

# 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

## *It's Annual Meeting time!*

### VISIT US!

- Wednesday  
1-5 pm
- Thursday  
1-8 pm
- Saturday  
1-5 pm
- By ap-  
pointment:  
call 952-  
881-4114  
during  
open hours  
to schedule  
your visit.

As set forth in our bylaws, the first Sunday in November is the day the Bloomington Historical Society has its annual meeting for all members. Mark your calendar for Sunday, November 5, 2023 at 4 PM in the Old Town Hall.

Your membership in the Bloomington Historical Society can be renewed for 2024 at the meeting. New members are welcome to join at this time too. A membership form can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.

At this year's annual meeting you will be able to talk with the current board members, see the current displays in the museum, receive our annual report, and hear about the great work our volunteers have done this year.

This is also the time historical society members vote to elect, or re-elect, seven board members to serve a two-year term helping to plan and guide the organization in the coming year. Your support, and your vote, are important ways for you to preserve and share Bloomington history.



*Old Town Hall*

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## What's New in the Museum?

American Legion Post 550 recently made a significant donation of scrapbooks and photographs from their organization. A large number of loose photos from the 1960s-1980s are unidentified. **If you, or a family member, were American Legion Post 550 members,** please stop in at the Museum during open hours, look through the photos and lend a hand helping to identify people in the photos.



## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MEMORIES

### ONE ROOM SCHOOLS

Seven one-room schoolhouses provided an elementary school education to Bloomington children. They were: Gibson/Palmer 1859-1918, Cates 1866-1874, Bloomington Ferry 1866-1918, Kell 1869-1918, Poplar Bridge 1895-1918, Kimball 1900-1962, and Bush Lake 1912-1944.

### CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

By the early 1900s our student population had outgrown the aging one-room schools. A large brick Consolidated School opened on Penn Avenue at 100th Street in 1918. It was the first time Bloomington had a high school.



### DRAMATIC GROWTH

In the 1950s Bloomington experienced dramatic population growth. The Consolidated School was beyond capacity. Split shifts allowed the classrooms to be used mornings by one class and afternoons by another. Four new elementary schools were built in the 1950s.

In 1957 a separate high school was built at 88th and Queen. This relieved some pressure on the Consolidated School building, but it was not enough. Over the next 8 years, 16 more elementary schools were built to serve growing student population. Some of those schools were closed as the students graduated through the school system and the student population declined in the 1970s and 1980s.

**Bloomington Consolidated:** Opened in 1918 grades K-12. High school students moved to the new high school building in 1957. Became District Administration building 1970-1980. Demolished. Currently the site of Presbyterian Homes.

**Cedarcrest:** 1950-1971. Currently Cedar Valley Church.

**Riverside:** 1952-1987. Demolished. Currently the site of Gene C. Kelley playfields.

**Westwood:** Opened in 1954. Still open.

**Valley View:** Opened in 1956. Still open.

**Humboldt Heights:** 1958-1975. Demolished. Currently the site of South Point Office Complex.

**Creekside:** 1960-1971. In 1972 it became Creekside Senior Center, now Creekside Community Center.

**Indian Mounds:** Opened in 1960. Still open.

**Southwood:** 1960-1982. Currently Bloomington Early Childhood Learning Center.

**Washburn:** Opened in 1960. Still open.

**Park:** 1961-1982. Demolished. Currently the site of Bloomington Office Park.

**Brookside:** 1962-1977. Sold to Bloomington Covenant Church.

**Nine Mile:** 1962-1982. Sold to Life Church.

**Northgate:** 1962-1987. Concordia Academy High School until 2009. Became Dar Al-Farooq Islamic Center in 2011.

**Poplar Bridge:** Opened in 1962. Still open.

**Ridgeview:** Opened in 1962. Still open.

**Hillcrest:** 1963-1987. Re-opened in 1991 as Hillcrest Community School.

**River Ridge:** 1963-1979. Sold to Control Data, then to Trinity Schools 1991-2005. Currently Evergreen Church.

**F. Wilson Pond:** 1963-1979. Currently Bloomington Early Childhood Family Center.

**Oak Grove:** Opened in 1967. Still open.

**Hubert Olson:** Opened in 1967. Still open.

**Normandale Hills:** Opened in 1968. Still open.

## Upcoming Events

**Saturday, September 16th 1-5 PM:** Bloomington Heritage Open House at the Old Town Hall. Drop in for an afternoon of special activities. Play a game of Box Hockey, see demonstrations on butter churning and treadle sewing.

**Monday, September 25 at 7 PM- Bloomington Forward:** The City of Bloomington is proposing a long-term plan to invest in three projects that support health, wellness, recreation and athletics. Proposals include renovation of Bloomington Ice Garden, construction of a Community Health and Wellness Center and renewal of the Nine Mile Creek corridor. The presentation will introduce and describe the proposal, and be followed by a question and answer session.

**Saturday July 15 at 2 PM- Nine Mile Creek History Walk:** Enjoy a fall color walk with a Bloomington Historical Society guide. Begin at the Old Town Hall Museum and progress along Nine Mile Creek to the site of the former Scofield/McAfee grist mill. There is a challenging hill to climb on this 2-mile round-trip route. Participants should be in good physical condition. Sturdy footwear is recommended.

**Saturday, October 7th at 1 PM- Chasing Ghosts—The JFK Assassination:** Bloomington author Jim Koepke, nationally recognized expert on the John F. Kennedy assassination, will talk share his experiences researching and writing about the Kennedy assassination.

**Sunday, November 5 at 4 PM- Bloomington Historical Society Members Annual Meeting:** Have your voice heard as we plan our leadership for the next year. Members will elect seven board members to two-year terms. Network with other BHS members and enjoy light refreshments.

Check our website calendar for the most up-to-date information.



## 2024 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Memberships fund our programs. Join today! See our website for online giving options.

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

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

Tuesday afternoon    Wednesday afternoon

Thursday afternoon    Thursday evening

Saturday afternoon    Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## BLOOMINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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.

### Old Town Hall Museum

Penn Avenue at Old Shakopee Road

Open Wednesdays and Saturdays 1 to 5 pm

Thursdays 1 to 8 pm

Additional open hours by appointment



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Bloomington Historical Society  
1800 West Old Shakopee Road  
Bloomington, Minnesota 55431