



PRODUCER SPOTLIGHT

A GLIMPSE OF A DAY IN RENITA'S WORLD



TELEVISION PRODUCER RENITA ANSWERS questions about "Renita's World" that airs on Bloomington Community Access Television (BCAT), Mondays and Wednesdays at 9:30 p.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on Channel 16.

"Renita's World" is a talk show. We play music, discuss current events, have guests and I do impersonations – so there's some comedy.

There aren't any television shows by and about people with special needs. I chose to make this show so that people with special needs can see who I am.

The best thing about community cable access television is that it gives people a chance to produce their own programming. I had no previous experience in television production when I started.

By watching my program, I hope audiences will learn more about people with special needs. To my fans I would like to say, hi and welcome. I hope you're enjoying the show.

I like BCAT's facility because it's clean and big and easy to get around. My favorite equipment is the studio cameras – they're cool to operate.

One thing most people may not know about me? I'm a celebrity who has a special need.

Would you like to produce your own television show? If you live or work in Bloomington, you can use the facility. For more information, visit BCAT at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: BCAT, or call Amanda Taylor at 952-563-4980.

BUILDING AND RENEWING OUR COMMUNITY

ONE SERVICE AT A TIME

DO SOMETHING CONSTRUCTIVE

HOME IMPROVEMENT LOANS AVAILABLE FROM HRA

THE BLOOMINGTON HOUSING AND Redevelopment Authority (HRA) is now accepting applications for its Home Improvement Deferred Loan Program.

Loans of up to \$30,000 are available to Bloomington homeowners. There are no monthly payments. Repayment occurs when the home is sold, transferred or conveyed. Interest is charged at a simple 5 percent per year for the first 10 years based on the original loan amount.

A Lead Risk Assessment is required for all homes built before 1978.

Loans are offered to help maintain the condition of housing and neighborhoods in the city. Applications

are ranked and processed according to need. Depending on your ranking, it may take up to 10 months before your application is processed.

To apply for a Home Improvement Deferred Loan, you must have sufficient equity in your home to cover the amount of the loan.

Deadline

Loan applications will be accepted at the HRA office in Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, until Friday, March 4. For more information or to receive an application, call 952-563-8941.

INCOME GUIDELINES

Persons in household*	Maximum gross income**
1	\$40,250
2	\$46,000
3	\$51,750
4	\$57,500
5	\$62,100
6	\$66,700
7	\$71,300
8 or more	\$75,900

* Includes all residents of household, related and unrelated, including renters.

** Subject to change.



ELIGIBLE REPAIRS: Replacement of roofs, electrical and plumbing systems, gutters, windows, doors, insulation, siding, soffits and fascia, exterior painting, and foundation, sidewalk or step repairs.

INELIGIBLE REPAIRS: Decorating, additions, finishing basements, remodeling and garage construction. Homeowner labor will no longer be permitted, due to federal lead paint regulations.

FIRE HYDRANT INSPECTIONS ENTER THE 21ST CENTURY

NEW TOOL IMPROVES OPERATOR EFFICIENCY

TWICE A YEAR, THE CITY'S UTILITIES Division inspects approximately 5,000 public and private water hydrants. Inspections are performed in compliance with the American Water Works Association standards to ensure that hydrants will perform properly and reliably in an emergency.

Many factors can affect a hydrant's overall performance, including vandalism, accidental damage, wear and tear, and mechanical malfunction. Each year, hundreds of paper checklist forms are provided to inspection crews to note each hydrant's condition. Crews complete the reports in the field and then return to the office for time-consuming data entry.

Recently, Utilities operators began using a new field computer when they perform hydrant inspections. The handheld device can hold thousands of records and, at the end of the day, the inspection data is loaded into a computer and analyzed. The new computer system saves time, reduces errors and enables staff to better analyze the condition of the hydrant and make repairs and upgrades where needed.

Utility Operator Doris VanderEyck uses a palm-sized computer to record hydrant inspection data.



ADOPT A WATER HYDRANT

KEEP IT CLEAR OF SNOW

Do a good deed for your neighbors and yourself this winter by clearing away snow from your water hydrant. This will provide quick access for firefighters and water maintenance workers in case of an emergency.

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON



Viki, left, and Tom Plant, right, at the swearing-in ceremony in December.

WHEN OFFICER ANDREW PLANT WAS sworn into office in December, it marked the first time a father and son have served at the same time on the Bloomington police force. His father, Sergeant Tom Plant, has been with the department for 28 years.

PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT

KEEP STORM WATER OUT OF THE SEWER SYSTEM

DO YOU HAVE A FOUNDATION DRAINAGE system in which water flows to a sump? If the water is pumped out of the basement, it should be directed at least ten feet away from your home or business. This will ensure that water does not return to the structure, creating foundation drainage problems.

State and City plumbing codes prohibit sump pumps from discharging water into laundry tubs, floor drains or any other sanitary sewer drain. Sanitary sewers cannot accept storm water because of their size. Any additional flow into these pipes may result in

sewage backing up into homes and businesses.

Because all sewage is metered by the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services, discharging water into the sanitary sewer increases utility costs that are then passed on to the City as treatment fees. Keeping storm water out of the sewer system reduces costs, saving you money in fees and sewer backup expenses.

For more information, call Tim Kampa at 952-563-8777.