Mayor 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, MPR, 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 2011. 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.”
In the Loop: Lindau Corridor Projects Complete

After 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 2015, 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 complete links. Lindau Lane will provide trees, lighting and other amenities for South Loop visitors. The space will be used for events and for 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. 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.

Mayor Gene Winstead
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Mayor’s Memo
A Blockbuster Year in Bloomington

Mayor Gene Winstead

Bloomington 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 II 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 11th Avenue provides improved city connections 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 Pete hosted thousands of attendees from around the metro. National Night Out was a huge hit with many residents and communities 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.
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 $299,700 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 $53,994,842 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 952-565-8708 or leconomy@BloomingtonMN.gov. For property valuation information, contact City Assessor Matt Gersemeahl at 952-565-8708 or mgersemehl@BloomingtonMN.gov.
Recycle everywhere

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

Make it easy

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

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.

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 $900 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, in partnership with Hennepin County Environmental Services, it has provided supplies to schools in Richfield, Shakopee and Bloomington.

Companies to Classrooms 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.

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 6 percent for the creek to be considered healthy.
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.

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. In-person registration is available at BIG 8 a.m.–3 p.m. or Civic Plaza, Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

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

Parks and Recreation will operate 15 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 for 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day of week</th>
<th>Regular</th>
<th>School release days (SRD)*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M-F</td>
<td>4-9 p.m.</td>
<td>Noon - 9 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Noon - 9 p.m.</td>
<td>Noon - 9 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>1-8 p.m.</td>
<td>1-8 p.m.</td>
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Locations and Features

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Staffing</th>
<th>Ice</th>
<th>Floodlights</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Brookside</td>
<td>10000 Xerxes Avenue</td>
<td>Wknds, SRD*</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Bryant</td>
<td>1005 W 85th Street</td>
<td>Daily, Special</td>
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<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Brye</td>
<td>10500 Xavier Avenue South</td>
<td>Wknds, SRD*</td>
<td>•</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Haag</td>
<td>8301 Penn Avenue South</td>
<td>Volunteer basis**</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Kelly</td>
<td>185 E 102nd Street</td>
<td>Volunteer basis**</td>
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<td>•</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Oak Grove</td>
<td>1301 W 104th Street</td>
<td>Wknds, SRD*</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Poplar Bridge</td>
<td>4600 W 85th Street</td>
<td>Wknds, SRD*</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 Ridgview</td>
<td>6001 W 94th Street</td>
<td>Volunteer basis**</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Running</td>
<td>9501 12th Avenue South</td>
<td>Daily, Special</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>4800 Terracewood Drive</td>
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<td>11 Sunrise</td>
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<td>Daily, Special</td>
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<td>13 Westwood</td>
<td>3490 W 103rd Street</td>
<td>Daily, Special</td>
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Plan Ahead for Picnic Shelter Use

Making it through a Minnesota winter is no picnic, but planning ahead for warmer weather can take the edge off the chilly conditions. Picnic shelters will soon be available for 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

**Locations and features**

**Adult Winter Volleyball Leagues**

Don’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 Armony. 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.

**Thick Softball Next Summer**

It’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.

WINTER FESTE

The 97th 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 952-563-8879.

BUMP, SET, SPIKE

The Bump Again 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

Cold 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

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**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 150-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
- 556 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.

**City of Bloomington Briefing, December 2015**

**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.

**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 $10 (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

**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.

- 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
- 556 parking spots
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.

What is a snow emergency?

Snow emergency

noun | snow e·mer·gen·cy | \ˈsnō-ˌi-mer-jən-sē\;
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.