

Mayor and Residents Celebrate America at Miller Park

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- Tari Renner, City of Bloomington Mayor

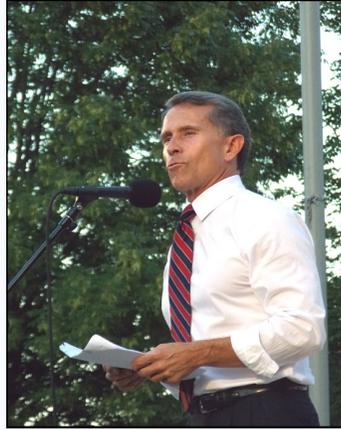
City of Bloomington Mayor Tari Renner joined hundreds of other local patriots on July 3rd and 4th during the 8th Annual "Celebrate America" concert at Miller Park. The annual revelry was hosted by the musical cast of "Holiday Spectacular".

Prior to the two-night performance, Renner said he appreciated the spirit of patriotism both as an American and as the Mayor of Bloomington. "I think we are very fortunate to be able to gather as a community in order to show praise for our own freedom in this country," said Renner. "It allows us to be able to take great pride in where we have come from, where we are and where we are going as a nation and a community"

Nancy Brokaw, the concert's Playwright, said she received positive feedback regarding the show and enjoyed watching the interaction from audience members during the musical. "Many people who attended this year thought it was our best show yet," said Brokaw. "The crowd really responded to our mix of foot-stomping patriotic numbers, some new songs that might not be as familiar, a funny-yet-touching script, a heartfelt salute to our veterans, and a lot of good-hearted, flag-waving, all-American fun."

The show, which began auditions in early May and included 63 cast members, performed to patriotic tunes and hymns such as "Stars and Stripes, Forever", "A Star Spangled Celebration" and "America on The March".

Also included in the show's line-up were performances by the children's ensemble who performed "Thank You Soldiers" and "We The People".



Bloomington Mayor Tari Renner brings the Celebrate America event to a close on July 3rd at Miller Park. C.O.B. Photo

Former and current military service members were also honored with a round of applause as each veteran stood while their respected military hymn was played. "As one of our actors said on stage, 'The Fourth of July reminds us of who we are as our best selves.' We felt that spirit in the audience and we were honored to have had such a big and enthusiastic turnout," Brokaw said.

The two-day holiday celebration closed with a spectacular 23 minute 4th of July fireworks display provided by Mad Bomber Pyrotechnics and was sponsored by WJBC Radio and State Farm Insurance.

Ward 7 Alderman, Scott Black, said he enjoyed the fireworks and was proud to have witnessed a community gathering as this one. "The fireworks were magnificent. From the initial blast to the grand finale, it was a wonderful reminder and celebration of our nation's independence," noted Black. "Events like this truly shows the close knit nature of our community. I can't wait for next year."



First: Deb Phillips performs America the Beautiful during the Celebrate America concert in Miller Park on July 3rd,

Middle: Cast members perform during a preshow performance during the Celebrate America concert, Last: State Representative Dan Brady dances his way on to the stage during the Celebrate America concert in order to wish the audience a Happy 4th of July.

C.O.B. Photos

"Freedom has its life in the hearts, the actions, the spirit of men and so it must be daily earned and refreshed - else like a flower cut from its life-giving roots, it will wither and die."- Dwight D. Eisenhower, 34th President of the United States

City Gears Up For Summer Road Work, Council Approves Finances

Public Works Department Rolls Out Plan

During the July 24 city council meeting Bloomington City Aldermen committed \$4 million to street improvements, opening the way for a busy construction season. While causing some inconvenience, the street improvement plans show a dedication to action that constituents have been demanding.

The council took three votes for three aspects of street work:

- **\$2.5 million** contract with low bidder Rowe Construction Co. for “general resurfacing.” This pertains to work on main “arteries” and to “collector” streets, which are well-used roads leading to the arteries.
- **\$1.3 million** contract, also with low bidder Rowe, for street and alley repair. This relates to less trafficked streets and City alleys.
- **\$200,000** in “preventative maintenance.” Corrective Asphalt Materials, South Roxana, will use two patented formulas that make pavement last longer. The products are Reclamite Preservation Seal, which is sprayed on new and relatively new pavement, and CRF Restorative Seal, which is used on streets that are wearing out. This is part of an initiative by Bloomington Public Works and

the Council to stretch tax dollars and help city government improve the overall condition of roadways.

The street budget has gradually increased as the City tries to meet the need for repair. Staff and Council acknowledge being behind, and the Council now is deciding whether to use bonds to fund street improvements. This matter is separate from the spending approved in June.

CRF: An Experiment With Promise

On the pavement preservation initiative, the city has entered into a pilot phase with CRF Restorative Seal, a petroleum-based product that is spread thickly onto pavement that is already showing signs of wear.

The City first experimented with it in 2007 on Kenyon Court. Kenyon now needs a curb-to-curb asphalt overlay at a cost of about \$50,000. However, the 2007 CRF test patch on the road remains in good shape. The City is proceeding with caution, but CRF potentially could save taxpayers millions of dollars.

This year, the City will spray CRF primarily in a neighborhood east of the Illinois Wesleyan campus, plus Paul Court, Ethel Parkway and



The City will be using CRF in certain locations during the pavement phase of roadwork scheduled this summer.

C.O.B. Photo

Calhoun Street. Residents will be warned in advance, as the street will have to be closed for part of a day and tracking through the material is strongly discouraged.

Making New Pavement Last Longer

A second preservation material approved by the Council is Reclamite. The material is sprayed on new and fairly new asphalt and extends the life of the surface by up to 50 percent. Numerous small stretches of road will receive the treatment.

Bloomington Ranked High Among Fastest Growing U.S. Communities

Bloomington’s economic standing among other communities across the nation has gained more popularity as the city recovers from a hard felt national recession.

Earlier this summer Nerd Wallet, a website company utilized in helping individuals make better financial and travel choices ranked Bloomington as the 11th fastest growing community in the U.S., utilizing three different categories to score from: *population, employment and income.*

“We are very pleased to see our wonderful city ranked among the top 15,” said Justine Robinson, City of Bloomington Economic Development Coordinator. “As the population of Bloomington continues to grow we hope to see more businesses begin to find their way here. This opens the job market for our residents and helps keep the local market on it’s feet.”

Recently, Ashley Furniture Home Store, a nationally recognized furniture provider opened it’s doors to the community at 1500 E. Empire, providing new jobs for dozens of residents.

In regard to Bloomington’s population and economic growth, City of Bloomington Mayor



Ashley Furniture, opened it’s doors earlier this year at 1500 E. Empire in Colonel Plaza.

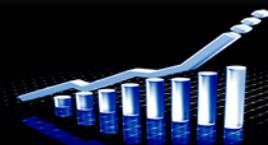
C.O.B Photo

Tari Renner said he has experienced several ribbon cutting ceremonies over the past few months involving the launching of small businesses and is pleased to see this trend continue.

“As we see the dreams of local owners come true, with the start of a new business, we also see jobs becoming available. These are exciting opportunities for everyone,” said Renner. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Bloomington’s populations as of 2012 is estimated to be at 77,733 up by 1,125 since 2010.

Bloomington Ranked 11th Among Fastest Growing U.S. City's

- New Orleans, Louisiana*
- Gainesville, Florida*
- Fargo, North Dakota*
- Fayetteville, North Carolina*
- Odessa, Texas*
- Mount Vernon, New York*
- Mountain View, California*
- Highlands Ranch, Colorado*
- El Paso, Texas*
- Pasadena, California*
- *Bloomington, Illinois*
- Miramar, Florida*
- Rochester, Minnesota*



City Financial Department Earns GFOA Achievement Award

A certificate of achievement for excellence in financial reporting has been awarded to the City of Bloomington. The announcement comes after the city's comprehensive fiscal year financial report for 2013 was reviewed by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA).

The comprehensive report provides a broad view of the city's financial activities and position for the previous fiscal year.

"We are very proud of the high standards our Finance Department continues to set," said City Manager David Hales. "This department fully understands their role in our community's financial success and I am very pleased with the way they have performed."

The award will be issued to the city's Finance

Department Director, Patti-Lynn Silva, in late July.

Silva, who has been with the city since May of 2012 said she is proud of her department and looks forward to continued success.

"We are pleased to have achieved this award during a year of transition," said Silva. "The department staff understands and is committed to setting the highest standards when it comes to our city's funds."

According to a letter from the GFOA, the



Patti-Lynn Silva

award winning financial report was judged by an impartial panel that determined the report demonstrated a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" and that it clearly communicates a "financial story" that is able to motivate potential users and user groups to read the report.

"The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management," said Stephen Gauthier, Director of the GFOA.

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association that serves approximately 17,500 government finance professionals with offices in Chicago and Washington D.C.

City Council Approves Vicious Dog Ordinance, Insurance Needed

During a June 24 Bloomington city council meeting, Aldermen made it clear that owners of dogs declared vicious should be held to a safer standard when allowing their animal to interact with society.

In a vote of 7-1, city council members elected to amend Chapter 8 of the city's animal ordinance specifically pertaining to dogs declared vicious or dangerous. Under the new ordinance, owners must follow stiffer guidelines that include how the dog must be handled in public and codifies the administrative judicial process in which a dog may be declared dangerous or vicious.

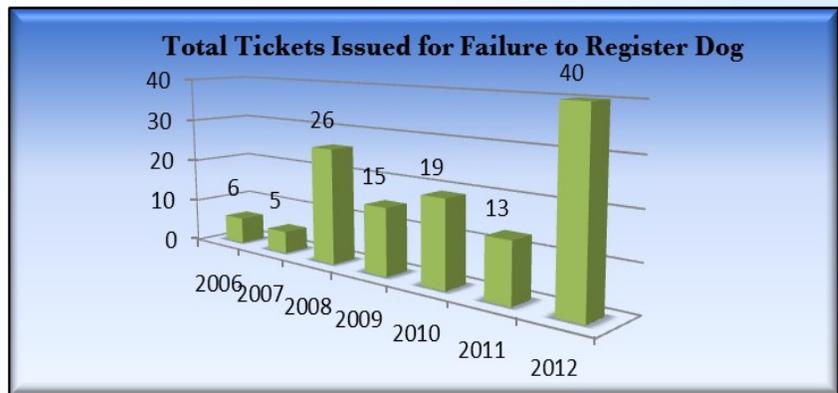
As a result of certain outcomes related to the administrative hearing, the owner will have five days to appeal the decision utilizing the judiciary system.

City Manager David Hales agreed with the council's decision and said the community's safety is of the highest priority.

"The amendment is needed to ensure the safety of the public," said Hales. "The city is not saying what breeds can not be owned, but the city is saying that dangerous animal behavior can not be tolerated in our community and owners should be held responsible."

Another item included in the amended ordinance includes the addition of required liability insurance in the amount of \$250,000 for any dog declared vicious as a result of the informal administrative hearing.

The ordinance was last updated in April of 2006.



Since 2006, 124 tickets have been issued to dog owners for failure to register their animals. Between 2007 and 2012 there have been 76 dogs identified as "dangerous" and 38 dogs identified as "vicious" by the city.

Key Updates

City of Bloomington Vicious Dog Ordinance...

- ✓ Requires owners of a dog declared "vicious" by the City to retain liability insurance with a single limit of \$250,000 to \$500,000 per occurrence and show proof of obtaining insurance to the Police Department.
- ✓ Requires owners of any dog declared "dangerous" or "vicious" to be micro-chipped and registered with the micro-chip company in the owner's name and listing address where the dog is currently located.
- ✓ Requires owners of any "dangerous" or "vicious" dog to notify the United States Post Office and utility providers in writing of the vicious dog declaration or the disposition of any appeal of the declaration. The owner will be required to provide proof of the notification to the Police Department.
- ✓ Defines parameters on how a "dangerous" or "vicious" dog is to be handled outside of an enclosure.
- ✓ Defines what criteria must be met in order to have a "dangerous" or "vicious" dog euthanized.
- ✓ Expands upon the definition of what is considered a "dangerous" or "vicious" dog.



View the city ordinance **ON THE WEB** in its entirety at www.cityblm.org

City Holds ICMA Performance Measurement Training

Assistant to the City Manager, Alex McElroy, announced earlier this summer that city employees would begin efforts in collecting departmental data in order to statistically compare the information with other communities relative to the size and geographical location of Bloomington.

City of Bloomington employees began training in mid June with representatives from the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Center for Performance Measurement (CPM) program and will be collecting and reporting Fiscal Year 2013 data for the purpose of comparing and benchmarking performance levels.

The ICMA Center for Performance Measurement (CPM) has been in existence since 1994 and has assisted local governments in improving the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of public services through the collection, reporting, analysis, and application of performance information.

Leading and managing local governments requires understanding the performance of a jurisdiction across a range of criteria. A key ICMA initiative is to help local governments use performance data to establish goals and outcomes in budget decisions; set targets of performance; compare to and learn from other jurisdictions, and communicate service and financial improvements to citizens.

Participation in the program will require the city to pull a significant amount of performance information from a large number of service areas. All service areas will be evaluated based on the following question types:

- **Inputs (expenditures, hours paid)**
- **Outputs (units of service provided)**
- **Efficiency (ratios calculated after data is submitted)**



Donald Gloo, with the ICMA, holds training for dozens of City employees at City Hall. C.O.B. Photo

- **Outcomes (citizen/customer satisfaction)**

The purpose of the Center for Performance is to assist jurisdictions in:

- **The development of common measures**
- **Encouraging comparisons**
- **Identifying effective management practices**
- **Learning from high performers**

The City will be submitting the performance information the first week of October for data cleaning, verification, and compilation and will receive the results in November.



MILLER PARK SUMMER THEATRE

The Secret Garden
MISSOURI LA CHILDREN'S THEATRE

JULY 26 & 27
7:00 PM

SNOW WHITE
MISSOURI LA CHILDREN'S THEATRE

AUGUST 2 & 3
7:00 PM

FREE

BCPA BLOOMINGTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS
WWW.ARTSBLOOMING.ORG

Brass Band of Central Illinois
Tuesday July 9th
 Biscuits 'n Gravy
Tuesday July 16th
 Marc Boon and the Unknown Legends
Sunday, July 21st
 Brian Choban Jazz Quintet
Tuesday, August 6th
 Cattle Bandits
Sunday, August 11th
 Heartland Jazz Orchestra
Tuesday, August 13th
 Jim Markum Swing Band
Tuesday, August 20
 Denise La Grassa Quartet
Sunday, August 25
 Marc Boon and the Oh Solo Trio
Tuesday, August 27

Free Concert

Miller Park Band Stand
 Sundays 6:30p.m.-8p.m.
 Tuesdays 7:30p.m.-9p.m.

Music Under the Stars

Mark Your Calendars for Summer Fun in August!



- ◆ August 2nd & 3rd - Miller Park Summer Theater.
- ◆ August 4th- Grandparent/Senior Appreciation Day.
- ◆ August 6th- Music Under The Stars. Miller Park Bandstand. Starts at 7:30p.m.
- ◆ August 9th- Teen Night Club Open Skate. Pepsi Ice Center.
- ◆ August 11th- One Last Splash Blast. Holiday & O'Neil Pools. Starts at 2p.m.
- ◆ August 11th- Music Under The Stars. Miller Park Band Stand. Starts at 6:30p.m.
- ◆ August 14th- Ball Room Dancing. Miller Park Pavilion. Starts at 6:30 p.m. \$7 Entry Fee.
- ◆ August 20th- Music Under The Stars. Miller Park Band Stand. Starts at 7:30p.m.
- ◆ August 23rd & 24th- Bruegala- Red Wanting Blue playing at the BCPA. \$15 Entry Fee. Event starts at 6p.m.
- ◆ August 25th- Music Under The Stars. Miller Park Band Stand. Starts at 6:30p.m.



City Council Meetings

August 12 & 26th- *City Council Regular Meetings Are Held at 7p.m. on the Second and Fourth Monday of Each Month in the Council Chambers at City Hall Located at 109 E. Olive Street.*

City Council:

*Mayor Tari Renner
 Aldermen: Kevin Lower, David Sage, Mboka Mwilambwa, Judy Stearns, Jennifer McDade, Karen Schmidt, Scott Black, Rob Fazzini, and Jim Fruin*



For More City Wide Events, Announcements, and News Log On To the City of Bloomington Website at www.cityblm.org