

BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



MAY 2024



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MARK YOUR CALENDARS: TELL US WHAT NINE MILE CREEK CORRIDOR MEANS TO YOU

Spanning 240 acres, the Nine Mile Creek corridor is a beautiful slice of nature, featuring trails and many outdoor amenities that residents enjoy. Celebrate the history and share your stories of the Nine Mile Creek Corridor area on May 21, 4-6 p.m., at Moir Park shelter, 10320 Morgan Ave S. At this Moving Bloomington Forward launch event, you will meet the project team, and learn about the project and estimated timeline. Bring your family and enjoy the park, yard games and treats. Food truck vendor, Sambus Samosa will also be there. This is the first engagement opportunity for the Moving Bloomington Forward project focused on renewing the Nine Mile Creek Corridor and improving Moir/Central Parks.

In 2023, voters approved a local option sales tax to fund three Moving Bloomington Forward projects. Learn more about this project and the new community health and wellness center and Bloomington Ice Garden renovations online at bloomingtonforward.org.

Find us online
BLOOMINGTON MN.gov



SOUTH LOOP WATER PARK CONVERSATIONS CONTINUE

In March and April, the City Council and Port Authority Commission talked through updated plans for Mystery Cove Waterpark at Mall of America. The new plans include a 220,000-square-foot building with a 144,000-square-foot “pool hall” space, which is smaller than previously proposed.

There will be no direct taxpayer cost for the \$373 million project. A portion of Mall of America’s property taxes will go into the water park, via tax increment financing (TIF), to make it financially viable. The plans for the water park also include discounted admission for Bloomington residents.

The City Council and Port Authority also discussed options to finance the \$373 million project that would include a skyway connecting the park to Mall of America and a new parking lot. Current plans for the water park include a splash pad, wave pool, 30 rides and slides, a lazy river and a retractable roof. The smaller footprint of the building and advanced mechanical systems used for the roof are projected to reduce energy consumption compared to previous plans, according to Mall of America.

“MOA’s continued strong performance is essential to defraying the property tax that residents would otherwise need to pay, and supports the success of many other hospitality businesses in Bloomington,” Port Authority Administrator Holly Masek said.



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BRIEFING

Volume 32, Number 05

The *Briefing*, published monthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to residents and businesses. Direct your comments and requests for Braille, larger print or computer file to Communications Administrator Janine Hill, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3071; PH 952-563-8819; MN Relay 711; FAX 952-563-8715; Email: jhill@BloomingtonMN.gov
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MAYOR'S MEMO HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE STATE OF THE CITY

By Mayor Tim Busse

It was my pleasure to present this year's State of the City address to the more than 230 attendees at the Zawadi Center. City Manager Jamie Verbrugge and I covered a range of topics, including the voter-approved sales tax, how we're working to provide housing that people can afford and the importance of Bloomington's business community. Here are some key takeaways from the event:



BLOOMINGTON IS INVESTING \$159 MILLION IN THE COMMUNITY

Enhancing quality of life and protecting natural resources with three projects funded by a voter-approved sales tax: Bloomington Ice Garden renovations, Nine Mile Creek corridor preservation and improvements, and building a new community health and wellness center.

BLOOMINGTON SUPPORTS BUSINESSES OF ALL SIZES

- The City has notable programs and projects that support businesses and economic growth, including:
- Welcoming Wednesdays every month to provide startup and small business resources.
 - Bloomington Business Connections, a partnership with the Minneapolis Regional Chamber.
 - A new site and façade improvement program that offers grants to cover up to 50% of total project costs. *See page 3.*
 - A five-year economic development action plan that just kicked off this month.

"EGG" CITING NEWS FOR ENTREPRENEURS

The City is partnering with the Minneapolis Regional Chamber to host Hatch Bloomington, an entrepreneurial pitch competition, with a \$100,000 award and community voting—think "Shark Tank" meets "American Idol."

The contest aims to draw more small businesses to Bloomington. The Hatch winner will have a storefront presence in the city. You can learn more at hatchbloomington.com.



BLOOMINGTON IS FOCUSED ON CREATING AND PRESERVING HOUSING PEOPLE CAN AFFORD

The City Council made major changes to residential zoning provisions to stimulate more housing production, promote home ownership and lower housing costs by allowing smaller lots, homes and garages. The Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority was also awarded a nearly \$3.2 million grant last December to build 27 new single-family homes for households earning at or below 80% of the area median income. Housing is a primary wealth-building tool. Inequitable access to this opportunity prevents the City from living out the values outlined in its *Bloomington. Tomorrow. Together.* strategic plan. You can watch the entire State of the City address at blm.mn/soc.



THE LATEST ON *BLOOMINGTON. TOMORROW. TOGETHER.*

City staff submit updates on progress in the *Bloomington. Tomorrow. Together.* strategic plan to the City Council each quarter. In April, the Council heard about the progress made in the strategic plan in the first quarter of 2024. The next quarterly report goes to the City Council in July. You can check out the progress in each priority on the public dashboard at blm.mn/btt.

WORK CONTINUES ON I-494 AND I-35W INTERCHANGE

The Minnesota Department of Transportation is constructing E-ZPass lanes on I-494 from Hwy 100 to I-35W in each direction and adding a new ramp at the I-35W and I-494 interchange. Work on this project began last spring and will continue through fall 2026. When work is completed, the E-ZPass lanes and the new ramp at the I-35W and I-494 interchange will address congestion on the interstate.

Crews are also replacing the bridges crossing over I-494 at Portland Avenue, Nicollet Avenue, and 12th Avenue, and adding a new pedestrian bridge at Chicago Avenue that crosses over I-494 to provide an additional pedestrian and bicycle connection across I-494. Visit blm.mn/i494 for the latest on ramp and lane closures.

When the project is complete, vehicles will no longer be able to access I-494 from Nicollet Avenue and 12th Avenue, but there will be full access to I-494 from Portland Avenue.

This is the first of four construction projects that are part of the I-494: Airport to Hwy 169 vision.



PUT A NEW FACE ON YOUR BUSINESS WITH HELP FROM A CITY GRANT

The grant-funded Site and Façade Improvement Program covers half of the cost when businesses make revitalizing improvements to public facing commercial areas in Bloomington.

Eligible businesses receive 50 percent of the cost of their project, a minimum of \$5,000 and a maximum of \$24,999 per property. Total project cost with the grant would range from \$10,000-\$50,000 or more.

Eligible improvements include repairing or replacing windows, doors, canopies, parapets and steps; removing exterior finishes or materials that cover architectural details; sidewalk and pedestrian improvements; mounted signage; murals, landscaping and masonry repairs; ADA accessibility to building from outside; and more.

For details, including applicant eligibility, eligible improvements and the online application, visit blm.mn/site-facade.



Engaged community members serving on Bloomington boards and commissions are vital in guiding the direction of the city.

PUBLIC SERVICE IS CALLING: APPLY FOR A BOARD OR COMMISSION SEAT

Get involved in your local government by serving as a board or commission member. The City is currently accepting applications for the Planning Commission and for young adult seats on the Human Rights, Sustainability, and Parks, Arts and Recreation commissions.

The deadline to apply is Monday, May 27, 11:59 p.m. For more information and to apply online, visit blm.mn/boards. Questions? Contact the Community Outreach and Engagement Division at outreachandengagement@BloomingtonMN.gov.



FIBER OPTICS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

If you see non-City crews working in a right of way along a street near you, or in backyard drainage and utility easements, they may be installing fiber optic cable to provide options for faster internet speed for residents. The installation is expected to continue through 2024.

This work is not being carried out by the City of Bloomington. The companies installing fiber in Bloomington have permits to perform the work.

Providers should be placing door hangers that include company information if they're doing work near you. If you have questions, please contact the provider doing work in your neighborhood.

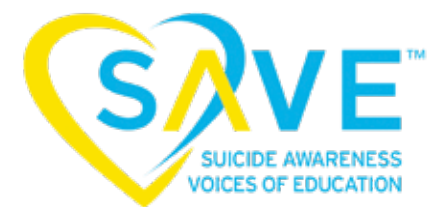
MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Help is only a call, text or chat away.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and Bloomington Public Health wants residents to know help is available.

If you or someone you know needs support for a mental health or suicidal crisis, please call, text or chat 988 or visit the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988lifeline.org. Free and confidential support is available 24/7.

To learn more about Public Health services, visit blm.mn/ph/services.



SUICIDE AWARENESS MEMORIAL EVENT MAY 18

The SAVE Suicide Awareness Memorial event is a unique opportunity for suicide loss survivors to pay tribute to loved ones lost to suicide and gather as a community to support one another in their journey.

The memorial event on Saturday, May 18, 9-11 a.m., at Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, will include personal stories by suicide loss survivors, a reading of the names of loved ones lost to suicide, a presentation of pictures of loved ones lost to suicide, and an opportunity to connect with local mental health resources.

SAVE is a national suicide prevention nonprofit working to end the tragedy of suicide through education, training, advocacy, and supporting suicide loss survivors. Learn more about SAVE at save.org.



BE A WATER HERO: ADOPT A LOCAL DRAIN OR TWO

Do you ever think about those drains along your street? The water, and everything else, that enters those grated drains flows through pipes directly into our lakes, ponds, rivers, streams and wetlands. If too much debris enters, the drain can clog and cause flooding.

By volunteering just 15 minutes once or twice a month to sweep up, rake up or pick up whatever is in the drain(s) you adopt, you become a hero in the effort to keep our drains flowing and our water clean.

Ready to be your street's water hero? Visit Minnesota's Adopt-A-Drain program at mn.adopt-a-drain.org. Find your street and select the drains you want to adopt. Don't forget to review tips on safety and drain clearing and report the estimated pounds of drain debris you collect.

In Bloomington last year, more than 454 Adopt-A-Drain volunteers adopted 776 drains and stopped more than 4,500 lbs. of debris from entering water bodies in Bloomington. Thank you for your service! Keep reporting your impressive numbers!

SOLID WASTE STUDY LOOKS AT NEW RATE STRUCTURE

The City is conducting a solid waste rate study to better understand the relationship between solid waste service costs, how much residents throw away and garbage cart sizes. One study goal is to consider expanding the City's Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) garbage rate structure.

With PAYT, residents pay for trash collected based on the size of their trash containers. The current PAYT rate structure has a small cost difference for different garbage cart sizes. PAYT rates with more notable cost differences between garbage carts sizes could better reflect how residents' use our solid waste programs and encourage increased recycling, composting and waste reduction.

Study results will be presented to the City Council this summer and may be considered as part of the City's 2025 solid waste rate setting process. Learn more at blm.mn/solid-waste-study.



Bloomington residents and buckthorn busters, (from left) Michael Borowiak, Pat Nelson and Anders Westanmo, stand in an area that was thickly infested with buckthorn as tall as 40 feet before they helped bring it down.

EARTH ACTION HEROES: THREE BUCKTHORN BUSTERS

Buckthorn is one of Minnesota's most damaging invasive plants. Its leaves sprout in early spring and remain through autumn. Buckthorn lacks nutrition so it is a poor food source for birds and mammals. It also creates dense shade that outcompetes many native plants and shrubs that are nutrient rich.

Though cities, counties and the state have programs to combat the beast that is buckthorn, it is efforts by local Earth Action Heroes, such as Anders Westanmo, Pat Nelson and Mike Borowiak that could make the difference in this fight.

"Much of Bloomington's forests are infested with buckthorn," said Nelson, a full-time father and part-time teacher.

"Working with the City of Bloomington and Three Rivers District, we adopted a 19-acre lot in Hyland Park," said Westanmo, a pharmacist. "These coordinated buckthorn busts help us cover more ground."

Buckthorn control treatments can occur at any point in the year, but these volunteers are very active in fall and winter when chemical control can be most effective.

"It's a small action to take to help our city," said Borowiak, a clinical social worker. "It will take the efforts of many to manage this environmental problem."

To learn how you can help, visit blm.mn/eco-land-stewardship.



PLAY COMPOST BINGO TO WIN

Get ready to shout: Compost bingo! Join your Bloomington neighbors throughout the month of May in a citywide organics recycling bingo challenge.

During International Compost Awareness Week, May 5-11, your efforts will be bolstered by events scheduled all over the country and the world to encourage and celebrate composting.

Be part of this important work and perhaps shout "compost bingo" by taking simple actions intended to help make your composting actions become habits.

For each bingo you complete, you will be entered into a random chance drawing to win tokens to the Bloomington Farmers Market. Visit blm.mn/compost-bingo to learn more and play the game!

RESEARCH BY THE COMPOST RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FOUNDATION HAS FOUND THAT COMPOSTING CAN:

- Reduce the use of landfill space and incineration.
- Reduce pollution in waterways.
- Reduce methane gas and carbon emissions.
- Increase sustenance to support biological diversity.



FREE COMPOST FOR ORGANICS PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Are you a Bloomington resident who participates in the City's organics recycling program? The results of your impactful work have arrived. On Saturday, May 11, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at Bloomington's Maintenance Facility, 10500 Hampshire Ave., registered participants can take home up to three bags of compost for free.

New this year, residents must be participating in the organics program (curbside or drop-off) to pick up compost.

In order to receive compost while supplies last, residents must RSVP by Monday, May 6, at blm.mn/compost. Not signed up for organics recycling yet? Sign up at blm.mn/organics.



ABOUT THE GIVEAWAY EVENT

The compost giveaway, funded through a Hennepin County grant, is intended to encourage participation in full circle organics recycling that begins and ends with residents:

1. First, food scraps and other compostable materials are collected from participating residents through the City's organics recycling program.
2. Then, the City processes organics into compost.
3. Finally, nutrient-rich compost is returned to participating residents.

BLOOMINGTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS

SPRING/SUMMER PERFORMANCE SERIES

BLOOMINGTONMN.GOV/BCA

The Bloomington Center for the Arts Performance Series includes awe-inspiring live theater, dance, choral and instrumental concerts. Performances are held in the Schneider or Black Box theaters, located in the Bloomington Center for the Arts at 98th Street and West Old Shakopee Road. Free parking is available on site.



BLOOMINGTON CHORALE: "TOGETHER WE ARE ..."

A choral performance highlighting community, friendship, family, and unity. Selections include "We Are Family," "Bridge Over Troubled Waters," "We are the World," "Brothers Sing On," "We Are the Champions," and many more.

MAY 17, 7:30 P.M., MAY 18, 4 P.M.

TICKETS \$25 ADULT, \$20 SENIOR (60+), \$20 STUDENT



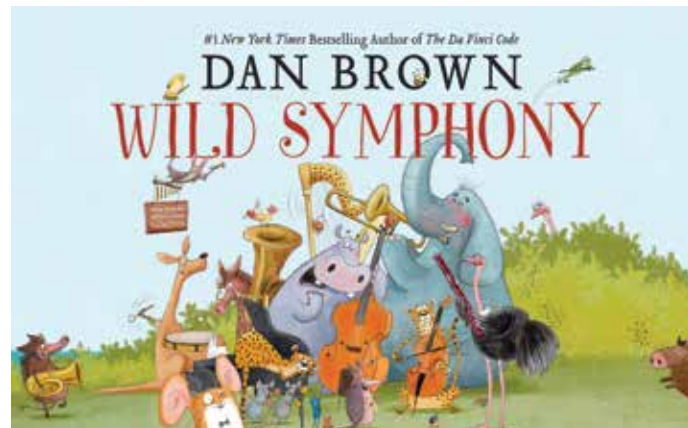
CONCERTO DANCE: "THE ADVENTURES OF PEER GYNT"

Using their signature blend of theatrical and classical jazz dance styles, Concerto Dance presents "The Adventures of Peer Gynt," a new jazz dance work set to Duke Ellington's arrangement of Edvard Grieg's "Peer Gynt Suite."

MAY 16, 7:30 P.M. (PAY WHAT YOU CAN), MAY 17, 7:30 P.M.

MAY 18, 2:30 P.M. AND 7:30 P.M.

TICKETS \$30 ADULT, \$25 SENIOR (60+), \$25 STUDENT



MEDALIST CONCERT BAND: "WILD SYMPHONY"

A youth-oriented option, this concert features the music from the children's book, "Wild Symphony," by Da Vinci Code author Dan Brown. Guest soloist: 2024 Concerto Competition winner.

MAY 19, 4 P.M.

TICKETS \$17 ADULT, \$15 SENIOR (60+), \$15 STUDENT



NOTEABLE SINGERS: "ELEMENTS OF NATURE!"

Join the NOTEable Singers as they celebrate their 50th season. Enjoy songs about the elements, and experience weather and seasons in a whole new way.

JUNE 1, 5 P.M.

TICKETS \$20 ADULT, \$17 SENIOR (60+), \$17 STUDENT, KIDS UNDER 5 FREE



ALIVE & KICKIN "THE 70's—CAN YOU DIG IT?"

The Rockin Seniors of Alive & Kickin are thrilled to be back in Bloomington presenting "The 70's—Can You Dig It?"

JUNE 6, 4PM, JUNE 7, 6PM, JUNE 8, 7:30PM, JUNE 9, 2PM

TICKETS: \$50 AFTER-PARTY, \$40 GENERAL, \$35 SENIOR (60+), \$35 STUDENT



ARTISTRY: "NEWSIES"

"Newsies" is a rousing tale of Jack Kelly, a charismatic leader who rallies other New York City newsies to strike against unfair conditions and dream of a better life.

JULY 18-AUGUST 24

SHOW TIMES VARY

TICKETS \$26-56 (INCLUDES FEES)



OUTDOOR FARMERS MARKETS COMING SOON

Ready, set, shop for the freshest food from local farms. The Bloomington Farmers Market is back every Saturday June 8-October 12, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., in the east lot of Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road.

Each week, more than 40 vendors will offer goods at the market, and collectively more than 60 vendors will participate. Along with fresh foods, visitors can also enjoy crafts and other local maker wares, as well as ready-to-eat food and community tables to visit with local nonprofit groups.

The Midweek Music and Market will return every Wednesday, July 10-August 21, 5-8 p.m., in the east lot of Bloomington Civic Plaza with food trucks and music. Read more about the bands performing each week on page 8.

Mark your calendars and get all the details at blm.mn.gov/market.

CREEKSIDE PLANT EXCHANGE OFFERS CHANCE FOR GROWTH

Time to grow. The Creekside Garden Club, a group of volunteers who plant and maintain gardens and planters, is again presenting the Creekside Plant Exchange Saturday, June 1, 8-11 a.m., at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Ave. S.

This event is a great opportunity to donate, exchange or adopt indoor, outdoor and vegetable plants.

If you have questions about the plant exchange or want to join the Garden Club, contact Creekside at 952-563-4944, Creekside@BloomingtonMN.gov or blm.mn/creekside.

JUMPING WORM ALERT!

Please watch for the invasive jumping worm before bringing plants to this event. One sign of these worms is soil that resembles coffee grounds. You can learn more about this worm at the bare-rooting demonstration table at the event.

MISSION

To always be respectful while keeping our community safe.

VISION

To be the most respected police department.

CORE VALUE

Respect.
Demonstrated through our compassionate and honest service.

BPD UNITED BY VALUE-DRIVEN SERVICE

Almost two years ago, the Bloomington Police Department (BPD) adopted a shared values-based mission, vision and core value to guide how it would serve the people of Bloomington. By partnering with community members, the shared values of respect, empathy and honesty became central to all operations.

Since then, those values have guided the hiring of 88 individuals and the promotion of 10 staff members and they have provided a solid foundation for how the whole department works.

“The simplicity of respect demonstrated through our compassionate and honest service has unified our department,” said Deputy Chief Damon Bitney. “We all operate to ensure the BPD is a greatly respected police department and that begins and ends with all of our staff continuously working hard to earn the respect of everyone we serve.”

To learn more about how the BPD works, visit blm.mn/pd.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH KEEPS NEIGHBORHOODS SAFE

Neighborhood Watch is a program that promotes neighbors helping neighbors. Concerned and connected residents are the best assets any police department has in fighting crime, and connected neighbors are a great way to keep your neighborhood safe and build positive relationships.

With more than 400 Neighborhood Watch groups in Bloomington, the program helps residents be involved, stay informed and work together with their neighbors and local police department to address mutual concerns and find solutions.

If you are interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch program in your area and making a difference, find resources and details at blm.mn/nw.



POLICE REMEMBERED AND RECOGNIZED

This year, Sunday, May 12-Saturday, May 18, is National Police Week and May 15 is National Peace Officers Memorial Day.

Suggested by President Kennedy in 1962, congress passed a resolution that same year designating May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week it falls in as Police Week.

The service and sacrifice of all officers across the country killed in the line of duty are honored annually during the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund’s annual candlelight vigil in Washington D.C. This year’s vigil is Monday, May 13 at 8 p.m. where 282 officers killed in the line of duty in 2023 will be honored.

Locally, the Bloomington Police Department will recognize National Peace Officers Memorial Day with a Memorial Flag ceremony on Wednesday, May 15 at Civic Plaza at 8 a.m. The BPD will also join the Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial Association to stand guard at the Peace Officer Memorial in St. Paul, followed by the attendance of a Remembrance Ceremony at 7 p.m.

At the May 6 City Council meeting, Mayor Tim Busse will recognize all events by reading a proclamation intended to increase public awareness of the importance of law enforcement officers and show appreciation for the role they play in our communities. A second proclamation will be read honoring the Optimist Club Respect for Law Week, highlighting a selected Officer of the Year.

Learn more about police serving Bloomington at blm.mn/pd.



CELEBRATE THE 2024 OFFICER AND CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR

Each year, the Bloomington Optimist Club recognizes a Bloomington Police Department (BPD) officer who consistently upholds the department’s core value of Respect while professionally serving the community. This year, the Respect for Law Award was presented to BPD Officer Andy Plant.

OFFICER ANDY PLANT: OPTIMIST CLUB RESPECT FOR LAW OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Officer Andy Plant was sworn in as an officer of the BPD in October 2004, where he served in the Patrol Bureau. Officer Plant also serves on several specialty assignments, including as a crime technician, field training officer, honor guard member, range officer, and mobile field force squad leader.

With a wealth of knowledge and experience in the Patrol Bureau, Plant is a mentor and go-to resource for newly trained officers. As an honor guard member, Plant attends funerals throughout the state while leading the team in honoring officers who have died in the line of duty.

Officer Plant was also the recipient of BPD’s Officer of the Year Award.

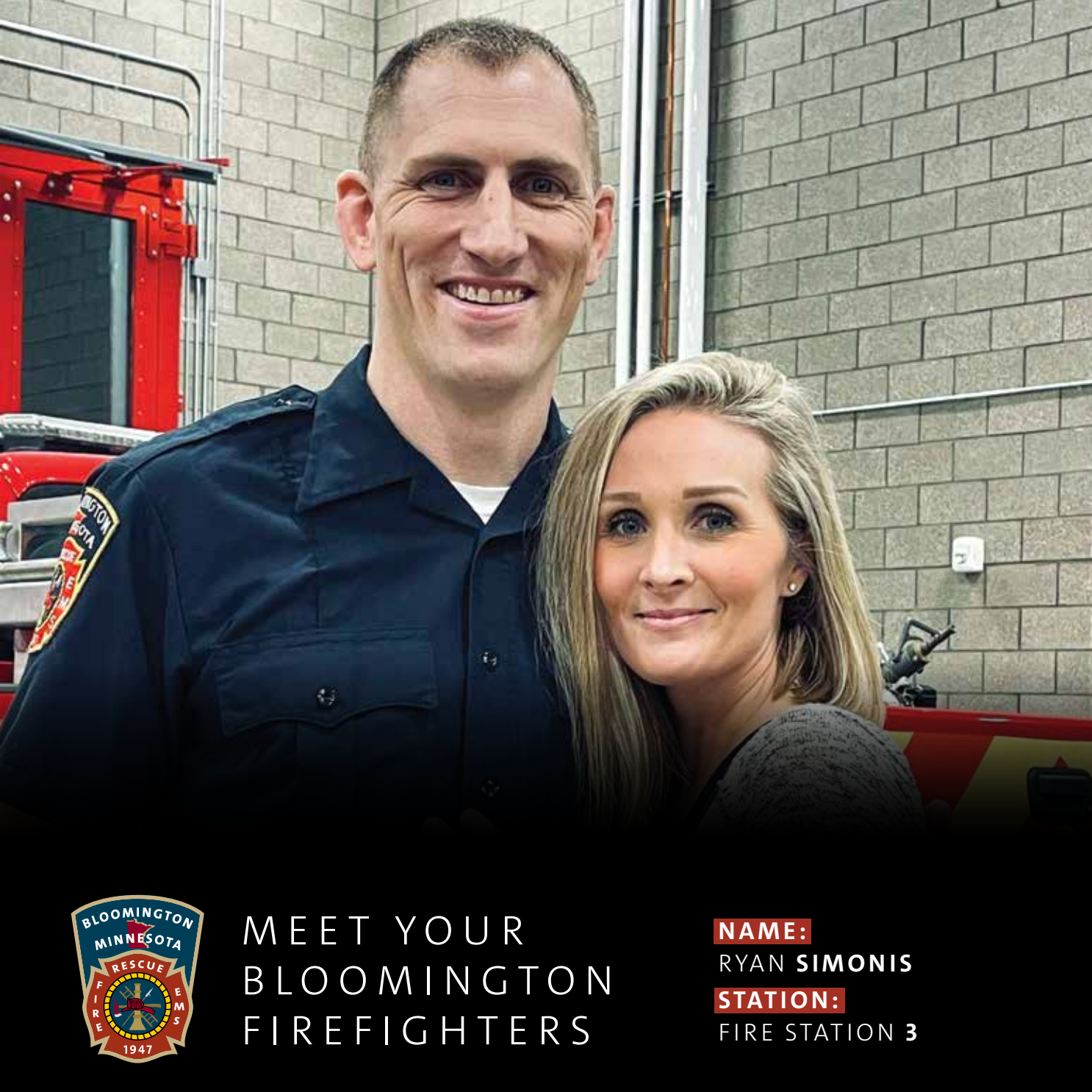
PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATOR MICHELLE MARTINSEN: CIVILIAN STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Public Safety Telecommunicator Michelle Martensen is the recipient of the BPD Civilian Staff Member of the Year Award. Martensen serves as a hostage negotiator, communications training officer and command post operator.

Multiple nominations came in for Martensen referencing her exceptional dedication and hard work while demonstrating respect in all her interactions. She masters multiple tasks at one time, has amazing attention to detail, maintains a depth of knowledge, and has a passion for serving.

Martensen goes above and beyond to serve the community and her colleagues. She is respected by the Police and Fire staff as they recognize the important role she has in keeping them safe as they serve the community, referring to her as a guardian angel.





MEET YOUR BLOOMINGTON FIREFIGHTERS

NAME:
RYAN SIMONIS
STATION:
FIRE STATION 3

Ryan Simonis began as a paid-on-call firefighter in September 2021 with the Bloomington Fire Department and was hired as a full time firefighter in April 2023.

Through the BFD, Simonis has earned nearly 20 certificates including ones in hazardous material operations, fire apparatus operator, trench rescue technician and ice water rescue. He also holds a bachelor's degree in international relations and a master's degree in criminal justice. He's completed all but the dissertation for a PhD in public policy and is currently working on a Paramedic Fire Science degree.

Prior to his service here, Simonis was a Marine for 24 years, a police officer and federal law enforcement officer.

"I love learning and being part of a team, and I enjoy the constant pace of training and operations," Simonis said of his newest career.

When he is off duty, Simonis spends time with his "amazing" wife Nikki, *pictured above*, their children, Addyson (17), Jameson (12), and Paisley (9), and two puppies, Lola and Babs. He also competes worldwide as a black belt in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu.

SIMONIS FIRE SAFETY ADVICE

Fire extinguishers and smoke detectors are important. And always have a plan in case of an emergency, talk about it with your children and practice it regularly.

BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY: FIRE TRUCKS

Rescue is one of the most important roles in a fire department. To save people from fires, fire departments use trucks like a "fire engine" and lots of equipment. Over the past several decades, fire engines have advanced. The truck in the center of this photo is one of Bloomington Fire Department's first acquired trucks. It was a 1946 Ford truck that was retrofitted with a 250 gallons per minute pump and a 500 gallon water tank.

The city's current fire trucks can pump 2,000 gallons of water per minute and carry a 750-gallon water tank. One thing that has not changed over the years is Bloomington firefighters' dedication to serving their community.

Last month, WCCO featured two former Bloomington firefighters, Fred Fueker and Pete Heger, and told the story of how their discovery of an old Bloomington fire truck photo reconnected them. Give it a watch at blm.mn/wcco-bfd.



READY TO PEDAL? IT'S BIKE MONTH

Join Commuter Services' Bike Month – May 2024 campaign and learn how to use your bicycle as a sustainable transportation option.

Bike Month – May 2024 promotes bicycling to commute to work, run errands, or any other trip where you might otherwise use your car.

Participants 18 years or older who pledge to ride their bike to work or other destination-based travel at least once this month will be entered to win an electric bike or bike swag bag.

Commuter Services will celebrate Bike Month – May 2024 on Thursday, May 16, 4-6:30 p.m., at Taft Bike Park, 6005 16th Ave. S., Richfield. Visitors can try an electric bike, pick up bike maps and swag, get bike tune-ups and try the park's new pump track. This family-friendly event features food trucks too.

For information or to take the Bike Month – May 2024 pledge, visit the Commuter Services website, 494corridor.org.

SUMMER LEARNING AND FUN

Are you looking for highly engaging learning activities for your kids and family this summer?

Bloomington Public Schools and Community Education have a great selection of summer 2024 academic and enrichment programs, offering childcare and camps for kids and classes for all ages.

From summer preschool and Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) classes, Summer SLAM activities, childcare for elementary-aged children, aquatics, driver's education, high school credit recovery, adult enrichment, music lessons and more, families are sure to find a class or activity to try.

View the Community Education Catalog online at blm.mm/bpscatalog.

arts in the Parks

Arts in the Parks offers everything from moonlight movies to fireworks. Musical performances range from classical to bluegrass. All programs are free and open to the public. For more information, visit blm.mn/artsparks or call 952-563-8878.

TUESDAY NIGHT NORMANDALE LAKE PERFORMANCE SERIES

7 P.M. AT NORMANDALE LAKE BANDSHELL, 84TH STREET AND CHALET ROAD.

The sounds of summer echo throughout the Normandale Lake Bandshell with Bloomington's best music and dance. All shows begin at 7 p.m. and are free to the public.

June 4
NOTEable Singers



June 11
Bloomington Chorale



June 18
Blue Groove



June 25
Medalist Concert Band



July 9
Continental Ballet

July 16
Concerto Dance

July 23
Bloomington Symphony Orchestra

July 30
Medalist Concert Band

MIDWEEK MUSIC AND MARKET SERIES

5-8 P.M. AT CIVIC PLAZA, 1800 WEST OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD.

Music, food trucks, a beer garden and a farmers market—everything you need to enjoy your Wednesday evenings. Music starts at 5:30 p.m.

July 10

Ken Valdez Band



July 17

Twin Cities Hot Club



July 24

Tuxedo Band



July 31

BOB! The Music of Dylan



August 7

St. Dominics Trio

August 14

Joe Flip Band

August 21

Steve Clarke and the Working Stiffs

THURSDAY NIGHT BLOCKBUSTER SERIES

FOOD SERVICE 6:30 P.M., SHOWS BEGIN 7 P.M. AT NORMANDALE LAKE BANDSHELL, 84TH STREET AND CHALET ROAD.

Don't miss Thursday Blockbusters and the Evening Performance Series at the Normandale Lake Bandshell. Food and beer service starts at 6:30 p.m. and shows start at 7 p.m.

June 6

Chico Chavez Orchestra



June 13

International Reggae Allstars



June 20

Tuxedo Band: Hometown Heroes



June 27

Featuring: Rhino



July 11

Hitchville

July 18

Salsa Del Soul

July 25

Flannel

August 1

R Factor

August 8

Lamont Cranston Band

SUNDAY FUNDAY

Sunday Funday offers free, family-friendly live entertainment and food. This series is sure to be a fun way to spend summer afternoons. Events take place 4-6:30 p.m. at locations throughout the city.

June 16

John Philip Sousa Memorial Band

Pond Dakota
Mission Park, 401 E.
104th Street

June 23

TBD

Central Station Park, 8100
33rd Ave S.

June 30

Ballet Folklorico Mexico Azteca with Mariachi

Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old
Shakopee Road

July 7

Shakespeare in the Park

Normandale Lake
Bandshell, 84th St. and
Chalet Road

July 14

Tropical Zone Orchestra

Central Station Park, 8100
33rd Ave S.

July 21

Summer Musical in the Park

Normandale Lake
Bandshell, 84th St. and
Chalet Road

July 28

Kat Perkins

Normandale Lake
Bandshell, 84th St. and
Chalet Road

August 4

Tim Sigler Band

Central Station Park, 8100
33rd Ave S.

August 11

Junk FM

Normandale Lake
Bandshell, 84th St. and
Chalet Road



MONDAY MORNING KIDS' SERIES

Wake up to Mondays at Moir Park and Valley View Playfield, June 3-August 12. Bring your family and friends alternating weeks at these two popular locations throughout the summer to enjoy music, dancing, magic, storytelling and much more! The fun begins at 10:30 a.m. and each show lasts approximately one hour.

June 3 Rachael Kroog (Moir)

Be ready to have fun and dance along.

June 10 Brodini (Valley View)

High energy, interactive comedy magic.

June 17 Todd 'n' Tina (Moir)

Award-winning kids' music.

June 24 Hooperina (Valley View)

Hula hoop fun!

July 8 Jolly Pops (Moir)

Great kid's music and fun.

July 15 Dazzling Dave (Valley View)

Check out this amazing yo-yo master.

July 22 Bob the Beachcomber (Valley View)

Featuring '60s and '70s surfin' and

rockin' music.

July 29 Wiggle, Jiggle, and Jam (Moir)

Family fun that puts the move in music.

August 5 Acme Magic Factory (Moir)

The perfect combination of magic, comedy and audience interaction.

August 12 The Bazillions (Valley View)

Enjoy kid-friendly rock 'n' roll.



ADDITIONAL EVENTS

June 8

Kites and Bites

Valley View Playfield, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Enjoy food trucks, music and kites at this free annual event at Valley View Playfield, 90th Street and Portland Avenue South.

August 17

On the One Music Festival

Normandale Lake Bandshell, 12 – 8 p.m.

The Third Annual On the One Festival features rising stars in Twin Cities Urban Eclectic, Hip Hop, and Neo Soul. Learn more at blm.mn/summerfete.



Bring your appetite! You'll find a variety of food and drink options at events marked with a fork-and-spoon icon.