

BRIEFING

Senior happenings - page 8

21st century communications from the City of Bloomington

Volume 9, Number 5

October 2001

In this issue...

Word from the Mayor

From business licensing to elections, the services provided by the City Clerk's office enhance the quality of our lives. *Page 2.*

Decisions, decisions

A step-by-step analysis of how the Bloomington City Council makes a decision. *Page 3.*

Earth Action

Make a difference in your own backyard... participate in the Fall Festival and get tips on how you can reduce your paper use. *Pages 4 and 5.*

A Halloween dance for seniors

will be held Wednesday, October 24 from 7 - 9 p.m. at the Bloomington Armory, 3300 West 98th Street. Dance the night away at the annual fall dance sponsored by the Human Services Division. The Jolly Nobles will scare up lots of your favorite music. Prizes and refreshments are included. Costumes are optional. Cost is a \$3 donation at the door. For transportation or more information, call 952-563-4957 V/TTY.

Money matters

The City Council approved the preliminary levy for 2002. Details of the budget and tax impact are presented. *Page 6.*

Parenting Seminar

Why do bad things happen to good parents? Learn the concepts and strategies for overcoming the challenges of parenting in our society at an upcoming seminar. Nationally known author and parenting expert James Garbarino, Ph.D. will speak about his latest book, *Parents Under Siege*, on Thursday, October 18, at 7 p.m. at the Minneapolis Airport Marriott, 2020 E. 79th Street. Cost is \$5. To register or for information, call Cornerstone at 952-884-0376.

Spook-tacular

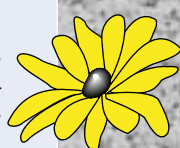
Kids will be "goblin" up fun at the annual city-wide Halloween party. Check out the fall sports and new aquatic center updates. *Page 7.*

Have your say

Find your polling place and general voting information for the upcoming City General and School District Elections. *Page 8.*

Flower power

The Corridor Habitat Initiative has helped to transform the power line corridor in Bloomington into parkland, trailways and wildlife habitats since 1998. Through a partnership with Tree Trust, Xcel Energy and the City of Bloomington, native prairie grasses and flowers have been planted from the Minnesota River Bluff to 79th Street. The plantings not only enhance the area, but also reduce mowing. This display of blooming prairie is located at the south end of the corridor near Parker's Picnic Area at Park Avenue and Columbus Road. The path is the future location of the corridor trail. ♦



Facilities Update

BuiBuiBuildBuild Building community

City construction projects scheduled over the next two years are in the works.



Public Works

Public Works construction is underway at the 98th Street and James Avenue site. Approximately 71,000 square feet of vehicle equipment storage is being built. A 2,100 square foot repair garage addition will be constructed, along with 15,240 square feet of new offices. Existing offices will also be remodeled. The project is expected to be completed in Spring 2002.



Bloomington Family Aquatic Center

Valley View Pool is currently under renovation. The new family aquatics park is scheduled to open Summer 2002. For more information and a complete diagram, see page 7.



Police/City Hall/Arts Center

The new facility, between 98th Street and Old Shakopee Road, will house City and police administrative functions, underground parking for police vehicles and an arts center including performing and visual arts space. The main customer service areas and City Council Chambers are on the east side overlooking a landscaped area with a 1.5-acre pond.

The design reflects the natural environment of the Minnesota River Valley and the value our citizens place on parks and green space. The building curves around the pond echoing the bends in the river on the city's southern border. Natural materials - stone, brick, wood, and copper - clad the exterior and suggest a space with a natural character that will age gracefully. Bloomington's center of government will be valued and appreciated by residents for many years.

Demolition of buildings on the site started in September. Construction, scheduled to begin this November, is expected to take 18 to 20 months. The new facility opening is planned for Spring 2003. ♦

City of Bloomington
2215 West Old Shakopee Road
Bloomington MN 55431-3096

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Services that strengthen our community

Mayor Gene Winstead

This series highlights some of the many City services that are performed with quiet efficiency in the background of our busy lives. Over the course of this year, we look in-depth at these services that strengthen our community.

City Clerk: Central to City business

When Bloomington was small, people stopped by City Hall just to see what was happening around their community. They knew everyone by name and for information they contacted the City Clerk. Today, many people come to City Hall only when they need to - when they can conduct business on-line, they do not even make the trip.

Things change as time goes by, but the City Clerk's Office maintains that sense of community in the service they provide. In order to connect people to resources, staff still keeps a

list of phone numbers in case a caller needs information on a wide range of topics including marriage licenses, military or pet burials, the League of Women Voters or the Better Business Bureau.

Record keeping

Historical information is important. From the past to the future, it helps connect our community and its citizens. The City Clerk's Office receives and archives minutes of all City of Bloomington

meetings, including City Council meetings. It keeps track of the City's legal notices published in newspapers and magazines.

The City Code is also maintained by the City Clerk's Office. To preserve continuity when the Council makes a change to the law, the City Clerk documents the official change. Many cities hire outside companies to provide this service.

Genealogy

Would you like to know where your great-grandfather is buried in Bloomington? The City Clerk maintains the records of the City Cemetery, which date back to the 1800s. They sell lots and assist mortuaries with burial arrangements. Birth and death records between the years 1871 to 1953 are kept on file, useful to those researching their family history.

Elections

The City Clerk's Office works hard to make sure every vote of Bloomington's 54,910 registered voters is counted. Preparation for Election Day starts 60 days in advance and includes readying supplies, ordering ballots, updating voter history and assigning election judges to the city's 30 precincts.

Bloomington does it right

In the aftermath of the most recent presidential election, Bloomington, along with the rest of Hennepin County, was praised in an article on vote-counting accuracy by *The Wall Street Journal*. With funds from Hennepin County and the trade-in of Bloomington's electronic voting equipment, more than \$100,000 was spent over the last few years to update voting technology which eliminated the problems, expense and confusion that occurred in Florida last November.



LICENSES TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC

"To me, service is providing accurate information and assistance, quickly and cheerfully, while still meeting legal requirements."

Evelyn Woulfe,
City Clerk,
Deputy Registrar
for the State
of Minnesota



CITY CEMETERY RECORDS

Licensing

The City requires licenses and permits to protect the public. For example, owners must have pets vaccinated for rabies before they can be issued a license by the City Clerk.

The City Clerk's staff works with Environmental Health to make sure restaurants are inspected and meet code requirements before they receive a license to operate.

Motor Vehicle

The Motor Vehicle Licensing staff of 10 is managed by the City Clerk, but follows the rules and regulations of the State of Minnesota in providing a service to those who live and work in Bloomington. Motor Vehicle Licensing started within City Hall thirty years ago, but it has since moved to 9930 Logan Avenue South to better accommodate its 500 customers per day. The section operates solely on the fees collected from licenses.

Link to local government

The City Clerk's Office connects people to the resources they need and to their local government. The services provided strengthen our community by maintaining the laws of our city, protecting consumers and business owners through licenses and making sure citizens have their say by overseeing how we elect our government officials. Our busy lives today might suggest we don't have time to stop by City Hall just for a visit. However, we can still rely on the City Clerk to provide us with information when we need it.

Can the City Clerk's Office help you? Call 952-563-4925. ♦



MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSING



ELECTION PREPARATION



Mayor speaks on "City Matters"

Mayor Gene Winstead explores local issues and City services on "City Matters," a monthly cable television program on The Bloomington Channel 14.

Watch "City Matters" at the following times:

Sundays - 8 p.m.

Mondays - 8 a.m., 2 p.m.
Tuesdays - 7:30 p.m.

Wednesdays - 7:30 a.m.,
1:30 p.m.

Thursdays 8 p.m.

Fridays - 8 a.m., 2 p.m.

For a Webcast of this program, go to the City site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us and type in the keywords "City Matters".

To send questions or comments regarding the show to Mayor Winstead, call 952-563-8782 or E-mail: mayor@ci.bloomington.mn.us. ♦

City Council

Mayor	Gene Winstead	952-888-1258(h)
	mayor@ci.bloomington.mn.us	
Councilmembers	council@ci.bloomington.mn.us	
At Large	Dave Abrams	952-885-0506(h)
At Large	Mike Fossum	952-885-9056(h) 612-673-3645(w)
District II	Heather Harden	952-835-5919(h)
District III	Alisa Ornat	952-944-1156(h)
District I	Steve Peterson	952-884-3262(h)
District IV	Vern Wilcox	952-854-1425(h)
City Manager	Mark Bernhardson	952-563-8780
	citymanager@ci.bloomington.mn.us	

We are accessible!

Stop by or write: City of Bloomington
2215 W. Old Shakopee Road
Bloomington MN 55431-3096

Phone: 952-563-8700

TTY: 952-563-8740

FAX: 952-563-8715

E-mail: dkirby@ci.bloomington.mn.us

Web site: www.ci.bloomington.mn.us

More options: For Braille, larger print or computer disk, contact Diann Kirby, 952-563-8818.

The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status or status with regard to public assistance in employment or the provision of services. The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), as required by Section 35.107 of the U.S. Department of Justice Regulations, and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as mandated by Section 8.53 of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Regulations. For information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 2215 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3096; phone: 952-

The path of a Council decision

The City Council is often faced with difficult decisions that require choices among conflicting interests where people feel strongly about their positions. What is the Council's role and what are its limitations in making a decision? The Mayor and City Council arrive at decisions by weighing all interests, abiding by a legal framework which constrains their decision options and considering the long-term good of the community. The following is a step-by-step look at how this decision-making process worked in a recent case.

The proposal

Highland Management, owner of the properties at the northwest corner of 98th Street and Nicollet Avenue, proposed private redevelopment of a SuperValu grocery store and a vacant Amoco station. The property owner obtained a proposal from Holiday Companies for a convenience store with fuel pumps and a car wash.



Step 1

Proposal submitted

With approval of Highland Management, Holiday submits information demonstrating that their proposal meets the City requirements in the Land Use Guide and Zoning Ordinance.

City Planning staff determines that the proposal is consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan and zoning ordinances. See sidebar.



Step 2

Public hearing notice

City staff arranges a Planning Commission hearing. State law requires advertising the hearing so notices are:

- ◆ Mailed to surrounding property owners.
- ◆ Published in the *Sun Current* newspaper.

Step 3

Staff input from various departments

The Development Review Committee, made up of staff from Planning, Utilities, Engineering, Licensing, Parks and Recreation, Police, Fire, Environmental Health and Assessing, gather input on the proposal. (If a proposal impacts highways or wetlands, staff consults with Hennepin County Highway Department, Minnesota Department of Transportation, Watershed District, Pollution Control Agency and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.) The applicant attends the meeting and information is shared on the proposed project. The committee then provides a technical analysis to Planning staff. Their comments include:

- ◆ Clearly define existing and proposed right-of-way lines; dedicate right-of-way for intersection improvement.
- ◆ Address the noise impact from mechanical equipment and car wash dryer on the apartments north of the property.
- ◆ Revise the traffic signals at 98th Street and Nicollet Avenue.
- ◆ Require the applicant to apply for food, gas and tobacco licenses.



Step 5

Planning Commission hearing held

City staff gives a synopsis of their findings. The applicant has an opportunity to speak. Then the public is invited to share their views. Citizens testify, citing concerns about traffic, noise, student loitering, loss of a neighborhood grocery store and loss of jobs. The Commission hears all of the testimony, weighs the evidence and votes to forward a recommendation of approval with 12 conditions to the City Council. Neighbors petition the City Council to conduct another Public Hearing.



Step 7

Decision

After considering all of the information, the City Council adopts a resolution approving a conditional use permit for the car wash and

service station with 14 conditions of approval. In addition, the Council approves the final site and building plans for the Holiday store. Although sympathetic to citizen concerns, the Council cannot deny a proposal that meets all City Code requirements. State and federal laws give property owners defined rights to use their property, and violation of these rights could result in a lawsuit against the City by the property owner or developer.



Framework of a decision: Ordinances govern land uses

The City has a Land Use Guide Plan that designates how land can be used in Bloomington. State law requires the Plan be consistent with the major metropolitan systems: transportation, sewer, housing, airport and public facilities. To implement the Plan, the City Council enacts a zoning ordinance which specifies in detail the uses allowed in each zone and the standards development must meet. A land use map, like the one above, shows the city's 14 land use designations. (To view the land use map, go our Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Comprehensive Plan 2000.)

Each zoning district establishes three types of uses:

- ◆ *Permitted use* - use allowed if ordinance requirements are met.
- ◆ *Accessory use* - a subordinate use of a building or premise that is located on the same lot as the principal building or use. For example, a garage is an accessory use on a residential lot.
- ◆ *Conditional use* - a permitted use within a zoning district where certain conditions exist. **When a conditional use is proposed, ordinance requires a public hearing by the Planning Commission with final approval by the City Council. The hearings are opportunities for the public to be notified of proposals and to have input in the decision-making process.** ◆

Step 4

Planning Division examines issues

The conditional use permit process analyzes a proposed development and the neighborhood conditions to determine its compatibility with adjoining uses and the City's overall land use plan. With neighborhood development patterns and the City Code as guidelines, Planning staff writes a report recommending approval of a conditional use permit for the proposed car wash and gas station. See sidebar. The proposed Holiday station is determined to be compatible. Reasons include:

- ◆ After applying the trip generation rates of the Institute of Traffic Engineers, traffic impact will generate no more trips than the current use. The number of driveways to major streets is reduced; sidewalks and street crossings are safer.
- ◆ Adjoining uses, such as apartments, restaurant, high school and auto repair facility, are compatible with the convenience store.
- ◆ The proposed development will remove the vacant building and greatly enhance the property. There will be a significant increase in open space and landscaping, separating the store from residential property. The nuisance caused by the vacant gas station will be eliminated.

Step 6

Item 4.2 - City Council Public Hearing

Staff gives an overview of the proposal. The City Council takes testimony at the meeting. Citizens voice their concerns over the loss of the neighborhood grocery. The City Council considers the following in making their decision:

- ◆ The staff report.
- ◆ The recommendation of the Planning Commission.
- ◆ The written record of the Planning Commission hearing.
- ◆ Copies of correspondence between the applicant, the public and staff.
- ◆ Testimony from the public.
- ◆ The City Attorney's recommendations.



For more information on the City's Comprehensive Land Use Plan, zoning ordinance and development standards, call 952-563-8920. For City Council-related

Make A Difference, Bloomington



...right in your own backyard!

Make A Difference Day is a national program that inspires and rewards volunteers for making a difference in their community. Youth, school and work groups, faith and civic organizations, and families are all encouraged to participate during the week of October 22 - 27.

Lower Penn Lake cleanup efforts continue

In Summer 2000, the Engineering Division, along with Parks and Recreation, Hennepin Conservation District and local volunteers, began a native plant restoration project at Lower Penn Lake using a grant from the Department of Natural Resources Aquatic Plant Restoration Program. The goal is to create natural buffers around water bodies to improve water quality, reduce erosion and add aesthetic value.

A barrier of native plants helps discourage geese and ducks. Their droppings make lawns unusable and also run off into lakes during rain and snowmelt. This and other nutrients cause a blanket of green algae to form along the shore every summer.

Make A Difference, Bloomington!

When visiting the park, help our cleanup efforts. Place any left-over food in a trash receptacle or take it with you. Food left in the park for geese and ducks to eat creates sanitation problems - it rots, attracts flies and bees, and pollutes the lake when it rains. In addition, most human food, including bread, has no nutritional value for geese. **Please remember, dumping food is littering and littering is prohibited by the City Code.**

For information on water quality issues, call Engineering at 952-563-4870. ♦

There are many ways to give back to your community. Some suggested projects include:

- ◆ **Use phosphorous-free or environmentally responsible products** on your lawn.
- ◆ **Help an elderly neighbor** with yard work.
- ◆ **Plant shade trees.** This saves energy by keeping your home cool in the summer.
- ◆ **Adopt a park or wetland.**

As part of its ongoing efforts of community building and renewal, Bloomington is focusing on the environment - where making a difference starts in your own backyard.

For more information or to sponsor a project, call Bloomington Human Services at 952-563-8737. ♦

Fall Festival

Saturday, October 27

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Moir Park, 104th Street and Morgan Avenue

Celebrate the beauty of Bloomington's natural environment on Make a Difference Day.

- ◆ Hear experts talk about planting native flowers, shrubs and trees and environmentally safe lawn practices.
- ◆ See an exhibit of birds of prey that live in our river valley.
- ◆ Hike with a naturalist along Nine Mile Creek.
- ◆ Receive free soil sample kits, biodegradable lawn bags and affordable compost bins.

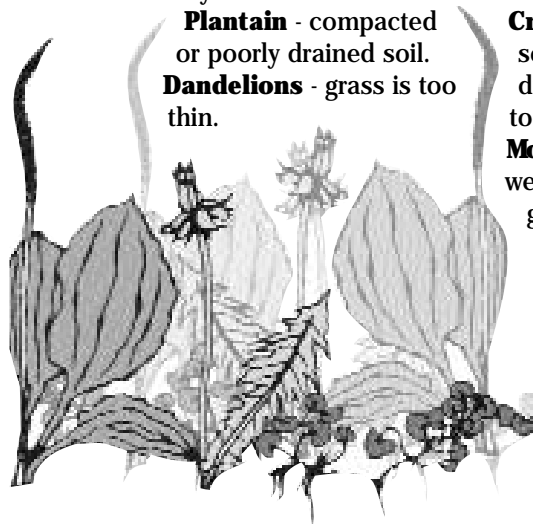
Get prepared for Halloween

- ◆ Make Halloween treat bags for those in need.
- ◆ Learn to create costumes and decorations from natural and reused materials.
- ◆ Decorate gourds and pumpkins for Halloween. See page 7 for details on the citywide Halloween Party.

For more information on this event, call Recycling at 952-563-8751. ♦

Environmentally responsible lawn care

Before you use chemicals on your lawn, identify what your weeds are telling you. Weeds are often an indication of a poor lawn environment and killing weeds without correcting the problem will lead to unsatisfactory results. Some common weeds may indicate:



Plantain - compacted or poorly drained soil.
Dandelions - grass is too thin.

Creeping Charlie - soil is poorly drained or site is too shady.
Moss - site is too wet and shady for grass to survive.

An alternative to toxic lawn and garden chemicals

Make A Difference, Bloomington!

To protect your family, pets and our lakes and streams from toxins, use a product that is an effective chemical replacement: corn gluten, a preemergent herbicide.

This natural weed prevention is a corn milling byproduct that is effective against common weeds including crabgrass, dandelions, smart weed, lambsquarters and foxtail. Corn gluten inhibits root growth and contains nitrogen, making it an excellent "weed and feed" product. Corn gluten herbicide and other non-toxic alternatives to lawn care are available at local lawn and garden centers.

For answers to your questions about gardens, landscape plants, insect, wildlife, soil testing and plant diseases, call the Yard and Garden Line at 612-624-4771. ♦

Source: University of Minnesota Extension Service.

Protect our water bodies from phosphorous

Even small amounts of phosphorous that enter lakes and ponds can cause significant algae blooms and promote excess weed growth. One pound of phosphorous can grow 500 pounds of algae in lakes and ponds. Algae and weeds decrease water quality for plants and animals as well as for recreational use.

Keep phosphorous out

Lawn and garden runoff contains phosphorous and is a common pollutant of lakes, rivers and streams. Tips to keep phosphorous from reaching our water bodies include:

- ◆ Sweep up excess fertilizer on sidewalks, driveways and streets. Do not apply fertilizer to frozen ground.
- ◆ Keep grass clippings and leaves off streets and out of storm drainage areas.
- ◆ Do not apply fertilizers or weed killers on rainy or windy days when they are more likely to end up in the air or storm sewers.

- ◆ Leave a buffer zone of natural vegetation at least 20 feet wide along shorelines to filter pollutants from storm water runoff.

Make A Difference, Bloomington!

Reduce phosphorous use

Most soils contain enough phosphorous for healthy grass growth. Unless soil tests show that your lawn needs additional phosphorous, use fertilizers with zero phosphorous. ♦



The middle number on a bag of fertilizer identifies phosphorous. This fertilizer contains no phosphorous.

Recycle paper – it can come back to serve many uses

Did you know that almost 40 percent of waste thrown away is paper? If you look in your garbage you will find that 26 percent of that waste is made up of materials that could easily be recycled: corrugated boxes, newspapers, magazines, junk mail, printing/writing paper, boxboard packaging, wrapping paper and bags. Recycling paper not only saves landfill space and trees, but puts less demand on the environment by saving energy and keeping pollutants out of the air in the manufacturing process.

The graphic illustrates a few of the many uses for recycled paper products. ♦



Paper – don't throw it away, recycle it!

Did you know?

More than **500,000 trees** are used in the United States each week to print Sunday newspapers.

Americans use **730 pounds of paper** a year per person. It takes **nine trees** as wide as telephone poles and as tall as a four-story building to make that much paper.

Reduce the hail of unwanted mail!

The average American household receives about 500 pieces of advertising mail per year. Because much of this mail is unwanted, the 4.2 million tons of paper and plastic "junk mail" ends up in the garbage. If you would like to reduce the amount of unwanted mail coming into your home, follow these simple steps:

1 Register with the Direct Marketing Association's Mail Preference Service. Send a postcard with your name and address to: Mail Preference Service, PO Box 9008, Farmingdale, NY 11735-9008.

The Direct Marketing Association (DMA) will add your name and address to a "do not mail" file. Registration can be renewed every five years. DMA members agree not to use your name in marketing products and services, or trade or sell your name to other marketers.

2 Contact individual mailers. Let mailers know when you do not want their mail. Look on the mail piece for a phone number, E-mail address or Web site where you can reach them.

3 Get off lists for credit card solicitations. Call 1-888-567-8688, a toll-free number established by the nation's major consumer credit bureaus, to opt out for two years or permanently. A recording will ask for your Social Security number, full name, address and telephone number.

For more information on reducing waste, visit www.reduce.org. ♦

From the Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance's "If not you, who?" campaign.

Boxboard can be recycled

Boxboard cartons are the thin, lightweight containers used to package many household items including beverages, toys, food, tissue and shoes. Boxboard consists mostly of 100 percent recycled content made from other paper products such as old corrugated boxes, newspapers or used office paper.

To recycle, remove plastic liners, empty contents and flatten boxes. Place boxboard into a paper bag and set out with recyclables.

Do recycle

- ◆ Cereal and other dry food boxes.
- ◆ Toy, gift, shoe and tissue boxes.
- ◆ Beverage containers (pop, beer, water).
- ◆ Toilet paper and paper towel rolls.

Do not recycle

- ◆ Juice or milk cartons.
- ◆ Frozen food boxes.
- ◆ Pizza boxes.

Boxes or cartons used for refrigerated or frozen foods contain materials that are difficult to recycle. ♦

City of Bloomington Finance Division Reducing waste in the workplace

The Finance Division recycled almost 4 tons of paper last year. This saved 68 trees, 27,812 gallons of water, 1,852 gallons of oil, 2,548 pounds of air pollution and 16,308 kilowatt hours of energy.

In your workplace consider simple ways to reduce your impact on the environment. The average U.S. worker uses 12,000 sheets of paper per year, most of which can be recycled. The Finance Division's primary functions (budget reports, payroll, month-end reporting, general accounting, etc.) generate more paper than any other City department. The steps they

take to reduce paper, save money and benefit the environment include:

- ◆ Copying on both sides of paper.
- ◆ Considering products with recycled content when making purchasing decisions.

- ◆ Choosing not to use difficult-to-recycle florescent or neon colored paper whenever possible.
- ◆ Using email instead of paper memos to reduce printing.
- ◆ Posting or circulating materials rather than copying one for each person.
- ◆ Eliminating printer and fax cover sheets by using small post-it size labels.
- ◆ Reusing interoffice envelopes.
- ◆ Using electronic payroll transfer.

◆ Producing the annual corporate report within the City newsletter to eliminate separate mailing.

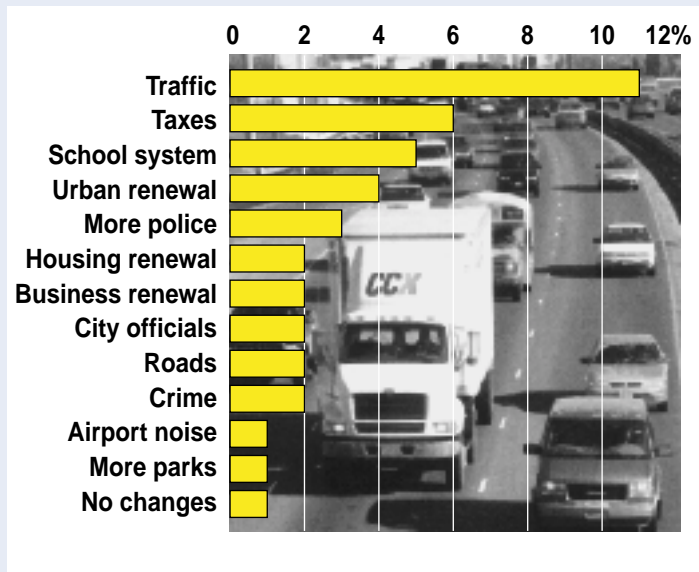
◆ Filing documents on microfilm.

Thanks to the Finance Division for making a difference in reducing waste in their operations! ♦



If you were in charge...

If residents could change one thing about Bloomington, what would it be? According to a poll conducted by Leede Research, 12 percent of the respondents indicated traffic was a concern. Leede noted that small percentages on any one issue reflected residents' general level of satisfaction with their community.



Source: City of Bloomington Community Survey, 11/00

Your opportunity to serve

The City Council is seeking applicants to serve on the following advisory boards and commissions for terms beginning January 2002. Youth positions are available on the Human Rights and Parks, Arts and Recreation Commissions.

For more information or an application, call the board or commission in which you are interested or the City Manager's Office at 952-563-8780. To download an application visit the City's web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords "Advisory Boards". Applications must be received by Friday, December 14, for consideration at a City Council organizational meeting in January.

Advisory Board of Health **952-563-8919**
Advises the Council on issues related to personal and public health of residents. There are positions for both health care providers and consumers.

Board of Appeal and Equalization **952-563-8706**
Hears appeals of property values established by City assessors. Members must have experience as appraiser, Realtor, real estate attorney, property manager or be familiar with real estate valuation in the city.

Human Rights Commission **952-563-8733**
TTY: 952-563-8740

Advises the Council on matters regarding human rights, mediates discrimination complaints, provides education and advocates for human rights issues.

Merit Board **952-563-8710**
Oversees the administration of the merit system for City employees. The member board establishes and maintains rules and policies for human resource administration. The board meets as necessary.

Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission **952-563-8877**
Advises the Council on matters of capital development, improvement and maintenance of city parks as well as recreation and cultural arts programs.

Planning Commission **952-562-8920**
Holds public hearings and makes recommendations to the Council on land use, long-range development strategies, development applications and zoning.

Traffic and Transportation Advisory Commission **952-563-4913**

Considers traffic and transportation aspects of existing and new development in the city, concentrates on preservation and service of the existing transportation system, holds public hearings regarding neighborhood traffic concerns, considers improvements or changes and conducts study projects. ♦

Council approves preliminary levy for 2002

The City Council has approved a preliminary levy of \$30,971,483 for 2002, a 5.5 percent increase over 2001, not including Homestead and Agricultural Credit Aid in either year. The increase is comprised of 3.3 percent for the City's primary operations, 1.3 percent for debt, 0.3 percent for a state-mandated public employee retirement fund increase, and 0.6 percent for new initiatives. The preliminary levy can be reduced, but not increased, before final adoption in December.

City staff uses a five-year planning model that considers both short-term and future needs of our community to prepare the preliminary levy. Future tax increases are estimated to be in the 3.5 to 4.8 percent range before analysis and refinements. The levy increase for 2002 operations of 3.3 percent is within the range of estimated inflation.

2002 budget

The Council approved a preliminary general operating fund budget of \$43,497,517, a 5.6 percent increase over the 2001 budget of \$41,203,286. City staffing levels will not increase for 2002. Since the 2001 tax legislation reduced TIF (tax increment financing) revenues by 40 percent, the levy includes reinstating authorized debt service levies by \$250,000 to fund the Oxboro TIF development.

Tax impact

Changes in Minnesota tax laws have affected the property tax. The state has taken over a large portion of mandated school funding and a change in class rates has compressed the City's tax base. Residential properties averaged a 12.68 percent increase in market value for taxes payable in 2001. The City's tax levy increase of 5.5 percent, combined with other local taxing units' rates and tax restructuring, will result in a **tax reduction of 20 percent, or \$485 per year, for the average home in Bloomington, which is valued at \$178,900.** ♦

Note:
Truth in Taxation Hearing
Monday, December 3
6 p.m.
Council Chambers.

Fare For All can save you money on food

Fare For All is a non-profit food distribution program that offers a way to save money on food in exchange for community service. There are no income guidelines to participate.

Food for service

The pre-paid cost for each food package is \$15 and two hours of volunteer service. Service can include babysitting for a neighbor, picking up mail, mowing grass or shoveling snow.

Save money

The Fare For All food packages consist of meats, fruits, vegetables, staples and packaged goods with a retail value of \$24 - \$35. Fare For All also distributes a Light Pack or Mega Meat Pack, along with monthly and holiday specials.

For information, call Alissa Beckman at 952-563-8736. ♦

Stay healthy - Get screened for cancer

The Public Health Division continues its campaign to educate about the importance of regular prostate and breast cancer screenings.

Women's health

Women, 40 years of age or older, are at risk for developing breast cancer. The best way to detect this cancer in its earliest stages is through a mammogram. Early diagnosis allows for more treatment options and a higher survival

rate. If you cannot afford a mammogram, the SAGE Women's Clinic at the Mall of America and the Public Health Division can help.

Men's health

Men need annual screenings for prostate cancer. There are additional factors, but a man's risk of developing the disease increases as he ages. Prostate cancer rarely has symptoms, therefore screening is the best way to catch

cancer early. According to the American Cancer Society, most men should receive annual screenings beginning at age 50. African-American men or those who have a family history of the disease should begin screenings at age 40.

For information, call Public Health at 952-563-8900. ♦

Bloomington Yesterday

Bloomington Consolidated School

Seven one-room schoolhouses were merged to form Bloomington Consolidated District 142 in 1917. A new school opened a year later at 10025 Penn Avenue South. The school merger marked the beginning of secondary education and school bus transportation for Bloomington students. The photo, taken in the early 1950s, shows the original school with a later addition on the right. This building also served as the school administration headquarters until it was moved to the old Portland Junior High site. ♦



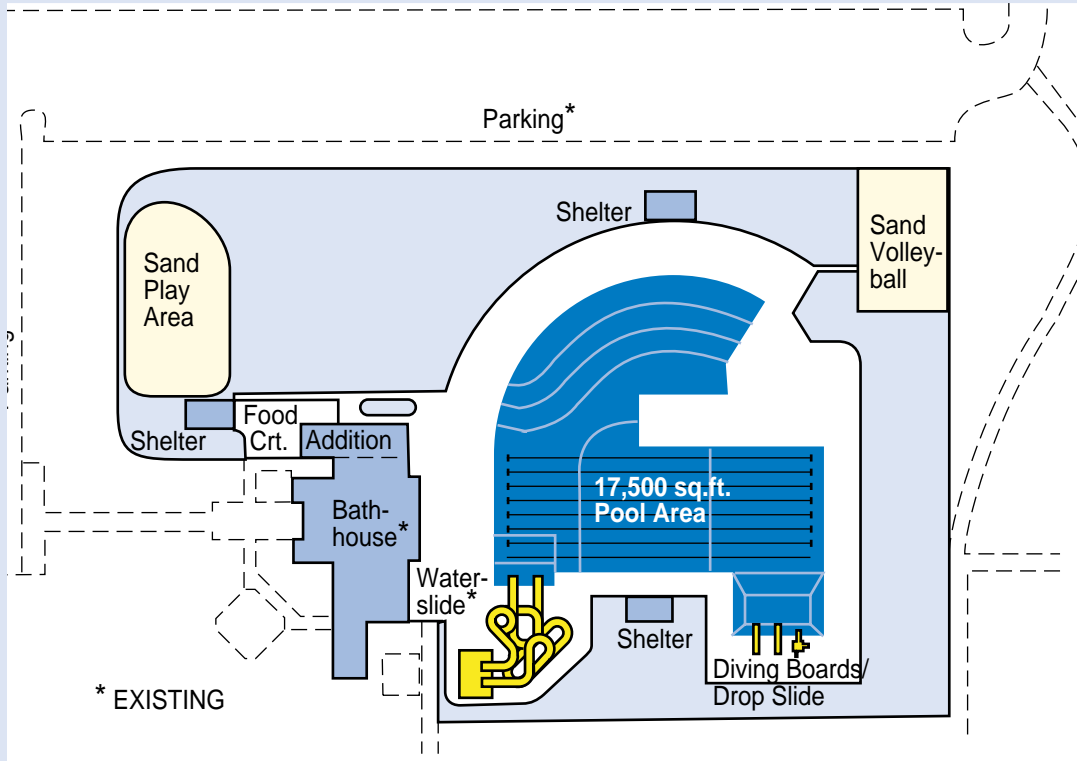
Bloomington Historical Society

PARKS, RECREATION & ARTS UPDATE

For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877.

Bloomington Family Aquatic Center

Construction began the second week of August on the renovation of the former Valley View Pool. The pool will be upgraded to the standards of a family aquatics park. Amenities will include zero-depth entry, water play features such as a beach boat slide, tumble buckets and arch spray sets, as well as a renovated bathhouse. The City Council approved \$3.6 million for renovation, which is funded entirely from existing capital replacement funds. Construction will be completed in time for the pool's traditional opening date in June 2002. ♦



Halloween party – a frightfully good time!

Bloomington's annual citywide Halloween party will take place on **Wednesday, October 31, from 6 - 8 p.m. at Northwestern Health Sciences University**, West 84th Street and Penn Avenue South. Pre-schoolers through fourth graders, accompanied by an adult, are invited to this fun and safe event. Activities include "Trick-or-Treat Alley," games, prizes, coloring contest awards and much more. Admission is free, but please bring a non-perishable food item for the V.E.A.P. Food Shelf. The event is sponsored by the Bloomington Optimist Club.

This year's event is held in conjunction with the national "Make A Difference" project. See page 4. While celebrating this frightfully good time of year, take a few minutes to give a little back to the environment. ♦

Fall Sports

Tennis Lessons

When: October 24 - November 29.
 Times: Beginner Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
 Intermediate Thursdays, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
 Location: 98th Street Northwest Athletic Club
 Cost: \$46.50.

Men's Basketball League

When: Starts Tuesday, November 27.
 International C Tuesdays.
 Industrial D Wednesdays.
 Continental C Thursdays.
 National D Sundays.
 Where: Bloomington Armory, 3300 West 98th Street.
 Cost: \$440 per team.
 Deadline: November 9.

Women's Basketball League

When: Sunday afternoons starting December 2.
 Where: Bloomington Armory, 3300 West 98th Street.
 Cost: \$440 per team.
 Deadline: November 9.



Where can your teen find fun in a safe and nurturing environment?

The Galaxy Youth Center!

Located in Valley View Middle School, 8900 Portland Avenue, youths in grades 6 - 8 can discover themselves through recreation, social interaction, community involvement, education and service to others. The center is open Monday - Friday, 2:20 - 6 p.m., when school is in session. Cost is \$25 per quarter or 50 cents per day. For more information, call 952-886-8848. ♦

Hennepin Parks Information

Hyland Lake Visitor Center	952-941-4362
Richardson Nature Center	952-941-7993
Chalet Drive Golf Practice Center at Hyland Ski and Snowboard Area	952-835-4250
Hennepin Parks Trail Hotline	763-559-6778
Hennepin Parks Program Infoline	763-559-6721

Located in the heart of Bloomington, the 1,000-acre Hyland Lake Park Reserve offers numerous fall activities for those of all ages and abilities. Equipment rental and lessons are available at reasonable rates. For more information, call 952-941-4362 or visit www.hennepinparks.org.

On the Internet

The Hennepin Parks Web site contains helpful information about parks, trails, programs and facilities. Guests can print out a color map of their favorite park, register for golf lessons, peruse our calendar for fun activities, become a Park Patron, donate to the Forests Forever reforestation program or buy unique gifts. Links are available to other natural resource or recreation-related Web sites. Visit www.hennepinparks.org.

Enjoy Hennepin Parks!

- ◆ 5.6 miles of freshly paved bike/hike trails.
- ◆ 7.3 miles of turf hiking trails.
- ◆ 2.5 miles of pet walking trails.
- ◆ Picnicking, fishing and boating areas.
- ◆ Chalet Drive Golf Practice Center.
- ◆ Hyland Ski and Snowboard Area.

Upcoming programs at Hyland Ski and Snowboard Area

For more information or to make a reservation call 952-835-4250. ♦



Bloomington Art Center

A Stroll Down Bourbon Street

The Bloomington Art Center is sponsoring its **second annual fundraising gala benefit at the Minnesota Valley Country Club on November 16**. The event will feature entertainment by The Mouldy Figs, one of the Twin Cities' most popular Dixieland Jazz bands, and the Medalist Concert Band Flute Choir, who will perform during the social hour. Dinner, silent and live auctions, and a raffle are included. Black tie is optional. Cost is \$65 per person with a \$25 tax-deductible donation to the Bloomington Art Center. For more information, call 952-563-4777. ♦

AR&LE Adaptive Recreation and Learning Exchange Cooperative

Adult Drop-In Center

This program is for adults 18 and older who would benefit from a supportive, supervised environment to work on social skills while pursuing leisure interests. Located at the Galaxy Youth Center, 8900 Portland Avenue, the program offers a computer center, game room and facilities for cooking, arts and crafts. Participants must have current AR&LE participant profiles.

When: Wednesday evenings, October 17 and 31, November 7 and 28, December 5 and 19.
 Cost: \$3 per night.
 Call: 952-563-8877.

Help wanted: Rink and building attendants

Skating rink/building attendants are needed for the winter season (December 22, 2001 through February 11, 2002). Applicants should be 18 years of age or older and available to work 20 to 25 hours per week on a schedule of weekday afternoons, evenings and weekends. Pay ranges from \$9.50 to \$9.85 per hour, depending on experience.

Job descriptions and applications are available at Parks and Recreation, located in the lower level of City Hall, 2215 W. Old Shakopee Road. To receive an application by mail, call 952-563-8877. Applications must be received by December 4. ♦

VOTE

City General and Special School District Elections

Tuesday, November 6

Polling places open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

City and School District elections take the spotlight in this year's November 6 general election. Offices on the ballot include:

- Council at Large.
- Council District III.
- Council District IV.
- School District members.
- School District referendum.

Where do I vote?

Find your voting location below or call Voter Registration at 952-563-8729 (TTY: 952-563-8740).

Can I get assistance?

If you need help to read or mark your ballot, ask the election judges for assistance. All Bloomington polling places are accessible, with clearly marked

doors and parking spaces. If you can't leave your car, ask that a ballot be brought to you at the curb.

Absentee ballots?

Absentee ballots are available at City Hall, 2215 West Old Shakopee Road. For an application to vote by absentee ballot, go to City Hall or download the form from our Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords "absentee ballot". If you have a permanent disability, contact Voter Registration at 952-563-8729 (TTY: 952-563-8740) to receive a special absentee ballot application. ♦

Seniors - Broaden your horizons

Discover what Bloomington has to offer for older adults at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South. For more information, call 952-563-4957 V/TTY.

Get to know us

The Bloomington Senior Program invites you to "Get Acquainted with Creekside". Meetings are November 7 and December 5, 10-11 a.m.

Don't do Windows?

Seniors are joining the computer age at Creekside. Classes are available for all levels of computer experience. Registration for classes begins in early October. Class brochures are available.

A little help from your friends

A depression support group for older adults meets the last Tuesday of each month, from 10-11 a.m. No registration is required. The group is sponsored by Bloomington Human Services and Charaka Community Support Program. For information, call 612-752-8350.

The sound of music

Four performing groups from the Bloomington Senior Music Program are eager to provide entertainment for your club or organization:

♦ *The Bloomingtones* - a mixed choral group sings a wide variety of music from all eras.

♦ *The Creekside Crickets* - a stringed instrument band plays show tunes and familiar melodies.

♦ *The Creekside Kut Ups* - perform musical and rhythm band selections as well as comedy routines.

♦ *The Renegades* - plays all of your favorite country tunes.

Life is Like a Valued Patchwork

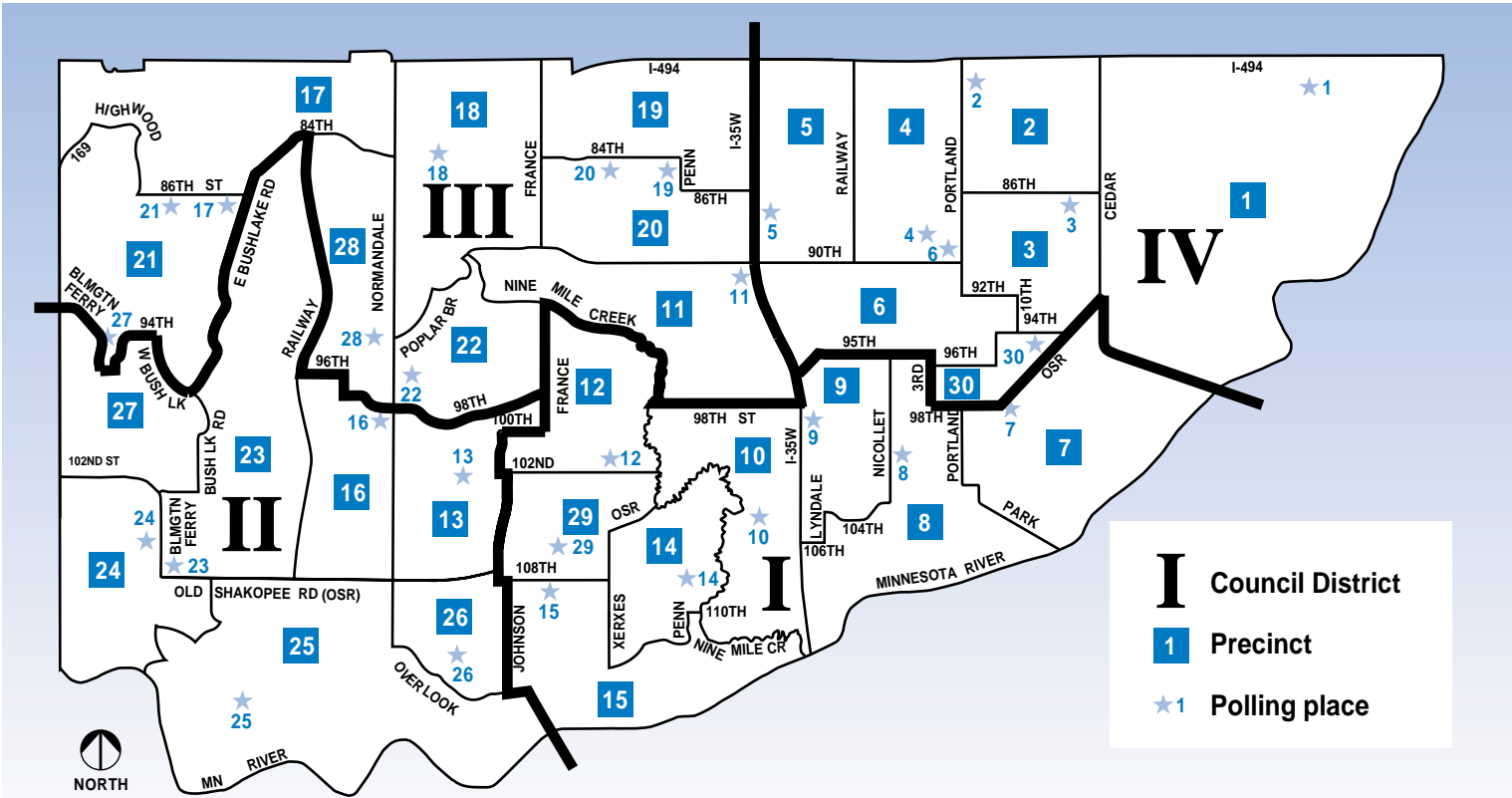
The fall series of monthly continental breakfast programs include:

♦ October 14 - *Laughter Is the Best Medicine* - Does a laugh a day keep the doctor away? Sponsored by the Pines Assisted Living Community.

♦ November 28 - *Living with Arthritis* - An Arthritis Foundation representative will share how to cope with the pain, stiffness and emotional difficulties of arthritis.

♦ December 19 - *Holiday Entertaining with the Blue Ribbon Lady* - Marjorie Johnson, a frequent guest on the Rosie O'Donnell show, is back with tips for easy holiday entertaining.

The cost is \$3, payable at the door. Transportation is available. To register, call Creekside. ♦



Bloomington polling places

PRECINCT/POLLING LOCATION	ENTRANCE/PARKING
1 MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge 3815 East 80th Street	West entrance Visitor lot (W)
2 Portland Avenue Methodist Church 8000 Portland Avenue South	Main entrance West lot
3 Bloomington Assembly of God Church 8600 Bloomington Avenue	North entrance North lot
4 Valley View Elementary School 351 East 88th Street	Main entrance(N) West lot
5 Christ the King Lutheran Church 8600 Fremont Avenue South	SW entrance SW lot
6 Valley View Middle School 8900 Portland Avenue South	Main entrance(E) East lot-disabled use front drive
7 Indian Mounds Elementary School 9801 11th Avenue South	Main entrance(W) Northwest lot
8 Riverside Reformed Church 10201 Nicollet Avenue South	North entrance East lot
9 Nativity of Mary School 9901 East Bloomington Freeway	NE sch. entrance NE lot
10 Oak Grove Elementary School 1301 West 104th Street	Main entrance East lot
11 Bloomington Christian Church 9000 West Bloomington Freeway	South entrance South lot
12 Bloomington Covenant Church 10150 Xerxes Avenue South	SE entrance SE lot
13 Hubert Olson Elementary School 4501 West 102nd Street	Main entr.(NW) West lot-disabled use front drive
14 Bloomington Church of God 2201 West 108th Street	NW entrance North end of W lot
15 Westwood Elementary School 3701 West 108th Street	Main entrance(N) West lot
16 Normandale Hylands United Methodist Church 9920 Normandale Boulevard South	NE entrance (Left doors) North lot

PRECINCT/POLLING LOCATION	ENTRANCE/PARKING
17 Peace Lutheran Church 8600 East Bush Lake Road	Main entrance North lot
18 Poplar Bridge Elementary School 8401 Palmer Avenue	Main entrance(W) N lot-disabled use West side
19 NW Health Sciences University 2501 West 84th Street	NW Canopied entrance. W lot- disabled use frt dr
20 Washburn Elementary School 8401 Xerxes Avenue South	NE entrance North lot-E side
21 Bloomington Fire Station #6 8601 Lakeview Road	NW entrance North lot
22 Normandale Hills Elem School 9501 Toledo Avenue South	Main entrance West lot
23 Community of the Cross Lutheran Church 10701 Bloomington Ferry Road	Main entrance(N) North lot
24 Bloomington Lutheran School 10600 Bloomington Ferry Road	Main entrance(S) N lot-disabled use East side
25 Bethany Missionary Church 6820 Auto Club Road	West entrance West lot
26 Southwood Elementary School 4901 West 112th Street	West entrance West lot
27 Sunrise Park Shelter 9401 Bloomington Ferry Road	Only entrance(N) North lot
28 The Church of St Edward's 9401 Nesbitt Avenue South	SW entrance- Upper Level SW lot
29 Mount Hope Lutheran Church 3601 West Old Shakopee Road	Main entrance(S) South lot
30 Running Park Shelter 9501 12th Avenue South	Only entrance(S) South lot