

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: FRIDAY, FEB. 22, 2013
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR FEB. 22, 2013

FRIDAY REPORT



- 1. State of the Community** – The 2013 annual State of the Community will be presented at the Chamber of Commerce General Membership Meeting at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27. There will be an encore presentation for the general public at 7 p.m. Monday, March 4 in Council Chambers at Edina City Hall.
- 2. Byerly's Redevelopment** – The Planning Commission will consider a request to tear down and redevelop the Byerly's store at 7171 France Ave. The new buildings would consist of 246 apartment units and 21,000 square feet of additional retail space. The Commission will hear the request at its Wednesday, February 27 meeting.
- 3. GrandView District Residential Redevelopment** – The Planning Division received plans to redevelop 5109-5125 W. 49th St. into 17 attached housing units. The property is located north of Vernon Avenue, east of the Holiday Gas Station. The City Council considered a sketch plan proposal to build 18 attached housing units on this site last fall. The Planning Commission and City Council will review of this proposal in March or April.
- 4. Outdoor Ice Rinks** – Edina's 12 outdoor ice rinks will stay open, weather permitting, through Sunday, March 3. Park Maintenance workers have done a great job making quality ice for both hockey and general skaters. Warming houses are open from 4 to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 8 p.m., Sunday. Lewis Park and Weber Park have free skates to use. Centennial Lakes Park ice skating will also remain open as long as weather permits.
- 5. Art Center Class Data** – The Edina Art Center saw 2,272 total class participants in 2012. The total is comprised of 1,415 members and 857 non-members.
- 6. Minneapolis-Edina Water** – The Public Works – Utilities Division is working with the City of Minneapolis' Public Works Department as they are doing routine maintenance on the booster pump that provides water to the Morningside area of Edina. We do not expect an impact to the quality of the water delivered to this area; however, residents may experience a slight drop in water pressure. The actual booster pump will be turned off Monday and is expected to be back online in two weeks. The Minneapolis Public Works Department has to turn on 42 different water valves to continue to provide water to Edina. They were in the process of turning those valves this week.
- 7. Employee News** – We are in the final selection stages of the Edinborough Park/Aquatic Center Manager and plan to have the new manager in the role for the outdoor pool season. We start interviewing applicants for the new Facility Manager position next week. We received nearly 50 applications and we are happy with the high level of qualified candidates. Brittany Salvate started as a full-time 9-1-1 dispatcher on Monday, Feb. 11. Brittany came to us from Wells Fargo Mortgage and is new to dispatching, though her family has a strong connection to the fire service.

8. **Southdale Center Grand Opening** – Simon had originally scheduled a grand opening event for Southdale Center in April. They have changed the date of the grand opening to July 27.
9. **Employee Advisory Committee** – Human Resources Director Lisa Schaefer facilitated the first meeting of our new Employee Advisory Committee (EAC) this week. There are 10 employee representatives throughout the City’s various operating departments. The goals of the EAC are to make recommendations for changes to health insurance plans offered by the City and to the City contribution structure for employee benefits. That will advance the City’s goals, which include: making recommendations on the most effective use of dollars available; devising ways to improve ability to recruit and retain high-performing employees; ensuring the City stays in compliance with healthcare reform and other legal requirements; giving direction to the Wellness Committee regarding areas of greatest impact to target for wellness initiatives; and giving feedback on revisions to the Employee Handbook.
10. **Fire Department Update** – Next weekend, the Edina Fire Special Operations Team will be training at Camp Ripley. The cost of the training is funded by a State grant. Chief Scheerer has been working on legislation that would help fund a municipalities’ portion of the Police and Fire Public Employees Retirement Account (PERA) expenses. Chief Scheerer is also having a discussion with the City of Richfield that may lead to an agreement that to allow the sharing of employees from Richfield’s building inspections with Edina’s building inspections to assist when one city is busier than the other with building inspections. Finally, the average number of medical transports for the Fire Department in 2012 was 248 per month. In January 2013, due primarily to falls on ice and an increase in serious flu cases, the department provided 316 medical transports.
11. **Blog Stats** – The most popular blog on our website in January was Police Chief Jeff Long’s blog, followed by the Parks & Recreation blog and City Manager’s blog. Chief Long’s blog had 6,001 views last month. The most popular blog posts were “Why We Leave Our Squad Cars Running,” “Wow! A Lot Of Gun Permits” and “Friendly Rivals.”