

# BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



AUGUST 2023



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Public Health staff Ramla Ibrahim, Rosa Escobar and Jashley Jordan-King at the Juneteenth celebration.

## CITY'S FIRST JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION A SUCCESS

Live music, food trucks and fun were in full swing at Kennedy High School during Bloomington's first-ever Juneteenth celebration. Juneteenth is a holiday celebrated on June 19 to commemorate the emancipation of the last enslaved people in the United States, which occurred in Texas on June 19, 1865, years after the 1862 Emancipation Proclamation. The event was produced by New Life Church and the City of Bloomington Black Employee Network and sponsored by Bloomington Creative Placemaking.

"It was wonderful seeing so many people come out to celebrate this year at Bloomington's first Juneteenth event," HRA Administrator and Bloomington Black Employee Network cochair Aarica Coleman said. "We're looking forward to next year!" Check out a video recap of the Juneteenth Celebration at [blm.mn/juneteenth](http://blm.mn/juneteenth).

## ALL SEVEN CITY COUNCIL SEATS UP FOR ELECTION THIS YEAR

This year, all city council seats and the mayor are up for election. On the ballot on November 7, voters will elect a mayor and six councilmembers—one for each of the four districts, one at large and another two-year term at-large seat.

"Our records show this is the first time in Bloomington's history that the entire seven-person council has been on the ballot at the same time," City Clerk Christina Scipioni said.

Due to redistricting that occurred in 2022, all four council district seats will be on the ballot. The candidates elected to Districts 1 and 2 will serve two-year terms. Candidates elected to Districts 3 and 4 will serve four-year terms. The special election for councilmember at-large is due to the vacancy created when former City Councilmember Nathan Coulter was elected to the state legislature. There will also be three ballot questions about local option sales tax, *read more on page 3 under Bloomington Forward*.

Three Bloomington school board members are also up for election. Visit [blm.mn/vote](http://blm.mn/vote) for more information.

## RANKED CHOICE VOTING: HOW IT WORKS

Ranked choice voting allows voters to rank candidates in order of preference—first, second and third choice. This is a voting system that removes the need for a primary election.

Ballots may be counted in one or more rounds. In the first round, only first-choice votes are tallied. If no candidate has won a majority of the votes (more than 50%), then the candidate with the least number of first-choice votes is eliminated. All the first-choice votes for the eliminated candidate are also eliminated. Voters who picked the eliminated candidate as their first choice will have their second-choice vote counted instead.

This process repeats until one candidate has won a majority or until only two candidates remain. For more information, visit [blm.mn/vote](http://blm.mn/vote).

## SERVE AS AN ELECTION JUDGE

The City is hiring election judges to staff its polling places for the November 7 City and school district election. Election judges provide a vital service to their community. Those who are hired receive training and are paid for their time. For more information, call 952-563-8729. To complete an online application, visit [blm.mn/election-judges](http://blm.mn/election-judges).



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BLOOMINGTON [MN.gov](http://MN.gov)



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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](mailto:jhill@BloomingtonMN.gov)  
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*Elected officials presented for informational purposes.*

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## MAYOR'S MEMO

### NO EXPO, BUT BLOOMINGTON'S FUTURE IS BRIGHT

By Mayor Tim Busse

**B**y now you know: the U.S., specifically Minnesota and Bloomington, lost its bid to host Expo 2027. That means our city will not be hosting the World's Fair that year. I would like to congratulate all of the finalist countries that were in the running and Serbia for being chosen as the host of Expo 2027.

Of course, we're disappointed, but I'd like to tell you how proud I am of our exceptional efforts and offer a few insights on what we've gained in the process.

First, to use a baseball metaphor, you can't get a run without taking a swing. My friends, over the years Bloomington has scored runs—home runs. And we will in the future, but to do so we have to keep swinging.

For decades, Bloomington has been a leader in supporting—and completing—large, successful projects. We have had, and currently have, forward-thinking leaders and partners who continue to be innovators and who think big and bold.

Much of our current development is a product of that way of thinking, including Mall of America, which is not only a success in itself, but led to light rail and other significant spinoff developments and major transit investments in our city.

We placed a bet on Bloomington with the Expo bid, and though we didn't win, we have been successful. Here's how.

The world now knows about Bloomington, Minnesota. The two-year effort for the bid has introduced Bloomington to people from many countries and their leaders. Thousands of people who were not aware of us before now know what we have to offer.

With every connection we made, we strengthened our relationships—on the world's stage, locally and nationally—with key partners at the White House, the State Department, the Department of Commerce, the Minnesota Governor's Office and many others.

We also raised awareness of Bloomington in the development community, which will help us take advantage of the many exciting opportunities for redevelopment—not only for property in South Loop but citywide. Bloomington is a critical contributor to the economic success of the region. The most significant economic activity in recent years has been the continual work of building the South Loop District. The fact that we have large, available, developable sites in South Loop means Bloomington is attractive to developers and well positioned for the future.

We didn't get the Expo, but the future is bright for Bloomington. We took a swing. We gave it our best shot. In true Bloomington fashion, we set the stage for more exciting things to come.

## EMPLOYERS ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE EARNED SICK AND SAFE LEAVE

**A** new ordinance requiring Bloomington employers to provide their employees earned sick and safe leave took effect July 1. Here's the breakdown:

EMPLOYER SIZE	SICK AND SAFE LEAVE HOURS REQUIRED	PAY FOR SICK AND SAFE LEAVE HOURS
Five or more employees	1 hour for every 30 hours worked	Required
Fewer than five employees	1 hour for every 30 hours worked	Up to employer

Employees who have been employed for at least 90 days will be able to use accrued time as soon as they have accrued it. As part of the ordinance, accrued and available hours must be listed on employee paystubs. For more information about the ordinance, visit [blm.mn/essl](http://blm.mn/essl).



## BLOOMINGTON Forward

INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY



## BLOOMINGTON FORWARD: INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

The City launched a new website—BloomingtonForward.org—to inform voters about a proposed half-percent local sales tax that would be an investment in community amenities designed to bring residents together and enhance quality of life.

### THREE MAJOR PROJECTS ARE INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSAL

- A new community health and wellness center to replace the Bloomington Public Health and Creekside Community Center buildings and be located on the same site as the Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South.
- Renovation of the 50-year-old Bloomington Ice Garden, 3600 98th Street West, including new refrigeration and mechanical systems, improved accessibility, a new roof and additional renovations to improve user experience.
- Enhancements and protections for the Nine Mile Creek Corridor and Moir/Central Park with improved trails, restored riverbanks, habitat protections and new park amenities to support outdoor recreation.

### NEXT STEPS

As part of the election on Tuesday, November 7, Bloomington voters will consider three separate ballot questions—one for each of the three projects in the Bloomington Forward plan. If voters approve any of the ballot questions, a half-percent citywide sales tax will be authorized to fund the approved projects. To learn more, visit BloomingtonForward.org.

## BLOOM IN BLOOMINGTON INTERNSHIPS ARE UNDERWAY

The Bloom in Bloomington internship program launched in May. In its pilot year, Bloom in Bloomington has placed 12 interns, *pictured at right*, at positions within the City of Bloomington, Mall of America and the law firm Larkin Hoffman.

Bloom in Bloomington is a youth workforce development program offering young people aged 16 – 24 summer internship experiences. This unique, forward-thinking program offers interns the opportunity to gain career skills and learn more about a variety of work they’ve not had the chance to experience before.

Priscilla Mayowa, a Minnesota Capitol Pathways Program intern working with the City, was integral in planning and launching the Bloom in Bloomington program.

“This is a first-year program. So now local employers are going to know the City of Bloomington is looking to develop young people,” Mayowa said. “Employers can begin having these talks, if they haven’t already. How can we make our workplace accessible? How can we make space in our organization for young people and people of diverse backgrounds? These are important conversations.”

Learn more at [blm.mn/bloom](http://blm.mn/bloom).



Bloom interns Alexis Gutierrez Navarro, Jordan Jackson, Ruby Cibik, Eman Mohamed, Weemon Yeakehson, Jazzmyrna Alcenat, Isela Cereso Mendiola, Zuhur Abdi, Lareicia Harrison and Bilal Mohamed.

## ROADWORK HAS BEGUN: I-35W AND I-494

The multiyear I-494 project is in full swing. Bloomington residents are seeing construction on I-494 and East Bush Lake Road for E-ZPass lanes and in the southeast quad of I-35W/I-494 interchange.

Drivers will be able to travel on I-494 through the duration of the project, but should watch for:

- Weekend, nighttime, and directional closures along both I-494 and I-35W.
- Ramps and loop closures.
- Lane and road closures on local roadways near I-494.
- Traffic separation from northbound I-35W to eastbound and westbound I-494.

### CONSTRUCTION HIGHLIGHTS: WHAT’S BEING BUILT

- A new turbine interchange ramp from northbound I-35W to westbound I-494.
- E-ZPass lanes on I-494 between East Bush Lake Road and I-35W.
- Reconstruction of three bridges east of Lyndale in preparation for future I-494 E-ZPass lanes.
- Construction of a new pedestrian bridge over I-494 at Chicago Avenue (between Portland and 12th).

For the most up-to-date information about traffic impacts visit the Minnesota Department of Transportation at [blm.mn/mndotprojects](http://blm.mn/mndotprojects).

## FREE BUSINESS CONSULTING AVAILABLE

Did you know local businesses here and across Hennepin County are eligible to receive free business advising and consulting services?

Elevate Hennepin offers no-cost business advising from professional consultants. Businesses can receive up to 25 hours of insight, technical assistance or consulting from each advisor. More than 30 advisors have expertise in all manner of business topics, including:

- Accounting and bookkeeping
- Finance
- Human resources
- Legal
- Loan and grant consulting
- Marketing
- Social media
- Strategic planning
- Web development

Visit [ElevateHennepin.org](http://ElevateHennepin.org) to learn more or email [Economic.Development@hennepin.us](mailto:Economic.Development@hennepin.us) to connect with a business navigator to help you use this incredible resource.



## 2024 BUDGET: WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

What City services do you think are most worth the investment? Let your voice be heard in the City’s 2024 budget planning process this month at one of these upcoming events:

- Midweek Music and Market, Wednesday, August 16, 5 – 7 p.m., at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. (The full Midweek Market runs 5 – 8 p.m.)
- On the One Music Festival, Saturday, August 26, 6 – 8 p.m., at the Normandale Lake Bandshell, 5901 West 84th Street. (The full festival runs 3 – 10 p.m.)

Learn more about the budget planning process on the City’s website at [blm.mn/budget](http://blm.mn/budget) or call 952-563-8790.



## DO CURBSIDE PLASTIC RECYCLABLES GET RECYCLED?

Recently, there have been claims that most plastics do not get recycled. It is true that many plastic items cannot be recycled due to their size or low market value. However, items accepted for recycling in Bloomington's curbside program have value and are being recycled.

Accepted plastics are sorted at metro recycling facilities and sold, primarily in the Midwest or North America to companies that create new products from recycled material.

### YOU CAN HELP!

First, reduce the number of plastic items purchased, and second, only put accepted items in recycling containers. Here's a breakdown:

**Recycle:** Empty plastic containers #1, #2 and #5 (numbers will be on the bottom of the container) which includes bottles, jugs, tubs, cups and takeout containers. Give items a quick rinse. They do not need to be perfectly clean. Keep the caps on.

**DO NOT recycle:** Black plastic, plastic bags or film, bubble wrap, Styrofoam, #3, #4, #6 or #7 plastic or any container that held hazardous waste.

Learn more at [blm.mn/recycling](http://blm.mn/recycling).

## BABY GEAR SWAP AUGUST 20

Have children 24 months or younger? The Bloomington Baby Gear Swap is set for Sunday, August 20, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., at Moir Park, 10320 Morgan Avenue South. All items are given, not sold, and participants do not have to bring anything to take items.

### ACCEPTED ITEMS

Gently used or like-new items intended for babies (0 – 24 months):

- Carriers: strollers, swaddles, slings, wraps. No car seats.
- Toys: sensory and learning toys, books, bath and pool toys, stroller attachments, etc.
- Engagement: activity centers, play yards, walkers, swings, bouncers.
- Miscellaneous: highchairs, booster chairs, diaper bags, etc.

Please do not bring car seats, cribs, clothes, stuffed animals, feeding items, large furniture or play structures, toys for children over two years old or anything broken or recalled.

City-hosted swap events are part of the City's new Bulky Item Management program, helping to divert waste from landfills and incinerators. For more event information, visit [blm.mn/swaps](http://blm.mn/swaps) or call 952-563-4660.



A group of City staff and League of Minnesota Cities members join Councilmembers Dallessandro and Lowman for the Sustainable City Award presentation. Back row: Luke Fischer, Emma Struss, Dwayne Lowman, Jason Allen, Karl Keel and Jenny Max. Front row: Lona Dallessandro, Alex McCord, Ellen Biales, Laura Horner and Sarah Cobb.

## CITY RECOGNIZED WITH SUSTAINABLE CITY AWARD

The City of Bloomington recently received a Sustainable City Award for the implementation of a new bulky item management program. Each year, the League of Minnesota Cities recognizes cities for their work in achieving their sustainability goals by using one or more of the GreenStep Cities program's 29 best practices.

"Bloomington was specifically recognized for resident involvement in the program's development and implementation, and for developing an effective solution to the challenge of bulky item management," said Ellen Biales, the deputy director of Public Works.

The new bulky item management program includes:

- Every other year spring curbside collection of bulky items for collection as garbage.
- Regular monthly curbside collection of reusable and recyclable bulky items.
- An annual recycling drop-off event.
- Community swap events.

### GREENSTEP CITIES

Bloomington participates in Minnesota GreenStep Cities, a voluntary challenge, assistance and recognition program to help cities achieve sustainability and quality-of-life goals. Bloomington's sustainability efforts have earned the City Step 5 recognition—the highest level of recognition in the program.



Electric vehicles are fast becoming standard transportation, and Bloomington is on track to present an Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan at an open house in fall 2023.

## FULL SPEED AHEAD FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING

The automotive world is rapidly being electrified. Meeting that future head on, the City has been engaging with agencies, businesses and residents, both online and in public forums to gather input for a plan to integrate electric vehicles (EV) into the city's infrastructure.

"The Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan will provide the City with a roadmap for implementing the infrastructure needed to support electric vehicles across a variety of applications," said Public Works Development Coordinator Brian Hansen.

Along with public and professional input, the comprehensive EV Infrastructure Plan for Bloomington will include current EV facilities inventory and a review of regulatory frameworks to understand what works best for Bloomington.

The plan will continue development throughout 2023 and be presented at a public open house before going to the City Council for consideration by the end of 2023.

For more information and to provide input, visit [letstalk.bloomingtonmn.gov/ev](http://letstalk.bloomingtonmn.gov/ev).



Photo courtesy Rick Busch.

## BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT TURNS 70

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Bloomington Police Department. As part of this milestone, BPD is working on a legacy project. Part of the project is a yearbook featuring the people of BPD today and history from the past seven decades. BPD gathered on Civic Plaza’s east lawn earlier this summer for a group photo that will be featured in the upcoming yearbook, *above*. Stay tuned in future issues of the *Briefing* for more peeks into the BPD legacy project.



## ENJOY A SWEET TREAT AT COPS AND CONES

Celebrate summer at Cops and Cones August 22, 1 – 2:30 p.m., at Scoops Ice Cream, 7700 West Old Shakopee Road. A special visitor will be at the event—a K9 officer. Kids 18 and younger can receive a free kid-size ice cream. The Bloomington Police Department hosts Cops and Cones to connect with the community, break down barriers and strengthen relationships. For more information, call 952-563-4900.

## PREVENT AUTO THEFT

Bloomington Police suggest following these tips to lower the chance of auto theft.

- Take your keys.

Approximately one in five vehicles is stolen with the keys in it.

- Never hide a spare key in your car. Spare keys are easily found; thieves know where to look.
- Lock your car. Nearly half of vehicles stolen are left unlocked.

Never leave your car’s engine running. Vehicles are commonly stolen from gas stations, convenience stores and driveways.

- Completely close all windows when parking. Don’t make it easier for the thief to steal.
- Don’t leave valuables in plain view. You become a target for theft.

Purses, laptops and other electronics are top targets for thieves. If you must leave valuables in your vehicle, lock them in the trunk before you reach your destination.

- Install visible or audible alert devices. These can include audible alarms, steering wheel locks, wheel locks, theft deterrent decals, etc. These devices can deter a crime or increase the time needed to steal your car.

Find more crime prevention tips online at [blm.mn/bpd](http://blm.mn/bpd).



## MEET A FIREFIGHTER: JOE ZINNIEL

It is no surprise that Bloomington Fire Department’s Station 3 Captain Joe Zinniel was drawn to fire service. His father was the fire chief in Sleepy Eye, Minnesota, where Joe grew up.

“To me, fire service is the best job in the world,” Joe said.

After graduating from college, Joe gravitated toward fire service and emergency medical service. He began his fire career as a paid, on-call firefighter at the Bloomington Fire Department in 2016 and received paramedic certification in 2017. He also worked four years with the South Metro Fire Department serving South St. Paul and West St. Paul.

In his free time, Joe enjoys fishing, hunting, and of course, spending time with his family. He and his wife, Amy, have a one-year-old son, named Otto. Will Otto grow into public service?

“I will encourage him to pursue what excites and interests him,” Zinniel said. “Obviously, there will be a lot of fire service influence on him growing up, but his mother will likely want him to be a financial advisor like her!”

## JOE’S FIRE SAFETY ADVICE

“Close before you doze. In the event of a fire in your home, a closed bedroom door could save your life and give the fire department time to rescue you.”

## HAVE SAFE RECREATIONAL FIRES

A recreational fire is an outdoor fire used for cooking, warming or ceremonial purposes. When having a recreational fire in your yard, remember to use common sense, be considerate of your neighbors and follow the City Code.

- Recreational fires may only be conducted between 7 a.m. and midnight when the wind speed is under 10 miles per hour.

If a City official determines that a fire is creating a safety hazard, it must be extinguished immediately.

- Fires must be located at least 25 feet away from any structures or combustible materials. Fires must be constantly attended by a responsible person within sight of the flames until the fire burns out completely or is extinguished.

- Have fire extinguishing equipment readily available.

Burning wood that has leaves or needles, or wood that is rotten, wet or treated with paint or glue is prohibited by ordinance. Only use dry, clean wood such as cordwood or Presto logs.

- Fire stacks must not exceed three feet wide by two feet high.

For more information, contact Fire Prevention at 952-563-4801.



## ARTS IN THE PARKS THIS MONTH

Check out these Arts in the Parks events happening in August. Learn more at [blm.mn/artsparks](http://blm.mn/artsparks).



### MONDAY MORNING KIDS SERIES

Performances occur on Mondays at 10:30 a.m., Moir Park, 10320 Morgan Avenue South, or Valley View Park, 401 East 90th Street.

**August 7** Jolly Pops (Moir)

**August 14** Acme Magic Factory (Valley View)



### THURSDAY NIGHT BLOCKBUSTER SERIES

Food and beer service starts at 6:30 p.m. Shows start at 7 p.m., at Normandale Lake Bandshell, 5901 West 84th Street.

**August 3:** '80s Music Explosion

**August 10:** Rockin' the Blues



### SUNDAY FUNDAY

Events take place 4 – 6:30 p.m.

**August 6:** Blue Groove Bluegrass, Running Park, 9501 12th Avenue South.

**August 13:** Kidsdance DJ and pop-up splash pad, Westwood Park, West 109th Street.



## LAST DAYS OF MIDWEEK MUSIC AND MARKET

Looking for the perfect way to wind down your Wednesdays? Come join the fun at the Midweek Music and Market every Wednesday evening, 5 – 8 p.m., in the east lot at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. The festivities at this annual Arts in the Parks series will continue Wednesdays through August 23.

There are plenty of food trucks, live music and outdoor activities to enjoy! Each week you can catch local bands from various musical genres including pop, rock, country, new wave, jazz and blues.

Select from a variety of fresh produce courtesy of your favorite farmers market vendors. Handcrafted items, baked goods, sauces, canned goods and more will also be available. Visit [blm.mn/market](http://blm.mn/market) or call 952-563-8877 for further details.

### PROGRAMS AT CREEKSIDE

The following events take place at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South. For more information, contact Creekside at 952-563-4944 or [creekside@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:creekside@BloomingtonMN.gov).

#### REFRESH YOUR SKILLS THROUGH THE AARP SMART DRIVER PROGRAM

The AARP Smart Driver Program at Creekside teaches proven driving techniques the second Tuesday of each month, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. A shorter refresher course is available the first and third Tuesday of each month, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. The class fee is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for nonmembers, plus \$5 for registration. For complete details, visit [blm.mn/smart](http://blm.mn/smart). The course may help you qualify for breaks on insurance rates.

#### CREEKSIDE OPEN HOUSE SEPTEMBER 14

You're invited! Drop in and learn about the programs, activities and events offered at Creekside, including arts and crafts, card groups, education, fitness, music and recreation opportunities on Thursday, September 14, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. There will also be donuts, coffee, hands-on demonstrations, music and more!



## SUMMER FETE PROVIDES FUN AND FIREWORKS

Summer Fete provided a breathtaking fireworks display, a family fun zone with free kids activities, nearly 30 food and beverage vendors, live entertainment and more last month in Bloomington. It's estimated that 25,000 – 30,000 people attended the festival to ring in Independence Day on July 3, with more outside the park viewing fireworks. Parks and Recreation presents Summer Fete annually as part of its Arts in the Parks series. Learn more about fun offerings for the rest of the summer at [blm.mn/artsparks](http://blm.mn/artsparks).



## HAVE FUN IN SUN WITH BLOOMINGTON AQUATICS

### BUSH LAKE BEACH

Enjoy the summer in the sand at Bush Lake Beach, 9140 East Bush Lake Road, through Labor Day from sunrise to 10 p.m. Admission and parking are free. Restrooms and drinking fountains are available. The concessions stand is closed. There are no lifeguards on duty at Bush Lake Beach. Visitors swim at their own risk.

### CEDARCREST SPLASH PAD

Weather permitting, Cedarcrest Park's free splash pad, 8700 Bloomington Avenue South, is open through early fall, seven days a week, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. After Labor Day, the open hours change to Monday – Friday, 4 – 8 p.m.; Saturday – Sunday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

### BLOOMINGTON FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER

Bloomington Family Aquatic Center, 201 East 90th Street, is open Mondays – Saturdays, 12 – 7 p.m., and Sundays, 12 – 6 p.m., through August 20. You'll find a zero-depth entry, interactive play features, an aqua climbing wall, water slides, diving boards, a bathhouse with token lockers and a concession stand.

Learn more online at [blm.mn/aquatics](http://blm.mn/aquatics).

## LEARN SOCIAL DANCES AND HAVE FUN

The Ballroom and Latin Dance Club, founded in 2014, recently moved to Bloomington Center for the Arts. The club offers a wide range of ballroom and Latin dance lessons from basic to advanced levels. Join the fun while learning the Bachata, Bolero, Cha-Cha, Country Two-Step, Cumbia, East Coast Swing, Foxtrot, Hustle, Merengue, Night Club Two-Step, Polka, Rumba, Salsa, Samba, Tango, Viennese Waltz, Waltz, West Coast Swing and more.

No partner or pre-registration necessary. Just drop in and pay on site:

### WEDNESDAY SOCIAL DANCE CLASSES

Basic-social level: 7 – 8:30 p.m.;  
Social-intermediate level: 8:30 – 9:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY DANCE LESSON AND PARTY

Beginners dance lesson for basic steps:  
6:50 – 7:50 p.m.; Variety Dance Party, all levels are welcome: 7:50 – 9:50 p.m.

The club also offers special dance programs, such as private dance lessons for special events and wedding dances. For more information, visit [ballroom-club.com](http://ballroom-club.com).

## SKATE SCHOOL OFFERS A WHOLE LOT OF FUN

With a little determination, the right techniques and some practice, ice skating can be a great way to stay fit and have a good time.

The Bloomington Ice Garden's Skate School offers programs for all ages to discover the basics in a safe and fun environment. It also provides a great foundation for recreational skating, figure skating and hockey.

Registration opens in late August. Tuesday classes begin September 26. Saturday classes begin September 30.

For enrollment information, visit [blm.mn/big](http://blm.mn/big), call 952-563-8841 or email [rgelecskyj@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:rgelecskyj@BloomingtonMN.gov).



# GODSPELL

JUL 20 - AUG 13, 2023

Conceived and Originally Directed by  
JOHN-MICHAEL TEBELAK  
Music & New Lyrics by  
STEPHEN SCHWARTZ  
Originally Produced on the New York Stage by  
EDGAR LANSBURY/STUART DUNCAN/  
JOSEPH BERUH

## ARTISTRY PRESENTS HIT MUSICAL, GODSPELL

**G**odspell, one of the most produced musicals of all time, is playing at Artistry through August 13. This 2012 revised version of Stephen Schwartz's (Wicked, Pippin, Children of Eden) musical offers a masterful retelling of the original show with new arrangements of beloved favorites.

*Godspell* is a series of parables, primarily based on the Gospel of Matthew, with music from traditional hymns. Hear, and maybe sing along with, traditional hymns, such as: "Prepare Ye," "Turn Back, O Man," "By My Side," "Day By Day" and "Beautiful City."

Vanessa Brooke Agnes, one of the directors who brought *Songs for a New World* to Artistry, returns to direct this touching and haunting story of kindness, love and community. *Godspell* stars John Jamison II as Jesus. Jamison also portrayed Joseph in Artistry's production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

For more information or tickets, visit [artistrymn.org/godspell](http://artistrymn.org/godspell) or call 952-563-8575.

## LEARN ABOUT BLOOMINGTON'S INDIGENOUS HISTORY

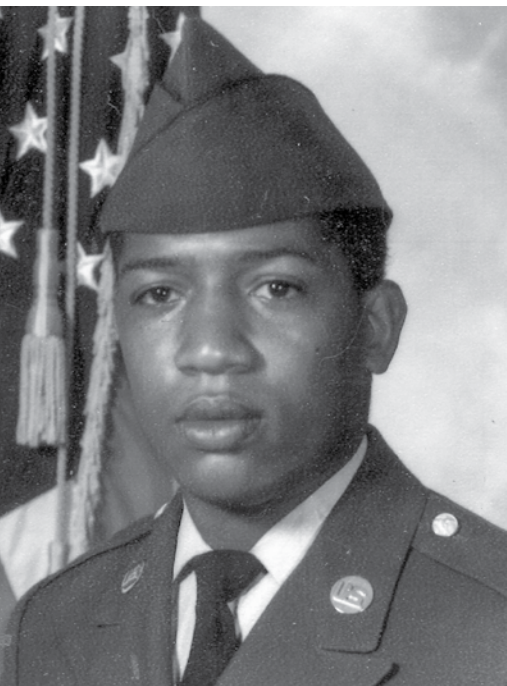
**I**ndigenous Peoples have inhabited and been in relationship with the land now called Bloomington, Minnesota for thousands of years. Historians Dr. Kate Beane and Peter DeCarlo will discuss the deep history of the Dakota people who have called this land home and the impacts colonization has had on both the people and landscape. The discussion will take place on August 22, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., in the Black Box Theater, Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. The presenters will explore how history can inform art, help us heal divisions and create a better future for our communities. For more information, or to register, visit [blm.mn/indigenouhistory](http://blm.mn/indigenouhistory).



2022 Omar Bonderud Award winner  
Tara Owens.

## OMAR BONDERUD AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Bloomington Human Rights Commission is seeking nominations for the Omar Bonderud Human Rights Award. Each year, this award is presented to an individual or organization that has worked to remove discriminatory barriers from housing, education, employment and other areas of human rights for all Bloomington residents. Nominations are due August 26. To obtain a nomination form, call 952-563-8733 or visit [blm.mn/bonderud](http://blm.mn/bonderud).



Charles Smock, US Army 1982-1986.

## SUBMIT PHOTOS OF VETERANS

The City is collecting photos and stories for the 2023 veterans photo wall. Submit photos and stories online at [blm.mn/vet-photos](http://blm.mn/vet-photos). When submitting a photo, include the veteran's name, military branch and years of service. The wall will debut in November. Questions? Contact Community Outreach and Engagement at 952-563-8733, MN Relay 711 or at [outreach@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:outreach@BloomingtonMN.gov). There is no deadline for submissions.



## BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY: CIVIC PLAZA TURNS 20

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Civic Plaza being built. The facility houses Police and City administrative functions, along with the Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. This photo shows the construction of the 30-foot cedar columns outside Civic Plaza's west entrance. The 34 columns mimic a marble colonnade that might stand outside of a traditional government building. However, these columns are made of wood to reflect the natural environment of Bloomington. Civic Plaza opened its doors to the public on May 27, 2003. There was also a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house that took place on July 11 and 12, 2003, with performances, historic displays and demonstrations.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR: BLOOMINGTON PRIDE CELEBRATION

Find live entertainment, food trucks, music and a variety of vendors at the Bloomington Pride Celebration, Sunday, September 10, 12 – 5 p.m., at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

The group that organizes Bloomington Pride turned Twin Cities Pride, the nonprofit that organizes the annual Twin Cities Pride Festival at Loring Park and parade in Minneapolis in June, for support and mentorship in producing the annual event.

"We're sharing the insight we've gained over the years to help Bloomington Pride best serve the local LGBTQ community through this important event," said Andi Otto, executive director of Twin Cities Pride.

Visit [Bloomingtonpridemn.org](http://Bloomingtonpridemn.org) for more information about programming, sponsorships and vendor registration.



The 1995 sister city delegation meets in Bloomington.

## BLOOMINGTON AND IZUMI CELEBRATE 30 YEARS AS SISTER CITIES

Bloomington and Izumi, Japan, will mark 30 years as sister cities when student and mayoral delegations arrive to celebrate on August 11. The visiting delegation and Bloomington hosts will bridge cultural divides during days filled with activities including visits to Civic Plaza, the state capital and even a St. Paul Saints game.

The Bloomington-Izumi Sister City program became official in 1993 when Bloomington Mayor Neil Peterson visited Izumi and signed the agreement with Mayor Ikeda. In 1994, Bloomington hosted Mayor Ikeda, 10 members of Izumi's city council members and the first student exchange program.

Letter exchanges kept the relationship vibrant during the pandemic. The cities resumed connecting in-person this year with the arrival of a Japanese mayoral delegation, a delegation of marathon athletes, six students and two chaperones.

"As a Toro employee, I visited Japan several times a year. I have come to believe that the most effective way to bridge cultural differences is through knowledge and interaction," said Billy Secord, who is also a Bloomington Sister City Organization (BSCO) board member.

"We encourage people interested in international connections and cultural bridging to get involved," said Kellie Lowman, BSCO president. For more information, visit [bsco-izumi.org](http://bsco-izumi.org).

### WHAT IS A SISTER CITY?

The sister cities concept began in 1956 when President Dwight E. Eisenhower initiated the People-to-People program to promote greater understanding among the people of all nations.



## READ THE BRIEFING ONLINE OR VIA EMAIL

Did you know you can receive the *Briefing* in your email inbox or forward issues to family and friends who no longer live in Bloomington? Sign up at [blm.mn.briefing](http://blm.mn.briefing). You can also find an archive of recent past *Briefings* online at [blm.mn/briefing](http://blm.mn/briefing).