



Election Updates

Election information is available from the City Clerk's office at 763-785-6122 or 763-785-6124. All election-related information is also available online at WWW.CI.BLAINE.MN.US by searching keywords 2010 elections.

Primary Election on Aug. 10

The Primary Election has been moved from its typical September date to Tuesday, Aug. 10. Absentee voting for the Primary Election has begun. The General Election has not been moved and will take place Tuesday, Nov. 2. Absentee voting for the General Election begins Sept. 17. Absentee voting applications and voter registration forms are available from the City Clerk's Office at Blaine City Hall. Absentee voting for Blaine residents may be done in person at the Anoka County Courthouse.

Pre-Register to Vote!

Residents who have changed addresses or changed names must re-register to vote.

Residents who need to re-register or have never registered to vote can pre-register for the Primary Election by completing a registration form available at Blaine City Hall or on the city's or Anoka County's website. Registrations must be received by Anoka County Elections before the end of the business day on July 20, 2010, in order to be pre-registered for the Primary Election. Once registered, voters may cast ballots in both the Primary and General elections. Would-be voters also have the option of pre-registering to vote only in the General Election; registration must be received by the end of the business day on Oct. 12, 2010.

Residents who miss pre-registration can register to vote on Election Day at their designated polling place. To properly complete Election Day registration, be sure to have an acceptable form of identification with current address. ■

Schwan's USA Cup, 3M Championship Return to Town this Summer

Blaine will become a popular destination again this summer as tens of thousands of visitors come to the city for two major annual sporting events.

The popular Schwan's USA Cup, billed as the largest soccer tournament in the Western Hemisphere, will bring 13,000 players on more than 840 teams from 26 states and 12 countries to the National Sports Center from July 13-17. Special traffic controls will be in place on both 105th Avenue and Davenport Street near the National Sports Center.

The 3M Championship will celebrate its 10th year at the Tournament Players Club - Twin Cities this year. The 2010 tournament runs Aug. 2-8 and features several days of events leading up to three

days of stroke play golf on the weekend. Tournament officials have announced admission, parking and shuttles will be free for the second consecutive year. Public parking is available at the Anoka County-Blaine Airport. Detailed information is available at WWW.3MCHAMPIONSHIP.COM.

The tournament continues to be immensely successful in terms of both accolades and attendance. Last year, the 3M Championship won the prestigious Champions Tour Presidents' Award as the best tournament of the 2009 season. In 2008, it was voted the No. 1 Champions Tour event by the golfers. The annual tournament has also donated more than \$16 million to local charities since 1993, including \$1.3 million last year. ■



City Unveils New Website

The City of Blaine recently published a new and improved online home.

The fresh design still offers all the same information as its predecessor, but in a more navigable, user-friendly format. Better yet, new tools and features make it easier to share information and keep up to date with city events.

A city calendar now permanently adorns the front page, allowing visitors to quickly learn what is happening in the city. Users can also bookmark and share each page and email pages to friends. Every page also offers a printer-friendly viewing option for convenient printing.



Visit WWW.CI.BLAINE.MN.US today and learn something new about your city and its government. ■



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Blaine, MN 55449
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carneson@ci.blaine.mn.us

JULY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				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

A zone recycling



B zone recycling

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
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				

CONTACTS

Police and Fire.....	911
Police (non-emergency)	763-785-6168
Fire (non-emergency).....	763-786-4436
Building Inspections.....	763-785-6170
Cable Channel 15.....	763-780-8241
City Cable Channel 16	763-785-6192
City Clerk	763-785-6124
City Manager.....	763-785-6120
Community Standards	763-785-6187
Crime Prevention	763-785-6113
Economic Development	763-785-6147
Engineering.....	763-785-6172
Fire Inspections	763-785-6187
Forestry	763-717-2660
Housing Services	763-785-6146
Human Resources	763-785-6109
Job Line	763-717-2679
Newsletter	763-717-2735
Operator	763-784-6700
Parks and Recreation	763-785-6164
Planning & Zoning	763-785-6180
Public Works	763-785-6165
Recycling & Solid Waste	763-785-6192
Senior Citizens Center	763-786-9375
Streets	763-785-6165
Stormwater	763-785-6188
Utility Billing	763-785-6141
Water & Sewer System	763-785-6165
Web	763-717-2638

FOLLOW US

Learn more about the City of Blaine and keep updated of happenings by following the city online.

Find us on www.facebook.com/blaine.mn

[HTTP://TWITTER.COM/BLAINEMINNESOTA](http://twitter.com/blaineminnesota) follow us on twitter

www.youtube.com/cityofblaine

www.ci.blaine.mn.us/go/emailupdates

PUBLIC MEETINGS

City Council*

July 15 | Aug. 5 | Aug. 19
7:30 p.m. | City Hall Council Chambers

City Council Workshops

July 22
Aug. 5 | Aug. 12 | Aug. 19
6:30 p.m. | City Hall Cloverleaf Room

Planning Commission*

July 13 | Aug. 10
7 p.m. | City Hall Council Chambers

Park Board*

July 27 | Aug. 24
7 p.m. | City Hall Council Chambers

Natural Resource Conservation Board

July 20 | Aug. 17
7 p.m. | City Hall Cloverleaf Farm Room

Arts Council

July 28 | Aug. 25
7 p.m. | City Hall Lunch Room

Historical Society

Aug. 10
6:30 p.m. | City Hall Sanctuary Room

*meetings can be seen live on cable channel 16



About this Newsletter...

CityConnect is published bimonthly by the City of Blaine and distributed to all residents and businesses. Past copies of the city newsletter are available at www.ci.blaine.mn.us. Feedback can be directed to NEWSLETTER@CI.BLAINE.MN.US.

All city legal notices are published in the city's official newspaper, the *Blaine/Spring Lake Park Life*.

Night to Unite Returns to Blaine Aug. 3

On Aug. 3, Blaine's neighborhoods will join thousands across the state to celebrate Night to Unite, an evening of outdoor festivities aimed at increasing crime prevention awareness and building a stronger community.

This marks the second year of Night to Unite in Blaine. In 2009, the city dropped the National Night Out brand and joined the state-operated Night to Unite event. Despite the name change, this summer still will nevertheless mark the 24th consecutive year Blaine residents and Safety Services personnel have gathered on a summer night to celebrate an evening together against crime.

Last year, residents hosted 108 neighborhood block parties in the city, most featuring food, fun activities and a brief crime prevention discussion. Police officers and firefighters made appearances at most gatherings to discuss home and neighborhood safety and allow children to inspect emergency vehicles.



Neighborhood groups are encouraged to register planned outings with the city to ensure a visit from members of the city's Safety Services Department. Registration is free and all materials are currently available online and from the Police Department at City Hall.

Contact Crime Prevention Specialist Kim Kiley at 763-785-6186 for more information or visit WWW.CI.BLAINE.MN.US and search keywords **night to unite.** ■

Bike Helmets Again a Hot Commodity

It was another record-breaking season of bicycle helmet sales and fittings for the Blaine Safety Services Department as residents flocked to City Hall April 13 and May 4 to be fitted for helmets by the city's experts. This marked the ninth year the department has provided this service to the community.

A total of 946 helmets were sold during the course of the two nights. Residents brought another 268 helmets to be fitted

by Safety Services professionals. Both numbers shattered previous record highs by an incredible 20 percent.

According to the Bicycle Helmet Safety Institute, bike-related crashes kill 100 children in the U.S. each year and send about 250,000 people to emergency rooms with injuries. Nearly half have traumatic brain injuries. Wearing a bike helmet can reduce the risk of head injury by 85 percent and the risk of brain injury by 88 percent. ■

City Awarded Community Safety Grant

The City of Blaine recently received a Community Partnership Grant totaling \$2,400 from CenterPoint Energy for the purchase and installation of communication equipment in the incident command vehicle shared by the Blaine Police Department and Spring Lake Park-

Blaine-Mounds View Fire Department.

Purchased in 2007 by the Blaine Police and SBM Fire departments in cooperation with the police departments of Spring Lake Park and Mounds View, the incident command vehicle serves as a mobile headquarters and workplace for crisis management. A consolidated crisis response significantly improves efficiency by affording responding agencies a common space in which and from which to communicate. The incident command vehicle is housed at SBM Fire Station 3.

The 2010 CenterPoint Energy Community Partnership Grant program provides funds to cities for safety equipment or special safety-related projects in the community. ■



Police Department Receives Awards

The Anoka/Wright County chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving recognized the Blaine Police Department with two honors at its banquet on May 10.

Officer Mark Boerboom received an outstanding service award for the *Every 15 Minutes* project he organized at Centennial High School in April 2009. The intensive two-day program challenged teenagers to think about drinking, driving, personal safety, the responsibility of making mature decisions and the impact those decisions have on family, friends and the community.

MADD also recognized the entire police department for its DWI enforcement efforts on Blaine roadways in 2009. ■

Enjoy Fireworks Safely this Summer

Becky Booker - SBM Fire Department

Everyone enjoys watching fireworks on the Fourth of July. But fireworks can be dangerous. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reported seven fireworks-related deaths and an estimated 7,000 hospital emergency room treated injuries in 2008. In 2007, CPSC had reports of 11 deaths and an estimated 9,800 injuries.

The Spring Lake Park-Blaine-Mounds View Fire Department urges extreme caution when using fireworks. Follow these important safety tips:

- Only use fireworks outdoors.
- Read and follow all instructions on fireworks.
- Obey all local laws when using fireworks.
- Children should be under close supervision when fireworks are being used. Only adults should ignite fireworks.
- Always have a bucket of water or sand nearby for fireworks extinguishment.
- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix.
- Never try to reignite used or faulty fireworks.

Enjoy Independence Day celebrations by using fireworks safely or consider a safer option – enjoy public displays of fireworks conducted by trained professionals.

For more information about fireworks in Minnesota, visit WWW.FIRE.STATE.MN.US/FIREWORKS/FWFACTSHEET0110.PDF. ■

Studies Link Use of Cell Phones While Driving to Crashes

The use of cell phones while driving has been found to be a very high-risk behavior with significant affect on crashes and society. More than 50 peer-reviewed scientific studies have identified the risks associated with cell phone use while driving. Among the findings:

- Drivers who use cell phones are four times more likely to be in a crash while using a cell phone.
- There is no difference in the cognitive distraction between hand-held and hands-free devices.
- Cell phone use contributes to an estimated six percent of all crashes, which equates to 636,000 crashes, 330,000 injuries, 12,000 serious injuries and 2,600 deaths each year.
- Eighty percent of crashes are related to driver inattention. Certain activities may be more dangerous than talking on a cell phone; however, cell phone use occurs more frequently and for longer durations than other, riskier behaviors.
- It is estimated that more than 100 million people use cell phones while driving.
- The annual cost of crashes caused by cell phone use is estimated to be \$43 billion.
- Talking to a passenger while driving is significantly more safe than talking on a cell phone.
- Many businesses understand the risk and are already taking action. Among National Safety Council members that responded to a survey, 45 percent (651 of 1,453 respondents) said their companies had a cell phone policy of some kind. Of those, 22 percent said they re-engineered their processes to accommodate the policy and 85 percent said the policy did not affect productivity.

This information was compiled by the Minnesota Safety Council. More information is available at WWW.MINNESOTASAFETYCOUNCIL.ORG . ■



City Looks to Fill Short-Term Vacancy on Natural Resource Conservation Board

The City of Blaine is seeking a resident to complete the final eight months of a two-year term on the Natural Resource Conservation Board. The vacancy currently exists in Council District One. Requirements include being a resident of Blaine and having a community interest.

The NRCB is an advisory board appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the city council, with the purpose to advise the council and city manager on the acquisition and management of public open space and trails within Blaine.

Seven members, two representing each council district and a chairperson appointed at large, make up the NRCB. Appointments are made by the mayor and confirmed by the city council. Meetings are the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. Applications must be received by Friday, July 24.

To learn more about the NRCB, contact Stormwater Manager Jim Hafner at 763-785-6188 or JHAFNER@CI.BLAINE.MN.US. Applications can be found at WWW.CI.BLAINE.MN.US by searching keyword vacancy. ■

Ordinances Adopted to Protect Clean Water

Managing and treating stormwater runoff has become one of the most regulated activities in the country in recent years as more and more attention is paid to improving the water quality of lakes and rivers. In Minnesota, the Pollution Control Agency requires cities to implement controls on runoff.

One method by which cities control runoff is through local ordinance. Two new ordinances recently adopted by the Blaine City Council aim to ensure cleaner runoff.

The first updated the existing erosion control ordinance in the City Zoning Code. The other is a new stormwater ordinance in Chapter 34 of the Municipal Code. Both are primarily directed at new construction and redevelopment on sites larger than an acre or part of a larger development. However, some aspects of the stormwater ordinance apply to activities other than construction.

Section 3 of the new ordinance lays out the uses and restrictions of stormwater ponds. These features have been designed to capture and treat runoff before allowing that water to discharge into lakes, wetlands and rivers. As such, these ponds will contain water that is not considered suitable for recreational purposes. They may add the amenity of a water body to the landscape and will often provide habitat for wildlife, but the ponds are located in utility and/or drainage easements and all usual easement restrictions apply. Docks, platforms or other structures are not allowed as periodic maintenance of the pond may be required. Fountains and chemical treatments are prohibited except with permission from the city. Pumping of water for irrigation may be allowed but prior authorization from the city is required.

The next section of the ordinance details the policy for rain garden construction in the street right-of-way. This applies to rain gardens at the edge of the street with a curb cut to allow runoff from the gutter to enter the garden and soak into the ground. The rain garden and its



plants add unique and attractive feature to yards while providing ecological benefits. A demonstration rain garden has been constructed – call 763-785-6188 for more information.

Section 5 regulates non-stormwater discharges to the storm sewer system. Pumping from swimming pools and sump pumps may not go directly to the system without first flowing over an expanse of vegetation. Household chemicals, paints, hazardous materials, cleaning solvents, pet waste and other similar chemicals and materials are all prohibited from placement in the storm sewers. These materials must be disposed of in an appropriate manner or at approved locations.

Another important aspect of the ordinance is yard waste disposal. It is in violation of City Code to dump grass clippings, leaves, weeds and other vegetation in streets, sewers, wetlands, ponds or ditches. Composting in appropriate containers is allowed. Disposal at approved yard waste dumps or the use of dumpsters obtained from the city's garbage hauler are the main lawful methods to dispose of these materials. It is strongly recommended that grass clippings be swept from the street after mowing to prevent them from blowing or washing into the storm sewers.

More information about stormwater issues is available from Stormwater Manager Jim Hafner at 763-785-6188 or JHAFNER@CI.BLAINE.MN.US. ■

Go Behind the Scenes with Safety Services at the Annual Citizens Academy



Blaine residents interested in learning more about safety services are encouraged to register for the ninth annual Blaine Citizens Academy.

The eight-week course, hosted by the City of Blaine Safety Services Division, is a great opportunity for residents to learn more about the structure and operations of the Police, Fire and Community Standards

departments while participating in a variety of exciting and fast-paced activities, all in a safe and fun environment. Class is held Wednesday evenings from Sept. 8 to Oct. 27 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. The academy meets at a different location each week depending on the activities scheduled.

Course topics and hands-on activities include: police use of force, motor vehicle extrication, fire fighting, crime prevention, fire prevention, housing maintenance, code compliance, criminal investigations, fire investigations, drug awareness, clandestine methamphetamine labs, traffic stops and other emergency response.

All residents 18 years and older are invited to apply. Class size is limited and all applicants must pass a criminal history background check. Applications will be accepted through Aug. 20.

More information is available from Crime Prevention Specialist Andrea Hunt at 763-785-6113 or AHUNT @ CI.BLAINE.MN.US . ■

Free Remodeling Advisor Visits Available

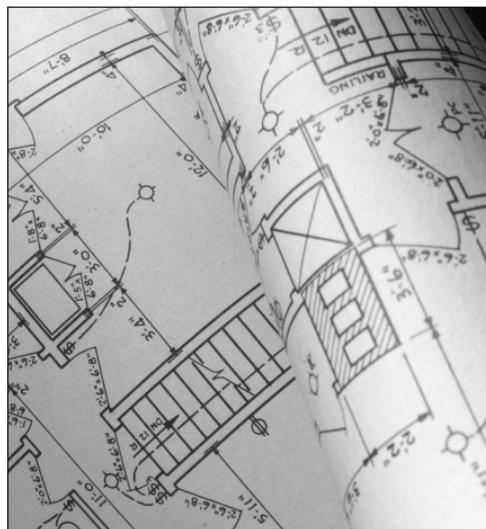
Blaine residents contemplating home remodeling projects – like modernizing the kitchen, replacing windows or upgrading to a high-efficiency furnace, for instance – have a free resource just a phone call away.

The Blaine Remodeling Advisor Visit is a no-strings-attached program in which an unbiased third party visits your home to answer home improvement questions. This is not a contractor trying to sell a product or a city inspector, but rather an independent professional intending only to offer professional advice. This service is perfect if you're seeking assistance prioritizing improvements, evaluating bids or even just getting started.

“Why is my basement wet?” “Should I replace my windows?” “Do I need to build an addition to add another bathroom?” These questions have all been answered by Bob Mello, Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) Remodeling Advisor.

“I once went into a house and the owners wanted to do an addition in order to do a kitchen remodel,” Mello said. “We discussed several options and it turned out they could fit the kitchen they wanted in the space they had, saving them thousands of dollars.”

The City of Blaine has contracted with CEE, a local non-profit group, to conduct the Remodeling Advisor Visits. For more



information on this program or to schedule your visit, call 612-335-5856.

Blaine also offers five percent home improvement loans for residents. With a \$25,000 maximum loan amount and a loan term able to be structured to fit your budget, this program meets the needs of every Blaine resident. Eligible improvements include those listed above as well as roofs, additions, baths, flooring and more. For more information on these and other programs CEE has to offer, call 612-335-5884 or visit WWW.MNCEE.ORG . ■



Rain Couldn't Spoil Lakeside Commons Park Grand Opening

Despite rain showers much of the afternoon, more than 200 people showed up for the grand opening of Lakeside Commons Park on June 5. The event featured music, food and a brief presentation that discussed the park's many features.

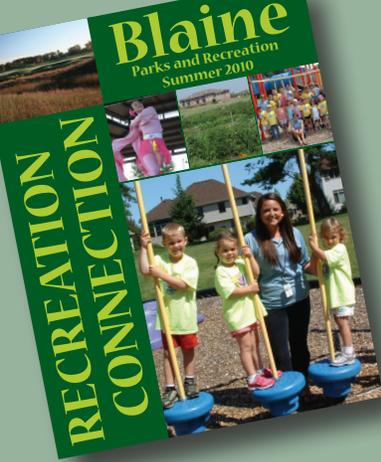
The brand new 7.7-acre Lakeside Commons Park brings a number of unique and exciting features previously unseen in Blaine parks. The biggest hit so far is the public beach on Sunrise Lake, which has 300 feet of sand beach and large swimming area. Immediately behind the beach is a beautiful beach house, with public restrooms, multiple changing rooms and an outdoor shower tower. An adjacent splash pad has 14 motion-sensored water fountains spraying unique designs.

Another unique feature is the 1,000-square-foot boathouse, which offers concessions as well as kayak and canoe rentals throughout the summer. Public restrooms are also attached.

Just a stone's throw from the lake is a gigantic playground with separate play areas for young and old children. Nearby is a massive picnic pavilion, complete with barbeque grill, buffet-style serving counter, electric outlets and loads of picnic tables. Dozens of other picnic tables are scattered throughout the park.

Lakeside Commons Park is located 3020 Lakes Parkway in The Lakes development. ■





Off-Leash Dog Park Opens at Happy Acres



Three hockey rinks at Happy Acres Park are serving as an off-leash dog park through November. Blaine Parks and Recreation followed the lead of numerous nearby cities in creating seasonal canine exercise areas in outdoor hockey rinks that were otherwise unused nine months of the year.

Dog owners will find pick-up baggies, trash cans and signs with the park's rules and regulations near the entrance to each rink. The easternmost rink is reserved for small dogs; medium-sized and large dogs are allowed in the other two rinks.

Happy Acres Park is located at 1190 7th St.

Performance in the Park Outdoor Concert Series

Town Square Park % Aquatore Park
All concerts begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

St. Peter Street Stompers - July 8 #

Tricia & the Toonies - July 9, 10:30 a.m. %

Monarch - July 13 #

Mayer Arts: High School Musical 4 -
July 15, 6 p.m. #

Mary Hall's Show for Pipsqueaks -
July 16, 10:30 a.m. %

Blue Drifters - July 20 #

Vic Volare - July 22 #

Ms. Catherine - July 23, 10:30 a.m. %

QC Dance Performance - July 29 #

Lehto and Wright - Aug. 3 #

Brian Richards - Aug. 6, 10:30 a.m. %

Joe Meyer Acoustic Band - Aug. 10 #

Teddy Bear Band - Aug. 13, 10:30 a.m. %

Family Fun Night

Join Blaine Parks and Rec from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, July 27 at Aquatore Park for a night dedicated entirely to families. Children can enjoy FREE kiddie carnival games, music, explore a police car, fire truck and ambulance at the vehicle fair, tumble in the many inflatables and play numerous games. Concessions available.

Community Outings

Check the summer *Recreation Connection* for more information.

Fanny Hill/Always Patsy Cline

Enjoy a musical tribute, plus lunch in Eau Claire, Wis. Register by July 23.

DATE: Thursday, Aug. 4

TIME: 7:45 a.m. - 7:15 p.m.

FEE: \$44

Vista Fleet Cruise

Enjoy a day in Duluth, including a boat cruise. Register by Sept. 2.

DATE: Thursday, Sept. 16

TIME: 8:15 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

FEE: \$44

Casino Trips

Treasure Island Casino: Monday, Aug. 2
Turtle Lake Casino: Wednesday, Sept. 8

More information about Parks and Recreation programs is available at 763-785-6164 or in the current *Recreation Connection* online at WWW.BLAINEPARKS.COM.

Find us on Facebook FOLLOW US ON Twitter

World Fest Returns to Blaine in September

Join the City of Blaine on Sept. 25 for a celebration of cultures at the third annual Blaine World Fest. From 1-5 p.m. at Town Square Park, visitors can enjoy ethnic foods, cultural entertainment and learning booths.

Last year, more than 1,200 visitors attended the family-friendly afternoon of celebration that brought Blaine's many ethnic groups to the forefront to foster learning, awareness and, most of all, fun.

Mark your calendars today to join Blaine Parks and Recreation for what promises to be another year of amazing festivities. This year, \$5 gets visitors food from every vendor.

Check this space in September or look online in the Fall *Recreation Connection* for a full list of entertainers and vendors.

For more information about Blaine World Fest or to volunteer, contact Recreation Supervisor Tom Godfrey at 763-785-2723.

Twins Clinic Brings Out Little Sluggers

The Minnesota Twins recently hosted a free baseball and softball clinic in Blaine as part of the Play Ball! Minnesota Youth Clinic program.

The event attracted 175 young ballplayers to the Blaine Baseball Complex to learn fundamentals from instructors Ken Mauer Sr., John Mauer and Kevin Nunn, all of whom have an amount of professional baseball experience.

Boys and girls between the ages of six and 16 practiced hitting, fielding and throwing, and heard positive messages about staying in school and away from drugs and alcohol.

Play Ball! Minnesota Youth Clinics are funded and administered by the Twins Community Fund. ■



SENIOR SCENE

Mary Ann Young Senior Center
9150 Central Ave. | 763-786-9375

Patriotic Music and Refreshments - July 1

Digital Camera Class, Part 2 - July 8

Bring a Friend/Reunion Day - entertainment by Dav Kaspzszak, refreshments, lunch and contest - July 14

Hawaiian Pig Roast - cooked on back patio; advanced tickets required - May 21

Monthly Birthday Party - entertainment by accordionist Steve Winger - July 28

Schmitt Music Presentation - importance of music in our lives; sing along atmosphere - July 29

Digital Camera Class, Part 3 - Aug. 12

Taher Display Cooking - sliced roast beef luncheon - Aug. 20

Monthly Birthday Party - entertainment by country music hall of famer Leon Seiter - Aug. 25

Bring a Grandchild to Lunch Day - enjoy music and games, lunch, prize bingo and ice cream social; register in advance for lunch - Aug. 26

The Mary Ann Young Senior Center offers a variety of programs, social events and dining options on weekdays. Call for more information and times or learn more online. Visit WWW.CI.BLAINE.MN.US and search keyword senior center.

Road Work Season Underway in Blaine

Two city road construction projects will affect small areas of local traffic for the next two months.

The first project will reconstruct Polk Street/Territorial Road from Cloverleaf Parkway north to Jefferson Street. Improvements include spot curb and gutter replacement, sidewalk, storm sewer, full replacement of gravel base, asphalt pavement and traffic control signage. Construction will consist of two phases. Phase 1, which began in June, will reconstruct Territorial Road from Jefferson Street to 99th Avenue. Phase 2 will finish the project on Polk Street from 99th Avenue to Cloverleaf Parkway. Detours will be in place for each phase. Residents using Metro Transit and Anoka County Traveler bus systems should watch for notices of alternate bus stops during construction.

A second city project will reconstruct 95th Avenue from Interstate Highway 35W east to Hamline Avenue. The current two-lane, rural section of 95th Avenue will be reconstructed into a two-lane, urban section roadway with curb and gutter, center median, left and right turn lanes and an eight-foot-wide pedestrian trail. Other improvements

include storm sewer, storm sewer ponds and preliminary work for a future traffic signal located at the entrances of the Blaine Ponds development. The road will remain open during construction but motorists should expect delays. Construction is tentatively set to begin in the middle of July and last approximately three months.

An Anoka County road reconstruction project currently in progress will also continue to affect local traffic through next spring. Radisson Road from 125th Avenue in Blaine to Bunker Lake Boulevard in Ham Lake, as well as Bunker Lake Boulevard between Highway 65 and Radisson Road in Ham Lake, are under construction. The roadways will be widened to four lanes with a raised median, shoulders and turn lane, and will include curb and gutter and storm sewer.

Traffic signals will be added and a pedestrian trail will run along the west side of Radisson Road and the south side of Bunker Lake Boulevard. The finished product will have a similar look and feel to the stretch of Radisson Road from I-35W to 125th Avenue that was constructed between 2001 and 2003. Motorists will be detoured as construction progresses. ■

Veggies Sprouting at Community Garden

For the second consecutive year, Blaine Parks and Recreation offered 15-by-20-foot community garden plots to residents in March. And for the second consecutive year, resident green thumbs have filled the garden adjacent to Blaine City Hall with a myriad of herbs and vegetables.

Four new plots were added for 2010, bringing the total to 32 gardening patches. Also for 2010, a master gardener has created a demonstration plot complete with signs offering gardening tips.

Space in the garden was again extremely

popular, as all plots were snatched up within days of being made available. ■



Rental Dwellings Require License



All rental housing in Blaine must secure a license prior to tenants moving into the unit. Contact Housing Services at 763-785-6146 to request a license application and schedule the necessary pre-inspection. Licensing is required on an annual basis; the licensing period runs from June 1 through May 31.

The rental dwelling ordinance governs all rental units within the city. It pertains to single-family detached and attached townhomes and condos and all multi-family rentals comprised of two or more units. ■



Monthly Recycling at Aquatore Park

Each third Saturday of the month, the City of Blaine sponsors a recycling drop-off program in the parking lot of Aquatore Park.

The collection event is staged near the Mary Ann Young Senior Center and recurs the third Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Most appliances cost \$10 each; air conditioners and water softeners are \$15. Most electronics, including televisions, will cost between \$2 and \$25, depending on size. Tires and rechargeable batteries may also be recycled for a small fee.

Free items include scrap metal, car batteries, used clothing and all items collected as part of the city's curbside recycling program. A free paper shredding service is also available to shred sensitive documents. Please note, no garbage will be accepted.

To learn more about the city's recycling drop-off program and for a list of acceptable items and associated fees, call 763-785-6192 or visit WWW.CITY.BLAINE.MN.US and search keyword recycle. ■

City's Recycling Program Earns Recognition

Blaine residents recycled 5,294 tons in 2009, earning the city a certificate of commendation from the Anoka County Board of Commissioners. Over the course of the year, residents averaged a monthly participation rate of approximately 95%, making Blaine's curbside recycling program one of the most successful in the Twin Cities metro area. ■





10801 Town Square Drive NE
Blaine, MN 55449-8101
(763) 784-6700

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What's in a Name? Blaine's is Historic

City is named in honor of congressman, secretary of state and presidential nominee

U.S. Senator James G. Blaine of Maine was in the middle of his distinguished political career in 1877 when settlers in a sparsely populated, flat, sandy area of Anoka Township organized to become Blaine Township. Although Blaine the senator had forged an identity as a political leader after the Civil War, it would be generations before the city bearing his name would develop the identity it enjoys today.

James Gillespie Blaine was born Jan. 31, 1830, near Pittsburgh, Penn., to Scots-Irish American parents Ephraim Lyon Blaine and Maria Gillespie. He was educated at Washington College (today known as Washington and Jefferson College) and taught in Pennsylvania for several years before moving to Augusta, Maine, in 1854 with his wife Harriet Stanwood. There, he worked as a newspaper editor for five years before venturing into public office as a member of the Maine House of Representatives.

In just four years in the Maine Legislature – the final two as speaker of the house – Blaine became immensely popular and influential within the state's Republican Party. He was elected from Maine's 3rd Congressional District into his first of seven terms in the United States House of Representatives in 1863.

In Congress, Blaine was instrumental in piecing together the 14th Amendment, as much of the substance – namely, defining citizenship – was at his insistence. His leadership in Congress, including six years as speaker of the house, helped shape post-Civil War America.

Blaine was a candidate for the Republican nomination for president in 1876. He nearly won the nomination, falling 28 votes short when delegates from other candidates pooled their support to an underdog named Rutherford B. Hayes. Hayes went on to beat Samuel Tilden in a controversial election that fall.

Shortly thereafter, Blaine was appointed to the U.S. Senate. He was later reelected and served until 1881, when he resigned to become secretary of state. In that time, however, he was again in contention for the Republican nomination for president. At the 1880 Republican National Convention, Blaine ran nearly even with former President Ulysses S. Grant, until Blaine's followers instead combined with those of a third candidate to nominate James Garfield. Blaine became secretary of state under Garfield but



James G. Blaine and his Washington, D.C. mansion, pictured in the 1890s and as it appears today in the DuPont Circle neighborhood.

resigned shortly after Garfield's death just 200 days into his presidential term.

Blaine finally won the Republican nomination for president in 1884, but became a notable loser when he lost the presidency to Democrat Grover Cleveland. Cleveland gained a large number of Republican reformers, named "Mugwumps," who believed Blaine to be corrupt. Blaine was the only non-incumbent Republican to lose a presidential race and the second Republican presidential nominee to lose at all between 1860 and 1912.

He refused to run for president in 1888 and instead served as secretary of state from 1889 to 1892 under President Benjamin Harrison. His primary achievement as secretary of state was proposing a Pan-American Congress to improve commerce on the continent.

The 1892 Republican National Convention, incidentally held in Minneapolis, would be the last political hurrah for Blaine. Because of the unpopularity of incumbent President Harrison, Blaine resigned as secretary of state two days before the convention under the assumption he would receive the Republican nomination for president ahead of Harrison. When his name was submitted for consideration at the convention, Blaine received a 20-minute ovation. However, delegates overwhelmingly chose Harrison on the first ballot, leaving Blaine tied for second with future President William McKinley. Harrison went on to lose the White House to former President Grover Cleveland that fall.

James G. Blaine died of a heart attack on Jan. 27, 1893, two and a half months after the 1892 General Election. He was buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in Washington, D.C. and reinterred in 1920 at Blaine Memorial Park in Augusta, Maine.

Blaine, Minn., is not the only city to bear the name of the great politician. Blaine, Wash., is also named in his honor, as are the towns of Blaine, Maine, and Blainesburg and Blain, Penn. Additionally, Blaine County exists in Idaho, Montana, Nebraska and Oklahoma.

Blaine's legacy is also carried on elsewhere. A magnet and fine arts school in Chicago and an elementary school in Philadelphia are also named James G. Blaine. His former home is now the governor's mansion in Augusta, Maine, and another former home is still standing in the DuPont Circle neighborhood in Washington, D.C. ■