

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2014
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR MARCH 14, 2014

FRIDAY REPORT



- 1. Southdale TIF Extension Bill** – The bill has been drafted and introduced. In the House, it is HF 2727 carried by Rep. Ron Erhardt and Rep. Paul Rosenthal. In the Senate, it is SF 2341 carried by Sen. Melisa Franzen. The bill had its opening round of hearings this week in both the House and the Senate. It was moved on in both chambers for possible inclusion in their respective tax bills. It's important for the future of the bill to be in one or the other, or both, bills. We should know on March 20 if our provision will be in one of the bills.
- 2. Lennar Project** – The Planning Division received the formal application for the redevelopment of the former Wickes Furniture site at 6725 York Ave. The plans call for the construction of 242 units of apartment and 12,000 square feet of retail. The tentative schedule for review is the Planning Commission on April 9 and the City Council on April 22. I met today with Richfield City Manager Steve Devich to share timeline and detail information about the proposed development. We will likely receive comments from the City of Richfield on the scale of the proposed building.
- 3. Mobile App** – The Communications & Technology Services Department has entered into an agreement with PublicStuff for the creation of a mobile app and online knowledge base. PublicStuff has centered its business around helping governments boost resident interaction, improve efficiency and respond quickly to resident requests. The mobile app will include many widgets, or types of information, and multiple ways for residents to request service or report problems. Requests will be funneled into the City's existing asset-management system, Cityworks. The knowledge base will help staff and residents help themselves to popular information and frequently asked questions. The target launch date for the mobile app is June 1.
- 4. Community Garden** – Yorktown Park has been selected for the "Heart Your Park" program as part of Macy's "Secret Garden" campaign that aims to raise awareness and local dollars for local parks across the country. Until March 31, customers at the Macy's Southdale Center store can donate \$1 at the register for Yorktown Park, which will benefit the Community Garden there.
- 5. Employee News** – David Fisher will begin work for the City of Edina as the new Chief Building Official on Monday, March 17. Most recently, David worked as the Building Official for the City of Maplewood since 2001. He holds an associate degree in Building Inspection Technology from North Hennepin Community College and a bachelor's degree in Organizational Behavior & Communications from Concordia University.

Sgt. Nate Mendel retired from the SWAT team and was presented with a Distinguished Service Award for his 12 years of dedicated service to the team.

Dave Nelson will be formally installed as our new Chief of Police at a brief ceremony 10 a.m. Friday, March 21. Council Members are invited to attend the event.

We have several good candidates to choose from for the Environmental Health Specialist position. Second-round interviews will take place next week and we should have the position filled in early April.

6. **NOC Meeting** – The MAC’s Noise Oversight Committee (NOC) will meet on Wednesday afternoon, March 19. At this meeting, the NOC will consider Edina’s request for three Remote Monitoring Towers (RMTs) to be sited in the city in order to develop a noise baseline/profile for the community. Council Member Joni Bennett and I will make the presentation to the NOC on behalf of the City.
7. **France Avenue Corridor Improvement Project**– The third meeting of the urban design group working on this summer’s France Avenue Corridor Improvement (FACI) Project is scheduled for 6 p.m. March 10 at the Public Works & Park Maintenance Facility. Staff will gather input on the design components such as landscaping and lighting for consideration into the bid documents. After a final Hennepin County review, this project will go out for bids in April with an anticipated award in May.
8. **Centennial Lakes** – The ice rink at Centennial Lakes is now closed for the season. Revenues for this season were up 29 percent over the record season of the previous winter. During this year’s 74-day season, we rented over 16, 400 pairs of ice skates, 790 sleds and almost 1,400 trainers.
9. **Art Center** – The MinneSoda pottery show ends Friday, March 14. Of the 83 pieces entered, 20 sold with total sales of \$1,432 and the Art Center 35 percent commission take is \$501.20 -- a successful event for the Art Center.

MaxSolutions software will go live March 20. Data entry for gift shop items is almost complete, and we are testing the scheduling module and running end-of-day balance reports.

The next show in the gallery is the Art Center’s annual Teen Show in partnership with Edina High School.

10. **Happy St. Patrick’s Day** – Monday, March 17, is St. Patrick’s Day. I’ll be out of the office all day celebrating my Irish heritage with my family. Erin go Bragh!