

BHS NEWSLETTER

B L O O M I N G T O N H I S T O R I C A L S O C I E T Y

VISIT US!

- Wednesday
1-5 PM
- Thursday
1-8 PM
- Saturday
1-5 PM.
- By ap-
pointment:
call 952-
881-4114
during
open
hours, or
send us an
email to
schedule
your visit.

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Board Members Needed

It seems the "HELP WANTED" signs are out everywhere, and it's the same here at the Old Town Hall Museum.

Have you been looking for something new and interesting to do? We are looking to add to our volunteer staff, and to our board of directors.

There will be at least two open spots on our board of directors this fall. This is a working board, with each member taking an active role at the Museum in some capacity.

If you are willing to step up and help, please stop by in person, or send a quick email. If someone you know enjoys history, and you think this might be a good opportunity for them, please reach out to them and give them a nudge. Send in a nomination.

Board positions are two-year terms that follow the calendar year. Elections for six 2023-24 board terms will be held at the Bloomington Historical Society annual meeting at 2:00 PM on Sunday, November 6, 2022 in the Old Town Hall Museum.

Ballots will be mailed out to members again this year. Nominations need to be made by October 1st so we can have ballots printed. Don't delay!

Ballots may be returned in person at our annual meeting, or mailed in if members cannot attend. Mail-in ballots need to be received by the start of the meeting to be counted.



Three new volunteers have joined us this summer, and more are welcome! We particularly need a volunteer coordinator, an event planner, a social media coordinator, and a creative person who would enjoy designing short-term displays. Many hands make light work.

Contact us today! Email: Bloomitarian@gmail.com

*Take a virtual
tour of the
Old Town
Hall Museum
from our
updated
website:*

*Bloomington
Historical
Society.org*

What's New?

* QR codes are a way to quickly find a website on your smart phone. Our amazing webmaster, Karl, has designed one for us. Give it a try!



* A large photographic print of the interior of the Camelot Restaurant was donated this summer by the family of photographer Ken Bacheller.

* Twenty-nine Kennedy High School Yearbooks donated by the school have filled in many years of school history.

Copies of the 1980 Bloomington Long Range Plan, and Met Stadium reuse plans were donated by the family of former City Planner Robert Webster

* Several local plat maps from developments in the 1940s and 1950s were donated by Jean Tokar. They were drawn by her grandfather, a Minneapolis engineer and surveyor.

Coming Soon!

Join in the fun at the **Bloomington Heritage Days Parade** on Saturday, Sept. 17th. The parade begins at 10:30 AM. Give a wave and a cheer as our banner goes by!

After the Heritage Days parade there will be an **Open House** at the Old Town Hall Museum. We will open at noon on Sept. 17th for visitors coming from the parade. There will be activities for the kids and a program at 2:30.

Constitution Day is September 17th! A special program led by the Daughters of the American Revolution, John Whitherspoon Chapter, will be held at Old Town Hall from 2:30—3:30 PM to mark the day. The old school bell will ring at 3 PM. Come and join the festivities.

The **Nine Mile Creek walking tour** in June was a great success. Join us for a fall color version on October 1st. Hikers will leave from Old Town Hall at 2PM. Participants must be fit enough to climb the steep Moir Park stairs up from the creek area.

The **BHS Annual Meeting** is being held on Sunday, November 6th, 2022 starting at 2:00 PM in the Old Town Hall Museum. Your vote counts! Society Members who have a current 2022 membership, are life members, or join with a 2023 membership at the meeting, are eligible to vote and to serve on the board.

Happy Anniversary Mall of America!

In case you haven't been keeping track, 30 years have flown past since the Mall of America opened its doors to visitors on the former site of the Metropolitan Stadium.

The City of Bloomington was already making a re-use plan for the site in 1977. After their proposal for the new stadium to be built on the site, they turned to the Urban Land Institute to make development recommendations for the 100-acre site.

The original recommendation included a multi-story office building, a 600-room hotel, a large conference and exhibit center, a multi-cinema, a transit center,

indoor public space and a modest amount of retail and restaurant space. They felt the retail market in the area was already saturated.

The City, and Mayor Jim Lindau in particular, wanted a nationally renowned development. An anonymous office park was never in their plans. When a mega-mall on the order of the Edmonton Mall in Canada was proposed, some thought it was a sure bet. It would bring millions of dollars into the city, create jobs, spur commercial development, bring national fame and boost the Bloomington

hospitality industry.

Opponents were concerned about the amount of money the City would need to spend for road and utility improvements. "Hellish" traffic and a higher crime rate were predicted. They felt it was not a place local people would go for everyday shopping.

In the first 6 months, the Mall of America had over 6 million visitors. Now there are over 40 million visitors annually.



Above, A sheet from the final plans for the building. Left: Program Cover for Grand Opening ceremonies. Right: 1992 main entrance sign.



Photo by Steve Johnson

BLOOMINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Old Town Hall Museum

Penn Avenue at Old Shakopee Road
Open Wednesday 1-5, Thursday 1-8 and
Saturday 1-5.

Mailing address:

1800 West Old Shakopee Road
Bloomington, Minnesota 55431
Phone: 952-881-4114

Email: bloomitarian@gmail.com

Facebook: [BloomingtonMNHistoricalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/BloomingtonMNHistoricalSociety)

Founded in 1964, the Bloomington Historical Society is dedicated to the discovery, preservation and dissemination of knowledge about the City of Bloomington.

Our mission is to collect, preserve and hold in the public trust the many artifacts, photographic images, memorabilia and life stories of the people who have lived in Bloomington.

The organization is run entirely by volunteers and we depend entirely upon your donations for our operations, programs and displays. We are grateful for your ongoing support.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL— 2023

NAME _____

PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE/ZIP CODE _____

EMAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

____ Individual	\$ 30.00
____ Family	\$ 50.00
____ Contributing	\$ 100.00
____ Supporting	\$ 250.00
____ Patron	\$ 500.00
____ Corporate	\$ 600.00
____ Benefactor	\$1,000.00

Additional donation: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to:
Bloomington Historical Society

Mail to: Bloomington Historical Society
1800 West Old Shakopee Road
Bloomington, MN 55431

Or

Drop off at Old Town Hall Museum
during open hours

____ YES, I'd love to volunteer at the Old
Town Hall Museum. I'm available: (circle)

Wednesdays 1-5 PM

Thursdays 1-5 PM Thursdays 5-8 PM

Saturdays 1-5 PM Other: _____