Council Approves 2018 Budget
Street Projects Also Given Green Light

The median-valued home in Edina of $501,000 will see a monthly increase of just $6.50 per month in City property taxes in 2018.

The City Council adapted the 2018 operating budget and tax levy month last. The total of all taxes increased by 5.8 percent.

The budget projects increases in street and bridge maintenance, capital improvement plan funding, and the City’s focus on housing-related issues such as affordability, rental and redevelopment concerns. The budget also includes funding for two new Police Officers and one public safety staff support position, money for the planning and implementation of the Southdale circular transit line and continuation of the City’s race and equity initiatives.

The budget allows the City to focus on the priorities of its biennial work plan: maintain assets and infrastructure, maintain service levels, provide for connected and sustainable development, and build an inclusive and engaged community.

In other business last month, the Council:

- Recognized Mythili Iyer and Eva Hadjiyanis as the winners of the 2017 Human Rights Essay Contest.
- Approved a subdivision with variances at 6017 Walnut Drive. The existing home on the lot would remain and a new home built on the south parcel.
- Approved 2018 roadway reconstruction projects in the Concorde A & G and West 62nd Street neighborhoods.
- Signed off on a mutual aid agreement with the City of Bloomington to assist with law enforcement before, during and after the 2018 Super Bowl.
- Approved a resolution that will allow parking along the north side of France Avenue from 47th Street to 49th Street from Jan. 1 until Oct. 30, to support the redevelopment on Market Street.

For more information on the activities of the City Council, visit EdinaMN.gov.

NFL Super Kids, Super Sharing Kicks off Super Bowl Events

Braemar Field to Host Super-sized Event

The first major NFL event leading up to Super Bowl LII will be at Braemar Field Jan. 18.

NFL Super Kids, Super Sharing is an all-day event where kids have the opportunity to help underprivileged local youth and get involved with Super Bowl events. This is the 18th consecutive year the NFL has started Super Bowl festivities with the Super Kids, Super Sharing event.

Braemar Arena & Field and several organizations from across the Twin Cities area will collaborate with the NFL, Minnesota Vikings, and Verizon to help gather school supplies and sports equipment for underprivileged youth in the area.

Verizon will also collect used cellphones for its HopeLine program, which provides victims of domestic abuse with cellphones and financial assistance. The phones donated are either refurbished and sold with the profits going to victims or are given to victims so they have a means of communication.

“Making Ice!”

Keeping Edina’s outdoor ice rinks in tip-top shape is Bill Hanley in Park Maintenance. Hanley and his crew are out maintaining the ice rinks every day at 5 a.m. during the warmer months. It usually takes three hours to sweep, edge and water the rink to make new ice for skaters.

Construction at 50th & France Begins in January

North Parking Ramp to be Expanded During First Phase

The parking ramps at 50th & France will be expanded and upgraded over the course of 2018 and 2019 as part of a major redevelopment on Market Street in downtown Edina.

Alternative parking and pedestrian walkways will be provided to ensure that local residents and shoppers still have access to businesses at 50th & France.

“The project begins in January, but at this point in the project, only the North Ramp will be shut down. You can still anticipate short days, cold temperatures and good shopping at 50th & France,” said Economic Development Manager Bill Neuenrodorf.

“The ramp will be shut down for three months, but we’ll still have the center and south ramps available and complimentary valet parking Mondays through Saturdays during the prime shopping hours.”

The project will include an expansion of the North Ramp with new commercial space on the ground floor and an additional floor of parking in the ramp. The ramp will be expanded over the former sites of Hooten Launderers & Cleaners and Edina Realty.

Beginning in April, the Center Parking Ramp will be replaced with a new structure that will contain apartments, ground-floor commercial space and below-ground parking, arranged around new public plaza and pedestrian ways.

New, free valet parking options will be available to shoppers from January to September. Valet parking can be found at 50th and Halfade, as well as at Market and France. Hours are anticipated to be 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. six days a week, but may be adjusted based on actual demand.

Project Communications Coordinator Pat Tucker has been hired to help keep area businesses, residents and visitors informed and involved in the process.

“I am available to meet, talk, send materials – really whatever is needed,” explained Tucker. “I am available and I’ll be visiting businesses and neighbors to discuss the project throughout this process.”

New pedestrian walkways have also been planned. Whenever possible, sidewalks will be maintained and kept clear of debris during construction.

“For this first phase of the project, sidewalks really shouldn’t be affected. As additional construction begins, pedestrians can expect to find covered walkways if a sidewalk is near the construction site or is affected by the work being completed,” said Tucker.

While the construction process may result in some noise and dust, the inconvenience will be worth it. The expansion will result in more shopping and housing options, solidifying 50th & France as a leading shopping and lifestyle destination in the Twin Cities.

For more information about this project, visit EdinaMN.gov/50thandFrance.

City of Edina EdinaMN.gov

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4001 W. 50th St. Edina, MN 55424 | 952-927-8861 | Mail@EdinaMN.gov
What if 911 called you to let you know about an emergency near your home or business?

A new notification system will let the City of Edina’s 911 dispatchers send out messages via email, text, landline, cellphone or social media within minutes. Those messages can notify people of major incidents and what action they should take, if any. All people need to do is sign up.

Text-to-911 can be used when calling 911 traditionally. There are extremely long delays getting the messages, and the texts can get out of order.

“Have we seen up to three minutes before our message can be delivered,” said Martin. “Our dispatchers can only ask one question at a time and they have to wait for a response. If we ask multiple questions, at a time, what answers go with what question?”

More challenges are that location detection is not accurate with texting, there is no language translation service for texts to 911 and a text or data plan is required to use it.

To text to 911, enter the numbers 9-1-1 in the “To” field. Text your exact location and type of incident. Then follow instructions.

To text 911, enter the numbers 9-1-1 in the “To” field. Text your exact location and type

“Roger is really good at interacting with the festival attenders,” said Centennial Lakes Park General Manager Tom Shirley. “He talks to their families about ice carving and, overall, he has an entertaining personality. He’s fun to talk to and is open to telling anyone about what he does.”

Most of the time, Rust’s inspiration for ice sculpture designs come from popular kids movies and current events. He says the most important part is to see the design in the ice, picture it in your mind and then cut away everything that isn’t the design. In the past, he has done ice carvings of Lilo and Stitch and Snoopy on the roof of the doghouse.

Rust started out in the ice carving business after taking a cooking class that included 10 hours of ice carving. He was hired at the Minneapolis Club in 1974 after taking the class. The club handed him six carving tools and declared him the ice carver there, a title he would hold onto for almost 33 years.

“I was the only guy who did the ice for the Minneapolis Club,” said Rust. “That’s how I got that perfect of ice carving. Ten years after that, I entered the Minneapolis Food Ice Carving Contest and saw that they were using electric tools! And so that’s when I got into the modern era of electric tools. It made life a lot easier!”

Rust looks forward to the ice festival in Edina because his family likes to join him. His daughter brings their children to enjoy the ice skating and his sons get in on the fun, too. The Winter Ice Festival at Centennial Lakes Park is a tradition for many families and Rust has become a staple at the event.

“People are starting to recognize me now. They say ‘Hey, you’re that ice carver who has ice carvings for 30 years ago’! They still talk to the festival attenders,” said Rust.

For more information on the Winter Ice Festival, visit CentennialLakesPark.com or call 952-839-9580.