

BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



DECEMBER 2016

Savvy 2016 SAVVY AWARD
3CMA PRINTED PUBLICATIONS



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NEW CONNECTIONS IN BLOOMINGTON

Pedestrians and cyclists have some new trails to check out in Bloomington. In October, Old Cedar Avenue bridge reopened. The bridge will remain open until spring 2017 when it will close again for construction of the surrounding trails and parking lot. The Nokomis – Minnesota River Regional Trail also held its grand opening this fall. The seven-mile trail connects Lake Nokomis’s south shore to the Minnesota River through Minneapolis, Richfield and Bloomington.



DIGGING INTO THE SUBJECT

Joel Karsten of Roseville, Minnesota pioneered the straw bale gardening method. He has written three books on the subject.

GETTING BACK TO OUR ROOTS

Today, South Loop is full of homes, hotels, businesses and public art, but the district has its roots in agriculture. The Urbana Craeft Kitchen at Hyatt Regency is bringing a bit of that rural Minnesota history back with its straw bale gardens.

“You can plant them virtually anywhere,” said Executive Chef Paul Lynch. “The straw isn’t only the vessel, it’s also the nutritional source for the plants. At the end of the season, we harvest then clip the bales and the straw becomes mulch. Then we can start again anywhere in the spring.”

From tomatoes and squash to Swiss chard and beans, the produce from the Urbana’s gardens provides a “taste of place” for diners. Nearly 85 percent of the food served at Urbana

is from Minnesota.

“It’s important to me that when visitors eat at Urbana they know what Minnesota food is about,” Lynch said. “They should also be able to taste the difference in seasons.”

In Minnesota, winter poses a unique challenge to providing garden-to-table cuisine. Winter squash and Swiss chard from the last fall harvest usually last until November. Then, Urbana relies on local farmers’ crops such as beets and potatoes and responsibly raised meat. Urbana will also be debuting the honey from its two new beehives this winter.

Next spring, the fruits and vegetables won’t be the only things growing at Urbana. Lynch says he’s doubling the size of his gardens to meet demand.

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Website: BloomingtonMN.gov

MAYOR'S MEMO ONE BLOOMINGTON

By Mayor Gene Winstead

One Bloomington. What does that phrase mean to you? To me it means we are a community that includes all residents, working together to accomplish the same goals. We live in different neighborhoods, but we're not defined by boundaries. We are all united to build a strong community.

Recently, the City Council created a plan, One Bloomington, to guide the City over the next three years. Through this plan's strategic priorities we will focus on improving the awareness and reputation of Bloomington and its strengths across the region and state to ensure it's viewed favorably by residents, businesses and others.

We'll also further embrace the city's growing diversity. Inclusion and equity are at the core of One Bloomington. As an organization, the City's goal will be to ensure its workforce represents the community it serves. We'll expand marketing and outreach to underrepresented populations and create pathways and internship programs targeting those populations. City staff will also participate in equity and diversity training.

Maintaining and expanding our community amenities to ensure that our existing amenities are serving residents is another area of focus. We will also plan for the necessary updates to our aging infrastructure.

From programs to snow removal and police work, providing high-quality, meaningful services is the foundation of what we do at the City. The City has already implemented training to improve efficiency and customer service. Staff will also establish sustainable targets and standards to continue meeting financial goals and maintaining healthy fund balances. To gain insights into how residents and local businesses value the services they receive, the City will continue to conduct annual surveys and look for new ways to engage stakeholders and discuss the City's role in the community.

Focused renewal of identified commercial and residential areas is another element of One Bloomington. To meet that goal, we will explore programs and initiatives that encourage improvement and innovation in residential neighborhoods. The City will also develop ways to provide more affordable housing and preserve existing affordable housing.

Environmental sustainability continues to be an important part of our city's future. To reach this goal, the City will work to reduce its carbon footprint, improve surface water quality and reduce the amount of material placed in landfills.

Bloomington is a great place to live. Our schools provide top-quality education. Local nonprofits assist people most in need. Our business community is engaged, successful and generous. Area artists create public art that builds a sense of place. It takes all of us working together to make One Bloomington better for everyone.



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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.

CITY COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVE NATIONAL RECOGNITION

The City picked up three national awards—two first place—from the City-County Communications and Marketing Association's (3CMA) Savvy Awards contest. Bloomington Today and the Briefing received first-place awards and the video "Bloomington Honor Guard in the Spotlight" received a second-place award. This video also received a third-place award from the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors.



LOOKING TO BLOOMINGTON'S FUTURE

Throughout the summer, City planning staff gathered input from residents and stakeholders, asking what they value most about Bloomington and what challenges and opportunities Forward 2040, the City's comprehensive plan, should address. Three town hall meetings were held to talk about sustainability, diversity and engagement, and community assets. More than 140 people came to these meetings to share their ideas.

Residents and stakeholders also responded to a survey that was available online and at community events. More than 260 people completed the survey telling us what they believe should be the City's highest priorities over the next 20 years. The results were compiled into word clouds, *example above*. Summaries of input received at the town hall meetings and the survey responses are available at blm.mn/Forward2040.





This design by Teresa Cox is located at 22nd Avenue and Killebrew Drive.



Photo courtesy of Vertical Endeavors.

CLIMBING TO THE TOP

More than 1,700 people showed up to try their hand at indoor rock climbing during the grand opening of Vertical Endeavors in Bloomington. The Saint Paul-based company opened its fourth Minnesota location in an old plastic bag fabrication plant at 9601 James Avenue. The location has about 20,000 square feet of floor space and more than 32,000 square feet of combined climbing surface. Reaching up to 63 feet in height, it is the tallest Vertical Endeavors location to date.

THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

Three local artists have been transforming South Loop's utility boxes into works of art. The project, designed to enhance district's vitality and character, is a creative placemaking initiative launched by the City in partnership with Artistry.

Two artists have incorporated sculptural elements or extensions, creating designs that respond to the specific location, or reflect the past, present or future of the South Loop.

The utility box art will test the use of wraps and other materials on city utility boxes. As many other communities have discovered, transforming utility boxes with artistic expression has produced several benefits: reducing graffiti, beautifying neighborhoods, and creating elements that surprise and delight.



PROTECTING PEDESTRIANS

Students and other pedestrians now have a safer way to cross some streets in Bloomington after new, enhanced crosswalks were installed over the summer. The enhanced crosswalks feature rectangular rapid flashing beacons on an arm that extends over the road.

"Research shows, as well as our local anecdotal evidence, that adding the flashers really helps draw drivers' attention to pedestrians crossing," said Civil Engineer Amy Marohn.

These lights have been installed at Kennedy and Jefferson high schools and all three Bloomington middle schools. They can also be found at East Bush Lake Road at Bush Lake Beach and Hyland Trail Park, and American Boulevard at Bloomington Avenue. These projects were funded through Highway Safety Improvement Plan and Safe Routes to School grants.



CREATIVE PLACEMAKING: AN AWARD-WINNING INITIATIVE

The City and Artistry were recognized for their work on the creative placemaking initiative this year. The plan for the initiative received a 2016 American Planning Association Planning in Context Award.

The award recognizes plans that are unique and exemplify careful study. Award-winning plans are considered especially sensitive to their surroundings, and take advantage of and embrace the past, present and predicted aspects of a project. APA is a national nonprofit organization of more than 900 planning professionals, educators, local officials and planning commissioners who are involved in planning-related activities.

PRELIMINARY BUDGET APPROVED FOR 2017

In 2017, the property tax cost of City services for owners of median-valued homes of \$225,900 will be \$72.59 per month. Last year, the cost was \$74.64. The total cost of services for a median-valued home residential taxpayer including property taxes, franchise fees, water and sewer and solid waste is \$123.32. This cost remains lower than 10 of 11 neighboring peer communities.

On September 12, the City Council approved a preliminary levy of \$56,923,838 for 2017. It also approved a preliminary general operating fund budget of \$71,865,568, a 5.4 percent increase from the 2016 budget.

The City used multiyear modeling to track revenue and expenditures to predict upcoming trends for 2017. 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 2016 resident survey, 68 percent of respondents thought that the value of City services for taxes paid was excellent or good, placing Bloomington in the top 20 percent of cities surveyed.

The preliminary levy can be reduced, but not increased, before final adoption. If the 2017 levy is approved at the proposed level, the average annual increase in the City's levy from 1997 – 2017 would be 3.85 percent. One of Bloomington's strengths has been the diversity of the tax base. 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 economic growth as Bloomington works for the longer term to be more sustainable.

For more information, contact Chief Financial Officer Lori Economy-Scholler at 952-563-8791 or leconomy@BloomingtonMN.gov. For property valuation information, contact City Assessor Matt Gersemehl at 952-563-8708 or mgersemehl@BloomingtonMN.gov.

BUILDING FOR SAFETY

Construction began on Normandale Boulevard from West 94th Street to Nine Mile Creek this fall. Crews are installing new turn lanes and multi-use trails on both sides of the street.

Part of the project is funded through a Federal Surface Transportation Program grant. The remainder of the cost will be funded by state aid funds, Hennepin County and the City.

CITY COUNCIL VACANCY

As a result of Andrew Carlson's election to the Minnesota House of Representatives, there is a vacancy on the City Council. The City Council will appoint a replacement to represent District II until the next municipal election in 2017. The Council has 45 days to appoint a replacement after the adoption of a resolution declaring a vacancy exists. If the Council were unable to fill the vacancy in 45 days, Mayor Gene Winstead would have 15 days to appoint a replacement. For more information, contact the City Clerk at 952-563-4989 or email at jlewis@BloomingtonMN.gov.

December 2016						
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	31

January 2017						
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	31				

 RECYCLE WEEK

 HOLIDAY*

* No pickup; pickup one day later.



GARBAGE AND RECYCLING HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

This holiday season, Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on a Sunday and will not impact garbage and recycling collection. Services will remain on the usual garbage day. For a printable collection calendar, visit blm.mn/garbage, on the right hand side, click "calendar" under "resources."

EARTH ACTION HERO: YOU! SUPER SUSTAINABLE GIFT WRAPPING

Be the star of your holiday gathering with creative and sustainable gift wrapping. Traditional gift wrap is not recyclable and the paper, bows and boxes you use can easily pile up in the garbage this time of year. Don't waste money on gift wrapping. Reuse materials that you already have on hand instead.

"The holidays can produce a lot of extra waste," said Project Coordinator Jennifer Nguyen Moore. "Why add more to your garbage can when you can use something recyclable?"

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.



A REMINDER ABOUT GARBAGE OVERFLOW

Remember, the new garbage and recycling program charges for garbage by volume. Extra bags of trash or trash that does not fit in the cart will be charged an additional \$4.75 per bag. To avoid regular garbage overflow needs, you may upgrade to a larger cart size. Contact Utility Billing at 952-563-8726 or utilitybilling@bloomingtonmn.gov if you would like a larger garbage cart.

REFUNDS FROM GARBAGE HAULERS

Residents who have paid for garbage and recycling services past September 30, 2016, will receive a reimbursement from their previous garbage hauler. However, garbage haulers will be billing for the 2016 yard waste subscription service. The haulers will issue reimbursements by December 31, 2016. Previous Burt's customers who are waiting for a reimbursement will receive a reimbursement from Waste Management. If you have questions about your reimbursement or about a recent invoice from your hauler, contact your previous hauler.

QUESTIONS?

For billing questions, contact Utility Billing at 952-563-8726 or utilitybilling@bloomingtonmn.gov. For program questions, contact Public Works Maintenance at 952-563-8760 or maintenance@bloomingtonmn.gov.

CART PLACEMENT IN THE WINTER

In the winter, it is very important to ensure your carts are placed in an appropriate location. If there is snow or ice, shovel out a safe, accessible space for your carts. Place carts at least three to five feet away from other objects such as other carts, mailboxes, vehicles, trees and bushes. Do not place carts in the street.

EXTRA RECYCLING

During the holidays you may generate a large volume of recyclables. Place all recyclables directly in the cart. Extra recycling should be placed in paper bags next to the recycling cart. Flatten extra cardboard no larger than three feet wide and one foot tall and place next to your cart. If you have an unusually large amount of recyclables, please call ahead to inform the driver. Call 952-563-8726, select option two, and then select your hauler to speak to a recycling customer service representative.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH A GRAIN OF SALT

With winter in full swing, most residents have already been out using their shovels and snowblowers. Sprinkling salt may seem easier than shoveling snow, but it 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. To reduce your impact shovel early, don't over-apply salt, and sweep up extra salt when you can.



HOLIDAY TREES

Natural holiday trees will be collected during the first two full weeks in January. These items can be set out on your regular collection day. They will be collected during the weeks of January 2 and 9, 2017. Only natural greens will be collected. To set out your tree properly, do not use a bag (plastic or compostable), remove decorations such as wires, stands, tinsel from tree; and make sure the tree is set out before 7 a.m. on your collection day, but no earlier than the night before to ensure it does not stick to snow or ice. There is a \$10 fee per tree, which will be added to your utility bill.

MEET A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER

The Bloomington Fire Department recently hired 19 new volunteer firefighters. Larry Liggins is one of the new recruits and he serves out of Station 1.

Q: What made you become a firefighter?

A: I've always wanted to help my community and find new ways to give back. I've been persistent about wanting to volunteer with the Bloomington Fire Department. I'm excited to have the opportunity to do that.

Q: What is your day job?

A: I currently work at a moving company.

Q: What is your family like?

A: I have a really big family — two sisters and three brothers — and most of them live in Mississippi like my parents. My daughter and I travel a lot so we can see them.

Q: What do you do for fun when you aren't working or volunteering?

A: My daughter and I love Bloomington's parks. We also enjoy the beach and we go to Mall of America, too. There's always something new to do and see here.

Q: What do you love about Bloomington?

A: I love that Bloomington is a big community, but it's so quiet and peaceful. It's a city away from the Twin Cities.



KEEP FOOD SAFETY IN MIND

The holiday season is a great time to gather with family and friends to enjoy a meal. However, when food safety is overlooked, foodborne illness can turn the most wonderful time of the year into a miserable affair.

The CDC estimates that each year roughly 1 in 6 Americans gets sick from food borne illness. With a little preparation, you can lower your chances of becoming ill from something you eat.

Rule 1: Clean.

Before you prepare the meal, wash your hands. Wash your hands before handling foods, after handling raw meats, fish or eggs, after using the restroom, after greeting guests and throughout food preparation as needed.

Make sure the food contact surfaces you are using are clean. Finally, do not rinse raw meat.

Rule 2: Separate.

Whether it is the day of the meal or during preparation, keep raw foods separate from ready-to-eat foods.

Rule 3: Cook.

Timing is everything. Be sure the turkey is cooked to a minimum internal temperature of 165 degrees Fahrenheit.

Rule 4: Chill.

The last rule is to refrigerate leftovers and keep cold foods cold. Foods should be refrigerated within two hours after serving. Remember, when in doubt, throw it out.

PUBLIC HEALTH EXHIBITS EXCELLENCE

Bloomington Public Health is now nationally accredited through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). The accreditation process ensures programs and services are as responsive as possible to the needs of its communities. To receive accreditation, a department must undergo a rigorous, peer-reviewed assessment process to prove it meets or exceeds a set of quality standards and measures. Nationally, Bloomington Public Health joins the ranks of 151 other accredited health departments from the more than 2,800 local public health departments in the country. In Minnesota, this includes the Minnesota Department of Health, Hennepin County and Washington County.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SUMMER?

It is not too early to start thinking about summer seasonal jobs with the City. Did you know that between Public Works, Parks and Rec and our two golf courses we hire hundreds of seasonal employees each year? If you or anyone you know is interested in a seasonal job, visit blm.mn/human-resources to check out the available opportunities or to apply.

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

The City Council is seeking applicants to serve on its Advisory Boards and Commissions for terms beginning January 2017. There are openings on the Park, Arts and Recreation Commission, the Sustainability Commission and the Human Rights Commission. For more information or an application, call 952-563-8780 or visit blm.mn/boards. Applications must be received by Wednesday, December 28, 2016 for consideration at the City Council's organizational meeting on January 9, 2017.

STAY SAFE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

The holidays are here, which means many people will be busy running errands and getting ready for family gatherings. We must not forget that criminals will also be out and about looking for easy targets. It is important to be aware of your surroundings. If you pay attention to the things going on around you, you can greatly reduce the chance that you will be the victim of a crime. Review these tips for a safe and happy holiday season.

- Shop during daylight hours when possible and shop with a friend—safety in numbers!
- Do not leave valuables in your vehicles. If you must leave it in your car, lock it in the trunk out of sight.
- Pick your parking spot wisely. Look for a well-lit area and have your keys accessible while you walk to your vehicle.
- Be aware of how you carry your purse or wallet. Would it be easy for someone to take it?
- Keep a list of all credit cards, along with contact phone numbers for each card, and keep it in a safe place.
- When leaving home for an extended time, use light timers.
- When you are out of town, have someone watch your house and pick up your newspapers and mail.
- Discuss various situations with your children. What will they do if you are separated?

Additional crime prevention tips can be found online at blm.mn/crime-prevention-tips.

BLOOMINGTON CONDUCTS EMERGENCY TRAINING

Some Bloomington firefighters and police officers sharpened their skills at the Ramada formerly known as the Thunderbird Hotel in October. It was a full day of training for the City's first responders to active shooter scenarios. The Police and Fire Departments work together to train for emergency planning, response and prevention of these incidents.

Members of the BPD and BFD participate in frequent active shooter training as part of their annual training requirements. This training was part of an ongoing preparedness effort between Bloomington emergency services. Over the years, active shooter training has been conducted at a variety of locations such as schools and businesses.





2016 – 2017 OUTDOOR RINKS AND WARMING HOUSES

Parks 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 10 through February 20.** For more information, contact Parks and Recreation. For up-to-date rink conditions and closings, visit blm.mn/rinks or call 952-563-8878 and select option 3.

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

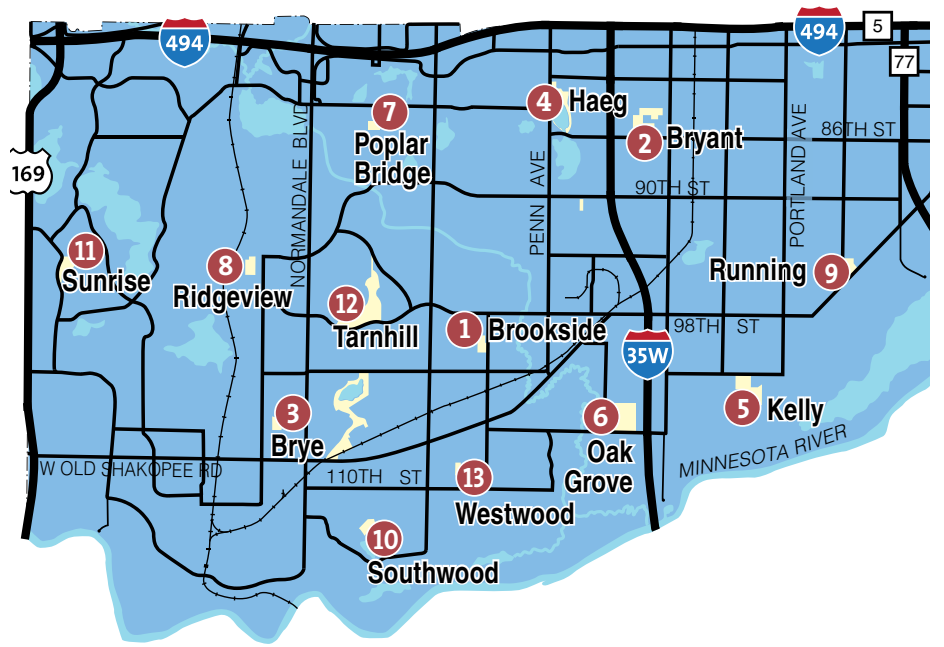
- December 24 and 31
- February 5 (Super Bowl Sunday)

All sites are closed on December 25.

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

**Staffed on a volunteer basis.

Schedules are posted at blm.mn/rinks.



DAY OF WEEK	REGULAR	SCHOOL RELEASE DAYS (SRD)*
	Dec. 10 – 18 Jan. 3 – 15, 17 – 29 and 31 Feb. 1 – 19	Dec. 19 – Jan. 2, 16 and 30 Feb. 20
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

The 14th annual Winter Fete celebration will take place throughout the city, Saturday, January 21 through Sunday, January 29. The City will host the annual Pond Dakota Winter History Festival on Sunday, January 29, and other family fun events during the week-long celebration. All activities are free unless otherwise noted. For more information, call 952-563-8877 or visit blm.mn/winterfete.

BUMP, SET, SPIKE

The Born Again Jocks volleyball league welcomes men, 55 years and older, of all skill levels. Games are held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays through January at Jefferson High School, 4001 West 102nd Avenue. 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 10, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., at Civic Plaza. There will be a plethora of products available such as apples, winter produce, spruce tips, canned goods, cheese, pork products and more.

WINTER VOLLEYBALL LEAGUES

Don't let the snow slow down your game. Take it indoors with the adult winter volleyball league. Games run January 3 through March 27, 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 blm.mn/adultsports.

SUMMER SOFTBALL

It's never too early to start thinking about summer. Registration for the 2017 summer softball season will be open in early February for returning teams who played in 2016. 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

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

PREPARE FOR SUMMER

Surviving Minnesota's cold winters is no picnic, but planning ahead for warmer weather is simple. Picnic shelters will soon be available to rent for picnics, receptions, reunions and meetings. Registration begins January 3 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.

EAST BUSH LAKE PARK

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

WEST BUSH LAKE PARK

94th Street at West Bush Lake Road, Shelter 1: Accommodates 200, \$259.50 plus tax; Shelter 2: Accommodates 100, \$172 plus tax. Parking lot reconstruction is planned for 2017. Reservation acceptance for Shelters 1 and 2 may be delayed until a construction schedule is set.

MOIR PARK

104th Street at Morgan Avenue, Shelter 1: Accommodates 200+, \$254.50 plus tax; Shelter 2: Accommodates 50, \$173 plus tax.





BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY

Taking part in a timeless tradition, these Palmer School students posed for a class picture in 1900. Palmer School was a rural one-room school that served students through eighth grade. In 1917, Palmer School consolidated with five other rural districts to form Bloomington Consolidated School district. In 2017, the district will host its centennial celebration. *Photo courtesy of the Bloomington Historical Society.*



PROTECT YOUR HOME THIS WINTER

With plenty of snow and some subzero temperatures, Minnesota winters can cause a number of household issues. Preparation is essential when it comes to protecting your plumbing from the cold.

PREVENT FROZEN PIPES

Long periods of subzero temperatures can cause water meters and internal pipes to freeze. To prevent frozen pipes, allow heat to circulate around the meter by opening the doors to the meter closet and wrap water pipes with foam insulation. If you will 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 shut off water and \$50 to turn it back on. For more information, call Bloomington Utilities at 952-563-8777.

PREVENT SEWER BACKUPS

Over time, homeowners may experience problems with their sewer service lines. Problems such as collapsed pipes or tree roots growing into service lines can cause stoppages. These problems may require frequent cleaning or repairs. If your sewer backs up more than once a year, it may be time to clean or repair the line. Before contacting a contractor, call Bloomington Utilities at 952-563-8777. They will check the City's mainline condition in the street for a possible blockage. This service is free.



TRIMMING TREES

If Public Works crews aren't busy plowing in the winter, there's a good chance they're trimming trees. Any branches hanging less than 15 feet above the road are trimmed. This process prevents City trucks and other large trucks from hitting low-hanging branches.

Last winter, Street Maintenance workers trimmed 576 trees. Crews feed trimmed branches through a wood chipper. The wood chips are then stored at Western Maintenance, 106th Street and Hampshire Road and used on City trails. The wood chips are also available to residents at no charge.

DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS HOLIDAY FUN AT THE CENTER FOR THE ARTS!



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. 3 and 10, 7:30 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 4 and 11, 3 p.m.
Adults \$24, Seniors and Students \$19, Children under 13 \$13



Monroe Crossing A Bluegrass Christmas

Fill your holiday season with musical merriment as Monroe Crossing dazzles audiences with a blend of classic bluegrass, bluegrass gospel and heartfelt originals.

Wednesday, December 14, 7:30 p.m.
All tickets \$30

Located in Bloomington Civic Plaza at the corner of West 98th Street and Old Shakopee Road, the Center for the Arts houses seven arts organizations. For facility information, call 952-563-8889. For tickets, call the box office at 952-563-8575.

GIFTS IN THE GALLERY

Visit the Inez Greenberg Gallery December 7 – 21 to find unique gifts for everyone on your holiday shopping list. The boutique-style sale features



a wide array of items such as silk scarves, jewelry, ceramics, blown glass, and more all handmade by more than 60 local artists.

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

There will be a festive reception on Wednesday, December 7, 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.



Bloomington Chorale Christmas Past and Present

Listen to holiday music from over the years celebrating the spirit of the season.

Friday, December 16, 7:30 p.m.,
Saturday, December 17, 4 p.m.
Adults \$16, seniors and students \$12



Medalist Concert Band Sounds of the Season

Enjoy all of your favorites, both traditional carols and modern classics, in this popular holiday program.

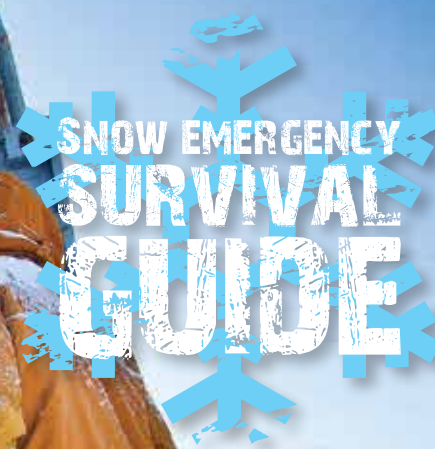
Sunday, December 18, 4 p.m.
Adults \$14, seniors and students \$12

SNOW EMERGENCY SURVIVAL GUIDE

Snow is an inevitable and enjoyable part of the winter season. The City helps residents get through winter road conditions with snowplowing services at an average cost of \$3.19 per month for the 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 2016 resident and business survey, 81 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 using the following tips during a snow event.

WHAT IS A SNOW EMERGENCY?

A snow emergency is a declaration from the City that is automatically in effect when three or more inches of snow have accumulated. During a snow emergency, no parking is allowed on city streets for the following 48 hours or until the full width of the street has been plowed. Snow emergency alerts will be published on the City's website, cable channel and social media pages.



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SOLUTIONS TO SAFE STREETS AND WATERBODIES

Before snowfall, the City treats streets with an anti-icing brine solution. The brine is a water and salt mixture. The solution evaporates and leaves behind thin deposits of salt after it is sprayed on the streets. The salt prevents snow and ice from bonding to the street so plows can easily scrape the street clean. The brine solution reduces the amount of salt required when the streets are plowed. This, in turn, protects surrounding waterbodies from salt runoff.

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. Do not place garbage containers in the street.

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 snow coming off of the plows can collapse tunnels or forts and may severely injure 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 next to the street. Children should never play near the edge of the road.

DRIVER SAFETY TIPS

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.

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 the full width of your street is plowed. 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 snow and snow that may be moved onto the sidewalk during street or driveway snow removal efforts. 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 snow event at a cost of 48 cents per month.

START SEEING SNOWPLOWS

Each winter, the City's snowplow fleet is out in force keeping our roadways safe. Here are a couple things to remember:

- Give snowplow drivers plenty of room. Allow at least five car lengths between your vehicle and a snowplow.
- Keep garbage cans on the driveway, not in the roadway.

If damage to turf or a mailbox occurs due to snow removal operations, contact Street Maintenance at 952-563-8760.

SIGN UP FOR E-SUBSCRIBE ALERTS

Stay in the loop about snow removal in Bloomington. To receive notifications when the City declares a snow emergency, sign up for E-Subscribe alerts at blm.mn/snow-removal.