

BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



DECEMBER 2017

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WILD ABOUT BIG

More than 2,000 fans packed the stands at the Bloomington Ice Garden in October to see the Minnesota Wild take the ice in the first-ever open practice in the arena.

“Everybody had a good time. It wasn’t just a practice, the Wild really played it up to the crowd,” said BIG Manager Bob Carr. “They had fun with the fans. It couldn’t have been better.”

The Wild’s practice was part of celebrating BIG’s second-place finish in the Kraft Hockeyville competition last spring. Thanks to an outpouring of community support, BIG beat more than 1,300 rinks to earn the honor.

Coming in second place has its perks—BIG won \$75,000 in arena upgrades. After the Wild practice, City officials were presented with the check from the competition.

The winnings will go toward arena renovations, including improvements to BIG’s entry and locker rooms, among other things. Work on the renovation is planned to begin in the spring or summer of 2019.

Top-tier figure skaters also hit the ice at BIG for the Midwestern Sectional Figure Skating Championships hosted by the Bloomington Figure Skating Club in November.

Minnesota Wild forward Nino Niederreiter is pictured above at the open practice at BIG.

2017 ELECTION RESULTS

A familiar face and three new representatives will make up the Bloomington City Council starting January 2018. Bloomington had more than 25 percent voter turnout with 14,038 ballots cast in the November 7 election, according to City Clerk Janet Lewis.

Newly elected City officials will be sworn in at the January 2 City Council meeting.

NATHAN COULTER, COUNCILMEMBER AT LARGE



Lifelong Bloomington resident Nathan Coulter was elected as an at-large councilmember. He works as a Legislative Assistant with the Minnesota Senate. Coulter also serves on the boards for the Housing and Redevelopment Authority and the Perpich Center for Arts Education.

“The thing I’m most looking forward to is serving my hometown,” he said. “There’s so much potential in Bloomington. If we can couple our strengths with forward-looking leadership, we can do remarkable things together.”

SHAWN NELSON, COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT II



With a focus on neighborhoods, Shawn Nelson was elected to the district II council seat. He owns a residential remodeling company and has lived in Bloomington for 18 years. He volunteers through his daughters’ schools and youth programs at his church. “I’m looking forward to really listening to [my constituents] and figuring out how they want to enhance our neighborhoods,” Nelson said.

JACK BALOGA, COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT III



Retired commercial real estate developer Jack Baloga was reelected for his third term as the councilmember for district III. Before being elected to City Council, he was a chair of the Bloomington Planning Commission and a member of the Highway 77 Policy Advisory Committee and Highway 169 Advisory Committee. Baloga, a more than 30-year Bloomington resident, has also served as an election judge.

“I look forward continuing my active support and engagement of the six strategic objectives that I, along with the other councilmembers, created to focus on Council efforts going forward over the next three to five years,” he said.

PATRICK MARTIN, COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT IV



Patrick Martin has dedicated his career to empowering community organizations to break cycles of poverty, stabilize families in crisis and empower the next generation. He was elected as the councilmember for district IV. He has served on the City’s Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission, the Bloomington Advisory Board of Health and the Tri-City Partners for Healthy Communities.

“I’m looking forward to implementing innovative strategies for meeting the changing needs of residents, attracting and retaining families and bridging divides in development,” Martin said. “As we lay out a road map for growth, I’m excited to ensure all neighborhoods have a voice.”

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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 only).

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

MAYOR’S MEMO

ENJOY EVERYTHING BLOOMINGTON HAS TO OFFER

By Mayor Gene Winstead

As Bloomington residents, we enjoy some incredible community amenities right in our backyards. With nearly 9,000 acres of green space, 50 miles of off-road trails, 60 miles of bike lanes, 97 parks and the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, there are countless ways to enjoy the outdoors. When summer is in full swing, many people make their way to Bush Lake Beach or the Bloomington Family Aquatic Center to soak up the sun while others work on their golf game at Dwan or Hyland Greens golf courses.

If you’re looking to expand your perspectives, Artistry packs a cultural punch with seven productions on two stages and 15 or more visual art exhibits each year. Not only does the organization provide exposure to new ideas and artists for residents, they offer art education courses and outreach at the Center for the Arts and in the community. They also partner with the City to incorporate public art and creative expression into the South Loop, a district encompassing Mall of America and near the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport, two of the best-known amenities in the area.

The City Council noted maintaining and expanding these and other community amenities as a strategic priority in its One Bloomington plan in 2016.

For example, the City is in discussions with the YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities on a potential partnership for a new community center. In 2016, a task force recommended that, as a community center, the Creekside facility could no longer meet community needs.

We are also conducting an inventory of City-owned community amenities and park facilities, to catalog the remaining service life of equipment and facilities and to determine long-range budget needs.



WORLD-CLASS ARTISTS COMING TO SOUTH LOOP IN 2018

Illuminate South Loop will combine spectacular installations from international and local artists to engage visitors and residents alike leading up to the Super Bowl in February.

There will be performances, light installations, participatory projects and more, with a focus on what it means to be a Minnesotan in the 21st century.

“Illuminate South Loop will welcome residents and out-of-town visitors during a very exciting time,” said Creative Placemaking Director Ale Pelinka. “This art experience will highlight South Loop, while giving attendees an outdoor Minnesota experience they won’t forget.”

For more information, to see the schedule or volunteer, visit blm.mn/placemaking or call 952-563-8744.

CITY AND SCHOOLS PARTNER ON PARK IMPROVEMENTS

After the back-to-school rush, Valley View Elementary students got a new playground this fall. It’s one of 14 park improvement projects completed in 2017.

“The City and the school district have a longstanding partnership when it comes to new elementary school playgrounds,” Assistant Parks and Recreation Manager Scott Breuer said. “The community gets an excellent playground and we share the expenses.”

School staff collected student feedback about what they wanted to see in a new playground and incorporated that into the final design, which has also been popular outside of school.

“It’s a community gathering place now,” Valley View Assistant Principal Steve Searl said. “The other night there were 10 or 15 families from the community on the playground. It’s a pretty cool thing.”





New Sculpture in South Loop

The newest public art work in South Loop, Art Gate, above, was installed in October at the corner of 24th Avenue and Lindau Lane across from Mall of America. It represents Bloomington’s role as an international travel destination and the area’s wildlife, natural beauty and

diversity with components like airplanes, fish and flowers. Award-winning sculptor and architect Alexander Tylevich designed the six-foot-tall, 20-foot-long gate made of bronze and steel. He is known for his public art installations and site-specific sculptures.

UNITED TO BUILD A STRONG COMMUNITY

One Bloomington, the City Council’s strategic plan, is written with the goal of strengthening a community that includes all residents working together to accomplish the same goals. Through this plan’s strategic priorities, the City will focus on improving the awareness and reputation of Bloomington and its strengths across the region and state.

THE SIX STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ARE:

- Community amenities
- Community image
- Environmental sustainability
- Equity and inclusion
- Focused renewal
- High-quality service delivery

ARTISTIC VISION

To gather feedback about future creative placemaking efforts and raise awareness of what South Loop has to offer, the City and Artistry collaborated with Springboard for the Arts to host artist-facilitated community engagement activities earlier this year. Each of the events were different, but they all

included ways to interact with local artists such as sitting for a free portrait or learning how to create fiber art. Staff distributed surveys and took polls to learn what types of creative placemaking projects attendees would like to see in South Loop. Check out a summary of the results at blm.mn/placemaking.

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVES SIX NATIONAL AWARDS

The Briefing received a first-place national award from the City-County Communications and Marketing Association (3CMA) and the cable television news program “Bloomington Today at its Best” entry took first place from the National Association of Telecommunications and Advisors (NATOA). The 2017 State of the City was awarded second place and the 2016 Corporate Report took third at 3CMA’s Savvy awards contest. The videos “Hairspray Gets Fancy with Foam Wigs” and “How Does Drinking Water Get to Your Faucet?” received second and third place, respectively, from NATOA.



PRELIMINARY BUDGET APPROVED

In 2018, the tax-supported cost of City services for owners of median-valued homes of \$246,400 will be \$78.67 per month. Last year, the cost was \$71.17. The total cost of services for a median-valued home, which includes property taxes, franchise fees, water and sewer and solid waste, is \$121.75. This cost remains lower than 10 of 11 neighboring peer communities. In September, the City Council approved a preliminary levy of \$58,605,287 for 2018. It also approved a preliminary general operating fund budget of \$72,568,793, a 2.2 percent increase from the 2017 budget. The City used multiyear modeling to track revenue and expenditures to predict upcoming trends for 2018. City staff also uses a 10-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 2017 resident survey, 73 percent of respondents thought that the value of City services for taxes paid was excellent or good. The preliminary levy can be reduced, but not increased, before final adoption. If the 2018 levy is approved at the proposed level, the average annual increase in the City’s levy

from 1998 – 2018 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 properties. 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 10 years should remain approximately equal to long-term home value appreciation plus economy 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.



BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT

What will the future hold for Bloomington and its businesses? That’s the question Bloomington business professionals and City officials considered at the 2017 Business Day at City Hall event in September. There were presentations on emerging trends in the areas of resources, technology, demographics and governance and ways businesses can be future ready. Attendees also participated in facilitated conversations about the future of Bloomington. The event was sponsored by the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce and the City.

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

The City Council is seeking applicants to serve on its Advisory Boards and Commissions for terms beginning January 2018. There are commission openings for Parks, Arts and Recreation; Sustainability; Creative Placemaking and Human Rights and openings on the Advisory Board of Health; Merit Board and Local Boards of Appeal. For more information, call 952-563-8780 or visit blm.mn/boards. For an online application, visit blm.mn/board-app. Applications must be received by Monday, December 18 for consideration at the City Council’s organizational meeting January 2.



SEEKING HOME IMPROVEMENT FAIR VENDORS FOR 2018

The City and the Housing Redevelopment Authority will host the 2018 Home Improvement Fair on Saturday, February 24. Home remodeling professionals and vendors who are interested in exhibiting at the event must register before Friday, December 15. For more information and a registration form, visit blm.mn/2018vendors.



REDUCE YOUR SALT USE

Nine Mile Creek is on a low-salt diet. Salt that we use on our sidewalks and roads dissolves as it melts, but never actually disappears. Instead, the salt ends up in our lakes and creeks as the meltwater runs through storm drains to local water bodies. There is no cost-effective way to remove salt once it gets into our waters, so we must focus on preventing the pollution.

You can help keep salt out of the creek! Apply salt only after shoveling or snow blowing and only in areas where it is needed. Apply less than four pounds of salt per 1,000 square feet (about the size of half a tennis court). One pound of salt is about a heaping coffee mug full. If there are salt crystals left on the pavement after the snow has melted, you have over applied. Sweep up the extra and reuse it, or throw it in the trash. Remember, most salts don’t work when it is very cold. Instead, use a small amount of sand for traction.



EXTRA RECYCLING

The holidays bring an abundance of family, friends, celebrations, dinner parties and ... recycling. Between boxes, cards and paper, you may generate a large volume of recyclables during the holiday season. 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, bundle it with string or twine and place next to your cart. If you have an unusually large amount of recyclables, notify the driver ahead of time. Call 952-563-8726, select option two, and then select your hauler to speak to a recycling customer service representative.



EARTH ACTION HERO: POWERING UP POLLINATOR HABITATS

The City is working with Xcel Energy to amp up the acreage of milkweed and other pollinator-friendly plants growing in Bloomington to restore pollinators’ habitats and give them more room to thrive.

Maintaining native plantings not only benefits monarchs, bees and other wildlife—it makes City operations more sustainable.

“This kind of land management is very exciting in that it’s a departure from regular mowing and herbicide use and a move toward a more sustainable plant community and way to manage land,” said Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Dave Hanson.

With help from Valley View Elementary students and community leaders, the City and Xcel kicked off planting on six acres of land underneath power lines on Park Avenue between 90th and 93rd streets at a community event in September.

The City’s partnership with Xcel is part of a national effort led by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that enlists the help of the U.S. Department of Transportation, local city governments and power companies to rebuild the monarch population. This new planting will also strengthen the monarch migration corridor, an area that roughly parallels Interstate 35 from Minnesota to Texas.

The City maintains around 50 native plantings, ranging from small rain gardens to large undisturbed prairie areas. Xcel Energy currently has more than 1,100 acres of active pollinator habitat at 25 locations in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

“It’s great to be a part of this initiative with a company and organization that share our values when it comes to pollinators and the environment,” said Mayor Gene Winstead.



December 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						

January 2018						
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.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

This holiday season, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day fall on a Monday and will impact garbage and recycling collection. Pickup will occur one day later than your usual garbage day. For a printable collection calendar, visit blm.mn/garbage, on the right hand side, click “calendar.”

WINTER CART PLACEMENT

In the winter, it is important to place your carts in an appropriate location. If there is snow or ice, shovel out a safe, accessible space and path for your carts. Place carts at least three to five feet away from other objects such as mailboxes, other carts, vehicles, trees and bushes.

CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

Natural Christmas trees will be collected as yard waste during the first two full weeks in January. These items can be set out on your regular collection day. They will be collected the weeks of January 8 and 15. Only natural greens will be collected. To properly set out your tree, do not use any bags (plastic or compostable); remove decorations such as wires, stands and tinsel; be sure the tree is set out before 7 a.m. on your collection day; and set out the tree no earlier than the day before or day of pickup to ensure it does not stick to snow or ice. There will be a fee of about \$10 per tree. The charges will appear on the following utility bill.





MEET A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER

Jennifer Veilleux has been a firefighter for a little more than a year. She serves out of Station 5 at 10540 Bush Lake Road.

Q. What made you want to become a volunteer firefighter?

A. When I moved here from Saint Paul a few years ago, I didn't know Bloomington had an all-volunteer fire department until I read about it in the *Briefing*. It was one of the first things that came in the mail when I moved and I thought, "Hey, I live by a fire station and this is the perfect way to get involved in the community!"

Q. What do you like most about being a firefighter?

A. I've really enjoyed becoming a part of the community. Whether we're doing training, drills or hosting community events, I've gotten to know a lot of different areas and people through the department.

Q. What's your day job?

A. I'm an editor at Bethany House Publishers, so I get to read books all day. It's a dream job.

Q. Are you from Bloomington?

A. I grew up in southern California and Florida, then went to college in North Carolina. After three summers as a counselor at Camp Omega, I moved to Minnesota and never left.

Q. What do you like about living in Bloomington?

A. On one side you have Mall of America, corporate centers and hotels, on the other side you have lakes, parks and trails, so there's really something for everyone.

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

A. I'm usually training for something. I've done six Twin Cities marathons and a few triathlons. When I'm not training for a race, you can find me doing burpees at 5:30 a.m.

FEELING THE HEAT?

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO STAY SAFE

Heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fires during the winter months. In fact, half of all home heating fires occur in December, January and February. Make sure you check these items off your list when heating season comes around.

- Have your furnace inspected and serviced by a qualified professional every 12 months.
- Contact a qualified professional to clean and inspect your chimney and vents.
- Use only dry, seasoned firewood in the fireplace.
- Use a metal or tempered glass fireplace screen.
- Use only portable space heaters with automatic shut-offs.
- Plug portable space heaters directly into an outlet and place at least three feet away from anything that can burn.
- Test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Make sure children know to stay at least three feet away from the fireplace and space heaters.



- Dispose of cooled ashes and coals by placing them in a metal container and wetting them down. Keep the container outside your home and away from combustible materials.
- For more information, contact Fire Marshal Laura McCarthy at 952-563-8965.

TOP 10 HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

The holidays are right around the corner and, for many, it's one of the busiest times of the year. Before getting caught up in the shopping lists and family trips, check out these top 10 tips for a safe and happy holiday season.

1. Set an automatic timer for your lights and ask a neighbor to collect your mail if you are traveling.
2. If you are out for the evening, turn on your lights and a radio or television so it appears someone is home.
3. Always lock your doors and windows when you leave, even if it's only for a few minutes.
4. Don't place packages or gifts near home or car windows.
5. Park in well-lit areas.
6. Always lock your car doors.
7. Hide packages or purses in your trunk before reaching your destination.
8. Turn on outside lights to deter burglars.
9. Get to know your neighbors and join the Bloomington Police Department's Neighborhood Watch Program.
10. Report any suspicious activity by calling 911.

KEEP YOUR HOME DRY THIS WINTER

With plenty of snow and some subzero temperatures, winter weather can cause a number of household issues. When it comes to protecting your plumbing from the cold, preparation is the key to success.

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 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.



RELIEF FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS

Are you feeling tired, stressed, or overwhelmed with your caregiving responsibilities? Senior Outreach & Caregiver Services, a program of Senior Community Services, can help in a variety of ways. The staff can assist you in finding the right resources for you or your loved one, facilitate family meetings, provide caregiver coaching or a support group and more. The program also offers CareNexion.org, a free, web-based tool that helps caregivers coordinate care, get help from others and keep everyone informed. If you're a caregiver who needs an extra hand, call 612-770-7005 to speak with one of their licensed social workers today.

GIVE BLOOD, SAVE LIVES

Give back this winter. Donate blood to the Red Cross and feel good knowing you helped save three lives in only one hour of your time. Sign up online for the blood drive scheduled Wednesday, January 3, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., at Civic Plaza. Walk-ins are also welcome. Visit us online at blm.mn for more information.



PUBLIC HEALTH SUPPORTS NEW MOMS

Bloomington Public Health was recently recognized as a breastfeeding-friendly division with the Minnesota Department of Health's gold (top) award. To achieve this, the division had to complete 10 steps to promote breastfeeding in the community. Among these steps were providing training, information and resources to support breastfeeding to local businesses, families and childcare providers.

How can Public Health help you? In addition to providing resources and assistance, they can help your workplace or childcare center or home become more breastfeeding friendly. Visit blm.mn/breastfeeding for more information.



WINTER FETE

The 15th annual Winter Fete celebration will take place throughout the city, Saturday, January 20 through Sunday, January 28. The City will host the annual Pond Dakota Winter History Festival on Sunday, January 28, and other family fun events during the weeklong celebration. All activities are free unless otherwise noted. For more information, call 952-563-8877 or visit blm.mn/winterfete.



INDOOR FARMERS MARKET

Don't let the cold weather keep you from visiting the Farmers Market. An indoor market with local vendors, winter produce, spruce tips, canned goods, cheese, pork products and more is scheduled Saturday, December 9, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

WINTER VOLLEYBALL LEAGUES

Take your game indoors this winter with the City's adult winter volleyball league. Games run January 2 through March 26, 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 blm.mn/adultsports.

SUMMER SOFTBALL

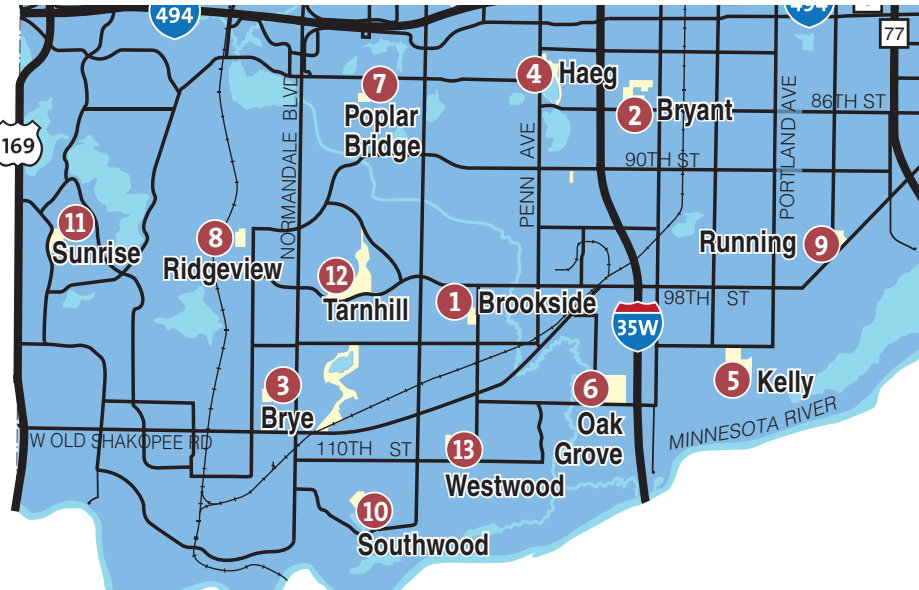
One surefire way to take the edge off of the winter chill is to plan ahead for summer. Registration for the 2018 summer softball season will be open January 26 for returning teams who played in 2017. Registration for all other teams will open February 26. Registration details will be available on the City's website in early January.

2017 – 2018 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 9 through February 19**. For more information, contact Parks and Recreation. For up-to-date rink conditions, closings and schedules visit the City's website at blm.mn/rinks or call 952-563-8878 and select option 3.

All sites are closed on December 25. See the charts at right and below to determine locations, dates and times rinks and warming houses are open.



DAY OF WEEK	REGULAR	SPECIAL HOURS	SCHOOL RELEASE DAYS (SRD)
	December 9 – 18 January 3 – 14, 16 – 31 February 1 – 18	December 24 and 31 February 4 (Super Bowl Sunday)	December 18 – January 1, 15 February 2, 19
M-F	4 – 9 p.m.	12 – 4 p.m.	Noon – 9 p.m.
Saturday	Noon – 9 p.m.		Noon – 9 p.m.
Sunday	1 – 8 p.m.		1 – 8 p.m.

LOCATIONS AND FEATURES						
	Park	Address	Staffing	General	Hockey	Floodlights
1	Brookside	10000 Xerxes Avenue South	Weekends, SRD*	•	•	•
2	Bryant	1001 West 85th Street	Daily, Special hours**	•	•	•
3	Brye	10500 Xavier Avenue South	Weekends, SRD*	•	•	•
4	Haeg	8301 Penn Avenue South	Volunteer basis	•	•	•
5	Kelly	185 East 102nd Street	Volunteer basis	•	•	•
6	Oak Grove	1301 West 104th Street	Weekends, SRD*	•	•	•
7	Poplar Bridge	4600 West 85th Street	Weekends, SRD*	•	•	•
8	Ridgeview	6001 West 94th Street	Volunteer basis	•	•	•
9	Running	9501 12th Avenue South	Daily, Special hours**	•	2	•
10	Southwood	4800 Terracewood Drive	Volunteer basis	•	•	•
11	Sunrise	9401 Bloomington Ferry Road	Daily, Special hours**	•	•	•
12	Tarnhill	9650 Little Road	Volunteer basis	•	•	•
13	Westwood	3490 West 109th Street	Daily, Special hours**	•	2	•
* School release days (SRD) **Special hours						

BOOK A PARK SHELTER

Minnesota winters are no picnic, but the City wants to make planning ahead for your outdoor events next summer easy. 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, \$337 plus tax.

WEST BUSH LAKE PARK

94th Street at West Bush Lake Road, Shelter 1: Accommodates 200, \$261 plus tax; Shelter 2: Accommodates 100, \$180 plus tax.

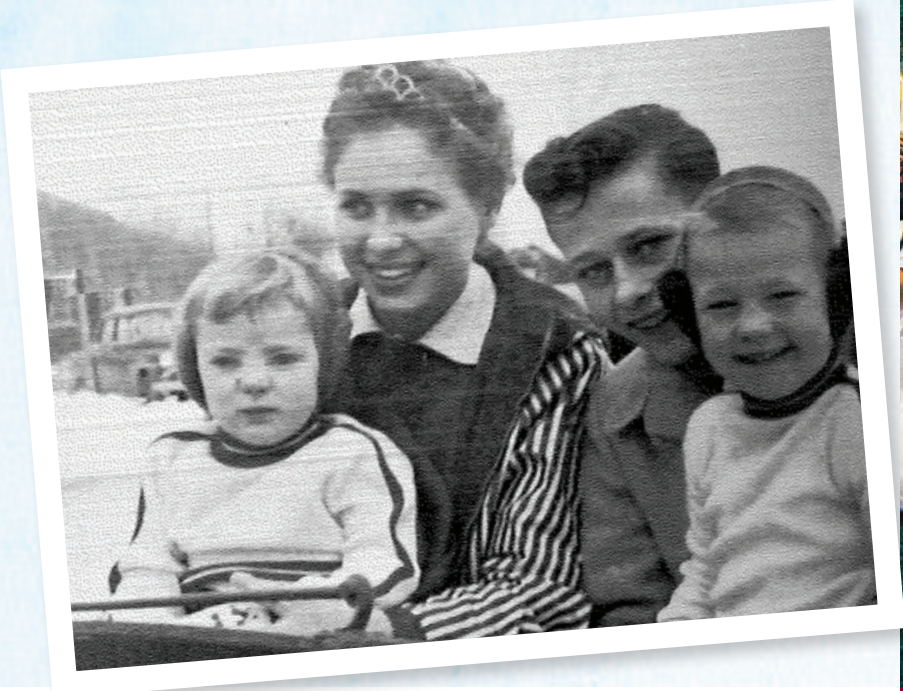
MOIR PARK

104th Street at Morgan Avenue, Shelter 1: Accommodates 200+, \$261 plus tax; Shelter 2: Accommodates 50, \$180 plus tax.



BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY

In 1958, Lincoln High School students enjoyed the winter weather at Sno Day, an event that included skating performances, costumes and even a Sno Day king and queen. The 1958 Sno Day royalty, Margita Engellau and Jack Salden, rode in a sleigh during the festivities with the junior king and queen, Christi and Vic Clementson, *at right*. This dive into the Bloomington Public Schools’ yearbook archive is part of a series marking the district’s centennial celebration. This year, BPS celebrated its founding in 1917 and the 100 years of academic excellence that have followed.



STAYING SHARP ON THE GOLF COURSES

When golfers put their clubs away for the winter, Hyland and Dwan’s six full-time maintenance team members begin disassembling, inspecting, sharpening, fine tuning and rebuilding more than 75 pieces of equipment. This includes tractors, forklifts, bunker rakes, chemical application equipment, aerators and specialized mowers that have been used heavily throughout the golf season.

“Our oldest pieces of equipment are over 60 years old, but we keep them running like new,” said Golf Course Maintenance Superintendent Jim Riekema.

Even though there is snow on the ground, the courses require a lot of attention through the winter. Staff will cut down up to 40 ash trees to prevent Emerald Ash Borers from spreading to the courses. Winter is also the best time to clean, sand, paint, stain and repair the more than 200 fixtures such as tee markers, benches, ball washers, and tee signs for the upcoming golf season.



DWAN CLUBHOUSE CLOSED FOR WINTER

The clubhouse at Dwan Golf Club is closed for business this winter. The move saves money and makes operations more efficient. Dwan’s clubhouse will reopen in early March. For questions or assistance during the interim, contact Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877 or parksrec@BloomingtonMN.gov.

BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY CONNECTS

Much to longtime Bloomington resident Betty Ludvigsen’s surprise, she spotted herself while she was flipping through the August issue of the *Briefing*.

She remembers the black dress she wore and sunny weather from the 1958 day she posed for the Lincoln High School yearbook photo that appeared in the issue’s *Bloomington Yesterday* feature.

“It wasn’t a real picnic. It was all staged because we needed photos to fill out the yearbook,” she said with a laugh. “If you look closely, you’ll notice there is no food anywhere.”

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

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, visit blm.mn/bcatix or call the box office at 952-563-8575.



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.

December 2 – 10, Adults \$25, seniors and students \$19, children under 13 \$13, Tickets: 952-563-8562



Artistry Gifts in the Gallery

See the Inez Greenberg Gallery transformed into a winter wonderland with gifts by more than 60 local artists available for purchase.

December 6 – 20
A festive reception: Wednesday, December 6, 6 – 8 p.m.
Door prizes—Cash bar—Refreshments—Live music



Sherwin and Pam Linton Christmas Times A Comin’!

From Bill Monroe’s Bluegrass Christmas classic to Sherwin’s “Santa Got a DWI,” and the closing “Merry Christmas Day,” the Sherwin and Pam Linton show is steeped with holiday spirit and tradition.

December 8, 7:30 p.m., December 9, 2 p.m.
All tickets \$22, Black Box Theater



Bloomington Chorale Holidays with the Masters

Seasons greetings from Bach, Handel, Mendelssohn and Vivaldi along with other favorites.

December 15, 7:30 p.m., December 16, 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.

December 17, 4 p.m.
Adults \$19, seniors and students \$17



Monroe Crossing A Bluegrass Christmas

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

December 20, 7:30 p.m.
All tickets \$31



SNOW EMERGENCY SURVIVAL GUIDE

Whether it's skiing, snowboarding, sledding or sitting near the fireplace with a cup of hot cocoa, winter brings some wonderful things. One of the less enjoyable elements of the season is traveling after or during a snow event. The City helps residents get through winter road conditions safely with snowplowing services at a cost of \$3.25 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 a 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 2017 resident survey, 82 percent of respondents rated the City's snow removal services as excellent or good, which is higher than the national average.

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 street has been plowed from curb to curb. There will be snow emergency alerts on the City's website, cable channel, E-Subscribe and social media pages.

SOLUTIONS TO SAFE STREETS AND WATERBODIES

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



SHOVEL OUT FIRE HYDRANTS, MAILBOXES AND GARBAGE BINS

The Fire Department requests that residents shovel out 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.

REMEMBER 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.

PLAY SAFELY

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.

DRIVE SAFELY

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 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 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 year at a cost of 19 cents per month.

START SEEING SNOWPLOWS

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

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

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

SIGN UP FOR ALERTS

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

