

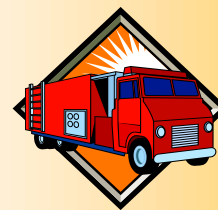
Spring is finally here, and outdoor activities will soon begin again—picking up dead branches, cleaning out the gutters, raking leftover leaves...and getting rid of yard waste materials. The Bloomington Fire Department would like to remind everyone that within the city limits of Bloomington, **no person shall burn any garbage, solid waste, commercial solid waste, yard waste, household waste, junk, refuse, rubbish, construction waste, hazardous waste, buildings or structures.**

The use of outdoor grills and barbecues for cooking is permitted. Recreational fires shall be allowed in approved containers or fire pits. Recreational fires shall be defined as an outdoor fire whose purpose is for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes.

Caution still needs to be used, even when using approved grills, containers and fire pits. Fires must be at least 8 feet away from structures or roadways; only clean, dry firewood or charcoal may be used; a fire extinguisher or garden hose needs to be readily available; fires need to be extinguished after a maximum of 4 hours of use, or if wind conditions are 15 mph or greater.

Further information on the City of Bloomington's Open Fire Ordinance can be found at: <http://www.cityblm.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=421>

Please contact Capt. Brad McCollum, Public Information Officer with any further questions: 434-2635



## Economic Development

The City of Bloomington has announced that total retail sales tax receipts increased to 15.91 percent in 2012 versus the same 2011 time frame.

“Strong performance from our local and national retailers led to year-over-year improvement in sales growth,” said City Manager David Hales. “The positive trends we’ve experienced throughout the year show continued consumer demand and confidence in the local economy. We are taking advantage of the improved trends through an active pipeline of new retail opportunities which most recently yielded the procurement of ‘Binny’s Beverage Depot’ in Lakewood Plaza in October 2012 and the scheduled opening of an ‘Ashley Furniture Homestore’ in Colonial Plaza in the coming months of 2013. The redevelopment of these key retail centers, along with the continued success of existing properties will provide a solid foundation for growth moving forward.”

National trends in the retail market also demonstrate Bloomington’s

**“Strong performance from our local and national retailers led to year-over-year improvement in sales growth.”**

-City Manager David Hales

continued economic recovery. The International Council of Shopping Centers reported an increase of 4.2 percent in total national average Retail Sales U.S. comparable chain store sales for 2012, 11.71 percent less than the increase seen in Bloomington.

City residents stand to benefit from the positive sales performance with a correlating trend in sales tax revenue. The 2012 calendar year local sales tax collections represented \$29,547,929 in revenue for the City of Bloomington; this is compared to \$26,676,212 during the same time period in 2011. “As local retail sales and related sales tax revenue increase, the burden on individual tax payers is lessened,” stated Bloomington Finance Director Patti Lynn Silva.

According to the year-end report by the Illinois Department of Revenue, performance by sector was as follows:

- General Merchandise:** +10.28%
- Food:** +0.60%
- Drinking and Eating Places:** +7.77%
- Apparel:** -15.15%
- Furniture and Household:** +66.80%
- Lumber, Hardware, Building:** +16.67%
- Automotive and Gas Stations:** +30.93%
- Drugs and Miscellaneous**
- Retail:** +7.69%
- Agriculture and All Others:** +2.34%
- Manufactures:** +2.85%

Comparing the year’s retail growth to those of surrounding Illinois communities, Bloomington’s performance ranks highest. Performance by city was as follows:

- Bloomington:** +15.91%
- Peoria:** +5.34%
- Normal:** +5.18%
- Urbana:** +4.86%
- Champaign:** +3.09%
- Springfield:** +2.64%
- Rockford:** +2.27%
- Decatur:** -0.23%



### **Public Reminders**

- No blowing of grass into streets.
- Garbage is collected once a week, Monday - Friday, beginning at 6:00 a.m.



### **Ordinance Reminders**

**Contractor Waste-** The City will not collect bulk or building waste created by any contractor.

**Streets and Alleys-** Streets, alleys and sidewalks in the City shall be kept free and clear of all hindrances and encroachments for the use of the public.

**Vehicles-** All unlicensed or unregistered and/or uninspected motor vehicles or trailers must be parked in a garage or other structure meeting code requirements and all such vehicles and trailers must be in safe operating condition.

**Buildings-** Each building must have a building number observable from the public right of way.

**Weeds and Grass-** Lawns should not exceed 8 inches in height.



*Do your part. Fill your cart.*

In a continued effort to help the community learn more about recycling, the Public Works Department has added a recycling game to the city website: [www.cityblm.org/index.aspx?page=463](http://www.cityblm.org/index.aspx?page=463). Recycling Jeopardy is meant to help anyone interested in Bloomington's recycling program. Recycling Jeopardy was designed in the famous "Jeopardy" format and is easy to navigate. The only thing missing is Alex Trebek!

## **Parks and Recreation**

**FAMILY SUMMER FUN!**

**Peter Pan**  
June 7 - 9  
Presented by the Penguin Project of McLean County

**Music Under the Stars**  
Select Sundays & Tuesdays  
Featuring Marc Boon, Denise LaGrassa, Kevin Hart, Biscuits n' Gravy & MORE!

**Franklin Park Concerts**  
Thursdays, June 13 - July 26  
Featuring the Community Concert Band

**4th of July in Miller Park**

**Find more info...**  
(309) 434-2260  
[www.bpard.org](http://www.bpard.org)

**Summer is nearly here!** The City of Bloomington's 2013 Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Arts Summer Program Guide is now available.

The guide lists hundreds of low cost and free events in which the public can enjoy a relaxing time during the summer with family and friends.

Whether you enjoy sports, music, art, animals or the great outdoors there will be plenty to do this summer.

Program guides are now available online at [www.bpard.org](http://www.bpard.org) or stop by and pick up a copy at 115 E. Washington Street.



## **Budget-In-Brief Update**

Residents can expect the City of Bloomington's 2013-2014 "Budget in Brief" publication to be ready for public review in coming weeks. The \$169.4 million budget was approved by the city council on April 8th.

Included in the publication will be details of where the City's money comes from and how it will be allocated.

City Manager David Hales said his staff will continue to work towards providing a high standard of excellence when working with City funds.

"As we look toward the challenges ahead, the City's budget and finance teams will monitor the fluctuating conditions so the quality of life our residents expect can be sustained in a responsible and financially prudent manner for the City of Bloomington for many years to come."



FISCAL YEAR 2013 - 2014

## **BUDGET IN BRIEF**



Jewel of Midwest Cities

**Photo By Rich Batka**

Front cover of the City of Bloomington soon-to-be released 2013-2014 "Budget In Brief". Copies will be available on the City's website or at City Hall.