Census Key to Edina Getting Fair Share of Funding
Residents Who Fail to Respond Could Shortchange Projects and Programs That Serve Them

Census workers will visit unresponsive households to collect the data. However, that still doesn’t capture everyone. Each decade, many people are missed, leading to what’s called an “undercount.” In 2010, children under age 4 were the most undercounted, followed by renters.

“The impact of an undercount on these communities is huge!” Felton said. “By not counting all their children, parents just underfunded the programs they may need to ensure the health and wellbeing of that child. Good examples are programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (previously known as food stamps), Medicaid and Lower Income Housing Assistance Program.”

“One aspect that’s often overlooked is how census data affects businesses,” said Assistant City Planner Emily Bodeker. That retail store you really wish would open an Edina location? Their corporate offices might have a census-based population number to hit before even considering a new store. If Edina’s census numbers are off, that new store might open in St. Louis Park or some other community instead.

If all that doesn’t convince people, it’s also the law for everyone living in America to respond. As Felton notes, it’s never been easier. It’s a very short form and can be submitted online, by mail or even over the phone.

So, dig out that March mailing from the U.S. Census Bureau and respond. Lost it? You’ll be getting reminder follow-ups in the mail. Or a visit from a census worker.

For more information, including help answering the census questions, visit 2020census.gov or call 800-923-8282.

BY DEBBI TOWNSEND

If anyone you know hasn’t submitted their response to the 2020 Census, that failure could end up costing the Edina community.

Money related to the census is like a pie, says Mark Felton, a certified public accountant and Chairman of Edina’s Complete Count Committee for the 2020 Census. “Congress determines the size of the pie, and census-derived data guides how the pie is to be divided among the states. If we don’t get our slice of the pie, someone else will, and in this instance, the money may go to fund programs in other states.”

According to Andrew Reamer, a research professor at George Washington University, 316 federal programs rely on data derived from the census to guide the funding distribution to states, local governments, nonprofits, businesses and households. In 2017, those 316 programs were funded at an estimated $1.5 trillion.

“Yes, it is a lot of money, and the census guides the distribution of this money,” Felton said.
Suspect Arrested in Jan. 23 Hit-and-Run with Edina Student

Michigan Man Charged with Second-Degree Assault

BY KAYLIN EIDSNESS

A Michigan man was recently arrested for a January hit-and-run of an Edina girl on France Avenue.

Carlton Duke Troutma, 26, was arrested March 13 in his home state of Michigan and charged with second-degree assault.

The 17-year-old girl was waiting to get on the school bus Jan. 23 when Troutman struck her with a vehicle. She was taken to a local hospital, where she recovered.

On Jan. 28, the suspected vehicle was recovered in Mankato, Minnesota. After Police interviewed a number of witnesses and gathered information as evidence, Edina

Detectives were able to determine that Troutman was driving the vehicle at the time of the crime. A warrant was issued March 11 for his arrest.

Troutman was arrested during an unrelated investigation in Michigan. At press time, he was still being held at the Eaton County Jail.

“The speed in which investigators and assisting agencies were able to locate the suspect vehicle and identify the involved persons in this hit-and-run is impressive. The coordinated effort of multiple law enforcement agencies helps get this menace off the street and behind bars,” said Edina Police Lt. Tim Olson.

For more information on the Edina Police Department, visit EdinaMN.gov/Police.

BY THE NUMBERS

South Metro Public Safety Training Facility

The South Metro Public Safety Training Facility serves many agencies in the area. The facility, located at 7525 Braemer Blvd., has multiple classrooms, a unique fire training tower, firing ranges and a variety of training courses.

To enhance the facility and better meet demands, facility owners put in a 2020 State legislature bonding request asking for $4.7 million. Some of the improvements include lengthening the small shooting range to 75 feet to meet Minnesota POST requirements for Police Officer qualification, replacing the HVAC system for lead protection and expanding to provide space for additional trainings.

The number of public safety personnel from Edina, Eden Prairie, Bloomington and the Metropolitan Airports Commission who regularly train at the facility, which is jointly owned by those agencies.

The length of the small and large shooting ranges

The year the facility was built
The City of Edina is working to restore a historical landmark in the community.

The Wooddale Avenue Bridge over Minnehaha Creek is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is a single 18-foot span steel arch with limestone headwalls and barrier railing built as a WPA project in 1937. The bridge is classified as "functionally obsolete" and is in need of significant rehabilitation or replacement.

At its meeting March 17, the City Council approved a contract with Short Elliott Hendrickson to work with the State Historic Preservation Office to develop design options. New designs will include similar materials and techniques. Because the bridge is listed on the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Local Bridge Replacement Program, chances to secure funding increase once plans are under development or completed.

In other business last month, the Council:

- **Extended the Mayor-declared Peace Time Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic.** The declaration invokes the City’s disaster plan and authorizes other appropriate community containment and mitigation strategies.
- **Approved contract with Pember Companies for a safety and sustainability project at City Hall.** As part of the project, a raised crosswalk from the parking lot to the front steps of City Hall will be built to slow vehicles in the driveway and improve pedestrian safety. The bump-out in front of the building will be reconstructed for accessible parking and electric vehicle charging stations. New bike racks will be installed close to the front steps to promote cycling by staff and visitors.
- **Authorized the City Manager to create the Street Funding Task Force to make recommendations to the City Council about how street reconstruction and maintenance should be funded in the future.**
- **Provided non-binding feedback on a sketch plan presented by Lund Real Estate Partners at 77th Street and Computer Drive.** The development firm is contemplating tearing down an existing office building and constructing a 177-unit apartment building. Due to the high water table in the area, the first two levels of the building would be enclosed parking.

The City Council is scheduled to next meet 7 p.m. April 7 and 21. For more information, visit EdinaMN.gov.
If Edina is the center of the American hockey universe, Willard Ikola is the one standing watch over it all.

A bronze statue of Edina's legendary hockey coach, who amassed eight state championships and influenced generations of boys during his 33 years of coaching, was unveiled early this spring outside Braemar Arena.

“I can't think of anybody who had more of an impact on Edina hockey, on our community, than our coach, Willard Ikola,” former NHL player Casey Hankinson said during the March 7 unveiling. Hankinson, Steve Brown, Bruce Carlson and Greg and Linda Dornbach spearheaded the effort to honor Ikola. Donations from 112 former players and friends of Ikola raised the $68,000 for the statue.

Edina's own Nicholas Legeros, who has created such iconic bronze pieces across Minnesota including Sid Hartman outside Target Field, Goldy Gopher at the University of Minnesota and the Dreams Take Flight pieces along the Edina Promenade, spent the last several months sculpting a statue that captured the man he called the “gem of our city.”

“’Coach Ike’ Statue Unveiled Outside Braemar Arena
Bronze Piece Honors Player and Coach Who Transformed Edina Hockey

BY DEBBIE TOWNSEND

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“It’s a daunting task to make a sculpture of someone that means so much to their community, to the game of hockey and to those who played on his team,” Legeros said.

Legeros’ piece pays tribute to Ikola as both player and coach. Before his coaching days, Ikola was a goalie, helping win three state titles for Eveleth High School, two NCAA titles for the University of Michigan and a silver medal in the 1956 Olympics.

The statue depicts “Coach Ike,” as he’s known, wearing his famous houndstooth hat, looking down the ice while holding a card of his lines of players. His flight deck boots are a nod to his service in the Air Force and his habit of wearing them to keep his feet warm. His right foot rests on an oversized hockey puck while his left foot is propped on the bench, which is made of tubular steel to resemble the top bar of a goalie net. Look closely to find small details like the Olympic pin on his lapel or what’s written on the card.

With a half-million people passing the statue each year as they enter Braemar Arena, Legeros and the Ikola Cup Foundation members who led the project wanted to ensure it was interactive. Legeros hopes they will sit on the bench/goal net, pose next to the statue for photos or rub the toe of Ikola’s boot for good luck.

Casey Hankinson, left, poses for a photo with Willard Ikola during the March 7 unveiling ceremony for the Coach Ike statue outside Braemar Arena. Photo by Jay Ness

“What a great honor,” Ikola said upon seeing the statue unveiled. He recalled another honor when a street was renamed so the arena’s address would be 7501 Ikola Way.

Hankinson never got the chance to play for Coach Ike, but he said the statue and the legacy of the man represent so much more than hockey.

“It’s a testament to the whole community of Edina and what Braemar Arena means to so many of us,” Hankinson said. “So many friendships forged in that arena, so many lessons whether you win or lose.”

For the record, Coach Ike rarely lost.