

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: FRIDAY, JAN. 10, 2014
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR JAN. 10, 2014

FRIDAY REPORT



1. **Speak Up, Edina!** – This year, the City will lead a monthly discussion on www.SpeakUpEdina.org. The January topic is food trucks and several questions are posed on the site, including:

- Would you support a change in local law to allow food trucks in Edina?
- If food trucks were allowed in Edina, should they be restricted to certain areas?
- When should food trucks be allowed?

People from around the community on both sides of the issue are weighing in. The City's discussion on food trucks will be regularly monitored through Jan. 31. After that time, a summary of the online discussion will be prepared and forwarded to staff and the City Council.

2. **Technology** – The employee group working on the Electronic Records Management (ERM) project has been working with the City's software vendor to complete the initial setup of our new Laserfiche server, client software and document scanners. For large scanning jobs, we have installed a shared station with high-speed scanner in the Finance Department. We completed the upload of historic City Council meeting minutes, as well as a test upload of commercial building plans. In the coming weeks, we will complete the import of the commercial building plans and will prioritize other documents to import into the system.

3. **Minneapolis Waterworks Site** – Parks & Recreation Directory Ann Kattreh and I will meet with our peers from St. Louis Park next week. At the meeting, we will resume our discussion about a collaborative approach to the mutual discussion we are having with the City of Minneapolis concerning the future of its Waterworks site at 40th Street and France Avenue.

4. **Employee News** – Jeff Long's final day of employment as our Chief of Police will be Thursday, Jan. 16.

Molly J. (MJ) Lamon's first day of employment as our new Part-Time Project Coordinator will be Wednesday, Jan. 22. This position will provide coordination of the City Council's Advisory Boards and Commissions, and serve as staff liaison to the City's Human Rights and Relations Commission, Human Services Task Force and Recognized Neighborhood Associations. MJ has held various positions with the Children's Hospital and Clinics of Minnesota since 2005 and most recently as a Community Career Exploration Liaison. She holds a bachelor's degree from the Hamline University.

5. **Edinborough Park** – The sub-zero weather and school cancellations mean Edinborough Park has been hopping! On Dec. 31, it had 471 paid admissions for a family-friendly New Year's Eve Party. When taking into account all of the parents, grandparents and older siblings that also attended, more than 1,500 people kicked off 2014 at Edinborough Park! Even more impressive was Tuesday, Jan. 7 when school was canceled for the second day in a row. Edinborough saw 872 check-ins and paid admissions to the park, compared to the same day in 2013, when we had 202 check-ins and paid admissions. We are off to a great start to the New Year!

6. **Braemar Arena** – The last two weeks of the year at Braemar Arena were very busy. It hosted the Boys High School Holiday Classic Tournament, the Girls High School Walser Big Breaker Holiday Tournament and the Youth Hockey Edina Invitational. Braemar Arena sold more than 400 hours of ice in just 12 days (except Christmas Eve and Christmas Day). During this time, more than 16,000 spectators watched 169 games and purchased 14,000 items (including over 1,400 bags of popcorn) at the concession stand for gross revenue of more than \$36,500.
7. **City Engineer Interviews** – Final interview were held today for the City Engineer position. There are three finalists. We hope to make a tentative offer to our preferred candidate within the next week.
8. **Art Center Update** – Gift Shop sales were brisk at the Edina Art Center for the holiday season. For the first time, weekly sales data was captured by week and by artist. Our busiest week was Dec. 11 to Dec. 18 with \$3,456 in sales. Overall sales were just under \$11,000 for the five weeks that the “Gift! Gifts! Gifts!” sale was in the Margaret Foss Gallery. This is triple past year’s sales. New energy, new staff, a less cluttered and more attractive display are the main reasons for the increase.

Staff at the Edina Art Center are hard at work on the Spring/Summer 2014 Activities Directory. It is offering 84 summer camps this summer. Last year, 75 camps were offered. The Art Center hopes to add even more camps again this year despite the 8 percent increase in camp offerings.

The 2014-2015 Call for Sculptures will be sent this week to approximately 250 local and regional artists for the Edina Public Art sculpture selection process. The Public Art Working Group will meet in March to make their selections.

9. **Outdoor Ice** – Ice making has been fabulous this season due to the cold temperatures starting right after Thanksgiving. City Staff have been able to flood rinks early this year to build ice quickly. Rinks opened on Tuesday, Dec. 17, almost a full week earlier than in years past. Seventeen full-time staff begin each morning at 5 a.m. to flood and maintain the rinks at Edina’s 12 park sites. More than 50 seasonal staff members work at the different park sites. They do a variety of duties that include opening the facilities, setting up the rinks, enforcing rules and providing a safe environment. The hockey rinks are loaded with hockey players, too! From our Edina Hockey Association teams practicing to our adult four-man hockey leagues.

However, if you don’t play hockey, then enjoy free skating on the rinks. Even if you don’t have skates, you can borrow a pair from one of our five sites that have free skate use – Cornelia, Countryside, Pamela, Lewis and Weber parks have a variety of skates that are freshly sharpened and ready to go thanks to General Sports who sharpens our skates each year free of charge.

The Outdoor rink program even has a few new twists this season. The Rink Rats Art Club will take place at various sites throughout the winter. This program provides a variety of art projects at our warming houses on Friday and Sunday afternoons during the rink season. Participants can preregister at the Edina Art Center.

We had our first ever “Glow-in-the-Dark” night at the rinks on Jan. 1. It was a fun night of glow necklaces, ice bowling and some obstacle courses.

Upcoming events at our outdoor ice rinks are Winter Neighborhood Night Out on Friday, Jan. 24, and then we finish off our event season with a food drive on Feb. 17 and 18.