

Centennial Lakes Park to Host Winter Ice Festival

Horse-drawn carriage rides and face painting among many Festival activities



File Photo

Roger Rust, who has taken part in the Winter Ice Festival for more than two decades, carves a minion out of a block of ice.

In celebration of the winter season, Centennial Lakes Park, 7499 France Ave. S., will host its 29th-annual Winter Ice Festival 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13.

Visitors to the park will be able to have their faces painted and ride on a horse-drawn wagon. Ice festival participants may bring their own equipment, but ice skates (\$6 per pair) and Norwegian kick-sleds (\$8 per hour) are available for rental at the Hughes Pavilion, which serves as a warming house and concessions stand during the winter months.

Winter Ice Festival 1-5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13

- Face painting
- Horse-drawn carriage rides
- Ice skating
- Norwegian kick-sledding
- Ice-sculpting demonstrations

“Ice skaters will also get a chance to skate under the new pedestrian bridges, which are built and just awaiting their new stone façade come spring.”

Behind Hughes Pavilion on the terrace overlooking the lake, ice-sculpting demonstrations will be given.

The Festival is free to attend, but the prices of activities vary.

For more information, visit CentennialLakesPark.com

“For nearly three decades, families from all over the metro have celebrated the winter season with us,” said Centennial Lakes Park Assistant Manager Laura Knollmaier. “The Winter Ice Festival is a fun way to spend a winter Sunday outdoors with your family and friends.”

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Submitted Photo

Charm Your Sweetie to the Tunes of The Rockin' Hollywoods!

The fifth-annual Valentine's Concert, presented by the City of Edina Arts & Culture Commission and featuring The Rockin' Hollywoods, will be held 7-9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9. Concertgoers are welcome to drop in at any time throughout the evening. The event is free to attend and will be held at Braemar Golf Course Clubhouse, 6364 John Harris Drive.

Council Approves Preliminary Plans for France Avenue Redevelopment

Proposed Project Would Include Housing, Retail and Parking

Several redevelopment projects have been proposed for 7200 and 7250 France Ave., but only recently did the City Council find one that fits its vision for the greater Southdale area.

Under a plan given preliminary approval by the Council in December, the existing buildings would be razed and replaced with two six-story buildings with apartments and rental townhomes with underground parking. Up to 30,000 square feet of retail would be included on the first level of each building.

The plan also includes a north-south woonerf – a low-speed road shared by cars, bikes and pedestrians – to improve transitions in the neighborhood. A row of 10 two- or three-story townhomes would be built on the west side of the woonerf.

To move forward with the project, the developer must obtain final zoning and redevelopment approval.

The City Council will meet at 7 p.m. Jan. 8 and 23. For more information, visit EdinaMN.gov.



Submitted Illustration

France Equities, LLC plans to raze the existing buildings at 7200 and 7250 France Ave. to make way for 309 units of housing (apartments and townhomes) and 30,000 square feet of retail.

New Blade Technology May Improve Snowplow Effectiveness

Test Is Part of Effort to Reduce Use of Chemical De-Icers

A new type of blade is being tested on some Edina snowplows this winter as part of efforts to reduce the use of salt and chemicals while keeping roads safe.

The segmented floating blades, sold under the brand name Joma blades, make better contact with the road surface than conventional blades.

“They provide better physical removal of snow and ice so we don't have to depend so much on chemicals,” said Water Resources Coordinator Jessica Wilson.

The blades cost more than conventional ones, so Wilson applied for a grant from the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District (NMCWD) to help pay for them. The NMCWD put up \$33,000, which is 75 percent of the cost.

Three areas in the watershed district – Countryside, Lake Edina and Southdale – were chosen as test zones as they offer a variety of hills, curves, curbs and other conditions.

Given that no two snowstorms and no two neighborhoods are exactly alike, determining effectiveness is a challenge. Wilson has faith that the snowplow drivers will be the best evaluators. After all, they were the ones who suggested trying out the blades during a workshop on reducing de-icing chemicals ending up in creeks, lakes, ponds, streams and rivers.

“Our plow operators are super,” Wilson said. “They understand the problem, and they are grappling with ways to provide effective snow removal, good quality of life and safety while balancing that with concerns about the environment.”

The workshop is just one part of the City's research partnership with the University of Minnesota studying options to improve de-icing operations.

“Hopefully, if they do work well and people like them, then these articulated blades will become the standard,” Wilson said.

For more information, contact Wilson at jwilson@EdinaMN.gov or 952-826-0445.

Tips on Reducing Salt Use

Do your part to keep our waterways healthy by limiting application of salt.

- Shovel first, then apply salt only if necessary.
- Don't apply salt when the temperature is below 15 degrees – it's ineffective.
- Use a minimal amount – half a coffee cup is plenty for the average parking space of 150 square feet.
- Be patient: The colder it is, the longer it takes salt to work.
- When ice has melted, sweep up any excess salt and save to reuse or throw it in the trash.
- If a business seems to use too much, tell a manager your concerns.



Photo by Scott Denfeld

Use an old coffee cup to prevent putting down too much salt. Half a cup is enough to clear the equivalent of a large parking space.

New City Clerk Living American Dream

Honesty, Hard Work Propel Sharon Allison's Career

As a young adult, Sharon Allison moved from her native Jamaica to the United States in search of a better life.

She has made that happen through hard work and dedication, including the last 15 years working for the City of Edina. Now she's taking the next step, becoming City Clerk. In the role, she will be responsible for data practices, records retention, elections and supporting the City Council.

Without intending to do so, Allison began training for the position years ago. She spent several years working in the Engineering Department, where she handled records management, public meeting notices, built City Council packets and took minutes at the Transportation Commission meetings. She also has volunteered to work elections for the last decade.

"Now as City Clerk, I'm just doing that type of work for the entire City," Allison said.

In 2017, when then-City Clerk Debra Mangen announced her long-range retirement plan, Allison began the three-year City Clerk certification process, which she will wrap up on the job. She also moved into the Administration Department to work daily with Mangen.

"Deb has everything so laid out," Allison said. "It makes it easy to step in and continue what she had in place."

Those who have worked with Allison have no doubt she will excel as City Clerk. Ask any of them to describe her, from Engineering Director Chad Millner to Assistant City Manager Lisa Schaefer, and one word always comes up: honest. That's a key quality for someone handling elections and records.



Photo by Dietrich Nissen

Sharon Allison will oversee elections and support the City Council in her new role as Edina City Clerk.

"I am not creative, so I can't go out and invent something that would make me millions or pay my mortgage," Allison said. "I love working in an area that is established with the written words and language. I like to develop processes to implement those rules. That, to me, is exciting."

She never could have imagined the journey her life has taken since her childhood in Jamaica.

"I can see myself retiring from Edina as a City Clerk," Allison said. "To be part of this city is awesome."

Allison can be reached at sallison@EdinaMN.gov or 952-826-0408.

Give the Gift of Summer Fun at the EDINA AQUATIC CENTER!






PASSES MAKE GREAT GIFTS!
Purchase season passes at
EdinaAquaticCenter.com

BY THE NUMBERS

Have Fun and Stay Fit Under the Dome at Braemar Field



Open 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week, Braemar Field, 7509 Ikola Way, offers a variety of activities to keep active families busy during the cold, winter months. For a complete list, visit BraemarField.com.

From **Nov. 1-April 1** the dome is up at Braemar Field.



\$5 per session (punch cards are also available)

Tot Time
Open Soccer
Family Night



4.4 laps around the indoor track equal a mile



25 different athletic associations rent field time





Upcoming Events

Recurring Events:

Children's Entertainment at Edinborough Park
Noon Thursdays

Family Night at Braemar Field
6:30-7:30 p.m. Saturdays

Friday, Jan. 4, 6:15-7:15 a.m.

Fitness on the Field, Alchemy 365, Braemar Field

Sunday, Jan. 6, 7 p.m.

Pan Handlers Steel Drum Band, Edinborough Park

Tuesday, Jan. 8, 7 p.m.

City Council Meeting, Edina City Hall

Friday, Jan. 11, 6:30 p.m.

Friday Family Movie Night, "The Incredibles 2," Edinborough Park

Friday, Jan. 11, 6-8 p.m.

Outdoor Rink Family Glow Night, Pamela Park

Saturday, Jan. 12, 10 a.m.

The Author's Studio: *Before I Leave: Wisdom from the Stories of Six Women Over Eighty* – Jenny Egertson, Edina Art Center

Sunday, Jan. 13, 7 p.m.

Standard Deviations Jazz Combo, Edinborough Park

Thursday, Jan. 17, 7:30 a.m.

Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting, Edina City Hall

Saturday, Jan. 19, 9-10 a.m.

Walk With the Mayor, Galleria, meet near Starbucks, Door 4

Sunday, Jan. 20, 1:40-3:10 p.m.

Open Skate and Talent Showcase, Braemar Arena

Sunday, Jan. 20, 7 p.m.

Rum River Brass, Edinborough Park

Monday, Jan. 21

City Hall closed, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Wednesday, Jan. 23, 7 p.m.

City Council Meeting, Edina City Hall

Saturday, Jan. 26, 1:40-3:10 p.m.

Skate With the Hornets, Braemar Arena

Sunday, Jan. 27, 7 p.m.

First John Philip Sousa Memorial Band, Edinborough Park

Thursday, Jan. 31, 7:30 a.m.

Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting, Edina City Hall

Friday, Feb. 1, 6:15-7:15 a.m.

Fitness on the Field, Physical Culture(v), Braemar Field

Sunday Feb. 3, 7 p.m.

CC Septet, Edinborough Park

Tuesday, Feb. 5, 7 p.m.

City Council Meeting, Edina City Hall

For a complete listing of meetings and events, visit EdinaMN.gov.