

An array of community activities commemorated the milestone in September, and will continue throughout the academic year. During a Jubilee Open House, I spoke about the evolution of Normandale and the impact of education in our community. It was a time to take pause and recognize education pioneers, including former Minnesota State Legislator and Bloomington businessman Joseph P. Graw. Few understood the importance of suburban colleges in the mid-20th century, but Graw did.

His steadfast determination led to Normandale Community College’s landmark location in Bloomington. Graw passed away a few weeks before the college’s 50-year celebration, but his legacy continues in a proud history of educational distinction. For information, visit [blm.mn/norm50](http://blm.mn/norm50) or call 952-358-8200.

### HOW NORMANDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE CHANGED OVER THE YEARS 1968–2018

|                | Then    | Now     |
|----------------|---------|---------|
| Enrollment     | 1,386   | 14,956  |
| Faculty/Staff  | 66      | 618     |
| Square Footage | 134,618 | 811,997 |



## CITY COMMUNICATIONS NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED

The City’s communications team aims to bring high-quality, useful news and information to the community. These efforts have been nationally recognized again with five awards. The cable television news show, *Bloomington Today*, took first-place honors in the City-County Communications and Marketing Association (3CMA) Savvy Awards in the TV Talk Show/News category. The 3CMA judges said it was an “Incredibly crisp and clean production with camera and audio work that would rival any national news broadcast. Absolutely wonderful production!” The *Stories of Bloomington Today* also took third place in the National Association of Telecommunication Officers and Advisors awards contest this year in the TV Journalism category.



The *Briefing* newsletter and 2018 State of the City event earned second place awards from 3CMA. The 2017 *Corporate Report to the Community* was also honored with the third place Award of Excellence.

The 2018 Savvy Awards contest was more competitive than ever. This year’s contest received 740 entries from 198 jurisdictions around the country. Only 104 entries received awards.





## Closed for Thanksgiving

In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, Civic Plaza will be closed Thursday, November 22 and Friday, November 23.

## Did you know? Bloomington's population increasing

Bloomington's population is 88,885, according to recent Metropolitan Council estimates. The population gain of nearly 6,000 since 2010 was caused primarily by additional multifamily units, lower vacancy rates and an increase in the average household size, according to Planning Manager Glen Markegard.

# France Avenue Trails are on an improved path

The trails on France Avenue's west side between West Old Shakopee Road and West 84th Street are getting a new look. The \$5.6 million project will update the three-mile corridor to meet multiuse standards with added width, improved intersection crossings and a new Nine Mile Creek boardwalk crossing.

The upgrades will add to the comfort and safety of users. The current patchwork of sidewalks, narrow trails and paved shoulders offers inconsistent protection and tight spacing from other traffic. User access will be expanded for a variety

of destinations, including connections to West Old Shakopee Road, West 90th Street and West 84th Street.

The design is expected to be complete this fall, with construction starting in March 2019 at the boardwalk crossing, and continuing through fall of 2019.

The City received a federal grant through the Metropolitan Council and another grant from Hennepin County as part of the 2018 Hennepin County Bikeway Grant Program. The remaining project costs will be funded by the City.

## Council to consider utility rates

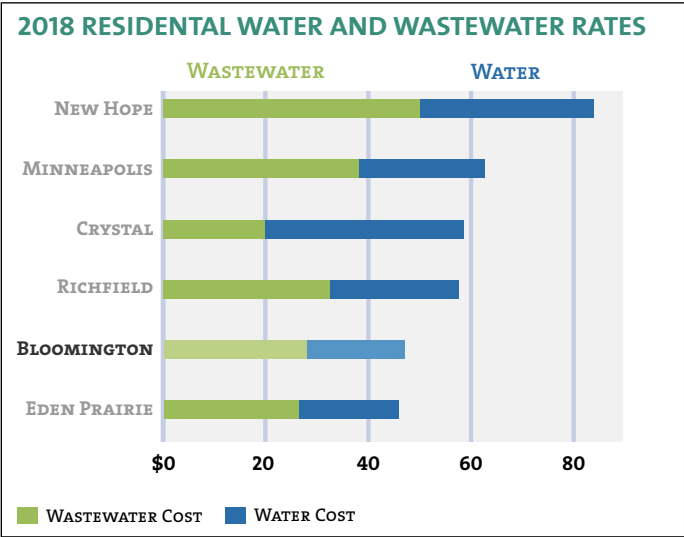
Residents could see an increase in their utility bills in 2019. The City Council will consider a proposed nine percent increase in water rates, a four percent increase in wastewater collection (sewer) rates and a five percent increase in storm drainage rates in December. These increases would help fund operating costs, the repair and replacement of aging water infrastructure and systems, and would ensure continued compliance with state and federal regulations. Improvements are necessary to continue delivering water and sewer services in a safe and efficient manner to protect public health.

The City aims to continue providing utilities at rates among the lowest in the metro area, *see graph at right*. Bloomington has lower rates for softened water and wastewater collection than several neighboring communities, including some that don't provide softened water.

Council will also consider an increase of less than \$5 annually per household for the Curbside Cleanup program. This would maintain the existing program and accommodate rising disposal costs per ton of waste. If the increase is approved, the total annual cost of Curbside Cleanup will be

about \$48.24 per household—less than paying \$51 to remove one large item with the bulk pickup program.

There will be a public hearing on the proposed rate changes on November 19, 7 p.m., in the Council Chambers at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.



## Answering your questions: Paying utility bills online

The City's improved online utility bill-pay service gives residents a convenient way to save time and money on postage when paying bills. Residents can also pay their bills or check their account balances using the new phone pay service at 1-844-368-4567. The phone line is available 24/7 and has a Spanish-speaking option. Check out the answers to the top five questions about online utility bill pay below.

- How do I sign up?**  
It's simple. You can sign up online at [blm.mn/utilitybillpay](http://blm.mn/utilitybillpay). You'll need some information from your utility bill to create your profile, such as customer number and location ID, *shown at right*.
- Is there an additional cost?**  
No. Paying your utility bill online is free. It is even free to pay with a credit card. The City's system accepts MasterCard, Visa, Discover and E-Checks.
- Can I set up automatic payments?**  
Yes. Automatic payments are easy to set up and free. It's a great way to save time and avoid late payments. You can also sign up online to pay by text or receive text or email notifications about your bill.

44-368-4567  
2-563-8726  
1-941-5174  
1-563-8740  
1-563-8777  
  
1-563-4905  
1-563-4900  
of disability in the services, programs, or allow individuals ces, programs, and

LOCATION ID

CUSTOMER NUMBER

ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Account Number: 123456-789101  
Statement #: 1240221  
Billing Period Dates: 04/27/2018 - 07/01/2018  
Bill Date: 07/19/2018  
Due Date: 08/11/2018  
Service Address: 1234 STREET  
BLOOMINGTON MN 55437  
SPECIAL MESSAGE  
YARD WASTE SERVICE ends on November 30th (weather permitting). If you need a cart, please contact Utility Billing at [www.utilitybilling@bloomingtonmn.gov](mailto:www.utilitybilling@bloomingtonmn.gov)  
ONLINE UTILITY BILLING SERVICES ARE POPULAR Sign up today to view and pay your bills online. You can schedule payments & also turn off the paper copies.

4. Can I put more than one account under my login?  
Yes. Property managers or family members handling a relative's account are able to add more than one residence to their online profile.

5. Will my payment information be safe?  
Yes. The City's online utility bill-pay system is Payment Card Industry (PCI) compliant, which means it is certified to meet or exceed industry standards for payment protection.

|                             |
|-----------------------------|
| BLOOMINGTON'S POPULATION    |
| POPULATION, 2017            |
| 88,885                      |
| POPULATION, 2010 CENSUS     |
| 82,893                      |
| 2010-2017 POPULATION GROWTH |
| 5,992                       |
| HOUSEHOLDS, 2017            |
| 38,022                      |
| HOUSEHOLDS, 2010 CENSUS     |
| 35,905                      |
| 2010-2017 HOUSEHOLD GROWTH  |
| 2,117                       |

## Save the Date Budget Hearing

The City Council approved the preliminary 2019 budget at its September 10 meeting. Before the budget is finalized in December, the Council and City staff want to hear from you.

The proposed total monthly cost of services for a median-valued home in 2019 is \$139.28. This includes property taxes, water, sewer, water softening and franchise fees. A median-valued home in Bloomington is \$256,900. The monthly cost of \$139.28 is lower than 10 of 11 peer cities. The monthly cost covers all City services, including the plowing and maintenance of 2,089 lane miles of road, police and fire services, parks and recreation programs and more.

Attend the City's budget hearing on Monday, December 3, 7 p.m., in the Civic Plaza Council Chambers, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. Or watch the hearing online at [blm.mn/budgethearing](http://blm.mn/budgethearing).





At Your Service  
A Clean Sweep

When it comes to keeping Bloomington’s roads clean and safe, Equipment Operator Joe Dubay has the procedure all mapped out. He has been on the job for 36 years and is part of the team in charge of sweeping and plowing 2,089 lane miles of roadway in the city.

“The biggest thing about sweeping the streets is making sure leaves and garbage don’t go through the storm drains into lakes and rivers,” Dubay said. “I like to think I make a difference in my own way keeping our water healthy.”

Street sweeping is a three-step process. First, a truck goes through to wet down streets to prevent dust clouds. Then the sweepers come through and gather the debris. When the sweeper is full of debris, they dump their collection into the haul truck. That brings the sweepings to the landfill. In the fall, crews donate the leaves collected during street sweeping to the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community for compost.

Soon crews will pull out the plows to prepare for ice and snow.



Volunteers Plant  
Trees in the City

Twenty-five volunteers from Xcel Energy planted 30 trees in Bloomington to recharge protection against the Emerald Ash Borer this fall. The efforts were a part of Xcel Energy’s seventh annual day of service, which included more than 800 Xcel volunteers across four states. The Bloomington volunteers collaborated with Tree Trust, a company that plants trees throughout the Twin Cities, and City Public Works staff to bring more diversity to the city’s urban canopy.

“Planting projects like this add diversity and resiliency to the city’s urban forest, providing a future tree canopy as we lose our ash trees to the Emerald Ash Borer,” Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Dave Hanson said.



Earth Action Heroes  
Powerful Plantings

With juicy red tomatoes, crisp cauliflower, bright green brussels sprouts, eggplant, kale, cucumbers and more, the new student garden at Success Academy is producing more than just fresh fruits and vegetables. It’s providing students with an opportunity for academic growth.

“Most of these students haven’t had a lot of involvement in producing what they eat,” Success Academy Executive Director Magdy Rabeaa said. “For many, this is their first experience planting and taking care of a garden and learning about the science behind it. It’s wonderful to see how excited they are to pick and eat what grows.”

Public Health partnered with Success Academy, a K-6 STEM Public Charter School in Bloomington, earlier

this year to write a sustainability plan and apply for the grant that funded startup costs for the school garden. The plan included an array of ways to plant garden-oriented science, technology, engineering, and math activities into the school’s curriculum for all grade levels.

Remembering the bare hay bales that made up the garden’s landscape in its beginning phases, students said they were amazed at how lush and green it became.

The benefits of the garden don’t stop in the classroom, either. All the produce the students and staff grow will be used in the cafeteria to create a salad bar full of garden-fresh ingredients. The cafeteria addition is welcomed by most students as they agree taste testing has been the most fun part of the process.

Holiday Garbage, Recycling and  
Yard Waste Schedule Changes

This year, Thanksgiving is November 22. That week is a recycling week. All services normally scheduled for Thursday will move to Friday, and all Friday collection will move to Saturday.

RECYCLE WEEK

HOLIDAY\*

\* No pickup; pickup one day later.

| November |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 |    |

Get Creative and Help the  
Environment this Holiday Season

Make your holidays greener this year with creative and sustainable gift wrapping. Traditional gift wrapping is not recyclable and the paper, bows and boxes you use can easily pile up in the garbage this time of year. Instead of spending money on gift wrapping, reuse materials that you already have on hand.

“People tend to produce more waste around the holidays,” said Deputy Director of Public Works Mary Hurliman. “Why generate more trash when you can use something recyclable and creative instead?”

Almost anything can be used to wrap gifts. Try using one of these eco-friendly alternatives: fabric, newspaper, maps, calendars, reusable gift bags, paper shopping bags, aluminum foil or baskets. You can even use old issues of the *Briefing*. Or wrap a gift in another gift such as a purse, tote or scarf. For more creative, sustainable gift-wrapping ideas, search “eco-friendly gift wrap ideas” on Pinterest.





# BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY: THE CIVIL WAR 44

Veterans Day is a time to think of and be thankful for all Bloomington service members past and present. On Memorial Day in 1890, 25 years after the Civil War had ended, townspeople erected an 11-foot monument in the cemetery to honor the Bloomington soldiers who served in Company B of the First Minnesota volunteers.

The First Minnesota became one of the most famous regiments in Civil War history. On July 2, Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock ordered the undersized regiment to attack a much larger brigade of Alabamians. The result was devastating. The First Minnesota suffered an 82 percent loss of men, a record for the Union army, but halted the brigade and turned the tide of the battle at Gettysburg in favor of the Union.

Inscribed on the monument are the names of 44 men and four battles – Gettysburg, Antietam, Fort Blakely and Birch Coulee. The monument was the first in the state to honor Minnesota soldiers who fought in the Civil War. It still stands in the Bloomington cemetery today.



## STOCK UP AT FARE FOR ALL

Take part in a Fare For All event for “food that makes cents.” The cooperative food-buying program can save you up to 40 percent on brand-name products. Special holiday meals are available for \$30 in addition to regular items. Participating in Fare For All involves no income restrictions or other qualification requirements. Attend an event on two Wednesdays, November 14 and December 12, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South. For information, contact 952-563-4944 or [blm.mn/fareall](http://blm.mn/fareall).

## FOOD AVAILABLE AT NEW POP-UP PANTRY

Want to stretch your food budget? Bloomington Lutheran Church is hosting Ruby’s Pop-Up Pantry with packages of produce, meat, dairy, dry goods, paper products, snacks and drinks. All are welcome with no income or residency requirements. Food distribution will take place on Wednesday, November 7 and Tuesday, December 4, 5 – 6:30 p.m., with registration at 4:30 p.m. Bring \$20 and two large totes or a laundry basket for your food, to Bloomington Lutheran Church, 9350 Portland Avenue South. For information, visit [blm.mn/rpantry](http://blm.mn/rpantry) or call 651-674-0009.

## SHARE IN THE FEAST THANKSGIVING

Human Services will again collaborate with Bloomington Covenant Church, Atonement Lutheran Church and Good In the ‘Hood, for the annual Share In The Feast Thanksgiving Meal. Thursday, November 22, seating begins at noon, at two sites: Bloomington Covenant Church, 10150 Xerxes Avenue South; and Atonement Lutheran Church, 601 East 98th Street. Attendees will enjoy a Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings. The free community meals are open to all. Call Creekside at 952-563-4944, (TTY only 952-563-8740) or email [reservations@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:reservations@BloomingtonMN.gov) to register. The registration deadline is Monday, November 19.



## HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED



### VETERANS PHOTO WALL

With a growing collection of more than 300 photos of men and women from all branches of service, the City’s veterans’ photo wall is a long-running tradition to honor Bloomington residents who have served their country. Come take a look at this year’s display from November 13 – 30 at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

If you would like to include a photo for the 2018 display, visit Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South, or Civic Plaza. Your original photo will be scanned and immediately returned to you. Photos may also be submitted electronically at [blm.mn/vet-photos](http://blm.mn/vet-photos). Please include name, branch and years of service with your photo.

### VETERANS DAY APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

The City and Northwestern Health Sciences University invite you to attend the Veterans Appreciation Day luncheon event on Saturday, November 10, at 2501 West 84th Street. Visit with representatives from nonprofit veterans’ organizations from 10 – 11:30 a.m. The luncheon will take place from 12 – 1:45 p.m., featuring Nicole Mitchell, veteran and KSTP meteorologist, *above*, as well as a musical performance by the Bloomington Chorale. Lunch is complimentary for all veterans and one guest; additional guests are \$13 each. Reservations are required by Friday, November 2. To make a reservation call 952-563-8733 or email [humanservices@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:humanservices@BloomingtonMN.gov).



## COOKIES AND CONVERSATION

Join blue-ribbon baker Marjorie Johnson and Bloomington City Manager Jamie Verbrugge for cookies and conversation Thursday, December 20, 1 – 2 p.m., at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. Marjorie will share her love of baking while demonstrating how to make one of her favorite recipes. This free event will also include cookies and cocoa. Space is limited and registration is required. To make a reservation call 952-563-4944, (TTY only 952-563-8740) or email [reservations@bloomingtonmn.gov](mailto:reservations@bloomingtonmn.gov).







QUALE RETIRES

Parks and Recreation Manager Randy Quale has made playing fun and easy for Twin Cities residents since the 1970s. He started his parks and recreation career in Saint Paul. He accepted his position with the City of Bloomington in 1997.

“I always remember that date because it was only a few days before my daughter was born—two life-changing events at once,” Quale said. “I feel like I kind of landed my dream job when I came to the City.”

With 97 parks and more than 3,000 acres of parkland, there is no shortage of fun things to do and see in Bloomington. Through 21 years of leading the team that operates, maintains and improves those parks, Quale says a few of his favorite projects were building the Normandale Lake Bandshell in 2002 and the renovation of the Bloomington Aquatic Center.

Another project he’s proud of is the passage and implementation of the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment. He was involved from the planning stages as the president of the Minnesota Recreation and Parks Association. He enjoyed seeing many important projects addressing issues from natural resources to parks and trails in Minnesota aided by the resulting funding.



FARMERS MARKET MOVING INDOORS

Shop with comfort at the indoor Bloomington Farmers Market. The weather might be colder outside, but there’s still plenty of winter squash, apples and other farm-fresh produce, plus baked goods, cheese, chocolates, honey, body care products, and handmade seasonal decor and gifts. Pick up treats for yourself and do holiday shopping for two Saturdays, November 10 and December 8, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. Visit blm.mn/market or call 952-563-8877 for information.



40 YEARS ON THE COURSE

Hyland Greens is a nine-hole, par-3 course, but 40 was the number that could not be beat for the Bloomington Go Getters (BGG) women’s golf league and Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Scott Pruszinske. Two dozen golf league devotees met Pruszinske to celebrate four decades at Hyland Greens, 10100 Normandale Boulevard, in late August.

Over cake, handshakes and hugs, the BGG congratulated Pruszinske and themselves. The league, aptly named for its summer-long, early morning 7:08 a.m. tee time, paid tribute to the game and people its members enjoy.

Pruszinske, a resident fixture at Hyland Greens, is like family to the ladies, and the clubhouse is like home.

“The staff is phenomenal. They’re all so accommodating and friendly,” BGG Coordinator Helen Dysthe said.

For 40 years, Pruszinske has been a familiar face for the BGG at Hyland Greens. He and his staff of five maintain the

58-acre golf course. His City tenure started at Dwan Golf Club in 1972. Now, with characteristic humility, he says he’d like to do it all over again.

“It doesn’t seem like 40 years to me. Every year is just good,” Pruszinske says. Despite a 5:30 a.m. starting time as throughout golf season, he loves his job. He spends the off-season at Dwan repairing and refurbishing equipment. Most of all, Pruszinske takes pride in his work at Hyland Greens.

Get in the game

The BGG are giddy about golf even after 40 years. Of the original 36 members, four founders, all longtime Bloomington residents, remain: Dysthe, Bev Bosak, Vonnie Thraen and Shirley Johnson. With current membership at 24, there’s opportunity for more players to get into the game and all are welcome. For league information, call 952-563-8868 or visit blm.mn/hgreens.

WARMING HOUSE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

It’s feeling chilly out there. Time to sharpen up those skates or maybe step up to the warming house?

With a total of 33 rinks at 13 locations throughout the city, there’s plenty of outdoor ice activity in Bloomington. Ice houses provide skaters a warm place to rest and restroom facilities.

Warming house season runs from around mid-December to mid-February, weather permitting. Volunteers open and close many of the City’s warming houses, but some have paid staff. Typically, warming house attendants earn \$10.85 – \$11.55 per hour and work 20 – 40 hours per week. While many warming house attendants and volunteers are avid skaters, skating skills are not needed. However, the ability to shovel walkways is a requirement. All volunteers must complete a background check and volunteer training online (or contact



staff to make other arrangements.) The process can usually be completed within a few days. For information, visit blm.mn/rinks or call 952-563-8877.

THE STORY BEHIND BUCKTHORN

By Karen Nordstrom, former City Councilmember

Ever wonder why Bloomington has such lush woods? One reason is the invasive plant, buckthorn. It has bright green shiny leaves and silvery gray bark. It was purposely planted by landscapers until it was discovered how invasive it was. Then, it was put on the “do not plant” list here in the city along with a few other trees and bushes.

Buckthorn was brought over from Europe years ago along with creeping Charlie and other favorites of the early settlers. They wanted plants that reminded them of their homelands.

I learned about buckthorn roughly 20 years ago when a neighbor noticed that we had a plethora of it in our woodsy, steep yard. I removed it and continue to monitor our yard for it. I have even volunteered over the years to help with the “buckthorn bust” in the fall. This is a worthy effort to rid a park of the dastardly weed.

How it spreads

There are two versions of the buckthorn: male and female.

The female plant has the berries that the birds eat. Once eaten, the birds excrete them, starting more plants. It also spreads by the root system. If roots are not treated by a weed killer after cutting, they will come back. They are extremely hardy!

How to remove it

Check with your local garden center or hardware store for recommendations on effective weed killers to use on buckthorn. Autumn is the time of year that buckthorn stands out as it remains green long after other bushes turn or lose their leaves.

Some years ago, a few neighbors gathered to help clear out as much as we could from an elderly neighbor’s yard. Most of her front yard was buckthorn. It is the observant neighbor who takes care of their buckthorn so it doesn’t spread to neighboring yards. The smaller plants are easily pulled out by hand. The City’s Public Works department provides tools for the larger plants and will loan them out for a certain number of days. Call 952-563-8760 for more information.



# MEET A BLOOMINGTON FIREFIGHTER

Lisa Epps has been a Bloomington firefighter for more than 21 years. She serves out of Station 2.

- Q: What is your day job?

A: I work in the transportation industry managing my own town car business.
- Q: What do you do for fun when you are not working or volunteering?

A: I enjoy traveling, fishing, dining out, grilling out, bonfires and watching my beloved Minnesota Vikings, Twins and Wild. Spending time with friends has always been a high priority and family when our schedules align.
- Q: What made you want to become a firefighter?

A: When I was about 12 years old, ladder 2 drove past my house to respond to a fire at my neighbor's place. I ran over to see if I could help. I was tasked with taking care of the family dog until animal control arrived. I remember watching in awe as they battled the fire. That's when I knew I wanted to be a firefighter someday.
- Q: What do you love about firefighting?

A: Everything. I've been saying it is the best job ever for years. The work itself is very rewarding. The camaraderie is unmatched. The leadership is extraordinary. Training is a high priority and we are fortunate to have some of the best equipment to help us do our job. Becoming a member of the Bloomington Fire Department has been, without question, the best decision I ever made. I am eligible to retire, but this has been a way of life for me for so long. I'm not quite ready to hang up my boots.



## COMMUTE BY BIKE SAFELY THIS WINTER

Putting away your bike for winter? With the right gear, planning and practice, biking can work even on snowy days, but know your limits. Mastering fair-weather biking is a precursor to taking on more adverse winter conditions. Before you go, consider these winter biking tips:


1. Dress appropriately from head to toe in layers with warm mittens. Choose boots a size or two larger than usual to allow room for thick socks. Dry out clothes between rides.
2. Temperatures below zero, snow accumulation, ice and wind may require another commuting option.
3. Get winter-only wheels: Lean toward heavier tread or consider getting studded tires. Anticipate salt damage. "Not one bike or tire works in all conditions," Commuter Services Director of Outreach Kate Meredith said.
4. Plan your route and avoid busy streets. "The side streets in Bloomington usually are quickly plowed down to a substrate of packed snow, and it is rather easy to ride on that," City employee and avid biker Steven White says.
5. Ride slowly and allow extra commuting time. "I try not to ride at a speed greater than the speed at which I would feel uncomfortable sliding on my seat," White says.
6. Stay visible with bright clothing. Use a white light on the front and red rear light. While the law requires lights in



darkness or dim conditions, lights are recommended all of the time.

7. Eat and drink more than usual to stay hydrated and maintain energy levels.
8. Travel with a fully charged cell phone stored in a plastic storage bag.
9. Park and lock your bike away from snowplow activity.
10. Pat yourself on the back for going the extra cold mile!

## NOTABLE NEIGHBORS: CLARENCE, "MAYOR" OF HOPKINSVILLE

- 

The annual National Night Out celebration is always a special event in Hopkins Circle in south central Bloomington. Neighbors in Hopkinstville, as they have named it, enjoy the chance to get together and share food, games, laughs and safety tips. They also see the event as an opportunity to celebrate the birthday of Clarence Gosewisch, the unofficial "Hopkinstville mayor" of 38 years.
- He turned 94 this year and has lived in Bloomington since he was 35. Clarence will tell you that he never campaigned for the title of mayor—it was a role assigned to him by his neighbors.

"He's really the glue that holds the whole neighborhood together," said

- Mary, a Hopkins Circle resident. "If you are going out of town, he'll pick up your mail and take care of your pets. If a tree falls in your yard, he'll be out there before anyone else chopping it up and hauling it away. If something is broken at all, he'll fix it."
- Clarence has been a repairperson all his life—he and his late wife owned and maintained a trailer park until their retirement—and he doesn't plan to slow down any time soon. One concession he agreed to when he entered his 90s was not doing roof repairs anymore, he admits with a laugh. Everything else is still fair game.
- Hopkinstville is a close-knit neighborhood by any standard. All the neighbors have their own story of Clarence lending a helping hand in a time of need without being asked.
- "It's nothing really. I've been doing this work my whole life and I still have an able body and an able mind. I like helping however I can. And I love living in Hopkinstville," Clarence said.



## HOLIDAY LIGHTING SAFETY

Trim the tree with safety in mind. A few precautions can help make the holidays a safer time for you and your family.

### LIGHTS AND TREES

- Only buy an artificial tree with a flame resistant label.

• Buy LED lights. They last longer and remain cool.

• Use Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) labeled lights.

• Check each set of lights for broken or cracked sockets, loose connections or frayed wires. Discard all damaged cords.

• Don't connect lights while adjusting them on a tree or house. Inspect lights and plug them together before hanging.

• Keep light bulbs off tree needles and branches. Position bulbs upright with a clip or twist-tie.

• Watch kids and pets around lights and other holiday decorations small enough to swallow.

• Unplug lights when you go to bed or leave home.

### CORDS AND OUTLETS

- Use a three-prong, grounded, UL labeled extension cord for outdoor lighting.

• Uncoil extension cords completely before using. Place them away from bulbs and heat sources.

• Don't overload extension cords or outlets.

• Keep cords out of water and away from metal objects.

• Never place cords under doors and rugs, or through windows, or other places where they might become damaged.

## FLU SHOT CLINICS

- There's still time for your annual flu shot. Anyone can attend the following flu shot clinics offered by Public Health. No appointment is necessary.

• Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South, Wednesday, November 14, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., hosted by Human Services.

• Bloomington Community Clinic, Oak Grove Middle School, 1300 West 106th Street, Tuesday, December 4, 4 – 6 p.m.

Bring your insurance card or notify the nurse if you do not have insurance. All children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. For information, call Public Health at 952-563-8900 or email [publichealth@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:publichealth@BloomingtonMN.gov).





## MEMBERS’ JURIED ART EXHIBITION

To see and to be seen: it’s a validation most artists seek, and the Annual Members’ Juried Exhibition makes it possible. This year, 75 pieces of art were selected among 237 entries from 125 artists. Most came from Minnesota, with 13 from Bloomington as well as one submission each from Iowa and Wisconsin—all competing for the \$500 best-of-show prize and 12 other awards. The winners were announced during an opening reception and awards ceremony October 12.

The Annual Members’ Juried Art Exhibition is the one of the most popular shows at Artistry in the Bloomington Center for the Arts. “There’s such a range of styles and media. There’s so much talent in this area, and we’re really proud of that,” Director of Visual Arts Rachel Daly said.

Artistry’s current membership submitted work. Artists ranged from emerging to established, including former Artistry students and teachers. Their creations covered diverse subjects rendered in everything from acrylics and oils, to cold wax, to mosaics, and more.



“I think for an artist the need for affirmation is important as well as the opportunity to exhibit,” Daly said. “Artists want to know their art has reached a certain level, and we’re happy to be able to provide that opportunity.” Minneapolis graphic designer and Gamut Gallery founder, Cassie Garner, judged the show.

The exhibition continues in the Inez Greenberg Gallery through November 16. For a complete list of award winners or other information, contact 952-563-8575 or visit blm.mn/juryshow.

## UP TO CODE: KEEP OUR CITY LOOKING GOOD

Residents play an important role in maintaining property values and the appearance of Bloomington neighborhoods. City code describes standards for property maintenance and relies on residents to take care of their properties. Here are some common City codes regulating your house and neighborhood. For more information, visit blm.mn/residentialcode.



### PARKING

1. Vehicles must be parked in the garage or on an approved driveway.
2. Unlicensed or inoperable vehicles must be stored in the garage. This includes vehicles with expired tabs.
3. No more than four vehicles may be parked outside of a garage excluding visitors.
4. Trailers that exceed six feet in height or have a bed length of more than eight feet six inches cannot be stored outside of the garage. One trailer under this size may be stored outside no closer than five feet to side yard property lines. A utility trailer may also be parked in the driveway if it is at least 30 feet back from the street.
5. Nonresidential vehicles taller than seven feet six inches or longer than 22 feet cannot park in residential areas.



### HOME MAINTENANCE AND OUTDOOR STORAGE

6. Store materials, machinery and equipment in a building or fully screened area so they are not visible from adjoining or adjacent lands.
7. Home exteriors must be maintained free from peeling, chipping and other deterioration. This includes siding, windows, trim, soffits, fascia, roof, doors, driveways, sheds and fences.
8. Firewood stack size and location are regulated.



### REFUSE, LITTER AND WEEDS

9. Grass must be cut before it reaches eight inches in height or before it is going to seed. All noxious weeds must be removed.
10. All twigs, tree and shrub branches that fall in the yard must be removed immediately or stored in an enclosed container. Brush piles are not allowed on residential properties.
11. Refuse (garbage) must be stored within a building or an enclosed container.
12. All refuse, recycling, compost, twigs and brush should be placed at the assigned collection location no more than 12 hours before collection day. Waste containers must be removed no more than 12 hours after collection day. Refuse and recycling containers for single-family, detached homes must be set back 30 feet from any four-season living area other than the owner’s. Refuse and recycling containers cannot be stored more than five feet in front of the principal building along any public right-of-way.



### HOME BUSINESSES

13. Certain businesses are prohibited in residential zones, including manufacturing, vehicle repair and retail where customers come to the house. Home businesses are separated into two types: Type 1 businesses include beauty shops, tutoring and piano instruction, but these have limits on the number of daily customers allowed. Type 2 businesses require Council approval.

### NOTICE A PROBLEM?

Let us know if a neighborhood property is becoming a problem. Report a nuisance or ordinance violation by calling Environmental Health at 952-563-8934 or e-mailing us at envhealth@BloomingtonMN.gov.

## OPEN TO BUSINESS

Looking for free tips to make your small business more successful? Open to Business is a program operated by the nonprofit Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD). The program enables cities and counties to enhance their economic development efforts by providing free small business support services to their residents and businesses. For Bloomington residents and businesses there is no charge for this service and everything discussed is confidential. Here are some of the types of assistance provided:

- Business feasibility analysis and business planning
- Objectivity and solution perspective

- Strategic/operational planning
  - Cash flow analysis
  - Loan packaging and micro financing
- OTB has office hours at Civic Plaza in the Johnson Conference Room on the

fourth Wednesday each month from 1 – 4 p.m. Any interested resident or business in Bloomington should book time to meet with an OTB business advisor by contacting jendris@mccdmn.org or 952-563-8927.



TO BUSINESS