

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: FRIDAY, FEB. 21, 2014
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR FEB. 21, 2014

FRIDAY REPORT



- 1. 50th & France Parking** – Economic Development Manager Bill Neuendorf and I met with our consulting team this week. We are developing alternative parking policy options for the Council to consider at its March 4 meeting.
- 2. MCES Project Meeting** – The Metropolitan Council is hosting a public information meeting to discuss the Southwest Minneapolis Interceptor Rehabilitation Project. The meeting is scheduled for 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26 at the Linden Hills Rec Center, 3100 W. 43rd St. (corner of Xerxes Avenue and 43rd Street). The portion of the project with the greatest impact to Edina residents will replace very badly deteriorated and sagged sanitary sewer pipe along France Avenue from 42nd Street to 41st Street. This section of France Avenue will be closed to traffic for approximately six weeks during August and September for the work.
- 3. Former Edina Realty Building** – Demolition of the former Edina Realty building on West 49½ Street is complete. There were a few delays due to weather and unknown materials. The site has been restored with topsoil, biodegradable erosion control and seeding mats.
- 4. Online Utility Billing** – In response to popular demand from Edina residents, the City has launched a free online tool for utility billing and payments. Since its launch in January, we now have more than 100 registered users. Our residents will find the online utility billing and payment system hassle-free, convenient, and informative. Residents can now pay their bill online using a credit or debit card. They can also register to view their utility account billing and water usage information online, compare their usage to Edina averages, and receive their utility bills electronically. eBilling saves paper, postal services and man-power, thus supporting our “Go Green, Edina” agenda. Links to the new eBilling site can be found on our City website, EdinaMN.gov, under For Residents/Utility Billing, and also under Finance, on the right-hand side-bar. Overall, we have a goal of attracting 20 percent of our customers to the online billing environment by the end of 2014.
- 5. Public Arts Strategic Planning** – The Edina Public Art Working Group will hold a strategic planning session 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22, to discuss a full agenda, including 11 plans for public art, including the Aquatic Center mural; expansion of the Edina Promenad; Fairview Southdale Hospital art locations; The Westin sculpture locations; and more. The meeting will also focus on a mission, goals and a strategic plan for implementation.
- 6. Employee News** – Vanessa Politz began work on Tuesday, Feb. 18, as the new Assessing Specialist. Vanessa most recently worked at Scott County as a Residential Appraiser. She holds a bachelor’s degree from South Dakota State University with a major in Hospitality Management/Business.

7. **State of the Community** – The world premiere of the 2014 State of the Community address will be Wednesday, Feb. 26 at the Chamber of Commerce’s General Membership Meeting. If you want to attend the event, you may register directly with the Chamber or by contacting Heather Branigin for assistance. We also will do a live reprise of the event 7 p.m. Monday, March 3 at City Hall.
8. **Clay** – The opening reception for Minne Soda Clay was held Friday, Feb. 14. This is the first Friday opening reception we have had in more than 10 years, and was very well attended with more than 90 people arriving between 6 and 9 p.m. Sales were brisk with 15 of the 105 items selling during the opening. Total sales were \$1,025.54, which is excellent considering that most pottery items sell for between \$30 and \$150 each.
9. **Golf Update** – The Braemar Golf Dome offered a special program for juniors ages 6-10 on Presidents’ Day. The two-hour program included hitting balls, professional instruction, contests, and a tasty snack. We were worried that parents might not want to battle the heavy snow that day, but 15 of the 16 juniors signed up made it to the Dome on Monday. We heard that the one junior that didn’t attend was due to a broken leg!
10. **Best Of Edina** – *Edina Magazine* recently honored the City of Edina with several awards in its 10th-annual “Best of” contest. Readers voted for their favorites in Edina. The winners are featured in a special March issue of the magazine. Braemar Golf Course was named Best Golf Course. Runner-up was Edina Country Club and third place went to Interlachen Country Club. Edinborough Park was named Best Kids’ Birthday Spot. Runner-up was Pinstripes and third place went to Pump It Up. The Edina Senior Center was named Best Class/Program for Seniors. Runner up was the Southdale YMCA and third-place finisher was Welcyon. The City also received some other honors in the contest. The Edina Art Fair was named Best Community Event/Festival. The 4th of July Parade was runner up and Taste of Edina finished in third. Best Summer Program/Camp was the YMCA’s Camp Kici Yapi , followed by Primrose School of Edina and the Edina Art Center in third.