

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: FRIDAY, MAY 30, 2014
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR MAY 30, 2014

FRIDAY REPORT



- 1. Employee News** – Lee Renneke began work as the Environmental Health Specialist on May 19. Lee did his internship with the City of Edina last summer and most recently worked for the Minnesota Department of Health as a Public Health Sanitarian. Lee holds a bachelor's degree in Food Science Technology from the University of Minnesota.

Effective Monday, June 2, Sgt. Brian Tholen will be promoted to Lieutenant and will transition into the Patrol Division. Effective Monday, July 14, Sgt. Tom Draper will be promoted to Lieutenant and will develop the newly added Administrative Lieutenant position. Among other duties, the Administrative Lieutenant will also oversee Special Events and will be the primary liaison to the City's Boards & Commissions and a variety of community task forces.

Joe Abood will start July 7 as the new Braemar Golf Course General Manager. Over the last 15 years, Joe has managed golf courses in Maryland and New Jersey on behalf of a sports management company. For the last six of those years, he has been responsible for management of county-owned golf recreational facilities, including two 27-hole golf courses, a conference and banquet facility and a practice and instruction facility.
- 2. Lennar Project Update** – At its May 28 meeting, the Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of final rezoning and a final development plan for redevelopment of the former Wickes site at 6725 York Ave. to tear down the existing structures and build a 240-unit upscale apartment with 11,500 square feet of retail space including a restaurant. The City Council will consider the request at its June 17 Meeting.
- 3. Aurora on France** – The City received an application for final rezoning and final development plan for the previously approved Aurora on France project at 65th Street and France Avenue. The application is to develop 6500 France Ave. with a five-story building with a skyway connection to the Fairview Southdale Hospital parking ramp. The building would include 100 units of senior housing, 61 units of transitional care suites and 34 units for memory care. This project received preliminary approval in 2013. The Planning Commission is tentatively scheduled to review the request on June 25, with City Council review tentatively scheduled for July 15.
- 4. MAGC Awards** – The Minnesota Association of Government Communicators (MAGC) has presented the City of Edina with three awards for work completed in 2013. The City was presented an Award of Merit and two first-place Awards of Excellence in the 32nd-annual Northern Lights Awards competition. The Parks & Recreation Activities Directory, a catalog of programs and events, received an Award of Merit. A brochure on Braemar Arena and the talk show "Enterprise Edina" received Awards of Excellence. In addition, "Enterprise Edina" was one of 11 "Best of Show" nominees, representing the best in government communications. "Enterprise Edina" is a monthly program highlighting local businesses and economic development updates. It is hosted by Chamber of Commerce President Lori Syverson. New episodes air on the 15th of the month, and replay daily at 2:15 a.m., 10:15 a.m. and 6:15 p.m.

- 5. 2014 Summer Street Projects** – Staff continue to monitor the schedules of our neighborhood street reconstruction projects. The contracting community is very busy this year. The cool, wet spring has also delayed some of the anticipated start dates. We will continue to communicate any schedule changes with affected residents.

Also related to our weather this spring, we are just now reviewing our 2013 neighborhood street reconstruction projects for warranty type items. Of specific importance are areas that were restored using the hydroseed process.

- 6. Salt Damage** – After a long winter and many tons of salt used for the safety of drivers on our streets, staff are beginning to receive complaints from residents about “salt damage” to their lawns. They will often send photos of a strip of dead grass at or near the curb line of the street. It is possible that the grass could have been killed by salt from our streets, but we have not verified that claim. Using salt on streets during the winter is a customary municipal practice. Until new products are developed with the same road safety benefits, we will continue to use road salt in the future when necessary. It is not a customary practice to address the potential negative impacts of road salt to the street right-of-way (ROW) adjacent to the street. While the City has a long history of repairing ROW damage from snow plows, we have no history of repairing road salt damage to street ROW. We have not budgeted to take on a new service with this potential very wide scope. We have not discussed this concept with the Council. Until we have received a different Council direction on this item, we will continue the City’s existing practice.
- 7. Visioning** – City staff have selected FutureIQ as the recommended partner for the City’s visioning project. Staff met this week with FutureIQ to discuss the project in greater detail. Council members are scheduled to meet with FutureIQ at the June 17 work session.
- 8. Aquatic Center** – Things are heating up at the Aquatic Center as we prepare for opening day on Saturday, June 7. We have sold 848 Season Passes, compared to 904 at this time last year. We expect to see Season Pass sales increase as we hit warmer temperatures. In addition to facility readiness, approximately 85 seasonal staff have been hired to work in Concessions, Admissions, Facility Services and as Lifeguards. In an effort to streamline the hiring process, the Aquatic Center Managers are working very closely with the Human Resources Department to get all new staff on board through an electronic process.