

BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



SEPTEMBER 2024



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MOVING BLOOMINGTON FORWARD CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY ON THREE PROJECTS

In November 2023, Bloomington voters approved a new half-percent sales tax to provide \$155 million for the enhancement and protection of the Nine Mile Creek corridor and Moir and Central parks, construction of a new community health and wellness center and renovations to the Bloomington Ice Garden. Project teams have been connecting with community members to inform each of the three projects over the summer. Learn more at bloomingtonforward.org.

NINE MILE CREEK CORRIDOR AND MOIR/CENTRAL PARK RENEWAL

This summer, hundreds of people attended two community events—one to celebrate Nine Mile Creek and the other to help plan Moir Park. Event attendees shared what they love about the Nine Mile Creek corridor area, including Moir and Central parks.

One person said: “It feels like we’re in the middle of the north woods. I call it the boundary waters of Bloomington.” Check out the video at blm.mn/loveninemile.

City staff also hosted a nature and ecology creek walk, and ADA accessibility and bike focus groups. This month, the project team will be developing concepts. Another community event is coming up in October to share high-level concepts and collect feedback. Visit bloomingtonforward.org for details.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER

Celebrate the possibilities of the new community health and wellness center on Saturday, September 28, 4-7 p.m., in the park next to Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Ave. S. You’ll learn more about the new center’s possible programs, services and amenities. Attendees will also enjoy live music, food trucks and activities.

Survey results collected in June, stakeholder interviews, previous community center work and focus group feedback informed City staff and HGA Architects as to what kind of programs, services and amenities residents would like to see in the new center.

The new community health and wellness center will support a wide range of recreational and fitness activities and programs. The new center will replace the existing Public Health and Creekside Community Center buildings and be located on the current Creekside site. The end goal is for the new center to open in 2027.

BLOOMINGTON ICE GARDEN

The City is renovating Bloomington Ice Garden, 3600 W. 98th St., which will allow Bloomington athletes and families to enjoy ice time closer to home, and help the facility host more events that draw visitors from across the region.

JGL Architects and City staff hosted an open house event in July to share more information about the renovation and modernization project with stakeholders. Attendees learned about major components of the project—arena flooring, dasher boards and the new ice system—and viewed concept design plans.

No interruptions to BIG operations are expected as a result of the renovation until mid-March 2025 through fall 2025 when the facility is anticipated to close for construction.

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The Top 3 Hatch Bloomington finalists, left to right: Kalsoni, Nunaa and Scramblin' Egg.

MAYOR'S MEMO

THE WINNER OF HATCH BLOOMINGTON WILL BE ANNOUNCED THIS MONTH

By Mayor Tim Busse

This month, we'll learn which entrepreneur will be named the first-ever Hatch Bloomington winner. I hope you've been following along as attentively as I have, watching the pitches from each contestant as the field has been whittled down from the Top 25 contestants to the Top 10 and now the Top 3. The winner of the Hatch Bloomington pitch contest will receive \$100,000 in assistance to start a brick-and-mortar business in the city. Hatch Bloomington is a partnership with the Minneapolis Regional Chamber.

Seeing all the ideas these inspiring entrepreneurs have pitched has me on the edge of my seat waiting to see who will win the most community support. Whoever it is will be joining good company.

Bloomington's business community has been booming. As I said last month, Bloomington has an attractive business climate. I've been a part of welcoming so many new businesses, big and small, to our city including Luro Boots, TKDA, Waffle Bar, Wilderness Inquiry and more.

The City has been doing directed intentional work for years to promote small businesses and entrepreneurs, and to connect with and support businesses of all sizes in Bloomington. Programs like Welcoming Wednesdays, *read more on page 3*, Business Connections and Elevate Hennepin have had a positive impact on our business community. The City is also taking steps to protect workers, such as the sick and safe leave ordinance the City Council passed in 2023, before the State adopted a similar law.

The City has previously shared its plans to repurpose the old Fire Station 3, 2050 E. 86th St., to create a small business center. Due to funding challenges, that project has been put on hold. While we may not continue with the brick and mortar small business center project, the City will continue to provide support for small businesses and explore new ways to do so.

One of the goals of the proposed small business center was to enhance access to support small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs. We'll be taking a big step to support an entrepreneur this month when the Hatch Bloomington winner is announced. Soon, a new brick and mortar business will be on its way to Bloomington, thanks to the creative and energetic entrepreneurs who became contestants to help make the first year of Hatch Bloomington a success. Keep an eye on hatchbloomington.com and the City's social media accounts and website for more information about the winner at the beginning of September.



BUDGET INFORMATION AND OUTREACH EVENTS

To gather community feedback on the 2025 budget, City staff have been out and about collecting feedback at various events throughout the summer. Staff is continuing that work into fall 2024. Learn more and share your thoughts at any of these remaining events:

- Farmer's Market, Saturday, September 14, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road.
- Bloomington Pride Festival, Sunday, September 22, 4-7 p.m., Civic Plaza.
- Fire Station 1 open house, Saturday, October 12, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Fire Station 1, 10 W. 95th St.

The City's 2025 budget discussions kicked off on May 16. Key considerations for the budget include costs for maintaining City services in 2025 and 2026, sources of revenue and the services, programs and investments the community wants the City to prioritize. For information about the City budget and to provide feedback, visit blm.mn/budget.

BRIEFING

Volume 32, Number 09

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
Website: 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.



CALL FOR BUSINESSES: HELP WELCOME NEW BLOOMINGTON RESIDENTS

The Welcome to Bloomington program launched in January to greet new Bloomington residents, aiming to connect new homeowners and renters. The program focuses on monthly new resident meetings, neighborhood events, a resource fair and a cultural fair. It also includes a bucket list.

The program is expanding its initiatives to partner with realtors to distribute welcome gift bags to new residents. The bags will resemble closing gifts buyers typically receive when purchasing or moving into a new home.

The City is seeking businesses that would like to offer discounts or coupons to include in the gift bags for new residents. “We’re hoping to highlight some of the fun businesses Bloomington has to new residents who may not be familiar with the community yet,” Office of Racial Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Office Assistant Isela Mendiola said. “It’s a fun way to increase awareness of your business and help create community.”

Realtors can pick up welcome bags at the Civic Plaza information desk, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road. Learn more at blm.mn/welcome. To contribute discounts or coupons for the welcome bags, contact Isela Mendiola at imendiola@BloomingtonMN.gov.

CELEBRATING OUR VETERANS

The City invites residents to submit photos and stories for its 2024 veterans photo wall. This tribute aims to honor those who served in the Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, Air Force and Space Force. Residents are encouraged to submit photos and details about their service online at blm.mn/vet-photos. Submissions should include the veteran’s name, military branch and years of service. This display will be unveiled in November.

For more information, contact Community Outreach and Engagement at 952-563-8733, MN Relay 711 or outreach@BloomingtonMN.gov. There is no submission deadline.

ATTEND A BLOOMINGTON CANDIDATE FORUM

Every September, Bloomington residents can become more informed voters at candidate forums sponsored by the League of Women Voters Bloomington. These forums allow residents to see and hear from local candidates directly.

A trained moderator from the League asks questions submitted by Bloomington voters, ensuring they address voter concerns. Candidate statements are timed to ensure equal speaking time for all participants. Candidates and residents can meet and greet after each forum. The forums have a history of being well received by both candidates and voters.

2024 CANDIDATE FORUMS SCHEDULE:

- **Hennepin County Commissioners District 5:** Wednesday, September 11, 7-8 p.m., Bloomington Civic Plaza Council Chambers, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road.
- **MN House Districts 50B & 51B:** Wednesday, September 18, 6:30-8 p.m., Bloomington Civic Plaza Council Chambers.
- **MN House District 50A:** Cohosted with the Edina League of Women Voters. Time and date to be determined. More details at lwv-bloomington.com.

Submit questions in advance to lwvbloomington@lwvmn.org. Index cards for additional questions will be available at the forums. If you are unable to attend the forums in person, recordings will be available for viewing online at lwv-bloomington.com/candidate.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that defends democracy, encourages informed and active participation in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League neither supports nor opposes candidates or political parties.

WHAT’S DEVELOPING: GYROPOLIS EXPANSION NEARS COMPLETION

Gyropolis, known for its Greek family recipes made with organic produce, is nearing completion of its expansion at 2325 W. 90th St.

The project, which will triple the restaurant’s size with a 2,400-square-foot addition, features a new kitchen and adds 74 indoor seats, along with a 58-seat outdoor patio. This project is supported by local initiatives such as Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and a DEED grant of \$58,400. The expansion is expected to be completed by October and will reopen to the public soon after.



WELCOMING WEDNESDAYS PROVIDES RESOURCES FOR SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS

Welcoming Wednesdays is an opportunity to learn about startup and small business resources available in Bloomington.

Hosted by Ahmed Mohidin, pictured above, from Sigma Consulting and Training, these monthly open house sessions are held the second Wednesday of the month, 12-2 p.m., at Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, to spotlight startup resources available for entrepreneurs and small business owners.

On September 11, the City is offering professional headshots for entrepreneurs and small business owners during Welcoming Wednesdays. The event is free and no registration is necessary.

STRIVE FOR SUCCESS WITH THE BLOOMINGTON LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Keen on sharpening your leadership skills? Immerse yourself in your community by applying for the Bloomington Leadership Program. Bloomington residents 18 years and older who can attend at least eight of 10 sessions (no more than two absences) are encouraged to apply.

During this free, two-month interactive program, participants will:

- Develop leadership skills through educational sessions that are engaging and relational.
- Build connections and network with City staff, elected officials and local nonprofit representatives.
- Increase understanding of local government.

Sessions are scheduled on Thursday evenings, February 6 – March 27, 2025, 5:30-8:30 p.m. and two Saturday mornings. For more information or to apply, visit blm.mn/leadership or call 952-563-8733, MN Relay 711, to be mailed an application. The application deadline is Thursday, October 31, 4:30 p.m.



HOW TO DISPOSE OF YOUR YARD WASTE

Yard waste collection is a subscription service for residents with City garbage and recycling collection. Weather permitting, full-season yard waste collection runs Monday of the second full week in April through Friday of the last full week of November. If there is significant snowfall before the end of November, yard waste collection will end at that time.

2024 yard waste season runs from Monday, April 8 – Saturday, November 30 (Friday collection will occur on Saturday due to the Thanksgiving holiday delay). To subscribe to seasonal yard waste collection, contact Utility Billing at 952-563-8726 or email UtilityBilling@BloomingtonMN.gov.

WHAT IS ACCEPTED

- Garden waste
- Grass clippings
- Leaves
- Shrub
- Soft garden materials
- Tree waste and prunings
- Twigs and branches must be approximately three feet in length and three inches or less in diameter

WHAT IS NOT ACCEPTED

- Weeds
- Dirt
- Rocks
- Sod
- Wood chips

ON-CALL COLLECTION OF ELECTRONICS, LARGE APPLIANCES AND BULKY GARBAGE

For residents with City garbage and recycling service, curbside collection of bulky items for garbage, appliances and electronic waste is available year-round through your garbage hauler for a fee on an on-call basis. To receive a cost quote based on items to be picked up or to schedule a pickup, call Utility Billing at 952-563-8726.



CITYWIDE 2024 ANNUAL RECYCLING DROP-OFF EVENT SEPTEMBER 28

Open to all Bloomington residents as part of the City's sustainable bulky item disposal program, the annual citywide recycling drop-off event offers a great way to get rid of large items and recyclable materials responsibly.

This year, the drop-off will take place Saturday, September 28, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Western Maintenance Center, 10500 Hampshire Ave. S.

Certain items are accepted at no cost while fees apply for other items. See the list for what is and is not accepted. Cash and checks are the only accepted forms of payment. To learn more, visit blm.mn/drop-off or call 952-563-8760.

WHAT IS ACCEPTED

Appliances – \$10 each

- Air conditioners
- Dehumidifiers
- Dishwashers
- Microwaves
- Refrigerators
- Stoves
- Water heaters

Mattresses and box springs – \$20 each

Crib mattresses – \$10 each

Other items accepted with no charge

- Bicycles (accepted in any condition)
- Scrap metal (remove all pieces that are not metal)
- Paper for on-site shredding

Electronics – \$10 each

- Computers
- Monitors
- Tablets
- TVs

Tires – \$3 each

Other electronics – No charge

- Cell phones
- Computer accessories, including keyboard and mice

- Cords
- Game consoles
- Headphones
- Printers
- Stereos
- VCRs/DVD players

WHAT IS NOT ACCEPTED

- Building materials
- Carpet
- Concrete
- Exercise equipment
- Furniture
- Household hazardous waste
- Lamps
- Leaf blowers
- Light bulbs
- Paint
- Trash
- Vacuum cleaners

HOME ENERGY REBATES AVAILABLE FOR RESIDENTS

Residents of Bloomington can take advantage of various home energy rebates to make their homes more energy-efficient and comfortable. Improvements like attic and wall insulation, high-efficiency heating systems, storm windows and modern heat pumps can significantly reduce energy bills. Available incentives include rebates from CenterPoint Energy, federal tax credits and low-interest loans from the Center for Energy and Environment. Loans are available through the Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority for income-qualified residents.

To find out what improvements are recommended for your home, visit blm.mn/rebates to find your energy score* or schedule a Home Energy Squad® visit for a detailed evaluation. Ready to make improvements now? Consult a free energy advisor for personalized guidance to determine eligibility, connect with rebate-eligible contractors and navigate the rebate process. Advisors are available via phone at 612-244-2484 or email at energyadvisor@mncee.org.

*Energy scores are available for homes purchased on or after April 1, 2022.

SMALL CHANGES, BIG DIFFERENCE: GO CAR-FREE FOR ONE TRIP IN SEPTEMBER

Commuter Services invites residents, commuters and employers to try a small change that leads to a big difference and leave the car at home for just one trip in September as part of the 2024 Car-Free MSP campaign.

The 2024 Car-Free MSP campaign encourages residents of the seven-county metro area to pledge to try a sustainable trip method like biking, walking, carpooling or vanpooling, taking bus or light rail transit, or even working from home anytime in the month of September. Every person who makes a Car-Free MSP pledge is entered into a drawing for an electric bicycle and other great prizes.

The public is invited to celebrate World Car-Free Day Sunday, September 22, 12-3 p.m., at Wabun Picnic Area, Shelter A, 4655 46th Ave. S., Minneapolis, part of Minnehaha Regional Park. Visitors can enjoy refreshments and games, pick up free resources and swag and learn more about how sustainable travel choices can reduce their personal carbon footprint.

Commuter Services (www.494corridor.org) and its partners, Anoka County Commute Solutions, Metro Transit Commuter Programs, Move Minneapolis and Move Minnesota believe that making one small change can build new habits that will lead to better air quality, better health, and better commutes.

For more information and to take the 2024 Car-Free MSP pledge, visit www.carfreemsp.com.



ACTION PLAN BRINGS ENHANCEMENTS TO CROSSWALKS

Bloomington is a city of walkers. To meet the needs of pedestrians, the City adopted an Active Transportation Action Plan in December 2023. To advance the goals of the plan, nine crosswalks will see enhancements this year, ranging from curb bump-outs or pedestrian refuge islands to signage with pedestrian activated flashing beacons.

Engineering is also addressing gaps in the sidewalk network. Sidewalk gaps on West 78th Street, west of Normandale, will be filled. Where sidewalks cannot be added along West Bloomington Freeway and lower Lyndale Avenue, a dedicated pedestrian lane or shared bike/pedestrian lane will be added on the roadway.

Lastly, on East 82nd Street between 12th Avenue and Old Cedar Avenue, a utility replacement project will remove much of the road surface and one of the curb lines. The new curb will be added in a location to allow for a boulevard separation between the roadway and sidewalk.

For more information on the Active Transportation Action Plan, visit letstalk.bloomingtonmn.gov/atap.

AVOID A TICKET: GET TO KNOW BASIC PARKING RULES

No one wants a parking ticket, and everyone wants to keep our streets safe and vehicles moving. By complying with on-street parking rules, you contribute to Bloomington's economic vitality, livability, safety and sense of well-being for residents, visitors and businesses.

Do your part by following basic parking rules, including no parking:

- On the street for more than 24 consecutive hours.
- Within five feet of a driveway or mailbox.
- Within 10 feet of a fire hydrant.
- Within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection.
- Within 30 feet upon the approach to any stop sign or traffic-control signal located at the side of a roadway.
- On a public right-of-way within 48 hours after a snow emergency has been declared.

Parking vehicles on a sidewalk is also prohibited. This includes parking on the part of the driveway that overlaps a sidewalk. A blocked sidewalk can be challenging and unsafe for pedestrians.

To learn more about parking ordinances, contact Engineering at 952-563-4870. For parking enforcement requests, contact the Bloomington Police nonemergency number at 952-563-4900.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT IS A PERENNIAL HIT

More than 300 neighborhoods hosted National Night Out parties this year. About 65 Bloomington Police Department officers and staff, including police reserves and explorers, participated in the event. In addition, representatives from the Bloomington Fire Department and Allina ambulances attended many parties with their vehicles. For more information, contact BPD Outreach and Engagement Coordinator Katie Zerull at kzerull@BloomingtonMN.gov.



MEET A BLOOMINGTON FIREFIGHTER

NAME:
DMITRIY YABLOCHKIN
STATION:
FIRE STATION 1

Dmitriy Yablochkin has been a part-time member of the Bloomington Fire Department for nearly eight years. He holds an associate degree in fire science and a paramedic diploma. He is also a full-time firefighter/paramedic for the City of Burnsville. Prior to that, he was an emergency room technician.

A friend originally suggested Yablochkin would make a good firefighter, so he tried it and loved it.

"There are so many reasons I love being a firefighter," said Yablochkin. "Building a comradery with other firefighters, the ability to help someone having a really bad day, and the opportunity and the responsibility of having the younger generation look up to you, just to name a few."

Yablochkin gives all the credit to his wife Carolyn for supporting him in this career.

"Since the beginning, through my education and becoming a firefighter to this moment, she deserves the highest praise for managing home life during long, irregular hours and the unpredictable schedule."

When he is not on duty, Yablochkin spends time with family, including his two sons, Ethan, 7, and Isaac, 5, who love to shoot a bow and play soccer in the back yard.

DMITRIY'S FIRE SAFETY ADVICE

Remember to always be present when cooking. Have a clean area around the burners and turn pan handles in to prevent curious children from pulling on them and causing accidents.

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH IS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

September is National Suicide Prevention Month, and suicide is a leading cause of death in the United States. While anyone can be at risk, people with mental health issues experience a much higher risk of suicide.

Since 2019, mental health issues among adolescents in Minnesota have increased, according to the Minnesota Student Survey. More students reported having skipped school due to poor mental health. Recognizing warning signs early and providing support may save someone's life.

If you or someone you know is having thoughts about suicide, call or text the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: 988 or text HOME to 741741. Visit Save.org to learn more about how you can help prevent suicide.



FOURTH ANNUAL BLOOMINGTON PRIDE CELEBRATION SET FOR SEPTEMBER 22

Whether you identify as LGBTQ+ or wish to show your support as an ally, please join an unforgettable day of celebration, comradery and empowerment at the 4th Annual Bloomington Pride MN event, Sunday, September 22, 4-7 p.m., at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road.

The event, fiscally sponsored by Twin Cities Pride and guided by a board of five Bloomington residents, is completely free and open to all community members. Highlights include food trucks, great music and entertainment, fun activities for kids and vendor booths to visit.

Stay updated on all the latest developments by visiting organization's website at bloomingtonpridemn.org. Let's make this year's Bloomington Pride Celebration the most memorable yet!

FIBER OPTIC INSTALLATION LEADS TO MORE OPTIONS FOR HIGH SPEED INTERNET

If you see work being done in front of or along your property line, it could be crews from local broadband providers installing fiber optics in your neighborhood. These installations are expected to continue throughout Bloomington for the next two to five years.

What are fiber optics? Thin flexible fibers of glass or plastic in a cable used to transmit light signals from one end of a cable to the other. These fibers are frequently used in fiber-optic communications, where they permit transmission over longer distances and at higher bandwidths than electrical cables.

Questions? Many residents have had questions about this work, especially around property lines, right-of-way and easements. For more information about rights-of-way or easements, contact Public Works Engineering at 952-563-4870 or engineering@BloomingtonMN.gov. This work is not being carried out by the City of Bloomington so City staff cannot direct installation crews.

Report an incident: If you have difficulty identifying the company working in your area or want to report an incident, please complete a Fiber Installation Incident Report at blm.mn/fiber.



NOTABLE NEIGHBOR: ELISE BALDERRAMA

Elise Balderrama has been a Bloomington resident since 1993. Moving here from Minneapolis and the western suburbs, she's stayed in the same house where she raised her children and recently remarried. Her dedication to the community is evident through her active involvement in various City initiatives.

Elise has worked for the city of Minneapolis for more than 30 years, working in various departments before settling in Information Technology, where she now manages and coordinates many different projects. Her passion for public service extends to Bloomington, where she became more involved after the City created the Office of Racial Equity, Inclusion and Belonging. Inspired by the City of Bloomington's commitment to racial equity, Elise started attending City Council meetings and participating in strategic planning efforts.

Elise is also a strong advocate for the "Welcome to Bloomington" program. *Read more on page 3.* Launched in January 2024, this initiative helps new residents connect with the community by hosting meetups at various locations around the city. These events provide information about City services, volunteer opportunities and community resources. Elise regularly attends these events, socializing with new residents and helping them feel more at home in the community.

Elise values the City's community outreach efforts, which have made her feel more connected to Bloomington. She emphasizes the importance of building trust and belonging within the community. "Trust and belonging are foundational to our lives as humans," she said.

Elise encourages others to get involved in City activities, even if it's just for a few minutes. "Showing up makes a difference," said Elise. "Whether it's a City Council meeting, a public hearing or a City-run event. There are so many opportunities in Bloomington where just a few minutes of your time can go a long way."

CREWS ARE WORKING ON THE NEW TRETBAUGH AND BRYANT PARKS

Ground broke on the new Tretbaugh and Bryant park projects in July and August, respectively. Construction is expected to finish by fall 2025.

During construction, there will be limited access to Bryant and Tretbaugh parks. Please do not enter gated construction zones on site for your safety.

When construction is complete, Bryant Park, 1001 W. 85th St., will host the first fully inclusive playground in Bloomington, along with a redesigned park shelter.

The new Tretbaugh Park, 3261 W. 90th St., will be a bike skills park. The reimagined park will feature a paved all-wheel track and a gravel course for mountain bike skills development. There will also be a new shade structure and seating areas.

Learn more about the projects at blm.mn/letstalk.

FEEDBACK REQUESTED ON SEWER CAPACITY IMPROVEMENTS

Based on City forecasts, between now and 2040 an estimated \$55 million in City sanitary sewer improvements will be needed to meet the capacity demand of redevelopment throughout Bloomington. The City seeks your feedback on how best to fund improvements to increase sanitary sewer capacity.

Residents are encouraged to learn more about the sanitary sewer capacity issue and provide feedback through a survey about funding options using the QR link at right. Questions? Email dcrowell@BloomingtonMN.gov.



STATUE OF LIBERTY: TWO DECADES OF EFFORT, ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE ODDS

The Statue of Liberty stands proudly in New York Harbor, but how did the statue come to be? What does it symbolize? Adults ages 50+ are invited to join seasoned history presenter David Jones on Tuesday, September 17, 10 a.m., at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Ave. S., for a free presentation on the history of the Statue of Liberty. Registration is required for this free program. Sign up at blm.mn/webtrac or call 952-563-4944.



BLOOMINGTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS

FALL-WINTER 2024 PERFORMANCE SERIES

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 the corner of 98th Street and West Old Shakopee Road. Free parking is available on site.

CHECK OUT THIS AMAZING LINEUP OF SHOWS

Programs, artists and prices subject to change. All ticket sales are final. No refunds or exchanges.



DISCOVER DANCE: EDUCATION WORKSHOPS

Join four local dance companies in a participatory day of dance discovery! Multiple youth and adult classes will be taught featuring hip hop, jazz, modern and ballet styles. The day concludes with a performance from all companies.

SEPTEMBER 28, 12:30-8 P.M.

ADVANCE AND WALKUP REGISTRATIONS AVAILABLE



ARTISTRY: RENT

Exuberant, passionate, and joyous, RENT follows seven New York City artists struggling to survive while navigating their dreams, loves, and conflicts. With several iconic songs, RENT continues to teach us all to measure our lives in love!

OCTOBER 3 – 27

SHOW TIMES VARY TICKETS \$26-56

(INCLUDES FEES)



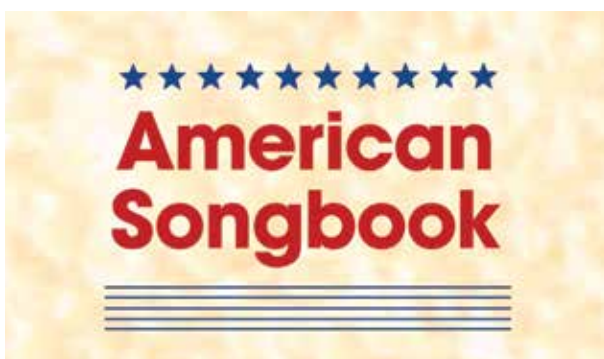
CONTINENTAL BALLET COMPANY: BEER & BALLET

Enjoy a fun, casual fundraiser evening featuring Beer & Ballet in the Black Box Theater. Company members premiere original choreography in diverse ballet styles. Lobby beverages will be served by North Star Tavern.

OCTOBER 11, 7 P.M.

FUNDRAISER TICKETS \$35

(INCLUDES ONE BEVERAGE)



MEDALIST CONCERT BAND: AMERICAN SONGBOOK

Songbooks have a rich legacy in American music, preserving pieces from across the oral tradition. This concert will feature "Southern Harmony," based on an 1835 songbook of the same name.

NOVEMBER 10, 4 P.M.

TICKETS \$17 ADULT, \$15 SENIOR (60+), \$15 STUDENT, FOUR-CONCERT DISCOUNT SEASON TICKETS AVAILABLE



BLOOMINGTON SYMPHONY: MUSICAL COUNTRYSIDES

Manny Laureano and the BSO will perform two pieces that evoke the outdoors: Copland's "Appalachian Spring" and Beethoven's "Symphony No. 6, Pastoral."

NOVEMBER 17, 2 P.M.

ADVANCE TICKETS \$25 PREMIUM, \$19 ADULT, \$16 SENIOR (60+) AT-THE-DOOR TICKETS \$21 ADULT, \$18 SENIOR (60+) ALL STUDENTS FREE



ARTISTRY: GIFTS IN THE GALLERY

Artistry's annual holiday boutique shopping event features a stunning array of items from over 50 local artists. Pick up gifts for everyone on your list in the Inez Greenberg Gallery at Bloomington Center for the Arts.

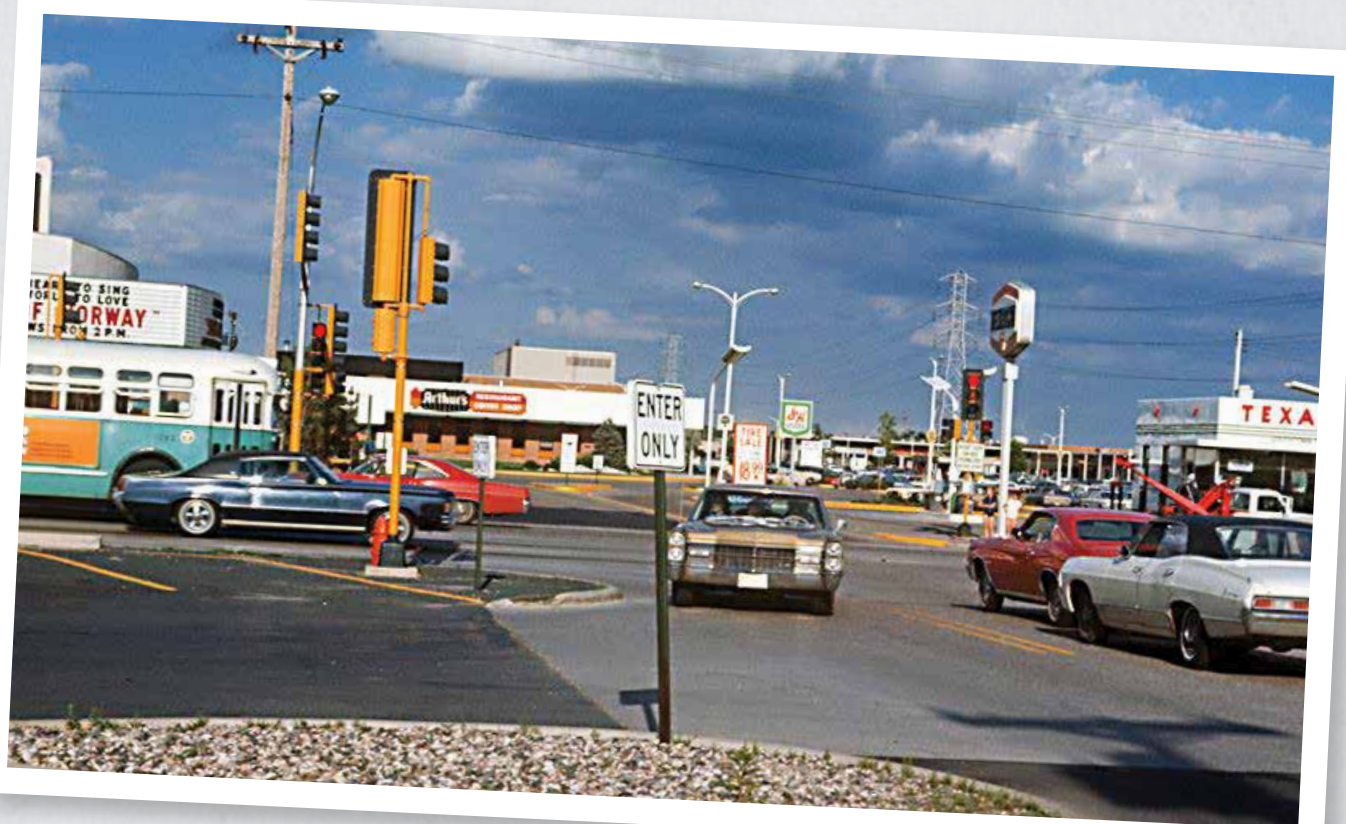
DECEMBER 5-23
PRICES VARY

BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY: SOUTHTOWN CENTER IN 1970

In 1970, a photo was captured near what is now Huntington Bank at the intersection of Penn Avenue South and West 79th Street. This photo shows the entrance of Southtown Center, a Bloomington staple since it opened on November 3, 1960, as the city's first regional shopping center.

Developed by Kraus-Anderson, the center initially featured a large Montgomery Ward store and later added amenities such as the AMF Bowling Center in 1963 and the Mann Theatre in 1964. At the time of the photo, the theater was showing "Song of Norway."

Southtown Center has evolved over the years, replacing the theater with more retail space and adapting to changing trends. Today, it remains a significant and well-frequented spot for Bloomington residents.





**AT YOUR SERVICE:
JAMY HANSON,
BLOOMINGTON'S
NEW CITY CLERK**

Meet Amy Hanson, Bloomington's new city clerk. Hanson, who took on the role in July 2024, brings years of experience in city government, including her recent position as the City's deputy city clerk.

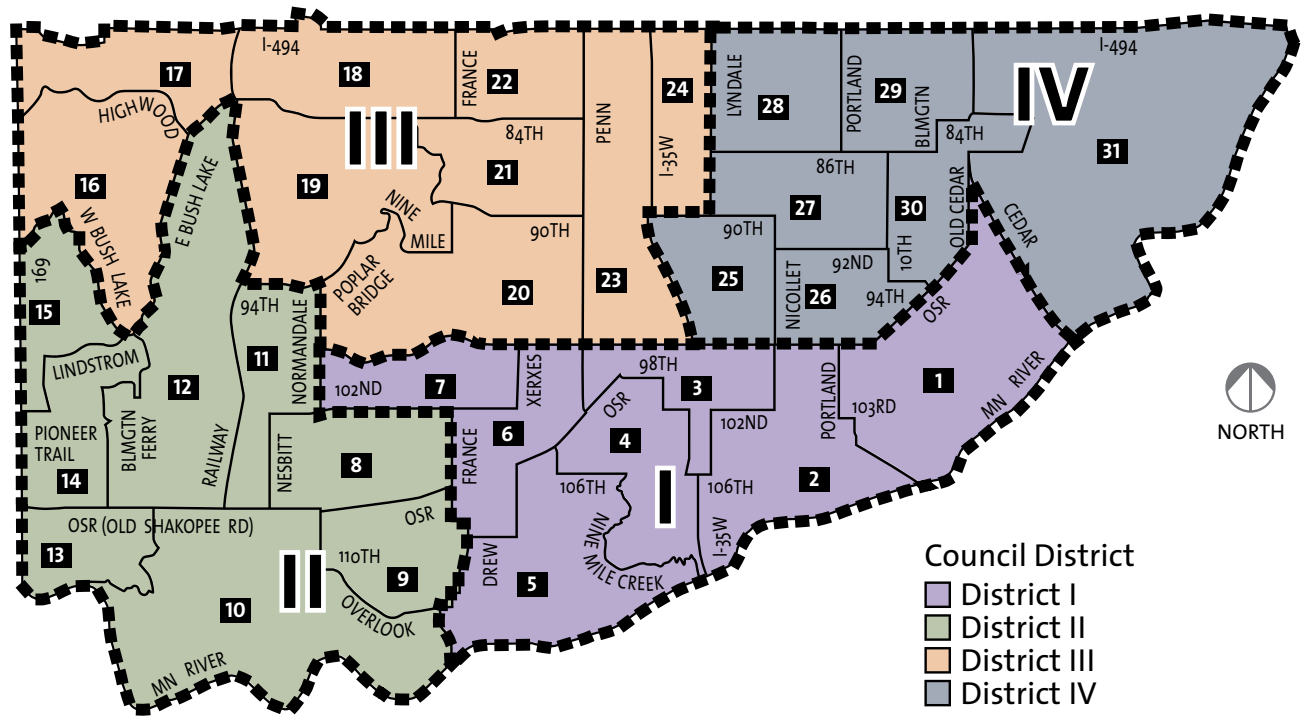
Hanson's career in public service began with the city of Maple Grove, where she started as an administrative secretary in 2018 and later became deputy city clerk. She has been passionate about elections since she planned the 2018 elections shortly after joining Maple Grove.

Hanson's interest in public service was inspired by her grandfather, a long-time city councilmember and mayor. "Public service was probably in my DNA!" she said.

In her current role, Hanson oversees elections, business licenses, passport applications and cemetery services. Hanson is also focusing on improving online access to cemetery records.

"I find it very rewarding to help residents," Hanson said. "Whether it's with voting, passports, or cemetery services, I strive to streamline processes, while still creating a helpful and friendly environment. I feel rewarded when residents walk away having a great experience with our staff."

For more information about the City Clerk's Office, email cityclerk@BloomingtonMN.gov or call 952-563-8728.



BLOOMINGTON VOTES: ELECTION GUIDE

Precinct/Polling location	Entrance/Parking	Precinct/Polling location	Entrance/Parking
1 Atonement Lutheran Church 601 E. Old Shakopee Road	Southwest entrance South lot	24 Christ the King Lutheran Church 8600 Fremont Ave. S.	Southwest entrance Southwest lot
2 Grace Covenant Church 10201 Nicollet Ave. S.	Southeast entrance East lot	25 Oxboro Evangelical Free Church 9431 Nicollet Ave. S.	North entrance North lot
3 St. Luke's Lutheran Church 1701 W. Old Shakopee Road	Northeast entrance North lot	26 Bloomington Lutheran Church 9350 Portland Ave. S.	Main entrance North lot
4 Oak Grove Presbyterian Church 2200 W. Old Shakopee Road	Main entrance Northeast lot	27 St. Bonaventure Catholic Church 901 E. 90th St. (Social Hall)	Main entrance East lot
5 Minnesota Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 10715 Zenith Ave. S.	Main entrance North lot	28 Unity South Church 7950 1st Ave. S.	Main entrance South lot
6 Mount Hope Lutheran Church 3601 W. Old Shakopee Road	Main entrance (S) South lot	29 Portland Avenue United Methodist Church 8000 Portland Ave. S.	Main entrance West lot
7 Crosspoint Church 9801 France Ave. S.	Main entrance (E) East lot	30 Cedar Valley Church 8600 Bloomington Ave. S.	Door 4 West entrance South lot ADA: Door 1 East entrance
8 Bloomington Covenant Church 10150 Xerxes Ave. S.	Main entrance (E) East and North lots	31 Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center 3815 American Blvd. E.	West entrance Visitor lot (W)
9 Transfiguration Lutheran Church 11000 France Ave. S.	Main entrance (W) West lot		
10 MN Masonic Heritage Center 11411 Masonic Home Drive	Main entrance (W) West lot		
11 Normandale Hylands United Methodist Church 9920 Normandale Blvd. S.	Northeast entrance (left doors) North lot		
12 Community of the Cross Lutheran Church 10701 Bloomington Ferry Road	Main entrance (N) North lot		
13 Founders Ridge 6600 Auto Club Road	Main entrance		
14 Bloomington Lutheran School 10600 Bloomington Ferry Road	Main entrance (S) South lot ADA: East side		
15 Hyland Vistors Center 10145 Bush Lake Road	West entrance West lot		
16 Peace Lutheran Church 8600 E. Bush Lake Road	Main entrance North lot		
17 Westwood Community Church 6301 Cecilia Circle	Main entrance (W) Main lot (W)		
18 St. Stephen Lutheran Church 8400 France Ave. S.	Main entrance (W) West lot		
19 The Church of St. Edward's 9401 Nesbitt Ave. S.	Southwest entrance, upper lot Southwest lot		
20 St. Michael's Lutheran Church 9201 Normandale Blvd.	Main entrance (E) East lot		
21 Penn Lake Library 8800 Penn Ave. S.	Main entrance		
22 Southtown Baptist Church 2600 W. 82nd St.	Main entrance (W) Northwest lot		
23 Bloomington City Hall 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road	West entrance West lot		

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. 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.

YOUR VOICE, YOUR VOTE

Elections for U.S. Senators and U.S. President are happening this year on **November 5**. Here's some basic information to help you cast your ballot. Learn more at blm.mn/vote.

VOTING EARLY OR BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

Absentee and early voting for the general election begin September 20 and close on Election Day, November 5. Find extended Civic Plaza hours for voting at blm.mn/vote. If you have questions or are a voter with special circumstances, contact the City Clerk's Office at 952-563-8729.

REGISTER TO VOTE

Voters who have moved or changed their names need to reregister. To register before Election Day, visit mnvotes.org by October 18 to submit a registration application. Voters can also register to vote at their polling place on Election Day, Tuesday, November 5. To register, voters need to provide proof of residence. To learn more about registering to vote on Election Day, visit blm.mn/vote.

SERVE AS AN ELECTION JUDGE

The City is hiring election judges to staff its polling places on November 5. Election judges receive training and provide a vital service to their community. Judges are also paid for their time. For more information or an online application, visit blm.mn/election-judges or call 952-563-8729.



Hanson is currently working on a "Bloomington Votes" outreach effort that encourages voter participation. Part of the effort includes branded t-shirts for election judges to help voters easily identify them and ask questions.