

# OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2014  
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER  
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR MAY 2, 2014

## FRIDAY REPORT



- 1. Events** – Our Public Works Department will participate in Vehicle Day at Southdale Center 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 3. Come out and see the big trucks at their cleanest.

Edina is a host of the national K-9 unit competition this year. There will be a public demonstration of the various K-9 skills at Kuhlman Field at 7 p.m. Monday, May 5.

Join us for a groundbreaking event for the new Sports Dome at noon Tuesday, May 6. The project begins next week.

Mark your calendar for the “Big Trucks” Public Works Open House, to be held 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 17, at the Public Works & Park Maintenance Facility.

- 2. Golf Financials** – There is mixed news to report on our golf enterprise financials. We are doing better than we were last year at this time, but not as well as we need to do in order to make our revenue projection for 2014. Revenue to date is \$481,168. YTD 2014 revenue is 340 percent ahead of revenue at the week 17 mark of last year (\$109,980). However, in order to make our total revenue goal of \$3.7 million for 2014, we should be around \$900,000 in total revenue by this time. 60 percent of our annual YTD revenue (\$288,423) comes from our golf dome operation. For context, the golf dome’s revenue for the entire year of 2012 (its last full year of play) was \$79,551.
- 3. Police Training Event Recap** – On Wednesday, April 30, the Edina SWAT team (along with SWAT teams from Eden Prairie, St. Louis Park, Hopkins, Minnetonka and Hennepin County) were involved in a large-scale training exercise led by the FBI SWAT team at the Edina Galleria and Southdale Center. The main objectives were to see how the FBI interacts with local law enforcement, handles communication hurdles and to test the deployment of multiple FBI SWAT teams simultaneously across the country. All agencies involved gained valuable insight from the exercise.
- 4. Grants** – The Public Works Department planned to replace one of its street sweepers this year. Instead of replacing it with another mechanical brush sweeper, the department would like to replace it with a higher-efficiency regenerative air sweeper. The regenerative air sweeper does a much better job of removing small particles of dirt, which are a major source of phosphorus in our lakes and ponds, leading to lower water quality. However, the cost difference between the mechanical brush and the regenerative air sweeper is approximately \$30,000. The Engineering Department and Public Works departments worked together to apply for grants to cover this cost, as well as the cost to develop a street sweeping management plan, which will target areas of higher priority and maximize our efficiency at sweeping. We have received a \$20,000 grant from the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District. We are waiting for a decision from the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District on our application for \$11,000 of grant funding, which should come in early May.

- 5. Employee News** – Our newest Police Officer, Alexandra (Alli) Wilson, will start on Monday, May 5. Alli has been a CSO in Maple Grove for three years as she was attending college. She recently graduated from Metro State University with a bachelor’s degree in Law Enforcement.

Three long serving members of the Police Department have submitted their retirement notices: Sgt. Vik Konters, Sgt. Scott Kuyper and Detective Tom McKenzie. At the end of the month, we will lose over 80 combined years of experience.

Dispatcher Jan Rodriguez submitted her resignation, effective at the end of June. She will be relocating back to Florida to be closer to her family. Jan has been a great member of our dispatch team.

- 6. Liquor License Compliance Tests** – The Police Department conducted liquor license compliance tests this week. Mozza Mia failed for the second time in less than 24 months. This failure will result in a three-day suspension of their license. Davanni’s Pizza & Hot Hoagies also failed. This is their first compliance test failure.
- 7. Braemar Golf Course Master Plan Task Force** – The recruitment process for volunteers to serve on the Braemar Golf Course Master Plan Task Force is under way. Residents interested in serving on the task force should apply online at [www.EdinaMN.gov/jobs](http://www.EdinaMN.gov/jobs). For more information on the Braemar Golf Course Task Force, residents can contact Ann Kattreh at 952-826-0430 or [akattreh@EdinaMN.gov](mailto:akattreh@EdinaMN.gov).
- 8. Minneapolis Waterworks Site Visit** – Public Works Director Brian Olson, Parks & Recreation Director Ann Kattreh and I joined Council Member Joni Bennett and Minneapolis Council Member Palmisano for a walking tour of the current Minneapolis Waterworks site located at 40th & France. James Whisker from the Minnehaha Watershed District and a representative from the City of Minneapolis Facilities Management Division also attended. Minneapolis is still interested in disposing of the property. They would like to sell the property to the cities of Edina and St. Louis Park. Before discussing price, Council Member Palmisano suggested the three cities conduct a joint public engagement process to determine the preferences of residents for the ultimate use of the land. Edina city staff will coordinate that process with Minneapolis and St. Louis Park. Timeline and process to be announced later in May.
- 9. Olinger Boulevard** – Staff met with residents along Olinger Boulevard on Thursday, May 1, to discuss the pavement rehabilitation project from Vernon Avenue to Tracy Avenue. This segment of roadway is designated as a bicycle facility. Staff gathered input about the possibility of removing parking to facilitate the installation of dedicated bike lanes in both directions. Staff received a number of comments from residents concerned about the possible loss of on-street parking spaces to accommodate the bike lanes.
- 10. Swatting** – Plymouth and Eden Prairie have been recent victims of “swatting” incidents. Swatting is a spoofing technique where an individual calls 9-1-1 and fabricates an emergency to cause the dispatch of law enforcement and SWAT teams to a specific location. It is commonly used as a retaliatory measure and has been a nationwide problem.
- 11. Neighborhood Association Meeting** – On Saturday, May 17, the City will host an “Organize Your Neighborhood” workshop at the Edina Senior Center, 5280 Grandview Square. At the workshop, residents can learn the beginning steps to organize a neighborhood association. The workshop will include two sessions: Session 1 – 9:30-10:30 a.m., Neighborhood Association 101. Learn the basics of the City’s Neighborhood Association policy, recognition process and available online communication tools, and how to start organizing your neighborhood; and, Session 2 – 10:45-11:30 a.m., Digging Deeper. Discuss neighborhood organization in an open forum with City staff. To attend, RSVP to M.J. Lamon at [neighborhoods@EdinaMN.gov](mailto:neighborhoods@EdinaMN.gov) or 952-826-0360. For more information, visit [www.EdinaMN.gov/Neighborhoods](http://www.EdinaMN.gov/Neighborhoods).

**12. Fires** – The Fire Department was called out to three fires started from carelessly discarded smoking materials last month. On April 11, the Fire Department was called to the 6900 block of Ridgeview Drive after receiving reports of a grass fire near the railroad; on April 14, the Fire Department responded to reports of a deck fire in the 7200 block of York Avenue; and on April 23, the Fire Department responded to reports of heavy black smoke coming from a multi-family building in the 4100 block of Parklawn Avenue. Fire crews safely extinguished the working fires after arrival. While there was minimal damage caused by the April 11 and April 14 fires, extensive damage was caused to the unit where the April 23 fire started. No injuries were reported in any of the three fires.

**13. Southwest Suburban Cable Commission** – The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has informed Comcast that if it wishes to consummate a nationwide merger with Time Warner Cable, they must divest of a certain number of cable systems around the country so that they stay under an FCC-determined threshold of market saturation/control. Comcast has informed our commission that our system will be one of the systems they will divest in order to comply with the FCC’s order. Comcast has announced that it will form a joint venture with Charter Communications to shift ownership of its Twin Cities cable systems to a new publicly traded entity called “SPIN-CO,” which will eventually control our cable television system, if all goes according to Comcast’s plans. There are many details yet to be resolved. City staff will work with the commission and its legal staff to learn more about the transition and its timeline.