



BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



Jamal A. Simington - Chief of Police
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For Immediate Release: November 7, 2025

Community Invited to Help “Pack the Cruiser” with Bloomington Police

Bloomington, IL - On Saturday, November 15, 2025, the Bloomington Police Department, in partnership with Kroger, will be hosting our second “Pack the Cruiser” food drive of the year. This special event comes as pantry shelves are running low due to increased demand and decreased funding, motivating us to hold an additional collection this year alongside our usual spring event.

The “Pack the Cruiser” event in May was a tremendous success, collecting over 1,500 pounds of food for families in the community. This time, we hope to surpass that total by hosting collections at two Kroger locations, continuing to show support for those in need.

Event Details:

- **Date:** Saturday, November 15, 2025
- **Time:** 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- **Locations:**
 1. Kroger - 1502 North Main Street, Bloomington, IL 61701
 2. Kroger - 2507 East Oakland Avenue, Bloomington, IL 61701

Bloomington Police officers and representatives from the Midwest Food Bank will be on-site to assist with collections. Community members are encouraged to bring or purchase non-perishable food items, which will be collected directly in police cruisers at the event locations.

All donated items will be shared between The Salvation Army of Bloomington and the Midwest Food Bank to support local families in need.

The most desired food items:

- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Canned meats (tuna, chicken, spam, etc.)
- Soups
- Boxed meals (macaroni and cheese, Hamburger Helper, etc.)
- Canned meals (ravioli, chili, etc.)
- Peanut butter (no glass jars please)

Media Contact:

Officer Bryce Janssen

Bloomington (IL) Police Department

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Chief Jamal Simington stated, "The need for food assistance has increased, and pantry shelves have seen the impact. Our officers are proud to join these community partners to serve in ways that go beyond policing, this is about neighbors helping neighbors."

The Bloomington Police Department hopes community members, local businesses, and organizations can participate in this important event to help ensure that no family in Bloomington goes without essential food items. For those unable to donate, we encourage you to visit the [Midwest Food Bank website](#) or [Salvation Army website](#) to explore volunteer opportunities and other ways to give back.

Photographs with descriptions from the spring 2025 "Pack the Cruiser" event are included below and have been cleared for use by media outlets when sharing this release.

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If you wish to submit a crime tip and remain anonymous, please contact the Crime & Intelligence Analysis Unit (CIAU) at 309-434-2963 or email CIAU@cityblm.org. You can also text the number 847411 by texting the word "BPDTIPS", then a space, followed by your tip information.

The tip line is not monitored 24/7. The CIAU office is staffed from 8am-4:30pm, weekdays. If no one is available to answer your call, please leave the information on the voicemail or send it by e-mail.

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Officer Molly Monahan and Chief Jamal Simington help showcase the community's generosity with some of the donations gathered during the 2025 spring "Pack the Cruiser" food drive.



Officer Ben Brace works with Midwest Food Bank representatives to load part of the more than 1,500 pounds of food collected during the 2025 spring "Pack the Cruiser" food drive.



Volunteers gather as a young community member makes donations during the 2025 spring "Pack the Cruiser" food drive.



Officer Ben Brace works alongside a Midwest Food Bank volunteer to load donated food into a truck during the 2025 spring "Pack the Cruiser" food drive.

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