

AboutTown Magazine

City of Edina
4801 West 50th Street
Edina, MN 55424
www.CityofEdina.com

National Trust To
Tour Edina

See Page 26
For Details

AboutTown

Official Magazine of the City of Edina



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A U T U M N • 2 0 0 7

About Town

Volume 18, Number 4
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About Town is published quarterly by the City of Edina. The
purpose of the magazine is to keep Edina residents informed
of news, activities and programs that are important to them.
We include articles of interest about our citizens and
community history as well.

About Town is printed on recycled paper to conform to City
conservation guidelines.

www.CityofEdina.com

Cover photo by Barbara Nichols, winner of the 2007
"Images of Edina" contest

Pumpkin Festival Set For Oct. 27

The 50th & France Business and Professional
Association on Saturday, Oct. 27, will host Pumpkin
Festival, a fall event for children.

Activities in downtown Edina will include games, a
showcase of decorated pumpkins, horse-drawn trolley
rides, costume parade for kids and pets, and trick-or-
treating. Trick-or-treating at area businesses will begin
at 10 a.m. Pumpkin Festival has been a long standing

Table of Contents

Calendar Of Events.....	1
Autumn Calendar Highlights	4
A Word From The Mayor.....	5
Edina's Olinger Family Operated 7-Acre Farm For Six Decades.....	6
Getting To Know The Edina Fire Department: 'C' Shift.....	12
New City Attorney Begins Work	16
Edina Art Center Offers 'unREEL' Film Transfer Process.....	18
<i>Newsweek</i> Ranks Edina High School 'Top Of The Class'.....	22
It's Not Only Neighborly...It's The Law.....	24
National Preservation Conference To Include Edina Tour.....	26
'Be In Their Boots' At Edina's Public Safety Open House	28
Participate In Minnesota Chemical Health Week	30
VEAP Prepares To Distribute Holiday Joy	31
The Edina Community Foundation: Program Chairs	32
Thanks To Project Earth, Edina High School 'Reuses And Recycles'.....	34
Aarsvold Joins City Staff As Recreation Supervisor	36

tradition of the community and provides a fun, safe
Halloween celebration for children and their families.

There is no charge to participate. For more
information, contact the 50th & France Business &
Professional Association, 952-922-1534, or
www.50thandfrance.com.

About Town Calendar

October 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		7 p.m., HRA & City Council, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Lee Engele Jazz Band, Edinborough Park.	23rd-Annual Members' Juried Exhibition ends at the Edina Art Center.	5:30 p.m., Zoning Board of Appeals, Edina City Hall.	6 p.m., Rotary Club of Edina "Back to the 50s" fundraiser, Edina Country Club.	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1-4 p.m., Carnival of the Arts: Art Around the World, Edina Art Center. 7 p.m., Honeywell Concert Band, Edinborough Park.		9 a.m., Senior Expo, Colonial Congregational Church. 7 p.m., Heritage Preservation Board, Edina City Hall.	5 p.m., Comp Plan Task Force, Edina City Hall.	Fall-2 class registration begins at Edina Art Center. 6:30 p.m. Morningside Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting, Weber Park.	5 p.m., Reception for "Dynamic Duo and Friends," Edina Art Center.	9:30 a.m., Paint Your Pet Workshop, Edina Art Center.
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2-4 p.m., Grand opening celebration of Edina Public Schools' east campus. 7 p.m., Star of the North Concert Band, Edinborough Park.		7 p.m., HRA & City Council, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Notable Singers, Edinborough Park.	6:30 p.m., Digital camera workshop, Edina Art Center.	5:30 p.m., Zoning Board of Appeals, Edina City Hall. 6 p.m., Transportation Commission, Edina City Hall.		Great Pumpkin Painting Party for ages 3 to adult, Edina Art Center.
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
7 p.m., Zuhrah Shrine Concert Band, Edinborough Park.		11:30 a.m., City Council study session, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Human Rights & Relations Commission, Edina City Hall.	10 a.m., Faux painting Workshop, Edina Art Center.	4 p.m., Art Center Board, Edina Art Center. 4:30-7:30 p.m., Taste of Edina, Southdale Center.	6:30 p.m., Video editing, Edina Art Center.	10 a.m., Doll-Making Workshop, Edina Art Center. 10 a.m., Pumpkin Festival, 50th & France.
28	29	30	31			
7 p.m., First John Philip Sousa Memorial Band, Edinborough Park.	4:30 p.m., PhotoShop Editing, Edina Art Center.	7 p.m., Jazz on the Prairie Big Band, Edinborough Park.	5 p.m., Comp Plan Task Force, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Planning Commission, Edina City Hall.			

1 • A U T U M N 2 0 0 7

About Town Calendar

November 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				8 a.m., Braemar Golf Dome opens for the season. 9 a.m., Handcrafted Gift Sale begins, Edina Art Center. 5:30 p.m., Zoning Board of Appeals, Edina City Hall.		Edina Community Foundation 30th Anniversary Gala, Edinborough Park. 10 a.m., Asian Brush-Painting Workshop for Ages 10 and older, Edina Art Center.
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7 p.m., St. Louis Park Community Band, Edinborough Park.	7 p.m., HRA & City Council, Edina City Hall.	Election Day. Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
7 p.m., South of the River Band, Edinborough Park.	Veteran's Day observed. Edina City Hall closed.	7 p.m., Heritage Preservation Board, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Park Board, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Hyebar Dancers, Edinborough Park.	5 p.m., Comp Plan Task Force, Edina City Hall.	4 p.m., Art Center Board, Edina Art Center. 5:30 p.m., Zoning Board of Appeals, Edina City Hall.		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
7 p.m., Southside Big Band, Edinborough Park.		6:30 p.m., Community Health Committee, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Calhoun Isles Community Band, Edinborough Park.			Thanksgiving. Edina City Hall closed.	1 and 2 p.m., "Nutcracker" mini performances by Minnesota Dance Theatre, Galleria. 6 p.m., Holiday Tree-Lighting Ceremony, 50th & France.
25	26	27	28	29	30	
7 p.m., First John Philip Sousa Memorial Band, Edinborough Park.		11:30 a.m., City Council study session, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Human Rights & Relations Commission, Edina City Hall.	7 p.m., Planning Commission, Edina City Hall.			

2 • A U T U M N 2 0 0 7

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Holiday Home Tour, beginning at Edina City Hall. 1 and 2 p.m., "Nutcracker" mini performances by Minnesota Dance Theatre, Galleria.
2 7 p.m., St. Louis Park Community Band, Edinborough Park.	3	4 7 p.m., HRA and City Council, Edina City Hall.	5	6 5:30 p.m., Zoning Board of Appeals, Edina City Hall.	7	8 4 p.m., The Edina Chorale "Chocolate and Cabernet" CD Release Party and Christmas Cabaret, The Mahan Center at St. Patrick's Catholic Church.
9 3 p.m., The Edina Chorale Christmas Concert, "December in Minnesota," St. Patrick's Catholic Church. 7 p.m., Minneapolis Police Concert Band, Edinborough Park.	10	11 7 p.m., Park Board, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Heritage Preservation Board, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Armenian Dance Ensemble, Edinborough Park.	12	13	14	15
16 7 p.m., Northern Winds Concert Band, Edinborough Park.	17	18 7 p.m., HRA & City Council, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Human Rights & Relations Commission, Edina City Hall.	19	20 5:30 p.m., Zoning Board of Appeals & Adjustments, Edina City Hall. 6 p.m., Transportation Commission, Edina City Hall.	21	22 5 p.m., Handcrafted Gift Sale ends, Edina Art Center. Don't miss your last chance to shop!
23	24	25 Christmas. Edina City Hall closed.	26 7 p.m., Planning Commission, Edina City Hall.	27	28	29
30	31					

Autumn Calendar Highlights

Other Dates To Remember

- Oct. 9** 7 p.m., Somewhat Dixieland Band, Edinborough Park.
- Oct. 9** 7 p.m., Park Board, Edina City Hall.
- Oct. 11** 7 p.m., Childhood Obesity Town Forum, Edina City Hall.
- Oct. 14** 12:30-4:30 p.m., Public Safety Open House, South Metro Public Safety Training Facility.
- Oct. 23** 6:30 p.m., Travel Photography Workshop, Edina Art Center.
- Oct. 23** 7 p.m., Flute Cocktail flute ensemble, Edinborough Park.
- Nov. 15** 6 p.m., Transportation Commission, Edina City Hall.
- Dec. 8** 1 and 2 p.m., "Nutcracker" mini performances by Minnesota Dance Theatre, Galleria.

Carnival Of The Arts

What: Edina Art Center's annual Carnival of the Arts will feature "Art Around the World." The free family fun, sponsored by the Peggy Kelly Family Fund, will include performances by Circus Manduhai at 1:30 and 3:15 p.m. The event will also include artists' demonstrations and sales, art activities, writing names in Irish, films, food, "passport" photos and more!

When: 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 7
Where: Edina Art Center, 4701 W. 64th St., on the frontage road in Rosland Park (one mile west of Southdale Center).

Info: www.EdinaArtCenter.com or 612-915-6600

A Word From The Mayor

For many generations, "safety" was taken for granted. While my daughters, now in their 30s, were taught the earlier generational equivalent of today's "stranger danger" warning, they could still safely leave on their bicycles to hang out with other kids in the neighborhood for several hours with nary a potential worry. We could enter a store or shopping center and go our separate ways, with an agreement to meet a few hours later at a predetermined spot. There was no internet, with predators hiding in "chat rooms." We went to parks and swimming pools and on amusement rides without first wondering about the level or adequacy of inspections and the experience of maintenance workers.

Is today's world less safe? Has technology evolved so quickly and with such complexity that maintenance requires more skill and precision by our laborers? Or have the media and the boom of the internet, which have made the world so much smaller with 24/7 news and information at your fingertips, simply lifted off a veil of naivety inappropriately worn in prior times by our society?

Recently, residents of the Twin Cities, Greater Minnesota and the nation gasped in collective horror when a 6-year-old Edina girl lost her small intestine this summer in a pool-drain accident. The girl was injured in late June when she became trapped on an uncovered drain in the wading pool at the private Minneapolis Golf Club in St. Louis Park. Her injury prompted calls throughout the United States for a federal law to require safer drain covers at public pools.

The 50-meter pool shell, plunge pool and zero-depth entry wading pool in service at the Edina Aquatic Center and the Edinborough Park lap pool were all inspected by USAquatics after this horrible incident and both were found to exceed Minnesota State Code requirements. The results of the inspections were not surprising to either me or the City Council, as we know that City staff works diligently to ensure that all our public facilities and amenities are maintained at the highest level of safety.

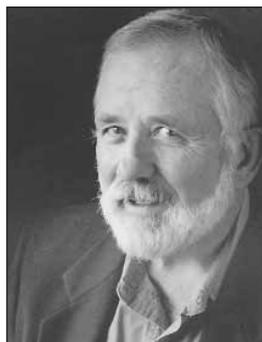
Those familiar with Edina's reputation for providing safe public facilities were also not surprised by our inspection results. U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar and U.S. Rep. Jim Ramstad held a joint news conference at the Edina Aquatic Center, holding up the Edina Aquatic Center as a national example of how public pools should be operated and maintained.

We don't want you to have to think twice about your personal safety or that of a child or loved one when you are at a City-owned facility. Whether it is a pool or another public facility or amenity, you can be assured that we take safety very seriously at the City of Edina and will continue to do our part to ensure that City facilities and equipment are maintained in such a manner as to achieve the greatest safety to the public possible.



James B. Hovland
Mayor

Edina's Olinger Family Operated 7-Acre Farm For Six Decades



By Joe Sullivan
Contributing Writer

Our story begins in the mid-19th century on a tiny plot of County Tipperary farmland in the midlands of west Ireland. The Kennedy family's farmhouse was a small cottage with a thatched roof, surrounded by maybe two acres of green pasture. Jeremiah Kennedy and his wife, Sarah, struggled to

survive in the face of the extreme poverty and oppression imposed by British landlords, who had been the ruling class of Ireland for more than seven centuries.

Jeremiah lost Sarah in 1879. She was only 54. Four years earlier, she had been struck down by a brain disease, then known as senile dementia. (Today, we would call it Alzheimer's disease.) It had stripped her of most mental and physical capabilities.

In addition to two sons, William and James, widower Jeremiah was left with five daughters: Hannah, 32; Mary Theresa (known as Tresa), 20; Johanna, 19; Sarah (named for her mother), 18; and Bridget, 17. Hannah had left for America a few years earlier. She settled on the rugged midwestern frontier in the Minnesota Territory, which would not become a state until 1858.

Jeremiah and Sarah had been married for 34 years. They had long planned to leave Ireland because they were fearful that their family might not survive if they stayed.

But when Sarah got sick, those plans had to change. Now, his other four daughters also wanted to leave Ireland—to them, a place of serious disease and starvation where simply staying alive had become hopelessly difficult.

Jeremiah couldn't disagree with their logic. "But it must have been difficult for him to realize that he would not be returning to Ireland anytime soon—if ever," wrote his great-grandson John J. Olinger Sr., in his 2005 family memoir. John J. Sr., is part of the fourth generation of Kennedy descendants to live in America. Born in Edina, he currently resides in Burnsville.

Journey To America Began In 1879

The Kennedys' journey began early on an afternoon in 1879. Jeremiah was in the lead, trudging the 20 miles of dirt road to Nenagh, followed by his four daughters with as many of their worldly possessions as they could wear and carry.

The five of them rode a train south and east from Nenagh to Queenstown, the port town of County Cork on the Irish Sea. The ship was anchored a quarter of a mile out in the harbor. Its destination was more than 3,000 miles to the west, across the Atlantic Ocean. A one-way passage to New York City cost about four British pounds per person.

After the long voyage, the Kennedys disembarked at Castle Gardens in New York harbor, where the U.S. Customs Service registered foreign immigrants.

Not long afterward, Johanna Kennedy met and married Edward Toohey, also a transplanted Irish immigrant from

Tipperary. Five years had passed when Tresa, Johanna and Ed decided to leave New York and head west to join Hannah in Minnesota, leaving Jeremiah and his two less adventurous daughters behind.

They boarded a New York Central train heading west to Chicago. There, the three travelers transferred to a Milwaukee Road train that took them across Wisconsin to St. Paul and Minneapolis.

The adventurers got off the train at the original Milwaukee Road depot in Minneapolis. Located at Washington and 4th Avenues, it was the town's first train depot. Tresa and the Tooheys found housing in the nearby Cedar-Riverside section of south Minneapolis.



John F. Olinger Sr., holding his one-year-old grandson, John J. Olinger Sr., who would later become the family historian.

Tresa Kennedy Meets John Olinger

Tresa Kennedy was truly a woman of her time: not only was she able to read and write, she was well aware of current events in Ireland as well as the United States. An accomplished seamstress, she worked at home in her apartment, sewing piecework for a contractor.

John Francis Olinger Sr. had arrived in Minneapolis in 1888. Olinger grew up on a farm near Strawberry Point, a small eastern Iowa town, not far

from Dubuque. His parents, Engelbert and Susan (Hanson) Olinger, had both been raised in Bavaria, Germany.

Early on the day that John F. Olinger would meet Tresa Kennedy, his friend Ed Toohey spotted him and said, "John, Johanna wants ye to meet someone."



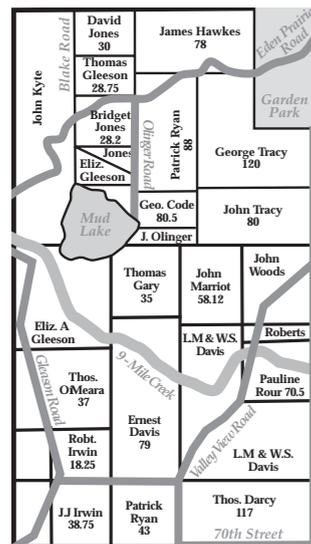
In 1908, Tresa Olinger, wife of John F. Sr., was struck down with a disease known then as "senile dementia." Tresa—the beautiful Irish girl, once the rudder of the entire family—was buried at St. Mary's Cemetery in Minneapolis.

The dark-haired Irish beauty from Tipperary and the farmer's son from Iowa were properly introduced that evening at Ed and Johanna Toohey's flat in south Minneapolis. John wasn't Irish, as were most of Tresa's friends and relatives. But he was Catholic and that was important to Tresa.

John wasted little time in proposing marriage. He and Tresa were married on May 30, 1889. After the wedding, they lived at 417 N.E. Main St. in the Village of St. Anthony that is now northeast Minneapolis.

John and Tresa had both grown up on farms and yearned to return to life in a rural setting. John knew a land speculator named Alexander Hill, who had seven acres for sale in Edina.

(continued on next page)



Olingers Buy Seven-Acre Edina Farm

The asking price was \$100 per acre. For \$700, John could do some farming and he and Tresa could raise their children the way they wanted to. The deal was consummated in 1897. John was 37 and Tresa was 39.

The Olinger family loaded their belongings into the wagon and set out for the rural Village of Edina, southwest of Minneapolis. It took them a full day to reach the farm on the bottomlands of Nine Mile Creek. What they found was a one-room, unpainted house and barn, a pump house and wide open grassland as far as they could see.

John, Tresa and their children lived in the single-room house over the winter of 1897-98—without electricity, running water or plumbing.

New Farmhouse For Olinger Family

The following summer,

John F. Sr. built a new, one-room house closer to the barn. A second son, John F. Jr. was born in the new house in 1898. Although named for his father, he would always be called Jack. He was a handsome, wavy-haired, outgoing young man.

Another daughter, Helen May, was born to John F. Sr. and Tresa in 1901, but she died a few months later. James Olinger, born in 1903, was the fifth surviving child in John and Tresa's family.

In the winters, John F. Sr. raised extra cash by trapping fur-bearing animals near their farm. Mud Lake had a number of muskrat houses and the extensive wetlands around Nine Mile Creek were a source of mink, raccoons, foxes and weasels. In addition, skunks and bobcats could be found in the nearby wooded areas. The pelts were dried on wooden stretchers and, come spring, were sold in Minneapolis.



In 1911, when Tresa Olinger died, it was customary to mark the death of a parent with a photo of the deceased's descendants. (Seated) John F. Olinger Sr. (Standing, from left) Mary, Jack, Albert, Jim and Theresa.

Tresa Is Stricken With Senile Dementia

In 1908, when Tresa was only 48, she became ill with a debilitating brain disorder that profoundly affected her physically and mentally. John F. Sr. and the children cared for Tresa during the years before her death in 1911.

Perhaps no other event could have had such an indelible and far-reaching effect on the Olinger family. "In those days, the victim was thought to have lost their mind—gone crazy," Jack's son, John J. Sr. would later write. Even today, there is no cure.



Jack Olinger operates his corn binder after the farm's main operation was converted from truck gardening to a dairy farm. The main crop became corn, and the original truck gardening operation became a sideline.

Farm Converted To Dairy Operation

By 1920, John F. Sr. had turned his operation into a dairy farm. His primary crop was now corn, which he fed to his Holstein dairy cows. The milking operation provided an improved source of income that boosted the family's standard of living. It was quickly expanded and truck farming, the way John had started out, became a sideline.

Lucille Reimers Comes To Olinger Farm

In the summer of 1938, Lucille Reimers arrived at the farm on Olinger Road. Lucille, 25, was working as a maid for a St. Paul family when she heard about an opening for a housekeeper at the Olinger farm in Edina. Lucille probably rode the Como-Harriet streetcar from St. Paul to the end of the line at 50th & France in Edina. There, Jack met her and drove her out to the farm.

Lucille knew very little about the Olinger father-and-son bachelor farmers. According to John J. Sr.'s memoir, the elder John Olinger, age 78 and semi-retired, was "pulling



Lucille Reimers in front of a St. Paul home where she was employed as a maid before going to work as the housekeeper on the Olinger farm in Edina. (Ca. 1937)

few chairs. Water was carried in pails from the milk house. There was no bathroom. ... The outhouse was near the granary and there was no electricity [in any of the buildings], although they did have a telephone."

Lucille decided to give the farm a try. She tackled the cooking, cleaning and laundry and said she couldn't wait to prepare a good meal for the two bachelors, noting that her specialty was ham and scalloped potatoes. They accepted her into their little family and gave her a place to call home.

A year later, Lucille and Jack were married in St. Patrick's Catholic Church at 70th Street and Cahill Road. A reception was held at the Frank Natole farmhouse near Valley View

(continued on next page)



The Olinger family's farmhouse was on a wooded hillside in southwest Edina. Built in 1898, as a one-room, single-story building, a two-story addition was built on the west side in 1905. Later, a porch was added on the front of the one-story structure.

Road. Jack and John's friends and neighbors—Lewis Jones, Ted Asplund, Tom Ryan, John Marriot, Bill and Tom Gleeson, John Tracy, John Code and Sadie and Ray Jensen among them—were all in attendance.

The Great Depression of the 1930s had taken its toll on everything, including family farms. Trying to save money, Jack cut back on the number of cows he was milking, but the more he cut back, the less money he brought in.

Developers Show Interest In Edina's Farms

By 1940, Edina land was being gobbled up by real estate developers. Property taxes on farmland were increasing every year because so-called "suburbanization" was overloading the mostly-rural village's infrastructure. Roads, water and sewers were being improved, new schools were being planned.

Changes like this were making Jack Olinger uneasy. Short of cash and unable to buy more land to enlarge his farm or make needed improvements, it was no small wonder he was uncomfortable.

With the onset of World War II, Minneapolis Moline, a farm equipment manufacturer in Hopkins, was gearing up to handle war-related production. Friends told Jack that Moline was hiring mechanics and machinists at good rates of pay.

In 1941, after thinking about it all winter long, Jack drove west on Excelsior Boulevard into Hopkins. He could see the Moline foundry's smokestack from two miles off. He sat in his 1931 Ford in the parking lot, still thinking about this turn in his life. Finally, he got out and walked into the plant and applied for a job.

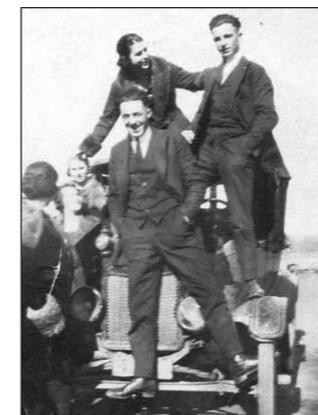
A few months after World War II ended with the Allied forces' victory over Japan in 1945, Jack's father, John F. Olinger Sr. died of pneumonia at St. Mary's Hospital in Minneapolis. He was 84.

In 1947, Jack watched as the farm's old barn and silo were torn down. "He held it all in," his son John J. Sr. wrote, "but he was at his wits' end." That evening, Lucille told Jack it was all for the best, reminding him that he had a good job at Minneapolis Moline and there was food on the table. But after 1948, Jack's mental and physical health began to deteriorate rapidly.

Like his mother, Tresa, Jack had inherited senile dementia, the same deadly disease that had taken her life and her

mother's. Lucille could no longer take care of Jack and for his last five years he lived in a succession of hospitals. The last of them was a State Hospital in Hastings, where he died on July 2, 1952. He was only 54.

Jack's funeral was held at St. Patrick's Church in the Cahill Community. The list of his pallbearers read like a "who's who" of pioneer Edina farm families, including Leo and Jim Delaney, Tom Gleeson, Tom Mahoney, Jim Ryan and Lewis Jones. Jack was buried next to his older brother, Albert, in the family plot at St. Mary's Cemetery in south Minneapolis.



Jack Olinger (top) and his close friend Leo Donnelly (center) with some "city girls" and a Model T Ford (Ca. 1920).

After Jack's death, his assets were inherited by Lucille. Unfortunately, except for the farm, those assets were not significant. The farm's livestock, farm equipment and tools had long since been sold. Lucille was left without income

of any kind and four children, ages 3 to 8, to raise. Eventually, she turned to the county for assistance.

But the land developers didn't give up. Lucille stood firm on the terms she and her lawyer had worked out, which specified a package price for all seven acres, at \$1,500 per acre, cash on the barrelhead. Some wanted only a piece of the tiny farm, invariably the best part—on higher ground, with the apple orchard. But even those who were interested in all seven acres wanted it for next to nothing. In the meantime, Lucille cleaned private homes and small business offices and took a job in the laundry of Edina's Junior High School. She waited eight years for the right offer.

In 1960, home builder Richard Lundgren finally agreed to Lucille's terms and purchased all seven acres. After catching up on back taxes, Lucille was able to buy a small house on Edina's West 56th Street, near the school complex, north and east of Benton Avenue and Highway 100.

Lucille later moved to a senior residence in downtown Minneapolis where she died in 2002. She was buried next to Jack in the family plot, at St. Mary's Cemetery in south Minneapolis. Her passing was one of a few that marked the end of the final chapter in the annals of Edina's rural community.

Background material and photographs for this article came from the Olinger family's photo collections and "*Olinger Road*" a family memoir by John J. Olinger Sr.; personal interviews with Mr. Olinger and the following publications: *The Irish Famine* by Helen Litton and *The Great Irish Famine* by James S. Donnelly Jr.

Getting To Know The Edina Fire Department: 'C' Shift

The Edina Fire Department consists of three firefighter/paramedic shifts, a paid-on-call group, an investigative team and a highly qualified fire administration. This year, AboutTown is introducing residents to the men and women who make up the Edina Fire Department through a series of articles and photos. Shifts "A" and "B" were featured in previous issues.

By Laura Fulton

In the fire service, firefighters must work together as a well-oiled machine. They must move together, attaching hoses, pumping water and swinging axes. They must know each other's locations inside and out of a burning building. They must communicate any possible dilemmas with one another before they become real problems.

In the Emergency Medical Service, the same notions ring true. Both driver and medic must work collaboratively to ensure the safety and well-being of patients during transport. Through communication, they pass patient status and location, as well as other important information, to one another. Paramedics must trust one another to properly treat patients and maintain the safety of all those in the vehicle.

During every shift they work, the "C" Shift manages to maintain that trust and build a high rapport not only among themselves, but also throughout the City of Edina and fire communities around the metro.

The reputation that the "C" shift has established comes from the top down.



The Edina Fire Department's "C" Shift exemplifies a group that holds each other in high esteem. They work hard for the City of Edina to ensure that those who live, learn and do business in the City are safe.

"Joel [Forseth] is a very strong captain; very skilled and dedicated to the City and the fire service," said Firefighter/Paramedic Wally Fasulo. "He knows his stuff and makes sure we all know ours when we are on the job."

And from that strong leadership, the men of the "C" shift gain confidence in themselves and one another. They also offer tips to build the confidence of those on the shift who are newer to the EMS tract or to the fire service.

"When I started four years ago, I was comfortable in my skills as a medic but I knew that I still had a lot to learn," said Firefighter/Paramedic Pat Sandon. "Through my

Congratulations on 50 Years, IAFF Local 1275!

2007 marks the 50th anniversary of the International Association of Fire Fighters Union Local 1275. IAFF supports the safety and well-being of firefighters around the nation.

"The Edina Professional Firefighters have been proudly serving the City of Edina for 50 years," said past Union President and Firefighter/Paramedic Bob Lawson.

"We are there when you need us and will continue to be here, long into the future."

internship with the Edina Fire Department, I learned that the paramedics employed by the City were some of the top medics in the State. That gave me even more incentive to work hard so I could one day work with my current colleagues."

The "C" shift sits down for breakfast and coffee at the beginning of each shift with one goal: to ensure that everyone knows what they will be in charge of for the next 24 hours.

"It is important that when we all get to work in the morning, we sit down and first thing establish who holds what role that shift," said "C" Shift Lt. Craig Essig. "Whether assigned to be a driver, medic or firefighter, on any given day, we are aware of who is responsible for what and that can make all the difference in an emergency."

"C" shift is run in a very structured fashion, as both Captain and Lieutenant of the shift are strong believers in good work ethic and a structured workplace.

"When that bell rings, I don't want anyone to have to ask me what to do," said "C" shift Capt. Forseth. "The men on my shift are all very talented and respect how this shift is run. I have no doubt, however that any one of them could be a leader during an emergency."

"C" shift boasts a variety of men, from Sandon, the junior member of the shift, to the most senior firefighter/paramedic of the entire department, Bob Lawson, who recently celebrated his 30th anniversary with the City. The group is dedicated to ensuring the safety of the City and the safety of each other. For these reasons, training is an ongoing part of the "C" shift's daily routine.

"We work hard and train together frequently to ensure that we understand all of the most up-to-date procedures

(continued on next page)

and tools,” said Firefighter/Paramedic Brian Hanrahan. “On the ambulance, we work with the latest technology, so we need to understand how the tools we are using on patients effect them. We also train to maintain the knowledge we have gained in the past about fire safety.”

“C” shift is also meticulous about maintaining strong relationships among one another and with the other shifts.

“We all have strengths and weaknesses, and as we learn more about one another, we learn how to complement those assets during an emergency,” said Firefighter/Paramedic Mike Hughes.

“I would follow any one of these guys into a burning building if they asked me to, because I know that they would have my back,” said Firefighter/Paramedic Todd Skatrud. “Trust, respect and communication are a huge part of the fire service and I believe the “C” shift exemplifies these attributes and more.”

To learn more about the Edina Fire Department, visit www.CityofEdina.com/Fire.

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New City Attorney Begins Work



Roger Knutson began work as Edina's City Attorney in April.

By Doug Leskee

Roger Knutson of Campbell and Knutson, PA, began representing the City of Edina as City Attorney earlier this year.

Founded in 1986, Campbell and Knutson is one of the only law firms devoted exclusively to municipal law in the State and prides itself on offering quality legal services and integrity.

Knutson started his educational career at St. Louis Park High School and then attended St. Olaf College majoring in Philosophy. Later, Knutson graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School.

Among his various responsibilities as Edina's City Attorney, Knutson must attend all meetings of the Edina City Council and assist with employment issues and land development. He said his biggest job is "to be there to give advice and to help if any questions arise."

Campbell and Knutson also represent the cities of Chanhassen, Cannon Falls, Falcon Heights, Lakeville and Plymouth. "Roger has been with the City of Lakeville for over 30 years," said Lakeville Deputy City Clerk Judi Hawkins. "He has always been knowledgeable, accessible

and easy to work with. He's had his hand in everything that we have done to develop the City of Lakeville." Edina staff expects no less.

Knutson says he is honored to have been selected by the City of Edina and has "...always admired Edina," and cannot wait to work for the City for years to come. "It is like no other City I know. All you have to do is drive around to see just how unique it is."

"Roger is one of the best known and respected City Attorneys in the State," said Gordon Hughes, Edina City Manager. "The City Council and I are very pleased to benefit from his wealth of knowledge and experience in the field of municipal law."

Knutson and his wife and two sons reside in Minneapolis. Knutson enjoys spending time watching his sons play soccer and talking to his daughter on the phone from New York University.

For more information about the City Attorney, contact Hughes, 952-927-8861. The City's prosecuting attorney continues to be Patrick Leach.

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Edina Art Center Offers 'unREEL' Film Transfer Process

Move your old 8mm home movies to a DVD at the Edina Art Center's Peggy Kelly Media Arts Studios.

New movie transfer equipment just obtained by the Edina Art Center features technology enhancements for do-it-yourself transfer of home movies to digital media such as DVDs and digital videotape.

According to Phil Johnson, Manager of the Peggy Kelly Media Arts Studio, the new equipment is easier to use and eliminates the lighting and focusing challenges inherent in the processes used for the last 40 years. "Direct transfer from movie film to a high-resolution video sensor also provides clear, sharp images," he said.

Besides a clearer image and ease of use, Art Center clients will have greater control over the final product when they use the equipment in the Media Arts Studios. "You can exclude things you don't want—like that time when dad dropped the camera or when the image became unfocused. The client is in absolute control of the final product," Johnson said. "There is a great deal of personal satisfaction in doing this type of project yourself."

People who use the do-it-yourself equipment will pay a fraction of the commercial studios' prices for film transfer. Many stores charge 12 to 15 cents per foot of film for film transfer. Transferring 10 50-foot reels of Regular 8 or Super 8mm film at the Art Center could take as little as one hour and cost \$20, plus membership.

The first person to use the new Tobin Cinema projectors was a 94-year-old man from Plymouth. Hundreds of

people of all ages with basic dexterity use the facilities in the Peggy Kelly Media Arts Studios. Media Studios' staff is always available to answer questions and provide instructions and advice.

The Media Studios' busiest times are in November and December, so clients are encouraged to start their holiday projects early. As an incentive, clients starting projects in September or October will receive a free duplicated copy of any original DVD made from home movies, slides or photos.

Purchase of the new projectors was made possible through generous grants from the Edina Community Foundation, Peggy Kelly Family Fund and Rotary Club of Edina.

The Edina Art Center is located at 4701 W. 64th St. (the northwest corner of Rosland Park) and is open to all residents and businesses located in the metropolitan area. Call the Edina Art Center at 612-915-6602 for more information or to make an appointment to begin your project. Visit the Art Center's website, www.EdinaArtCenter.com for complete class and event listings.





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'Newsweek' Ranks Edina High School 'Top Of The Class'

By Doug Leskee

After late nights of studying and dedication to extracurricular activities, Edina High School students' hard work pays off. Earlier this year, *Newsweek* named Edina High School to its list of the country's "Top 100 High Schools."

The only Minnesota School on the list, Edina took the 89th spot. In 2003, Edina was ranked 81 in the nation. Since then, they were ranked 201 in 2005 and 186 in 2006. (*Newsweek* did not complete the ranking in 2004).

As part of the ranking determination, *Newsweek* divides the number of students at a high school by the number of Advanced Placement (AP) exams given. AP classes are more vigorous classes that students can elect to take instead of regular classes. At the end of the class, students are given a test with an opportunity to earn college credit.

Last school year, nearly 2,000 AP tests were administered for the 21 AP classes offered at Edina High School. Students also studied and took AP exams that were not offered by the High School, including Japanese and Human Geography. According to the Edina Public Schools Annual Report, 80 percent of students who took AP exams received a score that was accepted by most colleges and universities.

"We are honored to be recognized as one of the top schools in the nation," said Ric Dressen, Edina Public Schools Superintendent. "It is a reflection of our students' commitment to Advanced Placement classes and their willingness to challenge themselves."



DEFINING EXCELLENCE

Students are feeling the benefit from working hard and taking advantage of the AP tests. Tom Bodeau graduated in May and is attending Yale University this fall with an interest in social sciences. Bodeau will be starting as a second-semester sophomore because of the 13 AP classes he successfully completed. "I feel much more prepared for college since taking the AP classes," said Bodeau. "It has taught me how to manage my time and be a more effective student."

Lavanya Srinivasna will bypass many freshman-level classes when she starts her college career this fall at the University of Pennsylvania studying International Studies, thanks to the 15 AP classes taken at Edina High. "The AP classes generally have students who want to be in the class," explained Srinivasna. "...The classes are for people who want a deeper knowledge of the class subject." Many of the students who take AP classes also excel outside of the classroom in extra-curricular activities such as band, choir and athletics.

Having not been on the "top 100" list since 2003, Edina is glad to be back on top and is not looking to leave its position in the future.

"If a student is willing to put in the extra time and effort, we want to give them every opportunity we can to succeed," explained Mary Manderfeld, former Edina High School Principal. "We have great students and teachers who are willing to make our school and community a success."

Every student has the option to enroll in an AP class and doesn't have to take the AP exam once in the class. "AP classes have become so popular that we don't have to tell the students about them," said Manderfeld.

The State is also helping to make this opportunity open to everyone by covering the costs of all AP exams. Manderfeld explained that the only cost the student has to pay for is the cost for the bus ride to the testing facility, around \$10 for each AP test. It can be a great way to get a college class without the college expense.

For more information about *Newsweek's* ranking, contact Edina High School, 952-848-3805 or www.edina.k12.mn.us/edinahigh.

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Other notable Minnesota high school rankings include:

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St. Louis Park (386)
Minnetonka (484)
Wayzata (960)
Hopkins (1,136)
Eden Prairie (1,221)

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Leaves

Keep fallen leaves out of the street to help prevent clogging the storm sewer, which can lead to water runoff, backups and flooding.

In the fall, three street sweepers work eight to 10 hours per day for four to six weeks collecting leaves throughout the City. If residents rake leaves from their yards into the streets, the street sweeper will not be able to keep up.

Residents should compost their leaves or contact their refuse hauler for proper disposal. Licensed haulers in the City are Allied Waste Services, 952-941-5174; Aspen Waste, 612-884-8000; Vierkant Disposal, 612-922-2505; and Waste Management, 952-890-1100.

Edina Snow Removal Regulations

Any snow removed from your walkways, driveways or sidewalks must remain on your property. Do not shovel snow into the street or onto your neighbor's property. If you have a sidewalk, Edina law states that you must keep it plowed or shoveled for the safety of you and your neighbors.

If a fire hydrant is located on your property, please remember that you need to clear snow away from it. As soon as the snow stops falling, start to clear away the snow so that the hydrant is visible. The few minutes it takes provide access to a fire hydrant might save you and your neighbors precious time in an emergency.

Edina Snow Parking Regulations

Many Minnesotans have made the mistake of parking their cars or trucks on the street during a snowstorm, only to find

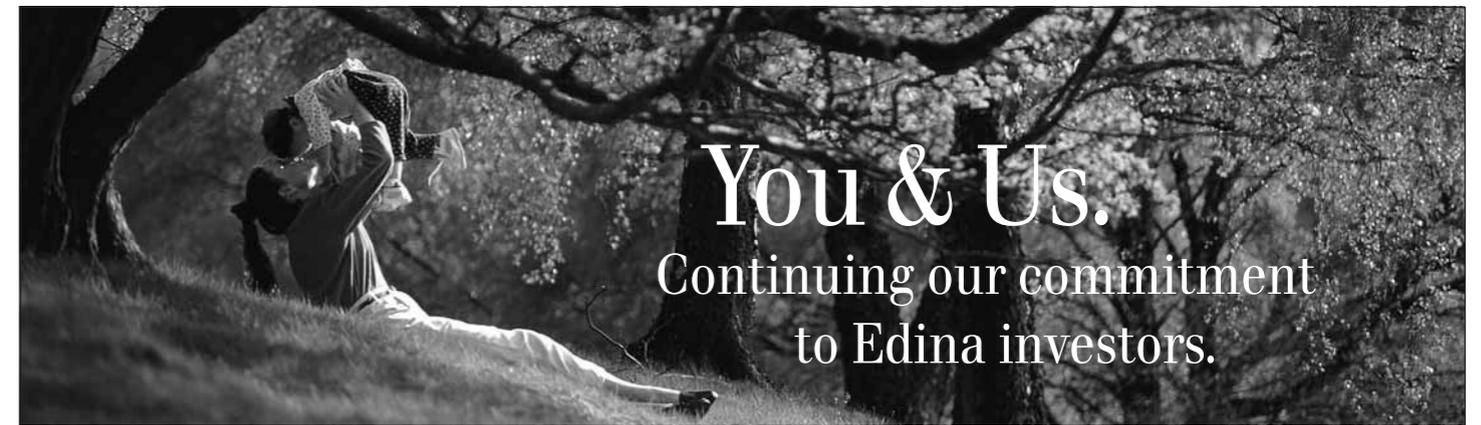
later that their vehicles have been "buried" or "plowed in." Seeing a parking ticket on your windshield would only add to the frustration. You can avoid a citation or tow by following these rules.

No vehicle may be parked on a City street, highway or alley under the following conditions:

- When 1.5 inches or more of snow has fallen, until it has been plowed to the curbline.
- For six hours after the snowfall stops, unless traffic signs specifically allow you to do so or if you are engaged in certain job-related activities as described in the City Code.
- From 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. Nov. 1 to March 31.

It is extremely important for residents to keep their vehicles off the roadways during these times. Edina's Public Works Department has a reputation for providing top-notch snow removing services, but staff members need your help. Cars parked on the street make it difficult for snowplow operators to maneuver and also prevent the street from being thoroughly plowed. By parking in driveways or lots, you will avoid parking tickets and the expense and inconvenience associated with towing.

For more information, contact Public Works Coordinator Steve Johnson, 952-826-0301.



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National Preservation Conference To Include Edina Tour

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has found that "Preservation Matters" in Edina.

The National Preservation Conference, dubbed "Preservation Matters," will be held Oct. 2-6 in St. Paul. As part of the event, preservationists will visit Edina 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 4.

Members of the Edina Heritage Preservation Board will present the diverse preservation challenges confronting the first-ring suburb: design review in the Country Club District, archeology study and rural heritage preservation in a suburban landscape, interpretation at suburban historic sites, determining the preservation value of shopping malls, and the need for comprehensive heritage planning.

"The evolution of suburban communities has become a hot topic, and it is an honor for Edina to be highlighted before this national audience," said Associate Planner Joyce Repya, staff liaison to the Heritage Preservation Board.

The Edina tour will include a bus tour of the Country Club District, a 20th century planned residential district on the National Register of Historic Places with more than 500 period revival-style homes dating from 1924 to 1941. Preservationists will stop at selected properties for brief presentations on design review issues such as teardowns, massing and use of modern materials.

Later in the morning, the group will visit Williams Park at West 50th Street and Browndale Avenue to view the Edina Mills archaeological site. Participants will visit the Edina



History Museum, 4711 W. 70th St., to see the local exhibits and eat lunch, provided by the Edina Historical Society.

In the afternoon, preservationists will visit Frank Tupa Park, 4918 Eden Ave., and tour the Minnehaha Grange Hall and Cahill School, followed by a presentation on Edina's approach to preservation of rural heritage resources and the integration of heritage preservation with City planning for community development.

The final stop on the field session will be at Southdale Center, the first fully-enclosed, climate-controlled shopping mall in the country.

Edina, now in its 119th year, has a relatively short history when compared to communities around the country, said Bob Kojetin, chairman of the Heritage Preservation Board. "However, during that time, we have been very successful and proud of capturing and preserving our history for future generations. We are fortunate the National Trust has chosen to highlight Edina."

During the week-long conference, attendees will also tour sites in Duluth, Minneapolis, Owatonna, Red Wing and St. Paul. Specific sites include Fort Snelling,

St. Anthony Falls, West Seventh Street and the Twin Cities riverfront.

"I am particularly excited about this year's National Preservation Conference because it will be held in my home state," said National Trust President Richard Moe. "Minneapolis and St. Paul offer an enormous range of preservation success stories. The revitalization of urban neighborhoods, the rediscovery of a long-ignored riverfront and the imaginative reuse of many landmark structures make the cities a showcase of what

preservation can do. In nearby towns, Main Street commercial districts have been given new life, and vigorous smart-growth and land conservation initiatives are helping put the brakes on sprawl and conserve open space."

For more information on the National Preservation Conference, visit www.nthpconference.org. For more information on the Edina field tour, contact Repya, 952-826-0462.

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'Be In Their Boots' At Edina's Public Safety Open House

By Laura Fulton

Growing up, many children dream about becoming police officers or firefighters. For four hours in October, families are invited to join the Edina Police and Fire departments for a chance to feel what it is like to "Be In Their Boots," and live out their childhood dream.

The Edina Fire and Police departments will host a Public Safety Open House on Sunday, Oct. 14 for children and adults of all ages. The community is invited to visit the South Metro Public Safety Training Facility, 7525 Braemar Blvd., from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. and learn what firefighters and police officers do on a daily basis.

The Fire Department plans to utilize the burn tower and burn rooms to demonstrate what happens during a real fire. Firefighters will battle the blaze before the eyes of the audience. People can come early and dress up in firefighter gear to get first-hand experience of how heavy the equipment is that is worn during a fire emergency. Attendees will also have the chance to feel the pressure of a real fire hose. Firefighters will help hold the hose, as residents spray water at a building made to look like a burning home.

Fire Department personnel will also discuss this year's National Fire Prevention Week theme, "Practice Your Escape Plan."

"While many families have a plan in place for a fire emergency, very few actually practice the escape," said Fire Marshal Tom Jensen. "It is very important that all



Photo by Laura Fulton

For the first time ever, the Edina Police and Fire departments are teaming up to host a Public Safety Open House. There will be many opportunities for community members to actively take part in the day, such as spraying water from a fire hose and climbing through the many vehicles of the Police and Fire departments.

families not only have an escape plan set up in case of emergencies, but that they also practice it. Practicing an escape plan with your family can be a fun adventure as well as an excellent learning tool."

More interested in the police aspect of public safety? Members of the Police Department will be on site, demonstrating the many ways they keep the community safe.

According to Police Lt. Jeff Long, the day will be scheduled so that both fire and police demonstrations are ongoing. Two firearm instructors from the Police Department will explain how the department practices

and also give gun safety advice. Also that day, K-9s Kodiak and Diesel, along with their handlers, Officers Kevin Rofidal and Mike Seeger, will show off some skills.

From a sprinkler trailer demonstrating the use of sprinkler systems in the home and office, to SWAT team members in uniform explaining the use of the Police Department's BEARCAT vehicle, there will be no shortage of fun and interesting things for all those who come out to the Public Safety Open House.

"Edina is a unique city in the fact that our Police and Fire departments work so closely together," said Police Chief Mike Siitari. "[The Police Department] responds to all medical calls and fires. [The Fire Department] provides medics to our Emergency Response Team. During so many calls, we work jointly, and that makes our City a safer place to live."

The open house also gives the Police and Fire departments a chance to thank the community for its support.

"[The support] we constantly receive from the people who live, work and play in Edina is tremendous," said Fire Chief Marty Scheerer. "Our Fire and Police departments are well-known throughout the State because of that support, and we would like all residents to know how much we appreciate them."

For more information on the Public Safety Open House, visit www.CityofEdina.com or contact Jensen at 952-826-0337 or Lt. Long at 952-826-0491.

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Participate In Minnesota Chemical Health Week



By **Kathy Iverson**
Contributing Writer

Minnesota Chemical Health Week is Nov. 12-18, 2007.

It isn't just another proclamation. This week holds significance for every family and individual in Edina. We are committed to keeping our citizens safe and healthy. Minnesota Chemical Health Week brings to mind the ways we can honor sobriety, healthy choices and the strongest roots for our children to grow in.

What are the ways you can participate in Minnesota Chemical Health Week?

Remind people to drive safe and sober.

Get your red ribbon at Edina City Hall, City park buildings, Edina's two community libraries, and participating medical clinics (The red ribbon is a promotion of Mothers Against Drunk Driving). Attach the red ribbon to your car, purse, bag or computer. Be creative with your message!

Be a "host with the most" this holiday season.

- Offer alternative beverages to guests who choose to drink non-alcoholic beverages.
- Protect underage children from consuming alcoholic beverages.
- Offer an alternative to guests who are driving home after drinking.
- Create parties that are welcoming and relaxing for your guests.
- Determine a theme for the party to make it fun and memorable.



These suggestions make entertaining safer and more enjoyable for everyone. The responsibility of being a party host includes keeping drivers who have been drinking off

the road. Alternatives for these guests include calling a cab, offering them a place to stay for the night or asking another guest, who has not been consuming alcohol, to take them home.

One other way to reduce substance abuse is by nurturing relationships that are loving and caring in your families and in the community. Reach out to others who are struggling. Help them find the resources they need to take the next step. Each time a gift of support is given, families and individuals have a greater chance of coping and growing through their crisis. You can make a difference at home and in your community. Should you need some additional resources, please contact the Edina Resource Center helpline at 952-848-3936. Their services are free and confidential.

Kathy Iverson is the Chemical Health Coordinator for the City of Edina. She can be contacted at 952-929-7627 or by writing to kiverson@ci.edina.mn.us.



VEAP Prepares To Distribute Holiday Joy

Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People (VEAP) is in search of holiday spirit and generous donations to make this year's holiday season brighter for area children and families in need.

Over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, VEAP plans to distribute food to more than 3,000 families and gifts to over 3,500 children in Edina, Bloomington, Richfield and southwest Minneapolis. To accomplish this goal, VEAP is seeking donors to provide gifts and volunteers to help sort, set up and distribute them.

Monetary and non-perishable food donations help ensure that all families are able to have a holiday meal. Donations of new, unwrapped gifts, toys and gift cards help make the holiday bright for children in low-income households. Parents are able to come to VEAP and select gifts for their children at the free holiday store. Gifts can be dropped off at VEAP, 9731 James Ave. S., Bloomington between Nov. 16 and Dec. 19 for distribution to those in need. Edina residents can drop off donations at Edina City Hall at 4801 W. 50th St.

Gifts are greatly needed for all age groups of children, but in the past, those 8 to 12-year-olds and older teens have been hardest to collect for. Some ideas for children ages 8 to 12 include Legos, Nerf toys, purses, starter make-up kits, teen and young adult chapter books and G- or PG-rated movies. Gifts for older children include watches, clocks, room or closet organizers, jewelry sets, phones and blankets or comforters. A \$15 gift card to a local retailer is also a great option when shopping with older children in mind.

VEAP has full lists of drop-off sites and needed items for interested donors. Those lists can be obtained by calling 952-888-9616 or visiting www.VEAPVolunteers.org. Volunteer opportunities are also abundant during the holiday season. People interested in pre-sorting gifts, registering families, packing grocery bags, setting up the holiday store or delivering meals to seniors or homebound neighbors should call VEAP at 952-888-9616.

For more information about VEAP or its holiday programs, visit the VEAP website at www.VEAPVolunteers.org or call the Seasonal Program Manager at 952-888-9616.

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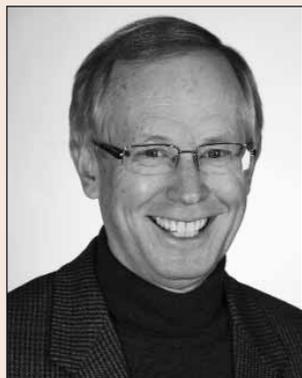
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The Edina Community Foundation: Program Chairs



By Dick Crockett
Executive Director

On Nov. 3, we will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Edina Community Foundation with a Gala at Edinborough Park. We are very proud of the program leadership we provide in Edina at this milestone in our history, and we'd like to recognize the volunteer program chairs who work with the

Foundation Board and staff to strengthen our community. In contrast to the independent programs funded by the Foundation through our Designated Fund Partners described in the last issue of *About Town*, the Foundation plays an active role in establishing and organizing these programs.



Marsha Hunt chairs the 30th Anniversary Gala and has been planning an exciting and meaningful celebration of the Foundation's contributions to the Edina community. The theme of the Nov. 3 event will be "Pearls of the Caribbean." Travel to the Caribbean with

us that evening and enjoy island cocktails and a champagne raffle for an elegant piece of black pearl jewelry. Partake in delicious appetizers and dinner featuring a custom Caribbean menu surrounded by lush, exotic floral décor. Dance the night away to a nine-piece salsa band with interactive salsa demonstrations and dance lessons. Purchase tickets or reserve tables early to this landmark event!



Valerie Burke, Coordinator of the Edina Resource Center, chairs the Edina Senior Expo that will take place at Colonial Congregational Church on Oct. 9. The Expo provides exhibits and presentations about resources available to seniors in our community and is co-sponsored by the Center, the Foundation and the Edina Federated Women's Club (whose member Jan Johnson chaired the first event in April 2006).



Carol Retherford is chairing the 2007 Holiday Home Tour scheduled for Dec. 1. This will be the fourth year we have featured inside views of some of Edina's finest homes, professionally decorated for the holiday season, with music and refreshments at City Hall, where the Tour

begins. Grethe Langeland Dillon, Jean Colwell and Carol Sidell have chaired this event in the past.



Eric Gustafson chairs the Edina Dialogue, which aims to foster a sense of community by facilitating intergenerational discussion of diverse issues through cooperation with individuals and community organizations.

The inaugural event in this program featured global explorer Will Steger speaking on "Global Warming Solutions" last January. Eric and his committee are tentatively planning a second capstone event for next January on the subject of Minnesota's changing environment.



Linda Kieffer has chaired the Edina Public Art Committee since it was established in 2004. The Foundation is represented on the Committee and has arranged funding for the Committee's major projects—the art glass and *Raven* sculpture in City Hall and the annual

sculpture exhibitions in Grandview Square Park during the summer season.



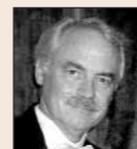
Mark Peterson serves as the President of the Connecting With Kids Board of Directors that includes representatives of the City, the Edina School District, the Foundation, the Edina Chamber of Commerce and Edina's business, religious and student communities. CWK's

goal is to establish connections among people, businesses, community and school organizations and other resources to enhance developmental assets for kids of all ages. This is achieved in part through Task Forces that sponsor such activities as Community Conversations, Intergenerational Dialogues and Edina Unplugged.



Maria Fesenmaier chairs the Edina 4th of July Parade that is hosted by the City and the Foundation. With some 80 units, including marching bands and other musicians, community groups, elected officials, horses, kids and veterans, this event has something

for everyone and has grown over its 12 years to now draw a crowd of over 15,000.



Scott Crosbie, Director of the First John Philip Sousa Memorial Band, chairs the Torchlight Concert at Centennial Lakes Park on the second Sunday of every August. Featuring music, fireworks, antique bicycles and cars, and other entertainment of the Sousa era, (including 25-cent ice cream cones), this event offers a wonderful opportunity to enjoy one of Edina's premier park locations.



Marcia Wattson, Manager of the Edina Community Library, has chaired the Edina Reads Committee since its inception in 2005. The Committee includes representatives of the Library, the Foundation, Edina High School and other community organizations with an interest

in an annual one-book, one community reading program. This year's event on Sept. 30 at Edina High School's new Performing Arts Center, featured Stanley Gordon West's novel, *Until They Bring the Streetcars Back*.



In addition to providing funding for these programs through charitable contributions from residents and local businesses, the Foundation provides essential staff support to supplement the work of the Program Chairs and their committees. Our Program

Coordinator, **Mary Brindle**, began working for the Foundation in 2006 after a long record of volunteer service.

These Program Chairs and the activities and events that they and their volunteer committees provide for our community play an important role in bringing people together and thus achieving the Foundation's mission of Strengthening Our Community. Please contact us if you'd like to help as we look forward to continuing these programs into our 31st year.

Questions about the Foundation or any of its programs may be addressed to Crockett or Brindle at 952-833-9573 or edinacommunityfoundation@ci.edina.mn.us. Additional information about the Foundation and links to other articles about the Foundation may be found at its website, www.EdinaCommunityFoundation.org.

Thanks To Project Earth, Edina High School 'Reuses And Recycles'



Edina Senior Marissa Buie volunteers her time by collecting recyclables every Friday after school.

By Doug Leskee

When the bell sounds on Friday afternoon most students want to start their weekends as soon as possible. But this is the time when student members of Project Earth put off the start of their weekend for a few minutes to help Mother Earth.

Project Earth is a group of Edina High School students whose mission is to "help save and defend our gracious Earth, while informing others in the community and promoting recycling and other earthly endeavors." Since the group was formed in the early 1990s, they have grown to more than 35 members and have had some big impacts on the way Edina High School recycles.

"We have a moral obligation to stand up against wastefulness," said Jake Brownell, Edina High School senior.

Every Friday, Project Earth meets to help collect all of the recycling that has piled up and save it from the trash can. Project Earth estimates that they are able to recycle 300 pounds of bottles and cans and 400 pounds of paper per week.

After receiving a substantial grant from the Hennepin County Department of Environmental Services, the group was able to purchase 17 large red recycling receptacles that are placed in the cafeteria and common areas. Also, they have worked with the school to place two smaller blue recycling containers in each classroom. "You don't see as many recycled items going into the garbage any more," said Marissa Buie, Edina High School senior.



Erin Templeton and Laura Galarneau collect some of the nearly 300 pounds of plastic recycled by Edina High School every week.

"You feel good about doing your part," added Ian Nelson, another Edina High School senior. "The entire attitude about recycling is changing around the school—you can feel it!"

Project Earth recently approached the school district about establishing a recycling program in all of its schools for old textbooks.

"These students are the most inspiring students I have ever met," said Rachel Pream Grenier, Project Earth Group Adviser. "It helps me feel optimistic about the future of our Earth."

Project Earth encourages all students to take part in recycling around the school. New members are always welcome and the group says that the more people there are, the less time it takes. You can also see Project Earth when they host the Green Town Forum on Environmental Issues on Oct. 14.

For more information, contact Rachel Pream Grenier, Project Earth Group Adviser, 952-848-3124.



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Aarsvold Joins City Staff As Recreation Supervisor



Kristin Aarsvold began work in May as a Recreation Supervisor for the City of Edina.

When Recreation Supervisor Kristin Aarsvold began work for the City of Edina in May, she hung in her new office a special photograph framed in a white paper plate and decorated with bright feathers, pompons and foam pieces.

John, the young boy smiling back at her from the photo, was one of the children she worked with 10 years ago while completing an internship for the City of Eden Prairie's adaptive recreation program. To her, the photograph is a constant reminder of the importance of her work in the recreation field.

Aarsvold oversees Edina's adaptive recreation and inclusion programs and helps lead the Adaptive Recreation and Learning Exchange program (AR&LE). AR&LE offers recreation, leisure and community

education opportunities specifically designed to meet the needs of people with disabilities in the cities of Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina and Richfield. In addition, Aarsvold will share other park and recreational programming responsibilities with Recreation Supervisor Donna Tilsner. In the position, Aarsvold succeeds Susie Miller, the current Assistant Manager of Edinborough Park. Aarsvold holds a degree in Recreation, Parks and Leisure Services from Minnesota State University—Mankato. Aarsvold has worked for the cities of Eden Prairie, Richfield and Blaine.

"Kristin was the right person for the adaptive recreation position," Tilsner said. "Her past experience and great communication skills set her apart from the other applicants. We are very excited to have her and see what she can do for the Edina community."

Armed with her experience, Aarsvold has set some goals for herself, including continuing to provide quality adaptive recreation programming, adding additional programs for those with the autism-spectrum disorder, adding new special events for families, and improving the summer playgrounds programs for middle school students.

In June, the Park & Recreation Department hosted "Family Jamboree," an event for participants of the summer playgrounds program. It was one of Aarsvold's summer highlights. "Family Jamboree was a neat opportunity for staff to meet families and for families to meet each other," she said of the event attended by more than 200 residents. "One parent said her child wants to

grow up to be like her leader—the little girl had fun every day and was sad to see the program end. Those comments really validate what we are doing."

Another highlight came a few weeks later at the adaptive recreation "In, Out and About Camp" for those 13 to 21 years old. She walked into the program to see a familiar smiling face—the same smiling face that greets her from the decorated paper plate frame in her office. John is now 20 years old and is still an active participant in AR&LE programs.

"I am excited to meet new families and work with those whom I've already met," Aarsvold said. "I look forward to being responsive to their recreation needs and making a difference in Edina."

For more information on Aarsvold or the City's adaptive recreation programming, contact the Park & Recreation Department, 952-826-0367, or visit www.CityofEdina.com/Parks.

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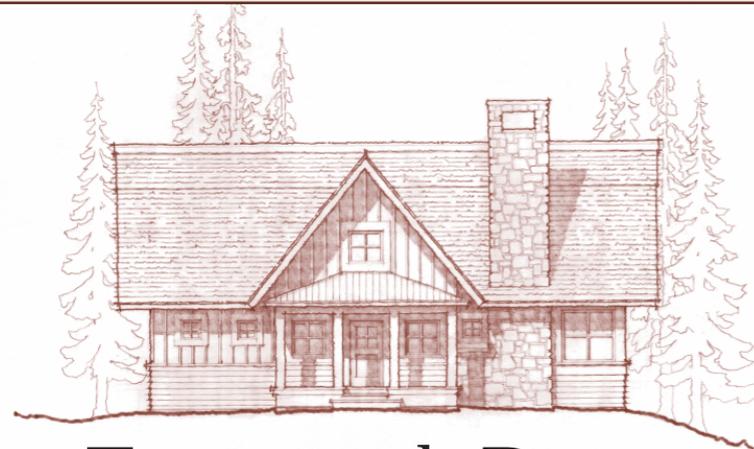
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