

McLean County Museum of History

Bloomington Municipal Collection

Processed by
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Collection Information

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| VOLUME OF COLLECTION: | 1 Box |
| COLLECTION DATES: | 1876 - 2021 |
| RESTRICTIONS: | None |
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| ALTERNATIVE FORMATS: | None |
| OTHER FINDING AIDS: | None |
| LOCATION: | Archives |
| NOTES: | |

Brief History

The City of Bloomington was incorporated in 1950. The first mayor was David L. Perry, and the council was formed from six wards of the city. The commission form of government was briefly adopted between 1914 and 1922, when the aldermanic form returned. In 1952, the city adopted the council/city manager style of government.

Scope

This collection is comprised of various publications by the city, news clippings regarding the city government and services, the history of the three City Hall buildings, and many clippings from the decision to adopt the council/city manager style of government.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: General

- 1.1 "Bloomington Is On The Move" a history of City of Bloomington, 1850 – 1965, signed by Mayor Bob McGraw, 1965.
- 1.2 History of Bloomington city government, typescript, circa 1920s.
- 1.3 Sheet of letterhead, 1920s.
- 1.4 Pamphlet, Bloomington Commission on Human Relations, no date.
- 1.5 Pamphlet, "Public Safety Community Relations Board," 2018.
- 1.6 Pamphlet, "The Hub," city services hub announcement, 17 May 2021.
- 1.7 Newsletter, *City Notes*, Vol 5, No. 4, Fall 1992.
- 1.8 Newsletter, *City News*, Vol 1, No. 2., 1995. 2 copies.
- 1.9 Booklet, Directory of city services, 1980s.
- 1.10 Booklet, Directory of city services, May 2001.
- 1.11 Booklet, Directory of city services, 2003-2004.
- 1.12 Booklet, Directory of city services, 2007-2008.
- 1.13 Booklet, Directory of city services, 2013-2014.
- 1.14 Pamphlet, important city service telephone numbers, in Spanish, "Con quien me contacto," no date.
- 1.15 Bloomington Calendar, 1972.
- 1.16 Booklet, Student's Guide to Municipal Government in Bloomington, IL, 1957.
- 1.17 City ward map, 2012
- 1.18 City Ordinance, 1975-112, prohibiting discrimination, Nov 1975.

Folder 2: Housing Authority

- 2.1 Annual Report, 1982.
- 2.2 Pamphlet, "What to do in case of fire or any emergency in your high rise apartment building," circa 1970s.
- 2.3 "Writer reviews public housings 5 years to find effects on city," Dick Streckfuss, *Pantagraph*, 18 Jan 1959.
- 2.4 Pamphlet, Wood Hill Towers, undated.
- 2.5 Program, Wood Hill Towers dedication ceremony, 7 Nov 1971.

Folder 3: City Planning

- 3.1 Civic center and auditorium, 1958, newspaper clipping and map.

Folder 4: City Finances

- 4.1 Booklet, "What it costs to operate the City of Bloomington for one year," 1949. (2 copies)
- 4.2 Booklet, "Money, Money, Money, or where does your tax dollar go?" 1951.
- 4.3 Booklet, City of Bloomington, Budget in Brief, 2017.
- 4.4 Booklet, City of Bloomington, Budget in Brief, 2018.

Folder 5: Parks and Recreation

- 5.1 Booklet, Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department summer activities, 1979.
- 5.2 Booklet, Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department winter activities, 1982-83.
- 5.3 Flier, "Take a break," for Corvette show visitors, undated.
- 5.4 Program, "I remember mama," play, 1979.
- 5.5 Newsletter, *PR Report*, March 1985.
- 5.6 History of Parks and Recreations Department, 27 Apr 2008.
- 5.7 Newspaper supplement, Bloomington parks and recreation summer activities, 1976.
- 5.8 Newspaper supplement, Bloomington parks and recreation winter activities, 1976.
- 5.9 Large format postcard, Summer park programs, 2018.
- 5.10 Flier, "Join our team for summer fun," recruiting park summer staff, undated. (2 copies)
- 5.11 Pamphlet, "Walk, Bloomington," maps of suggested walking routes, undated.
- 5.12 Program, "Lil Abner," Miller Park Outdoor Summer Theater, Aug 1980.
- 5.13 Program, "Annie get your gun," Miller Park Outdoor Summer Theater, Aug 1981.
- 5.14 Program, "Ten little indians," Miller Park Outdoor Summer Theater, Jul 1982.
- 5.15 Program, Lillies of the field," Miller Park Outdoor Summer Theater, undated.
- 5.16 Program, "Purlie," 1990s.
- 5.17 Program, "Quilters," undated.
- 5.18 Program, "Oliver," undated.
- 5.19 Program, "Deadwood Dick," undated.
- 5.20 Program, "The Lion, the witch and the wardrobe," Jun 1997.

Folder 6: Police Department

- 6.1 Pamphlet, "Personal safety," undated.
- 6.2 Pamphlet, "Shopping safety," 2022.
- 6.3 Pamphlet, "Offender watch," in English and Spanish, 2022.
- 6.4 Pamphlet, Comite de relaciones comunitarias de seguridad publica," 2018.
- 6.5 "Why is this thus?" *Daily Leader*, 10 Jan 1876, p. 4.
- 6.6 "Lucky joy: the Career of a former Bloomingtonian in Colorado," *Pantagraph*, 7 Jan 1880 p. 3.
- 6.7 "Our first colored policeman," and "A Colored policeman," 23 May 1885.
- 6.8 "Best police patrol team in Illinois," *Pantagraph*, 23 Jul 1906.
- 6.9 "The Bloomington police department in 1873," *Pantagraph*, 22 Nov 1910.
- 6.10 "Bertillion system here," *Daily Bulletin*, 2 Aug 1901.
- 6.11 "Officer Sam Botts dead," *Daily Bulletin*, 15 Jul 1902.

- 6.12 “When Schroeder was chief of police,” *Pantagraph*, 1 May 1909.
- 6.13 “First on police pension roll,” *Pantagraph*, 9 May 1911, p. 7.
- 6.14 “Six years as police patrol team,” *Pantagraph*, 17 Jul 1912, p. 5
- 6.15 “Policemen’s duties increased but size of force about same,” *Pantagraph*, 26 Aug 1930, p. 12D.
- 6.16 “Injury fatal to Jack Penn,” *Pantagraph*, 13 Aug 1931, p. 3.
- 6.17 “Death ruled accidental,” *Pantagraph*, 14 Aug 1931, p. 3.
- 6.18 “If you would know Bloomington after dark,” *Pantagraph*, 13 Nov 1932, p. 3
- 6.19 “Police ball dates to ’03,” *Pantagraph*, 16 Mar 1937, p. 5
- 6.20 “‘Cap’ Phillips retires at 74,” *Pantagraph*, 16 Apr 1944, p. 3.
- 6.21 Photograph, Bloomington Police Department in 1939, from *McLean County Courier*, 15 Sep 1950.
- 6.22 Two emails between Museum Librarian/Archivist Bill Kemp and Matthew G. Forte, National Law Enforcement Museum Advisory Board, May 2010, includes obituary of Louis E. Ling, *Pantagraph*, 11 Jun 1920, p. 5.
- 6.23 Program, Bloomington Police Department Veterans Hall Dedication, 10 May 2004.
- 6.24 Brochure, “Metro 911 Explorer Post,” Bloomington Police Department, 2010.
- 6.25 Ticket for John Attebury Fundraiser, 23 Apr 2011.
- 6.26 “Take back your neighborhood! Report illegal drugs – guns- street gangs,” form, 1 sheet, undated.
- 6.27 City directory listings, 1859 – 2014, compiled by Museum Library Volunteer Milan Jackson, Nov 2014, 8 pp.
- 6.28 “Bloomington police, more than a career,” brochure for recruiting officers, 2016.
- 6.29 Flier, National Night Out, 7 Aug 2018 at YMCA.
- 6.30 Poster, Missing person, Jelani Day, 2021.
- 6.31 Cover letter from Buonny (?) to Dugger accompanying ticket to ball, 16 Mar 1941.

Folder 7: Bloomington Citizens’ Advisory Committee

- 7.1 Letter to members of CAC regarding first meeting, 11 Oct 1954.
- 7.2 Minutes of organizational meeting of CAC, 6 Oct 1954.
- 7.3 List of members of CAC, 1954.
- 7.4 List of members of Parks and schools CAC members, 1954.

Folder 8: Bloomington, “A Decade of Progress”

Two copies of booklet, “A Decade of Progress, 1958 – 1968.”

Folder 9: Municipal Golf Courses

- 9.1 Pamphlet, “Bloomington’s triple play,” regarding three municipal courses, undated.
- 9.2 clipping, “Prairie vista to offer a big challenge,” *Pantagraph*, 12 May 1991.

Folder 10: City Hall

- 10.1 Drawing of first City Hall, 1904, *Bulletin*, 8 Dec 1904.
- 10.2 Clipping, “Bloomington’s first city hall,” *Daily Bulletin*, 8 Dec 1904.
- 10.3 Sanborn map showing location of the first city hall in 1896.
- 10.4 Drawing of second city hall, *Pantagraph McLean County Centennial*, 26 Aug 1930.
- 10.5 Program for dedication of new city hall, 7 Jan 1898. (5 copies)

- 10.6 Program for dedication of third city hall, 10 Mar 1963. (6 copies)
- 10.7 History of city hall structures, by Vernon A. Syfert, WPA project, 1930s.

Folder 11: Council/City Manager government style vote

- 11.1 Flier, "Don't mortgage our future," 1952.
- 11.2 Specimen ballot, two copies, April 1952.
- 11.3 Pamphlet, "What's all this fuss to change the local government . . ." 1952.
- 11.4 Pamphlet, "A Statewide conference: The new Illinois city manager law," 14 Nov 1951.
- 11.5 Pamphlet, "Questions and Answers: about how the council-manager plan can work in Bloomington," 1952.
- 11.6 List of salaries of city managers in cities similar in size to Bloomington, 1952.
- 11.7 Letter to O.R. Buford, Filtex distributing Co., from Samuel V. Gove, University of Illinois, regarding talk at Civic Exchange meeting, 16 Jan 1952.
- 11.8 Agenda for Illinois Civic Exchange meeting, 9 Feb 1952.
- 11.9 Clippings, explaining and debating city manager style of government, 1952.

Folder 12: Council/City Manager government in other cities

- 12.1 Facts about the Council-Manager Plan, National Municipal League, 1949.
- 12.2 Pamphlet, "Passage by the 67th Illinois Gen Assy of House bill 213 . . ." Illinois State Chamber of Commerce, 1951.
- 12.3 Pamphlet, "Mess or management for Peoria," 1951.
- 12.4 Booklet, "Shall the City of Peoria adopt the Managerial form of municipal government?" 1951.
- 12.5 Newspaper clippings from other cities on council-manager government.

Folder 13: City Song: Touch of Bloomington

- 13.1 Sheet music for "Touch of Bloomington," 1963.
- 13.2 City council meeting declaring "Touch of Bloomington" the city song, 17 Jan 1963
- 13.3 Newspaper clipping, "Our song: Touch of Bloomington," *Pantagraph*, 29 Jan 1963

Folder 14: Miscellaneous

- 14.1 Flier, "Stop that running toilet," 2018.
- 14.2 Flier, "Leaks hit your wallet like a flood," 2019.
- 14.3 Form, "Request to participate in the 50/50 sidewalk program," no date.
- 14.4 Pamphlet, "Lead hazard control and healthy homes grant programs, 2022.
- 14.5 Notice of temporary exemption from smoking regulation for Illinois Brewing Company, 1 Mar 2007.
- 14.6 Two letters to "Business Owner" regarding request for extended public parking on Main Street, and parking ticket, Dec 1993.
- 14.7 Flier, "Town Hall Meeting hosted by Jamie Mathy," 4 Dec 2018.
- 14.8 Card for vehicle during gas and rubber rationing, marked with "C." 1942.
- 14.9 Certificate naming Albert W. Meyer, M.D. as Health commissioner, 6 Jun 1901.