

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 2014
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR JUNE 20, 2014

FRIDAY REPORT



- 1. Flooding** – The rainfall events we experienced on Thursday, June 19, flooded streets, parks and our sanitary sewer system. So far, we have identified 36 homes with flooded basements. Some experienced surface water flooding while others were flooded by sewer backup. We are still analyzing field data to determine the source of the flood waters in these homes.
- 2. Mobile App** – The City’s first free mobile app, Edina To Go, is now available in the iTunes App Store and Android Google Play store. Edina To Go gives residents quick, easy access to City information and allows users to report problems such as potholes, street light issues, damaged street signs and other issues.
- 3. Law Enforcement Torch Run** – The Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics is scheduled for Thursday, June 26, at 11:15 a.m. Fourteen participants from the Edina Police Department will take the torch handoff from the Eden Prairie Police Department and deliver it to the Richfield Police Department.
- 4. Olinger Boulevard Project Variance** – The City Council approved a resolution directing staff to seek a variance for the Olinger Boulevard pavement rehabilitation project scheduled for 2014. On June 19, the MnDOT Variance Committee granted the variance to the project. This will allow us to expand our bicycling facilities with no impacts to the parking along Olinger Boulevard. The potential loss of parking was a major concern of the residents.
- 5. 7200 France** – Application was made for a sketch plan review to redevelop the property at 7200 France Ave. The applicant would like to tear down the existing office building and construct a six-story mixed use project. Uses would include 170 luxury apartments, 25 townhomes and 45,500 square feet of retail space that would include two restaurants. The Planning Commission is tentatively scheduled to review the request on June 25, with City Council review tentatively scheduled for July 15.
- 6. Wooddale and Valley View (WVV) Small Area Plan** – About 75 residents and business representatives attended the kickoff meeting for the small area planning process for the neighborhood commercial area at Wooddale Avenue and Valley View Road held on Wednesday, June 18. The meeting covered information on the purpose and process for small area plans, as well as the anticipated timeline for the WVV plan. Participants did some initial brainstorming on area assets, ideas for the future and their hopes for the process. To date, nine community members have applied to serve on the small area planning team. Arlene Forrest and Susan Lee from the Planning Commission will serve as co-chairs of the team.
- 7. Pentagon Park** – The Pentagon Park South site is being recommended to receive a third TBRA grant from Metropolitan Council staff and Community Development Committee. Of the 13 applicants, Pentagon Park had the fourth highest ranking. The tentative amount of the award is \$448,100. With this grant in place, the developer anticipates demolition and clearance of the site later this year.

- 8. Wine & Nine** – The Wine and Nine Special at Braemar Golf Course on Friday evenings is growing in popularity. This promotion was rolled out May 2 and the number of rounds of golf has more than doubled since it was introduced. If inclined, couples golfing Fridays after 5 p.m. can pay \$39 total to play 9 holes of golf and get a bottle of wine to share afterward. The first week, we sold five and the past few weeks we have totaled 16 and 12. The additional benefit to this is that the clubhouse has been busier with food sales.
- 9. Farmers Market** – The Centennial Lakes Farmers Market is now open for the season. Over 30 vendors will gather in front of the Hughes Pavilion on Thursdays from 3 to 7 p.m. through Sept. 25.
- 10. Communications Awards** – The City recently received five awards from the National Association of Government Communicators. The City received a first-place Gold Screen Award in the “public affairs program” category for “Enterprise: Edina.” The U.S. Geological Survey received second place in the category and the City of Olathe, Kansas, won an Award of Excellence. “Enterprise: Edina” is a monthly program about businesses in Edina that is hosted by Chamber of Commerce President Lori Syverson. The other awards were for the City’s website, employee newsletter, Braemar Arena brochure and a public service announcement.
- 11. Staffing** – The Engineering Department is in the process of filling two open positions: a graduate Engineer/Engineering Technician and the Traffic Safety Coordinator. The application period for both positions closes today. Thus far, we have received resumes from a variety of well-qualified applicants. We look forward to filling both positions very soon.
- 12. Pamela Park Neighborhood Association** – Neighbors turned out for a discussion Thursday, June 19, at the Pamela Park shelter building to discuss the idea of forming an official neighborhood association. Project Coordinator MJ Lamon led the discussion and answered questions. I shared the plans for the Pamela Park renovation project. The group intends to get together again next week to vote on the proposal.
- 13. Video Milestone** – The video production staff reached a milestone last week when they filmed the 100th episode of the City’s bi-monthly news program, “Agenda: Edina.” Special thanks to host Dorothea Martti, Video Production Coordinator Scott Denfeld and Community Television Administrator Nathalie Gage for their work on this program, which has been broadcast since 2008. The current episode features segments on the Bicycle Friendly Community designation, standardized crosswalk markings and Junior Police. The new episode airs daily at 2:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. through the end of the month. “Agenda: Edina” is also available for webstreaming and has consistently been one of City’s most watched programs online.