



BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



OCTOBER 2024



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An astronaut in a rocket ship wagon enjoyed the 2022 Trick or Treat Trail in Bloomington.

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE FOURTH ANNUAL HALLOWEEN TRICK OR TREAT TRAIL

Gather your children preschool age through fifth grade and join Bloomington Parks and Recreation for the fourth annual Halloween Trick or Treat Trail at Normandale Lake Park, 5901 W. 84th St., on Sunday, October 27, 2-5 p.m. This free outdoor event is sure to scare up a lot of non-scary fun with more than a dozen community organizations stationed along the trail, music and food and more.

So, don your favorite costume and head over. No registration is required. For more details, visit blm.mn/halloweenparty.

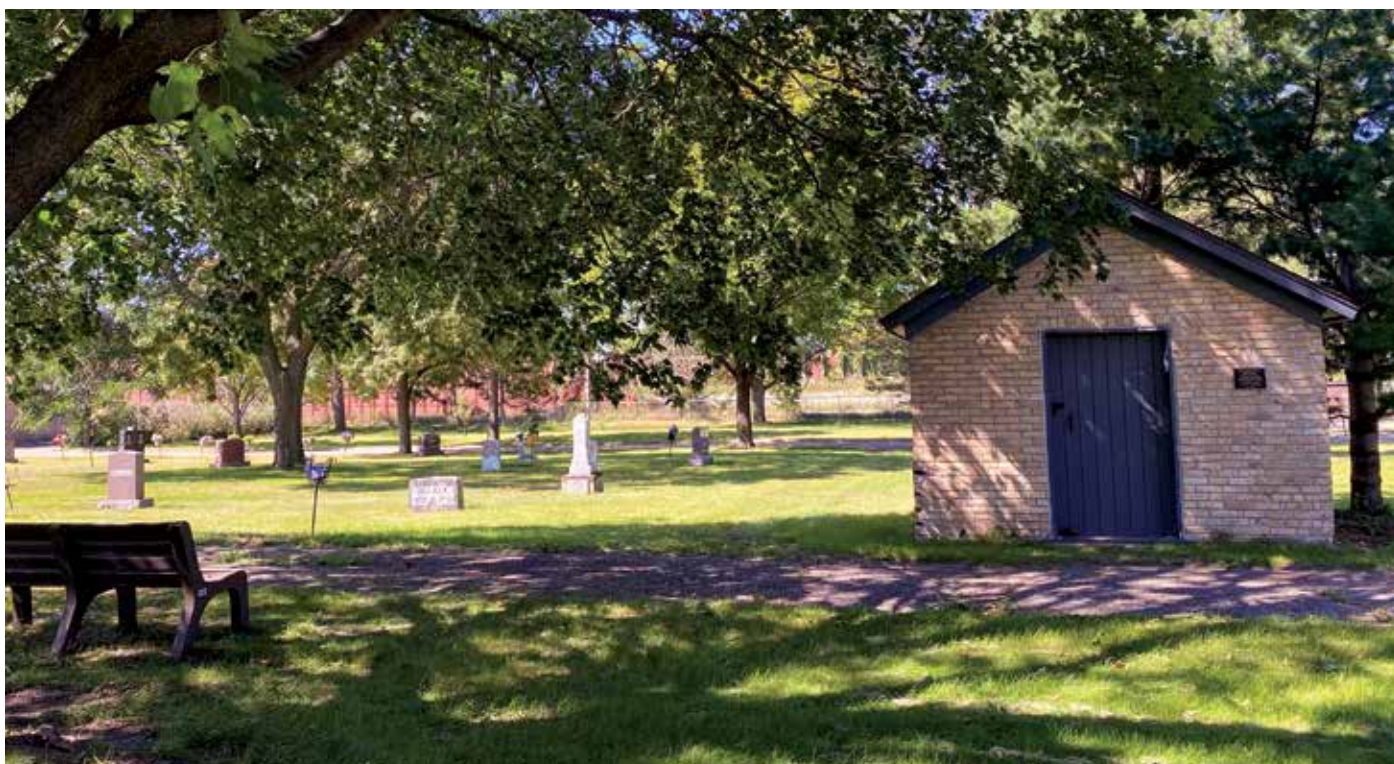
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BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY: "THE VAULT" AND OTHER GRAVE FACTS

Walter and Marie Pederson, who lived next door to the City Cemetery at 103rd Street and Lyndale Avenue South, became the cemetery's first caretakers in 1911. In winter, Walter would chisel out graves by hand to get below the frost line. Hot coals were left overnight in the uncompleted trench to thaw the ground. The brick structure shown here was built by residents and known as "the vault." Once used to store the dead when the ground became too frozen to dig, it now serves as a tool storage shed.

Before Bloomington's city clerk took over cemetery records in the 1970s, Marie used her dining room window to identify graves. As she looked out over the cemetery, she would pull down the window shade and write on it the name that corresponded to the grave location.

BRIEFING

Volume 32, Number 10

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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Elected officials presented for informational purposes.

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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.



Community members participated in a budget allocation exercise at City events this summer and fall.

MAYOR'S MEMO

THE 2025 BUDGET IS TAKING SHAPE

By Mayor Tim Busse

At the first City Council meeting in September, we approved the 2025 preliminary property tax levy. The preliminary levy represents the maximum amount we can approve for the 2025 budget. Nearly every year since I've been on the City Council, the final levy has been lower than the preliminary one. This year, our preliminary levy reflects an 11.5% increase over the 2024 tax levy.

We have a few things to consider when thinking about the budget. One of the main drivers of this preliminary levy amount is our continued investment in public safety. In terms of percentage, more than 45 % of the overall preliminary budget is police and fire spending and 65% of the increase is public safety spending.

We are transitioning to a full-time, paid Fire Department, which is the right move for Bloomington. It's clear that for a city of our size, a full-time department is necessary to ensure quick response times and adequate staffing for every call. Of course, adding personnel and constructing new fire stations to support 24-hour crews will come with additional costs.

Budget decisions are some of the toughest decisions we make as a City Council and we want to know what residents value. Throughout the summer and fall, City staff have been tabling at community events asking residents which City services are priorities for them. Time and time again, residents say they value investing in public safety.

This levy funds almost 71% of the City's General Fund budget. The remainder of the General Fund budget is supported by lodging and admission taxes, license and permit fees, grants and program revenues.

On December 16, the City Council will approve the final 2025 tax levy. To go deeper on the topic of the budget, visit blm.mn/budget.

THE LATEST ON THE BLOOMINGTON. TOMORROW. TOGETHER. STRATEGIC PLAN

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



Attendees peruse items at the Baby Gear Swap, a BTT initiative.

JOIN A BOARD OR COMMISSION

Get involved in your local government! Serve on a board or commission and help inform and advise the City Council on issues concerning the community. The City is currently accepting applications for the Port Authority (one opening). The deadline is Thursday, October 31, 11:59 p.m. Additional seats will open later this fall. Visit blm.mn/boards for more information and to apply online.

Questions? Contact Community Outreach and Engagement at 952-563-8733 or outreach@BloomingtonMN.gov.



REVAMPED CENTER FOR THE ARTS MURAL

Visitors to the east lot of Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, will notice the newly refreshed mural on the northeast corner of the building. Originally painted in 2007 by Erik Pearson, a self-employed artist from St. Paul, the 2,500-square-foot mural has been revitalized by the same artist 17 years later. The process took approximately one month to complete. For more information about the Bloomington Center for the Arts, which oversees this and many other projects throughout Civic Plaza, visit blm.mn/bca.



ANIMAL SHELTER TO FETCH SOME IMPROVEMENTS

The City Council approved \$100,000 to fund improvements to the Bloomington Animal Shelter, 9920 Logan Ave. S. The shelter, which opened in 1962, served 487 animals in 2023 and has become too small and outdated to serve the community's needs.

Several improvements have been identified and prioritized to make the space safer and more functional while a long-term solution is developed. These include adding storage for supplies and donated items; creating a space for rescue partners and adopters to interact with animals; deep cleaning and a fresh coat of paint; improving lighting in kennel rooms; installing fenced outdoor dog run/relief area; remodeling front desk and food prep areas; and replacing the front door.

To learn more about the animal shelter, visit blm.mn/animal-shelter.

FIBER OPTICS IN BLOOMINGTON

As you may have noticed, crews working in your area might be installing fiber optic cables. This work aims to bring high-speed internet service to Bloomington residents and businesses. This work is being conducted by authorized broadband providers, not the City of Bloomington.

Installation work is ongoing and is expected to continue throughout Bloomington over the next few years. If you have any questions or concerns, reach out to the relevant provider directly:

- DirectLine/Intrepid (T-Mobile): 844-380-8090 and 612-463-2348
- Gigapower/ITG Communications (AT&T): 1-844-331-1217 and 952-210-5097
- Lumen/CenturyLink (Quantum Fiber): 952-351-2337
- MP Nexlevel (ISD #271): 320-963-2400
- USI Fiber Internet: 612-444-1888
- Xfinity: 1-800-934-6489

For additional questions related to installation or if you need help identifying the company working in your area, fill out a Fiber Installation Incident Report at blm.mn/fiber.



MOVING BLOOMINGTON FORWARD

CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY TO INFORM 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. Over the summer, project teams connected with community members to inform each of the three projects.

BLOOMINGTON ICE GARDEN

The City and JLG Architects and City staff, hosted an “ice-breaking” event in September to kickoff the renovation and modernization project with stakeholders. This is the first of the three Bloomington Forward projects to break ground, so it is a BIG deal. 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 because of the renovation until mid-March 2025 through fall 2025 when the facility is anticipated to close for construction.

NINE MILE CREEK CORRIDOR AND MOIR/CENTRAL PARK RENEWAL

This summer, hundreds of people attended four community events to celebrate Nine Mile Creek, learn more about the corridor restoration project and share what was important to them regarding Moir/Central Park improvements. Visit bloomingtonforward.org/ninemile to see a summary of the engagement work that's gone on so far and what's coming next.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER

Community members celebrated the possibilities of the new community health and wellness center on September 28. Those in attendance learned more about the new center's possible programs, services and amenities, and enjoyed live music, food trucks and activities.

HGA Architects will present a selection of draft designs for community feedback in November. To learn more, including dates and times of these events, visit bloomingtonforward.org/chwc.



VOTING EARLY OR BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

Absentee and early voting for the general election began September 20. Early voting hours are 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road.

Extended voting hours for the General Election are as follows:

- Sat., October 26, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Tues., October 29, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Sat., November 2, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Sun., November 3, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Mon., November 4, 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.

If you have questions or are a voter with special circumstances, contact the City Clerk's Office at 952-563-8653.



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, or while voting absentee. To register, voters need to provide proof of residence. To learn more, 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 952-563-8653.



YOUR VOICE, YOUR VOTE ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 5

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.

RANKED-CHOICE VOTING ON THE BALLOT

The City currently uses ranked-choice voting for mayor and city council member elections. Ranked-choice voting is not used in federal, state, county or school board elections.

A committee of five registered Bloomington voters collected signatures on a petition, and then presented that petition to the City's Charter Commission, requesting that the City Charter be amended to repeal ranked-choice voting in Bloomington. The City Clerk found the petition sufficient and the City Council approved ballot language consistent with the petition for the charter amendment. The question on your ballot will be:

BALLOT QUESTION

CHARTER AMENDMENT: REPEAL OF RANKED-CHOICE VOTING FOR CITY OFFICES

Should the City Charter be amended to repeal ranked-choice voting to elect the Mayor and City Council and reinstate the primary election (if needed) to determine candidates for the general election?

YES _____
NO _____

A 'yes' vote means you want to stop using ranked-choice voting to elect the Mayor and City Council.

A 'no' vote means you want to continue to use ranked-choice voting to elect the Mayor and City Council.

City Questions

To vote for a question, fill in the oval next to the word "Yes" on that question. To vote against a question, fill in the oval next to the word "No" on that question.

City Question

Charter Amendment: Repeal of Ranked-Choice Voting for City Offices

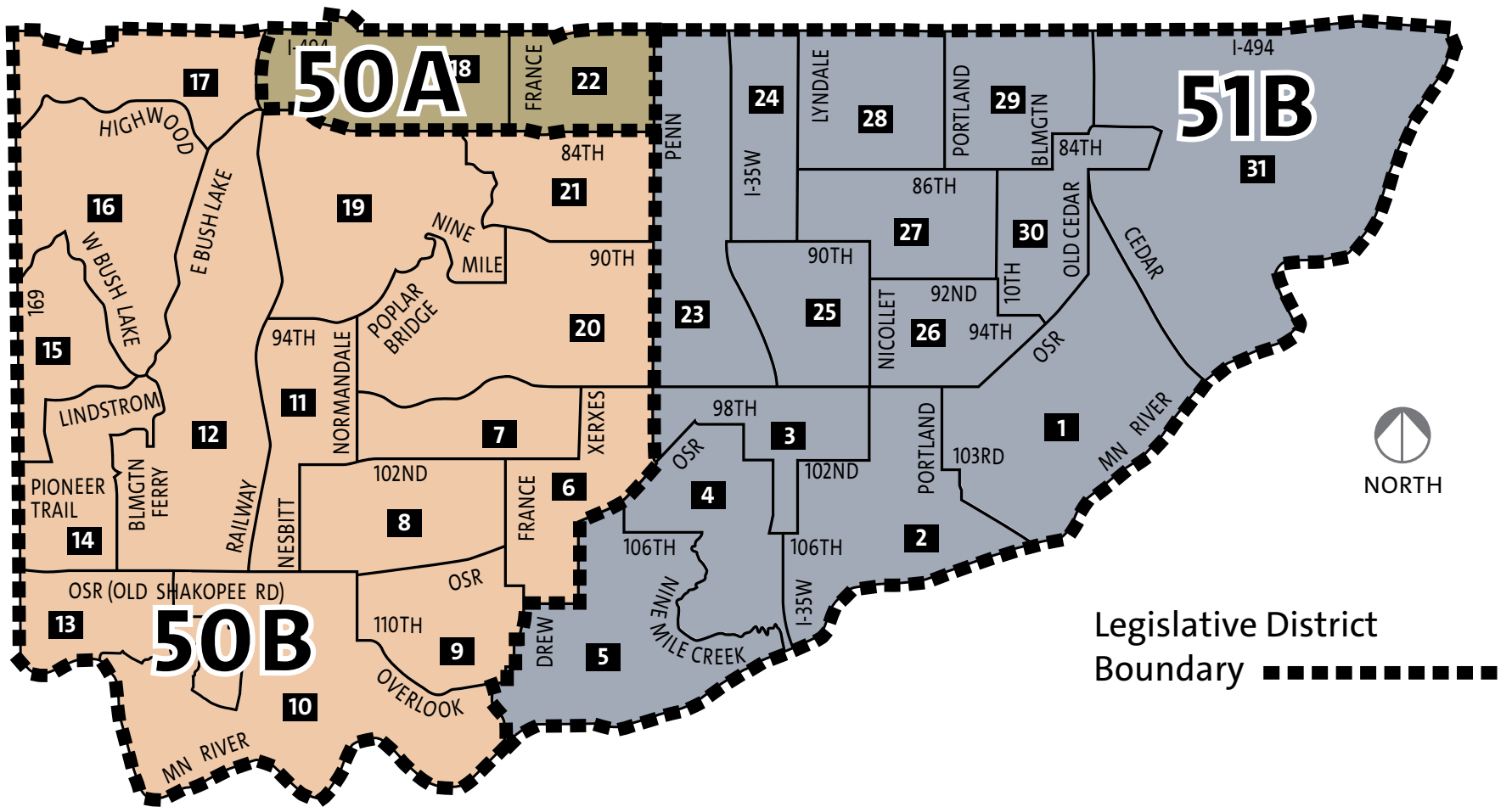
Should the City Charter be amended to repeal ranked-choice voting to elect the Mayor and City Council and reinstate the primary election (if needed) to determine candidates for the general election?

Yes
 No

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE ELECTION

If 51% of voters select "yes" and choose to stop using ranked-choice voting, the City will again use a primary election to determine candidates for the General Election. Then, during the General Election, voters will select only one candidate instead of ranking candidates in order of preference. If 51% of voters select "no" the City will continue to use ranked-choice voting for city council member and mayoral elections. For more information on ranked-choice voting, visit blm.mn/rcv. For a sample ballot, visit <https://myballotmn.sos.mn.gov>.

VOTING INFORMATION: CALL 952-563-8653 OR VISIT BLM.MN/VOTE.



Legislative District Boundary ■■■■■■■■■■

BLOOMINGTON VOTES: ELECTION GUIDE

Precinct/Polling location	Entrance/Parking
1 Atonement Lutheran Church 601 E. Old Shakopee Road	Southwest entrance South lot
2 Grace Covenant Church 10201 Nicollet Ave. S.	Southeast entrance East lot
3 St. Luke's Lutheran Church 1701 W. Old Shakopee Road	Northeast entrance North lot
4 Oak Grove Presbyterian Church 2200 W. Old Shakopee Road	Main entrance Northeast lot
5 Minnesota Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 10715 Zenith Ave. S.	Main entrance North lot
6 Mount Hope Lutheran Church 3601 W. Old Shakopee Road	Main entrance (S) South lot
7 Crosspoint Church 9801 France Ave. S.	Main entrance (E) East lot
8 Bloomington Covenant Church 10150 Xerxes Ave. S.	Main entrance (E) East and North lots
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

Precinct/Polling location	Entrance/Parking
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
24 Christ the King Lutheran Church 8600 Fremont Ave. S.	Southwest entrance Southwest lot
25 Oxboro Evangelical Free Church 9431 Nicollet Ave. S.	North entrance North lot
26 Bloomington Lutheran Church 9350 Portland Ave. S.	Main entrance North lot
27 St. Bonaventure Catholic Church 901 E. 90th St. (Social Hall)	Main entrance East lot
28 Unity South Church 7950 1st Ave. S.	Main entrance South lot
29 Portland Avenue United Methodist Church 8000 Portland Ave. S.	Main entrance West lot
30 Cedar Valley Church 8600 Bloomington Ave. S.	Door 4 West entrance South lot ADA: Door 1 East entrance
31 Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center 3815 American Blvd. E.	West entrance Visitor lot (W)

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WATCH LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CANDIDATE FORUMS ONLINE

The League of Women Voters Bloomington has recorded candidate forums featuring candidates for Hennepin County Commissioner District 5 and MN House Districts 50A, 50B and 51B. These videos are available on the City's YouTube channel at blm.mn/youtube and will also be shown on BTV channel 859 (channel 14 SD) before Election Day.

The posted recordings of candidate forums are complete and unedited, per LWV policy. Candidate forums follow the unbiased and impartial format established by the LWV Minnesota and LWV Bloomington. The views expressed in each forum are those of the candidates, not the League of Women Voters.

The League of Women Voters is a century-old nonpartisan organization that does not support nor oppose candidates for public office or political parties. The League encourages informed and active participation in government and sponsors these forums to inform voters about candidates' positions on important issues.



DON'T LEAVE YOUR FALLEN LEAVES

Many people don't realize that leaves are harming our water resources. Surprisingly, organic materials such as leaves and grass clippings do more surface water damage than fertilizers, pesticides or motor oil.

"Leaf litter is full of nutrients, like the phosphorus and nitrogen found in fertilizer," said City Water Resource Specialist Jack Distel. "On our streets, those leaves decay, wash into our ponds and lakes and feed algae blooms which lead to poor water quality."

So, this fall as your trees shed their leaves, please:

- Do not sweep or blow leaves onto the street. That is against City code.
- Compost your leaves or chop them up with a power mower and place them around bushes and landscape plants for an excellent winter mulch.
- Bag your leaves for pick-up.

GOT YARD WASTE? THESE PROGRAMS CAN HELP

Yard waste can be an issue, and the City has options to help you clean it up. There are two service options that run mid-April through last week of November for residents with City garbage and recycling collection service, weather permitting.

1. Weekly collection

This option includes delivery of one yard waste cart and the collection of up to 20 paper bags of yard waste each week. Contact Utility Billing at 952-563-8726 or UtilityBilling@BloomingtonMN.gov to subscribe.

2. On-call collection

This option offers pay per bag, on-call services. Simply purchase yard waste stickers at Finance Department front desk or by calling 952-563-8757. Then schedule an on-call collection by contacting Utility Billing at least 48 hours prior to your collection day.

Get all the details, including what yard waste is accepted, at blm.mn/yardwaste.



TWO OUTDOOR FARMERS MARKETS REMAINING THIS SEASON

The Bloomington Outdoor Farmers Market wraps up for the season with the final two markets on October 5 and 12. Open from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. in the east lot of Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, the market features more than 40 vendors weekly.

Shoppers will enjoy fresh goods, crafts, ready-to-eat food and visit community tables hosted by local nonprofits along with live music. Don't miss your last chance to enjoy this community event. Visit blm.mn/fbookfarmers to learn more.

The Indoor Winter Farmers Markets begin Saturday, November 9 and continue through Saturday, December 14, February 8 and March 8 inside Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road.

CITY COUNCIL REVIEWS SOLID WASTE CONTRACT

On August 5, the City Council reviewed the City's residential solid waste contract. Laura Horner, the City's solid waste program coordinator, presented details on the current agreement with the haulers' consortium. This contract is set to end on June 30, 2026.

Horner reviewed the services provided, including garbage, recycling and organics recycling collection. She noted improvements in service quality and introduced Minnesota's new Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging law. This legislation is expected to increase recyclability and reusability of packaging sold in Minnesota and help reduce costs for collection of recycling. She also noted potential future service enhancements including the addition of an every-other-week small garbage service level choice for residents. This service level could be offered beginning in 2026.

The City Council directed staff to begin negotiations with the existing haulers on a future contract while keeping the option open for a Request for Proposal if needed.



Buckthorn leaves can look like this. They stay green longer than most native plants in the fall.

FALL OFFERS OPPORTUNITY TO BEAT BACK BUCKTHORN

In late October, after native foliage goes dormant, buckthorn leaves typically stay green. Fall a great time to tackle this invasive plant because it is easier to identify.

Small buckthorn seedlings and trees can be pulled by hand or with tools. Residents can rent a weed wrench from Public Works for free. Large diameter buckthorn stems can be cut with a chainsaw, brush cutter or other hand tool. Before digging out roots, call 811, or visit gopherstateonecall.org so public utilities can be marked.

Chemicals should be considered only if pulling individual plants is impractical. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources recommends using herbicides containing glyphosate or triclopyr for buckthorn control. Always follow herbicides label directions.

Learn more at blm.mn/buckthorn or watch a video about buckthorn removal at blm.mn/bustbuckthorn. Questions? Call 952-563-8760.



ALLEVIATING ISOLATION IN OLDER ADULTS: STRATEGIES FOR TACKLING THE LONELINESS EPIDEMIC

The general public and professionals alike are encouraged to attend a free senior conference focusing on the loneliness epidemic on Monday, October 28, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road.

Hosted by the Bloomington Public Health and Maser, Amundson & Boggio, keynote speakers include Dr. Nathan Spreng, the Laboratory of Brain and Cognition director; Professor James McGill from the Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery at McGill University; Study Interventionist Dr. Robyn Birkeland from the University of Minnesota; and Anne Tabat, “The Cookie Lady.”

Three CEU credits are available for professionals. Space is limited. Learn more or RSVP at maserlaw.com/conference.

CITY TO CELEBRATE BLOOMINGTON VETERANS

The City of Bloomington, in collaboration with American Legion Post #550, is proud to host the annual Veterans Appreciation Celebration on Friday, November 8, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Minnesota Masonic Heritage Center, 11411 Masonic Home Drive.

This special event is open to Bloomington veterans and their guests and will feature a short program followed by a complimentary lunch. Please note that seating is limited. Registration is required by October 22 or until capacity is reached.

To register for this heartfelt tribute to our veterans, contact Community Outreach and Engagement at 952-563-8733, via MN Relay 711 or outreach@BloomingtonMN.gov.

RESOURCES FOR NEWLY ARRIVED RESIDENTS AT IMMIGRATION RESOURCE FAIR

The City of Bloomington, the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota and St. Stephen Lutheran Church are hosting an immigration fair for new U.S. residents. This event will take place on October 19, 1-4:30 p.m., at St. Stephen Lutheran Church, 8400 France Ave. S. There will be presentations on asylum and removal court, local resources and free flu and COVID shots. Beginning at 2 p.m., legal professionals offering immigration services will be available to assist with questions or concerns. Spanish interpreters will be available. Registration is recommended at blm.mn/immigrationresourcefair.



FALL YOUTH RECREATION PROGRAMS NOW OPEN

This fall, Bloomington’s youth recreation programs offer a variety of activities for kids and families, including sports, arts, outdoor fun, educational workshops and a new family archery program.

FAMILY ARCHERY AT MARSH LAKE

Join Bloomington Parks and Recreation every Tuesday in October at Marsh Lake Archery Range for a family-focused archery program. Sessions will cover equipment, safety, history and shooting techniques. The program is open to participants ages 8 and up. Registration is required, with a fee of \$5 per person per session. Participants can sign up for multiple sessions. Note that start times vary, so check the schedule when registering. For more details or to register, visit blm.mn/youth-programs.

Early registration is recommended for programs that require it, as spots may fill up quickly.

REFINE YOUR LEADERSHIP SKILLS IN A FREE INTERACTIVE PROGRAM

Ready to up your leadership skills? Bloomington Leadership Program, a free two-month interactive program, is accepting applications through October 31 for its next program in 2025.

Participants develop leadership skills through educational sessions that promote civic engagement, break down barriers, increase understanding of local government and build relationships with City staff, elected officials and nonprofit representatives.

- **Who:** Bloomington residents 18 years and older able to attend at least eight of 10 sessions.
- **When:** Thursday evenings and two Saturday mornings, February 6 – March 27.
- **Apply:** Learn more or apply at blm.mn/leadership. For a mailed application, call 952-563-8733, MN Relay 711.



The 2024 Bloomington Leadership Program cohort at Civic Plaza.

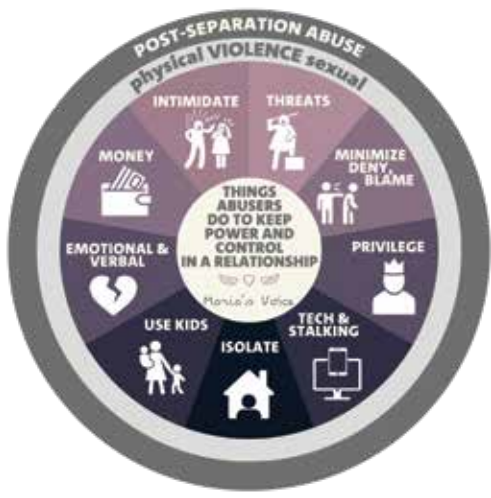
WHAT PROGRAM GRADUATES SAY

“I have a newfound appreciation and understanding of how important it is to engage all voices in our community.” — Izzy Lin
 “The BLP offered an opportunity to grow and participate in a leadership program with a very diverse group.” — Luke Lewy



SHEEP TO SKEIN: SPINNING WOOL INTO YARNS

Check out Sheep to Skein, a spinning wheel demonstration, and learn about the process of spinning sheep’s wool into yarn, on Saturday, November 9, 1-4 p.m., at the Bloomington Historical Society, 10200 Penn Ave. S. Gael Zembal will demonstrate the use of a spinning wheel and show attendees how it works. She will also have drop spindles for demonstration. Demonstrations will be continuous from 1-4 p.m.



Graphic source: Maria's Voice — Common Signs & resources.

KNOW THE SIGNS: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a time dedicated to shedding light on domestic abuse and providing essential resources for those affected.

Recognizing the signs of domestic abuse is crucial. Signs include physical violence, emotional manipulation, financial control and social isolation. Victims may exhibit behaviors such as anxiety, frequent injuries, changes in personality or sudden financial dependence. By knowing these signs, friends, family and colleagues can offer support and connection to resources that can make a life-saving difference.

By raising awareness, understanding the signs and promoting available resources, we take steps towards creating safer environments where everyone is free from the threat of domestic violence.

Bloomington is home to several nonprofits that offer support, resources, and advocacy. If you or someone you know is in a relationship that feels frightening, isolating, threatening or hurtful, visit mariasvoice.org, cornerstonemn.org or the MN Hotline, 1-866-223-1111, dayoneservices.org, for resources.

PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS FROM THE FLU

With cold and flu season approaching, the best way to protect yourself and others from severe flu and hospitalization is by getting an annual flu shot.

"I think it [an annual flu shot] is part of staying healthy, part of taking care of yourself, that's why I do it," said resident Barbara Olson. "I don't want to take anything home to my family, nor do I want them to bring anything home to me ... we each do our part!"

Bloomington Public Health will be hosting several community flu shot clinics this fall. Schedule your flu shot today at blm.mn/clinics for one of our community clinics. For help making an appointment, call 952-563-8900 and select the option for flu vaccinations

Updated COVID-19 shots will also be available. You may also check with your primary care provider or local pharmacy about flu shots.



HAVE A SAFE DRIVE: Go 25

The City implemented a new citywide speed limit of 25 miles per hour, unless posted otherwise, on August 1. Other cities in the region, including Richfield and Edina, have already implemented the 25 miles per hour speed limits for neighborhood streets.

Posted speed limits on larger roadways were also updated and vary from 25 to 35 miles per hour.

Driving slower is good for you and your neighbors. This change makes neighborhood roads safer by reducing the likelihood of crashes and injuries from crashes. It also increases safety for pedestrians and cyclists.



FIRE STATION OPEN HOUSES OFFER EDUCATION AND FUN

You don't need to wait for firefighters to visit you to learn about fire safety. Visit any of the six fire stations in Bloomington, October 12, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., as part of Fire Prevention Week.

This year's National Fire Protection Association theme is "Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!"™ This is a nationwide effort to educate everyone about the importance of having working smoke alarms in the home.

All six of Bloomington's fire stations will be open to the public for fun, food, fire prevention education, fire equipment demonstrations and more.

For more information and station locations, visit blm.mn/fire-stations.

KEEPING WILDLIFE WILD AND HUMANS SAFE

Bloomington is alive with wild animals that share the urban landscape with humans and pets.

The most important step to reduce or prevent conflicts with our wild neighbors, experts say, is preventing animals from getting comfortable to humans and eliminating sources of food, water and shelter. Other measures include:

- Never intentionally feed wildlife.
- Cover crawlspace, attic openings and all areas where the roof and house join.
- Feed pets indoors and pick up loose food outdoors.
- Hang bird feeders out of reach of other animals.
- Keep trash containers tightly sealed.
- Prevent animals from digging underneath homes, decks and sheds with barriers.
- Secure chimneys with a secure cap.
- Secure pet doors at night.
- Trim overhanging branches and overgrown landscaping.

Bloomington Police and City staff only respond to wildlife situations when public safety is in jeopardy.

If a wild animal must be removed, residents can contact a wildlife management service or live trap the animal themselves. Note, animals will try to return to their territory, so move them at least 10 miles to discourage return. When relocating animals, keep in mind that you need a landowner's permission to release an animal on privately owned land.

If you find injured wildlife, contact The Wildlife Rehabilitation Center at 651-486-9453. To learn more, visit blm.mn/wildlife.

