

Edition: Edina



MAY 2022
Volume 9, Issue 5

CITY GOALS:  Strong Foundation  Reliable Service  Livable City  Better Together

City Assessor Set to Retire After 19 Years With Edina

Wilson Estimates He Has Overseen Over 450,000 Valuations as a City Assessor

BY BRITTANY BADER

City Assessor Bob Wilson is retiring after almost two decades with the City of Edina and 34 total years of being a City Assessor.

“Most people in this field don’t start out knowing they want to be an assessor,” Wilson shared.

That was true of Wilson, too, which might seem surprising considering his long list of professional accomplishments, including the Minnesota Association of Assessing Officers’ Lifetime Achievement Award.

As Edina’s City Assessor, Wilson oversees the Assessing Division, which includes one Commercial Property Appraiser, three Residential Property Appraisers and two Assessing Specialists. Wilson is responsible for ensuring equitable appraisal and assessment of all properties within the city for tax purposes – approximately 19,000 residential and 700 commercial, industrial and apartment properties each year.

“Bob Wilson has one of the most difficult jobs in our City. He is responsible for telling individuals the monetary worth of what is likely their most valuable and personal asset: their home,” said City Manager Scott Neal. “To do this job well, you need to be good at math, empathic and fair to all concerned. Bob has all those qualities.”

Wilson recalls not learning of the profession until he took a summer job one year with the City of Hopkins while in college. The position was in field data collection, and he went door to door meeting residents, looking at properties and filling out field cards. He ended up enjoying it so much that he returned to do it two more summers. After graduating with degrees in Business/Economics and English from Mount Senario College in Wisconsin, he briefly worked in another



Bob Wilson will retire at the end of May after being Edina’s City Assessor since 2003.
(Photo by Brittany Bader)

field. However, in 1981, his ambitions led him back to the field indefinitely when he became an Appraisal Assistant for Hennepin County.


Wilson continued to work his way up, next becoming a Residential Appraiser with the City of St. Louis Park in 1983, and then notably, the City Assessor for the City of Hopkins in 1988, where he stayed for 15 years.

“My wife had always asked me, ‘If you ever work for another city, what would it be?’” Wilson said of his next career move. “My answer was, ‘If Edina opened up, that would be a city I’d be interested in

working for,” Wilson came to the City of Edina in 2003 – a decision that has stuck for 19 years.

In Wilson’s 34 years as a City Assessor between Hopkins and Edina, he estimates he has overseen approximately 466,885 valuations.

“Bob has a lifetime of career success, and he certainly will be missed here,” Neal remarked.

Wilson’s last day of work in Edina is May 31. The search for the next City Assessor has been underway since March. 

Big Trucks and Big Fun at May 19 Public Works Open House

Celebrate Public Works Week with this Free, Family-Friendly Event

BY BRITTANY BADER

Get a behind-the-scenes look at how Public Works, Engineering and Park Maintenance help make the city run, all while having fun.

The City will host a "Big Trucks" open house 4-7 p.m. Thursday, May 19, at the Public Works & Park Maintenance Facility, 7450 Metro Blvd. Sit behind the wheel of a front-end loader or see what it's like to be behind the controls of an excavator.

This free, family-friendly event is open to everyone and will take place during National Public Works Week, a week dedicated to celebrating public works professionals. There will be specialized equipment, hand and power tools and no shortage of big trucks on display!

"This is really a backstage pass for the public to see firsthand the ways these departments serve our community — ways that aren't always easily visible, like maintaining the underground water system that feeds each home and business, cleaning and caring for over 200 miles of roadway and providing the

necessary maintenance to keep our City's emergency vehicles running their best," said Public Works Coordinator Dave Goergen. "These are things you might not think of every day, but are an essential part of City operations."

Attendees may arrive at any time but should plan for 30-45 minutes to see everything. Free hot dogs, snacks and refreshments will be served.

"We hope children have fun interacting with the stations, exploring different

vehicles and learning about types of jobs in Public Works. For adults, we hope it provides greater transparency into what these departments maintain within the city, how they operate and the annual projects they oversee," said Goergen.

The open house will be held rain or shine, and registration is not required. Parking will be available in the main lot, with overflow parking available at 7400 Metro Blvd. For more information, call the Public Works Department, 952-826-0376, or visit EdinaMN.gov.



There will be no shortage of big trucks! The log loader, as pictured here at the 2018 event, will be on display, as well as a street sweeper, paver, front-end loader, bucket truck and more. (File Photo)

BY THE NUMBERS

Summer Parks & Recreation Programming

With spring in full swing, Edina's many parks and recreation facilities are ready to be explored and enjoyed by residents. The Parks & Recreation Department offers programs for all ages, ones that can be done as families or solo, and classes and workshops that can help further develop a skill.

Visit EdinaParks.com to learn more.



143

Summer Parks & Recreation activities

510

 Summer Parks & Recreation program sessions

375

 Seasonal staff to be hired for summer programs and maintenance

44

Parks

9

Recreation Facilities



- COMPILED BY RICARDO ACOSTA

Volunteers Needed for Ambitious Arbor Day Tree Planting

People Will Help Add 200 Trees in One Day at Rosland Park

BY DEBBIE TOWNSEND

This year's Arbor Day celebration will feature one of the most ambitious public tree-planting events in City history, and your help is needed.

On Friday, May 6, Parks Maintenance staff, Tree Trust and volunteers will plant 200 trees of 22 different species in Rosland Park, 4300 W. 66th St.


"We are planting climate-adaptive species that will be here the next 100 years," said City Forester Luther Overholt.

The event will kick off the NextGen Trees effort to plant 1,000 trees across the city by the end of 2023. A mix of trees will be placed on City properties and public green spaces, plus many will be planted in multifamily complexes that lack the tree

density of other parts of Edina. Much of the funding comes from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

For the family-friendly May 6 tree planting, 200 holes will be pre-dug to make it easier. Volunteers will be shown how to properly plant a tree, then sent off in groups. Compost created from the City's curbside organics program will be used to help the trees thrive.

All equipment will be provided. Volunteers are asked to bring gloves and wear closed-toed shoes. Register in advance at bit.ly/37PdxXE. Planting is set for 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Check in at the pavilion near the playground.

For more information, contact Overholt at LOverholt@EdinaMN.gov. 



Volunteers of all ages are needed May 6 to help plant 200 trees in Rosland Park, far more than attempted at this 2021 Arbor Day event in Fred Richards Park.

Compost Giveaway

What: Free 40-pound bags of compost (you lift and load), created from the City's curbside organics program.

When: 9 a.m.-dusk May 6-8 and 13-15, while supplies last.


Where: Braemar Golf Dome parking lot, 7420 Braemar Blvd.

Details: Limited to Edina residents; bring ID. Organics recycling information and supplies also will be handed out at the event.

City of Edina Advisory Boards & Commissions

More than 100 residents volunteer to serve on the City's 10 advisory boards and commissions, which advise the City Council on various projects and sometimes make recommendations for its consideration. Except for the Board of Appeal & Equalization, each body includes student members who are typically high school juniors or seniors.

Below are the City's boards and commissions, along with their typical meeting times and members.

For more information on the City's boards and commissions, contact Community Engagement Manager MJ Lamon, 952-826-0360 or MLamon@EdinaMN.gov, or visit bit.ly/EdinaBoardsCommissions. 



Arts & Culture Commission

4:30 p.m. fourth Thursday of the month

Kathy Amlaw	Tiffany Shen*
Reeya Anand*	Rebecca Sorensen, Chair
Susan Chandler	Brian Stemmler
Alyssa Fram	Laura Westlund
Susan Johnson	Alana Zbaren
Russ Rubin	

Board of Appeal & Equalization

Meets twice in April of each year

Andrew Ayers	Robert MacPhail
Rhonda Bland	Michael McCauley
Philip Buckvold	

Community Health Commission

6:30 p.m. second Monday of the month

Mary Absolon, Chair	Ellie Mullen*
Andrew Hawkins	Tracy Nelson
Ben Hykes*	Julia Selleys
Philip King-Lowe	Michael Wood
Robert Loesch	Gregory Wright
Nick Mattison	

Construction Board of Appeals

Meets as necessary

Wayne Dvorak	Aaron Ouska
Ryan Holten	Austin Wagner
Chip Howard	

Energy & Environment Commission

7 p.m. second Thursday of the month

Ukasha Dakane	Hilda Martinez, Chair
John Haugen	Suryash Rawat*
Teri Hovanac	Stephen Schima
Michelle Horan	Ava Shumway*
Bayardo Lanzas	Tom Tessman
Cory Lukens	

Heritage Preservation Commission

7 p.m. second Tuesday of the month

Robert Cundy	Ashwin Maheshwari*
Thomas Evenson	Sarah Nymo
Mark Hassenstab	Rachel Pollock
Andrea Kmetz-Sheehy	Sadie Roy*
Garrett Knudsen	Annie Schilling, Chair
Jane Lonquist	

Human Rights & Relations Commission

7 p.m. fourth Tuesday of the month

Joni Bennett	Sabeehudeen Mirza*
Michael Epstein, Chair	Amir Missaghi
Mark Felton	George Pastrana
Leticia Guadarrama	Mamie Segall
Fartun Ismail	Jasmine Brett
Francesca	Stringer Moore
Lichtenberger*	

Parks & Recreation Commission

7 p.m. second Tuesday of the month

Matthew Doscotch	Sammy Presthus*
Greg Good	John Spanhake
Brian Haas	Julie Strother
Rick Ites, Chair	Bryce Weaver
Urva Jha*	Ericka Welsh
Jamie Pfuhl	

Planning Commission

7 p.m. second and fourth Wednesdays of the month

Kate Agnew, Chair	Joann Olsen
David Alkire	Lori Olson
Kenley Barberot*	Bonnie Padilla
James Bennett	Quincy Smith
William Hayward*	Gerard Strauss
Louis Miranda	

Transportation Commission

6 p.m. third Thursday of the month

Melinda Ahler	Stephen Kanti
Chris Brown	Mahanty*
Anna Clark*	Andy Lewis
Kirk Johnson, Chair	Bruce McCarthy
Aboubekrine Kane	Jill Plumb-Smith
Janet Kitui	Lori Richman

*Student Commissioner

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, May 1

Start of Step To It Challenge

Sunday, May 1, 6 p.m.

Side by Side/Rhythmic Feet,
Edinborough Park Amphitheater

Monday, May 2, 5:30 p.m.

Boards and Commissions Recognition
Event, Braemar Golf Course

Monday, May 2

Opening of outdoor amenities,
Centennial Lakes Park

Wednesday, May 4, 7 p.m.

City Council meeting, Edina City Hall

Thursday, May 5, 11:30 a.m.

Storytime with an Edina Police Officer,
Edinborough Park Amphitheater

Friday, May 6, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Edina Garden Council plant sale,
Arneson Acres Park

Saturday, May 7, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Edina Garden Council plant sale,
Arneson Acres Park

Friday, May 6, 10 a.m.

Arbor Day tree-planting event,
Rosland Park

Sunday, May 8, 6 p.m.

Northern Winds Concert Band,
Edinborough Park Amphitheater

May 9-14

NextGen Trees giveaway,
Braemar Golf Dome parking lot

Sunday, May 15, 6 p.m.

Minneapolis Police Band,
Edinborough Park Amphitheater

Tuesday, May 17, 7 p.m.

City Council meeting, Edina City Hall

Thursday, May 19, 4-7 p.m.

Big Trucks Open House, Public Works &
Park Maintenance Facility

Thursday, May 19, 7:30 a.m.

Housing & Redevelopment Authority
meeting, Edina City Hall

Saturday, May 21, 10 a.m.

Vehicle Day, Southdale Center
parking lot

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

CITY OF EDINA
4801 WEST 50TH STREET
EDINA, MN 55424

PRESORT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TWIN CITIES MN
Permit No. 3932

ECRWSS
POSTAL PATRON
CAR-RT-WS



Iskaan-garee koodhkan oo ku fiiri
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EdinaMN.gov/SomaliEE



Escanee este código para ver en
español
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New Precinct Boundaries To Go Into Effect

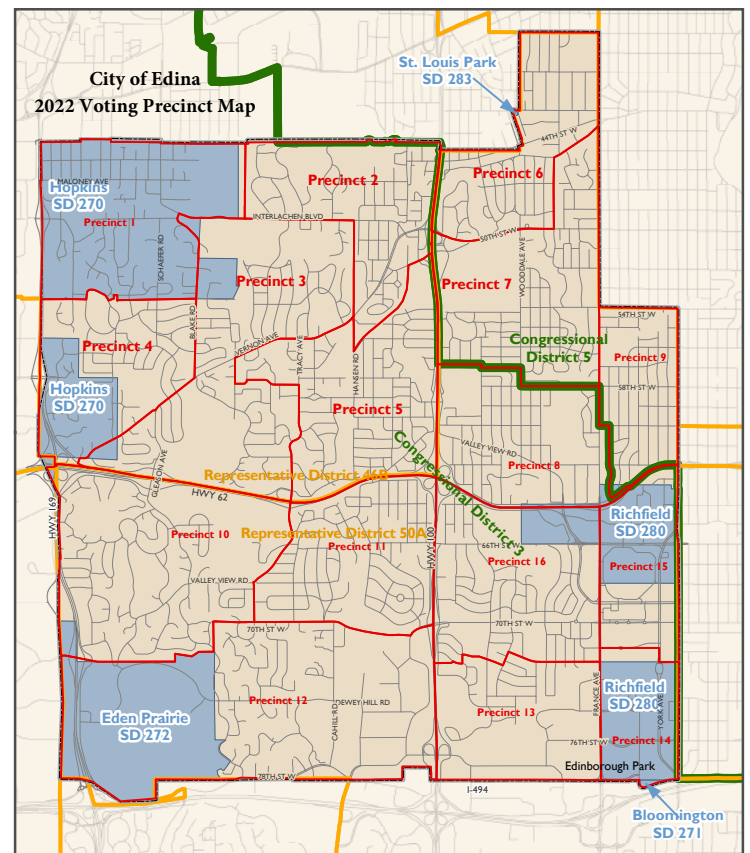
Voting precinct boundaries changed in 2022 due to redistricting, which happens every 10 years after the U.S. Census is taken.

District boundaries are redrawn to ensure equal representation. This includes Congressional, State legislative, city, county, soil and water conservation districts, hospital districts, school districts and more.

In mid-February, a panel from the Minnesota Judicial Branch released its redistricting plan. The biggest change for Edina is that most residents are now in House Districts 46B and 50A instead of 49A and 49B.

Voting precinct boundaries also changed due to redistricting and to bring total voters in each precinct in sync with the Secretary of State's recommendation of 2,000 per voting spot and eliminate polling places that are too small, too hot in August or where the layout does not function properly.

You can find your new polling place on this map or look for a postcard in your mail this summer from Hennepin County listing your new polling location.



Legend

- Precinct Boundary
- Representative District
- Congressional District
- Municipal Boundary
- School Districts
- Edina (273)
- Other School Districts

March 2022
0 2,250 Feet

All new redistricting boundaries go into effect for the State Primary Election Aug. 9. Learn more at EdinaMN.gov/election.