

REPORT / RECOMMENDATION



To: MAYOR & COUNCIL

Agenda Item #: IX. A.

From: Debra Mangen
City Clerk

Date: January 6, 2015

Subject: Correspondence

Action
Discussion
Information

Action Requested:

No action is necessary.

Attachment:

Attached is correspondence received since the last Council meeting.

December 15, 2014

Mayor James Hovland
City of Edina
4801 W. 50th Street
Edina, MN 55424

Dear Mayor Hovland,

Do you recall meeting with us in 2006 to discuss preservation in the Country Club neighborhood? We are writing to update you on a new neighborhood initiative and to get your input – and hopefully your endorsement – of an idea before we approach city staff in the new year.

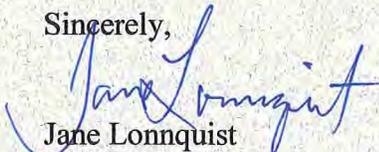
Our renewed preservation activity is prompted in part by the controversial tear-down of 4505 Arden Avenue and the aggressive marketing efforts of that developer, Great Neighborhood Homes. Their website just posted an article titled “Can I Build a New Home in the Country Club District?” that states “The short answer is Yes!!!” and their 2008 home on Wooddale Avenue has a placard in the front lawn stating “This home built by Great Neighborhood Homes” with their phone number. We realized that neighbors who have deliberately invested in their historic homes must respond with positive preservation messaging that celebrates the history, charm and appropriate renovation of our older homes.

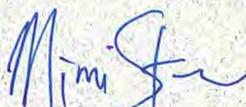
Our committee is planning an architecture walking tour of Country Club for May 9 at 9:30. We are delighted that the grandson of Country Club’s developer, Samuel Thorpe, has joined our first-annual effort to “celebrate the soul of old homes.” We will keep Joyce Repya and the Heritage Preservation Board apprised of our plans and will promote the event broadly around town as a great way to celebrate Preservation Month in May.

Our committee also wants to add historic designation markers at the two major entries to our neighborhood. A simple sign stating “Historic Country Club District, National Register of Historic Places” would help to celebrate and protect this unique Edina resource. We are investigating designs and prices before approaching city staff in January. Do you approve of this idea or have thoughts on our approach? We welcome your input.

Thank you for your attention to our volunteer efforts to support the city’s stated planning objective of “preservation of the existing historic house facades and streetscapes” in our neighborhood.

Sincerely,


Jane Lonnquist
4510 Drexel Avenue
jjlonnquist@earthlink.net


Mimi Stake
4617 Edina Boulevard
stakefam@gmail.com


Lynn Wagner
4506 Wooddale Avenue
wagnerosa@usinternet.com

Heather Branigin

From: Joel Stegner <joel.r.stegner@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2014 3:27 PM
To: Edina Mail
Subject: Transfer of cable television license

I read with interest all the documents related to the proposed new cable TV provider that is resulting from the upcoming Comcast-Time Warner merger. It seemed as though a lot of questions were asked and answered, but perhaps not the ones of most interest to Edina residents who purchase cable services. The reports mention that this is a brand new company, which will be carrying a lot of debt service. Rather than simply making the service part of Charter Communications, a complicated organization scheme has been created to keep Comcast in a majority control through board positions. That means no track record and a high need for cash flow.

Customers are interested in a few different things - reliability, cost and channel selection. One of the fears from this merger will be that it creates a market monopoly which gives the consumer less leverage. What will happen to prices with this new highly leveraged company? This subject is not addressed in any way by the company. I don't know if the city asked, but if did, it certainly didn't get a clear answer. An acceptable answer would be that rates will be comparable to Comcast or Charter, with some limitation on rate increases that can be put in the first three years of the contract. I think we have a right to ask for some pricing stability.

Second, consumers are concerned about channel selection. We have read about both cable and dish based networks that have been rebroadcasting local channels, apparently paying no fees given they are broadcast. Local network stations object to this, because with modern technology, it cuts into the advertising potential of free television, as when shows are saved, the commercials can be bypassed. If cable stations have to start paying these broadcasters, it is reasonable to increase costs, but the strategy that has been used to get to agreement (blocking access to these channels is not friendly to cable consumers. Also, cable operators have made high quality commercial free channels part of special packages that lovers of old movies have to pay extra for, or in some cases, don't carry these popular channels at all. Instead we get many, many free shopping, reality TV and narrow market channels (like the Golf Channel) as part of our regular package. The consumer has no influence that I can see over these decisions - are we ever asked what we want to watch?

Third, if cable stops working, as it does from time to time, consumer pay for the period of unreliability, rather than getting some kind of a discount. Right now, Comcast has contacted local consumers to ask them to switch out cable boxes. It is no cost, if you do your own installation, but charged for if not. It is interesting that they are doing this in Edina, just at the point that they are selling the franchise. Why are they doing this? Not explained. Might it be to further push pay per view, something that some of us never use. So we either pay for the privilege of having them upgrade their network or becoming their extended work force.

I could see that the new provider may provide reliable, reasonable prices serviced with packages that fit the interests of their customers, or this might simply be a way to maximize Comcast's revenues by allowing the merger and putting a greater financial burden on Minnesota communities. Given that Minnesotans tend to be too nice to complain about less than stellar service, we are probably less likely to complain than people from New Jersey. I hope that the City Council will be asking these kinds of questions during its review tonight and over the next month. Thanks for your consideration.

Joel

Joel Stegner
6312 Barrie Road 1C
Edina, MN 55435
952-843-3440

Heather Branigin

From: Teri Whaley <teriwhaley@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2014 4:19 PM
To: Edina Mail
Subject: Development

Hi Mayor Hovland,

I just received word that the city council is excited about the idea of developing a restaurant at Valley View and Wooddale Ave. I am guessing that this establishment would be serving alcohol? If that is so, I am adamantly opposed to it. The last thing east Edina needs is more traffic and people drinking and driving. All my neighbors feel very put upon as far as development in our neighborhood, and this is just another nail in our coffin. A bakery, or lunch spot would be fine, but an evening establishment is unbelievable. You can't even park at 50th and France anymore. Our city barely feels like the city we desired to live in. Please advice. Thank you.

Teri Whaley

Teri Whaley
teri@whaleymn.com
teriwhaley@me.com

Heather Branigin

From: vdurant <vdurant@mayorsinnovation.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 18, 2014 12:44 PM
To: Edina Mail
Subject: Invitation: 2015 Mayors Innovation Project Winter Meeting
Attachments: Invitation_Winter 2015 Meeting.pdf

Hello Mayor Hovland,

You have been invited to our Winter Conference this January in Washington D.C.

We know that cities are where the most interesting ideas are being tested, whether that's integrating climate resilience into city decisions, sustainable street design, dealing with new business models in the sharing economy, or taking a comprehensive approach to opiate addiction. That's why we hope you will join with other Mayors across the country at our 2015 Winter Meeting (see attached).

Friday, January 23 - Saturday, January 24, 2015

SEIU Conference Center, Washington, DC

Learn More and Register Today Here: <http://www.mayorsinnovation.org/events/winter-2015-meeting>
(Immediately following US Conference of Mayors Meeting)

We hope to see you there. Please contact us with any questions at info@mayorsinnovation.org.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Durant

--

On behalf of

Satya Rhodes-Conway

Managing Director

Mayors Innovation Project



Invitation to Register
2015 Winter Meeting
Friday, January 23 - Saturday, January 24
Washington, DC

Greetings Mayors and City Staff,

We know that cities are where the most interesting ideas are being tested, whether that's integrating climate resilience into city decisions, sustainable street design, dealing with new business models in the sharing economy, or taking a comprehensive approach to opiate addiction. That's why we hope you will join with other Mayors across the country at our 2015 Winter Meeting.

Friday, January 23 - Saturday, January 24, 2015
SEIU Conference Center, Washington, DC
[Learn More](#) and [Register Today](#)
(Immediately following US Conference of Mayors Meeting)

Who We Are

The Mayors Innovation Project is a network of mayors committed to "high road" policy and governance: shared prosperity, environmental sustainability, and efficient democratic government. Nationally, mayors are taking the lead on pressing social issues—climate change, infrastructure, economic revitalization, health care, prison reentry, and more. We support and encourage this innovation by providing cutting-edge thinking and concrete examples that your city can use right away. [Learn more.](#)

Above: Summer 2014 Meeting attendees learn more about meeting host Chapel Hill's form-based codes on a town bus tour.



Why Attend

We deliver practical ideas you can implement right now to improve performance, as well as foster peer-to-peer with other mayors on common problems and their solutions. We promise we'll send you home with at least one or two new ideas you can implement immediately to improve life in your city.

Above: Winter 2013 Meeting attendees hear how Washington, DC Mayor Vincent Gray helps foster entrepreneurship and innovation.



We hope to see you in January. Please contact us with any questions at info@mayorsinnovation.org.

Sincerely,

Satya Rhodes-Conway
 Managing Director
 Mayors Innovation Project

"I found the 2014 Summer Meeting valuable and inspirational."

-- Mayor Tom Stevens
 Hillsborough, NC

New to the Mayors Innovation Project? Learn more by viewing the Summer 2014 Meeting video postcard below.



Steering Committee

Mayor Tom Bates
 Berkeley, California

Mayor Ralph Becker
 Salt Lake City, Utah

Mayor Stephen Benjamin
 Columbia, South Carolina

Mayor Frank Cowrite
 Des Moines, Iowa

Mayor George Heartwell
 Grand Rapids, Michigan

Councilmember Mike Kasperzak
 Mountain View, California

Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt
 Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Valarie J. McCall, Chief of
 Government Affairs
 Cleveland, Ohio

Mayor Marjorie Sloan
 Golden, Colorado

Mayor Miro Weinberger
 Burlington, Vermont

Joel Rogers, Director
 COWS

Advisory Committee

Former Mayor Dave Cieslewicz
 Madison, Wisconsin

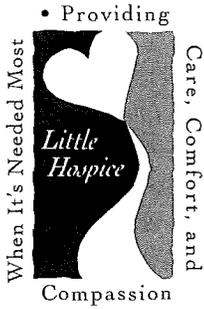
Former Mayor Heidi Davison
 Athens, Georgia

Former Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan
 Gainesville, Florida

Former Mayor David Pope
 Oak Park, Illinois



Mayors Innovation Project
www.mayorsinnovation.org
info@mayorsinnovation.org



N.C. Little Memorial Hospice, Inc.

December 18, 2014

Chief Tom Schmitz
City of Edina Fire Department
Tracy Avenue at Crosstown
Edina, Mn

Re: Contribution to Edina Fire Department

Dear Chief Schmitz:

Enclosed you will find a gift to the Edina Fire Department from the N. C. Little Memorial Hospice in the sum of \$1,250.

All of us at Little Hospice are grateful to you for the courageous and competent fire protection and emergency services you provide within the City. We not only have been the beneficiary of your amazing and professional services, but continually hear from others about how blessed we are to be living and working in a city that has the caliber of trained personnel and leadership like the Edina Fire Department!

Best wishes for your continued success in helping others!

Sincerely,

N. C. Little Memorial Hospice, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert J. Solheim".

Robert J. Solheim
Director

RJS:bs
cc: Board of Directors



Heather Branigin

From: Patrick Wrase
Sent: Friday, December 19, 2014 8:07 AM
To: 'Kevan'
Cc: Aaron Kuznia; Edina Mail; jonibennett12@comcast.net; Mary Brindle (Comcast); joshsprague@edinarealty.com; swensonann1@gmail.com; Chad Millner; Mark K. Nolan
Subject: RE: side walk construction on Arbour Ave

Kevan,

Thank you again for your comments. The double crossing requirement would apply only to the six homes on the east side of Arbour who would select to use the sidewalk on the west side of Arbour to walk to the western access to the Countryside School. I would add that the sidewalk on the west side of Arbour would benefit the residents to the northwest of the Grove and Arbour intersection by allowing them to access the sidewalk without having to cross Arbour avenue at a non-designated crosswalk location. Additionally, it is expected that many more walking trips to Countryside School will be generated from the area to the west of Arbour than from the east as those to the east will either use the Stuart or Tracy access points to the school. By having the sidewalk to the west side of Arbour, these pedestrians can access the side walk directly without having to make any crossing. The only way to completely avoid the inconvenience of having to make two crossings in order to access a specific site would be to include sidewalks on both sides of the street. For instance, a resident of the west side Arbour would be required to cross Arbour to reach the sidewalk as you propose on the east side of Arbour and then again to get to the back to the west side of Arbour and access to the proposed Sun Ave sidewalk if their intended destination was Bredesen Park rather than the Countryside School.

You are correct that the use of retaining walls is a common occurrence and the installation is feasible. However, the installation would not be cost effective in that a similar level of benefit can be achieved by placing the sidewalk on the west side of Arbour without the need to install retaining walls. The installation of sidewalk amenities within an existing developed area is a difficult but worthwhile endeavor. In developing the design, we attempt to balance the variables of safety, cost, and impact on the existing developed properties. We believe that a sidewalk along the west side of Arbour Ave between Grove and Sun Rd is the best option with respect to a balance of each of these concerns.

I appreciate your comments and suggestions and the chance to discuss the relative merits of the sidewalk design options.



Patrick Wrase, Assistant City Engineer

952-826-0443 | Fax 952-826-0392

PWrase@EdinaMN.gov | www.EdinaMN.gov

...For Living, Learning, Raising Families & Doing Business

From: Kevan [mailto:nouser22@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, December 18, 2014 2:47 AM

To: Patrick Wrase

Cc: Aaron Kuznia; Edina Mail; jonibennett12@comcast.net; Mary Brindle (Comcast); joshsprague@edinarealty.com; swensonann1@gmail.com; Chad Millner; Mark K. Nolan

Subject: Re: side walk construction on Arbour Ave

Thank you for the email Pat. I do appreciate the detailed feedback to address all the concerns I had mentioned.

After reviewing your response, my understanding is that the side walk is being split on Arbour Ave and alternating between the two sides of the street (built on the East side and later switched to the

West side) due to logistical reasons that makes building the side walk easier when compared to building a single seamless direct path on the East side of Arbour Ave which would be more convenient for our residents and children.

I can appreciate the logistical reasons behind the proposed split side walk plan, however I imagine a disorganized path which would require using two cross walks to navigate between the split side walks all occurring within only half of a block on Arbour Ave (short span of only 6 houses). That seems like a lot of needless street crossing all within half a block simply to walk down a side walk that is intended to provide a convenient path for our residents as well as children going to and from the school. It does not appear to be an efficient use of a side walk path when incorporating the view point of someone using it as opposed to someone who is building it.

It sounds like building a side walk on the East side of Arbour Ave is indeed feasible however would require some additional work (i.e. grading of the driveway and a small retaining wall). The use of a retaining wall seems very common in these areas and can be found as close as Stuart Ave connecting to Grove St (right behind Arbour Ave) where a retaining wall system is being used next to the side walk which eventually connects to the Countryside school. If we are going to invest our tax dollars in building a side walk system, then I would advocate to invest our resources in building a more efficient side walk system as opposed to taking an easier build approach that would require multiple cross walks to get from one side to another side within such a short distance.

In regards to the landscaping issue, the two trees that are located on the house on the corner of Grove St that you had mentioned (on the East side) are at least 10 ft from the street. The trees located on the West side which I had references are either right on the curb near the mailbox or less than 10 feet from the curb. Regardless, you mentioned that build plans can be worked around landscaping so I would redirect focus on the primary areas of concern which I mentioned prior.

In summary and to reiterate, I think we should reconsider the side walk to be built only on the East side of Arbour Ave which would provide for a seamless side walk path from Grove Street connecting directly to the side walk behind Countryside Elementary School. It would require some additional build plans but I think the investment up from would create a more organized and user-friendly side walk path as opposed to introducing several cross walks in such a short distance. This would benefit the residents of the area as well as the children in the neighborhood for all the reasons I previously mentioned.

Thank you again for your attention and time as well as any feedback offered.

Sincerely,
Kevan Andish

On Wednesday, December 17, 2014 12:54 PM, Patrick Wrase <PWrase@EdinaMN.gov> wrote:

Hello Kevan,

Thank you for your email regarding the sidewalk planned for Arbour Avenue in next year's 2014 reconstruction of the Countryside H neighborhood. You make some good points in your email related to matching the alignment of existing sidewalks and the off street waiting area for kids waiting for the bus. Unfortunately, the topography along the east side of Arbour Avenue from Sun Road to Grove Street is rather steep. When we

construct new sidewalks, they must be built to Americans with Disability Act (ADA) standards which requires the maximum cross slope to be very flat at a maximum of 2%. In situations where the existing ground slope is steep, complying with ADA standards would require the construction of retaining walls in order to fit into the existing ground elevations. Similarly, the driveways along the east side of Arbour are steeper and would require additional work to blend the driveway through the sidewalk and maintain an acceptable slope on the reconstructed driveway.

With respect to the matching of the sidewalks that are in place on the south side of Grove to the east of Arbour, a cross walk will be installed at this location to aid in the safety of pedestrians crossing over Arbour Avenue to reach this existing sidewalk. The sidewalk along the west side of Arbour will connect with a new sidewalk planned to be constructed along the north side of Sun Rd at the northwest corner of Sun Rd and Arbor Ave. At that location, pedestrians can cross Arbour Ave at a designated crosswalk to the existing sidewalk located within the Countryside School property.

The new sidewalk on the west side of Arbour can be a benefit to those waiting for the school bus even if the bus stop is located on the east side of Arbour as you state. The children could wait on the sidewalk until the bus arrives and then after the bus has stopped and extended its stop arm, safely pass to the loading side of the bus.

The sidewalk alignment along the west side of Arbour will be altered to avoid conflict with existing landscaping and trees wherever possible and I am hopeful that we can save all of the existing trees along the western route. There is also extensive landscaping and a significant existing tree along the east side of Arbour Ave belonging to the property at 5809 Grove street that would be impacted if the eastern alignment would have been more agreeable with respect to existing boulevard grades.

Thanks again for your email. I would be happy to meet with you at your convenience to discuss the project in more detail and to walk down the proposed installations.

Pat



Patrick Wrase, Assistant City Engineer

952-826-0443 | Fax 952-826-0392

PWrase@EdinaMN.gov | www.EdinaMN.gov

...For Living, Learning, Raising Families & Doing Business

From: Kevan [<mailto:nouser22@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2014 1:32 PM

To: Patrick Wrase

Cc: Aaron Kuznia; Edina Mail; jonibennett12@comcast.net; Mary Brindle (Comcast); joshsprague@edinarealty.com; swensonann1@gmail.com

Subject: side walk construction on Arbour Ave

Hello Patrick, Mayor Havland, and Council members,

I'm a resident on Arbour Ave in Edina and recently received a letter indicating where side walks are planning to be built next spring. I've attended the community meetings on these plans to express my concerns and wanted to bring them to your attention in hopes of making a slight, yet important, adjustment to the proposed plan.

My concern is regarding the side walk that will be constructed on the west side of Arbour ave (Sun Rd to Grove St). I would like to ask why the side walk is being split on Arbour ave (built on the east side on one half and then the west side on the other). To me, it makes sense to build the entire side walk only on the **East side** of Arbour Ave.

Here is why:

1. The new side walk would directly connect to a preexisting side walk that runs along Stuart Ave and Grove St. If the side walk is built on the **East side** of Arbour Ave, then this will connect directly to the

side walk on Grove St allowing an uninterrupted walking path directly to Countryside Elementary School. The school is located on the East side of Arbour Ave.

2. The kindergarten and elementary school buses pick the children up on the east side of Arbour Ave only a few houses down from us. The school kids usually stand on the side of the street or in someone's driveway while they wait for the bus. It would be great for our kids and other children to have a safe side walk to stand on while they wait for the bus. They would also use that direct path to walk to school or walk to the bus stop.

3. Virtually no landscaping will be effected if the side walk is built on the East side of Arbour Ave. There are at least two trees on the west side of Arbour Ave that would be effected by the side walk.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and considering this proposal. I would be happy to meet and show you the area in person if that would be helpful as well. Thanks in advance for any input or thoughts.

Sincerely,
Kevan Andish and family
5804 Arbour Ave, Edina.
612-562-3875

Heather Branigin

From: Cora Ellenson-Myers <cora@environmentminnesota.org>
Sent: Friday, December 19, 2014 10:27 AM
To: Edina Mail
Subject: Re: Environment Minnesota Clean Water Letter

Hi Lynette,

Thanks so much for passing my message along. I haven't heard from the Mayor, and the deadline to sign on to the letter to Senator Franken in support of clean water is today, 12/19. I was hoping to find out either way if the Mayor is interested in signing on. If it's helpful, below is a list of the 25 elected officials who are already signed on.

Do you know if the Mayor was interested in signing? I'm available all day at 612-379-1475 if he has any questions.

Thank you,
Cora Ellenson-Myers

Cynthia Bemis Abrams
City Councilmember at-Large
Bloomington, Minnesota

Richard Bend
Mayor
City of Afton, Minnesota

Lisa Bender
Council Member
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Amy Brendmoen
Saint Paul City Councilmember
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Jacob Frey
Minneapolis City Council Member, Ward 3
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Elizabeth Glidden
Council Vice President, 8th Ward Council Member
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Lisa Goodman
Minneapolis City Council Member, Ward 7
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Cam Gordon
Minneapolis City Council Member, Ward 2
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Jennifer V. Julsrud
Duluth City Councilor
Duluth, Minnesota

Jerome Kleis
Mayor
City of Becker, Minnesota

Linda Krug
City Councilor at Large
Duluth, Minnesota

Kathy Lantry
Council President, Ward 7
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Jason Mattick
Mankato City Council, Ward 4
Mankato, Minnesota

Randy Nelson
Council Member
City of Afton, Minnesota

Don Ness
Mayor of Duluth
Duluth, Minnesota

Reed Olson
Bemidji City Councilmember
Bemidji, Minnesota

Bill Palmquist
Council Member
City of Afton, Minnesota

Mark F. Peterson
Mayor
City of Winona, Minnesota

Kevin Reich
City of Minneapolis Council Member, Ward One
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Joel Sipress
Duluth City Councilor - Second District
Duluth, Minnesota

Josh Sprague
Edina City Council
Edina, Minnesota

Russ Stark
Saint Paul City Councilmember
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Dave Thune
Saint Paul City Councilmember
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Chris Tolbert
Councilmember, Ward 3
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Mary Wingfield
Mayor
Birchwood Village, Minnesota

On 12/8/2014 2:55 PM, Edina Mail wrote:

Dear Cora,

Thank you for your interest in the City of Edina.

I have forwarded your message to Mayor Hovland.
If I can be of additional assistance to you please contact me.



Lynette Biunno, Receptionist

952-927-8861 | Fax 952-826-0389
lbiunno@EdinaMN.gov | www.EdinaMN.gov

...For Living, Learning, Raising Families & Doing Business

From: Cora Ellenson-Myers [<mailto:cora@environmentminnesota.org>]

Sent: Monday, December 08, 2014 2:50 PM

To: Edina Mail

Subject: Environment Minnesota Clean Water Letter

Dear Mayor Hovland

My name is Cora Ellenson-Myers; I'm the Campaign Organizer with Environment Minnesota working on clean water. I'm writing with an update on the EPA's proposed clean water rule, and to see if you can sign on to a letter supporting clean water to Senator Franken.

As I'm sure you know, right now the EPA is considering moving forward with a rulemaking to close loopholes in the Clean Water Act. These loopholes have resulted in a costly and inefficient process of case by case evaluation to determine if individual water bodies are protected by the Clean Water Act, and have called into question the protections of 47000 miles of Minnesota's streams, and 2 million miles across the country.

This is a big priority for Environment Minnesota – it could be the biggest victory for clean water in more than a decade.

As you might guess, the polluters who created these loopholes have gotten their allies in Congress to attack the proposal at every turn. This fall, they passed a bill in the House to strip the EPA's authority to make the rule, and similar attacks could come up in the Senate in the coming weeks.

Fortunately, Senator Franken has historically been an ally for clean water, but is getting a lot of pressure from the opposition. If we're going to get these protections over the finish line, we'll need as much support as we can get from Senator Franken. Environment Minnesota is circulating a letter from elected officials urging the senator to be a champion for Minnesota lakes and waterways across the state, and we would love for you to add your name.

Can you review the attached letter and let me know if you can sign on by December 19th? If we show a big wave of support from elected officials across the state, we can make sure Sen. Franken keeps standing up for our waterways.

Thank you,

--

Cora Ellenson-Myers
Clean Water Campaign Organizer
Environment Minnesota
O: (612) 379-1475
C: (218) 341-8045

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Cora Ellenson-Myers
Clean Water Campaign Organizer
Environment Minnesota
O: (612) 379-1475
C: (218) 341-8045



Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin

Changing Lives, Improving Communities

December 22, 2014

Mayor James Hovland
4801 W. 50th St.
Edina, MN 55424

Dear Mayor James Hovland:

Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin County (CAPSH) invites you to a gathering of community and county elected representatives from Hennepin County to learn about CAPSH's services and hear your concerns about the gaps in services to low-income residents. CAPSH is partnering with Golden Valley Mayor Shep Harris, Independence Mayor Marvin Johnson, and Jewish Community Action to arrange this opportunity. **We will meet on January 9, 2015 at Golden Valley City Hall (7800 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley) from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

CAPSH, the state- and federal-certified community action agency serving suburban Hennepin County since 1985, provides critically important services to respond to poverty in suburban Hennepin County, including housing, energy assistance, senior services, foreclosure prevention, financial education, tax and legal clinics. As a result of the issues that developed with Community Action of Minneapolis, CAPSH is also providing selected services to Minneapolis residents. Given the controversy and questions surrounding Community Action of Minneapolis, it is very timely to meet with you in order to clarify the work of community action and CAPSH in particular, and discuss how we can work better with city and county governments.

We know that our suburban communities have changed: immigrant communities growing, the population aging and housing, jobs and transportation creating significant challenges for residents *and* community leaders. CAPSH is working hard to provide resources to your communities and residents; we want to share with you what we do and how we can better partner with you to expand services. However, we also want to hear from you and other elected officials about how these services can be improved and what gaps exist in meeting the needs of community residents.

Please let us know if you have any questions or need more information. **Please RSVP to Christine Hart at chart@capsh.org or 952-697-1364 by Tuesday, January 6 to let us know if you (or your representative) will be attending.** We look forward to having you at this event and working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Shep Harris
Mayor, City of Golden Valley

Marvin D. Johnson
Mayor, City of Independence
Board Member, CAPSH

Scott Zemke
Executive Director, CAPSH



8800 Highway 7 Suite 401
St. Louis Park, MN 55426
Tel: (952) 933-9639 Fax: (952) 933-8016
www.capsh.org

Community Development
Energy Assistance
Employment Counseling
Financial Counseling
Financial Literacy
Foreclosure Prevention
Homebuyer Education
Homeless Services

Home Maintenance & Rehab
Legal Services
MNSure Application Assistance
Planning & Development
Reverse Mortgage
SNAP (Food Support) Outreach
Tax Assistance

Please Join Us

I-494 Corridor Commission Meeting

Discussion and Feedback

The I-494 Corridor Commission cordially invites our legislative delegation and committee leaders to our January 30th meeting to discuss the 2015 legislative session and strategize how to move forward for progress.

Transportation priorities include:

- Reconstruction of the 494/35W Interchange
- Southwest Corridor LRT
- Bus Rapid Transit
- Crosstown Improvements

The I-494 Corridor Commission realizes we cannot build our way out of congestion. Our work with employers to offer commuter amenities and benefits, and our work with individuals to tailor alternatives to driving alone, is a highly successful and cost effective way to slow the growth of travel demand on our roads and bridges.

The breakfast will include a presentation on Commuter Services (Transportation Management Organization) tactics and achievements in working to offer commuter benefits, and customizing carpool, transit, bicycle, vanpool and telework resources. We will also walk through our 2015 legislative agenda.



Date and Time:

Friday, January 30, 2015
Breakfast 8:00 - 8:30 a.m.
Meeting 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Location:

Richfield City Hall
Bartholomew Room
6700 Portland Avenue
Richfield, MN 55423

Located just south of 66th Street on Portland Ave.

Enjoy coffee, fruit and muffins at the meeting

**Please RSVP to Melissa Madison by
Wednesday, January 28 at 612-749-4494 or
melissa@494corridor.org.**



I-494 CORRIDOR COMMISSION

Reducing Traffic Congestion

Bloomington • Eden Prairie • Edina • Minnetonka • Richfield

Richard Lind
9165 Utica Avenue South
Bloomington, MN 55437
952-832-5131
dickclind@hickorytech.net

December 23, 2014

Mayor Hovland

Jim,

I invite you to speak at our Edina "Ham & Eggs Club" on Wednesday morning, the 28th of January, 2015.

We meet every Wednesday at 7AM at the Edina Country Club. About 80 members can show up in the Summer, less mid-Winter. This group was started in 1947, by Edina business men.

It's a wonderful, interesting group of men and several women.

First, at 7AM, we enjoy a nice buffet breakfast. Then at 7:30AM, the meeting begins and we greet visitors-etc.

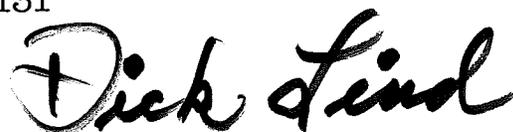
About 7:40AM, I give a brief account of my family and work history.

Then, I introduce you, you'll have about forty minutes, finishing at 8:30AM.

You could leave then, but if you would stay for just a few minutes for questions, it would be wonderful. This group will have lots of questions.

Should you accept, you'll need to be at the Edina Country Club a little before seven.

Dick Lind
952-832-5131

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dick Lind". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "D".

HAM & EGGS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Phone preferred _____ Other _____

E-Mail _____

Street Address _____

(zip) _____

Interests _____

Career _____ Retired? _____

High School/City _____

College/City _____

Spouse Name (if applicable) _____

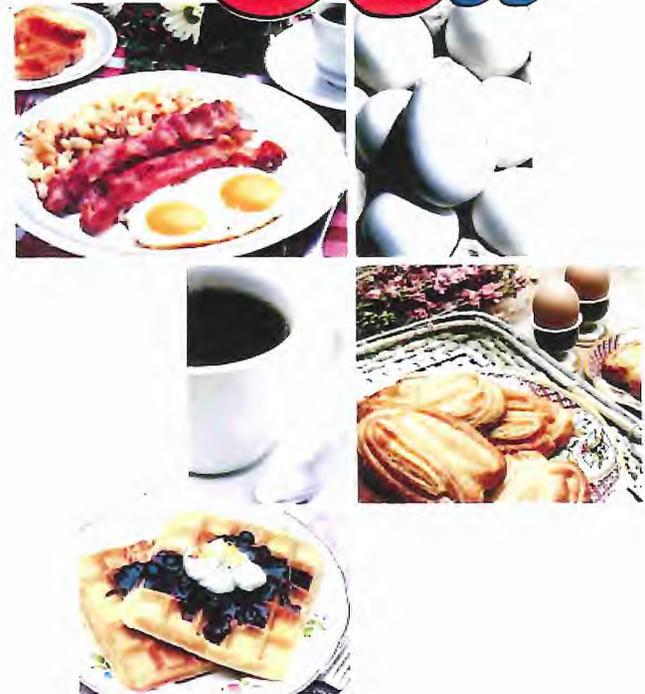
Invited to Ham & Eggs by _____

Please hand this completed form to your host member or visit our website www.hamandeggsclub.com to complete the MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION on-line, then simply click on "submit" and you're done. You'll hear from us within a day or two. Call Darrell Bertelson at 952.944.6618 with questions.



www.hamandeggsclub.com

Ham & Eggs



Welcome to Ham'n Eggs

"The best place in the Twin Cities to start Wednesday morning"

*A premier breakfast club meeting
where members, guests, & speakers enjoy
Food – Fellowship - Knowledge – Purpose*

Ham'n Eggs offers exciting speakers, great people & an excellent buffet breakfast!

Ham & Eggs members, largely from Twin Cities business and professional communities, meet weekly over breakfast to enjoy an array of interesting speakers and one another's company.

Ham & Eggs was founded in 1946 after World War II by a handful of fellows who thought it would be a good idea to get together once a week and have breakfast. While the initial idea was the exchange of business, friendship between hard-working young men also had its place.

We're a club with few rules, which are loosely in place merely to set a tone. We expect all members to attend breakfast regularly enough to think of themselves as contributing parts of the group. We ask that they contribute to the dynamics of the organization by bringing a prospective member at least once every six months.

Join us for simulating speakers and developing new friendships.

www.hamandeggsclub.com



Every Wednesday:
7:00 Coffee & Social
7:15 Buffet Breakfast
8:00 Program
8:45 Adjourn

Edina Country Club



Past weekly speakers

History & Education

- Eric Kaler, President, University of Minnesota
- Arlington Nat'l Cemetery; Dave Newhall
- G.K.Chesterton by Dr.Chalberg, Prof of History
- David Nimmer, formerly with WCCO
- Arlington National Cemetery, The History

Business

- Enbridge Pipeline Expansion Projects in Minnesota
- SCORE, "Helping Small Businesses Succeed!"
- Director of Research at RBC, Phil Dow
- Unlocking Equity in Closely Held Business
- Jon Cherry, CEO, PolyMet Mining
- "From Russia with Law" Eugene Sherayzen
- Experience as a trial lawyer, Mark Stageberg
- Dr. Frederick Strobl: Inventor, engineer, neurologist

Political

- Erik Paulsen, Congressman
- Tom Horner, Independ. party gubernatorial candidate
- Dave Durenberger, Former US Senator
- Amy Klobuchar, US Senator, Democrat, Minnesota
- Kurt Zellers, Republican gubernatorial candidate
- Todd Rapp, Political Analyst for MPR
- David Hann, Minnesota Minority Leader

Military

- Political Interference is Damaging Natl Defense
- The Forgotten War, presented by Ed Valle
- The US Marine Corps Birthday//Bob Lewis
- Dec 7, 1941 "A Day That Will Live In Infamy"
- Experiences as a WWII surgeon//Dr John Linner

General Interest

- Tony Palumbo, Anoka County Attny "Elder Abuse"
- Cindy Brucatto, former KSTPNews Anchor
- Bud Grant, former Minnesota Vikings coach
- Capt.Jason Meszaros, Intelligence Officer Afghan
- "Anthropogenic Global Warming" Rolf Svendsen
- Denny Hecker Case, Jonathan Ferris, Hwy Patrol
- Journey To Freedom, Peter Vodenka
- Dr. John Najarian, Transplant Surgeon
- Use of Drones in the Modern Military, John Radson
- Rich Stanek, Henn Co Sheriff "Guns, Mental Illness
- Deborah Jiang-Stein, Born Heroin Addicted in Prison

Heather Branigin

From: Christian Clapp <christian.clapp@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 23, 2014 2:40 PM
To: Edina Mail
Subject: Airport Noise

Dear Mayor and City Council: After several months of limited airport noise (whew), I noticed again around 6:55 AM on 12/23/14 planes flying about every 5 minutes very low over Edina, specifically the Pamela Park neighborhood. I know that Edina has been working with MAC and I have lodged a complaint with MAC. However, I would like to know what Edina is doing as the the planes are so loud rather early in the AM that our house actually shakes. I worry about the value of land in Edina as more and more residents become disturbed by the planes and the noise disturbance. I have friends who are opting not to move to Edina because they have heard of noise problems associated with the airport. Has the MAC made any efforts to extend their noise mitigation to Edina? Alternatively, is there anything the City can do to help solve this problem permanently? Thanks for your time-

Sincerely,

Christian Clapp

Heather Branigin

From: Harris, Shep <SHarris@goldenvalleymn.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 30, 2014 12:45 AM
Subject: Mayor Harris/Mayor Johnson Meeting Invitation
Attachments: Elected Official Invitation Email.pdf

Importance: High

Happy Holidays! Along with Independence Mayor Marvin Johnson, I wanted to make sure that you received an invitation to a meeting early next month to learn more about Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin (CAPSH) and see what opportunities might be available for local partnerships.

In case your letter got caught in the holiday rush, you will see in the attached letter that this meeting will offer some clarification about CAPSH and its services.

If you have any questions, please let me know. Otherwise, Happy New Year to you and I hope to see you on January 9 at Golden Valley City Hall.

Shep Harris
Golden Valley Mayor
612-219-8531 (cell)
sharris@goldenvalleymn.gov

DATE: December 29, 2014
TO: City and County Officials within the Seven-County Metropolitan Area
FROM: Susan Haigh, Chair, Metropolitan Council
RE: Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission (MPOSC) Vacancies

The Metropolitan Council is seeking applicants for the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission (MPOSC) to serve in Districts E, F, G and H. The MPOSC helps the Council develop long-range plans for regional parks, park reserves and trails.

The Metropolitan Council invites your participation in this appointment process by encouraging citizens who have an interest in the work of the MPOSC to become applicants as well as by providing us with any recommendations you may have. Statutory qualifications for membership include: applicant must be a resident of the commission district for which they are seeking appointment, and shall not during their term hold the office of Metropolitan Council member, be a member of any metropolitan agency, or hold any judicial office.

MPOSC appointments are governed under the Minnesota Open Appointments process administered by the Secretary of State and were noticed November 1, 2014 (<http://www.sos.state.mn.us/index.aspx?page=308>). Interested individuals should contact the Secretary of State's office at 651-297-5845 for an application or visit their website at <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/index.aspx?page=5> Completed applications are to be submitted to the Secretary of State's Office by January 9, 2015.

The Secretary of State will forward all applications to the Metropolitan Council. Applicants will then be invited to appear for an interview conducted by a Metropolitan Council appointments committee. Following the public meeting, the appointments committee will review the information received and make recommendations to Metropolitan Council.

Additional information about the Parks Commission can be found on the Metropolitan Council's website at <http://metrocouncil.org/Council-Meetings/Committees/Metropolitan-Parks-and-Open-Space-Commission.aspx>

If you have any questions about this appointment process, please contact Brooke Crosby, Metropolitan Council appointments coordinator, at brooke.crosby@metc.state.mn.us or 651.602.1630.

Heather Branigin

From: LaJune Lange <judgelange@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 30, 2014 10:07 AM
To: Edina Mail
Subject: Fwd: Mayor Hovland letter.
Attachments: img093.jpg

Please find enclosed a letter for Mayor Hovland from the Wajir delegation from the Republic of Kenya regarding their upcoming visit to Edina.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Omar Ahmed <omaridaan2010@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Dec 30, 2014 at 9:46 AM
Subject: Mayor Hovland letter.
To: Judge Lange US <judgelange@gmail.com>

Receive regards, afterwards, I sent you a letter to forward to Mayor Hovland of Edina as per our agreement. Please check it out and tell me whether it is perfect . Let me also know if I can correct it in anyway insha Allah.

Regards,
Omar A Ahmed.

--

Judge LaJune Thomas Lange (retired)

Honorary Consul for South Africa for the State of Minnesota
Senior Fellow, Roy Wilkins Center
President, International Leadership Institute

Office: (612) 605-6268
Email: JudgeLange@gmail.com

www.internationalleadership.org

WAJIR COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Tel. No:
Email: wajircountygovernment@gmail.com



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Wajir County
P.O. Box 9 -70200
Wajir

Ref : No.....

THE HONORABLE,
JAMES HOVLAND,
MAYOR,
CITY OF EDINA MINNESOTA,
U.S.A

Greetings Mayor Hovland from the County Government of Wajir in the Republic of Kenya. On behalf of the members of the County Government of Wajir we would like to thank you for the interest you have shown in Wajir County.

The visit of Wajir senator last year encouraged us to form a sister-city committee in Minnesota and here in Wajir with the assistance of the LTL leadership institute www.internationalleadership.org and judge Lajune Lange. We will be travelling to Minnesota on 10th January 2015 with the following delegation from Wajir.

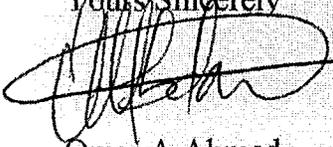
1. HON ABDIHAFIDH ABDULLAHI YAROW -Deputy Governor
2. SALAH A. ABDI -County Executive Committee Member (Finance & Economic Planning)
3. YUSSUF ABDI GEDI -County Executive Committee Member (Water)
4. RUKIYA M. KAHIYE- County Executive Member (Health)
5. OMAR A. AHMED -Director Foreign Relations& Investment

The purpose of our visit is to meet with you and other Edina officials to move forward with discussions and presentation related to forming a sister-city relationship. Our delegation is aware of the need for a person to person meeting to learn more about the mutual benefit of a Relationship.

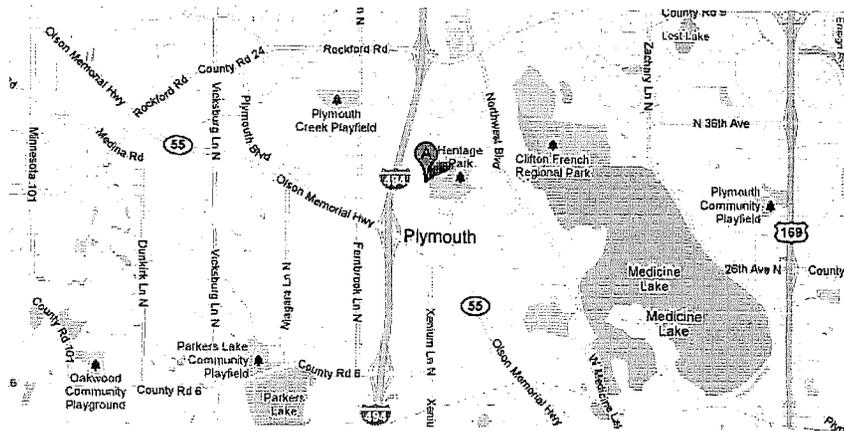
We look forward to meeting with you and attending an Edina City Council meeting during our visit.

With kind regards,

Yours Sincerely


Omar A. Ahmed

Director foreign Relation & Investment.



From the South:

I-494 W to exit 23 for Rockford Rd/Cty Rd 9. Turn right at Rockford Rd. Turn right at Vinewood Lane N, which will turn into Xenium Lane N. The Crowne Plaza will be on your right just past a residential area.

From the North:

Head south on I-94 E. Take a slight right at I-494 S. Take exit 23 for Rockford Rd/Cty Rd 9. Turn left at Rockford Rd. Turn right at Vinewood Lane N, which will turn into Xenium Lane N. The Crowne Plaza will be on your right just past a residential area.

The Municipal Legislative Commission (MLC)

cordially invites you to attend our

Regional Legislative Breakfast Meeting

Friday, January 16th, 2015

7:30 A.M. - 9:00 A.M.

Crowne Plaza, Minneapolis West

Elsinore/Helsinki Room

3131 Campus Drive

Plymouth, MN 55441

*Please RSVP to Charlotte de Julio by phone at 651-556-9205
or by e-mail at cdejulio@messerlikramer.com*

Invitees to MLC Legislative Breakfast, January 16th:

Legislators:

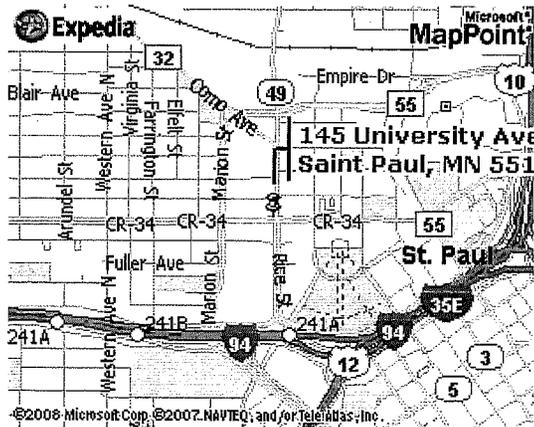
- Sen. Warren Limmer (Maple Grove, SD 34)
- Rep. Joyce Peppin (Maple Grove, 34A)
- Rep. Dennis Smith (Maple Grove, 34B)
- Sen. Terri Bonoff (Minnetonka/Plymouth, SD 44)
- Rep. Sarah Anderson (Plymouth, 44A)
- Rep. Jon Applebaum (Minnetonka/Plymouth, 44B)
- Sen. Ann Rest (Plymouth, SD 45)
- Rep. Lyn Carlson (Plymouth, 45A)
- Sen. Ron Latz (Plymouth, SD 46)
- Rep. Ryan Winkler (Plymouth, 46A)
- Sen. David Hann (Eden Prairie/Minnetonka, SD 48)
- Rep. Yvonne Selcer (Eden Prairie/Minnetonka, 48A)
- Rep. Jenifer Loon (Eden Prairie, 48B)
- Sen. Melisa Franzen (Bloomington/EP/Edina/Mtka, SD 49)
- Rep. Ron Erhardt (Edina, 49A)
- Rep. Paul Rosenthal (Bloomington/EP/Edina/Mtka, 49B)
- Sen. Melissa Halvorson Wiklund (Bloomington, SD 50)
- Rep. Linda Slocum (Bloomington, 50A)
- Rep. Ann Lenczewski (Bloomington, 50B)
- Sen. Eric Pratt (Shakopee, SD 55)
- Rep. Bob Loonan (Shakopee, 55A)
- Rep. Tony Albright (Shakopee, 55B)

Metropolitan Council Members:

- Steve Elkins
- Gary Van Eyll
- Jennifer Munt
- Katie Rodriguez

Mayors and City Council Members:

City of Bloomington, City of Eden Prairie, City of Edina, City of Maple Grove,
City of Minnetonka, City of Plymouth, and City of Shakopee



From Minneapolis – Take 94 East to the Marion Street exit and turn left. Take a right hand turn at the University Avenue stop light and go one block to Rice Street. The League of Minnesota Cities Building is on your left at the corner of Rice and University Avenue.

From the East – Take 94 West to the 12th Street exit. Go two blocks to Robert Street and turn right. Take a left hand turn onto University Avenue. The League of Minnesota Cities Building is on your right at the corner of Rice Street and University Avenue.

*The Municipal Legislative Commission (MLC)
cordially invites you to attend our*

Regional Legislative Breakfast Meeting

*Friday, February 13th, 2015
8:00 A.M. - 9:30 A.M.*

*League of Minnesota Cities Building
St. Croix Conference Room
145 University Avenue West
St. Paul, Minnesota*

*Please RSVP to Charlotte de Julio by phone at 651-556-9205
or by e-mail at cdejulio@messerlikramer.com*

Invitees to MLC Legislative Breakfast, February 13th:

Legislators:

Sen. Bev Scalze (Shoreview, SD 42)
Rep. Barb Yarusso (Shoreview, 42A)
Rep. Jason Isaacson (Shoreview, 42B)
Sen. Chuck Wiger (Maplewood, SD 43)
Rep. Peter Fischer (Maplewood, 43A)
Rep. Leon Lillie (Maplewood, 43B)
Sen. Susan Kent (Woodbury/Maplewood, SD 53)
Rep. Joann Ward (Woodbury/Maplewood, 53A)
Rep. Kelly Fenton (Woodbury, 53B)

Metropolitan Council Members:

Marie McCarthy
Sandy Rummel
Harry Melander

Mayors and City Council Members:

City of Maplewood
City of Shoreview
City of Woodbury

From: Sarah Grubert <sarah.grubert@sbcglobal.net>
Subject: **LETTER TO EDINA POLICE CHIEF**
Date: December 29, 2014 11:16:38 AM CST
To: Lynn Geesaman <Lgeesaman@visi.com>

4606 Drexel Ave.
Edina, MN 55424

To: Dave Nelson, Chief of Police, City of Edina

Re: A Commendation and a Complaint

Background:

Time is far from heavy on my hands, but I would feel irresponsible if I did not pursue this matter.

We have lived on Drexel Ave for 38 years. Our house may not be one of the largest on Drexel, but it is one of the most handsome. I was a professor at the University of Minnesota until my retirement. My wife's (Lynn Geesaman) career in the US and in Europe is easily accessible on Google.

Mrs. Geesaman's career was ended by dementia. For 7 years, we have anticipated and dealt with every aspect of her illness to the best of our abilities. We have benefited from access to Edina's excellent medical and health care resources.

For the record, during the week of 12/14, Fairview Home Care reviewed our needs and advised us on our current practices. Non-emergency emergencies was one of my concerns. That is, a physical risk situation where no injury has occurred, but which needs resolution without indefinite delay. I was repeatedly told by health care workers that in these circumstances I should call 911-non emergency - Edina Police.

Commendation:

Case Study 1 (Thursday evening, 12/18)

For the past 5 months, I have assisted my wife in going up and down the stairs from our main floor to her bedroom on the 2nd floor. Our daily care givers have done the same. It has been manageable but was becoming more demanding, which is why the Fairview Home Care review had been requested and stair lift companies contacted.

Because there is no railing for the first 2 steps to the lower landing, these steps have always been the most difficult. After dinner on 12/18, I was helping my wife up these 2 steps, and her right leg gave way on the 2nd step. It is an awkward doorway, so I was in no position to manage her whole weight. I could only partially control her fall and she fell flat on her back on the kitchen floor. She was not injured, but my getting her up alone was out of the question. I called 911/non emergency. Two police officers came soon after - a large middle aged officer who was in charge and a blonde younger officer. They were pleasant, genuinely helpful, considerate of my wife, professional in manner. After the officer was convinced the fall had done no harm, they lifted my wife to her feet, then asked if they should help her upstairs. I said, the first 2 steps would be appreciated, but instead, they took her all the way upstairs with no difficulty and no trauma for her, despite their being strangers wearing guns. The officers left us upstairs, and said "we will close the door when we leave."

Police officers in one's house is not a natural situation on Drexel Ave. As officers know wherever they go, there is always a gun and guns change the relationship. These officers did a masterful job of presenting themselves as unthreatening, genuinely helpful, considerate, professional and non-judgmental - that is, they didn't feel an obligation to blame the victim. I would ask that this letter of commendation be placed in their files. Their conduct was exemplary.

Complaint:

Case Study 2 (Friday evening, 12/19)

Despite her fall on the previous evening, Mrs. Geesaman was not even stiff the next morning, and her care giver helped her downstairs. It was not until after the care giver had left and I brought my wife in for dinner that the difficulty in the right leg reappeared. For the first time, I knew my helping her up the stairs was problematic. I also knew that the evening prior, the police officers had walked my wife upstairs without even my asking them to do this. We have no relatives in the area. I called our daughter in Texas and asked her to call Edina 911- non emergency, and describe the circumstances, and say that I don't want to be a nuisance, and ask if my calling them would be appropriate. She did so and was told yes. After dinner, I called for non urgent assistance, mentioning our gratitude for the prior night's exemplary service.

As it turned out, Friday was the antithesis of Thursday. Three police officers arrived - a large middle aged officer (Vessie (sp?)) who did most of the talking; a quiet younger officer with captain bars on his collar who was silent and acted more like a passive observer than a participant; and an older officer wearing a reserve label, whose presence was counterproductive in all regards - unneeded talk, and ill-conceived actions. To summarize, they came into our home as POLICE - unfriendly, intimidating, vaguely accusative, feeling inconvenienced (low priority), happy to blame the victim, insensitive to my wife's condition. I felt we were being taken not as citizens to be helped, but rather, as people to be regarded as instigators of some sort of domestic disturbance. I was treated to gratuitous advice, patronized, and then in effect, booked and turned over to other services for correction. Moreover, after organizing my wife's life for years around quiet simple days, the net affect of this kitchen full of unfriendly police officers with guns (SS officers), stunned my wife in to near total disfunction. I was left with the impression of police assistance that was worse than worthless, corrosive, insensitive, uncivil.

My wife's dementia and my caring for her is not the issue. Nor is the issue what responsibilities properly attach to non urgent police activities. The issue is deficient conduct of police officers, and I ask that this letter be placed in the offending officers' files.

In hindsight, I felt the implied police judgement on proper conduct in my situation was for me to try to climb the stairs with my wife, to fall down the stairs and be smashed up, and to call 911. No subtlety involved.

I attach related correspondence from 10 years ago.

Guns and cudgels and cuffs are not what attend normal civil discourse, in fact they suggest the contrary. They are the uniform of intimidation and any good police officer will know that as a consequence, a special attention to their own civil behavior is implied.

Donald Geesaman

cc: Mayor James Hovland ✓
Scott Neal, City Manager

Nov 13, 04 ✓

4606 Drexel Ave

Edina 55424

Chief of Police - City of Edina

Re: Officer Tom Olson - letter of commendation

We live in the old Country Club neighborhood and have since 1976.

On October 2 we experienced a theft, the nature & circumstances of which were highly unusual. In particular, that night between 11PM & morning, some 20 pounds of various fancy frozen meats & foods were stolen from a refrigerator, that virtually no one knew, was temporarily located in our garage. Many items in the refrigerator were left undisturbed. Nothing else was taken from the garage.

Officer Olson investigated the theft. He immediately understood the bizarre nature of the theft, and the special concerns consequent to its bizarreness. Contrary to what I had come to expect from few previous police department dealings, he was genuinely responsive, and did not add insult to injury by lecturing me on all the things I did wrong, & blame the victim.

It was a small affair, but I found Officer Olson's handling of it exemplary. He was professional, pleasant and responsive.

I am writing to commend this to your attention, and to ask that a copy of this letter be placed in his personnel file.

Donald R. Desurice



City of Edina

November 17, 2004 ✓

Mr. Donald Geesaman
4606 Drexel Avenue
Edina, MN 55424

Dear Mr. Geesaman,

I usually do not write thank you notes for letters of commendation but your letter for Officer Tom Olson is a valuable teaching tool for all of our officers. I have posted the letter for everyone to see and placed a copy in Tom's file.

The most important aspect of our job is to treat people right. Unfortunately police officers can become a bit jaded after years of answering crime calls. Your well-worded letter showed what a difference a little empathy and caring can make when dealing with a crime victim, no matter how strange the crime is. Your letter recognized Tom's good work and clearly laid out our residents' expectations when they call the police department. I hope that your letter will help one or more other officers remember that treating people with respect can make all the difference in the world.

Thank you for taking the time to put pen to paper and commending Officer Olson for a job well done. One letter from a resident can do more than a hundred words from the chief in sending the message of good human relations.

Sincerely,

Mike Siitari
Chief of Police

April 26, 2005 ✓
4606 Drexel Ave.
Edina, MN 55424

Jim Hovland, Mayor
City of Edina
Gordon Hughes, City Manager
City of Edina

As I was leaving the Edina City Hall on Monday of last week, after a particularly unsatisfying meeting with an officious, totally unresponsive woman in recycling and waste management, it occurred to me that this is my 29th year in Edina, and remarkably, I have no happy associations from my dealings with City personnel. In fact, I have come to dread these contacts because I generally come away from them unsatisfied and annoyed. In the span of 29 years I have necessarily had occasions to come to the City for aid, relief, or advice on various substantive issues. With only a couple of notable exceptions, I would characterize the City employees' 'rules of citizen engagement' as follows: be unresponsive, admit no responsibility, emphasize that nothing can be done, fix responsibility, or better still blame, on the person with the problem (in the spirit of blaming the victim), and finally, give the impression that the good and important work of the City is being disrupted by the person's petty concerns, which have no place in that great enterprise.

Frankly this baffles and disappoints me. I am a civil and reasonable person who has, during his life, been well treated in dealings in all manners of settings, - academic, military, legal, financial, neighborhood, etc. I admire the old country club area where we live; I pay my bills and taxes; I maintain and improve my property. So what is the cause and origin of my experience with the City?

I don't think the City personnel I've dealt with are bad people, but I do believe that the City, with its pretensions and its tendency for self congratulation, has inadvertently promoted, or at least allowed to evolve, in its personnel, an inappropriate attitude towards the ordinary citizen. 

If you are unconvinced I will be happy to give you chapter and verse in the form of examples.

Donald P. Geesaman



City of Edina

May 10, 2005 ✓

Donald P. Geesaman
4606 Drexel Avenue
Edina, MN 55424

Dear Mr. Geesaman:

Thank you for your letter of April 26, 2005, concerning your recent visit to City Hall and your unsatisfactory meeting with a staff member concerning recycling/waste management issues. You also mentioned that you have had "no happy associations from dealings with City personnel" during your entire 29-year tenure in Edina.

Needless to say, I am very surprised and disappointed! Although our staff is by no means perfect, the City prides itself in its customer service. In fact, past surveys have indicated that our customer services and other City services are rated among the highest in the metropolitan area. Be that as it may, I am troubled that you have consistently experienced sub par performance by our staff. I will pass along your comments and perceptions to all of our department heads so we all may reflect on the opinions you have expressed to me.

Thanks again for taking the time to share your thoughts.

Sincerely,

Gordon L. Hughes
City Manager

GLH/d

cc: Mayor Hovland

12/12/14 ✓
Good experience for 10 years
The infrastructure project personnel
The planning department

Heather Branigin

From: Dennyschulstad@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, January 04, 2015 8:08 PM
To: Jennifer Bennerotte
Cc: Scott H. Neal; James Hovland
Subject: Excellent magazine

Jenn:

I wanted to let you know how informative and interesting the "About Town" magazine is every quarter. Pam and I always read it cover to cover. I know how much work is involved editing a quality piece like this. It is greatly appreciated. Thanks for the excellent work letting us know about the history and projects of our city.

We are off to Maui. Best to you for a great 2015.

Denny

DENNIS W. SCHULSTAD
Brigadier General, USAF, retired

6303 Rose Court
Edina, MN 55424

952-927-9822

dennyschulstad@aol.com

Heather Branigin

From: Hennepin County <hennepin@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Monday, January 05, 2015 11:01 AM
To: Edina Mail
Subject: INVITATION REMINDER: Hennepin County Oath of Office Ceremony, Jan. 6, 2015

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

Oath of Office Ceremony



You are cordially invited to the

2015 Oath of Office Ceremony

for

Hennepin County Commissioners

Linda Higgins, 2nd District
Marion Greene, 3rd District
Peter McLaughlin, 4th District

Hennepin County Attorney

Michael O. Freeman

Hennepin County Sheriff

Richard W. Stanek

When

Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.

Where

Hennepin County Board Room
A Tower, 24th Floor
Hennepin County Government Center
300 S. Sixth St., Minneapolis, MN

* * *

Reception follows a brief county board meeting
23rd floor bridge

Directions

Hennepin County Government Center
or call 612-348-3848

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INTERACT WITH HENNEPIN COUNTY:



This email was sent to mail@edinamn.gov using GovDelivery, on behalf of: Hennepin County · 300 South Sixth Street · Minneapolis, MN 55487 · 612-348-3000

GOVDelivery
get the word out.

Heather Branigin

From: Garrison McMurtrey <gmcsmurtrey@aaaminneapolis.com>
Sent: Monday, January 05, 2015 2:02 PM
To: Edina Mail
Subject: AAA Minneapolis Community Forum

Hello Mayor Hovland,

I'm Garrison McMurtrey, the Community Outreach Manager with AAA Minneapolis, and I'm reaching out to personally invite you to our first, in a series, of Community Forums at our St. Louis Park Headquarters. This first forum will take place on **Wednesday, February 4th at 6pm** and will feature a presentation by MnDOT representatives about the purpose and scope of the Highway 100 construction project.

March and April will mark the peak of heavy construction, therefore AAA Minneapolis will be hosting this forum in order to educate the public on how their daily commutes will be impacted, gain awareness of alternate routes, and utilize safety tips when traveling in the midst of construction.

Throughout this project, AAA Minneapolis will remain a key resource for the communities surrounding the Highway 100 corridor to ensure that everyone is up to date on the latest developments. Parallel to the forum, AAA Minneapolis has also created a special section on our website devoted to the Highway 100 Construction project. Whether you are trying to shop at a local business or dropping your kids off at school, AAA Minneapolis wants all community members informed of the construction progress. Please visit www.minneapolis.aaa.com/hwy100 for more details.

As an influential community leader, we encourage you to not only attend, but also encourage others to join this discussion and raise any questions they might have. I have attached an official invitation flyer for you to pass on to your contacts and we look forward to having you attend this event.

Please RSVP to foundation@aaaminneapolis.com by January 28th and feel free to email me at gmcsmurtrey@aaaminneapolis.com for any questions you may have.

Garrison McMurtrey
Community Outreach Manager

AAA Minneapolis | 5400 Auto Club Way | Minneapolis, MN 55416-2576
Phone: (952) 927-2531 | AAA.com

Heather Branigin

From: Garrison McMurtrey <gmcmurtrey@aaaminneapolis.com>
Sent: Monday, January 05, 2015 2:11 PM
Subject: AAA Minneapolis Community Forum Invitation
Attachments: community forum Invitation.pdf

Here is the official invitation. Thanks again and let me know if you have any questions.

Garrison McMurtrey
Community Outreach Manager

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AAA MINNEAPOLIS

COMMUNITY FORUM

Join us as MnDOT representatives educate attendees on the purpose and scope behind the Highway 100 construction project, raise awareness of key closure dates and targeted areas, and help attendees determine how this project will affect:

- Daily Commutes
- Routine Transportation Needs
- Businesses
- Other Aspects of this Major North-South Causeway

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2015

6:00 PM Doors Open

6:30-7:00 PM Presentation

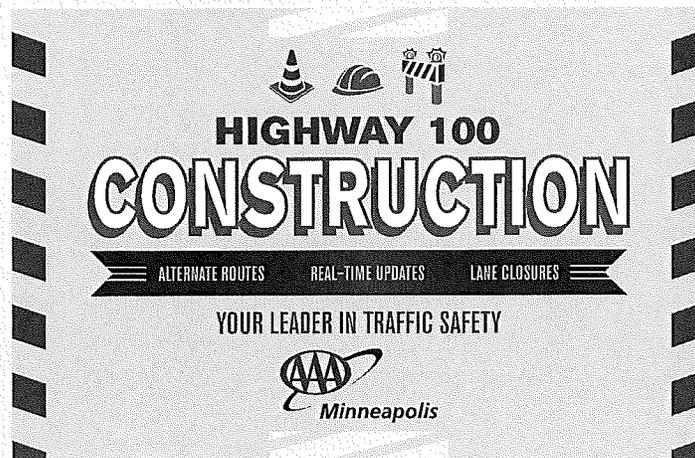
7:00-7:30 PM Q&A

AAA Minneapolis Headquarters
5400 Auto Club Way, St. Louis Park, MN 55416



RSVP by 1/28/15 in order to attend:
foundation@aaaminneapolis.com

For continuous Highway 100 updates and related information visit:
www.minneapolis.aaa.com/hwy100



To: Mayor Jim Hovland, City of Edina and City Council Members:

FROM: Dave & Sandy Phillips, 6800 Cornelia Drive, Edina

RE: Sidewalks, Cornelia Drive

Please know that we oppose sidewalks on Cornelia Drive. This street has beautiful mature trees and well-kept homes and yards. There have never been safety issues on this street. Pedestrians, cars and bikes have a healthy respect for one another. And, in this day and age, most parents do not let their children walk alone on most streets because of issues of child safety unrelated to cars.

The traffic count quoted by Mark Nolan is an old one and we do not believe it is correct for current usage. We would want to have more current counts taken if we must proceed with this project.

One of greatest objections to sidewalks is that additional runoff will damage Lake Cornelia especially on the west side. This lake is a treasure and must be preserved.

If you must proceed with this idea, please reconsider the location of the sidewalks. Constructing sidewalks on the west side of the street means removal of large mature trees which have been on this street for 50 years or more. Also, retaining walls will have to be built in a few yards.

Adding crosswalks at 68th street will mean a crosswalk in or immediately next to our driveway. At this corner, there is also a three-way stop which means pedestrians will cross from our driveway into three-way traffic and meet up with a fire hydrant on the east side. It is really a bad idea!! The home at 6712 Cornelia Drive would also present a crosswalk problem with the existing stop sign and location of their driveway.

A better idea is to have the west to east crosswalk at Cornelia Drive and Dunberry Lane. This is a four way stop that could be manned by School Patrol before and after school. Sending them to 68th Street is unrealistic.

It is not true that these homes will have increased value with the addition of sidewalks. In some cases this is true, but not on the west side of Cornelia Drive. These homes and yards are beautifully maintained and will not have greater value with 10 feet of concrete in the front yard. As a matter of fact, our home is being considered for the Heritage Preservation project. How can 10 feet of concrete increase the value of a home that is a example being considered for this status??

It has been shown that in the winter pedestrians walk in the street even where there are sidewalks. That will happen on this street. Even if snow is removed, as melting occurs and then freezes, pedestrians are wary of sidewalks. It's the same story as

the bike paths which are barely used any time of the year. Then, we throw down salt which will impact Lake Cornelia.

Boulevards are difficult to maintain and become very unattractive. Many Edina residents chose to live in a suburb to get away from maintenance of boulevards. The City of Edina has declared residents will need to maintain boulevards. Some will and some will not. Soon they are weedy and very unattractive. And, more chemicals will be used which will ultimately be part of runoff to Lake Cornelia.

Most of u voted against sidewalks at the time the streets were upgraded. Each home paid \$14,000 for these streets. Now, you are proposing we tear up the new curbs, potentially damage the new streets in order to make changes we voted against.

You are listening to and quoting from a survey that was signed by residents of Oaklawn, West Shore Drive and streets other than Cornelia Drive. What that survey was requesting was a sidewalk to the corner of Dunberry from 70th St. on the west side. This is a small piece of sidewalk where snow accumulates because the sidewalk ends. Suddenly this survey has become a monster project impacting an entire neighborhood.

We are afraid you will proceed with this even though many residents are opposed to the idea. If so, please go up the east side and stay away from the lake and the mature trees. Let's have 3 foot widths for boulevards and sidewalks. Five foot increments, totaling 10 feet, is really too much and unattractive. And, it won't get used in the wintertime. Pedestrians will continue to walk in the street.

And, have the crosswalk at Dunberry instead of 68th Street. 68th Street is a very unrealistic idea.

Respectfully submitted,

David and Sandy Phillips
6800 Cornelia Drive