

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2014
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR MARCH 28, 2014

FRIDAY REPORT



- 1. Valuation Notices** – Edina property valuation notices were sent out last week. The average increase is 8 percent city-wide for single-family properties. This is not uncommon, as residential properties throughout Hennepin County are up significantly. Property owners may contact the Assessing Division with questions or concerns. If concerns cannot be resolved, the Local Board of Appeal & Equalization will meet at 5:30 pm Monday, April 21.
- 2. Building Inspections Tech** – The Building Inspections Division recently implemented an Automated Call Distribution system for its main phone line. This new system has callers held in a queue rather than ringing back to the City Hall receptionist if unanswered. Callers hear their place in line and are offered the option to leave a voicemail if they do not want to wait to speak with someone. It will allow staff to understand what their true call volume is at any point in time. Over the first five full business days of using the system, the Building Inspections Division main line received 502 calls for a total talk time of 9 hours and 38 minutes. These numbers will become especially useful as the construction season gets in full swing.
- 3. Employee News** – Police Officers Joel Moore and Dave Lindman received the Justice Award this week at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the exemplary work with the Operation Starburst investigation, which was a large-scale identity theft case which originated in Edina and spread through several other states.

Next week, two new Police Officers will begin work. Ryan Pankratz has four years of experience as an officer with the City of Robbinsdale. Ryan received a bachelor's degree in Law Enforcement from Metro State University. He will start April 2. Ricky Harr has been a CSO with us since October 2012. He received his bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from St. Thomas University and will transition from a CSO to an Officer on April 3.

Today is Police Officer Jamie La Manna's last day as he is going to be moving his family back to California. Jamie's wife received a job offer in California that she couldn't refuse. Although he has only worked here for about a year, he will be missed.

Congratulations to Lt. Jeff Elasky, who graduates today from the 10-week FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va. Chief Dave Nelson will attend the graduation and we are looking forward to having Jeff back at work next week.

Carrie Domino began work in the Human Resources department on Monday, March 24, in the position of Payroll Specialist. Carrie was the Human Resources and Benefit Eligibility Coordinator for The Araz Group since 2012. She has a Human Resource Management/Spanish degree from the University of Minnesota Duluth.

Cassi McMayer will start work on Monday, April ,7 as the Benefit Specialist for the Human Resources Department. Cassi has worked since 2000 for Orion Associates and most currently her role was of Human Resources Director. She has a bachelor's degree in Psychology/Social Studies Education from St. Olaf College.

4. **GIS Future** – The City has hired Geographic Technologies Group (GTG) to evaluate our existing GIS capabilities and help create a vision for a scalable and sustainable system that promotes effective and innovative use of geospatial technology throughout the organization. As part of the needs assessment, GTG will also evaluate the City's existing relationship with LOGIS for some of its GIS services. The needs assessment should be complete in about eight weeks. GTG is completing a similar project for the City of Eagan.
5. **Legislative Update** – A provision designed to assist the City of Edina incent the development of affordable housing in the Southdale area has made it into both the House and Senate tax bills. The language is slightly different in each bill. I understand the language differences will be bridged in the conference committee discussions.

HF 82 is a bill that includes \$225,000 for the Edina Veterans Memorial. It received a hearing this week in front of the House Capital Investments Committee. Richard Olson, Dick Crockett and I testified on behalf of the bill and the project. We won't know if our project makes it into the final bonding bill until mid-May.

A bill offered in both the House and the Senate to require temporary noise testing in Edina by MAC has cleared a first hearing in both houses.

6. **Engineering Update** – The Engineering Department utilizes interns in a variety of capacities during not only the summer, but also other times of the year. This additional staff allows us to continue to provide the level of service that is expected by our residents. We are in the process of selecting potential interns. Laura Adler secured grant funding to cover the cost of one full-time intern this summer. This grant was from the Minnesota Department of Health for Source Water Protection Plan Implementation. The goal of the grant is to create a database that includes all of the potential sources of contamination to Edina's drinking water, which we get from groundwater. Currently, information about these different types of contaminant sources are tracked by many different agencies; creating a comprehensive database for Edina will make it easier for us to identify and track areas that may pose a threat to the groundwater.
7. **Planning Commission Update** – The Planning Commission is tentatively scheduled to review the following projects at its April 9 meeting: redevelopment of the former Wickes site at 6725 York Ave. to tear down the existing structures and build a 242-unit, upscale apartment with 12,500 square feet of retail space; a rezoning of 3923 49th St., to tear down a single-family home and build a duplex; and a redevelopment of the Taco Bell site at 3210 Southdale Circle to tear down and build a new Taco Bell. If these projects receive action at the April 9 Planning Commission meeting, they will be placed on the Council's April 22 agenda for action.
8. **Teen Show** – The opening for the Teen Show was held Thursday, March 20. This is the fourth year of the exhibit which is a partnership with Edina High School and the Edina Art Center. Attendance at the opening reception set a Teen Show record with 151 students, parents, grandparents and teachers present. No purchases were made, but our giant chocolate cake disappeared in record time. Thanks to Dalen Towne and Kim Raskin, Edina High School teachers, and Wet Paint of St. Paul and Pinstripes Restaurant for providing \$25 gift cards to the award winners in five categories: mixed media, photography, drawing, painting and pottery.

9. **Promenade** – Members of the Arts & Culture Commission are assisting Engineering Department staff with idea for the Phase IV expansion of the Edina Promenade. We hope to bring Council a Phase IV proposal later this year.

10. **Centennial Lakes** – We are currently painting and cleaning inside of the Hughes Pavilion, as well as the maintenance garage, to get ready for the start of the 2014 rental season. We are finishing up on our interviews for summer positions and hope to have everyone hired by the end of the week. Deadline for Farmers Market applications is today. The 2014 season begins June 12.