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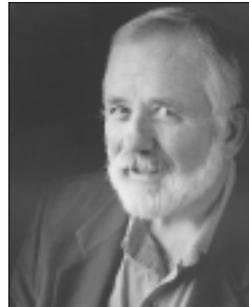


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White Oaks – One Of Edina’s Best-Kept Secrets – Once Known As ‘Baird’s Pasture’



By Joe Sullivan, Freelance writer and Edina resident

Inconspicuously located between the eastern edge of Edina’s Country Club District and France Avenue and between West 46th and West 48th streets is the small but distinctive neighborhood called White Oaks. The area has only

three entrances – at 47th Street, 48th Street and Sunnyside Road – and each one is marked by a discreet sign so small that even people who pass by every day rarely notice them.

Roberta (Bobbi) Laird, lived in White Oaks as a child. Years after marrying and moving away, she returned and bought the family home. She says that first-time visitors to White Oaks have told her, “We didn’t even know this place existed.” That’s pretty much the way White Oaks residents like it.

Topographically, White Oaks is quite different from its larger Country Club neighbor, but the two adjacent developments had similar beginnings. Both were carved out of the 120-acre farm owned by Edina pioneers George and Sarah Baird. But, in contrast to Country Club’s pool-table-flatness and maple trees, White Oaks is hilly, covered with oak trees and dotted with wetlands.

White Oaks Was Part of ‘Baird’s Pasture’

Catherine Ecklund, widow of White Oaks developer J. Frank Ecklund, has said that Samuel Thorpe, who developed Country Club in the 1920s and 1930s, could

have extended his project to include the northeast 40 acres of the Baird farm that are now White Oaks. He apparently decided to pass on it because of the expense of what Ms. Ecklund described as “leveling the hills and filling the swamps.”

Way back in 1856, Pennsylvania immigrant George W. Baird purchased from pioneer homesteader Daniel Felton three 40-acre tracts located north of what is now West 50th Street and east of today’s Wooddale Avenue. Baird quickly became one of the most prominent farmers in the tiny Edina Mills community that was clustered around a grain mill, built in 1857 on Minnehaha Creek where it crosses today’s 50th Street. Baird was an innovative livestock farmer who brought the first Merino sheep into the state. He also raised Hackney horses, which he bred for ordinary riding and pulling buggies or carts, and Holstein cattle.

Bairds’ Mansion Is On National Register of Historic Places

The Bairds began construction of a magnificent Victorian brick mansion at 4400 W. 50th St. in 1886.

By 1936, 14 years after the western 80 acres of the Baird farm were sold to Sam Thorpe for his Country Club development, the heirs of George and Sarah Baird decided to sell what remained of the family’s farm. Later that year, the last 40 acres were sold to developer J. Frank Ecklund, a long-time employee of Sears Roebuck & Co. who dabbled in real estate on the side. He had a vision of a high-end residential area that he would call White Oaks.



In their “History and Architecture of Edina, Minnesota,” William W. Scott, A.I.A., and Jeffrey A. Hess wrote, “The Baird mansion reflected [the Baird’s] station in the community. The building was unquestionably the most imposing residence in 19th-century Edina.” The red brick house was built in 1886 at a then-impressive cost of \$8,500. The house is currently the home of Jack and Marilyn Curtis.

Like the property deeds used in Country Club, the White Oaks deeds had stringent restrictions. (The Village Council actually suggested that property restrictions in White Oaks should be similar to Country Club’s.) There were provisions requiring that all houses be architect-designed and that siting of homes be approved by the neighborhood association. There were fewer bizarre restrictions than were found in the some of the Country Club deeds, though.

The “Battle of Bridge Lane”

Even before Ecklund presented his pencil sketch

indicating how he proposed to develop White Oaks, a series of petitions and requests were made to the Edina Village Council in 1936 and 1937 by hostile Country Club residents, who opposed extension of Country Club’s Bridge Street into White Oaks. This was the beginning of what came to be known as the “Battle of Bridge Lane.”

In a recent interview with Connor Schmid, resident historian of White Oaks, Catherine Ecklund recalled vivid memories of a Country Club resident who “stood with a shotgun” at the east end of Bridge Street to bar trucks attempting to deliver construction materials to the first houses being built on Bridge Lane in White Oaks. Eventually, an agreement allowing limited, temporary access for vehicles was reached, but only for construction on Bridge Lane. Even today, there is only a narrow walkway – much too narrow for automobiles – connecting Bridge Street and Bridge Lane.

Approval of access to White Oaks from France and 48th was also slow in coming, possibly as late as 1940. Access from Sunnyside was not approved until sometime after 1942.

First Homes Built in 1937

Home construction in White Oaks began with a modest 17-lot plat on the area’s most level land. The first White Oaks home was built for Robert and Doris MacPhail at No. 2 Bridge Lane in 1937. Doris MacPhail gave piano lessons in their home to many of the White Oaks children.

The MacPhail's daughter, Mary (MacPhail) Taylor, remembers being admonished when she was only three years old to "stay away from the construction" at the other end of Bridge Lane where White Oaks' second house was being built for the Ecklunds.



Photo by Joe Sullivan

This is the narrow pedestrian walkway that still exists between Country Club's Bridge Street and White Oaks' Bridge Lane. It was the focal point of the 1936-37 "Battle of Bridge Lane." Strong objections of Country Club residents to permitting access between the two neighborhoods resulted in the Village Council's denial of a White Oaks request for extension of Bridge Street into White Oaks.

Catherine Ecklund was very active in her husband's development business. Connor Schmid reported that "She kept the books and monitored construction in the development from their old yellow Cadillac." Born in the South, she was a member of the Townes family and was said to be very well-educated. (Two of White Oaks' main streets, Townes Road and Townes Circle, are named for her family.)

Two 60-Year Residents Live in White Oaks

Helen Craddick and Mary Sampson have both lived in White Oaks for 60 years – longer than anyone else. Sampson still lives in the first house built on Townes



Photo submitted by Margaret (Schimer) Clark

Pictured as they relaxed on a Florida boat ride are White Oaks residents (from left) Leonard Sampson, Mary Sampson, Ophelia Patterson, Harvey Patterson, Catherine Ecklund, J. Frank Ecklund (White Oaks developer) and John Schimer.

Road. She and her late husband Leonard built it in 1939. She recently found part of an old fence in her back yard that is thought to be some of the fencing that once surrounded farmer Baird's pasture.

Craddick, the other "longest" resident of White Oaks, has also lived in her home on White Oaks Road since 1939. Her original neighbors were mostly physicians, including Erling Platou, Jay Davis, Ernie Meland and Robert Caron. "The area we lived in was called 'Pill Hill,'" she recalled recently. "It was really convenient whenever we had a medical emergency in the neighborhood."



Photo submitted by Mary (MacPhail) Taylor

Doris MacPhail was an accomplished gardener. Her flower garden on the corner of their lot on Bridge Lane was filled with beautiful flowers that were enjoyed and admired by neighbors and passersby in spring, summer and fall.

One such emergency occurred on the long, steep front lawn of Craddick's house. Mary Sampson's daughter Judy (Sampson) Johnson has a childhood recollection of riding double on a toboggan that was heading toward a clump of evergreen trees at the bottom of that hill. She rolled off in time, but her partner, neighbor Susan Platou, stayed on. "For some reason, she put her arms out as she went into the trees and broke both of them," Johnson said. Fortunately, her father, Dr. Platou, was close by and was able to treat her immediately.

Live-in schoolgirl maids, who attended school during the day and minded the children after school, were not uncommon in the larger White Oaks houses built in the early years. Mary Sampson remembers a doorbell under her place at the dining room table that was used to summon their schoolgirl maid, who also prepared and served the evening meal and cleared the table after dinner.

The Ecklunds Left a Lasting Legacy

In the early 1940s, the Ecklunds did three things that

left a lasting legacy and contributed to a continuing feeling of belonging and camaraderie among past and present White Oaks residents:

- They encouraged formation of the voluntary, non-profit, resident-based White Oaks Improvement Association, Inc. (WOIA) to keep residents informed, air concerns and promote neighborhood action.
- They deeded to the WOIA a centrally-located, 3.5-acre "meadow" to be maintained in its original state as open park space.
- They also deeded to the Village of Edina a major portion of the 1.5-acre "marsh" near today's Sunnyside entrance to White Oaks and stipulated that it be kept in a natural state for ponding purposes.



Photo by Joe Sullivan

Pictured as they attended last fall's White Oaks Improvement Association picnic on White Oaks Road are (seated from left) Helen Craddick and Mary Sampson, the two residents who have lived in White Oaks the longest, and their children. Standing behind them Allan Burdick (left) and Judy (Sampson) Johnson, who both grew up in White Oaks.

The meadow is the focal point of the Ecklund's original plan for White Oaks. According to Mary (MacPhail) Taylor, it was the site of innumerable games of touch football and at least one wedding. She also remembers frequent appearances by a certain red fox that inhabited the meadow and the marsh.



Photo submitted by Terry (Quinn) Wright

The first house built on Townes Circle, shown here when it was under construction in 1939, was the Rupert Quinn home. The Quinn's daughter Terry (Quinn) Wright still lives in Edina.

The WOIA also reviewed proposed building plans to ensure that they fit with the Ecklund's initial vision for the area. Other WOIA-supported services that promote neighborhood pride and safety include a tree care program and participation in Edina's Neighborhood Watch program.

'Save the Marsh' Drive United Residents

In 1989, a variance application was posted for a house to be built on a portion of the wooded wetland still affectionately called "the marsh" by White Oakers. This



Photo submitted by Marie F. Olson

The WOIA holds several annual events including a fall picnic, a winter holiday season gathering and a spring meeting to conduct business and welcome new members. These meetings are well-attended by residents, former residents and their families. Pictured here enjoying a 1957 White Oaks Carnival are (left to right) Bob Michelson, Marie Olsen, Mary Elizabeth Carr, Allan Burdick, Sr., Ann Michelson, Dr. Jay Davis, Helen Burdick (nee Craddick), Dr. Erling Platou, Marcella Davis, Bob Olsen and Helen Platou.

is the area that had been designated as a ponding area and nature preserve in 1940 by the Ecklunds. However, one lot, next to the "ponding area" owned by the Village, had been informally transferred to a nearby resident "to be held in perpetuity as a bird sanctuary."

Largely because of opposition by residents, nearby neighbors and the WOIA, the variance was denied. The City Council offered to match a sum of up to \$20,000, to be raised by WOIA members, to purchase the lot for preservation as a natural area. In a successful "Save the Marsh" campaign, the \$20,000 was raised through large and small contributions from residents of White Oaks and surrounding neighborhoods. This

amount was matched by the City and the marsh area was purchased from the developer by the City.

It was a significant demonstration of the high level of community spirit that still exists in White Oaks. And, judging from the significant number of contributions received from Country Club residents, it was also a strong indication that "The Battle of Bridge Lane" was over.

Other Former White Oaks Residents Have Fond Memories of the Marsh and the Meadow

Judy (Sampson) Johnson also remembers playing in the White Oaks meadow and marsh. "There was a great climbing tree that grew on the edge of the meadow," she said. "And the marsh was a great place to play cowboys and Indians." She also has memories of evening games in the circle on White Oaks Road including "Kick the Can," "Starlight/Moonlight" and a game they called "Spud."

Margaret (Schimer) Clark recalled in a recent interview, "During World War II we played with wooden guns in the marsh



Photo submitted by Mary (MacPhail) Taylor

Mary (MacPhail) Taylor and Margaret (Schimer) Clark were members of a group of 10 boys and girls who biked to Wooddale School together every day. Margaret lived the farthest away so she would start out on her own and then pick up Mary and the others along the way. At noon they would all bike home together for lunch.

off Sunnyside. We dug foxholes and threw peatballs at each other." They also made wooden "Army dogtags" for themselves. Margaret even had her own WAC (Women's Army Corps) uniform that her dad had brought her from New York.

Many of Margaret's friends at Wooddale were in the class that was a year behind me at Southwest High School. In 1949, after their junior year, they departed for the new Edina Morningside High School on Highway 100, where they were in the first graduating class.

Today, White Oaks remains a highly desirable, sought-after, secluded conclave of wooded hills, scenic nature preserves and lovely homes of all shapes and sizes.

Background material and photographs for this article came from the archival collection of the Edina Historical Society; the memories and family photo albums of Mary (MacPhail) Taylor and Margaret (Schimer) Clark; the personal recollections of Connor Schmid, Helen Craddick, Mary Sampson, Judy (Sampson) Johnson and Bobbi (Caron) Laird; and the following publications: "The History of Edina, Minnesota" by Paul D. Hesterman; "History and Architecture of Edina, Minnesota" by William W. Scott. A.I.A, and Jeffrey A. Hess; "Edina – As Surveyed by the Edina League of Women Voters;" and the Minneapolis Journal.

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

Mowing

Regular mowing with a sharp blade at the proper mower height keeps grass growing vigorously so it covers the soil surface. For most lawn areas, mowing at a height of two to three inches provides a good quality turf. This height screens out light to the soil surface, providing some weed control by preventing the establishment of weed seeds such as crabgrass that need light to germinate. Please observe the following mowing heights for a healthy and better-looking lawn.

- Kentucky bluegrass: Common or public varieties such as South Dakota Common, Park, S-21, Argyle, Kenblue, 2-3 inches; Improved varieties included in most sod beds, 1½-2½ inches.
- Fine fescue grasses: 1½-3 inches.
- Perennial ryegrass: 1½-2½ inches.
- Bluegrass/fine fescue mix: 1½-2½ inches.
- Bluegrass/perennial ryegrass mix: 1½-2½ inches.

Information: Park Superintendent Vince Cockriel, 952-826-0305.

Grass Clippings

Keep grass clippings out of the street to help prevent clogging the storm sewer, which can lead to water runoff, backups and flooding. Clippings in the street can become slippery and cause motor vehicle accidents. In addition, the clippings can cause mechanical problems for Edina's street sweepers.

Please help your neighborhood remain safe and free of flooding by bagging or composting your yard waste or returning grass clippings to lawn areas whenever possible. Clippings do not contribute significantly to thatch build-up and are a valuable organic source of nutrients, especially nitrogen. Under City law, it is illegal to rake or blow yard waste into the streets.

Information: Public Works Coordinator Steve Johnson, 952-826-0301.

Tree Brush

During spring's first storm, many tree branches and twigs fall to the ground. Such brush must be hauled away. However, the City does not pick up brush left at the curbside. Residents should contact a private contractor or refuse hauler for removal or dispose of the brush at the county tree dump.

Information: Park Superintendent Vince Cockriel, 952-826-0305.

Lawn Watering

Spring rainfall can be unpredictable. In order to ensure an adequate water supply for late summer, Edina's odd-even sprinkling policy goes into effect May 1 and continues through August.

Homes with even-numbered addresses may water their lawns on even-numbered dates of the week. Homes with odd-numbered addresses may water on odd-numbered dates. So, the family living at 5225 Meadow Ridge could water their

lawn on odd-numbered dates – May 1, 3, 5 and so on.

If the weather becomes exceptionally dry for an extended period of time, additional water restrictions might be put into place. However, because residents have faithfully observed the odd-even sprinkling policy, the City has had very few water emergencies in the past.

Information: Public Works Coordinator Steve Johnson, 952-826-0301.

Garage Sales

Garage or yard sales are a great way to clean out your house, meet your neighbors and make some extra money. If you plan to have a sale at your home this year, please be aware of the following rules.

- You may conduct only one sale per year at your home, lasting no more than 72 consecutive hours.
- Items offered for sale must be owned by the owner of the premises or by friends of the owner.
- Items offered for sale must not have been bought for resale or received on consignment for the purpose of resale.
- Signs may be erected on the premises where the sale is taking place. No off-site signs are allowed.
- No signs may be posted on the road right-of-way (the City-owned property 15 feet in from residential curbs) or on utility poles.

Information: Associate Planner Joyce Repya, 952-826-0462.



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Valerie Burke Begins Work As New FamiLink Coordinator

Connecting families and individuals to community services and supports is nothing new for the Program Coordinator of FamiLink – Edina.

With an extensive background in human resources, Valerie Burke began work late last year as the local coordinator, succeeding Sandra Stevenson who left the position in October 2000. Before joining FamiLink, Burke worked as Youth and Family Services Coordinator for St. Louis Park schools, and preceding that position, Youth and Family Program Coordinator for Richfield schools. She holds bachelor's degrees in business and psychology from the University of Minnesota and a master's degree in educational leadership from the University of St. Thomas.

"FamiLink is a natural fit for me – my whole personal and professional life has been about strengthening families," said Burke, a long-time Edina resident, wife and mother of three. "I have always enjoyed finding the common threads of two groups and finding ways to put them together."

FamiLink – Edina was established more than three years ago as one of four community resource centers in southern Hennepin County.

The centers in Edina, Bloomington, Eden Prairie and Richfield were given the name FamiLink in June 1998, to better reflect their services. FamiLink offers services and supports in many areas, including employment, education, housing, child care, transportation, counseling and legal assistance. Recently, the majority of the local center's calls relate to housing and child care needs and adolescent issues, but new residents of the City will find the resources they need to get connected in the community. The FamiLink atmosphere is one of support, and all calls are confidential.

Burke is responsible for supervising and managing the center's staff comprised of an administrative assistant and six intake counselors, planning and marketing. She sees the biggest part of her job as marketing and communication.

"The thrust of my job is to go out and make people understand that FamiLink is here for them. I want this to be the first place people think to call when they have a question or a need for assistance," Burke said. "The concept is really quite simple: if you have a need, call us and you'll find a friendly person on the other line who will research the matter and get back to you."



Valerie Burke began work late last year as Program Coordinator of FamiLink – Edina.



FamiLink Coordinator Valerie Burke and staff member Lana Davis discuss a new marketing campaign for the local center.

Burke would also like to focus on outreach. "We need to make it easier for people to get the information they desire. Edina is a community of educated people that wants information. Our job is to get it to them the easiest way possible," she said. "In the future, I can see myself or another staff member spending time at places [such as] the Edina Senior Center to answer questions or assist in some way."

Outside of work, Burke is extremely active in the community, serving as the current co-chairwoman of the Edina Public Schools Parent-Teacher-Student Organization Council and member of the Edina Community Education Services Board. She is past co-chairwoman of the Normandale Elementary Parent Organization and the Edina Education Fund Board of Directors.

For more information on FamiLink – Edina, call 952-928-0444. The center is open Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursdays 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. The center is located in the Edina Community Center, 5701 Normandale Road.

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- Volunteering
- Youth Programs

Red, White And Blue Are Volunteer Laurie Jung's True Colors

As a young girl in Texas, Laurie Jung often spent Independence Day at her grandmother's house in Hill Country. The day was one of much excitement, filled with fun, food and fireworks – a true celebration of what it means to be an American.

"Since I was a girl, the Fourth of July has been my favorite holiday," said Jung one recent day as she sat in a comfortable office chair, recalling her childhood memories of Independence Day. "I always feel patriotic on the Fourth. It's fun to celebrate being an American."

Jung's passion for the holiday makes her a natural fit for her role as chairwoman of the City's Fourth of July Parade Planning Committee. A 10-year resident of the City, Jung got involved with the parade three years ago as a member of the League of Women Voters – Edina. Last year, the psychologist was named chairwoman of the group, organizing the most successful parade in recent history.



Photo by Polly Norman

Edina volunteer Laurie Jung leads a recent meeting of the Edina Fourth of July Parade Planning Committee.

"Last year's parade was a lot of fun. I think the Committee was able to make the parade bigger and better than those in

previous years because of the way we work together," she said. "Everyone involved wanted to make the parade a memorable event."

The 2000 parade featured nearly 70 units and was started by a young boy who won a community essay contest, "Why I Should Be the Kid to Start the Parade." Other highlights of the hour-long parade were an Honor Guard comprised of veterans from World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars, paid entertainment such as Minnesota Pipes and Drums and Chicks on Sticks and a unit competition.

Adaptive Recreation Supervisor Susie Miller, who serves as staff liaison to the Committee, credits Jung with much of the success of last year's parade. "Laurie is the driving force behind the Committee, an excellent leader," she said. "With Laurie's leadership, the Committee has been able to improve the parade from year to year."

The Parade Planning Committee has been busy for several months working on the 2001 parade. Besides Jung, the volunteer Committee is made up of Susan Covnick, Scott Crosbie, Warren Hite, Baba Honmyhr, Karen Knudsen, Harold Liljenquist, Meg Martin, Deb Monchamp, Lauren O'Connor, Jeff Shlosberg and Steve Stroh.

The theme of the sixth-annual parade is "A Star Spangled Odyssey." To encourage more participation in the parade from residents, the Committee is sponsoring a neighborhood unit contest. The neighborhood group with the best parade entry will win a party sponsored by the City. Several City officials, including members of the City



Photo by Polly Norman

The 2001 Parade Planning Committee includes front, from left: Meg Martin, Laurie Jung, Deb Monchamp, Baba Honmyhr and Warren Hite; and back: Karen Knudsen, Staff Liaison Susie Miller, Scott Crosbie, Harold Liljenquist and Jeff Shlosberg.

Council, will host the party. Winners of another unit competition, one in which all parade entries are judged, will receive ribbons.

To get more of the community's youth involved in the Independence Day celebration and generate excitement for the parade, the Committee also plans to have a window-decorating contest. Local businesses will be asked to "donate" a storefront window for the weeks prior to the parade. Participating youth groups will be allowed to window paint a patriotic scene on the window using the "Star Spangled Odyssey" theme. All windows will be photographed. The photographs will be posted on the Committee's website, www.edinaparade.org, for the

community to judge. The artists of the winning window will be given a cash prize.

"We want the community to be involved as much as possible," said Jung, emphasizing that the parade is a community event. "We are also trying to bring in more entertainment than in previous years. We want this parade to be as fun to watch as it is to be in."



The Committee is currently seeking sponsorships for the 2001 parade. Three sponsorship levels are available: bronze, \$250; silver, \$500 and gold, \$1,000 or more.

Businesses or organizations that would like to provide a tax-exempt cash sponsorship or storefront window for decorating should contact Miller, 952-826-0433, prior to May 1.

Parade entry applications are due May 15, and can be obtained by visiting the Committee's website, www.edinaparade.org, or through the City's Park and Recreation Department, 4801 W. 50th St.

For more information on the parade, contact Adaptive Recreation Supervisor Susie Miller, 952-826-0433.

Edina Fire Department, North Memorial Medical Center Team Up To Keep Kids Safe

National statistics show that four out of every five children's car seats are used improperly. Because of local firefighters' commitment to keeping children safe, the Edina Fire Department has teamed up with North Memorial Medical Center – Emergency and Trauma Services to offer child safety seat inspections.

Four paramedics/firefighters trained through the Department of Public Safety as child passenger safety (CPS) practitioners and North Memorial Injury Prevention Specialist Ann Strong, a nationally certified CPS technician instructor, conduct the 30- or 40-minute inspections on a biweekly basis. Supervised by Strong, the practitioners check seats with children in them as appointments arrive, checking to make sure the seat is the correct size for each child, positioned properly and buckled securely into the vehicle. Then, the seat is removed from the vehicle and examined thoroughly. Practitioners make sure parents can reinstall the seats properly. Every child leaves the Fire Station safely harnessed.

“This program is really about educating parents – the inspections are learning experiences,” said Training and Safety Officer Tom Schmitz, who serves as coordinator of the local program. “Questions we will help answer include: When can I turn my baby's car seat around to face forward? Why doesn't my car seat stay tight in the car? Has my child's car seat been recalled? My child can climb out of the car seat – what can I do?”

Schmitz points out that good intentions aren't always enough. According to the Minnesota Safety Council, car

seat clinics in Minnesota have typically found errors in the installation and use of more than 80 percent of child car seats.

The most common problems are:

- Safety belt not holding seat in tightly.
- Harness straps not snug.
- Harness retainer clip not at armpit level.



Child seat inspector Michelle Rudnitski inspects a car seat with a child in it after parents arrive for an inspection through the Edina Fire Department.

It is the Fire Department's goal to make the program self-sufficient during 2001. If one of the local CPS practitioners receives additional training, North Memorial will no longer need to provide a technician or “senior checker.” Schmitz would also like to see more paramedics/firefighters receive training to work as practitioners.

“Statistics show that motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death and injury to people ages 1 to 64,”



Technician Rodger Coppa, an employee of North Memorial Medical Center assisting the Edina Fire Department, examines a child safety seat while educating expectant parents Steve and Amy Wehr.

he said. “Our goal is to minimize the risk of our City's children as they travel in their family vehicles by educating parents on the correct methods of safety seat installation.”

The biweekly program began in January. The Child Passenger Safety Program is offered Friday mornings by appointment only at Fire Station 2, 7335 York Ave. S. To make an appointment, call 952-826-0329.

For more information, call Training and Safety Officer Tom Schmitz, 952-826-0329, or visit the Buckle Up Kids website, www.buckleupkids.state.mn.us.

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City To Say Thanks At Annual Reception

Volunteer organizations help provide a diverse level of activities and better quality of life in a community. In Edina, nearly 70 community organizations add to the beauty, culture and recreational opportunities that bring so many new residents and visitors to the City.

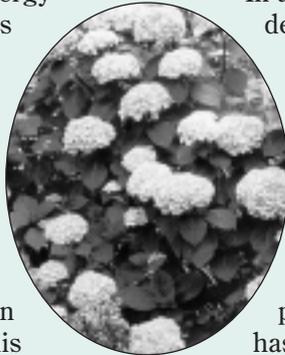
Each year, the City sets aside an evening to focus on the efforts of its service clubs and recognize the individuals who have devoted time and energy to better the community. As part of Edina's Annual Volunteer Recognition Reception, many volunteers will be recognized Tuesday, April 24, at Edinborough Park.

At the reception, each organization will be given the opportunity to recognize its own exemplary volunteers in a public setting. More than 25 community organizations are expected to participate in this year's event. In addition, Mayor Dennis Maetzold will announce this year's recipients of four Mayor's Commendation Awards. The categories are:

Mayor's Service Club Commendation

Awarded to a club or organization that has made outstanding contributions to the community through its regular activities or through special projects.

The Edina Parent Communication Network, which has given countless hours of service to create and provide excellent education programs for children in grades K-12 since 1987, was last year's recipient.



Mayor's Community Involvement Commendation

Awarded to a City employee for outstanding volunteer service to the community, above and beyond his or her position with the City.

Public Works employee Steve Bergren was given the 2000 award. Bergren has been recognized as Big Brother of the Year by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Minneapolis. In addition to his work as a Big Brother, Bergren also delivers library books to seniors on a weekly basis.

Mayor's Outstanding Senior Commendation

Awarded to a senior citizen for outstanding volunteer service within the community.

Dorothy Brindle, a 40-year resident of the City, was presented the 2000 award. Among other things, Brindle has been a tireless worker on community projects sponsored by the Edina Garden Council. She has been a faithful greenhouse worker, spending hours each spring working in the Arneson Acres greenhouse and planting flowers in public gardens. She has also worked to bring flower shows to Edina and is active in her church.

Mayor's Community Endowment Commendation

Awarded to an individual or organization that provides extraordinary private endowments to support municipal endeavors.

Last year, the Edina Soccer Association was honored for its generous donation of more than \$18,500 to the City

for the purchase and installation of underground irrigation for two soccer fields, one each at Highlands and Strachauer parks. By providing the irrigation system, the Edina Park Maintenance Department is able to maintain a healthy, safe and quality turf for soccer participants.

The community is invited to attend the 2001 Volunteer Recognition Reception and applaud the extraordinary efforts of Edina's volunteers. Call Human Services Coordinator Susan Heiberg at 952-826-0403 to make a reservation.

Home Rehab Funds for Qualified Edina Home Owners



You may qualify for up to \$15,000 to make repairs or necessary improvements to your Edina home through the **Hennepin County Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program**. This program provides deferred repayment funds on a first-come-first-served basis to people who can show financial need. If you would like to receive information, income guidelines, qualification summaries, interest rates, and applications, please call Associate Planner Joyce Repya at the Edina Planning Department, (952) 826-0462. 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 Joyce a call.



**CITY OF EDINA
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**



Hot Happenings In Park And Recreation

The City of Edina Park and Recreation staff has planned several new and expanded activities to pique your child's interest this summer. Here is a sampling of the new offerings:

LEAD (Leadership, Encouragement and Development) Program

The LEAD Program will focus on youth leadership, self esteem, teamwork and other job-related skills useful to work part-time for the City of Edina's Park and Recreation Department. Participants will learn general leadership skills and complete volunteer work in one of the park and recreation activities. Participants must have completed at least the 6th grade to register for this program.

The program will be held 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, June 18, in the Council Chambers of Edina City Hall, 4801 W. 50th St. The cost is \$10 per person, which includes lunch and a T-shirt. For more information or to register, call 952-826-0367.

Minnesota Vikings Training Camp

Edina residents are invited to take a bus to see the Vikings practice for another fantastic season of football. Participants are encouraged to bring cameras and paper for autographs. No date will be set for the field trip until after the NFL establishes its 2001 schedule, but it will be held sometime in August. Call the Park and Recreation Department, 952-826-0367, to put your name on a mailing list to receive more information about this exciting trip.



Summer playgrounds

League of Champs

A new three-on-three basketball league will consist of boys and girls going into grades 6, 7 and 8. There will be a separate league for each grade level. A Park and Recreation supervisor will be the timekeeper; no

officials will be provided. Games will be played at Countryside Park on Fridays starting at noon. Leagues begin June 22. Teams must register by June 13 at the Park and Recreation Office, 4801 W. 50th St. The cost per team is \$15.

Sports Spectacular

Children ages 9 to 12 will play their favorite sports at Wooddale Park while learning good sportsmanship and cooperative learning. Sports include softball, basketball, tennis, soccer, biking, volleyball and lacrosse. Instructors might also include old-time favorites such as croquet, bocci ball, marbles and horseshoes.

Two sessions of this program will be offered. Session I runs Mondays and Wednesdays June 25 through July 18. Session II runs Tuesdays and Thursdays June 26 through July 19. Both two-hour sessions will begin at 9:15 a.m. The cost is \$30 per person.

Summer Playgrounds

Children ages 9 to 12 will hang out with friends, play games and participate in special events at Countryside Park. Instructors will make up new games and play old favorites. Arts and crafts will also enhance the day. Cost is \$15 per participant. Register

at the Park and Recreation office, 4801 W. 50th St. For more information, call 952-826-0367. There is also a playgrounds program for younger children.

Chess in the Park

Checkmate! The Edina Chess Association will provide children with a new game to play outdoors this summer — chess. Chess will be offered at one of the City's parks during the afternoon one or two days per week. The program has been designed for children, but anyone is welcome to play. Although some chess sets will be provided, children are encouraged to bring their own. One or two adults will be at the park to teach skills. Registration is not necessary. For more information, visit the Edina Chess Association's website, www.edinachess.com.

Please keep this in mind during graduation parties and other events: Parents are role models for their kids. Most young people will use alcohol similar to how their parents use alcohol.

Talk to your Kids

about rules, responsibilities, and consequences of alcohol and substance use.

Tri-City Partners
for Healthy Youth and Communities

Nearly \$12,000 Donated To Park And Recreation Department In 2000

Parks and other such amenities greatly improve the quality of life in a community. The City of Edina is the fortunate recipient of many donations each year that improve its parks, adding to the quality of life enjoyed here. In the year 2000, nearly \$12,000 in donations were received.

“The City of Edina wishes to extend thanks and appreciation to all those who made contributions to the Edina Park and Recreation Department in the year 2000,” said Park and Recreation Director John Keprios. “The City of Edina is able to offer premier parks and facilities because of the generosity of its residents, businesses and service organizations.”

Donating \$300 or more to the Edina Park and Recreation Department in 2000 were:

- Edina Youth Softball Association, \$4,495, and the Pohlada Family Charities, \$3,000, for the purchase and installation of replacement back-stop and dugout fencing at five youth softball fields.
- Ray Finley of Finley Brothers, Inc., \$1,500 for the purchase and installation of a basketball backboard and standard at Todd Park.
- Meredyth Anne Dasburg Foundation, \$1,000 to the Edina Art Center.
- Edina Federated Women’s Club, \$1,583.33 to the Edina Art Center.
- M. Joan Hodges, \$500 to the Edina Art Center.
- Elin N. Ohlsson, \$1,000 to the Edina Art Center.

- Edina Office of Dain Rauscher, \$350 to Centennial Lakes Park to plant an Imperial Honeylocust tree in the park in memory of a former employee, Al Heiam.
- John McCarthy and John Kressel, \$500 to the Braemar Golf Course memorial fund in memory of Sam Cecere.
- Braemar Men’s Club, \$350 to the Braemar Golf Course memorial fund.
- Pat Gaspard, \$300 to the Braemar Golf Course memorial fund.

For more information on donations made in 2000 or to make a donation to the Park and Recreation Department, contact Park and Recreation Director John Keprios, 952-826-0430.



Edina Garden Council To Hold Annual Plant Sale

Soon, geraniums, impatiens, pansies, petunias and other annuals will add splashes of color to yards around town. Such plants can be purchased from the Edina Garden Council at a sale that raises thousands of dollars each year for the organization’s work in Edina parks.

The Garden Council’s annual sale will be held 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, May 11, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 12, at Arneson Acres Park, 4711 W. 70th St. Bedding plants, hanging baskets, herbs, mulch and crafts will be for sale at reasonable prices.

Nine of the Council’s clubs comprising more than 100 people began planting flats of their choice in January for the sale. All plants are grown from seeds and cared for at the Arneson Acres greenhouse. Individual members also contribute plants they grow at home for the sale.

The Council works closely with the Park and Recreation Department to brighten the City. After wrapping up the sale, the Council will begin planting flowers in the City’s parks. There are approximately 100 public gardens in Edina. The Council will plant flowers at less than 10 of them. City staff will plant the remaining plants grown by the Council in the other gardens.

The Council’s other major fund-raiser of the year will be held 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. June 27. The biannual Garden Tour will include up to 10 residential gardens in the City, with Arneson Acres serving as the hub for the day.

The Edina Garden Council was founded in 1953, joining together several neighborhood garden clubs scattered throughout the City. The objectives of the Council are to coordinate the interests of the garden clubs of Edina, cooperate with other agencies furthering the interests of gardening, promote the art of home and community beautification and study all aspects of the fine art of gardening and horticulture.

For more information on the Edina Garden Council or its annual plant sale, contact Virginia Bodine, 952-941-1206.



Like the flowers they care for, the Edina Garden Council flourishes in the spring and summer. Members of the Council, pictured here at the 2000 Fourth of July Parade, will hold a plant sale in May and garden tour in June.

Blue Ribbon Committee Proposes Referendum

Because of the size of the community's athletic programs, the City of Edina for several years has looked for ways to address a shortage of public gymnasiums and athletic fields. Many of the City's existing fields and general park infrastructure, constructed as many as 35 years ago, have never been upgraded or improved. As a result, there is an additional need for general park improvements.

In late 1999 and early 2000, the City and Edina Public Schools conducted a study to determine the feasibility of constructing new recreational facilities and renovating others for use by the entire community. It is believed that it would be more effective and economical for the City and school district to work together to provide public facilities for the entire community to use.

Although the Council considered a 2000 referendum for the proposed projects, members decided it would be best to commission a committee to study the issue further. Last spring, the "Blue Ribbon Committee" was commissioned and charged with answering the following:

- What is the need for additional gymnasiums, soccer fields and auditoriums in the City?
- What other needs should be addressed?
- Is there an opportunity to work with Edina Public Schools to meet the City's recreational needs? If so, how should such an arrangement be structured?
- Are there other partnerships that should be made to provide recreational facilities?
- Is it appropriate for some or all of the facilities to be located on school district property?

- Will the recommended package of facilities and improvements be acceptable to the community?

The group began meeting in September, touring athletic fields in the community, reviewing studies, hearing from the City's many athletic organizations and reviewing site plans. After many hours of research and debate, the Committee in January presented their recommendation for a multi-million-dollar referendum to the City Council.

The Committee's recommendation included the construction of several new athletic fields, four gymnasiums, a competitive swimming pool and small community theater; additions at the Edina Aquatic Center, Edina Art Center and Braemar Arena; renovations of an older auditorium in the community, various gymnasiums throughout the City, a middle school swimming pool and several worn athletic fields; and miscellaneous park improvements.

The Committee proposed that the City build and renovate some of the facilities on property owned by Edina Public Schools to maximize land use, avoid additional land costs and keep building operation and maintenance costs at a minimum. If voters approve such a project, the community would have access to all of those improvements, but the school district would be responsible for their maintenance and management. The City would be responsible for operating and maintaining all improvements on its land.

When this issue of *About Town* went to press, the City Council had not yet decided whether to proceed with a



Photo by Marni Fiedler, FastFoto

referendum. If a referendum is planned, though, it will likely be held in May. Edina residents are encouraged to watch their mailboxes, as the City will mail a public informational piece later this month if a special election is called.

For more information on the proposed referendum, visit the City of Edina's website, www.ci.edina.mn.us, or contact the Park and Recreation Department, 952-826-0367.



Photo by Marni Fiedler, FastFoto

Braemar—City of Lakes Figure Skating Club To Put On Annual Ice Show

A local figure skating club will “light up” the ice at Braemar Arena later this month with its annual community performance.

The Braemar-City of Lakes Figure Skating Club and the City of Edina will present on April 27 and 28 “Citilights” at Braemar Arena, 7501 Ikola Way. The high-energy show on ice will bring bits of Chicago, Dallas, Honolulu, Las Vegas and New York to Edina for the weekend. Among the popular tunes to be played are “Puttin’ On the Ritz,” “New York, New York” and “Chicago.”

Braemar Arena has been home to the Braemar-City of Lakes Figure Skating Club for 35 years. Each year since its infancy, the private Club and skaters taking lessons through the City’s Park and Recreation program have put on a joint performance for the community.

“The City of Edina skating classes feed the Braemar-City of Lakes Figure Skating Club,” said Joan Orvis, head professional and director of Braemar’s skating school. “Because of that relationship, it is fun to work together in the spring of each year to put on the annual ice show.”

The ice show will include skaters of all ages, from preschoolers just learning how to move on the ice to middle-aged fathers who have spent many hours practicing with their daughters. Most of the performers are between the ages of 5 and 19. Planning for the annual ice show began in September. It takes skating professionals and volunteers several months to develop a theme, select music, choreograph routines, order

costumes and otherwise plan for the event. The students are just beginning to rehearse their parts of the 38-number program. They practice the two weeks prior to the opening of the show.

“It is really fun to see the program come together,” said Kathleen Gazich, show director and skating professional. “Sometimes it seems like things will never pull together, but because of everyone’s excitement and enthusiasm for the show, it always does.”

Gazich points out that “Citilights” will include performances by several talented athletes. “Citilights will not only be a good show, but a series of good performances,” she said, pointing out that a state champion, four United States Figure Skating Association (USFSA) gold medallists and two national competitors will be skating in the show. “This year, we will have a lot of solos because we have a lot of really talented kids. The audience will be impressed with the quality of skating.”

The final performance of the ice show will include the presentation of several special awards. The Hugh J. McMillan Award will be presented to a skater in the club whose dedication and achievement have not gone unnoticed by instructors. The Brandon Brown Friendship Award will be presented to a skater who best exemplifies being a friend. The students select the winner of the Friendship Award. Skaters who have reached the USFSA’s “gold” level in the past year will also be honored.

The Club strives each year to break even financially on the show. “The annual ice show is not about making money – it’s about entertaining the community,” Orvis said. “Putting on the show is a lot of work and very costly, but it’s worth it when you see smiles on the faces of kids, parents, grandparents and other skating enthusiasts.”

The Braemar-City of Lakes Figure Skating Club’s annual ice show, “Citilights,” will be presented 6:30 p.m. on April 27 and at 1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on April 28. For tickets or other information, call 952-941-1322.



YMCA Volunteer 'Connects With Kids'

The mission of the Southdale YMCA is to "build strong kids, strong families and strong communities." YMCA staff member, volunteer and mentor Norma Determan puts an emphasis on the first part of that mission.

The Southdale YMCA, which serves Edina, Bloomington, Eden Prairie, southwest Minneapolis and Richfield, raises money through the Y Partners Annual Support Campaign to pay for such things as memberships for people who want to participate in its programs but cannot afford to pay the full fee. One way the nonprofit organization raises money for the cause is by organizing teams of people to make telephone calls soliciting donations in the winter of each year.

Determan, who has worked at the Southdale YMCA since it opened in Edina 26 years ago, has been active in the fund-raising campaign for many years. Five years ago, the Edina woman decided to form a team of student callers to get more youth involved in the program. Each year since then, the youth team has been one of the YMCA's most successful.

"I admit that I had reservations – I wondered how the public would respond to a request for money from

kids and questioned whether the kids would be able to keep up their excitement for the program," Determan said. "I don't think there's any other place in the City, though, where I could have found better kids. They wanted to do all they could to help the Y."

In 1996, the seven children Determan recruited had just one night of training before making "cold calls" to YMCA members. Volunteering three hours a night for almost two weeks, the youth team raised more money that year than any other team.



The Y Partners Youth Campaign Team has raised tens of thousands of dollars over the past five years to support YMCA programs and families. Southdale YMCA staff member, volunteer and mentor Norma Determan organized the youth team in 1996 and has recruited and trained student team members each year since. She is pictured here with Katy Hughes of Eden Prairie and Jon Kinzer and Blair Schipper of Minneapolis.

Although the youth team worked together for just a few weeks, Determan kept in touch with the students. When the time came to begin work on the next fund-raising campaign, all of the students who participated the previous year agreed to volunteer their time again and two more joined the team. "These are wonderful kids," Determan said. "They know how good they have it and they realize that through their efforts they are helping families and children with special needs."

The students involved with the campaign realize the difference they are making in the community. "During the Y Partners Annual Support

Campaign, there is such a giving and helping attitude in the air that it makes it fun and exciting to raise money for the YMCA," said Katy Hughes of Eden Prairie. "I feel that volunteering in your community is very important because in order to have a strong community we all have to work together to make good things happen."

Ten-year-old Nicholas Wwinner of Edina echoed her comments. "When you get a lot of volunteers together, it makes a big impact on the whole community," he said. "Volunteering for the YMCA helps others that don't get the same opportunities that I have, and it is important to me that others experience the same activities that I do."

Each year, the size of the team and the fruits of their success have grown. In the past five years, the team has raised tens of thousands of dollars and has become a model for other local YMCA branches. In 1998, the team was given the YMCA Chairperson's Award, the highest award given following a successful campaign to the team that has gone beyond the call of duty. An individual on the team also received the award.

"Working with these kids is a lot of fun," Determan said. "I'll continue working on the campaign with the youth team as long as they will have me."

Southdale YMCA Executive Director applauds Determan's work with the youth. "It is very inspiring to see youth in our community wanting to help raise money for their peers that don't get to experience the same opportunities that they do," he said. "The YMCA

provides many role models for these youth and it is young and old working together that makes the community come together."

Mayor Dennis Maetzold points to Determan's work with the Y Partners Youth Campaign Team as an example of "asset building" in the community. The goal of the local asset-building initiative, dubbed "Connecting With Kids," is to create a more supportive school and community environment by reaching out to youth.

"Norma Determan is a shining example of how adults can work with youth to create a better community. While mentoring students, she teaches them sales skills and the value of philanthropy," Maetzold said. "Families, schools, businesses and community organizations like the YMCA need to work together to meet the needs of our children."

Do you know of someone who reaches out to kids and serves as an example for Connecting With Kids? For more information or to share a story, contact Communications Coordinator Jennifer Wilkinson, 952-832-6063. To arrange a speaker on Connecting With Kids, contact Christine Weymouth or Doug Johnson, Edina Public Schools, 952-848-3900.

It's A Trip: Edina Dial-A-Ride

Under the auspices of the City of Edina, Senior Community Services began operating "Edina Dial-A-Ride" bus transportation earlier this year.

Senior Community Services is a non-profit organization that operates various programs including senior centers and senior transportation in suburban Hennepin County. Earlier this year, Senior Community Services, with support from the Metropolitan Council, agreed to operate a program in Edina. Senior Community Services, which operates similar programs in the Mound, Delano and Shorewood areas, will hire and train qualified drivers as well as provide dispatching services. The Metropolitan Council will fund the dial-a-ride service for a two-year demonstration period. After the demonstration period ends, the Metropolitan Council will fund a percentage of the costs associated with the program. The remaining portion will be paid for locally. The demonstration period began Jan. 29.

Service is available 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. To schedule a ride, call the dispatch center at 952-474-5398 at least 24 hours in advance. Door-to-door service will be provided anywhere within the City limits for \$2 each way. Seats on the 10-passenger, wheelchair accessible bus are filled on a first-come, first-served basis and are available for anyone, regardless of age. Children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by an adult.

"There are no exclusions," said Ron Bloch of Senior Community Services. "Anyone can ride anywhere within the City limits of Edina. Our driver will take you to the doctor, hairdresser, Senior Center – wherever you want to go."

Sue Weigle, Director of the Edina Senior Center, said the new transportation program has helped many of the men and women she works with. "For years, seniors in Edina had been looking for a reliable transportation program," she said. "Although Edina Dial-A-Ride is not exclusively for seniors, many of Edina's older residents are using the service and are thankful for the door-to-door service."

For more information on the local program, contact the Edina Senior Center, 928-4580.



Edina Dial-A-Ride bus service began in January. Driver Pam Horton gave one of the service's first rides to Lincoln Schroeder and Arleen Boutell.

Photo by Polly Norman

Housh, Masica Join City Council

Scot Housh and Linda Masica are settling into their new positions on the Edina City Council. Housh, Executive Vice President of Willis of Minnesota, and Masica, a retired restaurant owner, took office Jan. 2 after winning seats on the Council in the 2000 General Election. Housh was elected to a two-year term. Masica will serve four years on the Council.

Also during the General Election, Dennis Maetzold won an uncontested race for mayor. Maetzold was appointed mayor in the summer of 1999 after Glenn Smith resigned from the position. Mike Kelly was re-elected to a four-year Council term and was named mayor pro tem after taking office earlier this year.

Housh and Masica have spent their first few months on the Council quickly learning more about the City and its business. Both are humbled by their experiences thus far. "I am humbled by [Edina residents'] vote of confidence and privileged to be under obligation to serve [them]," Masica said. "I will forever feel blessed and grateful for this opportunity."

Housh said he has enjoyed working with City staff and the other members of the Council. "I think we have a nice mix of people on the Council," he said. "Each has his/her own style and specific skills, which seem to complement one another. I look forward to working with each of them to serve the interests of Edina residents."

Residents may contact any member of the City Council by writing to EdinaMail@ci.edina.mn.us. For more information

on the Council, contact Communications Coordinator Jennifer Wilkinson, 952-832-6063.

It's more than a move,
it's a strategy.

edina's new community bank

CROWN BANK
member FDIC

6600 france avenue south
suite 125 edina, MN 55435
telephone: 952.285.5800
contact: peter dahl or kevin howk

Curbside Recycling Begins In Edina



Photo by Brad Fox, FirstFoto
 Curbside recycling began in the City Jan. 1. For those residents who have difficulty transporting their bins to the curb, BFI will provide garage-side service, provided that proper arrangements have been made. Wheeled bins are also available through City Hall.

Residents are adapting well to a new curbside recycling program in the City. Garbage continues to be collected at the garage.

To reduce residents' costs and encourage more recycling, the Edina City Council voted for curbside recycling collection in 2001. Until Jan. 1, BFI had collected Edina residents' recycling at the garage for a higher rate than curbside. Although City ordinance previously required residents to leave their recycling at the garage

for pick up, staff said that nearly 60 percent put their bins at the curb. For that reason and the lower rate offered for curbside collection, the Council agreed to switch to curbside pickup and amend its ordinance.

"We are hoping that curbside collection will improve our already outstanding participation in the recycling program," said Recycling Coordinator Solvei Wilmot, pointing out that most other municipalities in the metropolitan area have curbside recycling programs. Bins at the curb are a visible reminder of the importance of recycling.

"We are also hoping to alleviate any missed recycling pickups with curbside recycling. We're also seeing less 'spillage' of materials from door to street."

BFI will provide garage-side collection for people who are unable to take their bins to the curb, such as those who are elderly or disabled. Wheeled bins are also available by contacting Edina City Hall.

Nine items are collectible in Edina's residential recycling program:

- Newspapers
- Magazines and catalogs
- Mixed paper (junk mail)
- Plastic bottles with necks
- Cans
- Glass
- Telephone books
- Boxboard: cracker, cake and cookie type boxes. Do not include boxboard products from the refrigerator or freezer, as they are coated with a moisture barrier.
- Cardboard: flattened, bagged or bundled and no larger than three feet-by three feet-by one foot.

All items should be placed in a paper grocery bag and set out in the recycling bin by 7 a.m. on the day of collection. Recycling and garbage containers should be stored out of view from the front street after collection.

For more information or to arrange garage-side pickup or to request a wheeled bin, contact Recycling Coordinator Solvei Wilmot, 952-826-0463.

Celebrate Earth Day By Composting

Celebrate Earth Day April 20 by composting, a way to recycle in your own backyard. Through backyard composting, residents can remove more than 500 pounds of organic matter from the waste stream. Composting is decomposing in a proper environment a combination of kitchen scraps such as fruit and vegetables and yard debris. Compost should not include meat scraps, bones, grease, oil, eggs, dairy products, human or pet waste or plastics.



"Home composting is environmentally beneficial," said Edina Recycling Coordinator Solvei Wilmot. "Yard and food wastes make up approximately 30 percent of the waste stream in the United States. Not only does composting successfully divert a significant portion of your family's waste stream from the landfill, it is a natural method of recycling organic materials into valuable humus. If you compost, you may use the humus with your topsoil in the spring."

Compost must be placed within a container made of durable material such as wire fencing, rot-resistant wood, concrete block or brick, or in a commercially manufactured container.

If you would like to compost, but don't want to spend the time shopping for or creating your own bin, consider purchasing one through the City of Edina. Through the support of the Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board and Hennepin County, the City is able to offer backyard-composting bins at a reduced rate. Backyard composting bins are available this spring for \$15 - regularly \$69 - by completing an order form

and returning it to the City of Edina Recycling Department prior to April 20.

The generously sized bin is made of black recycled plastic. It is circular in design and stands 32 inches tall—ideal for a family of up to six people. The unit features a locking lid top with a rain-catch system composed of two sunken semi-circles with drip holes. Two convenient sliding doors, one on each side at the unit's base, make harvesting of the finished humus a breeze.

For more information on composting, contact Recycling Coordinator Solvei Wilmot, 952-826-0381. To order a Home Composter, fill out the order form below and mail it to Edina City Hall prior to April 20.

Order Form for Compost Bin
 Return by April 20, 2001, to the City of Edina Recycling Coordinator, 4801 West 50th Street, Edina, MN 55424.
 Please type or print clearly.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Zip Code: _____
 Telephone number: _____
 Number of bins: _____ x \$15 = total \$ _____

Please make check payable to the City of Edina.
 Residents will be notified by mail regarding date and location for pick up of the compost bin.