

Municipal News



Diversity



Community



Progressive



Dedication



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U.S. Cellular Coliseum's Economic Impact Over \$98M

Coliseum Recognized Nationally After It Plays Host to Hundreds-of-Thousands of Fans During the 2012 Season

Based on information in a newly released year-end report, officials with the U.S. Cellular Coliseum have announced that records show pleasing numbers in both ticket sales and attendance.



According to the report, the coliseum grossed \$3.9 million in ticket sales, and hosted nearly 300,000 fans and supporters from May 2012 through April 2013.

A record high operating profit for the coliseum was reached this past fiscal year at \$176,759, without auditor's adjustments.

The economic impact of the U.S. Cellular Coliseum over the past 7 years (opened April 2006) is over \$98 million based on Bloomington-Normal Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Illinois Office of Tourism standard formulas used to measure economic impact from tourism. These formulas measure the total effects of direct and/or indirect recirculation of income.

"Despite a recovering economy, the U.S. Cellular Coliseum's overall performance and economic impact to the local community was a success," said Bart Rogers, Vice President of the Central Illinois Arena Management.

Detailed in the report, the City of Bloomington and its surrounding communities received an economic contribution of nearly \$13 million due to the entertainment scene that the coliseum provides. This has been a consistent average since 2009.

Maintaining its track record over the past five years, the coliseum was able to host more than 200 events including sold out performances by various music artists, and sporting events.

Most notably, Luke Bryan, a Country and Western singer, broke the coliseum's all-time single attendance record when nearly 15,000 fans flocked to the coliseum for Bryan's two-day concert tour.

The arena also hosted five other sold out ticket events during the year.

"It is very exciting to see what this facility in seven years ultimately means to Bloomington



Since the U.S. Cellular Coliseum was erected in Downtown Bloomington in 2006, it has hosted over 2.1 million fans and has created nearly \$98 million in economic contributions.

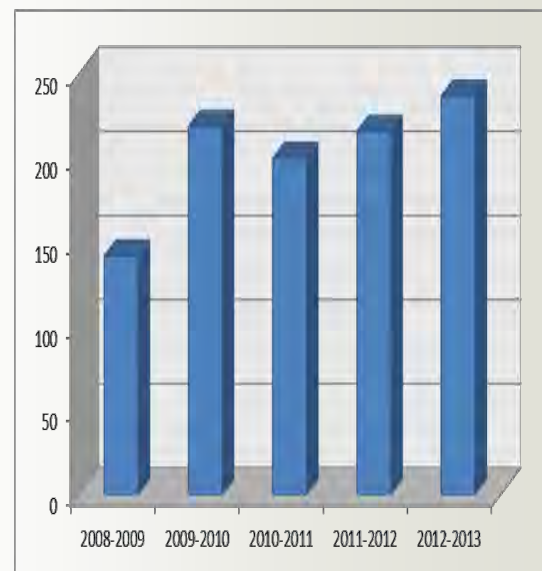
Photo Provided by the U.S. Cellular Coliseum

"It is very exciting to see what this facility in seven years ultimately means to Bloomington and the surrounding area."

-Bart Rogers, Vice President of the Central Illinois Arena Management

and the surrounding area," said Rogers. "We will continue to strive to increase the number of profitable events held at the Coliseum as being the largest entertainment attraction in the Bloomington / Normal metro area."

Recognizing the success of Bloomington's entertainment hub, "Venues Today", a premier concert and convention industry publication, ranked the coliseum second as the busiest and most successful mid-size venue in the Midwest, just behind Toledo, Ohio's Huntington Center.



The U.S. Cellular Coliseum has hosted over 1,000 events since 2008.

Automated Garbage Service Soon To Be A Reality

This is going to be a more cost efficient and safer means for our employees to collect residential trash.”

-David Hales, City Manager

Phase one of the city’s automated garbage Phase two of the city’s automated trash and recycling program is set to begin after city aldermen approved spending for 19,000 specialized trash carts.

During a city council meeting held in early September alderman approved spending \$950,000 for trash carts that will be used in a new automated trash service. The service is set to begin this Fall at no cost to the residents.

With the funds granted by the council, city officials will not only purchase the standard 95 and 65 gallon trash carts but will also purchase a 35 gallon size for individuals interested in a smaller option.

“This is going to be a more cost efficient and safer means for our employees to collect residential trash,” said City Manger David Hales. “Automated collection will reduce labor costs and avoid costly injuries to our employees.”

City officials expect the three man crew that is normally required to conduct manual trash operations would be reduced to a single person performing the automated service.

The terms of the contract between the city



Pictured is a recycling cart used in the automated service first implemented in the Spring of 2013. C.O.B. Stock

and Rehrig Pacific is for one year at which time officials may negotiate a renewal.

The final phase of the program, purchasing the remaining 7,000 carts needed to complete the project, has not been set.

The newly acquired carts are set to be added to the largest Monday and Tuesday routes.

Phase one of the program first began in the Spring of 2013 when the city first implemented the automated recycling service.

Trash cans will be designated with a black top and container, recycling carts are designated with a blue top and black container.

Refuse Trucks

With the approval of the city council in August, the Public Works Department purchased seven new garbage trucks specifically designed to provide the automated trash and recycling service at a cost of \$290,000 each.



Pictured is one of the recently acquired automated garbage trucks as it lifts a blue topped recycle cart with a hydraulic arm.

C.O.B. Stock Photo



Identifying Scams and Tips to Avoid Them



The following are common scams the Bloomington Police Department has investigated and tips on how to help prevent residents from becoming a victim.

RENTAL HOUSE SCAM

The Bloomington Police Department received a report regarding a rental house scam through Craigslist.

According to the police department, the victim found a house for rent through craigslist.org. The victim contacted the suspect, who they believed to be the owner of the house. The suspect stated they were out of town and the victim could view the outside of the home and look through the windows only. The suspect claimed they had the only set of keys and they were temporarily living in another state. The suspect requested the victim transfer the rent money through Western Union and then they would send the keys. The money was sent, but the keys were never received.

Tips to Avoid Scams on Craigslist

1. Avoid wire transfers, cashier's checks, and money orders
2. Stay local
3. Never give out financial information
4. Avoid deals involving shipping or escrow services
5. Do not rent housing without seeing the interior

PHONE SCAM

The Bloomington Police Department received a report of a phone scam where the suspect identified themselves as the victim's grandchild.

The victim received a phone call from a suspect who was pretending to be the victim's real life grandchild. The suspect stated they were out of state and had been in a traffic accident. The suspect needed money so the other driver would not pursue charges. The suspect asked the victim not to tell their parents and to wire money to them immediately. The victim wired the money out of state and later learned their grandchild was at home in Bloomington.

**In a variation of the scam the suspect claims they are in jail (not an accident).*

Scams -Continued on Pg. 6

City Retail Recruitment Campaign Seeking Community Votes

The City is seeking citizen input to attract new retail opportunities

The City of Bloomington has gone to the world wide web as it seeks citizen input as a means to assist the community in retail attractions.



Justine Robinson

The Office of Economic Development has recently launched a new function within the department's city website, one that will allow area residents to voice their opinions as to which retailers should enter the local market.

The site requests participants to "help bring new retail options to the community by sharing which stores you want to see open in Bloomington."

According to the webpage, real estate professionals focus on demographic indicators such as **population**, **household income** and **educational attainment** when making decisions about where to locate.

While local statistics reflect a stable economy with improving retail sales trends, City of

"When new retailers open brick and mortar locations, residents stand to benefit not only from a greater shopping experience but also from an overall improvement in their quality of life..."

*Justine Robinson, City of Bloomington
Economic Development Coordinator*

Bloomington Economic Development Coordinator Justine Robinson feels that a "proactive and tailored approach" can greatly enhance a municipality's recruitment efforts. As such, and given that Bloomington is a growing community with evolving needs, she also feels that it is critical that its citizens play an active role in the retail attraction process.

"Retail recruitment is a competitive task and one that is best achieved when all parties - residents, developers, property owners, city staff and elected officials -

Retail Survey- Continued On Page 6



Economic Development Online Survey!



What does the City of Bloomington Website Provide?

Easy Access To:

- ◆ City Council Information (Meetings & Aldermen Information)
- ◆ Up-To-Date Press Releases
- ◆ On-Line Services (Crime Data, Water & Sewer Payments and Traffic Accident Reports)
- ◆ Visitors Guide
- ◆ Construction Projects
- ◆ City Budget and Financial Information
- ◆ Public Meeting Dates and Times

...AND SO MUCH MORE!



WWW.CITYBLM.ORG

City of Bloomington Fire Department Training



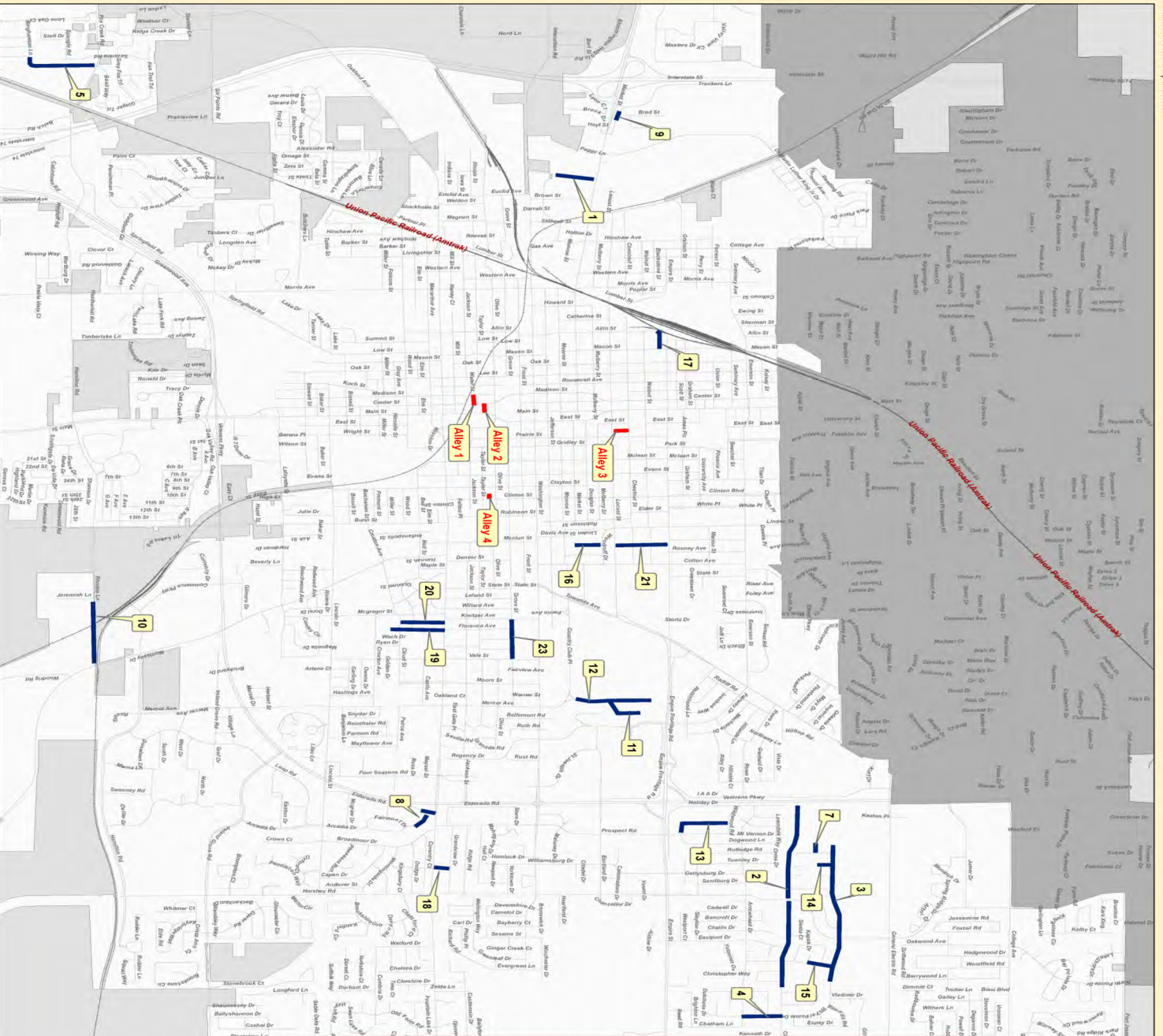
Pictured is Bloomington Firefighter Corey Matheny gaining access to a window during a training exercise this summer at the department's new training tower. Construction on the tower was completed in October of 2012.
Photo By Captain Michael Hartwig

2013 Street Resurfacing



0 1,700 3,400

6,800 Feet



No.	STREET	CROSS STREETS
1	Canline St	Market to Washington
2	Clearwater Ave	Veterans to inlet east of Holder
3	Rainbow Ave	Oakbrook thru Millcreek
4	Royal Poinc Dr	Arrowhead to Clearwater
5	Danbury Dr	Fox Creek to Rocksbury
6	Pt Jesse Rd	Towards Barnes to Addison Ln
7	Oakbrook Ct	west of Oakbrook Dr
8	Eldorado Arcadia	Fairmont to Oakland
9	Truckers Ln	Brad St
10	Rhodes Ln	Mommsy to Jeremiah
11	Northeast Ct	east of County Club Pl
12	County Club Pl	north section
13	Orchard Rd/Salem Rd	Widwood to Mt Vernon
14	Moonstone Ct	south of Rainbow
15	Mill Creek Rd	Rainbow to Cherokee
16	Kennyon Ct	south of Woodruff
17	Ohana St	Allin to Mason
18	County Ln	Oakland to Grandview
19	Florence Ave	Oakland to south of Cloud
20	Kretzler Ave	Oakland to Cloud
21	Eugene St	Locust to Empire
22	Brokaw Rd	east of Abraham Rd
23	Grove St	Vale to Oakland
1	ALLEY - north of Mill St	Madison to Center
2	ALLEY - south of Olive St	Center to Main (Kentucky Alley)
3	ALLEY - west of Prairie St	Chestnut to Locust St
4	ALLEY - north of Taylor St	from Clinton westward for 150'

Report Targets Downtown Bloomington Nightlife Concerns

City council members were recently presented with an updated “Downtown Nightlife” report by the Office of the City Manager highlighting issues with the city’s local bar scene. The report comes after a November 2012 work session where aldermen identified an immediate need for action regarding the downtown area.

“Our staff has done a terrific job in continuing to compile all of this information in order for the council to make a sound decision”, said City Manager David Hales.

In the report, which was presented during an August work session, various issues pertaining to criminal behavior were discussed in detail, most notably: fighting, illegal consumption of alcohol by minors, resisting arrest, and crowd control (*large gatherings on public walk ways*).

During the 2012 work session alderman directed staff to increase the amount of patrol officers from 4 to 6 in the downtown area on specific nights and also imposed a 6 month moratorium for liquor permits.

According to the report, the Bloomington Police Department responded to 297 calls in the downtown area in 2012 versus 78 calls thus far in 2013. The majority of which were in regard to physical altercations and minors consuming alcohol.

Also detailed in the recent report was the fact that 42 police reports regarding damage to downtown properties were received in 2012 versus the 9 reports taken by police this year.

After evaluating the report and hearing recommendations from city staff on how to continue to combat the criminal behavior in the downtown area, alderman gave the go-ahead for the

“Our staff has done a terrific job in continuing to compile all of this information in order for the council to make a sound decision”.

-City Manager, David Hales

City Manager’s office to begin evaluating the possible purchase of 15-20 surveillance cameras for the downtown area.

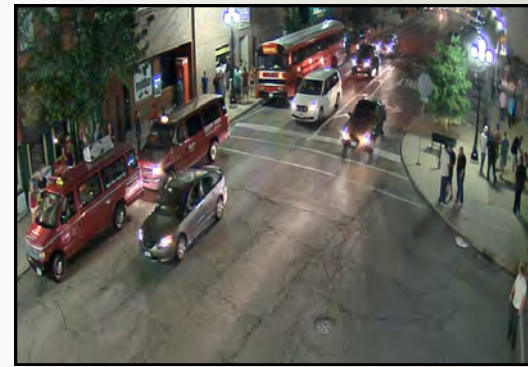
“The city’s Information Department and Police Department will begin looking into prices of several cameras through various vendors,” said Hales. “We anticipate having the required information for the councils vote in the very near future.”

Vehicles-For-Hire

The city’s Legal Department was also directed to begin drafting a city ordinance that would layout repercussions for individuals consuming alcohol while traveling by taxi, bus or other vehicles-for-hire.

“The city’s legal department is working on a draft to present to the council as we speak,” said Todd Greenburg, City of Bloomington’s Chief Legal Council. “We hope to have a drafted ordinance in front of the Council to consider within the next few weeks.”

A copy of the report can be found on the city’s website at www.cityblm.org.



Pictured is a surveillance camera photo of Bloomington’s Downtown nightlife. *C.O.B. Stock Photo*



City Staff has recommended adding additional cameras to the downtown area in order to combat illegal behavior. *Stock Photo*

Calendar Year 2012

Bar Checks	1,358
Ord. Violations	512
Parking	298
Fights	198
Arrests	75
Police Calls	297
Fine Amounts	\$82,170
DUI’s	3
Overtime Cost For Officers	\$93,633

Retail Survey- Continued From Page 3

strive to collaborate,” said Robinson. “Given the challenging economic times, the retail sector carefully scrutinizes each potential market and oftentimes a community’s collective voice can play a vital role in the decision-making process.”

After enough survey data is collected, the information will be utilized to show retailers that Bloomington is interested in helping their brand generate new revenue.

What’s more, a customized package can be sent to each representative demonstrating the potential revenue for their store type and introducing spaces that meet their specified needs. This too will prove helpful as the City strives to assist local property owners and developers in building more productive shopping centers.

“By providing our team with relevant data, attraction efforts can be targeted to partic-

ular sectors or retailers, thereby increasing the likelihood for success.

“When new retailers open brick and mortar locations, residents stand to benefit not only from a greater shopping experience but also from an overall improvement in their quality of life with what is oftentimes an infusion of new sales tax revenue into the local economy.”

Those who wish to participate in the survey can visit the City’s website at www.cityblm.org/retailrequest. The survey will be an ongoing effort with new retailers being highlighted on a rotation.

For those seeking information about this topic, or to schedule an interview with Justine Robinson, call (309) 434-2611 or email jrobinson@cityblm.org.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



McLean County Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Saturday, October 5, 2013 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**NEW LOCATION: Mitsubishi Motors
100 N. Mitsubishi Motorway, Normal, IL**

ITEMS ACCEPTED:

Oil-based paints, yard care chemicals, electronics, mercury containing items, CFLs and fluorescent tubes, asbestos, harsh household cleaners, poisons, spray paints and other aerosols, medicines, and corrosives.

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED:

Tires, radioactive materials, explosives, biohazards, business-generated wastes.

HELP YOUR NEIGHBORS:

Help keep the lines short and wait to a minimum by bringing materials from multiple households in one car. Please help neighbors who are elderly, have mobility restrictions, or do not have cars.

VOLUNTEER:

We need your help to keep traffic flowing smoothly--individuals 18 years old and older can sign up to help at www.ecologyactioncenter.org.

MORE INFORMATION:

Contact the Ecology Action Center at (309) 454-3169 or go to www.ecologyactioncenter.org.



Ecology Action Center • 309-454-3169 • www.ecologyactioncenter.org

Mark Your Calendars For The Final Days Of Summer Fun!



- ◆ 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.
- ◆ September 2nd- Holiday and O'Neal Pools Close
- ◆ September 9th- Enjoy the Music Group- Good Lovelies at the BCPA
- ◆ September 9th- Golf Fundraiser, Ronald McDonald House, The Den at Fox Creek Starts at 9p.m.
- ◆ September 28th- World Wide Day of Play, Anderson Park, Normal; YWCA McLean County; Uptown Block Party. Starts at 9a.m.
- ◆ September 29th- Ball Room Dance, Miller Park Pavilion. Starts at 1:30p.m.
- ◆ October 5th- Fall Festival, Miller Park. Starts at 2p.m.



City Council Meetings

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 Mwilambwe, 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

Scams- Continued From Pg. 2

Tips to Avoid Phone Scams

1. Avoid wire transfers, cashier's checks, and money orders and always
2. Verify the information!

HOTEL GUEST SCAM

The Bloomington Police Department received two reports regarding the following credit card scam at local hotels.

An unknown subject will call a guest's room directly and pose as a member of the hotel's front desk staff. After stating that they are a member of the front desk staff, the suspect will then request credit card information. The suspect claims the hotel's computer system has crashed and the credit card information on record has been lost.

To help make their act more believable, the suspect will apologize profusely for the hour of the phone call and offer some sort of hotel compensation. The scam has been reported at two different hotels in Bloomington.

Tips to Avoid Hotel Scams

1. Walk down to the front desk to verify the information
2. When staying at a hotel do not give your financial information over the phone

Other Common Telephone Scams include:

- Prize Offers
- Travel Packages
- Investments
- Bank Alerts
- Working at Home
- Legal Claims



Charities - To find out if a charity is legitimate and registered, check with the Attorney General's Charitable Trusts Bureau at 312-814-2595.

For more information on how to prevent becoming a victim of identity theft log on to the City of Bloomington website at www.cityblm.org and click on "In The News".



City of Bloomington/ Administration Department

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*Bobby Kerns
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Photos Courtesy of the McLean County Museum of History

