

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



DECEMBER 2015



Snow! Snow! Snow! Embrace the season by playing, skating and sledding at Winter Fete, January 23-31, see page 6.

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## MAYORAL AND CITY COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

The Mayor's office and City Council chambers will be full of familiar faces in 2016. Gene Winstead will return for his fifth term as Bloomington's mayor. Andrew Carlson, Dwayne A. Lowman and Tim Busse also retained their seats on the City Council.

Bloomington had a 14.7 percent voter turnout with 7,915 ballots cast in the November 3 election, according to City Clerk Janet Lewis.

"The City values residents' responsiveness in local government and that they take the time to exercise their right to vote," said Lewis. "Bloomington election judges were ready for the crowds on Election Day. Their dedicated service maintains public confidence in honest and impartial elections because they perform their duties with accuracy, transparency and fairness."

Newly elected City officials will be sworn in at the January 4 City Council meeting.

### Gene Winstead, mayor



Gene Winstead was reelected to his fifth term as Bloomington's mayor. Winstead has owned and worked for Bloomington businesses for 35 years. He has been married to his wife, Debbie, for 42 years. They have three daughters and seven grandchildren. For more than 35 years, Winstead has been involved in Bloomington civic and government organizations. He has served on the Bloomington Crime Prevention Association, the Bloomington Optimist Club, Chamber of Commerce, the Airport Foundation MSP, the Bloomington Planning Commission, as a Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority commissioner, and on Bloomington City Council as a councilmember and as mayor.

"Public service is important to me," said Winstead. "I do everything I can to make Bloomington the best place to live and work."

### Tim Busse, councilmember at large



Tim Busse was appointed to City Council in April 2011 and won reelection to a four-year term as councilmember at large in November of the same year. Busse's council priorities of business development and seeking creative, big-picture solutions are seen in his efforts beyond City Hall. He serves on the board of directors of the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce and serves on the Bloomington Port Authority and the League of Minnesota Cities. Professionally, Busse is communications director for University Services at the University of Minnesota. With more than 3,000 employees, University Services runs the "city" of the University of Minnesota. Busse's City Council and professional responsibilities overlap on an almost daily basis.

"My priorities in the coming year include continuing the citywide discussion on the future of Hyland Golf Course and whether or not to build a community center; continuing our work with Bloomington schools to ensure that successful schools and a successful City work hand in hand; and working to ensure that the I-35W/I-494 interchange is rebuilt."

### Dwayne A. Lowman, councilmember district I



Dwayne A. Lowman was born and raised in Bloomington and has been a proud resident for 31 years. Professionally, he is a workforce management planning analyst at Wells Fargo. Lowman attended Augsburg College and earned a bachelor's degree in political science and regional planning. He was first elected to City Council in 2013. Lowman is also former chair of the West Bank Community Coalition and former board member of the National Youth Leadership Council.

"I believe we should focus on making Bloomington a more sustainable place in every aspect of the word—for residents, for City staff and for the environment," he said. "I also believe that the sun is still shining on our city's future and our best days lie ahead of us."

### Andrew Carlson, councilmember district II



Andrew Carlson was first elected to the Bloomington City Council in 2013. He has been married to Kari Carlson for 13 years. They have two daughters, Josephine and Stephanie, who attend Olson Elementary School. Carlson received his undergraduate degree from Iowa State University and his MBA from the University of St. Thomas. He is also a policy fellow at the University of Minnesota, Humphrey School of Public Affairs. Professionally, he is a project manager and serves on several boards and commissions.

"As the district II city councilmember, I will work with others on the opportunities and challenges we will face in the coming years," Carlson said. "I will also actively promote Bloomington as a first-class destination and work to ensure that our City remains well-managed and prosperous."

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*Elected officials presented for informational purposes.*

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

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

# MAYOR'S MEMO

## A BLOCKBUSTER YEAR IN BLOOMINGTON

By Mayor Gene Winstead

**B**loomington looks different today than it did a year ago. That is, in large part, due to work on new commercial, public and residential developments. From public art in the South Loop to new retail stores and restaurants, 2015 has been a blockbuster year.

Park Place on France Phase III is underway; Penn American Phase II opened this fall, Lennar Multifamily Communities broke ground on its IndiGO apartments in South Loop, a Home2 Suites by Hilton and Fresh Thyme Farmers Market opened in the Penn American district, and the Lindau Lane corridor projects wrapped up.

Lindau Link—one element of the corridor projects—fits with the City's alternative transportation plan goals. With pedestrian, bicyclist, motorist and public transportation accommodations, these road improvements make it easier for everyone to travel around Bloomington. The bicycle and pedestrian bridge at 12th Avenue provides improved city connection for residents and visitors, too, and was completed in October.

An array of creative placemaking art installations took place in 2015. A lighted stainless steel sculpture was installed at Fresh Thyme Farmers Market, the sculpture *Convergence* was added in the roundabout at 28th Avenue and Lindau Lane; and a mural was completed at Cypress Semiconductor on the 86th Street trailhead to the Minnesota River Valley.

With all of these projects and plans taking shape for the future, the City recognizes the importance of gathering feedback from residents regularly. Bloomington took its annual resident survey a step further this year and surveyed businesses for the first time. Ninety-one percent of residents rated Bloomington's overall quality of life as excellent or good; 89 percent of business respondents agreed.

The City also welcomed new City Manager Jamie Verbrugge, *pictured at left*, in February. Since then, Jamie has worked to meet community members and has taken charge of many complex issues the City has been facing.

This summer, the Farmers Market had a record number of residents who enjoyed the fresh produce, live music and fun activities. Summer Fete hosted thousands of attendees from around the metro. National Night Out was a huge hit with many residents and families coming out to connect with police officers. More than 100 people attended the first-ever Business Day at City Hall.

This year truly has been one for the books, but the best is yet to come. We continue to focus on the current and future needs of our community, and work with our partners and businesses to explore new and exciting ways to make Bloomington even better.



## IN THE LOOP: LINDAU CORRIDOR PROJECTS COMPLETE

**A**fter three years of planning and construction, the Lindau Lane corridor projects are finished. With complete streets, safety improvements and better traffic flow, the improved roadways create a walkable environment that makes it easy to navigate South Loop.

In 2011, the Legislature passed and the governor signed a state bonding bill that included \$15.45 million in funding for the Lindau corridor projects. City of Bloomington Engineer Shelly Pederson said that the completion of the projects brings the City one step closer to realizing the South Loop district vision.

"Bloomington's vision is to transform the dispersed, suburban commercial area into a walkable urban neighborhood," Pederson said. "The Lindau Lane corridor projects lay the infrastructure for that to happen."

A large component of the corridor projects was the creation of complete streets—a term used for streets that accommodate pedestrians, public transit, bicyclists and drivers—also referred to as Lindau Link. Lindau Link will provide trees, lighting and other amenities for South Loop visitors. The space will be used for events and foster sidewalk-level, storefront activity.

Improvements on Lindau Lane were completed in fall 2014. Lindau Lane was lowered so a bridge could be built above it at street level. The bridge includes a landscaped pedestrian plaza with a road that serves as a drop-off location for Mall of America.

As a safety improvement at TH77 and Lindau Lane, the northbound TH77 ramp was raised to better match Lindau Lane. The change makes it possible for northbound to eastbound ramp traffic to merge with southbound to eastbound traffic prior to reaching the intersection of Ikea Way and 20th Avenue.



## GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS

**M**ore than 100 people attended the first-ever Business Day at City Hall this September with the goal of strengthening the relationship between Bloomington's private and public sectors.

City Manager Jamie Verbrugge presented the 2015 resident and business survey results and a panel discussed the future needs of the Bloomington workforce.

The City's Human Services, Human Rights Coalition, Public Health, Fire Department, Police Department, Parks and Recreation, and Communications along with Artistry showcased the services they provide.

Xcel Energy, Mall of America, Merrill Lynch, Comcast Business and Rasmussen College sponsored the event.







## NATIONAL SKATING COMPETITION AT BIG

The U.S. National Figure Skating Competition is coming to Minnesota in 2016 for the third time in 101 years.

More than 400 skaters will compete in Bloomington and Saint Paul. The annual event is the nation's most prestigious figure skating competition, featuring past champions such as Michelle Kwan and Kristi Yamaguchi.

Bloomington Ice Garden will host the intermediate, and junior-level competitions Friday–Monday, January 15–18. The Xcel Energy Center will host an official practice day, Saturday, January 16; and the main competition Sunday–Sunday, January 17–24. The U.S. Championships serve as the final qualifying event to make the U.S. World Figure Skating Team and the U.S. Olympic Team.

## PARK PLACE ON FRANCE

Park Place on France Phase III, at France Avenue and Old Shakopee Road, is moving forward with new tenants and opening dates.

Four restaurants will be located at Park Place. Willy McCoy's, a pub-style restaurant, will be the first restaurant in Bloomington with rooftop seating and is expected to open in the first quarter of 2016. Rita's Italian Ice, a sub sandwich restaurant, and Pie Five Pizza, a restaurant that makes and bakes custom pizzas in five minutes, will also be opening in the development.

Along with these restaurants, a dental office and Sports Clips salon are expected to open in December. Park Place on France was approved as a three-phase development in 2007. Phase I and Phase II are complete and include Walgreen's and Star Choice Credit Union.

## SIGN UP FOR EMERGENCY ALERTS

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

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: CITIZEN ALERT.

## VOLUNTEER TO SERVE

If you are interested in serving on a commission, visit the City's website for more information.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: ADVISORY COMMISSIONS.



## OLD CEDAR AVENUE BRIDGE UPDATE

The Old Cedar Avenue bridge rehabilitation is underway and prompting the team to get creative. This year, Kraemer North America, the contractor working on the project, plans to lift the first two sections of the steel truss bridge and begin repair.

One element of the bridge's restoration that has required a creative solution is the rivets. In the 1920s, hot rivets were used for fastening bridge pieces together. In this method, hot rivets were fed through drilled holes and the unformed end was hammered flat to close the joint. As the rivet cooled, it would contract and squeeze the joint together. Hot rivets fell out of favor as modern construction techniques developed. However, given the historic designation of the bridge, the replacement fasteners need to look accurate to the original period of construction.

The use of rivets was discussed, but a precisely torqued bolt provides higher-quality fastening. Rivets also require more access to both sides of the bridge's joint, which is harder to provide in a rehabilitation project as opposed to new construction. In the end, it was decided that button head bolts—which look like rivets on one side—would provide a historically accurate look and safer fastening. The button heads will face inside toward the pedestrian and bicycle paths with the bolt on the outside of the bridge.

Pictured above is the temporary bridge at the Old Cedar Avenue site in September. The temporary bridge is intended only for worker's use during construction.

## GENERAL FUND BUDGET

In 2016, the monthly cost of City services for owners of median-valued homes of \$219,700 will be \$75.56. Last year the cost was \$71.64. The increase is a result of several initiatives and adding back a fire pension levy to the budget. On September 14, the City Council approved a preliminary levy of \$53,394,842 for 2016. It also approved a preliminary general operating fund budget of \$68,087,385, a 6.4 percent increase from the 2015 budget.

The City uses multiyear modeling to track revenue and expenditures to predict upcoming trends for 2016. City staff also uses a five-year planning model that considers both the short-term and future needs of the community to recommend a preliminary levy. The City continues to be cost effective in providing quality services that meet public demand.

In a 2015 resident survey, 86 percent of respondents thought that the value of City services for taxes paid was excellent or good, putting Bloomington in the top 20 percent of cities surveyed nationwide.

The preliminary levy can be reduced, but not increased, before final adoption. If the 2016 levy is approved at the proposed level, the average annual increase in the City's levy

from 1996–2016 would be 3.5 percent. One of Bloomington's strengths has been the diversity of the tax base over which City services provided to Bloomington residents and business are allocated. Historically, Bloomington's tax capacity has been split between residential (including apartments) and commercial/industrial. However, the current economy is showing greater variability of real estate values as it comes out of the downturn.

"The City levies an exact dollar amount needed to maintain certain levels of services," Chief Financial Officer Lori Economy-Scholler said. "This amount is apportioned to all properties in the community based on their individual property values."

The City's multiyear modeling indicates that property tax levies over the next five years should remain approximately

equal to long-term home value appreciation plus community growth as Bloomington works to be more sustainable for the longer term.

For more information, contact Chief Financial Officer Lori Economy-Scholler at 952-563-8708 or [leconomy@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:leconomy@BloomingtonMN.gov). For property valuation information, contact City Assessor Matt Gersemehl at 952-563-8708 or [mgersemehl@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:mgersemehl@BloomingtonMN.gov).



## GARBAGE AND RECYCLING SERVICE FAQ

The new garbage and recycling service kicks off in April 2016. In the meantime, the City and haulers are working to determine the details of implementation. As part of these efforts, the City has created an FAQ Web page for the project. Access it on the City's website. You can also sign up to receive garbage and recycling service updates on the City's website via E-Subscribe. For more information, contact Deputy Director of Public Works Jim Gates at 952-563-4868 or [jgates@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:jgates@BloomingtonMN.gov).

WEBSITE KEYWORD: GARBAGE







## RECYCLE EVERYWHERE

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

### Make it easy

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

### Recycle in every room

Did you know there are more than 20 items in the bathroom alone that are recyclable? Check out this list to find more items you can recycle around the house:

#### Bathroom

- Shampoo, soap, lotion and mouthwash bottles.
- Boxes from toothpaste, medication and other toiletries.
- Empty medicine bottles, toilet paper rolls and plastic containers.

#### Laundry room

- Detergent, stain remover and fabric softener bottles.
- Cat litter jugs.
- Dryer sheet boxes.

#### Office

- Magazines and newspapers.
- Office supply boxes.
- File folders.
- Soft cover books.
- Tissue boxes.
- Paper or shredded paper in a paper bag.

### Make it fun

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

## THE INCREDIBLE CLASSROOM SUPPLIER

A pair of broken scissors inspired Cary Weatherby to find a way to cut office supply waste and provide quality classroom materials to students and teachers in need.

More than 10 years ago, Weatherby was at her daughter’s elementary school attempting to use a pair of broken scissors when she thought to herself that there had to be something she could do about the shortage of functioning classroom supplies.

An alarming number of students can’t afford basic school supplies and teachers spend \$700 on average out of their own pockets to help those students, according to Weatherby. Meanwhile, companies need an outlet for excess office supplies. Thus, the concept for Companies to Classrooms was created.

Companies to Classrooms finds local companies willing to donate their excess supplies. When the supplies arrive at the warehouse, volunteers sort and inventory the items. Then, all supplies are placed in the Companies to Classrooms “free store,” where teachers and school staff visit to shop for supplies.

“It’s a win-win for the community,” Weatherby said. “Three hundred thousand tons of business waste is disposed of each year and 90 percent of it is usable.”

When it began, Companies to Classrooms served only Bloomington public, private and parochial schools. Then the organization was able to expand to serve Richfield and Shakopee students as well. More recently, a partnership with Hennepin County Environmental Services has allowed Companies to Classrooms to grow and serve additional Hennepin County schools. The nonprofit now serves more than 50,000 students.

“We try to reuse and recycle as much as possible,” Weatherby said. “A lot of what we get is new or barely used. This is a good way to use it.”

During the back-to-school rush of the 2014–15 school year, more than 800 teachers visited the nonprofit in the space of two weeks. This year, more than 400 teachers shopped during back-to-school season.



## COMPANIES to CLASSROOMS

Companies to Classrooms is always looking for financial donations to help keep the lights on and the rent paid. Donations of basic supplies that teachers need and businesses don’t normally have such as crayons, colored pencils, bottled glue, kids scissors and filler paper are always needed. Copy paper is the most sought after supply. For more information, visit [companiestoclassrooms.org/donors/](http://companiestoclassrooms.org/donors/).



### HOW TO HELP

**Shovel.** The more snow you shovel the less salt you need.

**Don’t over-apply.** More salt does not mean more melting. Use less than four pounds of salt per 1,000 square feet. One pound of salt is about a heaping 12-ounce coffee cup.

**Temperature matters.** Common deicers don’t melt snow and ice below 15 degrees Fahrenheit. Below this temperature, use sand for traction instead.

**Sweep up extra.** Salt on dry pavement is not helping and will be washed into our lakes and rivers. Sweep it up and reuse it.

## PROTECT OUR WATER BODIES: PRACTICE SUSTAINABLE ICE REMOVAL AT HOME

With winter in full swing, most residents have their snow removal tools—shovels, snow blowers and salt—out and ready to go. Sprinkling salt may seem easier and more time effective than shoveling snow, but it also causes permanent damage to lakes, streams and rivers. Bloomington’s Nine Mile Creek is listed as impaired for chlorides—an effect of too much winter salt use.

Once they are in the water, there is no cost-effective way to remove chlorides. At high concentrations, chlorides can harm fish and plant life. It only takes one teaspoon of salt to pollute five gallons of water.

The City is doing its part to minimize the amount of salt used in snow removal. Some of the City’s techniques include regular calibration of salt spreaders and the use of treated salt, road temperature sensors in plow trucks and an anti-ice brine solution on the streets. Salt use in the Nine Mile Creek watershed district needs to be reduced by 62 percent for the creek to be considered healthy.





## BIG SKATE SCHOOL

Whether you are a little wobbly on the ice or can skate circles around your friends, BIG Skate School can help you sharpen your skating skills. Skate School is designed to teach people of all ages how to skate for recreation, hockey, figure skating and speed skating. New this year, BIG is offering a therapeutic program for physically challenged skaters. Skate School students also have the opportunity to perform alongside the Figure Skating Club of Bloomington in BIG's annual spring ice show. BIG Skate School runs year round. Online registration is preferred. To register online, visit [blm.mn/skateschool](http://blm.mn/skateschool). In-person registration is available at BIG 8 a.m.–3 p.m. or Civic Plaza, Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

## MEET A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER

Volunteer firefighter Lisa Ziskovsky, pictured above, has been with the Bloomington Fire Department for nine years. She works out of Station 3.

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

**A:** I work at Travelers Insurance as a technical specialist in the Boiler and Machinery Claim Department.

**Q:** Do you have any family you'd like to mention?

**A:** My husband, Mike, is also a volunteer firefighter and my parents are Bloomington residents.

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

**A:** I spend most of my free time with my family, including my 2-year-old son, Benjamin, and new baby, Joshua—anything I do with them is awesome. I also enjoy working out, cooking, baking and anything outdoors.

**Q:** What is your most memorable experience as a firefighter?

**A:** One of my most memorable experiences is of an early morning apartment fire in the middle of winter. I was on the ladder truck and remember hearing dispatch report that people were jumping out of windows. When we arrived on scene, my crew's assignment was to set up ladders and rescue residents. It was a long, cold morning, but it was a success because everyone made it out of the building safely.



## SEEKING HOME IMPROVEMENT FAIR VENDORS FOR 2016

The City of Bloomington and the Housing Redevelopment Authority will host the 2016 Home Improvement Fair on **Saturday, February 20**. Home remodeling professionals and vendors who are interested in exhibiting at the event must register before **Friday, December 18**. For more information and a registration form, visit the City's website.

**WEBSITE KEYWORDS:** HOME FAIR.



## PREVENT FROZEN PIPES

Long periods of subzero temperatures can cause water meters and internal water pipes to freeze. To prevent frozen pipes, allow heat to circulate around the meter by opening the doors to the meter closet. For extra protection, wrap water pipes with foam insulation.

If you are planning to be out of town for an extended period of time, contact Bloomington Utilities to request that your water be turned off at the street. Utilities charges \$50 to send a technician to shut off water and \$50 to turn it back on. For more information visit the City's website or call Bloomington Utilities at 952-563-8777.

## BEST IN GLASS

Bloomington earned bragging rights at the 2015 Minnesota Section American Water Works Association (AWWA) Fall Conference held in Duluth. The City's Public Works Department was awarded "Best in Glass" for the taste of its tap water after a blind taste test. Conference attendees sampled 13 different water entries and selected three by popular vote to move on to the second round of judging. A panel of tasting experts determined the winner out of the top three selections and the People's Choice Award winner from the Minnesota State Fair.

As a result of being named 2015 champion, Bloomington will be home to the traveling "Best in Glass" trophy, pictured above, for one year. The City has also earned the right to enter its water sample into the National AWWA Conference "Best in Glass" competition in the spring.

The City took first and third place in the AWWA Fall Conference Meter Madness competition where contestants raced to reassemble a 15-piece water meter. Senior Utility Operator Brent Massmann earned first-place honors with a time of 42 seconds, and Utility Operator Tony Schmieg took third place with a time of 59 seconds. By competing in these types of events, City workers sharpen their skills so they are ready to work with speed and efficiency in the field.



## ON PATROL: HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

The holidays are upon us and there is a long list of things to do to get ready for the festivities. Before getting caught up in the hustle and bustle of it all, take some time to review these tips for a safe, happy holiday season.

**If you are traveling,** set an automatic timer for your lights. Ask your neighbor to watch your home, shovel the walks, pick up newspapers, collect mail and occasionally park in the driveway.

**If you are out for the evening,** turn on your lights and a radio or television so it appears that someone is home. Lock all doors and windows while you are out even if it is only for a few minutes. Do not place packages or gifts near your windows.

**If you are shopping,** park in well-lit areas and always lock your car doors. Before you arrive at your destination, hide packages and purses in your trunk. If you carry your purse into the store, do not leave it in a cart and walk away. If you take small children with you, teach them to go to a police officer or store security guard if they get separated or lost.

**If you are at home,** turn on outside lights to deter burglars. Report any suspicious activity by calling 911. Make sure you have a record of your electronic items. Get to know your neighbors and join Bloomington Police Department's Neighborhood Watch Program.





## 2015 – 2016 OUTDOOR RINKS AND WARMING HOUSES

**P**arks and Recreation will operate 13 outdoor ice skating rink sites this winter. During rink hours, all facilities will be lighted. Some sites are supervised by Parks and Recreation employees during public skating hours. See below. Weather and ice conditions permitting, park shelters will be open **December 12 through February 15**. For more information, contact Parks and Recreation. For up-to-date rink conditions and closings, visit the City's website or call 952-563-8878 and select option 3.

Please note special hours for staffed rinks are 12-4 p.m. on the following days:

- December 24 and 31
- February 7 (Super Bowl Sunday)

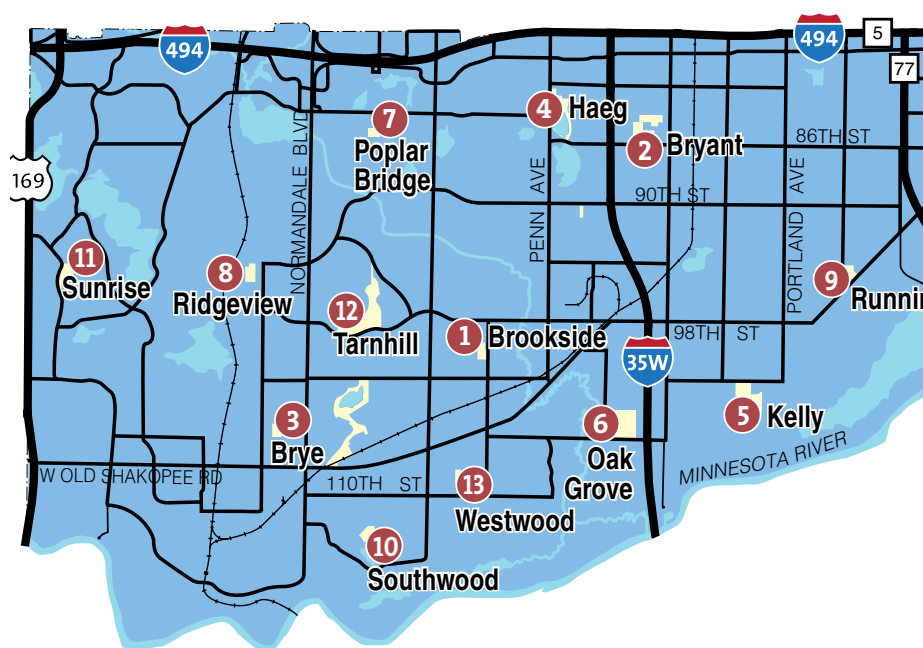
All sites are closed on December 25.

\* School release days (SRD), at right.

\*\*Staffed on a volunteer basis.

Schedules are posted on the City's website.

**WEBSITE KEYWORDS: WARMING HOUSES**



DAY OF WEEK	REGULAR	SCHOOL RELEASE DAYS (SRD)*
	Dec. 12 - 20 Jan. 2 - 17, 19 - 24 and 26 - 31 Feb. 1 - 14	Dec. 21 - Jan. 1, 18 and 25 Feb. 15
M-F	4 - 9 p.m.	Noon - 9 p.m.
Saturday	Noon - 9 p.m.	Noon - 9 p.m.
Sunday	1 - 8 p.m.	1 - 8 p.m.

## WINTER FETE

**T**he 13th annual Winter Fete celebration will take place throughout the city, **Saturday, January 23 through Sunday, January 31**. The City will host the annual Pond Dakota Winter History Festival on **Sunday, January 31**, and other family fun events during the week-long celebration. All activities are free unless otherwise noted. For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877.

## BUMP, SET, SPIKE

**T**he Born Again Jocks volleyball league welcomes men, 55 years and older, of all skill levels. Games are held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m., at Jefferson High School, 9701 Nicollet Avenue, through January. For more information, call Paul Johnson at 612-866-4428.

## INDOOR FARMERS MARKET

**C**old weather doesn't have to keep you from enjoying the Farmers Market. The indoor market will take place **Saturday, December 12, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.**, at Civic Plaza. There will be a plethora of products available such as winter produce, apples, spruce tips, canned goods, cheese, pork products and more.

## ADULT WINTER VOLLEYBALL LEAGUES

**D**on't let the snow slow down your volleyball game. Take it indoors with the adult winter volleyball league. League play runs **Sundays, January 3 through March 20**, at the Kennedy High School Activity Center and Bloomington Armory. Co-rec and women's leagues are offered Monday through Thursday evenings. For more information, call 952-563-8877 or visit the City's website.

## THINK SOFTBALL NEXT SUMMER

**I**t's never too early to start planning for warmer weather. Registration for the 2016 summer softball season will be open in early February for returning teams who played in a 2015 Bloomington summer softball league. Registration for all other teams will open at the end of February. Registration details will be available on the City's website in early January.

## LOCATIONS AND FEATURES LOCATIONS AND FEATURES

	PARK	ADDRESS	STAFFING	General	Hockey	Floodlights
1	Brookside	10000 Xerxes Avenue	Wknds, SRD*	•	•	•
2	Bryant	1001 W. 85th Street	Daily, Special	•	•	•
3	Brye	10500 Xavier Avenue South	Wknds, SRD*	•	•	•
4	Haeg	8301 Penn Avenue South	Volunteer basis**	•	•	•
5	Kelly	185 E. 102nd Street	Volunteer basis**	•	•	•
6	Oak Grove	1301 W. 104th Street	Wknds, SRD*	•	•	•
7	Poplar Bridge	4600 W. 85th Street	Wknds, SRD*	•	•	•
8	Ridgeview	6001 W. 94th Street	Volunteer basis**	•	•	•
9	Running	9501 12th Avenue South	Daily, Special	•	2	•
10	Southwood	4800 Terracewood Drive	Volunteer basis**	•	•	•
11	Sunrise	9401 Bloomington Ferry Road	Daily, Special	•	•	•
12	Tarnhill	9650 Little Road	Volunteer basis**	•	•	•
13	Westwood	3490 W. 109th Street	Daily, Special	•	2	•

## PLAN AHEAD FOR PICNIC SHELTER USE

**M**aking it through a Minnesota winter is no picnic, but planning ahead for warmer weather can take the edge off of the chilly conditions. Picnic shelters will soon be available to rent for picnics, receptions, reunions and meetings. Registration begins January 4 for shelter use April 15 through October 15. Shelters have electricity, grills, restrooms and drinking fountains. City parks offer nearby playground equipment, volleyball and horseshoe courts, trails and softball fields.

**WEBSITE KEYWORDS: PICNIC SHELTER RENTAL.**

### EAST BUSH LAKE PARK

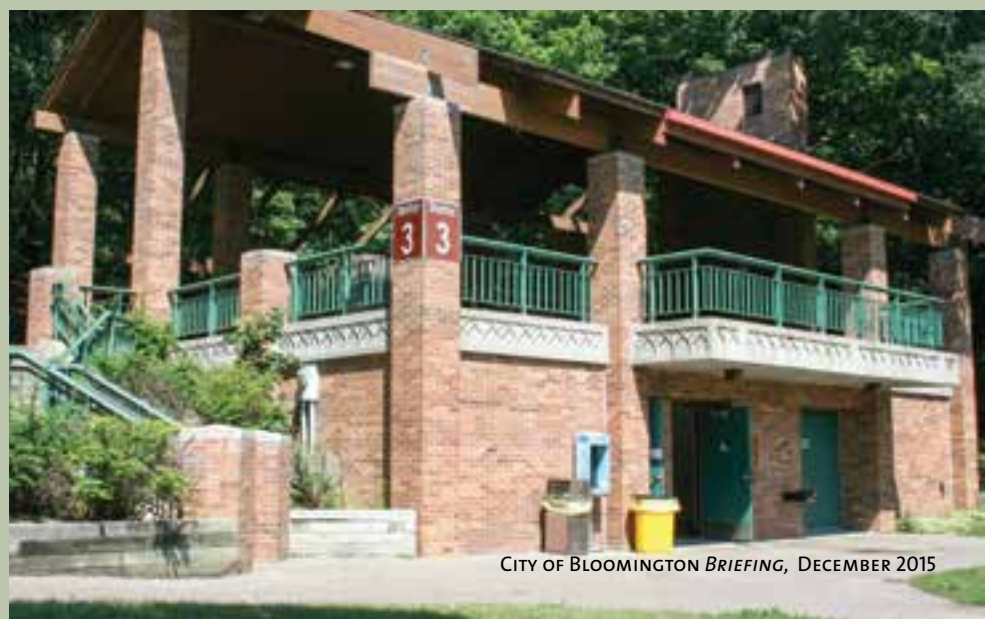
9140 East Bush Lake Road  
Shelter 3: Accommodates 200, \$327 + tax

### WEST BUSH LAKE PARK

94th Street at West Bush Lake Road  
Shelter 1: Accommodates 200, \$247 + tax  
Shelter 2: Accommodates 100, \$168 + tax

### MOIR PARK

104th Street at Morgan Avenue  
Shelter 1: Accommodates 200+, \$247 + tax  
Shelter 2: Accommodates 50, \$168 + tax







## BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY

The Cedar Avenue/MN77 bridge opened in 1979, linking Bloomington with Eagan and Burnsville. This photo shows the bridge under construction. In the foreground, you'll see the old TH77 bridge.



## POWERING UP WITH FRESH PRODUCE

This summer, kids who attended the Bloomington Farmers Market learned just how powerful and delicious fresh produce can be. The Farmers Market was selected as one of only 30 nationwide to participate in Power of Produce (POP) Club.

The POP Club empowers kids to make their own healthy choices at a young age by engaging children in educational activities and giving them a voucher to purchase fresh produce. Children ages 4–12 were eligible to participate; they received a \$2 voucher to purchase fruit or vegetables during their market visit. The Farmers Market Coalition teamed up with Chipotle Mexican Grill to sponsor the program.

The market received educational materials and \$2,000 in market vouchers to implement POP activities.

## HYLAND REMODEL BY THE NUMBERS

The Hyland Hills chalet remodel that replaced the original 1974 structure with a modern, intuitive design is complete. The new chalet provides improved flow from guest services to the slopes, new food options, a retail shop and hundreds of seats with a perfect view of the hills. The City partnered with Three Rivers Park District to reconstruct the chalet's existing parking lot and build a new 110-vehicle parking lot on Chalet Road in Normandale Lake Park.

The chalet held a grand opening in September. Here are a few numbers that illustrate what has changed at Hyland Hills:

- 21,000 square foot increase
- 488 dining room seats
- 5 new changing rooms
- 22 additional restroom fixtures
- 204 additional rental lockers
- 9 Wi-Fi access points
- 526 parking spots



## CHECK OUT THIS AMAZING LINEUP OF HOLIDAY FUN

Located in Bloomington Civic Plaza at the corner of West 98th Street and Old Shakopee Road, the Center for the Arts is a first-class facility housing seven arts organizations. For facility information, call 952-563-8889.

For tickets, call the Box Office at 952-563-8575.

**WEBSITE KEYWORDS: CENTER FOR THE ARTS.**

### GALLERY HOURS

**Hours:** M - F 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
Sa 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Su 1 - 10 p.m.

### GIFTS IN THE GALLERY

Visit the Inez Greenberg Gallery on December 9–23 to find unique gifts for everyone on your shopping list. The boutique-style sale features a wide array of items—including silk scarves, jewelry, ceramics, blown glass, and more—handmade by more than 60 local artists.

Sale hours are Monday – Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Thursday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 9 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m. – 9 p.m., and Sunday, 1 – 5 p.m.

There will be a festive reception on Wednesday, December 9, 6 – 8 p.m. Be the first to check out the items for sale while enjoying live holiday music, light refreshments, a drink from the cash bar and a chance to win a door prize.



### Continental Ballet Company The Nutcracker

Join us for Tchaikovsky's timeless tale of Clara's voyage to the land of the Sugar Plum Fairy with her magical godfather Drosselmeyer. Choreography by Riet Velthuisen.

Saturdays, Dec. 5 and 12, 7:30 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 6 and 13, 3 p.m.  
Adults \$25, Seniors and Students \$19, Children under 13 \$13



### NOTE-able Singers Season Celebrations

Get into the holiday spirit and join NOTE-able Singers as they perform songs celebrating everything that makes the season jolly and bright.

Wednesday, December 16, 7:30 p.m.  
Adults \$15, Seniors and Students \$12, Kids under 5 free



### Bloomington Chorale Everywhere Christmas, Tonight

Excerpts from *Messiah*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, pieces by Benjamin Britten from *A Ceremony of Carols* and other seasonal selections.

Friday, December 18, 7:30 p.m., Saturday, December 19, 4 p.m.  
Adults \$15, Seniors and Students \$11 (Add \$1 to ticket price at the door)



### Medalist Concert Band Sounds of the Season

Celebrate the holidays with the Medalist Concert Band in this program of traditional carols and modern favorites.

Sunday, December 20, 4 p.m.  
Adults \$14, Seniors and Students \$12



# SNOW EMERGENCY SURVIVAL GUIDE

## WHAT IS A SNOW EMERGENCY?

snow emergency

*noun*, | snow e-mer-gen-cy | \ˈsnoʊ i-ˈmər-jənt-sə\

A declaration from the City that is automatically in effect when three or more inches of snow have accumulated.

Example of snow emergency

During a snow emergency, no parking is allowed on city streets for 48 hours or until the street has been plowed from curb to curb. Snow emergency alerts will be posted on the City's website, cable channel and social media pages.



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## SNOW EMERGENCY SURVIVAL GUIDE

**S**now is an inevitable and—at times—enjoyable part of the winter season. The City helps residents get through winter road conditions with snow removal services at a cost of \$3.19 per month for an owner of a median-valued home. As early as 3 a.m., snowplow operators are out on the streets preparing them for morning commuters after or during snowfall. They plow the most heavily used roads first and then move on to other roads, cul-de-sacs and sidewalks. The City prides itself on its snow removal services. In the 2015 resident and business survey, an average of 88 percent of respondents rated the City's snow removal services as excellent or good, which is higher than the national average. Residents can help the City continue to provide top-quality service by following these tips.



### EQUIPMENT FEATURE: SIDEWALK PLOW

Sidewalk plows are unique pieces of equipment. City staff continually experiments with things like added wheels and plastic cutting edges to increase efficiency and safety for plow operators. For example, an added snow walker feature softens the impact of tree roots or other hazards that have heaved sidewalks by mechanically rolling the plow up and over the hazard. Bloomington maintenance staff is responsible for snow removal on more than 250 miles of sidewalk throughout the city. Removal of a three-to-five inch snowfall takes approximately three days to complete.



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### SAFETY TIPS FOR DRIVERS

Yield to snowplows and stay alert. A snowplow weighs 17 times more than a car. In a crash with a plow, car passengers are more likely to be seriously injured. Never drive into a snow cloud created by a snowplow. Do not use cruise control on wet, icy roads.

### FIRE HYDRANTS, MAILBOXES AND GARBAGE BINS

The Fire Department requests that residents shovel out the fire hydrants near their homes. Accessible hydrants greatly reduce the time it takes firefighters to extinguish a fire.

Keep your mailbox clear of snow. Mailboxes should not extend past the curb and should have sturdy four-by-four timber posts. The bottoms of mailboxes should be no less than 45 inches off the ground and located on the left side of your driveway.

If it snows on or near garbage collection day, keep garbage and recycling bins away from the end of the driveway and behind the curb. Place containers off sidewalks to leave room for plows.

### PARKING PROTOCOL

To ensure that all streets are fully cleared, Bloomington Police enforce a parking ban during snow emergencies. To find out if a snow emergency has been declared, visit the City's website or call the Snow Emergency Hotline at 952-563-8768.

### SAFETY TIPS FOR CHILDREN

Never allow children to build tunnels or snow forts near the street. The force and weight of the snow coming off of the plows can collapse tunnels or forts and may severely harm children. Keep sleds and other toys out of the street and far away from the edge of the road. Snowbanks make it difficult for plow operators to see children in these areas. Children should never play near the edge of the road.

### WAIT TO CLEAR THE END OF YOUR DRIVEWAY

To reduce the chances of having to shovel more than once, wait to clear the end of your driveway until your street is plowed from curb to curb. Snowplows may inadvertently plow snow from the road into driveways that have already been shoveled.

### KEEP SIDEWALKS CLEAR

Keeping sidewalks clear of snow and ice makes safe pedestrian travel possible. The City asks that residents and business owners keep their sidewalks free of fallen and plowed snow. It is illegal for any vehicle to block a public sidewalk. The City is also responsible for keeping some sidewalks clear—maintenance workers plow 250 miles of sidewalk each year at a cost of 48 cents per month for owners of median-valued homes.