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CITY GOALS:



Strong Foundation



Reliable Service



Livable City



Better Together

Milburn Brings Community Focus as Edina's New Police Chief Former Brooklyn Park Deputy Chief Has Nearly 30 Years of Law Enforcement Experience

BY DAN REISIG

New Edina Police Chief Todd Milburn bid farewell to his professional home of nearly 30 years last month, but when the opportunity arose to join the City of Edina, he knew it was the “right place, right time.”

“I’ve been blessed with many different opportunities in the City of Brooklyn Park to do different things,” he explained. “It was certainly a tough decision for me to jump into a new environment, but it just feels like an awesome and great fit for me to move into Edina.”

Serving as Deputy Chief of his former city since 2014, Milburn had a front-row view of the changing landscape of policing in Minnesota in recent years. Brooklyn Park ranks among the state’s largest and most diverse populations and provided Milburn with many opportunities to grow and develop.

“That’s allowed us to have a great relationship with a number of different ethnic communities and backgrounds and to get to know people in a different way,” he explained of Brooklyn Park’s diversity. “I think that carries over nicely to Edina because the demographics of the city are changing.”

“Todd has the right combination of law enforcement experience and outstanding communication skills,” City Manager Scott Neal said. “I think he’s going to do great work in Edina.”

Milburn believes step one in that process is getting out into the community, beyond responding to 911 calls. In Brooklyn Park, he did just that.

“We would have dialogue and share information with the community about policy decisions. We were constantly seeking feedback – ‘Are we heading in the right direction? Do you have concerns about what we’re doing?’” he said. “That allowed us to really build relationships with people getting to know their police department and staff members in a different way, away from the 911 calls.”

His former boss, Brooklyn Park Police Chief Craig Enevoldsen, provided an example of Milburn’s leadership in this area.

“We had a triple homicide here several years ago and Todd went and presented to the neighborhood,” Enevoldsen said. “It was a struggle because we couldn’t really tell them what had happened because we were still investigating. Todd worked through that and brought some peace and calm to the neighborhood without jeopardizing the investigation. He’s very well respected here by the other unit directors and universally throughout the police department.”

Milburn pledges to maintain the strong reputation of the City and its Police staff. That starts with taking care of the 77 men and women who report to him.


“Law enforcement is very challenging work right now – a lot of those who serve in this type of work have been impacted by the very unfortunate events that have unfolded,” he said. “But it does take a toll on morale and employee wellness and engagement and all those kinds of things. I like to pay attention to those dynamics to make sure that our employees are taken care of, that they’re engaged and that we provide them with the best tools and resources to be successful in this line of work.”



Police Chief Todd Milburn spent 29 years in Brooklyn Park before joining the Edina Police Department in August. (Photo by Dan Reisig)

“Edina has got great leadership in place, and it’s a city that knows where it’s going. What attracted me to the position was being surrounded by that environment and walking into what is already a great department. I am aware that the staff here are phenomenal, and there’s lots of collaboration within the department, but also with nearby cities as well.”

Milburn, who is married and a father of two teenagers, is ready for the challenge and excited to start the next chapter of his career in a new city and help shape the direction of Edina Police for years to come.

“It’s amazing,” he said of his three-decade career in law enforcement. “It’s a long time, and it doesn’t feel that way. I feel like I’ve got a lot left to give and offer, and I’m excited about taking on this new role and really challenging myself and coming up with new ways and new things to think about policing.” 

Edina Fall into the Arts Festival Returns Sept. 11 and 12

Enjoy Vibrant Art and Exhibitors as You Walk Centennial Lakes Park



Mark your calendar Sept. 11 and 12 for the Edina Fall into the Arts Festival at Centennial Lakes Park. Eventgoers can look forward to the same high quality of exhibits, cuisine and entertainment as previous years. (File Photo)

BY KAITLIN GAULT

Art Festival fans missed the Edina Art Fair and Uptown Art Fair in 2021, but they won't have to miss the Edina Fall into the Arts Festival.

The free Edina Fall into the Arts Festival will brighten up the walkways of Centennial Lakes Park, 7499 France Ave S., this month, marking the 17th year of the event. The festival will be open 10 a.m. to

6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 11, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 12.

About 220 artists, exhibitors and food vendors will sell their products around the lake at Centennial Lakes Park. Art Center General Manager Susan Tarnowski, who leads the event, said festival attendees can expect the same high-quality event as past years.

"With COVID-19 guidance allowing a full-festival experience, attendees can expect artists of different mediums and a diverse group of food vendors," she said. "The caliber of artists exhibiting this year is exquisite."

Current State guidance allows outdoor events. Adding an extra layer of safety, the festival will have handwashing stations throughout.

Mediums like fine crafts, glass, jewelry, mixed media, photography, pottery, two-dimensional artwork, wearable art/fiber, and wood will be on display for the more than 25,000 people expected to attend over the two days.

New this year, the Arts & Culture Commission and Energy & Environment Commission will share a booth to promote the City's Virtual Art Gallery and the benefits of zero waste.

The festival is organized by and benefits the Edina Crime Prevention Fund, which contributes to many Police Department programs and services, including the K-9 Unit, Motorcycle Unit, Police Explorers and Night to Unite. The Fund also offers reward money for information leading to arrests for serious crimes. The festival also benefits Centennial Lakes Park and the Edina Art Center.

"We really have one of the most beautiful locations for an art festival in the expanded Twin Cities metro," said Tarnowski. "The excellent artists we have coming will have something for everyone's interest."

For more information, visit edinafallintothearts.com or email Tarnowski at starnowski@EdinaMN.gov.

BY THE NUMBERS

Amundson Flats

Replacing a vacant dry-cleaning facility, the Amundson Flats apartment building opened in July at the corner of Amundson Avenue and West 70th Street in the Cahill Neighborhood. The development offers one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments with underground parking, in-unit laundry and a host of other amenities with convenient access to the adjacent Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail.



62

units in the building, all priced for affordable housing

40 years, the affordability period agreed to by the property owner, MWF Properties



60 percent of median area income needed to qualify

75 phone inquiries and 100 e-mails per day seeking rent information during the initial leasing period

\$660 monthly rental cost for a one-bedroom unit

\$1,490 monthly rental for a three-bedroom unit, the highest-priced one in the building

– COMPILED BY DAN REISIG

City to Move Forward With Referendum on Local-Option Sales Tax

Edina Voters to Decide on Half-Cent Tax in 2022

Edina voters will decide next year if there should be a 0.5 percent local-option sales tax in the community.

A local-option sales tax is a tax for a specific purpose or project of regional significance. It would only apply to taxable goods. The proposed Edina sales tax would equate to an additional 50 cents on each \$100 purchase of taxable goods. It is estimated to generate more than \$4 million annually.

At the request of the Edina City Council, the Minnesota State Legislature adopted legislation earlier this year to authorize the City to conduct a referendum seeking approval from Edina voters on the imposition of a new local-option sales tax to providing funding for the Fred Richards Park Master Plan and the Braemar Park Master Plan. The City Council took action last month to move forward with the referendum, which will be conducted Nov. 8, 2022.

The Fred Richards Park Master Plan is estimated to cost \$17.7 million to implement. Improvements at Braemar Park, which include items at Braemar Arena, are estimated to cost \$20.9 million.

In other business last month, the Council:

- Approved a conditional-use permit to allow for a new parking lot, cul-de-sac with security gate on Waterman Avenue and an expanded practice tee and new putting green at Interlachen Country Club, 5200 Interlachen Blvd.
- Established a new tax-increment financing (TIF) district at 4040 W. 70th St. TIF will be used to fund the

proposed development of 118 units of affordable housing on the site.

- Approved revised plans for Pentagon Village, originally approved in 2019. Jay Scott, Solomon Real Estate and Rise Development now plan to build a six-story, 200-unit apartment building at 4911 77th St. W. Ten percent of the units would be for affordable housing.
- Enacted a Tenant Protection Ordinance to protect those who live in naturally occurring affordable housing. Under the ordinance, property owners are limited in their ability to increase rents and prohibited from not renewing leases without cause for three months after a transfer of ownership.
- Supported a proposed layout for Hennepin County's Vernon Avenue bridge replacement project, scheduled for construction in 2023. The existing bridge, built in 1927, has weight restrictions and is classified as structurally deficient. The new bridge will provide improved safety for all modes of transportation with roadway improvements on Vernon between Minnesota Highway 100 and Interlachen Boulevard.
- Awarded bids for tennis court surface replacements at Rosland, Walnut Ridge and Yancey parks.

The City Council next meets 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 9 and Tuesday, Sept. 21. For more information, visit EdinaMN.gov.



– COMPILED BY JENNIFER BENNEROTTE

UPCOMING EVENTS

Recurring Events:

Farmers Market,
Centennial Lakes Park
3-7 p.m. Thursdays

Monday, Sept. 6, Labor Day
City offices closed

Tuesday, Sept. 7, Rosh Hashanah
No City meetings

Thursday, Sept. 9, 7 p.m.
City Council meeting, Edina City Hall, Council Chambers

Friday, Sept. 10, 7:30 a.m.
Housing & Redevelopment Authority meeting, Edina City Hall

Saturday, Sept. 11, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sunday, Sept. 12, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Fall into the Arts Festival, Centennial Lakes Park

Sunday, Sept. 12, 3-5 p.m.
Stop the Hate, Edina City Hall

The Human Rights & Relations Commission presents an event to address the rise in hate crimes in America. BIPOC speakers and an open mic will be available for community members to share their stories.

Thursday, Sept. 16, Yom Kippur
No City meetings

Saturday, Sept. 18, 9 a.m.
Walk With the Mayor, Rosland Park

In the event of rain or inclement weather, the walk will be held at Southdale Center; meet near the Caribou Coffee in the center court.

Thursday, Sept. 23, 7:30 a.m.
Housing & Redevelopment Authority meeting, Edina City Hall

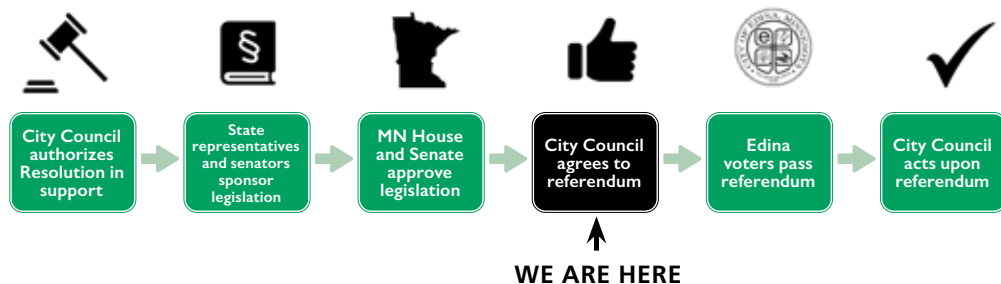
Sept. 23-26, Chalk the Walk
Centennial Lakes Park

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

Watch City Council, Housing & Redevelopment Authority and Planning Commission meetings live:

- Edina TV (Comcast Channels 813 or 16)
- Facebook.com/EdinaMN
- "Watch a Meeting" web page at EdinaMN.gov/LiveMeetings

Process to Approve a Local Option Sales Tax in Edina



Comment on the City's Draft Climate Action Plan!



Join the conversation to help everyone who lives and works in Edina imagine and achieve a future where the Earth and all who live on it thrive. Review the plan and share your thoughts before the end of September:

- Find our booth in person at the **Edina Farmers Market** 3-7 p.m. Thursdays at Centennial Lakes Park
- Find our booth in person at the **Fall Into the Arts Festival** Sept. 11 or 12 at Centennial Lakes Park
- Share your feedback online at **BetterTogetherEdina.org**

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EDINA, MN 55424

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Drive 25: City Lowers Speed Limit on Residential Streets

City Hopes to Improve Safety for All Modes of Transportation

BY KAITLIN GAULT

It's official: The speed limit on most local streets in Edina will be reduced to 25 mph this fall. The reason for the change? Safety.



"Studies have shown that lower speed limits reduce likelihood and severity of motor vehicle crashes," said Transportation Planner Andrew Scipioni. "Lowering speed limits across the city also creates a scenario where streets are designed to support all modes of transportation, not just motor vehicles. We are really taking into account the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and transit users so that the City's transportation system is one that supports all ages and abilities."

Earlier this year, the City Council approved speed limits for each street within Edina's jurisdiction. At its Aug. 4 meeting, the City Council approved an implementation plan for the change, which includes signage, communication, enforcement and evaluation.

Reducing speed limits is one piece of a comprehensive strategy to address speeding. The change also supports the City's Comprehensive Plan, the Living Streets Plan, the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan and the Active Routes to School Plan.

Some collector and arterial streets will remain at 30 mph because they serve a regional traffic need. Examples of streets that will remain at 30 mph include Interlachen Boulevard, a portion of West 50th Street by Minnesota Highway 100, and the frontage road system along Interstate 494.

Scipioni said residents can expect to notice the reduction of speed limits soon through various communication channels and signage.

About 250 signs will need to be removed, replaced or added. Crews will aim to



Edina residents can soon expect to see a reduction of most speed limits within City boundaries. The change from 30 mph to 25 mph aims to improve safety for all modes of transportation. (Photo by Kaitlin Gault)

complete a quadrant each month, starting on the east side and working west. All signs should be completed by end of 2021.

"We really want everyone to understand that this is more than reducing speed limits," said Scipioni. "This is part of a comprehensive approach to improve pedestrian safety, complementary of minimum roadway widths and redesign, and adding new pedestrian, cyclist and transit infrastructure to our city. We have to do all three to achieve long-term safety."