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Old Cedar Avenue bridge is a beautiful place to walk and enjoy nature no matter the season.

## CITY EARNS TOP RATING IN BUILDING EQUITABLE WORKPLACES

The City of Bloomington ranked first among peer suburban cities in the Center for Economic Inclusion's first public-sector Racial Equity Dividends Index. The City scored in the 95th percentile among all organizations included in the report.

The **Racial Equity Dividends Index** is an analytical tool meant to help organizations build racially equitable workplaces. The report will be issued annually so it can be used to track progress over time.

"This report showcases the dedication of the many staff who show up every day committed to support systems change throughout the organization. And while there is yet much more work to do, today we celebrate building the foundation that will carry us forward," Bloomington Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer Faith Jackson said. *Pictured third from left in photo above: Jackson speaking on panel at the index reveal event.*

Bloomington was listed as a high-scoring government in the following categories: Leadership, budgets and finance, public safety and public policy. The index also featured data about hiring; culture, retention and advancement; procurement; community and economic development; workforce development; and housing, transportation and land use.

The **Center for Economic Inclusion** equips public- and private-sector leaders and employers with the knowledge and tools to build, scale and institutionalize anti-racist workplaces. Through purposeful, research-driven action, CEI's mission is to close racial wealth gaps and build racially equitable and inclusive regional economies.



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## BLOOMINGTON FORWARD ENGAGEMENT

In 2023, Bloomington voters approved a new half-percent sales tax to provide \$155 million for a new community health and wellness center, renovating the 50-year-old Bloomington Ice Garden, and enhancing and protecting the Nine Mile Creek Corridor, and Moir and Central Parks.

City staff will be providing community engagement opportunities related to these projects in 2024. Visit [bloomingtonforward.org](http://bloomingtonforward.org) to learn more.

MOVING  
BLOOMINGTON  
**Forward**  
creating our shared future



# BRIEFING

Volume 32, Number 02

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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*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.*



## MAYOR'S MEMO HRA RECEIVES NEARLY \$3.2 MILLION IN GRANT FOR NEW PROGRAM

By Mayor Tim Busse

Last December, the Minnesota Housing Board of Directors granted the Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) \$3,199,500 to build 27 new single-family homes. This effort is part of the HRA's new Bloomington Affordable Homeownership program.

This is the first program of its kind for the HRA. Housing is a primary wealth-building tool. Through the Bloomington Affordable Homeownership program, the HRA hopes to lower the cost barrier for homebuyers and create and preserve affordable housing. The Bloomington Affordable Homeownership program also advances the City's Racial Equity Business Plan because it provides a strategy to eliminate racial disparities including inequitable access in housing.

The Bloomington Affordable Homeownership program will serve households at or below 80% of the area median income by providing a \$118,500 gap subsidy to lower the cost of each of the 27 homes. It will also preserve long-term affordability with deed restrictions for owner occupancy and resale restriction for a minimum of 15 years.

"Inequitable access to homeownership opportunities prevents the City from living out its values, which is why creating and preserving affordable homeownership opportunities is a focus for the HRA," Bloomington HRA Administrator Aarica Coleman said. "This new program is a creative way to reduce a common barrier to homeownership."

All 27 homes built through the Bloomington Affordable Homeownership program will also provide opportunities to small and emerging developers that have been historically underutilized and/or underrepresented for the development and construction of the homes.

Newly constructed homes would incorporate Minnesota Housing requirements of Universal Design and accessibility, visitability (larger door openings, at least one no-step entrance; and half bath, or larger bedroom, on main level), and Enterprise Green Communities (sustainability).

This program is a great example of our *Bloomington. Tomorrow. Together.* strategic priorities in action. Continued action toward creating and preserving affordable housing in Bloomington is a key touchpoint for all three of our strategic priorities that include being a welcoming, connected community; a healthy community; and a community with equitable economic growth.

## THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE PATRICK MARTIN, FORMER COUNCIL MEMBER

Patrick Martin, who works on the development team for Second Harvest Heartland, served six years on the Council and chose not to run for another term. Martin noted his favorite part was serving as a bridge between community and local government.

"Along with major policy accomplishments, like the Opportunity Housing Ordinance and Parks Master Plan, I'm very proud to have contributed to a governing culture of respect, open-mindedness, and shared accountability," Martin said.

Martin plans to continue investing his full time and attention in furthering the work of basic needs organizations like the food bank he works at. "There is a world out there where every family has what they need to thrive," Martin said. "We just have to build it."







## NEW PROGRAM WELCOMES AND ENGAGES NEW RESIDENTS

Welcome to Bloomington is a program that launched in January to welcome new residents, including renters and homeowners, to Bloomington.

The program was co-created by residents, community partners and City staff. It focuses on providing a bucket list of community events and places to visit, neighborhood events, a resource fair and a cultural fair. It also features new resident meetings. The first meeting was held January 20 at Mall of America.

Upcoming new resident meetings are scheduled for:

Thursday, February 15, 6-7:30 p.m., Dar Al Farooq, 8201 Park Ave. S.

Saturday, March 2, 10-11:30 a.m., Nine Mile Brewery, 9555 James Ave. S., Suite 290.

“We are focused on engaging new residents in City and community resources while connecting current and new residents,” said Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer Faith Jackson.

For more information, email [equity@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:equity@BloomingtonMN.gov) or visit [blm.mn/welcome](http://blm.mn/welcome).

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

Effective July 1, 2023, the City Council unanimously approved an earned sick and safe time (ESST) ordinance for workers at Bloomington businesses. Workers can use the paid time off to care for themselves or their family members.

Effective January 1, 2024, the Bloomington ESST ordinance was amended to align with the Minnesota state law effective the same day. Employers compliant with the Minnesota law are compliant with the Bloomington ordinance with no additional administrative steps. The graphic below shows the requirements.

SICK AND SAFE TIME HOURS REQUIRED	PAY FOR SICK AND SAFE TIME HOURS
1 hour for every 30 hours worked	Required
Employees can use time as it is accrued. Accrued and available hours must be listed on employee pay stubs. For more information about ESST, visit <a href="http://blm.mn/esst">blm.mn/esst</a>	

## NEW BLOOMINGTON BUSINESS CONNECTIONS LAUNCHES FEBRUARY 28

The Minneapolis Regional Chamber and the City of Bloomington are excited to announce a new collaboration: Bloomington Business Connections. The initiative is kicking off February 28, 8-9:30 a.m., location to be determined. There will be a series of six bimonthly meetings throughout the year at no cost to businesses that participate. No registration is required.

Bloomington area businesses are encouraged to attend for the opportunity to:

- Meet with local city leaders, chamber leadership and other local businesses to engage in meaningful conversations.
- Make new connections.
- Stay informed about issues facing the local community.

Meetings will be held at local businesses throughout the city. For more information or to attend, visit [blm.mn/connections](http://blm.mn/connections).



## NEW FACADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM OFFERS FUNDS FOR REVITALIZATION

Grants through the City of Bloomington may provide up to 50% of total project costs for Bloomington businesses to improve their building facade, signage, sidewalks, patios, lighting, landscape, murals and more.

“This program makes an investment in our business community,” Mayor Tim Busse said. “And, because improving neighborhood commercial areas drives increased business, it also serves as a reinvestment in our community as a whole.”

Grant funds must be matched one-to-one with private funds, and expenditures are reimbursable only after the business submits verified receipts.

Applications are reviewed and processed on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are exhausted. Preference will be given to businesses within targeted commercial nodes such as American and Portland, 98th and Nicollet, Old Cedar and Old Shakopee, Countryside Center, 90th and Penn, American and Nicollet, Central Lyndale and Amsden Ridge Center.

For more information, visit [blm.mn/site-facade](http://blm.mn/site-facade) or email [business@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:business@BloomingtonMN.gov).



## VOTE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION PRIMARY

Early voting for the March 5 presidential nomination primary is open now. Visit [blm.mn/vote](http://blm.mn/vote) for more information.





## WHERE YOU PLACE YOUR GARBAGE CART MATTERS

Snowplow crews rely on residents to place garbage, recycling and organics recycling carts behind the curb and off the streets on their pick-up day.

Carts in the street hinder snowplowing operations and crews are unable to complete their job, which is to plow the full width of the streets. Carts must also be shoveled out so haulers can access them safely and efficiently.

To help, please follow these cart guidelines:

- Place carts two feet behind the curb, even if on your driveway.
- Keep carts at least three feet from other carts and objects such as mailboxes, vehicles, bushes and trees so the hydraulic cart lifters can access them.
- Shovel out carts.

Carts may be set out up to 12 hours before collection day and must be taken back in within 12 hours after collection.

For more information about Bloomington's residential solid waste program, visit, [blm.mn/solid-waste](http://blm.mn/solid-waste).

## STORMWATER TEAM WORKS THROUGH THE FREEZE

While some of Bloomington's transportation construction projects wind down for winter, the season is the best time for the stormwater engineering team to remove accumulated sediment from the City's stormwater ponds. The frozen ground makes it easier for workers to access the pond bottoms.

Cleaning out pond sediment improves pond functionality and improves habitat for a variety of wildlife.

This winter, the team is working on Glenroy Pond, a small industrial stormwater pond off of West 78th Street; Tarnhill Pond West, a natural waterbody in the northeast corner of West 102nd Street and Normandale Boulevard; and Bryant Park Upper Pond, West 84th Street and Aldrich Avenue South.

Want to help? Sediment enters ponds from the storm sewer system linked to street drains. You can help by cleaning up yard waste, pet waste and garbage from the streets before it enters the stormwater system.

# GET TO KNOW YOUR OPTIONS FOR DISPOSING OF LARGE ITEMS

Last year, the City debuted a new program for monthly reusable and recyclable bulky item pickup. The goal of the new program is to reuse and recycle more, and landfill less. This monthly service is a great way to dispose of bulky items that can be recycled or are in good enough condition to be reused. To see when you can use this service, refer to the weeks outlined in blue below. Another option for disposing of bulky items is Curbside Cleanup, which now takes place every other year on even years. **Curbside Cleanup will be held this spring.** Items picked up during Curbside Cleanup go to the landfill. Read below to learn more about two of your options for disposing of bulky items.

## 2024 GARBAGE AND RECYCLING CALENDAR

February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

 RECYCLE WEEK

 REUSABLE/RECYCLABLE BULKY ITEM PICKUP WEEKS

 HOLIDAY; PICKUP IS DELAYED BY ONE DAY

**YARD WASTE SEASON**

**APRIL 8 - NOVEMBER 30, WEATHER PERMITTING**  
SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE, EXTRA CHARGES APPLY

**NOTE: CITY-OBSERVED HOLIDAYS THAT ARE NOT LISTED ON THE CALENDAR DO NOT DELAY COLLECTION. FOR THE FULL 2024 GARBAGE AND RECYCLING CALENDAR, VISIT [BLM.MN/2024GARBAGE](http://blm.mn/2024GARBAGE).**

## MONTHLY BULKY ITEM PICKUP FOR REUSE AND RECYCLING

The City is partnering with Better Futures Minnesota to collect certain bulky reusable and recyclable items at the curb to reduce the number of these items that end up going to a landfill. Households with City garbage and recycling service can schedule a monthly pick up of reusable and recyclable items. The pickup weeks are identified with a blue outline, as shown above, on the 2024 garbage and recycling calendar. You can find the full 2024 garbage and recycling calendar on the City's website at [blm.mn/2024garbage](http://blm.mn/2024garbage).

**How to schedule a pickup:** Pickup must be scheduled by 4 p.m., at least two business days ahead of your regular monthly pickup day. You can schedule by phone at 612-353-5400, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., or online at [betterfuturesminnesota.com/curbside-collections](http://betterfuturesminnesota.com/curbside-collections).

There is no extra cost for these items to be picked up. Service is included in the monthly Bulky Item Management fee on your utility bill.

**What's accepted?** Reusable or recyclable large- and medium-sized items like mattresses, box springs, large appliances, furniture, bicycles and more are accepted. Items that do not follow acceptability guidelines will not be picked up and it will be the resident's responsibility to dispose of those items. To learn more and see the full list of accepted items with quantity limits, visit [blm.mn/bulkies](http://blm.mn/bulkies).

## CURBSIDE CLEANUP COMING IN APRIL

This year, Curbside Cleanup will take place between April and May. The next Curbside Cleanup will take place in 2026.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For questions about Curbside Cleanup, visit [blm.mn/curbside](http://blm.mn/curbside) or call 952-563-8760.

To find tips about how to dispose of items not accepted at the curb, visit the Green Disposal Guide on Hennepin County at [blm.mn/green-dispose](http://blm.mn/green-dispose) or call 612-348-3777.

## 2024 CURBSIDE CLEANUP SCHEDULE

- WEST OF NORMANDALE (FRIDAY HAULING DISTRICT) APRIL 6
- NORMANDALE TO FRANCE (THURSDAY HAULING DISTRICT) APRIL 13
- FRANCE TO PENN (WEDNESDAY HAULING DISTRICT) APRIL 20
- PENN TO PORTLAND (TUESDAY HAULING DISTRICT) APRIL 27
- EAST OF PORTLAND (MONDAY HAULING DISTRICT) MAY 4

## EXPANDED ENERGY REBATES AVAILABLE

Residents can expect to see increased rebates available from Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy this year for things that improve energy efficiency, like insulation.

"If residents would like to make improvements that make their homes more comfortable, healthy and safe to live in, the best place to start is by getting a home energy audit through a program such as Home Energy Squad," Sustainability Specialist Jamila Boudali said. "A home energy audit includes installation of energy saving equipment such as programmable thermostats and door weather stripping. These measures can also help residents save money on energy bills and reduce carbon emissions from excess energy use."

Residents can opt out of any installation or test measures if they choose. After the visit, residents will receive a report and an opportunity to speak with expert advisors that can connect them to contractors and rebates.

Schedule a visit online at [mncee.org/home-energy-squad](http://mncee.org/home-energy-squad) or by calling 651-328-6220. Free visits are available to income-qualified households. Visits are available virtually upon request. Languages available include English, Spanish and Hmong. Check the Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy websites for more information on available rebates.





## MEET YOUR BLOOMINGTON FIREFIGHTERS

**NAME:**  
NICHOLAS JONAS  
**STATION:**  
FIRE STATION 4

**N**icholas Jonas has been a part-time firefighter with the Bloomington Fire Department for nearly four years. He holds a computer science degree from the University of Minnesota and had no formal firefighter training prior to starting.

During the extensive firefighter training process, he's also become a new dad. Twice. His boys, Wesley (4) and Ryland (2), love visiting dad at the fire station and investigating the firetrucks. It must run in the family.

"My grandpa, Dave Cruikshank, was also a Bloomington firefighter. As a kid, he and I would visit the station together and I'd get to climb all over the firetrucks. I loved it." Jonas said. "I'm also incredibly thankful that my family fully supports me in what I do, especially my wife, so I try to involve them as much as possible."

Outside of work, Jonas loves most anything that gets him outside with his family.

"Some personal favorites of mine are camping, cooking, fly fishing, and lately, playing hockey," Jonas said.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS SECOND ANNUAL BLOOMINGTON POLICE VS FIRE HOCKEY GAME

Sunday, March 10, 5 p.m.  
Bloomington Ice Garden, 3600  
W. 98th St.

### AT YOUR SERVICE: MICHELLE LINCOLN

**M**et Michelle Lincoln, a long-range planner for the City who also supports the Housing and Redevelopment Authority board.

In the role she has held for just over a year, Lincoln conducts research into various topics, facilitates public participation events, drafts City Code amendments for approval, and helps people who have planning questions.

Lincoln holds a bachelor's degree in Anthropology and Classics from Bucknell University and master's degrees in both Urban and Regional Planning and Environmental Science from the University of Michigan. In December 2023, she completed a professional certification in planning, AICP.

"Planning and zoning can be challenging to navigate, and I want residents to know they don't have to tackle the City Code on their own," Lincoln said. "Planning is here to help you navigate and get comfortable with it."

For information about the Planning Commission, handouts for projects like fences, and other planning resources, visit [blm.mn/planning](http://blm.mn/planning). For more details about projects across the city, visit [letstalk.bloomingtonmn.gov/projects](http://letstalk.bloomingtonmn.gov/projects).



### CONSIDER CPR TRAINING DURING AMERICAN HEART MONTH

**F**eel the beat! A heartbeat that is. February is American Heart Month and, according to the Minnesota Department of Health, heart disease is the second leading cause of death in Minnesota. So, this month, consider learning how you could keep a heart going during a sudden cardiac event by taking a CPR course.

Bloomington Public Health offers hands-only CPR training sessions that cover basic chest compression techniques for all ages, automated external defibrillators (AEDs), and how to clear an obstructed airway (choking). The training also helps responders to keep themselves and others calm and safe.

"I want to help community members realize their ability to step up in an emergency situation and hopefully save someone's life," says Amanda Lemke, emergency preparedness specialist. "I can see the impact on those we train in CPR. They'll be able to do it in the community, and our community will be safer for it."

Check [blm.mn/cpr](http://blm.mn/cpr) to find the next community training. Pre-registration required.

### LET'S TALK BLOOMINGTON!

**T**he Community Outreach and Engagement Division is developing of a multiyear strategic plan that emphasizes the value of public participation in local government. Enter Let's Talk Bloomington.

Let's Talk Bloomington, a digital engagement tool, was launched in 2019 to gather input on City initiatives. The platform allows people to share opportunities and concerns through idea boards, mapping, polls, and surveys. Public Works, Community Development and Parks and Recreation frequently use Let's Talk to gather input for projects.

In 2024, the City will be updating Let's Talk Bloomington by department, themes and projects for easier navigation.

To participate on Let's Talk Bloomington, register for the site or specific projects. Registration is not required to participate but allows staff to send news and updates to subscribers.

To register, visit [blm.mn/letstalk](http://blm.mn/letstalk) and click "Join the Conversation." To learn more about navigating in Let's Talk, visit [blm.mn/letslearn](http://blm.mn/letslearn).





## GET EMPOWERED WITH SENIOR SAFETY 101

Seniors are invited to join the Bloomington Police and Fire Departments for a two-hour safety course to learn about scams, fire safety, personal safety and more on Wednesday, February 28, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Ave. S.

Although discussing one's vulnerability to safety risks and scams can be uncomfortable for anyone regardless of their age, this workshop is intended to empower seniors with information to help keep them safe and maybe even save their life.

Registration is required. Register in-person at Creekside Community Center, by phone at 952-563-4944, MN Relay 711 or by emailing Creekside@bloomingtonmn.gov.



## FEE ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

To make programs more accessible, Parks and Recreation provides fee assistance for qualifying Bloomington residents. Applicants must show a financial need to receive fee assistance for eligible programs and services.

Visit [blm.mn/fee-assist](http://blm.mn/fee-assist) to download the application. If approved, each eligible individual will receive a credit of \$200 per child under 18 and \$35 per adult 18 and over.

Fee assistance can be used to pay for up to 50% of program fees. Staff will respond to applications within one week of submission. Scholarships will be valid for the calendar year.



## SMITH PARK OFFERS NEW CHALLENGE-STYLE PLAYGROUND

Attention children of all ages! The newly constructed challenge-style playground at Smith Park, 8155 Park Avenue South, is scheduled for a grand opening in May 2024.

The first of its kind in Bloomington, and designed for all ages and abilities, the playground offers a challenge to all who seek it and maximizes accessibility with a full turf surface and a ramped, traditional play structure. The course even includes a stop-clock timer.

The project and the process are a direct result of the commitment to community-driven planning established in the Park System Master Plan. In 2022, the Bloomington City Council directed funding for a new playground. The City held a public event in April 2023 and hosted an open forum on Let's Talk Bloomington for community input.

Along with the new playground, Smith Park also offers a baseball, soccer and softball fields, basketball and tennis courts, fishing, a picnic shelter, seasonal restrooms and trails.

For details about the grand opening visit [letstalk.bloomingtonmn.gov/smithplayground](http://letstalk.bloomingtonmn.gov/smithplayground).

## SEASONAL JOBS FOR ALL INTERESTS

Parks and Recreation is revving up for warmer weather and hiring for summer seasonal positions.

Like to be outside? Consider a Park Maintenance position. These full-time jobs get you out and about in Bloomington parks, mowing and trimming, doing forestry work and prepping athletic fields and picnic shelters. Prefer spending time with kids? A part-time position in youth recreation may be for you. If water's your thing, Parks and Recreation is recruiting lifeguards and pool attendants for the Bloomington Aquatic Center. And if you really do like the cold year-round, a position at Bloomington Ice Garden could be a good fit.

Pay rates for seasonal positions are \$15-\$21 per hour. Staff can also earn a \$100 retention bonus plus \$100 for each eligible employee referral. For more information, visit [blm.mn/prjobs](http://blm.mn/prjobs).

## PLANT A TREE AND GROW THE URBAN CANOPY

You can help build Bloomington's urban canopy by ordering a tree for your yard through the City's annual Arbor Day tree sale. Bloomington residents can pre-purchase affordable bare-root trees that will be delivered during the first week of May.

Now in its 17th year, this program helps the City maintain its Tree City USA designation and has added more than 3,000 trees to Bloomington's urban forest. Residents may purchase a maximum of five trees per household. To place a tree order, visit [blm.mn/treesale](http://blm.mn/treesale), mail in the order form below or call 952-563-8760.

Find more information on the trees and how to plant them at [blm.mn/forestry](http://blm.mn/forestry).

### ARBOR DAY TREE SALE ORDER FORM

Bloomington residents only. Trees are bare-root and approximately one-inch in diameter. Spruce are in five-gallon pots. They cost \$50 each. Trees are viable at the time of sale. No refunds will be issued. *All trees on this form are native to Minnesota.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email (needed to arrange deliveries) \_\_\_\_\_

**Fill in number of each tree type desired. First come, first served. Maximum five trees total per household, \$50 each. Check must accompany order.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Northwood Red maple    \_\_\_\_\_ Black Hills spruce    \_\_\_\_\_ American Linden    \_\_\_\_\_ Honeylocust  
 \_\_\_\_\_ River birch    \_\_\_\_\_ Serviceberry    \_\_\_\_\_ Snowdrift crab apple    \_\_\_\_\_ Prairie Fire crab apple

Total trees  X \$50 ea. =  Total cost

Trees will be delivered to the address listed on the order form in the first week of May. Send a check and this form to Bloomington Park Maintenance, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027.



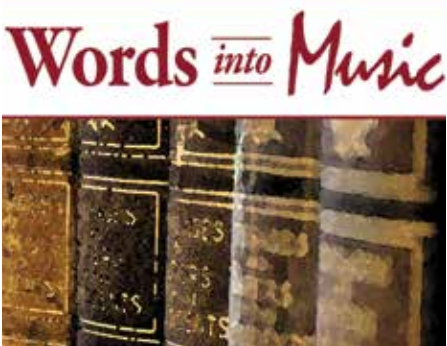


# BLOOMINGTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS

SPRING / SUMMER 2024 PERFORMANCE SERIES

## CHECK OUT THIS AMAZING LINEUP OF SHOWS

PROGRAMS, ARTISTS AND PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE. ALL TICKET SALES ARE FINAL. NO REFUNDS OR EXCHANGES.



**MEDALIST:**  
**WORDS INTO MUSIC**

Poems, folk tales, and stories are amplified through music and featured in settings by composers such as Grainger, Vaughan Williams, and Copland.

**MARCH 3, 4 P.M.**  
**TICKETS \$17 ADULT, \$15 SENIOR (60+), \$15 STUDENT**



**CONTINENTAL BALLET COMPANY:**  
**COPPELIA**

*Coppelia* is a delightful ballet about a magical doll-maker. This production is family friendly, with a fun-filled story and beautiful dancing.

**MARCH 16, 23, 7:30 P.M.**  
**MARCH 17, 24, 3 P.M.**  
**TICKETS \$25 ADULT, \$19 SENIOR (60+), \$13 YOUTH (12 AND UNDER)**



**ARTISTRY:**  
**THE SOUND OF MUSIC**

A beloved musical comes to Artistry! Featuring a treasure trove of Rodgers & Hammerstein repertoire, *The Sound of Music* has enchanted audiences for more than 60 years, earning several Tony Awards, including Best Musical.

**APRIL 18-MAY 12**  
**SHOW TIMES VARY**  
**TICKETS \$26-56 (INCLUDES FEES)**



**BLOOMINGTON CHORALE:**  
**TOGETHER WE ARE...**

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

**MAY 17, 7:30 P.M., MAY 18, 4 P.M.**  
**TICKETS \$25 ADULT, \$20 SENIOR (60+), \$20 STUDENT**

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.

[BLOOMINGTONMN.GOV/BCA](http://BLOOMINGTONMN.GOV/BCA)



BLOOMINGTON BOX OFFICE



ARTISTRY BOX OFFICE

## NOTABLE NEIGHBOR: TYNIKA SMITH

Meet Tynika Smith, affectionately known as "Ms. T," a Bloomington resident well-known in the Twin Cities for her efforts supporting unhoused folks, *pictured at right in photo*. Beyond her full-time job at the bank and being a mom of four, Ms. T makes a significant impact in the community. She cooks, preps and delivers hot meals to unhoused people every other weekend on Sundays. She also cooks Thanksgiving meals and collects donations for Christmas and other holidays like Mother's Day, assembling packs with blankets, sleeping bags and essential toiletries.

Ms. T's kindness extends beyond material donations. She stays in touch with those she's helped, recognizing the deeper issues of homelessness, such as transportation and housing. Her daughter, Zekarhia, 14, *pictured on the left*, and son, 3, are also actively involved with assembling and distributing donation packs.

"It's meaningful that I can be a part of it," Zekarhia said. "The best part is seeing peoples' faces when we are handing things out."

In the future, Ms. T dreams of opening a free store, providing essentials to unhoused people twice a week.

"It's really all about the community of people," Tynika said. "I am so blessed to be in a position to be able to help others and I love to do it."



Tynika Smith, right, and her daughter Zekarhia, left.

## SENIORS, NEED A LITTLE HELP AT HOME?

Senior Community Services offers a Household & Outdoor Maintenance (HOME) Program designed to help allow older adults to remain in the homes and communities they love.

Bloomington residents aged 60 and older may apply for services. Some services are free. Rates for paid services are based on income and ability to pay. No one is denied service based on ability to pay. Here are some examples of the services offered:

- Handyperson tasks such as minor repairs, carpentry and painting projects.
- Home safety checks.
- Housekeeping such as sweeping, dusting, vacuuming, laundry.
- Lawn mowing and snow removal.
- Other yard services including spring and fall clean-up.
- Technology support by phone, in designated locations and some in-person services.

HOME is always seeking volunteers. Residents are encouraged to sign up to help out a neighbor. For more information about services or volunteering, call 952-746-4046 or visit [seniorcommunity.org](http://seniorcommunity.org).



# BLOOMINGTON PIONEERS & CHANGEMAKERS

**B**loomington Pioneers and Changemakers is an annual series that honors Black leaders who have a connection to Bloomington. February is Black History Month and a fitting time to recognize pioneers who have done so much to chart the path to where we are today and changemakers who are paving the way for future generations. Video interviews with the following 2023 Pioneers and Changemakers are available on the City's YouTube account at [blm.mn/pcvids](https://blm.mn/pcvids). New videos featuring the 2024 honorees will also be posted on the City's YouTube and Facebook accounts throughout the year.

## TONYA ALLEN

Tonya Allen is a leader and a change agent with a passion for co-creating an equitable, sustainable world. In 2021, she became president of the McKnight Foundation, a Minnesota-based family foundation that advances a more just, creative and abundant future where people and planet thrive. Tonya heads a majority women, majority people-of-color senior leadership team and a diverse team of about 60. The Foundation grants approximately \$120 million annually in support of equitable communities, a clean energy economy, global food systems, artists and culture bearers, and innovative neuroscience research. For example, the foundation awarded the City a \$250,000 grant to support the new small business center as part of its Groundbreak Coalition efforts, which aim to ensure that Black wealth builders, homebuyers and entrepreneurs have access to capital.



## CORINER BOLER

Coriner Boler is a passionate and relentless advocate in her community and greater Minneapolis. She cares deeply and continuously supports her neighbors in maintaining their housing. Coriner is a natural connector, reaching out to organizations, individuals, elected officials and more, to create a network of people dedicated to affordable housing. She also dedicates herself to serving on the Affordable Housing Advisory Board for the city of Minneapolis. In addition to housing advocacy, Coriner supports her community with a holiday gift drive and more. Coriner also worked with Bloomington Public Health to help inform a grant application related to health and housing. She is also a mother, an artist and a writer.



## DESMOND DANIELS

Desmond Daniels has been a police officer for 17 years, with the last five being with the Bloomington Police Department. He believes being a police officer is one of the best professions in the world, although it is very challenging. One of his favorite things about his job is connecting with the community. He's been doing a lot of that as the lead for Bloomington Police's Racial Equity Action Team. Whether it's a cookout or police officers coaching youth sports, Desmond feels it is important for police and community members to see each other outside of the times when 911 is called.



## HAMDE DAOUD

Hamde Daoud is the community connections coordinator for the Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191 in Community Education. Prior to this position, Hamde's roles in the district were cultural liaison and clerical. Her goal is to continue with her education and become a community education director. Hamde knew at a young age that she wanted to support people, especially underserved communities. She's always wanted to provide a way to help and share the knowledge of growing up in a multicultural home with her community.



## DR. JOYCE ESTER

Dr. Joyce Ester has served as the president of Normandale Community College since 2014. Normandale Community College is the largest college and third-largest institution in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system. Under her leadership, Normandale has continued to be one of the top transfer institutions in the state.



During her time at Normandale Dr. Ester and her leadership team have worked to establish Normandale as a student-ready and anti-racist college. With a focus on student and institutional success, Dr. Ester challenged the college to eliminate educational equity gaps, increase transfer rates, and to become an institution that is culturally competent and service oriented.

## TIM FARROW

Tim Farrow has more than 10 years of retail banking experience in various roles. Currently, Tim is a vice president and business access advisor at U.S. Bank. He works with diverse-owned businesses to ensure equitable access and opportunity through U.S Bank solutions and community partners. Tim has always had a heart for giving back and making an impact in the communities he lives and works in. He serves on the advisory board for the City's new small business development center. Tim also enjoys spending time with his wife and two kids.



## FAITH JACKSON

Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer Faith Jackson started with the City in 2019 with the responsibility of integrating race and equity principles into all operations of the City. Under Jackson's leadership over the last four years, the City has adopted a racial equity business plan, which codifies strategies to achieve equity both within the organization and community; embedded staff-led racial equity action teams in each department; introduced racial equity impact assessments to systematically examine how different racial and ethnic groups would likely be impacted by decisions; started the Pioneers and Changemakers series, created the Office of Racial Equity, Inclusion and Belonging; hired an equity and inclusion specialist; and launched employee resource groups. Jackson has previously been honored as a herocrat (a government employee combating systemic injustice) and as a 2022 Finance and Commerce rising young professional.



## DR. STEPHEN THOMPSON

Dr. Stephen Thompson, DACM DC, a third-generation doctor, has been in the field of medicine for almost two decades. He uses an integrative medical approach incorporating aspects of Western and Eastern medicine, evidence-informed practice, and diversity, equity and inclusion to create a wholly unique and comprehensive medical experience.



Dr. Thompson is also an assistant professor and lecturer in the College of Health and Wellness at Northwestern Health Sciences in Bloomington. In his spare time, he volunteers within the Twin Cities community providing trauma-informed care alongside other community-minded providers.