

# Council Connection



#### Upcoming meetings:

- Art Center Board, 4:30 p.m. Nov. 17
- Transportation Commission, 6 p.m. Nov. 17
- Human Rights & Relations Commission, 7 p.m. Nov. 22
- Public Art Committee, 4 p.m. Dec. 1
- City Council, 7 p.m. Dec. 6

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**We'd like to hear from you ...**  
If you have any comments, call Communications & Marketing Director Jennifer Bennerotte at 952-833-9520. The text of this publication will be available online at [www.CityofEdina.com](http://www.CityofEdina.com).



## A summary of the Nov. 15 Edina City Council meeting

### **Council approves CIP**

The Council approved a five-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) that includes a one-year budget and a five-year plan for capital projects.

Major projects planned for 2012 include the replacement of a Zamboni at Braemar Arena, a new restroom at Centennial Lakes Park, remodeling of Edina Liquor – Southdale, pathway renovation at Rosland Park, water meter replacements, well rehabilitations, storm sewer and water main improvements and neighborhood street reconstruction projects.

Now that the CIP is complete, the Council will work to finalize the City's 2012 operating budget. The Council will hold a public hearing on the 2012 budget at its meeting Dec. 6 and is expected to act on it Dec. 20.

### **Council declares 'Ceil Smith Day'**

The Council recognized a long-time employee by declaring Nov. 16 as "Ceil Smith Day" in Edina.

Smith started work with the City Nov. 14, 1977, as the Volunteer Coordinator of the Edina Senior Center at its former location on York Avenue just south of the library. She helped coordinate volunteer drivers to give rides to the seniors in need. Smith later became the City's Human Services Coordinator. In 1985, Smith took the position of Assistant to the City Manager, where she stayed until retirement.

Smith's last day of work was Nov. 15.

### **Council approves veterans memorial**

The Council approved the design of a veterans memorial in Utley Park.

The Park Board's Veterans Memorial Committee proposed a V-shaped granite plaza within Utley Park with three illuminated flag poles, a gathering space for more than 150 people, area for contemplation with benches, wall displaying the five military service emblems and the names of those residents killed in action. The focal point will be a figurative sculpture of an eagle with a wreath. The V-shaped plaza is meant to symbolize "victory."

Now that the Council has approved the design and location for the memorial, the Veterans Memorial Committee can begin its fundraising campaign.

### **City to convert fireplaces to gas units**

The Council directed staff to convert some fireplaces at Centennial Lakes Park from wood-burning to natural gas units.

The Hughes Pavilion at Centennial Lakes Park features two interior and one exterior wood-burning fireplaces. Earlier this year, the Energy & Environment Commission recommended they be converted to gas fireplaces.

After weighing the pros and cons, Council members decided to convert the interior fireplaces to gas units, but continue burning wood in the exterior fireplace.

The cost of converting the fireplaces is minimal. The plumbing to accommodate a gas fireplace is currently in place.

### **Council approves PACE program**

The Council approved a Property-Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program.

Allowed by the State Legislature in 2010, PACE programs are meant to allow cities to assess to a private commercial property the energy efficiency and conservation improvements made to it. For several months, the Energy & Environment Commission and City staff have been working to develop a local program.

The local program will be called the "Edina Emerald Energy Program." The program provides private funding through a special assessment conduit that is secured by the property itself, not the borrower. Special assessment revenue bonds issued by the City through this conduit are secured by the property. According to legal counsel, these special assessment bonds do not count against the City's legal debt limit.

The Council approved the program as presented and accepted a \$10,000 grant from the State for legal fees associated with its development. Grandview Tire & Auto is interested in being an Edina Emerald Energy Program demonstration project in 2012. Staff will begin to meet with the property owner immediately to begin the initiation process.