

SUN CURRENT

EDINA



Ready for more

A tense Lake Conference boys hockey championship race continues this week.

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Thursday, Feb. 11, 2021



(SUN CURRENT STAFF PHOTO BY CAITLIN ANDERSON)

The Hilltop, located in Edina, began being able to allow patrons back into its restaurant last month. Restaurants can open at 50% capacity, according to restrictions by Gov. Tim Walz.

Edina restaurants reopen again

Takeout has become a 'strong part of business' amid restrictions

By CAITLIN ANDERSON
caitlin.anderson@apgecm.com

Despite hits to business due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Brett Johnson said the vibe in his Edina restaurant has been extremely

positive since reopening for indoor dining last month.

Even with restrictions to capacity and physical distance, the scene at The Hilltop is one of excitement – expressed by Johnson's staff and customers alike.

"It's a giant, giant, giant step in the right direction," he said.

And that's a common sentiment among Edina restaurant owners who have seen sales plummet and staff furloughed during the pandemic. "It was amazing to be able to reopen because we just needed that to survive,"

said Anne Spaeth, owner of The Lynhall.

Restaurants were first told to shut down for in-person dining in March when the pandemic started ramping up. Then in November, after cases began rising exponentially state-

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Edina Schools superintendent announces district retirement in June

Edina Public Schools Superintendent John Schultz has announced his intent to retire at the end of the 2020-21 school year. Schultz joined Edina in July 2017 after serving as superintendent at Hopkins Public School for 11 years.

Schultz's retirement concludes a 35-year career in K-12 education. He started as a junior high school science teacher before becoming a district-wide science coordinator, and then, a director of teaching and learning. Schultz is also a faculty member at The Superintendency Institute and an adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota's program for educational leadership development.

During his Edina Public Schools tenure, Schultz guided the district through the development of its next strategic plan and con-

struction related to the Next Gen Facilities Plan.

"It has been an honor to serve this community," Schultz said. "Edina Public Schools remains an exemplar of excellence in Minnesota, and that only happens with a collective passion around education and learning. This is truly a community that steps up to help, no matter what the need or circumstance, and after 35-plus years in public education, I can tell you this is what makes Edina Schools unique and special."

Schultz's retirement is effective June 30. The Edina School Board will immediately begin the search for the district's next superintendent. A timeline for the process will be announced soon, according to the district.

— Courtesy Edina Public Schools



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Reopen

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wide, Gov. Tim Walz ordered restaurants to shutter again to a takeout-only model for four weeks.

In anticipation of Walz extending this restriction, an organization called the ReOpen Minnesota Coalition published a list of businesses who intended to open in defiance of an extended order. After the extension, several establishments opened, including Alibi Drinkery in Lakeville, which are now being sued by the Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison.

But the majority of restaurants waited to reopen for indoor dining until it was safe to do so. On Jan. 11, Walz allowed restaurants to reopen with restrictions.

Under current mandate, restaurants cannot exceed a 50% capacity with a maximum of 150 people. Physical distancing of six feet must be established between different parties.



(SUN CURRENT STAFF PHOTO BY CAITLIN ANDERSON)

Stephanie Shimp, co-owner of Edina Grill, said her restaurant business has had to adapt throughout the pandemic.

Each table cannot have more than six patrons. Additionally, restaurants must close for indoor dining between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m.

“Every business in the state, in the country, has learned how to adapt,” said Pajarito owner Steve Hesse. “It’s frustrating, but it’s not anybody’s indi-

vidual faults, so you just go with what you got and just make it happen.”

Value of takeout

Johhson said takeout has become “a strong part of our business.” In order to keep up with orders, The Hilltop created a new role in the restaurant that deals exclusively with takeout

orders. Prior to the pandemic, the restaurant was only doing a fraction of the takeout business that it’s now experiencing.

To-go orders have been a focus since March, because for many restaurants, this was one of the only ways they could continue to operate during times of closure.



(SUN CURRENT STAFF PHOTO BY CAITLIN ANDERSON)

Pajarito, located at 50th & France, has never been able to open at full capacity. The restaurant was scheduled to open two days after Gov. Tim Walz ordered the closure of restaurants in March.

“It’s just kind of survival mode,” said Shelly Loberg, vice president of the Edina Chamber of Commerce.

But even with lifted restrictions, owners say

many of their customers don’t feel comfortable coming to eat indoors.

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Reopen

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Spaeth said the takeout model – including delivery services and holiday meal orders – has been a lifeline in the pandemic. With this model, Spaeth said her restaurant, which has a location in Edina and Minneapolis, has allowed for greater outreach in the community beyond these cities.

Out of the Minneapolis location, Spaeth began offering Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for patrons to take home during the holidays. Now, she's added Valentine's Day dinners to take home, and from the Edina location, afternoon tea to sip at home.

"That's what we're really, really focused on in 2021 – how can we get food to people in a way that is comfortable to them and safe to them?" Spaeth said. She had not considered selling take-home holiday meals prior to the pandemic.

Pajarito's Edina location never got to fully open before Walz made the call to close restaurants, Hesse said. With the first closing, the restaurant didn't offer takeout. But with the second, Hesse said they pivoted to takeout right away.

Hesse added that a recent citywide cap on third-par-

ty delivery fees, like from DoorDash, have helped immensely. The Edina City Council approved this emergency regulation in January, capping delivery service fees on restaurants at 15%. "It's one of those necessary evils," Hesse said. But a high surcharge hurts restaurants, he said.

"Restaurants don't make millions of dollars; they make pennies. And once you start digging into the pennies, then you don't have many pennies to go around," Hesse said. "So it's nice that mandate came in."

Support from a variety of sources

One of the biggest sources of support was the community, several restaurant owners said.

"People have been incredibly supportive of us and other restaurants through COVID," Spaeth said.

Stephanie Shimp, co-owner of Blue Plate Restaurant Company, which owns Edina Grill, said the community wants to help, but takeout often isn't enough to sustain a business. She said she's had to furlough staff twice due to the closings, but tries to keep the restaurant kicking for them and for patrons.

Receiving Paycheck Protection Program – or PPP – loans from the federal government were also cited by owners as helpful.



(SUN CURRENT STAFF PHOTO BY CAITLIN ANDERSON)

Brett Johnson, owner of The Hilltop, said the restaurant has heavily relied on takeout orders for business due to customer weariness over eating inside a restaurant. The restaurant started a new position at the restaurant that deals with takeout orders only during the pandemic.

"(It was) game-changing," Johnson said. "I'd be a fool not to admit that without hundreds of thousands of dollars from the government that it would be hard for me to be open."

In addition to a limit on third-party delivery fees to aid businesses, the Edina City Council also voted to approve a regulation that allows a prorated decrease in liquor license fees. This means that for any restaurant or bar that bought a liquor license in 2020, half of what they paid will be

put toward the cost of this year's license.

For The Hilltop, these fees cost \$9,000 annually. Johnson said to make up for half that amount of money, he would have to sell a lot of cheeseburgers and Coors Lights. To not have to, "it's a huge help," he said.

Facing the future

In case of future shutdowns or more limits on capacity, Spaeth said she's working to "COVID-proof" her business. In

addition to takeout and delivery, she is launching a subscription service where patrons can sign up for monthly dinners or brunch. "Pre-orders, subscriptions ... helps us lower our risks by having more of that built-in revenue rather than the extreme highs and lows associated with traditional restaurant life," she said.

Shimp said Edina Grill has gotten good at "being flexible and adapting and pivoting. And no matter what you throw at us, we'll

figure it out one way or another."

"We're just hoping we can get these vaccines out that people feel confident to go out again," Hesse said. "We'll just keep chugging along."

Johnson said that with people now getting vaccinated, he's feeling different from last year.

"There's a lot more hope. And there's a lot more less uncertainty," he said.

– Follow Caitlin Anderson on Twitter @EdinaSunCurrent

Legals

MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME

Minnesota Statutes, 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

ASSUMED NAME:
Golden Island
PRINCIPAL PLACE
OF BUSINESS:
600 Hennepin Avenue
Minneapolis MN 55403 USA
NAMEHOLDER(S):
Link Snacks, Inc
1010 Dale Street N.
St. Paul MN 55117 USA

I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing

this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

DATE FILED: January 28, 2021
SIGNED BY: Kathleen Manson
Published in the
Sun Current
February 4, 11, 2021
1112310

MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME

Minnesota Statutes, 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

ASSUMED NAME:
Halcyon Studios
PRINCIPAL PLACE
OF BUSINESS:
4601 Colfax Ave S
Minneapolis MN 55419
United States
NAMEHOLDER(S):
Lily Parmenter
4601 Colfax Ave S
Minneapolis MN 55419
United States

I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify

that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

DATE FILED: January 30, 2021
SIGNED BY: Lily Parmenter
Published in the
Sun Current
February 11, 18, 2021
1113068

MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME

Minnesota Statutes, 333

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ASSUMED NAME:
House of Bread
PRINCIPAL PLACE
OF BUSINESS:
5116 West 58th Street
Edina, MINNESOTA 55436 USA
NAMEHOLDER(S):
Bridgette Fink
5116 West 58th Street
Edina, MINNESOTA 55436 USA

I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose

signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

DATE FILED: November 23, 2020
SIGNED BY: Bridgette L. Fink
Published in the
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February 11, 18, 2021
1113207

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 273 MINUTES OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 273 EDINA, MINNESOTA JANUARY 4, 2021

7:05 PM Chair Allenburg called to order the organizational meeting of the School Board. All participants attended remotely. Members present: Allenburg, Fox, Greene, Jones, Michaelson, Shaw, Wallen-Friedman. Staff present: Schultz, Toop, Tuescher, Woitte. Guest: CPA Bill Lauer, Principal, MMKR.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIR

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS APPROVAL OF MINUTES CONSENT ITEMS

A. Reaffirmation of Policies
B. School Board Compensation
C. School Board Committees, Appointments, Liaisons and Representatives

D. Appointments
1. District Architect
2. District Auditors
3. District Legal Counsel
E. Authorization of Credit Cards
F. Delegations of Authority

1. Electronic Fund Transfers
2. Pay Claims Prior to Board Approval

G. Designations
1. Depositories
2. Official Newspaper
3. Responsible Authority and Data Practices Compliance Officials

4. Signatories to General Check-accounts for 2021

ACTION

A. District Audit 2019-20

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 PM. The minutes and resolutions are open to public inspection on the district website, and on file at the district office, 5701 Normandale Road.

Ms. Erica Allenburg, Chair
Ms. Ellen Jones, Clerk
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1113012

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 273 MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 273 EDINA, MINNESOTA JANUARY 4, 2021

5:32 PM Chair Allenburg called to order the special meeting of the School Board. All Members and staff participated remotely. Members present: Allenburg, Fox, Greene, Jones, Michaelson, Shaw, Wallen-Friedman. Staff present: Schultz, Smasal, De St. Hubert, Toop, Tuescher, Woitte; DeYoung. Guest: CPA Bill Lauer, Principal, MMKR.

DISCUSSION

A. 2020-21 Grading, Elementary
B. District Audit Results

The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 PM. The minutes and resolutions are open to public inspection on the district website, and on file at the district office, 5701 Normandale Road.

Ms. Erica Allenburg, Chair
Ms. Ellen Jones, Clerk
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