

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2014
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR APRIL 4, 2014

FRIDAY REPORT



1. **Xerxes Avenue Project** – The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) will close the Xerxes Avenue Bridge over Minnesota Highway 62 on Monday, April 7. The Xerxes Avenue on and off ramps to Highway 62 will be closed on April 9. Both closures are necessary to accommodate a bridge deck reconstruction. We expect the bridge to be closed for three months.

Starting April 11 at 10 p.m., Highway 62 will be closed for the weekend for bridge deck removal and reopen 5 a.m. Monday, April 14. Then again at 10 p.m. April 25, Highway 62 will be closed for bridge panel erection and will reopen 5 a.m. Monday, April 28. Westbound Highway 62 will be closed at Interstate Highway 35W and detoured to Interstate Highway 494 to Minnesota Highway 100. Eastbound Highway 62 will be closed at Highway 100 and detoured to I-494 to northbound I-35W.

2. **50th & France Parking** – The consultants are on schedule and have completed their 60 percent design package. Several business owners and other stakeholders have been contacted regarding the names to be used on the ramps. The Speak Up, Edina website was also used to solicit ideas. After much discussion, the preferred names are North Ramp, South Ramp and Center Ramp. These names are concise, simple to remember and commonly used by many patrons. They also give the impression of a large shopping district rather than a small neighborhood strip. The signage package will be prepared using these names.
3. **Employee News** – Lt. Jeff Elasky returned to work this week following his 10-week stint at the FBI Leadership Academy. He has spent the past few days getting caught up and settling back into the work routine.

Sgt. Scott Kuyper received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Special Operations Training Association (SOTA) Conference in St. Cloud this week for his 14 years of dedicated service to the SWAT team. Officer Darin Cizek won the Top Sniper competition at the Special Operations Training Association (SOTA) conference.

Patrick Wrase will join our team as our new Assistant City Engineer. Patrick's first day of work for us will be April 21.

4. **West 54th Street Project** – Staff presented at MnDOT's Municipal State Aid Variance Committee seeking a lane width variance on West 54th Street. This would allow the City to continue the use of advisory bike lanes from Minnehaha Boulevard to France Avenue. Staff was successful in acquiring the variance. Staff continues to work on the design of the project. An exact date for a bid opening or award of project is not set yet pending agency reviews.
5. **Park and Golf Planning** – Staff will present recommendations to the City Council at its April 22 meeting for public engagement processes for the future Fred Richards Park and for Braemar Golf Course.

6. **March 2014 Speeding Stats** – Edina Police Officers wrote 857 citations to drivers for exceeding the posted limits from March 1 to 31. 236 citations were issued for violations that occurred on City streets. 621 were issued to drivers on highways. The average violation for a driver on a City street was 16 mph over the posted speed limit. The average violation for a driver on a highway was 17 mph over the posted speed. The most egregious violation on a City street was given to a driver at 56 mph in a 30 mph zone. On a highway, the most egregious citation was issued to a driver for 94 mph in a 55 mph.
7. **Art Center Scholarship** – The scholarship policy has been changed for the Edina Art Center to more closely match the policy used for the Parks & Recreation Department. Scholarships are now available to Edina residents only with a maximum annual grant-in-aid of \$150 annually. The Art Center currently has three designated funds with the Edina Community Foundation that will be accessed for providing grants to families in need.
8. **Earth Day Forum** – The Energy & Environment Commission will recognize Earth Day with an environmental forum entitled “What Will Turn You on in 2030? Powering Our Energy Future.” The forum will be held at South View Middle School on Monday, April 28. The event will begin with an action resource fair from 6 to 7 p.m. The program will begin at 7 p.m. and will feature keynote speaker Michael Noble, Executive Director of Fresh Energy. Fresh Energy works for a future where energy production and transportation stimulate local economies and create clean energy jobs.
9. **Art Center Marketing**– The Edina Art Center signed an agreement with Groupon for half-price individual and family memberships. Since September 2013, the Art Center has gained \$1,395.76 in membership revenue with 15 new individual memberships and 15 new family memberships.

A LivingSocial Groupon will be offered this summer similar to 2013 for Art Center kid’s summer art camps. We are offering 84 summer camps this year, up from 75 last year due to demand -- a 9 percent increase.

10. **Images of Edina** – The 11th-annual “Images of Edina” Photo Contest is under way. The contest is free to enter and is open to both amateur and professional photographers who reside, work or attend school in Edina. The deadline for this year’s contest is 4:30 p.m. Friday, June 13. Entries should be submitted online through Edina Magazine’s website, www.EdinaMag.com. Printed copies of contest entries will not be accepted. Photos must have been taken in Edina between June 15, 2013 and June 13, 2014, and must be entered in one of the following categories representing the City’s vision statement: Living – People, Living – Plants/Wildlife, Learning, Raising Families and Doing Business. Photographers may submit a maximum of five photographs with no more than one per category. All submissions must be the original artwork of the photographer.