

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: FRIDAY, FEB. 15, 2013
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR FEB. 15, 2013

FRIDAY REPORT



- 1. State of the Community** – The 2013 annual State of the Community presentation will be debuted at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon on Wednesday, Feb. 27, with an encore performance on Monday, March 4 at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.
- 2. Byerly's Redevelopment Proposal** – The Planning Commission will review a Planned Unit Development (PUD) application at its Feb. 27 meeting for redevelopment of Byerly's on France Avenue. The proposal is to tear down the existing store and rebuild a new smaller store on the northwest corner of the site. Three additional buildings are also proposed, including a six-story, 106-unit apartment building with two levels of underground parking; a six-story, 77-unit apartment building with first-floor, 10,450-square-foot retail area and two levels of underground parking; and a six-story, 48-unit apartment building with 10,500 square feet of retail space on the first level and two levels of underground parking. The City Council will likely review this proposal at its March 19 meeting.
- 3. Community Gardens** – The Park Board approved plans for the "Edible Playground" program this week. The board also approved the proposed procedures and rules for the management of the proposed Community Garden at Yorktown Park, should that proposal be approved by the City Council.
- 4. Activities Directory** – The spring/summer issue of the Parks & Recreation *Activities Directory* is on the press. For the first time in several years, the catalog will be mailed to all homes in Edina. Communications staff oversaw a redesign of the publication and the sale of advertisements to offset the cost of postage. Summer program registration begins Friday, March 1.
- 5. Braemar Golf** – Braemar Golf launched online registration on Feb. 1 for group lessons, junior programs and leagues.

Bryan Sanford will join our staff this spring to fill our Maintenance Technician Irrigation Specialist position. Bryan has extensive experience at golf courses in Colorado and California.

The City received a payment for \$498,169.84 from Travelers for the 2012 golf dome loss. That brings the total insurance benefit we have received to over \$1 million.

- 6. Three Rivers Park District Bike Trail Project** – Mayor Jim Hovland, Council Member Ann Swenson and I met with leadership from the Three Rivers Park District this week to discuss ideas for advancing their proposed regional bike trail project through Edina. Board chair John Gunyou will attend the Council's Feb. 19 meeting to introduce himself and talk about the regional trail. Engineering staff met with Three Rivers Park District staff to review the alignment of the regional trail from Xerxes Avenue to Fred Richards Golf Course Club House. The easements and or right-of-way permissions along this portion of the regional trail are a requirement of the Gallagher Drive agreement, which we need to fulfill prior to getting reimbursed for the construction of the regional trail portion on Gallagher Drive.

7. **Theft from Auto** – The crime category “Theft from Auto” continues to decline in Edina. In 2010 we had 233. In 2011, we had 158 and in 2012 we had 142. As a comparison, Eden Prairie had 292 thefts from automobiles last year. Of the total cases in 2012 in Edina, 51 percent occurred in residential areas, while the other 49 percent occurred at a place of business. In 87 percent of the incidents, entry into the vehicle was gained through an unlocked door or open window.
8. **Lot Split Recommendation** – At its Feb. 13 meeting, the Planning Commission recommended approval of a Subdivision of 5633 Tracy Ave. into two lots. The request also required a lot width variance from 85 feet to 80 feet. The City Council will consider this proposal at its March 5 meeting.
9. **Legislative Boundary Change Proposal** – Our state legislative representatives are working together to adjust the boundary between House District 49A and House District 49B. Currently, the boundary bisects the senior cooperative located at 7200 and 7220 York Avenue. The bills are being drafted and presented on the floor of each body. Staff expects to be called for testimony early next week at the appropriate committees.
10. **Math Counts** – Math Counts is a program to promote interest and skill in mathematics among middle school students. Staff from our Engineering Department, including Director of Engineering Wayne Houle, Assistant City Engineer Chad Milner and Environmental Engineer Ross Bintner, hosted a Math Counts event Feb. 9 at the Public Works & Park Maintenance Facility. About 100 sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders from 15 schools, along with their coaches, participated in the event. The event was sponsored by Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers.
11. **Senior Center** – In last week’s *Friday Report*, I said that Sue Weigle would be retiring on April 14. That was not correct. Her retirement date will be April 12.
12. **Technology Projects** – The I.T. Division is wrapping up the deployment of new squad car laptops and research of in-squad video alternatives. The new laptops incorporate Gobi card technology as well as federal and state mandated two-party authentication protocol.
13. **Veterans Memorial Update** – The Edina Veterans Memorial Committee met on Friday, Feb. 15 to discuss a public fundraising campaign to kickoff this spring. The committee has raised \$120,000 of the \$450,000 needed to build the memorial at Utley Park.