

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2013
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR APRIL 12, 2013

FRIDAY REPORT



1. **Snow Removal** – Snow plow crews have been very busy over the past two days working on Mother Nature’s last-ditch attempt to ruin our Spring. The heavy wet snow was especially tough on equipment, but the mechanics did a great job keeping the equipment on the road. After today, we should be back to bare pavement.
2. **Employee News** – Gunnar Kaasa has been selected as our next Supervisor of Equipment Operations after Greg Bretson rides off into the sunset on May 30 after 34 years of service. Congratulations, Gunnar!

Fire Capt. Doug Bagley has announced that he will retire on April 30 after 26 years of service. Congratulations, Doug!

Officer Dave Lindman will receive the 2012 Mike Siitari Crime Prevention Fund Officer of the Year Award at the Council meeting on Tuesday, April 16. This award was earned for Dave’s work on an international organized crime ring case that he worked while assigned to the Minnesota Financial Crimes Task Force. This case resulted in 28 federal convictions and dozens of State arrests. At the Council meeting, we expect members of Secret Service, United States Attorney’s Office, IRS Investigations and members of the Minnesota Financial Crimes Task Force to be present to help honor Dave for his work. Congratulations, Dave!

3. **Xerxes Avenue** – Staff from Hennepin County along with the Mayor met on April 9 with residents from Xerxes Avenue regarding the operations of the roadway north of Minnesota Highway 62. Traffic issues continue to be speed and behavior of the motorists. The roadway was restriped late last fall to indicate that it is a two-lane roadway with parking on both sides. Hennepin County has agreed to identify the parking lane better by temporarily placing roadway barriers (portable traffic control) within the southbound parking lane, then restriping the roadway when the weather is appropriate, identifying bump-outs at the intersections. Signage along the roadway will also be reviewed. The City will then coordinate a traffic study of the corridor from Heritage Drive to 60th Street South. The traffic study will identify the correct layout of the roadway since Hennepin County will be overlaying the roadway and MnDOT will re-deck the bridge over Highway 62 in 2014.
4. **6500 France** – Pre-demolition work has started on the site of France Medical Plaza. The anticipated start of the building demolition is April 16.
5. **Acres Dubois** – The City Council will review the proposed subdivision at its April 16 meeting. The Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of the three-acre Acres Dubois subdivision. The proposal includes six lots accessed by a cul-de-sac off Morningside Road and two lots accessed off Littel Street.

6. **Liquor Sales** – Liquor store sales are up by \$419,699 for the first quarter of 2013, a significant increase over 2012 when the Southdale store was closed for remodeling. When compared to first quarter 2011 (when all three stores were open), sales are ahead \$182,025 and customer counts have risen from 111,436 to 113,628.
7. **Neighborhood Street Reconstruction Projects** – Staff has scheduled meetings in the neighborhoods so that residents can come out and talk about how the projects will directly affect their properties. All of the meetings are scheduled from 5 to 6 p.m. The Public Works multi-purpose Conference Room will be a backup location if there is inclement weather. The neighborhoods that we currently have scheduled are: Lake Edina – April 24, Braemar Hills B – April 29, Normandale – May 6. The neighborhood meeting for Mendelssohn A neighborhood will be scheduled once we know the construction timeline.
8. **Wooddale Advisory Lanes** – MnDOT officials have informed staff that Federal Highway Administration (FHWA-MnDivision) will not request repayment of previously used federal funds for the Wooddale advisory bike lane project as long as the final report for the MUTCD experiment is completed by the City of Edina. Additionally, as the Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program manager, Transit for Livable Communities (TLC), will also not require repayment provided the City reports on the existing lane configuration as well as the proposed configuration and its operation. TLC is not willing to provide federal funding to paint the new lane configuration.

If the City plans to use Municipal State Aid (MSA) funding to paint the new lane striping, MnDOT will require the City to receive a variance from MSA rules and standards. MnDOT staff will support such a request if the City wants to pursue one. If the City wishes to spend non-MSA money to paint the new lane configuration, a variance is not necessary. Staff will discuss the options for this matter with the Council at its April 16 meeting.

9. **Community Garden** – At its April 10 meeting, the Planning Commission unanimously approved the variances to construct the parking lot for the pilot Community Garden project at Yorktown Park. This approval is the final regulatory approval needed to move forward with the parking lot project. As of this week, all 55 garden plots have been reserved.
10. **Work Plan Change** – At its March 28 meeting, the Planning Commission recommended an amendment to its work plan to do a small area plan for the Valley View and Wooddale commercial area. This is an area that is recognized in the Edina Comprehensive Plan as a “Potential Area of Change.” The City Council will be asked to consider this revision to the Planning Commission Work Plan at its April 16 meeting.
11. **France Avenue Project** – MnDOT Federal Aid staff have confirmed that the City has met the sunset date requirement associated with the federal funds. The next step for the project is to solicit competitive bids in May. A late June construction start is anticipated. A special meeting of the Edina Transportation Commission to discuss the urban design components of the project has been scheduled for 7 p.m. April 22, at the Public Works & Park Maintenance Facility. Members of other interested boards and commissions along with property owners have been notified of the meeting.
12. **Edina Film Festival** – The 2013 Edina Film Festival will be held at Edina Landmark Cinema. After a very positive response from City Council at a joint work session with the Art Center Board on Feb. 19 to a change in format from an indoor theater to an outdoor film and music festival, Film Festival Committee members decided to hold the event

at Landmark Cinemas for a third year. The committee faced challenges in fundraising and timing to have the festival coincide with the “Crazy Days” event held July 25-27, 2013 in the Edina 5-0 parking lot in downtown Edina. The total expenses totaled nearly \$14,000 with permits and fees, vendors, daily and overnight police patrol, barricades and sanitation needs. The committee believed more time was necessary to fundraise for an event with nearly twice the budget as the previous indoor event held at Edina Landmark Cinema at 50th & France.

13. Sunnyslope Decision – The Planning Commission has recommended approval of a conditional use permit with a variance to tear down and rebuild a home at 4924 East Sunnyslope Road. The new home would gain access off Hilltop Lane rather than East Sunnyslope. The variance required is to raise the first floor elevation more than one foot (10.5 feet) in order to gain access off Hilltop Lane. The City Council is tentatively scheduled to hear the Conditional Use Permit with Variance request at its May 7 meeting.