Center Ramp Opens at 50th & France
Final Pieces of Market Street Redevelopment Are Falling into Place

BY KRYSTAL CARON

Just in time for holiday shopping, visitors to the 50th & France area will now have easy access to free, covered parking. The Center Ramp reopens Nov. 1, bringing the total number of free, public parking stalls available at 50th & France to over 1,100.

“We’ll have more than 120 free public parking spaces on the first level of the Center Ramp and those are designated specifically for visitors to the 50th & France area,” said Project Communications Coordinator Pat Tucker.

Another level will be dedicated to residents of Nolan Mains, the rental property located above the Center Ramp. The ramp has an elevator and several handicapped parking spaces. Since the ramp is underground, parking is kept cool in the summer and warm in the winter.

“There is a stairway and elevator in the center to access businesses. We added a stairway on the west side to make it easier to access those buildings and another stairway on the east end that is the closest to get to things like restaurants, retail and salons,” said Economic Development Manager Bill Neuendorf. “Rain and snow shouldn’t slow you down.”

Work won’t be entirely finished, though. Tucker says there are still odds and ends that need to be finalized on the Center Ramp, such as wayfinding signs. Those details will continue to be installed after the ramp opens to the public. Nolan Mains and a public plaza are also still under construction. A formal grand opening event will be held in the spring of 2020.

“We’re really excited about the public area that’s being finalized there. It’s a large gathering area with retail space, open air and a fire pit,” said Tucker. “It’s really something special now and for generations to come.”

For more information, visit EdinaMN.gov/50thandFrance or contact Tucker at 952-826-1605.

The Center Ramp at 50th & France, located under Nolan Mains, opens Friday, Nov. 1. This is the last ramp to be reopened after construction at 50th & France. Photo by Kaylin Eidsness
Braemar Golf Dome Opens With Latest Ball-Tracing Technology
Toptracer Range Installed in all 44 Bays

BY DEBBIE TOWNSEND

The Braemar Golf Dome isn’t just the largest or longest-hitting indoor practice facility in the Twin Cities anymore. It’s also the only place in Minnesota with Toptracer Range technology, the most advanced ball tracing available. Golf fans have seen it during TV coverage of major golf tournaments.

Toptracer Range was installed this fall in all 44 bays on two levels of Braemar Golf Dome, 7420 Braemar Blvd.
Previous tee-tracking technology showed only the start of the ball’s flight path and some basic data. With Toptracer Range, golfers will be able to see the ball’s entire flight path, ball speed, launch angle carry, curve, hang time and more. The information can help golfers adjust their swing and instantly see the results.

“This will be the best game-improvement winter practice facility you are going to find anywhere,” said Braemar Golf Course General Manager Joe Abood.

He expects a lot of players to dig into the mode called “What’s In My Bag.” They can track the swing data for every club, so on the course they can better understand how each club will perform.

“You can get dialed in and know exactly what you’re hitting,” Abood said.

Toptracer Range’s other modes include games you can play against your friends at the Dome or worldwide against people at other ranges.

In addition to Toptracer Range, other improvements at Braemar Golf Dome include new seating and expanded hours. The dome, which opens Nov. 1, will operate 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

Learn more at BraemarGolf.com or by calling 952-903-5775.

BY THE NUMBERS
Pipes Don’t Like Wipes!

When “flushable” wipes are flushed into the City system, they create clogs, which in turn cause sewer backups. Even wipes labeled as “flushable” should not be flushed.

180
The City has 180 miles of public sanitary sewer mains, 4,800 manholes and 24 lift stations within its system.

Be a good neighbor! Don’t flush wipes!

1 If you flush one wipe, it can cause a clog for an entire neighborhood.

6 Out of eight sewer backups in 2018, six were caused by wipes.
Building Permits Help Keep Structures Safe
Permit Fees Based on Building Values

BY KAYLIN EIDSNESS

Building permits help ensure homes and buildings are safe from electrical and heating system fire hazards, structural failure and other health risks.

Chief Building Official David Fisher says the safety of residents and visitors in Edina is the No. 1 priority of his division.

“Building inspections reduce risk and give assurance that the work being done by residents and contractors is up to code,” he said.

To pay for the inspections service, the City collects building permit fees. The fees cover costs incurred by reviewing plans, investigating code compliance and administering the inspections. According to the League of Minnesota Cities, State law requires that these fees must be fair, reasonable and have a connection to the actual cost of the service for which the fee is imposed. Statewide, most building fees for each project are set based on the building’s valuation. However, some, such as the demolition permit in Edina, are a flat rate.

The average value of a demolition and newly rebuilt home in Edina is $677,480. For a project of that amount, building permits would total $11,003, or 1.62 percent of the value of the new home built. Permits for such a project would include demolition, building, sewer/water disconnect and connect, Public Works curb cut, plumbing, mechanical and electrical.

The homeowner would also have to pay a plan review fee.

“In my entire career, I’ve never seen such high building valuations,” said Fisher of last year’s valuations, which totaled $344 million. “That’s up there with Minneapolis and St. Paul for total valuations.”

In 2018, six Building Inspectors made 12,443 building inspections, compared to 9,664 building inspections in 2014. These inspections range from looking over a simple residential deck to very complex mechanical installations at some of the city’s businesses.

For more information, contact Fisher at 952-826-0450.

UP NORTH GIFT GALLERY OPENS NOV. 14

During the winter holiday season, the Gift Shop, Margaret Foss and Tea Room galleries at the Edina Art Center are transformed into the “Up North” Holiday Gift Gallery, featuring a variety of locally made artwork and photography at multiple price points to offer holiday shoppers a one-stop shopping opportunity. The Up North gift gallery opens Thursday, Nov. 14, and goes through Dec. 27. Art by Chris Emeott

UPCOMING EVENTS

Recurring Events:
Community Concerts, Edinborough Park
7 p.m. Sundays and Tuesdays
Children’s Programs, Edinborough Park
Noon Thursdays

Wednesday, Nov. 6, 7 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Edina City Hall

Friday, Nov. 8, 6:30 p.m.
Friday Family Movie Night, “Toy Story 4,” Edinborough Park

Saturday, Nov. 9, 10 a.m.
The Author’s Studio: The Witness Tree – Amy Pendino, Edina Art Center

Monday, Nov. 11
Veterans Day; City Hall closed

Thursday, Nov. 14, 5-8 p.m.
Up North Gift Gallery Opening Reception, Edina Art Center

Saturday, Nov. 16, 10 a.m.-noon
Town Hall Meeting, Edina Senior Center

Saturday, Nov. 16, 7 p.m.
“Pioneers of Color: The Yancey Family of Edina,” Minnehaha Grange Hall
The Yancey family was one of Edina’s founding families, leaders not only in the local community, but across the state of Minnesota. Discover the history of this pioneering family, from their early years in slavery to becoming successful frontier farmers and leaders.

Tuesday, Nov. 19, 7 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Edina City Hall

Saturday, Nov. 23, 9-10 a.m.
Walk With the Mayor, Galleria

Sunday, Nov. 24, 7 p.m.
First John Philip Sousa Memorial Band, Edinborough Park

Thursday, Nov. 28
Thanksgiving Day; City Hall Closed

Friday, Nov. 29
City Hall Closed

For a complete listing of meetings and events, visit EdinaMN.gov.
Anticipating the need for additional parking at the Braemar Golf Dome, the Edina City Council has authorized shoulder improvements along Braemar Boulevard.

During the 2018-2019 season, the City began to see a need for more parking at the Golf Dome, 7420 Braemar Blvd. With the recent installation of first-in-the-state Toptracer Range technology in the practice facility, it is anticipated that there will be an even greater parking demand.

Staff completed a study to determine if parking could be expanded west of the current lot, a new lot built on the south side of the Golf Dome or additional parking provided along Braemar Boulevard. Providing additional street parking was determined to be most cost effective.

The City Council awarded the contract for the project to Pember Companies at its Oct. 15 meeting. As part of the $60,000 project, which will be paid with remaining 2017 bond proceeds from the golf course renovation, three seven-foot shoulders will be constructed in three locations.

In other business last month, the Council:

- Purchased MUNIS, an integrated enterprise resource planning software system, from Tyler Technologies. The system combines core financial (general ledger, budgeting, accounts payable and receivable, payroll and purchasing), utility billing and Human Resources systems. The technology will allow staff to more efficiently maintain and locate data for the public, provide better data and analysis for informed decision-making by elected officials and staff, and reduces the risk of lost data and human error. Implementation will begin in November, but is expected to take 18-24 months to complete. The planned “go-live” date is Jan. 1, 2021.

- Certified unpaid utility bills to the County for collection. There are currently 519 properties with delinquent accounts totaling $331,706.

- Approved the plat for 200 Southdale Center. Formerly a lot for JC Penney, there are now three lots at the site for Life Time Fitness, a multi-tenant space and an outdoor plaza.

- Authorized the study of surface and ground water interactions at Highlands Park to determine how water levels respond to various weather conditions. Barr Engineering will also begin to develop options and estimates that might address flooding issues there.

- Directed staff to scope a process for creating a climate action plan for Edina.

The Council will next meet 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 6, and Tuesday, Nov. 19, at Edina City Hall, 4801 W. 50th St. For more information, visit EdinaMN.gov.

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**Parking To Be Added Along Braemar Boulevard**

**Improvements at Golf Dome Expected to Draw Bigger Crowds**

Visit MNVotes.gov

- Find your polling place
- See a sample ballot
- Learn about candidates

**Edina School District**

All voting will be held at polling locations 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5. In-person absentee voting will take place at Edina City Hall; visit EdinaMN.gov/Election for a list of times.

**Richfield School District**

For Edina residents who are eligible to vote in the Richfield School District election, your polling place is Sheridan Hills Elementary School Gym, 6400 Sheridan Ave. S., Richfield. Contact the City of Richfield at 612-861-9700 to learn more about absentee voting.

**Hopkins School District**

For Edina residents who are eligible to vote in the Hopkins School District election, your polling place is Shepherd of the Hills Church, 500 Blake Road, Edina. Contact the City of Hopkins at 952-935-8474 to learn more about absentee voting.

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Life Time Fitness, which will feature a rooftop restaurant, accompanied by leisure pools, lounge seating and bocce courts, plans to open before the end of the year. Photo by Dietrich Nissen

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- COMPILED BY JENNIFER BENNEROTTE