

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2013
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR APRIL 26, 2013

FRIDAY REPORT



1. **Continental Gardens** – At its last meeting, the Planning Commission considered reviewed a sketch plan for a 76-unit assisted living building attached to the existing Continental Gardens Senior Living apartments at 7151 York Ave. The building would be four stories tall and be connected by an elevated skyway to the existing 12-story, 264-unit senior apartment building. With the proposed addition of 76 units, the density would increase to 58 units per acre for this site. A Comprehensive Plan Amendment is required to allow for the density. The City Council will review the sketch plan at its May 7 meeting.

2. **Employee News** – We have reached a tentative agreement with the Animal Control/CSO bargaining unit for 2013-2014.

We have received more than 40 applications for the Redevelopment Coordinator position. Staff is in the process of reviewing the candidates' qualifications. It looks like we have excellent candidates!

We have defined finalists for the Transportation Planner position. We hope to have an announcement on that position soon.

I did exit interviews this week with Sue Weigle from the Senior Center and Doug Bagley from the Fire Department – both retiring with over 30 years of service to the City.

3. **Parks & Recreation** – The May 7 City Council meeting is shaping up to be very busy with Parks & Recreation Department items such as: Golf Dome Final Bid Approval – Fire suppression system, storm water retention and quotes for the construction of the new support building (including final project budget); Countryside Park Shelter and Site Work Bid Approvals (including final budget); Garden Park baseball field renovation; award of bid for Aquatic Center boiler; request to waive building permit fees for the Golf Dome construction project; “Day of Play” resolution; Lake Edina Park walking/biking path; and acceptance of donations from the Edina Baseball Association (\$100,000) for the Garden Park baseball field renovation project, Edina Community Foundation (\$650) for a recycling container, and Whole Foods (\$2,522) for the Yorktown Community Garden.

4. **South Metro Public Safety Training Facility** – The South Metro Public Safety Training Facility hosted a visit from the State Commissioner of Management and Budget last week. The Commissioner was impressed by the facility and how the different departments and cities work well together. The center recently welcomed the Minnetonka Police and Fire Departments as new members. Their annual membership fee will be \$53,400.

5. **R.I.P. AS400** – The Communications & Technology Services Department officially said goodbye last week to the AS400, which had been in service for more than 13 years. The AS400 was the mainframe computer that functioned as the Police Department's backbone and data storage repository through three software upgrades over the last many years. The AS400 ran on a token ring platform. Token ring versus Ethernet was a popular 1980s and 1990s battle, with token ring being touted as technically superior. However, due

to pricing and lack of marketing by IBM, it was eclipsed by Ethernet technology. Recently, the I.T. staff oversaw completion of a conversion that pulled many hundreds of thousands of data elements into the City's current Windows-based systems and the AS400 (as well as the token ring technology) was officially laid to rest.

6. **Southwest Cable Commission** – The Southwest Cable Commission, comprised of representatives of the cities of Eden Prairie, Edina, Hopkins, Richfield and Minnetonka, has approved a plan to transition playback of the public and education access channels away from Comcast. The City of Edina will oversee the playback beginning around Sept. 1. Because the City is taking on this role, it will bear the cost of equipment and staffing. However, those costs (less Edina's share) will be billed back to the Commission for reimbursement. A Request for Purchase for some of the equipment will be on the Council's May 7 meeting agenda. In other cable commission news, I was selected to chair the commission for the upcoming year. Patty Latham from Minnetonka will be the Vice-Chair and Jim Genellie from Hopkins will remain our treasurer.
7. **Outdoor Fields** – Braemar Golf Course is hoping to open this Saturday, April 27 -- the latest opening date ever. Last year was the earliest opening ever, 43 days ahead of this year's.

We are assessing our athletic fields daily to determine when we'll open the fields. We will open them just as soon as we know that using them will not damage the turf. The late spring has postponed our field opening by at least three weeks.

8. **Citizen Engagement** –The City is once again teaming up with the Citizens League to host three budget-related events called "Financing the Future." Each workshop will be paired with a fun activity that also highlights City services. The events will be held on the following dates: June 11 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Edina Senior Center (Edina Bingo), June 13 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Braemar Golf Course (Wine Tasting) and June 19 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Edina Senior Center (Family Friendly). A report summarizing the feedback from the sessions will be shared with Council during the month of July.
9. **Spring in the Public Works Department** – The Public Works Department is busily converting to spring operations. On April 22, we cleared what we hope to be the last of the snow from the winter season and today we began sweeping, repairing plow damage, flushing our water system and fixing potholes.

This week, the Public Works Department also welcomed new Facility Manager Tim Barnes. Tim spent the last 2.5 years at the City of Columbia Heights and prior to that, 10 years as Facility Director for Smithtown Christian School and Church in Smithtown, NY.

10. **Police Department Operations** – The "Get Your Rear In Gear" run/walk event went very smoothly on April 21 with more than 4,000 participants braving the chilly weather to support the cause.

The Command Staff attended the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Conference in Duluth this week.

The State Explorer Conference begins today in Rochester. The Eden Prairie/Edina Post will participate in a variety of competitive events, academic sessions and practical exercises. In addition to our Explorer Advisors, a number of other department personnel volunteer to assist with the conference (role playing, running the range, etc.).

The Police Department began working with Payroll Manager Vicki Olson this week to get its Administrative staff on the electronic timecard system.

- 11. Earth Day at IDQ** – Environmental Engineer Ross Bintner spent a couple hours at International Dairy Queen on April 22 for its Earth Day fair. He shared information about water and energy conservation at the City of Edina.

- 12. 2013 Neighborhood Reconstruction Projects** – Engineering Department staff hosted the first pre-construction open house for the Lake Edina Neighborhood. Approximately 40 neighbors attended the open house. The open house consisted of introducing staff and contractor that will be working on the project, a brief presentation on what to expect during construction, and a great question-and-answer session. We believe everyone attending was appreciative for having this session prior to the work commencing.