

AboutTown

Official Magazine of the City of Edina



AboutTown

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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
residents and community history as well.

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Table Of Contents

Calendar Of Events	1
Winter Calendar Highlights.....	4
A Word From The Mayor	5
Willard Ikola Built Hornets Dynasty, Shaped Edina's Hockey Ethos	6
It's Not Only Neighborly ... It's The Law	12
Fischer Is New Face On City Council	14
K-9 Blade Hangs Up His Badge	18
Eischens Skates Into New Career As Braemar Arena & Field General Manager.....	22
Highway 169 Closures To Begin.....	24
Edina Community Foundation Annual Report	27
Residents Urged To Compost Food Waste.....	34
New Recreation Supervisor Brings Energy, Ideas To Senior Center	38
EHS Renovations Hint At Learning Spaces To Come As District Construction Advances.....	40
Planning Matters	42
Business Notes	48
On The Move: Restaurant Edition	51
City of Edina Facilities & Contacts	52
The Last Word	54

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About Town Calendar

January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 New Year's Day observed. City Hall closed. No school for Edina Public Schools.	3 No school for Edina Public Schools.	4 No school for Edina Public Schools. 7 p.m., City Council, Edina City Hall.	5 No school for Edina Public Schools.	6 No school for Edina Public Schools.	7
8 1-5 p.m., Winter Ice Festival, Centennial Lakes Park. 7 p.m., Gypsy Mania Hot Club Quartet swing jazz, Edinborough Park.	9 6:30 p.m., Community Health Commission, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., School Board, Edina Community Center.	10 7 p.m., Heritage Preservation Board, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Park Board, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., White Bear Big Band, Edinborough Park.	11 7 p.m., Planning Commission, Edina City Hall.	12 7 p.m., Energy & Environment Commission, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Jazz Band Concert, Edina Performing Arts Center.	13 6:30 p.m., Family Movie Night—"Secret Life of Pets," Edinborough Park.	14
15 7 p.m., Beasley's Big Band, Edinborough Park.	16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day. City Hall closed. No school for Edina Public Schools.	17	18 7 p.m., City Council, Edina City Hall.	19 6 p.m., Transportation Commission, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., EHS Winter Play, Edina High School Fick Auditorium.	20 No school for Edina Public Schools. 7 p.m., EHS Winter Play, Edina High School Fick Auditorium.	21 7 p.m., EHS Winter Play, Edina High School Fick Auditorium.
22 7 p.m., The Gnu Woodwind Quartet, Edinborough Park.	23	24 7 p.m., Human Rights & Relations Commission, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Richfield Symphonic Band, Edinborough Park.	25 7 p.m., Planning Commission, Edina City Hall.	26 Kindergarten registration for Edina Public Schools. 4:30 p.m., Arts & Culture Commission, Edina City Hall.	27 7 p.m., EHS One Act Play, Edina Performing Arts Center.	28 7 p.m., EHS One Act Play, Edina Performing Arts Center.
29 7 p.m., First John Philip Sousa Memorial Band, Edinborough Park.	30 7 p.m., School Board, Edina Community Center. 7 p.m., Edina PCN Forum, "Kids, Parents and Power Struggles: The Secret to Managing the Intensity," Edina High School.	31				

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About Town Calendar

February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6 5 p.m., School Board Work Session, Edina Community Center.	7 7 p.m., City Council, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Twin Cities Show Chorus, Edinborough Park.	8 7 p.m., Planning Commission, Edina City Hall.	9 7 p.m., Energy & Environment Commission, Edina City Hall.	10 6:30 p.m., Family Movie Night—"Open Season Scared Silly," Edinborough Park.	11
12 7 p.m., Capri Big Band, Edinborough Park.	13 6:30 p.m., Community Health Commission, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., EHS Choir Masterworks Concert, Edina Performing Arts Center.	14 7 p.m., Heritage Preservation Board, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Park Board, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., EHS Choir Masterworks Concert, Edina Performing Arts Center.	15	16 6 p.m., Transportation Commission, Edina City Hall.	17	18
19 7 p.m., Classic Brass Quintet, Edinborough Park.	20 Presidents Day. City Hall closed. No school for Edina Public Schools.	21 No school for Edina Public Schools. 7 p.m., Planning Commission, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Westwind Big Band, Edinborough Park.	22 11:30 a.m., State of the Community, Edina Country Club. 7 p.m., City Council, Edina City Hall.	23 4:30 p.m., Arts & Culture Commission, Edina City Hall.	24 7 p.m., EHS Pops Band Concert, Edina High School Fick Auditorium.	25 7 p.m., EHS Pops Band Concert, Edina High School Fick Auditorium.
26 7 p.m., First John Philip Sousa Memorial Band, Edinborough Park.	27 7 p.m., School Board, Edina Community Center.	28 7 p.m., Human Rights & Relations Commission, Edina City Hall.				

About Town Calendar

March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 7 p.m., EHS Pops Band Concert, Edina High School Fick Auditorium.	3 No school for Edina Public Schools. 7 p.m., EHS Pops Band Concert, Edina High School Fick Auditorium.	4 7 p.m., EHS Pops Band Concert, Edina High School Fick Auditorium.
5 7 p.m., Westwind Swing Band, Edinborough Park.	6 7 p.m., Edina PCN Forum, "Mindfulness: Self-care for Kids," South View Middle School.	7 7 p.m., City Council, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., St. Louis Park Community Band, Edinborough Park.	8 7 p.m., Planning Commission, Edina City Hall.	9 7 p.m., Energy & Environment Commission, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., EHS Orchestra Concerto Concert, Edina High School Fick Auditorium.	10 6:30 p.m., Family Movie Night—"Dr. Seuss' The Lorax," Edinborough Park.	11
12 7 p.m., Golden Valley Orchestra, Edinborough Park.	13 6:30 p.m., Community Health Commission, Edina City Hall.	14 7 p.m., Park Board, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Heritage Preservation Board, Edina City Hall.	15	16 6 p.m., Transportation Commission, Edina City Hall.	17	18 TBD, Style Edina 2017, Westin Edina Galleria.
19 7 p.m., Hopkins Westwind Concert Band, Edinborough Park.	20	21 7 p.m., City Council, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., DixieKats, Edinborough Park.	22 7 p.m., Planning Commission, Edina City Hall.	23 4:30 p.m., Arts & Culture Commission, Edina City Hall.	24 No school for Edina Public Schools.	25
26 7 p.m., First John Philip Sousa Memorial Band, Edinborough Park.	27 No school for Edina Public Schools.	28 No school for Edina Public Schools. 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Quinn's Cup, Centennial Lakes Park. 7 p.m., Star of the North Concert Band, Edinborough Park.	29 No school for Edina Public Schools.	30 No school for Edina Public Schools.	31 No school for Edina Public Schools.	

Winter Calendar Highlights

Other Dates To Remember

- Jan. 19** 4:30 p.m., K-9 Blade's retirement party, Edina City Hall Lobby.
- Jan. 24** 6 p.m., EHS Pajama Concert, Edina High School Fick Auditorium.

Winter Ice Festival

What: In celebration of the winter season, Centennial Lakes Park will host the 27th-annual Winter Ice Festival. Visitors to the park will be able have their faces painted and ride on a horse-drawn wagon. Ice Festival participants may bring their own equipment, but ice skates and kick-sleds are available to rent at the Hughes Pavilion, which serves as a warming house and concessions stand during the winter months. Behind Hughes Pavilion on the terrace overlooking the lake, ice-sculpting demonstrations will be given.

When: 1-5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 8

Where: Centennial Lakes Park, 7499 France Ave. S.

Info: Centennial Lakes Park, CentennialLakesPark.com or 952-833-9586

State of the Community

What: Edina Mayor James B. Hovland, City Manager Scott H. Neal and Edina Public Schools Superintendent Ric Dressen will present the "2017 State of the Community," speaking about current affairs in Edina. The event is open to the public and co-sponsored by the Edina Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club of Edina and Rotary Club of Edina Morningside. Cost is \$35 for the luncheon. The presentation will also be broadcast on Edina TV.

When: 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 22

Where: Edina Country Club

Info: EdinaMN.gov or 952-826-0359



File Photo



File Photo

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A Word From The Mayor

Edina is committed to attaining its goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in the community by 30 percent by 2025.

The City did two things to help jumpstart the effort. We established the Conservation and Sustainability Fund, which provides funding to drive a culture of sustainability in local government. To lead that effort, Tara Brown began work as the City's first Sustainability Coordinator in August. We also worked with Xcel Energy and the Center for Energy and the Environment to create an electricity action plan that has given us short-term goals and actions to support the City, residents and businesses to reduce electricity consumption and corresponding GHG emissions.

Other accomplishments in 2016 included:

- Supporting Cooperative Energy Futures in fully subscribing the Edina Community Solar Garden (largest urban garden in MN when built).
- Receiving a grant from Hennepin County that allowed us to distribute 500 free compost bins to residents. More than 150 residents have already picked one up. For more information on the buckets, see the story on Page 34.
- Finding new life for our public resources like recycling park benches and picnic tables.
- Continuing to update City facilities with energy conservation enhancements such as LED lighting that both reduces our greenhouse gas emissions and saves money.
- Protecting our water by stenciling drains to educate people, requiring residential swimming pools that use salt for chlorine to drain to sanitary sewer instead of the storm sewer, and improving how we provide winter street and sidewalk clearing.
- Empowering residents to take action through events such as the Energy & Environment Commission's annual sustainability forum.

- Encouraging residents to purchase a portion of their power through clean energy resources available from Xcel Energy's Windsource Program.

Our work continues into the New Year. Some of the things we look forward to in 2017 include:

- Supporting residents in taking steps to reduce their energy costs and positively impact our carbon emissions through neighborhoods parties, educational events, subsidizing Home Energy Squad visits and more.
- Partnering with businesses to learn from leaders and supporting all businesses to take steps to reduce carbon emissions through events and one-on-one meetings.
- Hosting a film series this summer to engage with neighbors and learn something new about this world in which we live.
- Organizing the Energy & Environment Commission's annual sustainability forum, which will be held in the fall. Along with education and games, we will celebrate the residents' and businesses' accomplishments.

Together, we can make a difference and more quickly achieve our goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. I am encouraged by some statistics. First, there was a 43 percent increase in Windsource subscribers between 2010 and 2015. Secondly, participation in Xcel's residential energy saving programs and rebates tripled between 2012 and 2014.

Learn about the things that you can do as a resident to conserve energy and save money by visiting EdinaMN.gov/gogreenedina and help us all meet our community goal of reducing our GHG emissions by 30 percent by 2025. Resources for businesses are also available online.



James B. Hovland
Mayor

Willard Ikola Built Hornets Dynasty, Shaped Edina's Hockey Ethos

Editor's Note: This is part one of a two-part series. Part II will appear in the Spring 2017 issue of About Town.

By David Katz, Contributing Writer

Hockey pundits commonly refer to Minnesota as “the State of Hockey” – and so far as high school competition is concerned, there really is no contest. The boys state hockey tourney title is consistently one of the state's most hotly contested sports crowns. Edina High School holds a record 12 of these titles.

The Hornets practice and play home games at Braemar Arena, the City of Edina's three-sheet indoor ice rink located at 7501 Ikola Way. Fans familiar with the community's storied hockey tradition recognize the street address as a tribute to Willard (“Ike”) Ikola, a living legend who coached Edina to eight of those championships.

Hockey, USA

Ikola is not an Edina native. He grew up in Eveleth, Minnesota, a mining town nestled in the Iron Range about 200 miles north of here and half that distance from the Canadian border. His hometown boasts the national Hockey Hall of Fame, an institution first established in 1973 – a year that Eveleth's native son made memorable for Edina by coaching the Hornets through a perfect season and to its third state championship.

Eveleth's selection as site of the Hockey Hall of Fame is no coincidence. It is a reflection and outgrowth of the fact that this small town (with a population that, at its height,



File Photo

Braemar Arena is located at 7501 Ikola Way. The street address is a permanent tribute to the longtime coach who propelled the Hornets to dynasty status.

never exceeded 7,500) has produced an extraordinary number of hockey greats over the years. Twelve inductees – Willard Ikola included, of course – hail from Eveleth.

Growing up there in the 1930s and '40s, in the height of the Great Depression but during something of a golden age for the Eveleth Golden Bears, Ikola learned hockey fundamentals starting at the ripe age of 6. He still recalls his excitement at inheriting hand-me-down skates from his older brothers, even though he had to stuff two pairs of wool socks in the toes to make them fit.

Ikola also relishes memories of playing the sport in a more or less noncompetitive environment, against other Eveleth standouts he would later vie against as both athlete and coach. They played on packed dirt as well as ice, and rocks or ice chunks often stood in for proper pucks.

Unsurprisingly, the children took liberties with equipment, too. It wasn't uncommon for half a team to wear boots and the other half skates, for instance. Ikola's older brother, Roy, played goalie and crafted his own goaltender equipment from basketball knee guards, scraps of mattress material and a rubber-inflated cushion.

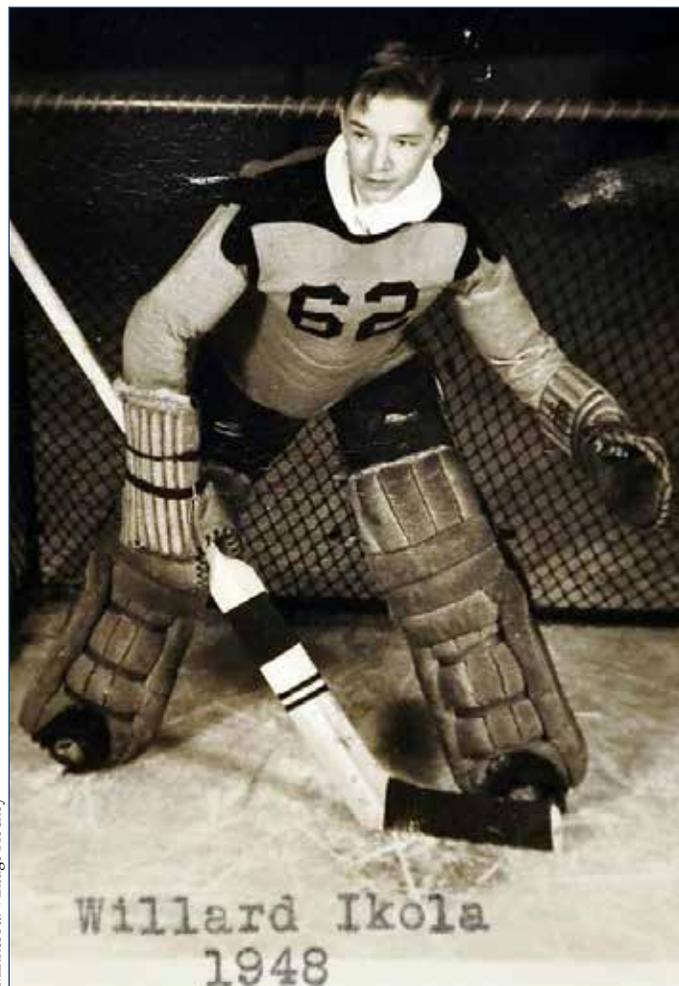
Ikola inherited this gear, as well. "By the third grade, I had become a pretty decent skater, and I would drag that bag of goalie equipment up to the high school rink and join in with the older boys," he recalled in his memoir, *Ike: Minnesota Hockey Icon*. "Kids of all ages played together, but it seemed we never had two goalies ... so if you had goalie equipment, the other kids wanted you out there. My head was way below the top bar of the goal, but I got to play a lot in the net, and so I was bound to get better."

Eveleth Golden Bears

While Ikola and his peers had fun scrimmaging, they were also acutely aware of Eveleth's already impressive hockey legacy. Large photos of alumni goaltenders Oscar Almquist, Frankie Brimsek and Sam LoPresti adorned the Hippodrome, the town's central hockey facility. Starters for the Golden Bears from 1926 to 1935, all three would find success in the NHL – two as Rookies of the Year.

Ironically, given that recent history of world-class goaltending, the high school had no underclassman goaltenders for its 1945-46 hockey season. Ikola, while still in eighth grade, played backup and tended the net for three games. While he did not get to travel with the team when they competed in that year's state tournament held in Saint Paul, he played as starter when Eveleth repeated the feat his freshman year.

(continued on next page)



Ikola began his long and distinguished hockey career as a goaltender for his hometown Eveleth Golden Bears.

The 1947 state tournament was only the second time Ikola had traveled to the Twin Cities. In interviews, he often fondly recalls riding in elevators and sampling different cuisine at sit-down restaurants – new adventures for the boys from Eveleth. It also afforded Ikola his first-ever opportunity to skate on artificial ice. Experiences like these never quite lost their novelty, even when the Golden Bears returned to seek the state championship title *each* subsequent year of Ikola’s high school playing career.

After losing 3-1 to conference favorite Roseau in the semifinals his freshman year, Eveleth came back in 1948 to win it all after a nail-biting finale with Warroad – another Northwoods hockey powerhouse, and a nemesis that would loom large in the early history of the Edina Hornets. Undefeated during regular season play and brimming with talented players, Eveleth’s decisive 8-2 victory came as no surprise to those who followed the sport closely.

However, casual observers could be excused for voicing surprise, notes *Minnesota Vintage Hockey*. Eveleth looked the part of plucky underdogs. While the school’s colors are maroon and gold, Ikola and his teammates played the tourney wearing old orange-and-black jerseys passed down from Eveleth Junior College’s defunct hockey club. Many also wore second-hand skates, sent from the Chicago Blackhawks courtesy of Eveleth alum John Mariucci, namesake of the University of Minnesota’s hockey stadium.

Eveleth dispelled any lingering misconceptions by defending the title in 1949 – the same year that Ikola’s

future coaching home, Edina High School, first opened its doors.

After the Golden Bears clinched a tournament berth during Ikola’s senior year, the team played the small town of Williams in a rematch of the 1949 final. Eveleth surged ahead with three goals in the first period, and Ikola’s team held on to that lead to win yet again. Willard Ikola capped his high school career not just with a third straight tourney win, but with an incredible (and incredibly rare) 50-game winning streak to boot.

Unsurprisingly, when *Minnesota Hockey Hub* ranked the greatest Minnesota high school hockey players of all time in 2011, they singled out Ikola as the top-rated goaltender – and one of the top 10 players overall.

College Standout And Olympic Medalist

Ikola dreamed of coaching hockey, preferably in the Twin Cities, from an early age. Consistent with this aim, he majored in physical education. However, the Minnesota native capped a distinguished playing career out of state (and country) before landing in his defining role at Edina High School.

The University of Michigan offered him a hockey scholarship – a relative rarity in those days – to move to Ann Arbor and play for the Wolverines. While an NCAA rule at the time barred freshmen from playing in varsity competition, Ikola relished the learning opportunities collegiate play offered him that first year. For instance, in his memoir Ikola calls out goaltending in exhibition games against the Stanley Cup-winning Detroit Red Wings as a true career highlight.



Ikola majored in physical education and played hockey as starting goaltender for the University of Michigan.

In a run that calls to mind the dynastic success of Eveleth, Ikola tended net as the Wolverines won back-to-back championships during the 1951-52 and 1952-53 seasons.

A versatile athlete and life-long lover of all sports, he also played for a time in the school's respected baseball program, notes *The Michigan Alumnus*. Unfortunately, Ikola's collegiate baseball career drew to a premature close after a puck knocked out three teeth during a heated game against the University of Toronto in 1952. Dental appointments precluded him from attending baseball tryouts that season. Even so, the cross-sports experience proved invaluable for the prospective coach.

Reflecting back on his degree program, Ikola quipped: "We were taught every sport, it seemed, except for hockey." In hindsight, he greatly appreciates how "the varsity coaches taught the [physical education majors] class about their respective sports."

Ikola, a two-time NCAA champion and All-American Goaltender (1952-1954), never played for the NHL, though he did flirt with the idea. One day during those Michigan years, he picked up a copy of the *Detroit Free Press* and learned, to his great surprise, that the Red Wings had placed him on their negotiation list!

Eventually, the team got around to extending the offer more formally. Ikola, as a member of the ROTC, declined the invitation, as leaving college would put him on active duty.

(continued on next page)

Family Man

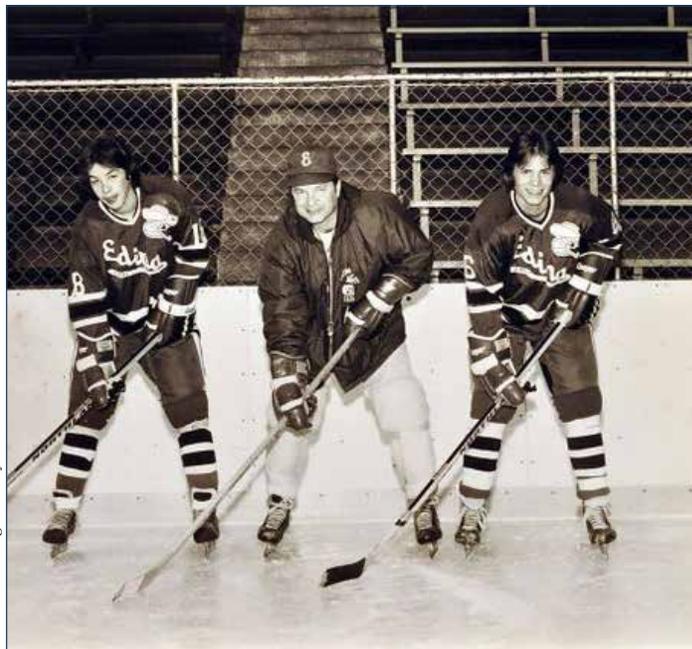
While in college at the University of Michigan, roommate Gene Knutson (a Wolverines footballer who would later go on to play for the Green Bay Packers) coaxed Willard Ikola into accompanying him on a double date. In this way, “Ike” met freshman Laurie McLean.

The college sweethearts married in December 1954, after Ikola received Christmas leave from his Air Force assignment in Texas. First-born daughter, Laurie, and son Matt had joined the family by the time Ikola left active duty. The Ikolas added two more children, Steve and Sarah, to the ranks in the years that followed.

All four attended high school at either Edina or Edina East. Ikola coached both Matt and Steve on the Hornets, and enjoyed the rare distinction of coaching both his sons in state tourneys (as part of the 1974 and 1978 squads, respectively). Future son-in-law Brad Becker also played with distinction under Coach Ikola.

At home, however, it was not “all hockey all the time” – in fact, quite the opposite. Ikola notes with pride in *Ike: Minnesota Hockey Icon* that “the Ikolas had one rule regarding hockey and the family; there was to be no hockey talk at home. None. Once we left the rink or locker room, there was no discussion or conversation about our team.”

After graduating, Ikola received a commission as a Second Lieutenant with the Air Force, a post that brought with it a three-year minimum commitment. On the whole, Ikola enjoyed his time with the Air Force. “The only drawback to being in the military was that I wanted to coach, and I was a long ways from anywhere where I could do that,”



Minnesota Vintage Hockey

Ikola boasts a rare accomplishment. Not only did he train two sons, Steve and Matt, at the varsity level – he coached both on teams that clinched a state championship.



Willard Ikola more than held his own goal tending as part of the Olympic team representing the United States in 1956 at Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy. Team USA came away with the silver medal.

he explained in his autobiography. It did not, however, keep him from hockey – in fact, quite the opposite.

He received leave time to try out for the 1956 U.S. Olympic team and clinched a spot as goaltender on that year's roster. Although star-studded and coached by John Mariucci, Team USA was not expected to medal at the VII Olympic Winter Games in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy.

While an early loss to Czechoslovakia seemed to prove that assessment correct, Ikola more than held his own in a 4-1 upset against Canada – one of Olympic hockey's

dominant and most dynamic teams. Team USA lost 4-0 to the Soviet Union, that Olympiad's other gold medal favorite, but claimed the silver after beating the Czech club soundly in a rematch.

Ike capped his playing career with two more years goaltending on the U.S. National Team. While composed of Olympic veterans, neither team came terribly close to the World Championship – a deviation from the norm, for Willard Ikola.

In many ways, Ikola's long coaching career would mirror his playing heyday – with victories both outnumbering and overshadowing defeats. When, after 33 years, Ikola stepped down from the helm of the Edina varsity hockey team, he did so with a winning percentage just shy of 80 percent and a post-season record of 117-32.

Willard Ikola's remarkable run with the Hornets (including their eight state championships) will be the focus of next quarter's *About Town* feature.

Information for this story comes from resources maintained by the Minnesota Historical Society, Vintage Minnesota Hockey and the Edina Historical Society. Sources of particular note include *A Complete History of the Minnesota High School Hockey Tournament (1945-2000)* by Maggie Kirchoff and *Ike: Minnesota Hockey Icon*, co-authored by Jim Hoey and legend himself.

Editor's Note: In the Autumn 2016 issue of *About Town*, Mrs. Maurice Peterson's name was misspelled. The City of Edina regrets the error.

It's Not Only Neighborly ... It's The Law

Intentional Feeding of Deer

The Law: *City Code Sec. 22-188. Section A. Feeding prohibited.* No person shall feed deer within the City. For purposes of this subsection, the term “feeding” means the provision of one-half cubic foot or more of grain, fruit, vegetables, nuts, hay or other edible material either on the ground or at a height of less than five feet above the ground, in a manner that attracts deer. Living food sources such as trees and other live vegetation shall not be considered as deer feeding.

What it Means: Although deer may look hungry, do not feed them. Putting out liquid scents, salts or minerals is not considered to be feeding unless the materials contain liquid or solid food.

Parking

The Law: *City Code Section 26-41. Section C. Seasonal Parking Restriction.* From Nov. 1 to March 31, inclusive, no person shall park or permit any vehicle to stand on any street, highway or alley for all or any part of the period from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m.

City Code Section 26-46. No person shall park or leave a standing vehicle on any street in the city after a snowfall of at least 1.5 inches in depth until after the snow from such street has been removed or plowed to the curb line.

What it Means: Keeping vehicles off the streets during the cold months is essential to clearing the roads after a

snowfall. The Public Works Department needs to plow many roads in a short amount of time to make them safe for everyone to use. Public Works plow drivers should be focused on clearing the roads rather than clearing cars out of their way. For the safety of all pedestrians and motorists, keep vehicles off the road from 1 to 6 a.m. throughout the year, regardless of snowfall amount.

For more information on these two codes, call the Edina Police Department's non-emergency number at 952-826-1610.

Dog Licenses

The Law: *City Code Sec. 8-91.* Each owner of a dog shall pay the amount set forth in section 2-724 as required for the initial licensing fee, the renewal fee, the neutered dog fee or the duplicate fee. The renewal fee shall be due on or before Jan. 1 of each year.

What it Means: All dogs six months and older residing in Edina must have a license permanently affixed to their collars. City dog licenses expire every year on Dec. 31. Licenses can be renewed at the Edina Police Department, through mail or online. To renew by mail, send current rabies information and a check for the licensing fee to the Edina Police Department, 4801 W. 50th St., Edina, MN 55424-1394. The fee for renewing a dog license depends on the pet. Cost for neutered or sprayed dog is \$20; non-neutered or non-spayed dog is \$30. Residents have until March 1 to renew their dog license or a \$10 late fee is charged.

For more information on dog licenses, call 952-826-0494.

— Compiled by Lauren Siebenaler

Save the Date...



Style edina 2017



Saturday, March 18

Time TBD

The Westin Edina Galleria

Please Join Us

for a champagne brunch and fashion show celebrating a community of style featuring looks from 50th & France, Galleria and Southdale Center.

For tickets and more information visit

ExploreEdina.com



A percentage of the proceeds will benefit The Edina Crime Prevention Fund



GALLERIA



edina

Fischer Is New Face On City Council



Mike Fischer begins his first term on the Edina City Council Jan. 4, 2017.

By Debbie Townsend

Wherever he's lived, Mike Fischer has always been involved in his community – a member of Jaycees, a city councilor, a teacher in church and even part of the Save Fenway Park committee when he was in Boston.

During the 17 years he's lived in Edina, he's served on the Edina Housing Task Force, as chairman of the Edina Planning Commission and participated in the Grandview visioning process. And that's just a partial list. He has spent a lot of time focusing on his children, coaching youth sports and building theater sets for middle and high school productions, as well.

The architect and urban planner wasn't going to consider running for office in Edina until his three children were grown and on their own. That was until the 2018 Comprehensive Plan process came up, and veteran City Council Member Ann Swenson asked him to run to replace her.

His youngest child, Charlie, is a junior at Edina High School. But the Comprehensive Plan comes up only once a decade. It lays out the City's vision for the next 20 years.

"That's what I've done for the last 30 years is help cities figure out and plan for their futures," said Fischer, who earned dual master's degrees in Real Estate Development and City Planning with an emphasis in Urban Design from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "Right now is the time I can add a lot of value."

Edina voters apparently agreed. Fischer received 33 percent of the votes in the Nov. 8 election for two open City Council seats. Mary Brindle, who came in second, was elected to her third term on the five-member council. They join Council Members Kevin Staunton and Bob Stewart, and Mayor James Hovland, who ran unopposed and was re-elected.

Fischer is not planning to dominate the conversation despite his expertise, including being part of the task force behind Edina's 2008 Comprehensive Plan. He sees his job more as offering support and knowledge. A focus will be to ensure the two-year process is as inclusive as possible, because community input is the most important aspect, he said.

Election Results

Edina City Council At-Large

The top two vote-getters in the Tuesday, Nov. 8, election won council seats.

- Michael A. Fisher – 13,729
- Mary Brindle – 11,962
- Jennifer Janovy – 11,161
- Donna Callender – 4,985

Source: Minnesota Secretary of State Office

The plan, he said, is not a document of what to keep out of a city.

“We want to think of it as an aspirational document,” he said. “This is what we want to be. This is how we get there.”

Fischer and his wife, Laurie, have seen Edina grow and change over the years. The couple lived in the Southdale area in 1989 but moved away for college and career. When they returned a decade later, they moved into the Cornelia Neighborhood, where they’ve raised their three children.

While the Comprehensive Plan will be Fischer’s focus, he also has concerns about affordable housing and alternative transportation, two issues that could end up in the 2018 plan.

“I want to make sure we are a community that people can get around in modes other than cars,” Fischer said. “That doesn’t mean bike lanes or sidewalks everywhere, but a well thought-out process.”

Housing and transportation are key issues for Brindle as well. She sees the addition of Fischer, who will be sworn in Jan. 4, as a huge asset.

“This is going to be a very strong Council,” Brindle said. “We have been a strong Council, but this is talent we have not had on the Council.”

Email Fischer at mfischer@EdinaMN.gov or call him at 952-927-8861. Follow the latest City Council news at EdinaMN.gov/city-council-landing.

Learn more about the 2018 Comprehensive Plan at EdinaMN.gov/comp_plan_update.

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Edina Community Education is a catalyst and convener of community conversations. We engage lifelong learners of all ages in understanding, communicating, creating, and evolving our community. Keep connected! Learn more about upcoming community conversations at www.edinacommunityed.org.



K-9 Blade Hangs Up His Badge

By Kaylin Eidsness

After seven years with the Edina Police Department, K-9 Blade hung up his badge Dec. 31.

Blade will continue to live at home with his handler, Officer Jason Behr, who will move from the night shift he's worked the last 14 years to a "desk job" as the Training Officer for the Police Department.

"I would find it very difficult to hop in a squad car by myself the next day without him and completely switch roles from having a partner to not having one," said Behr.

Depending on the dog's health, the average working life of a K-9 is five to seven years. Behr said after Blade started showing signs of slowing down last year that it was time for him to retire. However, he said, it was a difficult decision to make.

"It's not fair to put him on the road if he's slowing down so much," said Behr. "I think he'll really miss it, though. Every time he sees me put on my uniform or he hears the squad car, he starts jumping all over the place and knows it's time to go to work."

Behr joined the Department in 1998 as a Community Service Officer and was promoted to Police Officer in 2000. Blade joined Behr in 2010.

"Jason has been an incredible handler," said Sgt. Mark Melander, who oversees the K-9 program. "They've been extremely busy. Jason is always willing to help other communities out as well."



File Photo

K-9 Blade recently retired after seven years of service with the Edina Police Department.

During their time together, Behr and Blade located and apprehended more than 75 suspects and made more than 150 narcotic and 100 building searches. They've also made more than 400 assists and had nearly 2,000 hours of training.

Demonstrations were also a large part of Blade's career. In 2014, when the National Detector Dog Trials were held in Edina, Behr and Blade placed third overall, along with Officer Mike Seeger and his late K-9 partner, Diesel. It's estimated that

through community demonstrations, Blade made contact with more than 7,000 people in his seven years on the job.

"The barriers the dog is able to break down as far as connecting with people is incredible," said Behr. "I think every person from every walk of life connects with a dog somehow. It's a huge connection to the community that has been extremely helpful."

Sgt. Kevin Rofidal, whose late K-9 partner was Kodiak, started the K-9 program in 2001. Officer Sean Young and K-9 Blitz will soon be joined by Officer Mike Bengston and his K-9 partner, whom he will meet in February.

“It’s going to be a challenge and I like challenges,” said Bengston of participating in the K-9 program. “I’m definitely excited about this. Jason is a wealth of knowledge, so I’ll be bouncing stuff off of him and getting as much info and help from him and Sean as I can.”

The K-9 program is funded through community donations made to the Edina Crime Prevention Fund, which covers expenses such as food and veterinarian bills, as well as the initial cost of the canine. Once Bengston’s new K-9 arrives, they will start an intense 12-week training program in March and then hit the streets sometime in June.

Even though Behr’s K-9 partner has retired, Behr says he still wants to participate in the K-9 program, whether it’s giving guidance or helping with training. He also says he’s a better police officer because of his time with Blade.

“I’m more patient, my communication is better and it’s helped me become a better teacher and mentor.”

When Behr started as a handler, there was no formal ongoing training program set up. Behr would train with the Minneapolis Police Department when he could. Seeger trained with the Eden Prairie Police Department. So, Behr organized a West Metro training group for K-9s and their handlers that meets monthly.

“You’re basically out by yourself trying to figure stuff out,” said Behr. “You need to have the help.”

When Behr looks back on Blade’s career, a few things stand out, including when Blade apprehended four



Police Officer Jason Behr and K-9 Blade started work together in 2010.

criminals in 24 hours and the time when an Eden Prairie police officer lost his wedding ring.

“We were called to Eden Prairie to track a stolen car. When we were finished, the sergeant came up to me and asked, ‘Did they tell you what the second part of this was?’ One of the officers had lost his wedding ring while they were chasing the bad guy and asked if Blade could help him find it. We started going and Blade found the ring right away. It was so buried in mud, I was surprised when he located it,” recalled Behr, who said the K-9s are trained to track human odor. “Within one minute, he was lying down and I was like, ‘no way,’ and there it was right between his legs.”

While Blade will spend his days at home being a typical pet, Behr will continue his police work.

(continued on next page)

“Something like only 1 percent of officers nationwide get to become a K-9 Officer,” said Behr. “I’m sure it will be the highlight of my career even when I retire. It was a lot of work, but it was worth it.”

A community celebration for Blade’s retirement will be held at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19 at Edina City Hall.

For more information, contact the Edina Police Department at 952-826-1610.

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Eischens Skates Into New Career As Braemar Arena & Field General Manager

By Lauren Siebenaler

Like so many others who walk through Braemar Arena's door, a big chunk of Chad Eischens' life now revolves around the ice. He is the new General Manager of Braemar Arena & Field.

"It has been nice getting to know the new Braemar Arena General Manager, Chad Eischens. As the Director of the Braemar Skate School and Co-Head professional of the Braemar-City of Lakes Figure Skating Club, I feel it is important to have a strong leader who is organized and meets the needs of all our user groups," said Kathleen Gazich. "Chad is very approachable and easy to work with. We are happy to add him to our family of employees at the Arena, many of whom have been here for years."

He started in the position in August and brings with him a variety of skills. Eischens holds an associate degree from Normandale Community College, a bachelor's degree in Physical Education from St. Cloud State University, and a master's degree in Educational Leadership from Minnesota State University, Mankato.

"I'm surprised at how many people come through Braemar Arena's doors on a daily basis. It's all ages, all hours of the day – and it's been fun getting to know them all," said Eischens.

Braemar Arena has been a central hockey and figure skating venue for a long time, and now Eischens wants to expand Braemar's fitness classes and programs within the



Photo by Michael Braun

Chad Eischens began work in August as General Manager of Braemar Arena and Braemar Field.

arena and field. Eischens' knowledge and management of programs fits perfectly with the new goal.

"A goal of ours is to look at our entire operation, from being smart and efficient with our staffing to looking at our business practices to see how we can do things a little

bit better. We want to make sure we're using our staff's strengths to best serve our customers," said Eischens.

Eischens looks forward to working with the different people who walk through Braemar Arena's doors, and living up to the history of Braemar Arena & Field. He's been on the job for a few months now and is still getting to know the ins and outs of the Arena and Field.

"A lot of my time spent so far has been getting to know people, getting to know systems, and the way that Edina does business. A lot of it is similar to where I came from, but some of it is different like the finance and hiring systems. I've been figuring out how things flow around here, and the work environment, the work culture. Getting up to speed on all of that has been my main priority," said Eischens.

Eischens has been in a school setting for the last nine years. He started his career at the International School of Minnesota in Eden Prairie, and then was an Activities Director in New Ulm High School. From New Ulm, Eischens went to Belle Plaine School District as the Activities Director and Community Education Director.

"Braemar Arena is a super interesting place with a great history of being a premier hockey and figure skating facility for 51 years. The City has done a nice job at keeping up with the infrastructure and adding on to these outdoor spaces so that we now have the backyard rink, the sport court, the field and the dome. I think it's exciting and a great opportunity to bring in more growth and more people to Edina," said Eischens.

Eischens has worked with many competitive high school hockey programs. He recently served as the Girls' Section 2AA Hockey Coordinator for the Minnesota State High School League, and had taken the same position for the boys' team prior to that. Eischens has managed staffs as large as 100, so he brings that skill to Braemar along with the skills involved to manage the athletic facilities and programs. Eischens diverse experiences will work well with all of the new programs and activities Braemar Field is setting up for participants. Programs like yoga, BarreX, flag football, soccer and popular sports sampler are offered throughout the year.

"Chad has been fantastic to work with and has jumped on the little things that we've needed help with very efficiently" said Joseph Hulbert of the Edina Hockey Association.

For more information, contact Eischens at 952-833-0500 or ceischens@EdinaMN.gov.

Highway 169 Closures To Begin

By **Debbie Townsend**

If you travel on Highway 169, get ready to find alternate routes for the next several months. A nine-month, \$64 million project to make road improvements and replace a bridge begins Jan. 10 and will result in multiple closures that drivers will need to plan around.

What are the major closures or lane changes on Highway 169?

- All lanes in both directions between Bren Road and 7th Street in Edina will close Jan. 10 to late September 2017.
- Southbound from Excelsior Boulevard to 7th Street and northbound from Hwy 62 to Bren Road reduced to one lane, Jan. 10 to October 2017.
- Ramp from westbound Interstate 394 to southbound U.S. Highway 169 will close Jan. 10 to early September 2017.
- Each direction of Highway 169 reduced to one lane from Minnesota Highway 55 to Minnesota Highway 62 from April 1 to early September 2017. Various on- and off-ramps in that section will also be closed at times.
- Southbound ramps to and from 16th Street in St. Louis Park will be closed permanently in summer 2017.

Why the full closure north of Bren Road?

The bridge over Nine Mile Creek, which is just north of Bren, has aged and must be replaced by 2020, according to the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT).

“The bridge has been deteriorating because it’s not draining well and the fluid that we use – the salt solution that we use to de-ice it – is eating at the bridge piers,” said Dave Aeikens, a MnDOT spokesman.

To solve that problem and improve overall drainage, the bridge will be demolished. In its place, MnDOT will build a causeway, which is a raised road across low ground supported on fill, unlike a bridge that’s supported on piers.

Why close one lane in each direction from Highways 55 to 62?

The closed lanes will undergo pavement repair. From Minnetonka Boulevard north to Highway 55, workers will grind off the top of the pavement and put on new asphalt to improve the road surface. South of Minnetonka Boulevard to Highway 62, crews will patch trouble spots.

Why are the southbound ramps to 16th Street closing?

The existing ramps are substandard, contribute to crashes and endanger pedestrians crossing in the area. The short ramps and tight curves also make it difficult for drivers to accelerate or slow down, according to MnDOT. Closing them also will make Highway 169 in that area operate more like a freeway.

Will the northbound 16th Street ramps close?

MnDOT’s long-term vision includes closing the ramps on the northbound (east) segment of Highway 169. MnDOT does not yet have approval from the City of St. Louis Park for that, so it wasn’t included in this project.



Highway 169 Improvement Project

Lane and Ramp Closures Starting Jan. 10

What other work will be done?

- The acceleration lane onto northbound Highway 169 at Cedar Lake Road and the deceleration lane to the Cedar Lake off-ramp from southbound 169 will be lengthened for safety.
- Many noise walls will be repaired and concrete barriers replaced.
- Ramps will be added to sidewalks to make them accessible for people using walkers or wheelchairs or riding bikes.

Couldn't you do this project without a full closure by the bridge?

Technically, yes. But that would stretch the project time from the expected nine months to about three years, making its timeline collide with other upcoming projects in the area. Also, it would be less safe for both drivers and workers, Aeikens said.

How do I learn more or keep track of updates?

MnDOT project page:

dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/hwy169hopkins

Email updates:

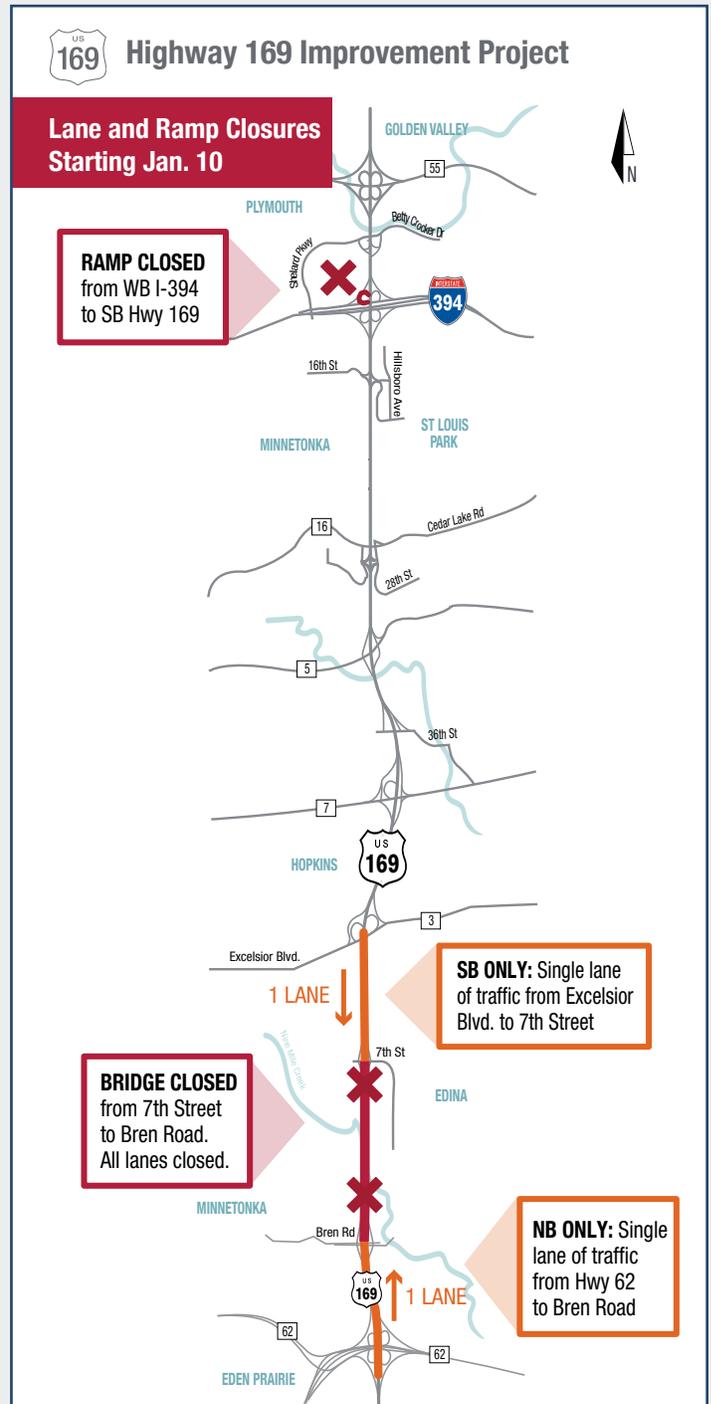
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2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT

EDINA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION *THE BEST COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION*

Dear Neighbors,

Our annual report this year celebrates the choice of ECF by *Edina Magazine* as the Best Community Organization in 2016. Editor Angela Johnson explained the choice by writing, "If you care about it, it is likely the Edina Community Foundation supports it."

We believe this recognition means that we're not only successful in achieving our mission, but also in the broader role of enhancing the lives of those of us who live or work in our community. This Annual Report summarizes the ECF programs and services we provide to the Edina community.

We extend our great appreciation to all the people who have joined with the Foundation in helping us enhance our community. We also thank those donors whose contributions help us fulfill our mission to serve, strengthen and celebrate Edina.



Paul Mooty, President

Dick Crockett, Executive Director

We bring people together to serve, strengthen and celebrate our community.



4th of July Parade



CWK Leadership Breakfast Honorees



Celebrating the Foundation's Umbrella

Here are some ECF programs Edina residents care about that

- ***Edina Dialogue.*** We celebrated the 10th year of this initiative to bring Edina residents together to discuss matters of public interest. The Dialogue started with Edina Reads co-hosted with the Edina Library and has grown to serve over 5,000 participants with the addition of Connecting with Kids Leadership Breakfast speakers, and CEO Roundtables co-hosted with the Edina Chamber of Commerce. 2016-17 programs included authors Emilie Buchwald and Alan Page, meteorologist Belinda Jensen, and panel discussions on *Global Water Solutions* and *A Smart Energy Future: Will Edina Lead the Way?*



- ***Edina Challenge.*** We finished the 3rd year of leading a team effort with over a dozen other community groups to better meet the needs of the approximately 750 kids in poverty or near-poverty in Edina. 2015-16 featured a growth in cooperative programs, more ECF youth scholarships for Summer Park & Recreation programs, and a One2One mentoring program for middle school students.



- ***Connecting With Kids.*** We hosted the annual CWK Leadership Breakfast to honor the work of our neighbors who help connect youth with the adult community. And CWK developed a new Connect Card to help low-income families qualify for access to scholarship funds for extracurricular programs. This effort to help engage at-risk youth is a great example of how ECF continues to find creative ways to build a better Edina.



helped make it the *Best Community Organization* this past year:

- **Public Art.** We added the *NWA/Nyrop Memorial* sculptures at Centennial Lakes Park to the City's growing collection of public sculptures. ECF's prior acquisitions for the City include Spaulding at 50th & France, Raven at City Hall, and the iconic *Pinecone* at Centennial Lakes Park.



4th of July Parade and Fireworks. Our volunteer Parade Committee chaired by John Swon was again successful in planning Edina's largest celebration enjoyed by some 20,000 spectators. The Parade route from

City Hall to 50th and France features over 80 units that include military vehicles and veterans, public officials and political candidates, musicians and jugglers, floats and horses, and a diverse collection of community groups and commercial sponsors.

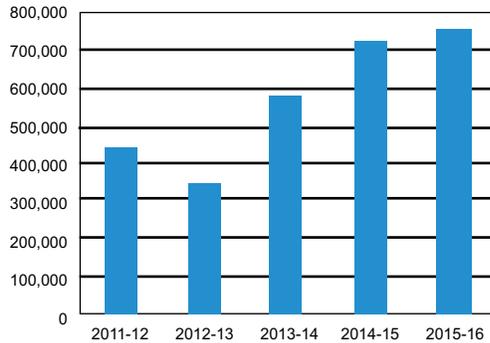
- **Charitable Partner Services.** We continued and expanded our important role in growing Edina's nonprofit sector by serving as the charitable partner for over 50 local programs dedicated to music and the arts, environmental concerns, youth athletics, neighborhood associations, and children, families and seniors. ECF is an important connector for these groups, enabling their support from charitable contributions and facilitating their grant making to those who help carry out their missions.



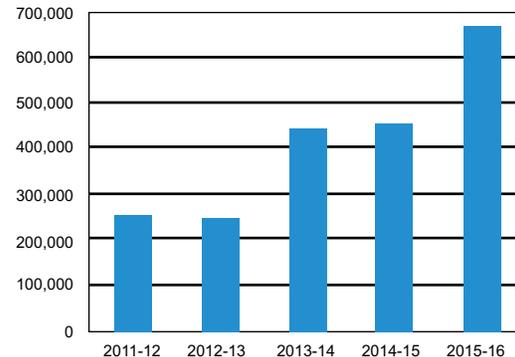
2015-2016 FINANCES

Our total revenue was \$762,702, dramatically greater than our average for the last four years of \$521,283. Our program services expenditures of \$662,240 were 86% of our total expenditures of \$773,925, which more than complies with the 70% minimum recommended by the Minnesota Charities Review Council.

Community Support (Total Revenue)



Program Services Expenditures



AUDITORS: Ellingson and Ellingson, Ltd.

The complete audited statements for this and prior fiscal years, our IRS Form 990 and Minnesota Charitable Organization Annual Report are available upon request.

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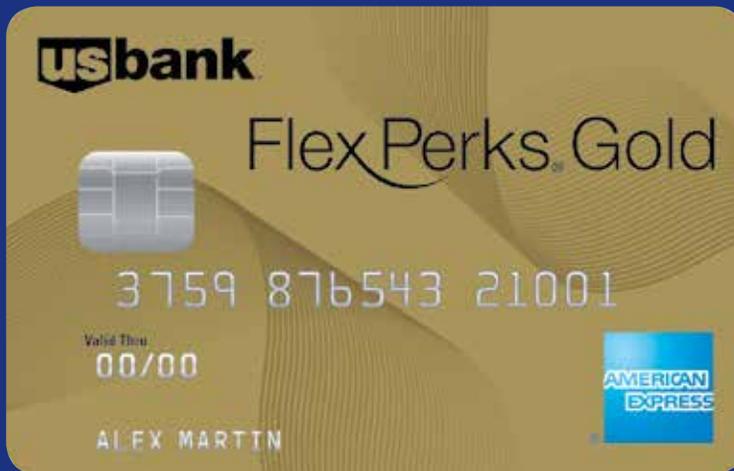
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Our work depends on a community of caring residents. Please consider making a gift to ECF and supporting us in our mission of bringing people together to serve, strengthen and celebrate Edina.

For more information about our programs and charitable giving opportunities, contact Executive Director Dick Crockett at 952-833-9573, 5280 Grandview Square, Edina, MN 55436 or edfoundation@EdinaMN.org or review our website at www.edinacommunityfoundation.org.

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Residents Urged To Compost Food Waste

By Debbie Townsend

Take a moment before you dump those coffee grounds, toss that orange peel or drop that paper plate into the trash.

None of it needs to go into the garbage and out to a landfill or a trash burner.

Instead, all of it can be turned into compost and put back to the earth. In an effort to cut down on what's going to trash heaps and to help the environment, the City of Edina encourages residents to compost their organic waste, whether they do it themselves or have it picked up curbside.

"If you are trying to make an impact on the environment, this is a way you can do that and reduce what is sent to the landfill," said Solvei Wilmot, Environment Health Specialist/Recycling Coordinator for the City of Edina.

It's not much different than what Edina residents already do to separate recyclables like bottles and cans from their trash. To make it even easier, the City of Edina offers free counter top containers that make the process easy. The most difficult part might be remembering what is and is not considered organic waste.

"Most people think it's just apples and oranges, but it's lots of things," said Roxanne Vierkant at Vierkant Disposal, the only company in Edina currently offering curbside organic waste pickup.

Vierkant has been at the forefront of the organics recycling movement nationwide, in part thanks to residents in one Edina neighborhood.



Photo by Debbie Townsend

Solvei Wilmot, Environmental Health Specialist/Recycling Coordinator for the City of Edina, holds one of the free MaxAir composting buckets the City is giving away to encourage recycling or composting of organic waste.

Compost These

Food waste:

- Fruits and vegetables
- Meat, fish, bones
- Dairy products, eggs, eggshells
- Pasta, beans and rice
- Bread and cereal
- Nuts and shells
- Coffee grounds

Paper or other household waste:

- Paper plates, cups, napkins and towels
- Coffee filters and tea bags
- Milk and juice cartons
- Pizza boxes
- Egg cartons
- Wood chopsticks, popsicle sticks, toothpicks

Don't Compost These

- Pet waste, litter or bedding
- Cleaning or baby wipes
- Diapers or sanitary products
- Plastic bags
- Juice boxes or other foil-lined containers
- Glass, aluminum, office paper (put those in your City of Edina recycling bin)

Get A Free Composting Bucket

To encourage organic waste recycling, the City of Edina is offering free compost buckets that can go on the counter or under the sink.

The specially designed MaxAir Bucket from the City comes with 25 compostable bags to use as liners and a handy refrigerator magnet that lists what you can and can't put in the bucket.

When preparing a meal or after a meal, scrape the food waste into the bucket, along with paper napkins or other compostable items. When the bag is full, simply pull it out and add it to a backyard composting bin. If you're a Vierkant Disposal customer, add it to your cart labeled for yard and organic waste or put it in a paper bag.

Edina residents with other trash haulers should contact their service about adding organic waste recycling.

To get a free MaxAir Bucket, stop by the Edina Police Department inside City Hall at 4801 W. 50th St.

"Edina Morningside residents asked us to start it," said Vierkant. The hauling company agreed, but made the service available citywide. "It's so user friendly."

The State of Minnesota is pushing for 75 percent of all Hennepin County waste to be either recycled or turned into compost by 2030, diverting it from landfills.

Recycling efforts already have removed 43 percent of what used to go to landfills, according to the 2016 Recycling Progress Report from the County.

Organic recycling and composting, however, has barely made a dent. About 30 percent of what is thrown away is organic foodscrap and paper products, yet only 3 percent of all waste collection in the county was organically recycled in 2015, according to the report. It didn't increase from 2014.

That means there is a lot of room to grow.

(continued on next page)

How It Works

Get a free MaxAir Bucket from the City of Edina or use your own.

"I've used a variety of containers for food waste from 1-gallon ice cream buckets to my current favorite – a purchased recycling bucket that I keep handy under the kitchen sink," said Helen Burke, an Edina Morningside resident who has been part of the organics program since it began in 2008.

When you finish a meal, toss the food waste into the composting bucket. Also put in paper plates, paper napkins, coffee grounds and filters, tea bags and other compostable items. Special compostable bags to line the container make the process less messy.

"It's very easy to do," said Diane Plunkett Latham, who helped establish the organics program when she was on Edina's Energy & Environment Commission. "Under our counter, we have a pail of organics from the table. Periodically, I just take it out."

Burke estimates the process takes her about two minutes a day.

Vierkant Disposal customers put the full compostable bag into their yard waste bin or dump their compost bucket straight in there with no liner. Vierkant customers without a bin can put the compost bags in a paper bag by their trash container.

Either way, the material is turned into compost. It's good for soil augmentation and holds moisture better, Wilmot said.

For those who balk at collecting a bag of messy waste, Wilmot reminds them that it's the same stuff they put in the trash.

"People think, 'At the curbside, oh yuck.' But your trash is at the curbside," she said.

Vierkant Disposal customers pay \$85 a year for yard and organic waste. For Edina residents with other haulers, Wilmot suggests calling their trash service and requesting they add organic waste pickup so they know customers are interested.

Roxanne Vierkant said many customers who start recycling their food and compostable waste end up offsetting the cost because they need less trash picked up.

She remembers one skeptical customer who started collecting compostable items anyway. After a while, that customer was recycling so much that the home went from needing two 96-gallon trash bins a week to just one 35-gallon bin.

Burke was surprised at what little trash was left once her household pulled out all the recyclable and compostable items.

"There's roughly one grocery-bag full of garbage per person per month," Burke said. "That's astonishing, isn't it?"

To learn more about Vierkant Disposal's program, visit Vierkantd disposal.com and click on the "Go Green" tab or call 612-922-2505. Wilmot can be reached at swilmot@EdinaMN.gov or 952-826-0463.



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New Recreation Supervisor Brings Energy, Ideas To Senior Center



Photo by Dietrich Nissen

Nicole Gorman started as the City of Edina's new Recreation Supervisor Dec. 5.

By Debbie Townsend

Instead of the City's older residents traveling to the Edina Senior Center, what if some of the center's events came to them?

"Pop-up senior centers" at retirement complexes and other spots are among the ideas floating around the busy head of Nicole Gorman, the City of Edina's new Recreation Supervisor.

Gorman, who started at the City Dec. 5, brings a bundle of energy and a commitment to helping people in her new position heading up the Senior Center. In addition,

she'll be developing health and wellness programs along with environmental education opportunities for adults in the community. She will also be doing general adult programming and special events.

"I really like being a Recreation Supervisor," Gorman said. "I've really enjoyed the opportunities it's given me."

She knows she's got what she called "big little shoes" to fill in replacing the diminutive and beloved Donna Tilsner, who headed up the Senior Center and retired from a 41-year career in parks and leisure services at the end of November. She's known Tilsner for years through their work on recreation and senior-related associations.

As Edina Parks & Recreation Assistant Director Susan Faus will tell you, Gorman is the ideal candidate with a track record of experience and a passion for working with people, especially seniors.

Gorman has the academic degrees: a bachelor's degree in Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services from Minnesota State University, Mankato, and a master's degree in Recreation, Parks and Leisure Studies from the University of Minnesota, with an emphasis in Public Parks and Recreation Administration.

She also has the years of work experience. Her last job was Recreation Supervisor for the City of Farmington, where she coordinated city-wide events and developed classes, day trips, programs and events for the adult/senior center there. She has held similar positions in Minnetonka and at senior facilities in Eden Prairie and Burnsville.

On top of all that, she's involved in several organizations, including the Minnesota Recreation and Park Association, Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging and the Minnesota Association of Senior Services.

"We're really excited to have someone with her enthusiasm and experience joining our team," Faus said.

Among Gorman's favorite accomplishments so far, she helped bring a 10-week Aging Master Program to 13 sites across the state, including Farmington. The 90-minute weekly courses cover 10 topics, including exercise, financial fitness, sleeping, medication management and advance planning. Enrollment has grown since they launched.

Exactly what she'll bring to Edina she can't yet say. She plans to spend the first several weeks on the job meeting people, observing the current operations of the Senior Center and studying the history of Edina's programs.

"Edina has a ton of potential and possibilities," she said.

Away from work, she's plenty busy as well. She and her husband, Nick, her high school sweetheart, just had their second child, Jameson. They also have a 5-year-old son, Jack, and a pug/beagle mix named Peyton.

She welcomes the faster pace, bigger population and opportunities ahead working with Edina residents.

"I really like people," Gorman said. "It's not really a job. It's something you enjoy doing."

Gorman can be reached at 952-833-9571 or ngorman@EdinaMN.gov. Her office is at the Edina Senior Center, 5280 Grandview Square.



EHS Renovations Hint At Learning Spaces To Come As District Construction Advances

By Mary Woitte, Contributing Writer

Edina High School (EHS) students are already enjoying the benefits of the school district's two-and-half-year construction plan. The recently completed redesign and expansion of the third-floor commons features more space, a variety of seating options and a direct connection to the school cafeteria below via a new staircase.

"I have been enjoying the open plan of the new commons and the stairway is awesome!" said student Michael Rodriguez, noting that the stairway offers a "seamless flow" between commons and cafeteria. Now a senior, last year Rodriguez was a student member of the EHS Core Planning Team that helped develop initial schematic designs for the school's construction projects. "It is a great space for breakout discussions and independent work. Many teachers have jumped at opportunities to conduct a class in the commons."

It is a sign of things to come as construction continues to roll through every district facility on a timeline that currently extends through the 2018-19 school year. Guided by the district's Next Generation Strategic Plan and the 2015 facilities bond referendum, the work focuses on creating a variety of learning spaces to meet the changing needs of students, enhancing building security and improving infrastructure.

Although the wet summer was at times a hindrance, the district's construction projects remain on track. Together with construction partners WOLD Architects and Engineers and Kraus Anderson Construction, the district made adjustments to the schedule and timing in order

to keep moving forward while remaining true to scope and budget. With the onset of winter, construction work continues but has moved inside at a number of sites.

At EHS, the exterior shell and roof of the 135,000 square feet of additions on the west and north sides of the building have been constructed. The new classrooms and activity spaces are scheduled to be ready by fall 2017 when the district's ninth-graders become part of the EHS student body. Additions to Concord and Countryside elementary schools also broke ground this fall, adding classrooms and common areas that are expected to be ready for students later this month.

The east wing of the third floor of the Edina Community Center (ECC) is being reconfigured to house district offices that are currently located on the ECC second floor. The offices are slated to move during spring break, making way for an expansion of Normandale Elementary classrooms into the vacated second floor area.

Construction on the district's new transportation services facility began in the fall. Located at 7600 Metro Blvd., the facility will provide more space to adequately house the current bus fleet as well as likely future expansion. It is expected to be ready for use in time for the 2017-18 school year. Meanwhile, the district continues to explore options to sell the current transportation property at Eden Avenue.

Summer construction will include additions, renovations and mechanical upgrades at Cornelia Elementary; renovations at Concord and Countryside and the ECC, including Normandale and the first floor of the Early



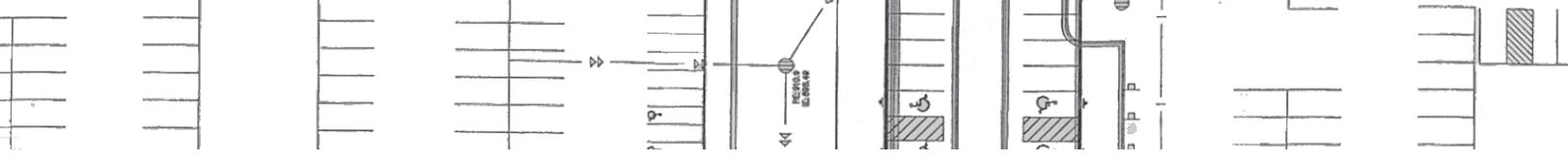
Edina High School recently completed a redesign and expansion of the third-floor commons.

Childhood Center. South View Middle School will also begin its first phase of construction in the spring, including reconfigured learning spaces and mechanical updates. Construction will continue through the summer of 2018.

In tandem with these projects will be construction centered on enhancing building security. New entrances will funnel visitors directly into the main office, and new technologies, including a buzzer system currently being tested at Countryside, will be installed.

With about a year and half of heavy construction activity to go, Superintendent Ric Dressen said patience and stamina are needed to get through the ups and downs of construction.

“We know construction puts a strain on everyone, but the new space at EHS reminds us why we are doing this work,” said Dressen. “In the end, the reward will be seeing our students in learning spaces that do not just accommodate their learning, but contribute to it.”



Planning Matters

'Edina Flats' Proposed For Wooddale/Valley View Area

The Wooddale Avenue and Valley View Road area could see some new condominiums. A developer is interested in redeveloping the four lots at the corners of Kellogg Avenue, Valley View Road and Oaklawn Avenue.

In October, the City Council reviewed a sketch plan for "Edina Flats," 14 condominiums within four different buildings. The buildings would be three stories along Valley View Road and two stories where they are adjacent to single-family homes.

Buildings that house Burley's Hair Salon, Neighborhood Ice Cream Shoppe and Pappagallo, as well as a single-family home, would be razed to make way for the project. It is anticipated that the businesses would relocate within the area.

City Council Members gave the developers – Gatehouse Properties and McGlynn Partners – non-binding feedback on their proposal. Should they decide to move forward, they will need to seek a Comprehensive Plan amendment and variances.

"Right now if you would look at the site, it's tired and worn down," said David Carlson of Gatehouse Properties. "What we are going to do is provide some vibrant housing, nice walkability and add some public features to the common area. Not only will the owners enjoy it, but people in the neighborhood and people driving by will see a much improved area."

HRA Serves As Planning Manager For Library Site Redevelopment

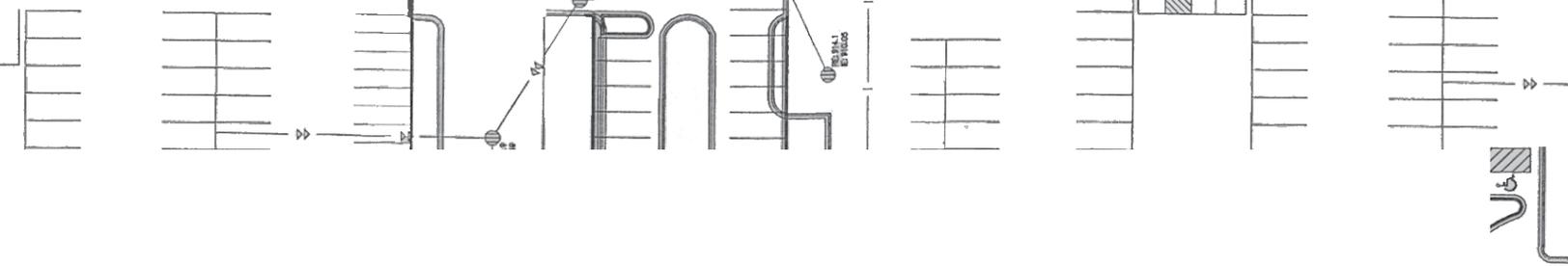
The Edina Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) will serve as planning manager for the County's anticipated redevelopment project on York Avenue.

Hennepin County officials anticipate several changes at its Regional Services site at 7001 York Ave. Constructed in 1971, the facility has been expanded five times to include a service center and District Court in addition to the library. The court functions are in need of security upgrades, and potential restoration of the aging building is estimated to cost in the millions.

The County seeks alternatives to relocate services in more efficient and modern facilities. Earlier this year, the service center relocated to Southdale Center. The District Court is proposed to move to a new building on the Bloomington Civic Plaza campus.

The County is committed to keeping a regional library on the 8-acre property and intends to redevelop the site with a new library and complementary uses.

Based on the shared interest in the site and the eventual need for rezoning, a preliminary planning exercise is warranted before any proposals for development are received. The Edina HRA will lead the process, supervising three consultants. HGA will lead the public engagement process and prepare preliminary site concepts. Maxfield Research will conduct a preliminary market analysis. Braun Intertec will conduct a preliminary environmental assessment. Hennepin County will reimburse the HRA for staff and consultant time.



The consultants' work would be completed over the winter months. Developers could be invited to submit redevelopment proposals as early as next spring.

Town Hall Station To Open In Edina

A popular restaurant in Minneapolis will soon open a fourth location in Edina.

Town Hall Brewery will remodel and expand the old Wally's Gas Station building at 4500 Valley View Road as a restaurant. With a gas station motif, the new restaurant will be called Town Hall Station.

"A small area plan was conducted for Wooddale and Valley View by the City and this project is exactly what the neighborhood wanted," said Community Development Director Cary Teague. "Specifically, the neighborhood wanted to see that gas station remodeled into a restaurant."

Greenlighting the neighborhood restaurant, the City Council rezoned the site and approved the site plan with building, signage and parking space variances.

Construction is under way and is expected to be complete this winter.

(continued on next page)



Submitted Illustration

The old Wally's Gas Station at 4500 Valley View Road will be remodeled into Town Hall Station restaurant.



'The Avenue on France' To Be Built In Six Phases

DJR Architects, on behalf of Dennis Doyle, has proposed a redevelopment of the 21.78-acre parcel at 6600-6800 France Avenue. Transforming the Southdale Office Center into "The Avenue on France" would be one of the biggest redevelopments in recent Edina history.

The request is for a six-phase development. The site would include a new six-story medical building; six-story office building; four-story hotel with 100 rooms; eight-story, 70-unit residential condominiums; two one- or two-story retail buildings; and the new single-story Bank of America.

Existing buildings that would remain include the seven- and six-story office buildings and the Tavern on France restaurant. The only building that would be removed from the site is the office building that connects to the seven- and six-story office buildings.

"This is huge," said Community Development Director Cary Teague. "This is one of the biggest projects that the City has seen in probably the last 20 years."

– Compiled by Dawn Wills and Jennifer Bennerotte



Submitted Illustration

A rendering of the proposed Southdale Office Center redevelopment into "The Avenue on France."



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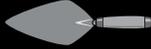
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Check your homeowner's insurance policy to see if you have coverage for backups.

If you do not have coverage, consider adding to your policy because in most cases the City is not liable for damages and provides only limited coverage.

Business Notes

50th & France Business Association Moves Offices

The 50th & France Business Association has moved to a new office space.

The association is now located at the corner of 50th and France. The step up to a more visible and centrally located office was necessitated by the needs of a growing business to expand into the association's former space. The new space should allow the association to better serve its members and customers.

"We were fortunate that Edina Properties leased us a very reasonable space for 18 years and our new landlord, KSC Properties, has worked with us. The new space is more professional," said Rachel Thelemann, Executive Director of the 50th & France Business & Professional Association.

The association's new address is 3902 W. 50th St., Suite C, above Paper Source.

For more information on the 50th & France Business & Professional Association, visit 50thandfrance.com.

Prestigious Ballet Dancer Opens Her Own Studio

The Secrets of Ballet Academy opened its first studio in Edina at 5211 W. 73rd St. last year.

Founder and Artistic Director Tatiana Berenova



Tatiana Berenova works with pre-professional-level student Cameryn Smith.

is a Russian Prima Ballerina and International Gold Medalist who graduated from the prestigious ballet institution Moscow Bolshoi Ballet Academy. There, she had a successful career as an international ballerina, during which time she appeared as a guest with world-renowned ballet theaters and companies throughout Europe, Asia, South America and North America. Berenova's teaching of ballet history and knowledge of modern teaching styles and techniques has produced many dancers who have become laureates of international ballet competitions.

The Secrets of Ballet is for dancers who want a professional classical education. There are four levels at Berenova's academy along with private lessons: Thumbelina (Ages 4-6), Preparatory (Ages 7-9), Pre-Professional (Ages 9-12), Professional Training (Ages 7-12), Non-Professional (Ages 12-21) and Open/Advance/Adult Classes for advanced-level students and professional dancers.

"I have students coming from Otsego, Eagan, Minneapolis, Bloomington, Woodbury and Edina. I think Edina is in the heart of Minnesota. It's beautiful and safe here. I've been searching for my own place for a long time and I've looked at many locations. I knew right away I wanted my company to be here," said Berenova.

Berenova designed her studio exactly how she wanted and with a professional ballet floor that has four layers. The floor is special because it's safe for muscles and prevents jumping injuries. She has two Minnesota instructors on her team as well: Michelle Luterbach and Laura Lee.

"This is a place for kids who love ballet, love music and who would like to dedicate themselves to becoming professional dancers in the future," said Berenova.

For more information about the Secrets of Ballet Academy, visit secretsofballet.com.

Tristar Power Solutions Joins Edina Community

Tristar Power Solutions held a grand opening in October at its new location at 6975 Washington Ave. S. Tristar moved its office to Edina from Burnsville.

The company ensures uninterrupted power to places like 911 call centers, hospitals, Sprint, AT&T and Microsoft by maintaining the data center backup power. Tristar is the first company in the Midwest to bundle solar and backup power, which will reduce the carbon footprint of many state and federal offices and businesses across Minnesota.

“We want to reduce our carbon footprint, and solar is an option that will be a big part of the future energy,” said Ameer Shah, President & CEO of Tristar.



Photo by Lauren Siebenaler

U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar cuts the ribbon for Tristar Power Solutions with the Shah family and Tristar employees.

Tristar has partnered with a company in India, Swelect Inc., a leading solar panel manufacturer. Swelect distributes solar panels across states west of the Mississippi along with constructing its own manufacturing plant in North Carolina.

Tristar hopes to create more than 100 jobs in the next five years.

For more information about Tristar Power Solutions, visit tristarups.com.

Sprint Regional Headquarters Developed in Edina

Sprint announced the creation of a Great Plains Region headquarters, which will be housed in Edina. The Great Plains Region covers Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota, with more than 100 Sprint retail stores.

In 2016, Sprint announced its plan to divide operations into 18 regions across the country. Each region is responsible for local sales, marketing, network performance, customer experience and community engagement. “Bringing in local leadership allows us to be more responsive to our customers and connected to their experiences,” explained Michael McMahon, President of the new Great Plains Region.

The regional headquarters is located at 7700 S. France Ave. and is home to the region’s Retail, Indirect, Business Sales, Marketing and Operations teams.

To learn more, visit sprint.com.

(continued on next page)

Bob's Shoe Repair Opens New Store

Bob's Shoe Repair took over Edina Shoe Repair at 3925 W. 50th St. in October.

Owner Dave Young and his family will run the new location in Edina. The Youngs started off in Wayzata, Minnesota, with a Bob's Shoe Repair shop that has been there since 1972. They have been managing that store for two years, and heard the idea of having another store from a client. Tres Lund, of Lunds & Byerlys, is a loyal customer at Bob's in Wayzata and passed the information of the Edina Shoe Repair opportunity to him. The former business had been in operation since 1946 and closed temporarily when owner and cobbler Jeff Groff died last summer.

"Everyone has been so welcoming – the 50th & France merchants, the staff of City Hall. It's been a different mindset here in Edina and I like it a lot," said Young.



Photo by Lauren Siebenaler

The backroom and workspace in Bob's Shoe Repair remains busy now that Dave Young and his family have taken over the business.

Bob's Shoe Repair is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday; 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday; and 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday.

For more information, call the store at 952-922-4356.

Business Organizations Grow Membership

The 50th & France Business & Professional Association has added five new businesses to its membership roster since June. Since July, the Edina Chamber of Commerce has welcomed 22 businesses as new members.

New members of the 50th & France Business & Professional Association include Annika Bridal, Bob's Shoe Repair, Luxury Garage Sale, Witt + Bliss and Art of Optiks.

New members of the Chamber of Commerce include ARCpoint Labs of Minneapolis South, Art of Optiks, Associated Benefits and Risk Consulting, B2 Nutrition & Performance, Bell Bank Mortgage, Cheese Brothers, Cohlab Digital Marketing, Edina Realty – Paula Gulliford, Fitness Together, Gateway Bank, Generation Group, IN-EX Communications, Jostens Inc., LasikPlus – Minneapolis, Minnesota Creative LLC, Mspace Inc., Peoples Bank of Commerce, Peter Hill Design, Robb Gruman, Tide Dry Cleaners, Tristar Power Solutions LLC and Whitehall.

For more information about the 50th & France Business & Professional Association, call 952-922-1524. For more information about the Chamber of Commerce, contact them at 952-806-9060.

– Compiled by Lauren Siebenaler and Dana Rademacher

On The Move: Restaurant Edition

New Openings

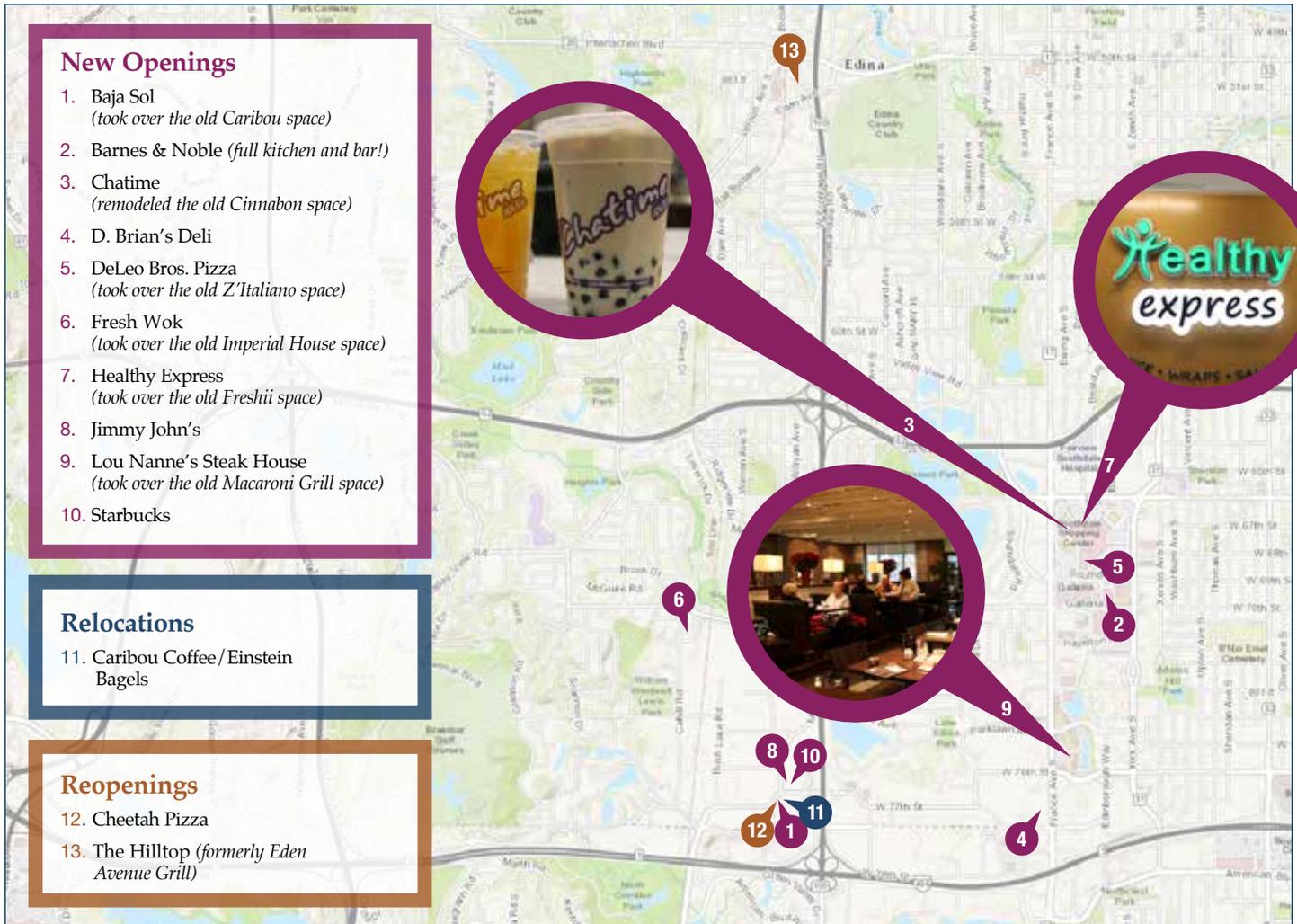
1. Baja Sol
(took over the old Caribou space)
2. Barnes & Noble *(full kitchen and bar!)*
3. Chatime
(remodeled the old Cinnabon space)
4. D. Brian's Deli
5. DeLeo Bros. Pizza
(took over the old Z'Italiano space)
6. Fresh Wok
(took over the old Imperial House space)
7. Healthy Express
(took over the old Freshii space)
8. Jimmy John's
9. Lou Nanne's Steak House
(took over the old Macaroni Grill space)
10. Starbucks

Relocations

11. Caribou Coffee/Einstein Bagels

Reopenings

12. Cheetah Pizza
13. The Hilltop *(formerly Eden Avenue Grill)*



City Of Edina Facilities

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Edina Aquatic Center, 4300 W. 66th St.	952-833-9560
Edina Art Center, 4701 W. 64th St.	952-903-5780
Braemar Arena, 7501 Ikola Way	952-833-9500
Braemar Field, 7509 Ikola Way	952-833-9512
Braemar Golf Course, 6364 John Harris Drive	952-903-5750
Centennial Lakes Park, 7499 France Ave. S.	952-833-9580
Edina Liquor – 50th & France, 3943 50th St.	952-903-5720
Edina Liquor – Grandview, 5013 Vernon Ave.	952-903-5740
Edina Liquor – Southdale, 6755 York Ave. S.	952-903-5730
Edina Senior Center, 5280 Grandview Square	952-833-9570
Edinborough Park, 7700 York Ave. S.	952-833-9540
Fire Station No. 1, 6250 Tracy Ave.	952-826-0330
Fire Station No. 2, 7335 York Ave.	952-826-0357
Public Works & Park Maintenance Facility, 7450 Metro Blvd.	952-826-0376
South Metro Public Safety Training Facility, 7525 Braemar Blvd.	952-903-5700

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- Report an incident that requires a Police Officer at the scene.
- Summon a paramedic or ambulance.
- Report a fire.
- Report suspicious, criminal activity (alarms, shots fired, shouts for help, sounds of breaking glass, unfamiliar person carrying items from a house, etc.).
- Report a sewer backup or other Public Works emergency that requires immediate attention.

City-Recognized Neighborhoods

Arden Park

Contact: Sara Moran, moransshine@gmail.com

Chowen Park

Contact: Bill Neuendorf, chowenpark.edina@gmail.com

Concord

Contact: Ellen Westin, EllenWestin@edinarealty.com

Elected Officials

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Mary Brindle	Council Member	952-941-7746
Mike Fischer	Council Member	952-927-8861
Kevin Staunton	Council Member	952-836-1020
Bob Stewart	Council Member	952-833-9559

Edina School Board

Amir Gharbi	School Board Member	508-808-9119
David Goldstein	School Board Member	952-255-9295
Randy Meyer	School Board Member	612-720-3711
Regina Neville	School Board Member	952-351-4164
Lisa O'Brien	School Board Member	612-812-5569
Sarah Patzloff	School Board Member	952-926-7309
Leny Wallen-Friedman	School Board Member	612-799-0222

Jan Callison	County Commissioner	612-348-3168
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Melissa Franzen	Senator	651-296-6238
Dario Anselmo	Representative – 49A	612-284-4232
Paul Rosenthal	Representative – 49B	651-271-8131

General Information

Call 952-927-8861 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday for general information. If you have a situation after hours or on weekends, but do not require immediate response from a paramedic, firefighter, police officer or Public Works crew, call the Police Department's non-emergency number, 952-826-1610.

Creek Knoll

Contact: Tim O'Neill, tim@pianobrothers.com

Morningside

Contact: Helen Burke, hburke300@gmail.com

Pamela Park

Contact: Julie McMahan, juliemcjones@gmail.com

Strachauer Park

Contact: Chris Bremer, cbremer101@gmail.com

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 Housing Rehabilitation at 612-348-9260. Dozens of
 Edina residents have protected the value of
 their homes by using this program. If your
 primary residence is located in Edina and needs
 repair or structural improvements, please give
 Hennepin County a call.



CITY OF EDINA
 PLANNING DIVISION

The Last Word



Residents voted Feb. 24, 1948, to establish a municipal liquor enterprise in Edina. I've read through the campaign literature of the time. The goals of the "Vote Yes" advocates were to exert local control over the distribution of alcoholic beverages in the city; eliminate the influence in city government of organized crime and liquor-related business interests; and provide revenue to the City

treasury for public purposes, such as property tax relief and public infrastructure investment.

It is without question that Edina Liquor has achieved success in fulfilling all three of these goals for over 60 years.

Since opening day on June 5, 1948, it is estimated that Edina Liquor has produced well over \$25 million for the residents of Edina to use for property tax relief and investment in public infrastructure. Edina Liquor's revenue stream has directly benefited generations of Edina residents and taxpayers.

The high-water mark for revenue generation by Edina Liquor was achieved in 2012 when the liquor enterprise's total profit was \$1.49 million. Since 2012, due to a significant change in the competitive environment of retail liquor sales, revenue produced at our liquor stores has dropped to half that level.

Instead of waiting around for our circumstances to change, the City took action to change the course of Edina Liquor's future last February when I appointed the City Manager's Liquor Store Task Force. The task force members were David Burley, Ed Cracraft, Mike Lynch, Nick Pahl and Birdie Rand. Together, with a strong staff team supporting them, the task force provided input, feedback and direction for changes we are planning for Edina Liquor that we believe will change our fortunes for the better.

In order to achieve our operational objectives, we are committing ourselves to the following initiatives:

1. Invest in marketing focused on benefits to shareholders and targeted to specific buyers through email and social media. We're going to increase the volume and focus of our marketing efforts. We are going to tighten the connection between the liquor stores and the public purposes they support.
2. Improve service provided to customers by in-store staff. We are going to invest in training, expertise and performance of our liquor store employees.
3. Improve convenience and in-store experience for customers. We are going to develop a customer loyalty program, online ordering and home delivery.
4. Schedule and distribute work to maximize efficiency. We are going to better manage our employee work schedules and create a more flexible workplace.
5. Expand specialty products offered. We want to be known in the marketplace for our attention to detail and innovation.
6. Consistently measure and report results. We will open up the operations and management of our liquor stores to public view. We will act more like the "public company" that we really are.

All of these changes are focused on one goal: increasing our annual profit. In 2016, we are estimating that annual profit at around \$680,000. By implementing these changes, we are setting a goal of an annual profit of \$1 million in 2017; \$1.1 million in 2018; and \$1.2 million in 2019. We're going to need the help of our customers to make those goals. We're going to do our best to earn your business.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott H. Neal". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Scott H. Neal
City Manager

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