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An artist from GoodSpace Murals works on the Wright's Lake Park community mural that runs alongside State Highway 77/Cedar Avenue. Wright's Lake Park is at 8501 17th Ave. S.

HELP SHAPE THE PLAN FOR CITYWIDE CREATIVE PLACEMAKING

Your input is needed for the new citywide Creative Placemaking Master Plan currently underway. We want to hear from you on how arts, culture and creativity can contribute to building social connections, our local economy and vibrant places. Expanding creative placemaking citywide was identified by the community in the *Bloomington. Tomorrow. Together.* strategic plan. Check out upcoming engagement opportunities online at blm.mn/letstalk.

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CHECK OUT THE COMMUNITY-DRIVEN IMPROVEMENTS COMING TO THESE BLOOMINGTON PARKS

Bloomington's Park System Master Plan establishes a clear 20-year vision for the City's parks, trails, recreation and open-space systems. Nine parks were selected for the plan using the City's equity prioritization approach. This method assesses parks based on neighborhood factors like income, poverty rates, racial demographics, and crime, as well as the number of people using the space and the condition of the facilities. Read more on *page CR 6* for details on the improvements completed at Smith Park, *above left*, and those coming this summer to Bryant Park, *rendering above center*, and Tretbaugh Park, *rendering above right*.

MOVING BLOOMINGTON FORWARD

SURVEY: WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE IN A NEW COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER?

In 2023, voters approved a local option sales tax to fund three Moving Bloomington Forward projects. One of those projects is a new community health and wellness center that will support a wide range of recreational and fitness activities and community programs. The new center will replace Creekside Community Center and the Public Health building. It will be located on the same site as Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Ave. S.

The project team is reaching out for public input to ensure that the new center reflects what's important to community members. Tell us what kind of programs, services and amenities you'd like to see in the new center by taking the survey at blm.mn/chwc-survey. The survey will remain open until Sunday, June 30.

Learn more about this project, along with improvements along the Nine Mile Creek corridor and Moir and Central parks, and renovations at the Bloomington Ice Garden, at BloomingtonForward.org and on *page CR 4*.



Hennepin County Commissioner Debbie Goettel, third from left in the front row, congratulated the first CEO Start cohort.

CEO START: A LAUNCHING PAD FOR YOUR UPSTART BUSINESS

Ready to advance your business idea?

What: The City of Bloomington and Hennepin County launched a pilot program called CEO Start in January 2024 in which entrepreneurs learn business fundamentals.

Who: The first cohort of 12 participants completed the 10-week, 10-session program in April when they pitched their business venture to an audience and connected directly with those interested in their business.

How: A second CEO Start cohort begins September 10. If you are ready to gain deeper understanding of your venture and practice articulating your business or business idea, apply here: blm.mn/ceo.

BLOOMINGTON'S PORT AUTHORITY WORKING ON FIVE-YEAR PLAN

The City of Bloomington Port Authority is developing a five-year economic development action plan to guide its work as it expands from working exclusively in the South Loop to offering economic development programs and assistance citywide.

The plan's steering committee, which meets monthly, has 13 members, including representatives from Bloomington's business community and regional economic development partners.

Extensive roundtables and interviews conducted by the Port Authority team and consultants from TIP Strategies over the past five months have resulted in the first draft of the plan's strategies.

The next step is creating the action plan. Consultants from TIP Strategies will meet with the steering committee for a workshop in late June to review and refine the plan's strategies and finalize a vision and guiding principles for the project.

For more information on this and the Port Authority, visit blm.mn/port.



NEW LEADERS WELCOMED TO THE CITY

Two new staff have joined the City's leadership team. Elizabeth Tolzmann is the City's new assistant city manager—internal services. Elizabeth was the assistant city manager for Bloomington previously from 2015-2017. Since that time, she has been with Ramsey County, first as the director of policy and planning before serving as the chief of staff to the county manager.

In addition to her experience with Ramsey County and Bloomington, Elizabeth was a workplace culture specialist in Hennepin County and a community engagement coordinator in Brooklyn Park. She is also an attorney specializing in immigration issues and an adjunct professor of law at University of St. Thomas Law School. Elizabeth is a certified ToPs facilitation and Insights methodologies.

Bloomington's new community development director is Kim Berggren. She was previously with Brooklyn Park for 17 years, spending the last 10 years as director of community development. She brings a wealth of knowledge leading the work of planning, economic development, environmental health and building inspections. Kim holds a master's degree in urban and regional planning from the University of Minnesota and a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of St. Thomas. She is also certified by the American Institute of Certified Planners.



Elizabeth Tolzmann



Kim Berggren

BRIEFING

Volume 32, Number 06

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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The City of Bloomington does not discriminate against or deny the benefits of its services, programs, or activities to a qualified person because of a disability. The City will provide a reasonable accommodation or modify its policies and programs to allow people with disabilities to participate in all City services, programs, activities, and employment. The law does not require the City to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden on the City. To make a request for a reasonable accommodation, ask for more information, or to file a complaint, contact the Community Outreach and Engagement Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; 952-563-8733, MN Relay 711.



COPS AND CONES RETURNS TO BUILD CONNECTIONS

Building trust and respect are at the heart of the Bloomington Police Department's mission.

Cops and Cones helps break down barriers, strengthen relationships and increase trust and respect by bringing police officers and community members together over a favorite summer treat: ice cream! A free scoop of ice cream is offered for kids up to 18 years old.

Cops and Cones is held Tuesdays, June 4, July 16 and August 20, 1 – 2:30 p.m., at Scoops Ice Cream, 7700 W. Old Shakopee Road. Everyone is invited to stop by for yard games, a carnival game, a squad car tour and more. Cops and Cones provides opportunities to open lines of communication, address relevant community issues and foster positive relationships. Get all the details at blm.mn/copsandcones.



GET A GRANT FOR YOUR ECO-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPE PROJECTS

Environmental stewardship grants are available to help fund eco-friendly gardens and landscape projects that promote environmental stewardship, improve air quality, build soil structure and provide habitat for pollinators and wildlife. Eco-friendly projects also improve Bloomington's neighborhoods and community.

The grants are intended to support projects that:

- Increase the capacity of the watershed to store or infiltrate water.
- Improve water quality by reducing the nutrients and sediments that flow into lakes, streams, wetlands and rivers.
- Preserve, protect and restore native ecosystems and wildlife habitats.

Typically, grants are awarded to cover up to 50-75% of a project's cost for professional consultation, engineering, labor and materials.

A list of available grants can be found at blm.mn/rain-gardens. For more assistance, contact Engineering at 952-562-4870.

E-SUBSCRIBE KEEPS RESIDENTS IN THE KNOW

What: E-Subscribe, the City of Bloomington's free email subscription service, sends email updates to subscribers on nearly 90 topics including developments, commission meetings and fun events.

Why: There is a lot going on in a vibrant community like Bloomington. E-Subscribe allows you to select the topics you are interested in and receive timely information about that topic directly in your email.

How: Visit blm.mn/esubscribe, enter your email address and select the topics you are interested in.

Privacy: The information required to subscribe is private data only accessible to select City staff and City contractors whose job duties require access.

BPD OFFERS COMMUNITY CLASSES THIS SUMMER

This summer the Bloomington Police Department is holding a variety of educational classes for the community. Classes will be on Tuesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. Registration is required and class size is limited. Register online at blm.mn/summerclasses2024. Here's the schedule of classes coming up:

July 9: Personal protection for seniors and women.

July 16: Drones for 14- to 21-year-olds.

July 23: Unconscious bias.

July 30: Crime scene investigation for 14- to 21-year-olds.

August 13: Personal protection for seniors and women.

You can learn more about the classes at blm.mn/summerclasses2024. Questions? Contact Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator Katie Zerull at kzerull@BloomingtonMN.gov.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT REGISTRATION IS OPEN

National Night Out registration is now open! To get on the list for a police or fire visit, register your neighborhood party by July 26 at blm.mn/NNO.

POLICE COLLABORATE WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS TO ADVERTISE YOUTH PROGRAMMING OPPORTUNITIES

To promote various programs for youth grades 6-12, the Bloomington Police Department has collaborated with community youth program leaders.

"If youth have choices available to them, it can help them make good choices as they become young adults," said Police Chief Booker T. Hodges of the partnership.

The programs, including academic and social support, provide youth with the opportunity to remain active in the community, strengthen interest in an array of programming opportunities and create friendships.

For a listing of the programming currently offered, visit blm.mn/youth.





HOME ENERGY WORKSHOP

Learn from experts on home energy efficiency, electrification and solar and enjoy a free, light dinner at the home energy workshop on Wednesday, July 31, 6:30-8 p.m., Black Box Theater, Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road. RSVP online at blm.mn/homeenergy. Questions? Contact Jamila Boudlali at jboudlali@BloomingtonMN.gov or 952-563-8732.

LEARN MORE ABOUT MINNESOTA'S POPULATION

Minnesota is undergoing a dramatic shift in its age structure as the immense Baby Boomer generation continues to enter the 65-and-older age group. This shift will move our state's average age higher, transforming our workplaces, communities and systems along the way. Join State Demographer Susan Brower to learn more on Tuesday, June 11, 9-10 a.m., at Creekside Community Center, 9800 Penn Ave. S.



LEARNING LINK UP

The Learning Link Up resource fair will take place Saturday, August 17, 12-4 p.m., Valley View Elementary School playfield, 351 E. 88th St. This free event connects families with resources and services available to help them thrive offered by Bloomington Public Schools and the City. Many community partners will be on site to answer questions. Learn more at blm.mn/learning-linkup.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

JOIN US FOR SUMMER FETE

Join us Wednesday, July 3, 5-10:30 p.m., for the "ringing in" of Independence Day in Bloomington. This festival, which culminates in one of Minnesota's largest fireworks displays, takes place at Normandale Lake Park, W. 84th Street and Normandale Boulevard. There will be live music, food trucks and more! Summer Fete is part of the annual Arts in the Parks series. To learn more, visit blm.mn/artsparks.

MONDAY MORNING KIDS' SERIES

Wake up to Mondays at Moir Park, 10320 Morgan Ave S., and Valley View Park, 9000 Portland Ave., 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 10

Brodini (Valley View)

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 kids' music and fun.

TUESDAY PERFORMANCE SERIES

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

Take in a lovely summer evening with Bloomington's best music and dance. All shows are free.

June 11

Bloomington Chorale



June 18

Blue Groove



June 25

Medalist Concert Band



July 9

Continental Ballet



THURSDAY BLOCKBUSTERS SERIES

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

June 13

International Reggae Allstars



June 20

Tuxedo Band: Hometown Heroes



June 27

Featuring: Rhino



July 11

Hitchville



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 St.

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 Street and Chalet Road

OUTDOOR FARMERS MARKETS BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER

Bloomington hosts two outdoor farmers markets in the Civic Plaza's east parking lot, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road. This year both promise to be bigger and better than ever with greater varieties of fresh produce, specialty foods, and beverages, makers, crafters and more. Learn more at blm.mn/market.

The Bloomington Farmers Market runs Saturdays, June 8 to October 12, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Midweek Music and Market runs Wednesdays, July 10 to August 21, 5-8 p.m.

SOUTH LOOP COMMUNITY GARDEN OPENING CELEBRATION

Celebrate a completed Creative Placemaking project, the South Loop Community Garden with food, music, free paletas (a frozen treat made from fresh fruits) and a creative activity led by artists Erin Genia and Sheila Novak on Saturday, June 29, 1-4 p.m., on the east side of E. Old Shakopee Road, just south of E. 86th St. (Rain date Sunday, June 30.) Parking will be available at Hometown Church, 2300 E. 88th St. Learn more at blm.mn/southloopgarden.

