City Shies From Further Talks of Passenger Rail Service in Edina

Community Engagement Study Shows
Support for Other Transit Corridors

The City will not encourage the development of passenger rail service in Edina in the Dan Patch Corridor at this time.

Edina Park Signs Get Upgraded

Signs Will Improve Aesthetics and Visibility of Neighborhood Parks

Rich Begins Work as Financial Analyst

Position Serves as Financial Resource for Enterprise Facilities

Community, neighborhood and mini parks will be replaced, but the bid did not include plans to halt because the new signs were slated to be installed. The main entrance signs for all the parks in Edina will be outfitted with new signs.

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4001 W. 50th St. Edina, MN 55424 | 952-927-8861 | mail@EdinaMN.gov

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Neighborhoods Socialize in the Streets

Edina residents took to the streets at the third-annual Open Streets in late September. The City closed West 50th Street between Wooddale Avenue in Edina and Chownen Avenue in Minneapolis for a day of celebration and community building. The street was open to bicyclists, pedestrians and their dogs to enjoy music, dance, games, crafts, yoga and other creative and active events. Civic, artistic, creative and neighborhood groups, as well as businesses, participated in this event.

Edina Park Signs Get Upgraded

Signs Will Improve Aesthetics and Visibility of Neighborhood Parks

After an extensive selection process, the City is now in the process of removing and installing new neighborhood park signs. The nearly 40 neighborhood parks in Edina will be outfitted with new signs.

"Our previous signs were installed 30 years ago; they were the original signs to the parks, so they were faded and in poor condition. This replacement was long overdue," said Assistant Parks & Recreation Director Susan Faus. "We are very excited to install these new signs. When people see a park sign, they are going to know they are in an Edina park and it's really going to improve the overall look and feel in our parks." All of the signs have been removed from the parks and the installation process is expected to be completed before the snow flies.

Choosing the right material and design of the new signs was a process that weighed the opinions of many people. Input was collected from City staff and the Parks & Recreation Commission and shared with the vendor to develop a design that would look more natural, complement the recently built shelter buildings, was durable and would fit into the City's brand. Signs will include the park's address and also be installed at different angles than the old ones so that they are more visible from the roadway.

The previous signs were replaced as needed throughout the years, but recent replacements were halted because the new signs were slated to be installed. The main entrance signs for all the community, neighborhood and mini parks will be replaced, but the bid did not include plans to reduce or add wayfinding signage.

"This current bid package did not include wayfinding signs, but we had $500,000 budgeted for this project and the bid for the entrance signage came in at $221,002. We have money remaining, so we will be replacing those wayfinding signs and additional directional signage," said Faus. "We hope that will happen in the spring."

For more information, contact the Parks & Recreation Department at 952-920-2307.

Rich and her husband have two children. They currently live in Minnetonka.

Rich began work in September in the City’s newly created position of Financial Analyst, which managers a hand to improve their operations and profitability.

"Andrea’s experience with large accounting firms, Fortune 500 companies as well as smaller businesses and with a county in Illinois will all be very helpful," Rich said. She, who started with the City in September, came from Lake County in Illinois, where she served as the Chief Deputy Auditor. Prior to that, Rich worked for Sprout Creek Farm in New York and served in various roles at Kraft Foods. She started her career after college with PriceWaterhouseCoopers. Rich graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Accountancy from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Besides learning how each facility’s point-of-sale system works and its individual operations, Rich will begin work to create a gift card that can be used across all the enterprise systems and at City Hall, so residents can use the same gift card to pay their water bill, purchase product at Edina Liquor and buy passes to Edinborough Park.

"I hope to get involved in the businesses where they really feel comfortable coming to me with questions," said Rich. "I like solving puzzles and understanding how things work, so I really looking forward to this." Other duties of Rich’s job include assisting the Finance Director in managing the City’s investment portfolio, helping manage the daily operations of accounts receivable, coordinating ambulance billing operations, and performing in-depth research and analysis to enhance City operations and effectiveness, as well as managing special projects, such as utility rate studies and policy development.

Rich and her husband have two children. They currently live in Minnetonka.

For more information, contact the Finance Department at 952-920-2306.
Meet Edina’s Newest Building Inspectors

Their Job is to Ensure Homes and Buildings are Safe

Armed with little more than tape measures and extensive knowledge of the building code, Edina’s Building Inspectors are tasked with ensuring construction and remodeling are done correctly to keep all residents and the buildings they use safe.

“We make sure everybody is building to Code,” said Building Inspector Nate Borwege. “We make sure residents have the proper safety compliance in their homes.”

Borwege recently joined Edina’s Building Inspections division after years of experience working for a home building company in New Prague. Another new Building Inspector is Scot Jandro, who previously worked as a framing subcontractor and performed inspections. They now spend their days visiting homes across Edina to make sure builders and construction crews are following Code.

“My favorite part of the job is the variety of projects being built, the quality of homes being constructed and working with the contractors and subcontractors,” said Jandro, who is pronounced with a “h.” His siblings have first names with four letters, so his parents dropped a “t” off “Scott” to make his name match.

They both credit other Building Inspections staff with helping them quickly get up to speed.

“The best part of my job is working with our department,” Kartak said. “We’ve got a knowledgeable, experienced department.”

If they come visiting your house, they aren’t checking to see if the furniture has dusted or the carpet vacuumed that day. Borwege and Jandro chuckle at how often arrive at homes to find people frantically trying to clean up or apologizing for children’s toys in the middle of the floor or a pile of laundry.

“I hate kids,” Borwege said. “I understand.”

“We’ve seen worse,” Jandro said in amusement.

Other inspectors in the division, led by Chief Building Official Dave Fisher, are Peter Akmenkalns, Sam Anderton, Tom Eseri, Jim Hall, David Mickelson, James Ruffin, Todd Nelson, Mike Rice and John Schwanetzer.

Learn more about Building Inspections at EdinaMN.gov or call 952-826-0372.

 discard.