



Edina's Junior Police Program Leads On

by Lauryn Grimes, Communications Intern

Have you ever shot your gun? How fast have you driven your car? Do you handcuff bad guys a lot? Do you like your job?

These are some things that Edina's elementary students wonder about police officers and the questions Officer Mike Seeger hears the most, especially when he visits local schools each spring for the Junior Police program.

Junior Police is a friendly introduction to the Edina Police Department and its officers, and much more.

"It's to remind the students that they are the eyes and ears, and if they see something that isn't quite right, they shouldn't be afraid to call and tell somebody about it," said City Council Member Mary Brindle, a member of the Edina Crime Prevention Fund and the Rotary Club of Edina Morningside, which together pay for the program.

Junior Police was started by the Edina Exchange Club in the 1970s, but when the Club dissolved, Bob Seeger – Mike's father – and Dave Wendt brought Junior Police to the Rotary Club of Edina Morningside.

Junior Police was created as a way to bridge the gap between the City's Police Department and the community, Brindle noted. It also

reinforces the idea of "stranger danger," and keeps kids safe, she said.

Seeger completed the program when he was in elementary school and has helped continue the program for almost 30 years.

"My dad pinned on my badge when I completed the program, and was able to pin on my 10-year-old's badge when he [completed the program]," said Seeger.



Different from Explorers, Junior Police is geared toward elementary students – second- or third-graders, depending on what each school decides. The program teaches kids to "relax a little bit" around Police Officers and seek their help when needed. Explorers is a career-building program that gives young adults between the ages of 14 and 21 an opportunity to get a sense of what being in law enforcement would be like.

"[The kids in Junior Police] get to see us as people. That's why I sit in a chair in the classroom. I'm at eye-level," said Seeger, who has been recognized by students off-duty because of his involvement with the program.

The importance of the program was underscored a few years ago. Some elementary-aged students were walking home from school and escaped a potential attempted-kidnapping incident. One student had gone through the

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BIRTHDAYS

- June 6, Debra, Administration
- June 6, Douglas, Police
- June 6, Eric, Police
- June 6, Chad, Engineering
- June 7, Karen, Administration
- June 7, Cary, Community Development
- June 8, Larry, Public Works
- June 9, Peter, Public Works
- June 9, Thomas, Edina Liquor
- June 10, Thomas, Engineering
- June 11, Debra, South Metro Public Safety Training Facility
- June 11, Julie, Police
- June 12, Ryan, Communications & Technology Services
- June 16, Chad, Police
- June 17, Terri, Human Resources

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AROUND THE WATER COOLER

Following is a summary of some of the projects of some departments, divisions and facilities. Other areas of the City will be featured in upcoming issues.

Centennial Lakes Park



The Centennial Lakes Farmers Market will be held 3 to 7 p.m.

Thursdays June 12 through the end of September. Vendors will set up along the walkways leading north and south from Hughes Pavilion. The Farmers Market will be held rain or shine!

Also, don't forget to join us this summer for our Movies in the Park at sunset every Thursday. Here are some upcoming movies: "Saving Mr. Banks," June 12; "42," June 19; "Frozen," June 26; "The Lorax," July 3; and "Gravity," July 10.

Fire-Rescue & Inspections

The Edina Fire Department was called to the 6400 block of West Shore Drive shortly before 5 a.m. May 22, after receiving reports of smoke seen from Minnesota Highway 62. Fire crews discovered a working fire upon arrival, which had already engulfed the home's garage where the fire was believed to have started. The fire extended into the home, causing significant damage to the structure. There was also minor heat damage to one of the homes next door. Edina Fire Marshal Jeff Siems said had the home had a residential fire sprinkler system, damage would have been minimal.

Police



Submitted Photo

On May 20, seven of our Reserve Officers graduated from the Hennepin County Reserve Officer School. They participated in 40 hours

of training at Hennepin County Sheriff's Office over the past seven weeks. If you see Amber Kittleson, Ryan Elasky, Jeff Elasky, Aleck Williams, Dave Norr, Craig Baumeister or Ken Varble (not pictured), please congratulate them!

Public Works

The weekend of May 30 was a busy one for the Public Works Department. Staff delivered nearly 3,500 sandbags to 30 homes along Minnehaha Creek after receiving reports of flooding in backyards and basements.

Record-setting rains across the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) caused Lake Minnetonka to rise by 5.4 inches to an all-time record elevation of 930.66 feet above sea level on Tuesday, June 3. That exceeds the previous record of 930.52 set in September 2002.



Photo by Kaylin Martin

As of June 3, the District was discharging water at the Gray's Bay dam at a rate of 300 cubic feet per second (CFS), and an estimated additional 275 CFS of water is flowing over the spillway north of the dam. The latest rains have put the Twin Cities into second place for the wettest year-to-date since 1871.

Water levels will likely remain high for some time. Residents along the creek are encouraged to keep any sandbags intact until Lake Minnetonka water levels have lowered and the City organizes a collection of the bags. Lakes and streams across the District are still hazardous due to high water, swift currents, debris, impassable bridges and other dangers.

STAFF NOTES



Brain Hanrahan was recently promoted to the position of Fire Inspector. Hanrahan began his career with the City in 2000 as a Paramedic /Firefighter. He holds an associate degree in Paramedicine and a bachelor's degree in Biology. Hanrahan is currently working toward his second associate degree, from Hennepin Technical College, in the Fire Science Technology program.



Justin Patterson began work on May 13 as a Community Service Officer for the Edina Police Department. Patterson holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Kansas in American History and is currently enrolled at Inverwood Community College, pursuing a degree in Law Enforcement.



Dane Mosman began his role as Intern May 21 for the Edina Police Department. Mosman is in school to receive a degree in Criminal Justice from Winona State University. Mosman will be with the Police Department until the end of August.



On May 19, **Jeff Elasky** was promoted to Deputy Chief for the Edina Police Department. Elasky began his career with the City in 1989 as a Community Service Officer and in 1992, he began serving as Animal Control Officer. Throughout the years, Elasky has held the positions of Police Officer, Sergeant and Lieutenant. Prior to working for the City, Elasky worked at Scott County Sheriff's Department as part-time Deputy Sheriff.



On May 19, **Craig Essig** was promoted to Assistant Fire Chief of Training & Safety. Due to an organizational change within the Fire Department, the Battalion Chief position was eliminated and replaced with an Assistant Chief position. Essig joined the Fire Department in 1999 as Paramedic/Firefighter. He was promoted to Fire Lieutenant in 2001, Captain in 2010 and most recently Battalion Chief in 2011.



Lauryn Grimes began work as Communications Intern for the Communications & Technology Services Department May 19. Grimes will graduate from the University of Northwestern – St. Paul in December with a bachelor's degree in Public Relations.



Lee Renneke began work May 19 as Environmental Health Specialist for the Health Division. Renneke completed an internship with the City last summer, but most recently worked for the Minnesota Department of Health as a Public Health Sanitarian. Renneke holds a bachelor's degree in Food Science Technology from the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities.



Jamie Cynor has resigned after serving 13 years with the City, most recently as Senior Engineering Technician. His last day will be June 6. He will begin work as Materials Lab Coordinator for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation in its Green Bay, Wisconsin, office June 30.

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Photo by Lauryn Grimes

Junior Police program a few weeks prior, was able to recognize the danger, report it and ultimately give the Police the lead they needed to catch the predator. "Junior Police reinforces the importance of living a safe life," said Brindle.

Before the end of the school year, officers who lead the Junior Police program visited almost 700 students in 10 different schools – public and private.

For more information on the Junior Police Program contact Seeger at 952-826-1610.

SUMMER MUSIC

In the Park

Don't miss Music in the Park at Rosland Park, 4300 W. 66th St. Bring a picnic, lawn chairs or a blanket and settle back for a relaxing and fun evening. All concerts are free and open to the public.

Michael Monroe

6 p.m. June 13

First John Philip Sousa Memorial Band

8:30 p.m. July 4

Patty Peterson

6 p.m. July 18

Edina Music All-Stars

6 p.m. Aug. 1



**ARTS & CULTURE
COMMISSION**

MusicInEdina.org