



2020

Accomplishments

CITY OF
Bloomington
ILLINOIS

WE WERE PREPARED when COVID-19 came along in Winter 2020 and brought with it an instant upheaval to how we do things. That preparedness allowed us to figure out pretty quickly how we'd provide the critical services that residents have come to rely on in what fast became a virtual, chaotic world.

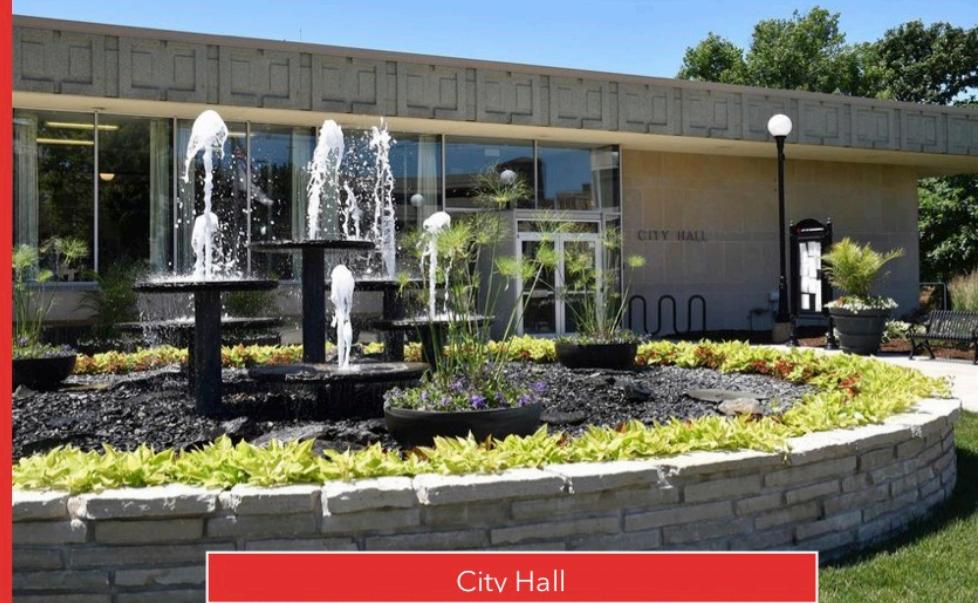
Through it all I'm most proud of the employees pictured on the cover of this document and hundreds more whom we didn't have room to show. It was them who showed up day in and day out and kept things going - often through fear of the unknown or unspoken personal loss - so hopefully you never missed a beat when it came to getting water to your tap, your streets plowed, trash collected, development done, your public safety emergency addressed or questions answered.

Simply put, we got (stuff) done. We never shut down because of COVID - not for one day - and never let these challenges stop us. We made it clear early on that we had no intention of limping through this and we haven't; this document will show that it's been one of our busiest years in recent history.

One of the things we hardly ever do is celebrate our victories, or "spike the football" so to speak, and you could argue that we shouldn't do that now during such a down time.

I'd argue the opposite, that we need a little happiness and hopefully some of the things we list in the pages to follow made your life easier during a year that was anything but.

- Tim Gleason, Bloomington City Manager



City Hall



Davis Lodge @ Lake Bloomington

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - More than \$260 million in new or continued commercial, retail, restaurant or residential development started or continued in Bloomington in 2020. This included \$80 Million in new construction starts and 11 new or expanded/remodeled restaurants.



PokeWorks Restaurant & Redbud City Roasters (Airport Rd.)



Biaggi's - Newly Expanded on East Empire St.



Brass Pig Smoke & Ale House Downtown Bloomington



Texas Roadhouse & JoAnn Fabrics to fill former Toys R' Us Campus

2020 IN DOWNTOWN BLOOMINGTON



Hands on Art

First Friday
January 3, 2020
5pm-8pm



50

Female Owned
Businesses
In Downtown
Bloomington

Tour de Chocolat

First Friday
February 7, 2020
5pm-8pm

Costume & Candy Crawl

DOWNTOWN BLOOMINGTON

INDOOR FARMERS' MARKET

JANUARY 31
FEBRUARY 15
MARCH 21
APRIL 18

GROSSINGER MOTORS ARENA
FRONT ST. ENTRANCE
10A.M. - 12P.M.

FRESH PRODUCE,
CHOICE MEATS,
EGGS, SKIN CARE,
SAVORY & SWEET TREATS

VIRTUAL DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING

DECEMBER 4 AT 4:35PM
LIVE ON FACEBOOK



- DOWNTOWN TASK FORCE REPORT APPROVED
- CURBSIDE DINING W/ BEAUTIFICATION
- ADDED CURBSIDE FARMER'S MARKET PICKUP
- CREATED "VIRTUAL HALLOWEEN AND CHRISTMAS EVENTS
- 12 NEW BUSINESSES OPENED, NET INCREASE
- 56+ ANNUAL EVENTS



Farmer's Market

OUTDOOR
DINING & BAR
SERVICE
GUIDELINES

**DOUBLE
LINK MATCH
AUGUST 8TH**

Second Saturday Sidewalk Sales!

DOWNTOWN BLOOMINGTON
8 AM - 5 PM *HOURS VARY BY LOCATION*

Art & Architecture Crawl

October 2, 9, 2020



OH, HONEY IT'S FIRST FRIDAY!



OKTOBERFEST

Restaurant Week



State Farm

LEAGUE OF LEGENDS TOURNAMENT

\$6,000 PRIZE POOL // 32 OPEN - 16 HIGH SCHOOL

VIDEO GAME CONVENTION

DEVELOPERS, GAME DEALERS, COSPLAY CONTEST, GAMES & VR

ESPORTS CLINIC

PANELS & NETWORKING WITH INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS

JANUARY 17-19, 2020 - WWW.SIXTYSIXGAMES.COM
GROSSINGER MOTORS ARENA IN BLOOMINGTON, IL



DOWNTOWN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: 12 NEW BUSINESSES OPENED

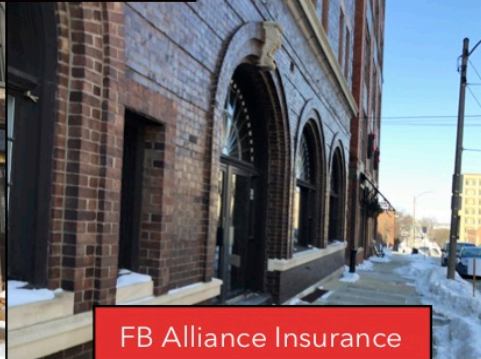


514 N. MAIN ST.

Arrived Men's Salon



Brass Pig



FB Alliance Insurance



Martorana Designs



Hanger Art Co.



Hip Cat Music School



LaLa Boutique



Smart Sense Accounting



Readings By Carrie



MainStay Barber Parlor



Little Art School



Karen Lee Stauffer Photography

KEPLR VISION REMAINS IN BLOOMINGTON @ FORMER STATE FARM HEADQUARTERS

- Move keeps the home-grown company in Bloomington and brings to completion a community wide effort to save a downtown landmark.
- Keplr housing 100+ team members on the top floors and could add at least 75 more. The new foot traffic can be key to supporting downtown businesses.
- Keplr started in Bloomington in 2005 with a single "All About Eyes" and has expanded to more than 20 offices in Illinois and Iowa.
- The City worked closely with all parties involved to help facilitate bringing the building back to life.

keplrTM
VISION



Other Recent Economic Development Announcements



Ferrero \$75 Million Expansion Brings New Chocolate Factory To Bloomington

“WE SHOULD BE PROUD THAT EVEN IN THE MIDST OF ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT TIMES IN OUR HISTORY DEVELOPERS CONTINUED TO *CHOOSE* BLOOMINGTON AS A PLACE TO BUILD. IT SAYS A LOT ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY, OUR LEADERSHIP AND THE COMMUNITY PARTNERS WHO ARE WORKING TOGETHER TIRELESSLY TO BRING INVESTMENT HERE.” - *TIM GLEASON, CITY MANAGER*



New \$23 Million, 70,000 SF YMCA/Easter Seals Facility Now Under Construction on OSF Campus

Other Recent Economic Development Announcements

- \$62 Million Westminster Village campus expansion/renovation.
- \$25 million, 53,000 square foot, three-story, OSF medical office building.
- \$2.6+ million Aldi grocery store (W. Market St. & Wylie Dr.)
- 2.5+ million pool house at Bloomington Country Club.
- Expanded Lil Beaver Brewery (Finance Dr.)
- Renovation of La-Z-Boy Furniture Galleries (Veterans Pkwy.)
- New 1107 West Bar & Grill (W. Locust St.)
- New Freedom Baptist Church (Fox Creek Rd.)
- \$18 million, 56-unit Lincoln Lofts affordable housing development (Four Seasons Rd.)
- \$17 million redevelopment of the former Bloomington High School building into the Washington Senior Apartments (E. Washington St.)

- \$10 million, 42,000 square foot Compeer Financial office building (Leslie Dr.)
- \$7 million, 10,000 square foot expansion of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church (Emerson St.)
- \$3.5 million expansion of Illinois CancerCare facility (Trinity Ln.)
- New Beyond/Hello adult-use cannabis retail facility (Keaton Pl.)
- Speed Lube 10-Minute Oil Change (Holiday Dr.)
- Lu Lu's Pizza restaurant (E. Washington St.)/ Club carwash (E. Oakland Ave.)
- New Shannon's Café-Downtown restaurant (Downtown).
- OB/GYN suite renovations at OSF Hospital (E. Washington St.)
- Expansion of the Tesla automotive service facility (Olympia Dr.)
- Ongoing renovations at all of State Farm's office facilities.



NuWay Transportation \$2 Million 56K SF Expansion



CONTEC 56K SF Buildout (E. Empire)



\$3.4 Million Toyo Manufacturing Expansion

Rendering: Williams Architects



- (A) Fields
- (B) Existing Baseball Structures
- (C) Existing Playground
- (D) (3) Dog Park Areas with Shelter
- (E) Picnic Area with Shelter
- (F) Entry Gateway
- (G) (6) Stall Batting Cages
- (H) Entrance Plaza with Specialty Paving
- (I) Shelter
- (J) Detention Area with Native Plantings
- (K) Drop-off Area
- (L) Spray Park
- (M) Bathhouse
- (N) Pool
- (O) Asphalt Parking Lot
- (P) (3) ADA Parking Stalls
- (Q) Shade Sail
- (R) Skate Park
- (S) (4) Pickleball Courts
- (T) Shelter with Specialty Paving
- (U) (1) Tennis Court
- (V) (1) Basketball Court
- (W) Nature-based Playground
- (X) Planned Trail Connection
- (Y) Asphalt Trail
- (Z) Park sign with outcropping stone and bandings
- (AA) Utility Easement

O'NEIL POOL COMING IN 2021 PENDING COUNCIL APPROVAL

The City took advantage of the pool's closure this year to make significant progress in this long-standing community priority. The pool was demoed and nationally recognized Williams Architects was hired to begin the planning process. Construction is expected to begin this year pending City Council financing and plan approval.

NEW BLOOMINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY COMING SOON



Planning for a new library facility shifted into overdrive as the library brought on an architectural firm to design the new space. The new space, if approved would provide adequate space for today's population and flexibility for the future.



LUTZ RD. SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE, 159K UNDER BUDGET



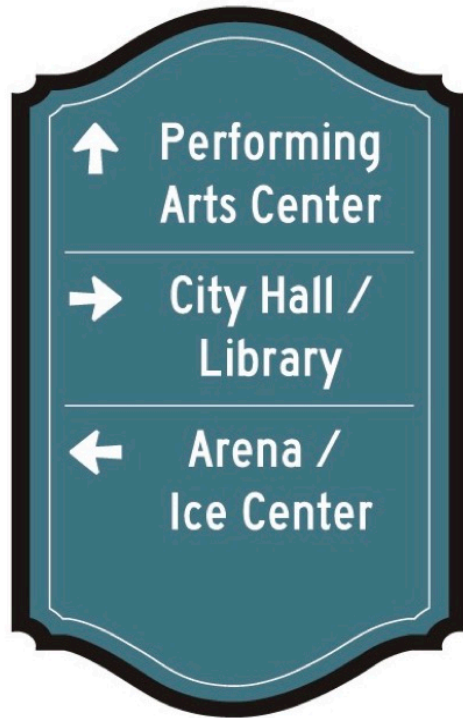
Luther Oaks Redevelopment on the Horizon

MORE THAN a decade in the making, the project redeveloped Lutz Rd. from Morris Ave. to the entrance of Luther Oaks. It was completed at a significant savings to local taxpayers.

Lutz Rd. with its narrow lanes and shoulders and lack of curbs and sidewalks, was originally a township road that was annexed into the City. Lanes have now been widened with curb and gutter and with sidewalks to be added in the spring.

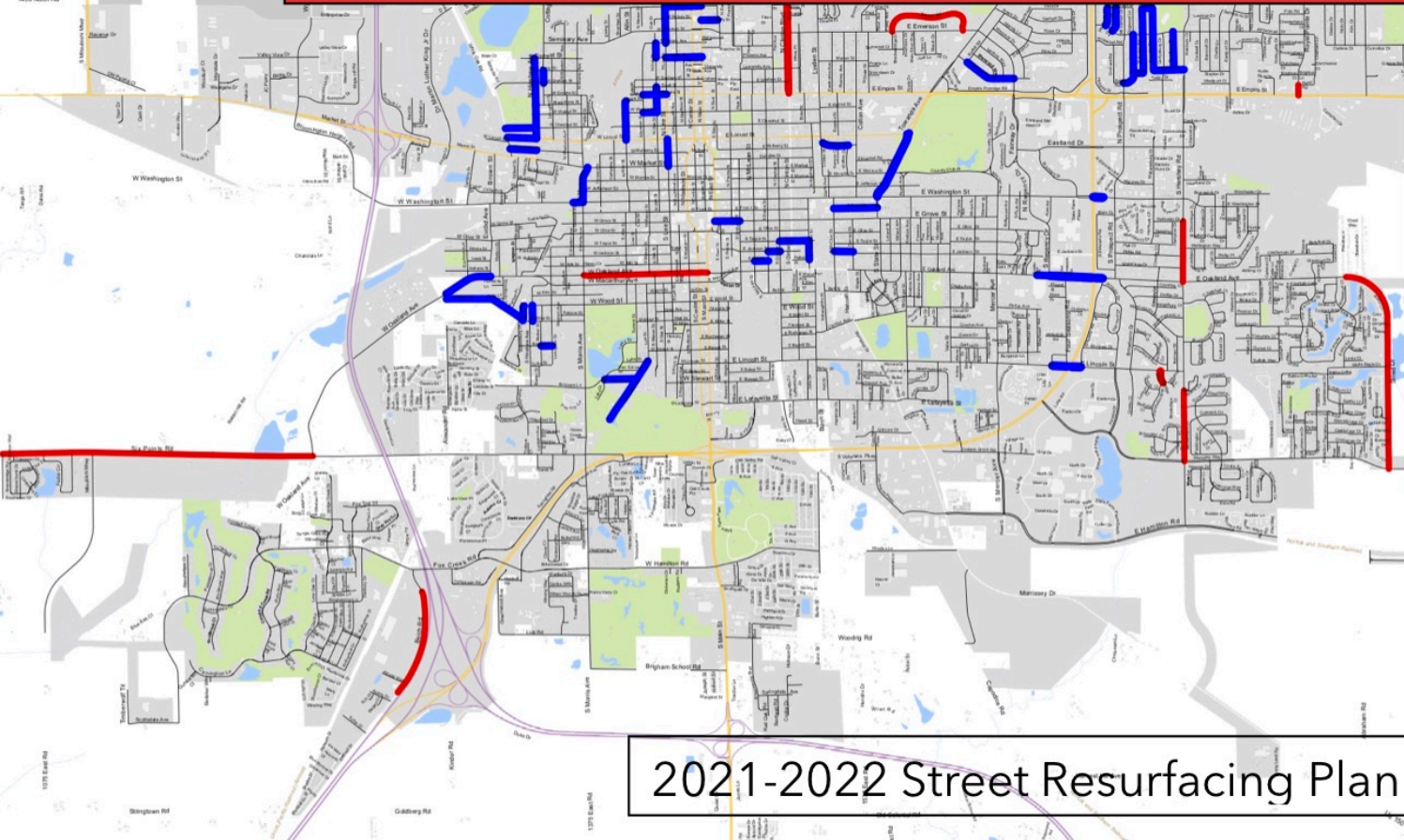
Lutheran Life, parent company to the neighboring Luther Oaks, as pledged to invest \$1.5 million at a minimum into its Bloomington campus as a result of the city's project.

WAYFINDING SIGNAGE PROJECT SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE



\$6.4 Million Spent Repairing Roads/Sidewalks Last Year, \$7.2 Million Planned for 2021

“When are you all going to fix our streets” is one of the biggest residential complaints we hear. We want residents to know that the city is doing something about it.



2021-2022 Street Resurfacing Plan



**MILLIONS IN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS, ADJUSTMENTS
MADE TO ENSURE RESIDENT SERVICE CONTINUATION**



GE & KEATON SIGNAL PROJECT



HAMILTON ROAD WATER TANK REHAB

“CREWS UNDER TOUGH, UNCERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES CONTINUED MAKE SURE THAT WATER GOT TO THE TAP AND SEWERS TOOK IT AWAY, THAT GARBAGE WAS COLLECTED AND STREETS WERE CLEARED SO THAT WE COULD CONTINUE TO MOVE ABOUT THE CITY. RESIDENTS FOR THE MOST PART DIDN'T MISS A BEAT AND THAT'S BECAUSE OF THE COMMITMENT OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO DO THAT WORK.” - **BILLY TYUS, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER**

"THE HUB" - A RESIDENT ONE-STOP SHOP



CHRISTMAS

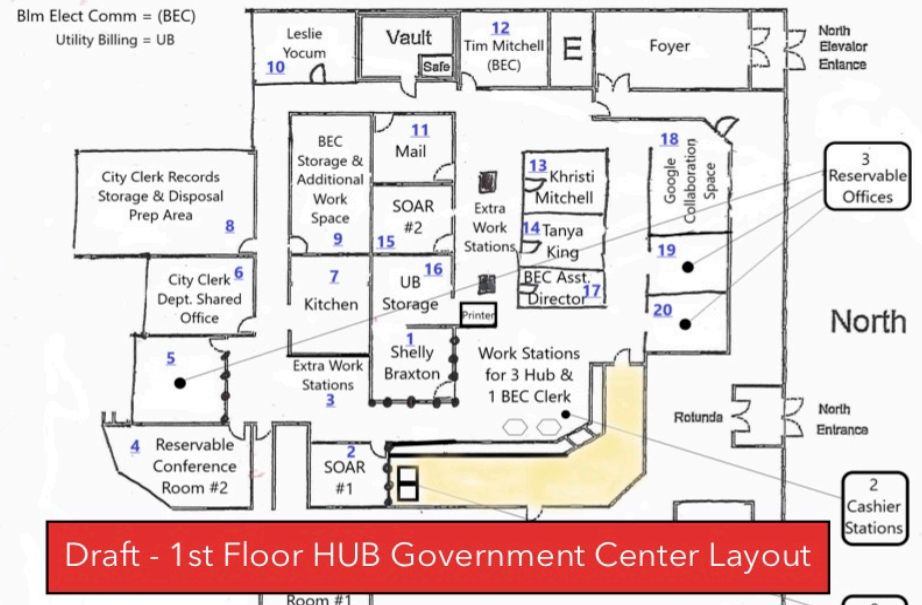
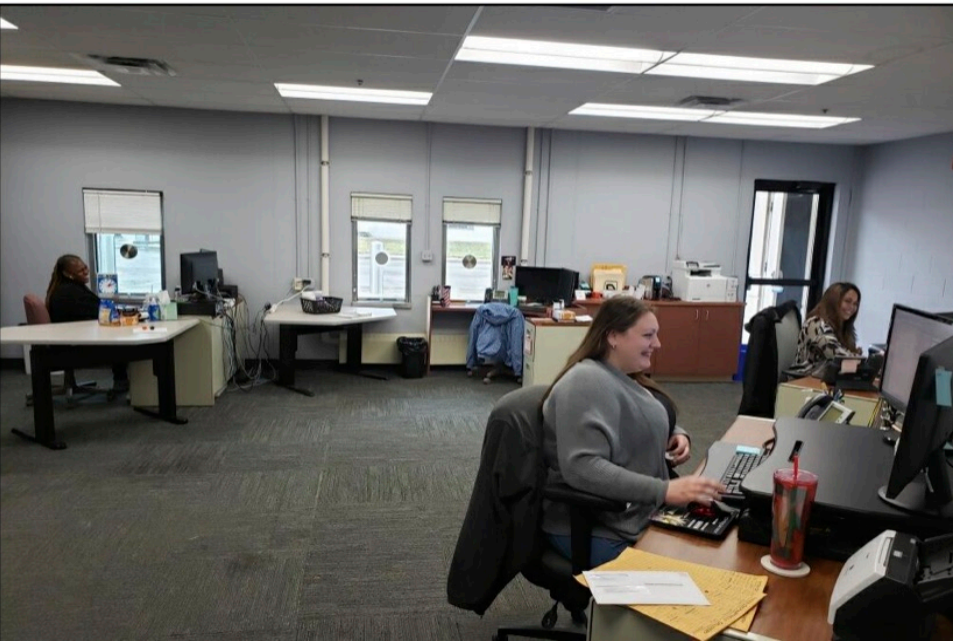


EASTER



HALLOWEEN

Today staff from most city departments are represented at "The Hub" at the Northeast corner of the Arena, where residents can get questions answered, pay for city services, apply for grants and get most any other thing they might need from the City. We had always planned to create a single point of contact as part of the move to the Government Center where residents could do all things city-related but the pandemic allowed us to kick-start the process.



Draft - 1st Floor HUB Government Center Layout

DIVERSITY AND EQUITY A TOP PRIORITY FOR COUNCIL, STAFF

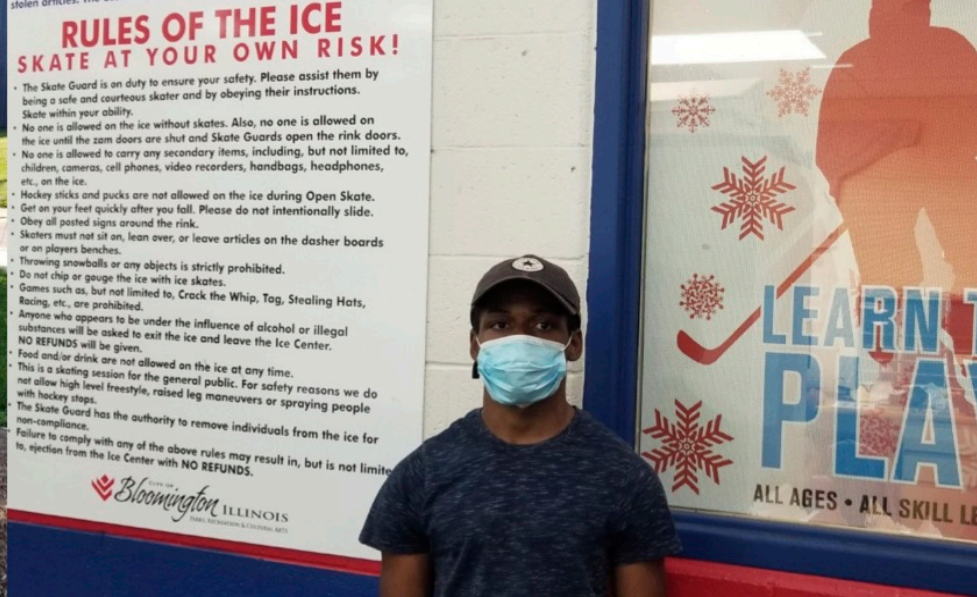


Michael Hurt, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer



Annual MLK Luncheon

MAKING REAL the city's mission to be intentional in its commitment to fairness and inclusion, City Manager Tim Gleason appointed Michael Hurt to the newly created position of Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer. The move fulfilled a goal that he's had since his arrival in 2018 and was just one of several 2020 initiatives designed to say to people of color that we see you, we hear you and we want to make sure that the playing field is fair for all in the City of Bloomington. The Bloomington City Council will decide whether to consider a Welcoming City Ordinance in February 2021.



INAUGURAL JULE FOUNDATION MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

This Foundation-City partnership is providing underserved youth with a paid city employment experience. It pairs young people with city mentors so that the experience goes “beyond the work,” exposing youth who might not ever learn about city government to new career possibilities. It also keeps with the Jule Foundation’s motto of “serving and assisting our youth to realize their potential and become successful adults.”

Year two is set to kick off this spring.



DIVERSITY AND EQUITY A TOP PRIORITY FOR COUNCIL, STAFF

Bloomington Fire Dept.

- Performed integral field operations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Began the installation of new station alerting in all stations and Police dispatch
- Took delivery of new Truck 1, a 107' Pierce Ascendant, and new Medic 2, a Ford F-550/Horton
- Experienced six officer (1- Chief, 2- Battalion Chiefs, 3- Captains) retirements, five promotions, and eight new firefighter hires.
- Opened the Emergency Operations Center.



Bloomington Police Dept.

- Launched a wellness program which focuses on physical, emotional, mental, and financial wellness.
- Remodeled and updated exercise facility, allowing officers to maintain physical health during the lockdowns.
- Four convictions with three homicide trials.
- Continued to work towards department diversity. Hired three minority and three female officers.

Economic Development

- Adopted 2018 family of International Codes, the 2020 National Electric Code & the 2018 IPMC Code.
- 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan won the American Planning Association - Illinois Chapter's 2020 Public Outreach Award (joint effort with the McLean County Regional Planning Commission/Town of Normal).
- Develop programs to allocate more than \$1 million in COVID-19 funds to residents and businesses in need.
- Selected by the National League of Cities as one of twelve cities to participate in the Public Health Institute's Cities of Opportunity—Communities of Practice initiative.

City Clerk

- Implemented "The Hub" at Leader Auto Arena, a one-stop shop for addressing most City needs.
- Moved 34+ applications and forms online, a critical change for business continuity during the pandemic
- Prepared for a full recodification and adoption of a new City Code in 2022.
- Moved oath issuance into a virtual environment, allowing for flexibility and convenience while still ensuring security.

OPERATING ACHIEVEMENTS

Finance

- Created a financial model to scenario plan impacts of the pandemic allowing effective financial planning and budgeting.
- Received the GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the FY2021 budget and the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the FY2019 audit.
- Secured InvoiceCloud resident engagement/interface platform, which will improve communications and modernize the way residents pay for City services.
- Led, along with the City's Legal dept., the request for, and receipt of, \$3.2M in local CURE/CARES Act funds.

Library

- Selected an architecture firm and worked to develop preliminary designs for a Library expansion.
- Launched automatic renewals and eliminated fines to reduce barriers for Library users. Checked out over 71,500 items via our curbside pickup options.
- Saw the number of items checked out increase from the previous year in seven of 12 months despite COVID-19 challenges
- Instituted an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion staff committee to help the Bloomington Public Library become a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive organization for both patrons and staff

Information Technology

- Implemented new virtual desktop and Microsoft Teams to allow City employees to work from home and to facilitate increase in online meetings and group collaboration.
- Provided critical support to the 2020 Primary Election, the first major election since the department took over IT support for the Bloomington Election Commission in late 2018.
- Great progress made on departmental IT Strategy to align department work with city goals.
- Published more than 150 meetings with resident participation and live streaming, an increase of 200% from prior years.
- Key player in support of The HUB, a one stop shop for fulfilling resident needs.

Human Resources

- Managed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act which provides COVID-19 related paid sick, expanded family and medical leave.
- Created and implemented competency-based performance management process for Classified/non-union employees.
- Developed/implemented a Remote Work Policy and COVID screening process for employees.
- Worked with McLean County Health Department/Bloomington Fire Department to roll out Rapid Testing Administration and COVID Vaccine Administration PODS.

OPERATING ACHIEVEMENTS

Legal Dept.

- Transitioned to an in-house Legal department, expected to produce \$250,000+ in savings annually.
- Navigated elements of COVID-19, including drafting numerous ordinances, executive orders, and policies to address the impacts of the pandemic.
- Prosecuted 310 behavioral and housing cases in the City's Administrative Court.
- Took the initial lead for COVID grant management, which included completing emergency management certification courses, taking grant classes/webinars, ensuring grant application, etc.

Facilities

- Managed a major LED lighting upgrade at Leader Auto Arena which will save approximately \$30,000 a year.
- Rehabilitated the Police department parking garage to repair structural issues, stop water leaks during rain and snow events, and extend the life of the facility.
- Performed a yearlong Downtown parking study to better understand utilization
- Led completion of a new Police long-term storage building to meet ongoing evidence storage needs.
- Acquired and distributed COVID-19 sanitation supplies to City departments and installed protective barriers in multiple City facilities, including mobile units for one-on-one meetings.

Parks

- Completed the Wittenburg Woods development - added basin trail, shelter and playground w/shade structure.
- Began managing of Leader Auto Arena.
- Expanded the Prairie Vista golf course driving range.
- Installed Clearwater Park playground & completed the Miller Park Zoo parking lot/concession project
- Extensive COVID adjustments including moving events to virtual environment, reducing class sizes, social distancing changes and promoting available recreational activities.

OPERATING ACHIEVEMENTS

Public Works

- Completed the Safe Routes to School project near Sheridan Elementary School.
- Finalized the Water Infrastructure Master Plan
- Completed the Hamilton Road elevated water tank rehabilitation project, which included repainting, repairing, and upgrading the tank.
- Substantial completion of the Downtown wayfinding project.
- Worked with the Administration Department to apply for over \$11.5 million in grant funding for various infrastructure projects.