

# OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2013  
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER  
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR JUNE 21, 2013

## FRIDAY REPORT



- 1. Storm Impacts** – The severe weather earlier this morning created havoc for our Public Works staff. Electrical outages and failures affected the pumping capacity of our water system as two wells and a water treatment facility near the Community Center were without electricity. The water treatment has a backup generator, so it was not put out of order by the storm. The sanitary sewer system had four lift stations without power. Public Works staff manually pumped these lift stations with portable generators. Due to the diligence of these employees, we did not experience any sanitary sewer-related damage as of this morning. The Parks Maintenance Division had a reported 16 trees that partially blocked the rights-of-way or fell in parks. Electrical Division are doing their best to assist Xcel to make sure that traffic signals became operational immediately after power was restored.
- 2. Wooddale Avenue Striping** – In last week's Friday Report, I told you the contractor was scheduled to begin removal of the existing pavement markings on Tuesday, June 18. The pavement markings have been removed and the new markings have been painted. Staff is also working with the Edina Country Club to trim back the hedges there.
- 3. Veterans Memorial Committee** – The committee met this morning and unanimously approved Richard Olson as its new chair.
- 4. Employee News** – Redevelopment Coordinator Cindy Larson started her new job this week, as did our new Transportation Planner, Mark Nolan. Lee Renneke started this week as our new Health Division Intern. He is a welcome addition to the Health Division during the busy summer season. Julie Norgren is transitioning from her current position as a full-time 9-1-1 Dispatcher to her new position as a Property & Evidence Technician. The current Property & Evidence Technician, Aimee Canepa, is moving and will leave us next week.
- 5. Fire Department Training** – The Fire Department has been conducting joint operations for firefighter training all week at the South Metro Public Safety Training Facility with Richfield, Metropolitan Airports Commission, Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Hopkins, St. Louis Park, Chanhassen and Minnetonka Fire Departments. The facility is being used exactly as intended: to improve the capabilities and coordination of firefighting efforts by not only Edina Fire Department, but all of the surrounding departments that we work with at emergency incidents.
- 6. Website Traffic** – We use Google Analytics and Site Improve to monitor activity on our website. Activity on the City of Edina website reflected the following activity during the month of May: Total visits – 68,465; Number of unique visitors – 47,556; Average time of each visit – 2 minutes, 36 seconds; Total page views – 203,881. About 44 percent of visitors

came just one time. More than 56 percent visited more often. Besides the home page, the most visited page was the Braemar Golf Course home page with 10,965 page views. The most frequently accessed PDF among visitors was the park facilities map. The most searched for terms to get people to our site were “City of Edina,” “Braemar Golf Course,” “Braemar Golf,” “Edinborough Park,” “Centennial Lakes Park,” Edina MN,” “Edina Art Center,” “Edinburgh Park,” “Edina Aquatic Center” and “Edina.” The most searched for words or phrases people used once people arrived at our site were “flood plain,” “jobs,” “zoning map,” “employment,” “recycling,” “tennis,” “permits,” “building permit,” “water” and “search.”

7. **Financing The Future** – We did not have a good turnout at our final “Financing The Future” event this week, so it was canceled. Staff are working with Citizens League to pull together the final reports on the data and feedback we collected at the other two events to share with the Council.
8. **Pentagon Park** – The Metropolitan Council’s Community Development Committee has recommended a second Tax Base Revitalization Account grant for the Pentagon Park redevelopment project. The recommended award is \$535,000 to assist Hillcrest Development with its asbestos remediation in the second phase of the project. The committee’s recommendation will be considered by the full Metropolitan Council at its June 26 meeting.
9. **City Council Meeting Schedule** – Just a reminder that we will have a special meeting of the City Council on Tuesday, June 25 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Council Chambers to meet with our aviation counsel. We do not have a Council meeting on July 2. Our only scheduled Council meeting in July is Tuesday, July 16.
10. **Xerxes Avenue Traffic Change** – Due to a significant increase in the level of traffic from detouring to the west from the Penn Avenue reconstruction in Minneapolis, Hennepin County will extend the southbound right lane to 60th Street. A temporary parking prohibition by Police Order will be posted on Wednesday, June 26, from Minnesota Highway 62 north to 61st Street on the Edina side of the street. It is anticipated the parking ban will remain in place until completion of construction activities on Penn Avenue.

Hennepin County will then remove the southern-most barricade on Xerxes Avenue after the morning rush hour on June 26 and will follow up with the Minnesota Department of Transportation to review and optimize the signal timing at Xerxes Ave and the Crosstown on and off ramps.

The period of time between now and the end of construction activities on Penn Avenue will provide opportunity to observe traffic flow and model options of lane configurations on the Xerxes Avenue bridge over Crosstown, including the north and south approaches to the bridge. Once the Penn Avenue construction activities are complete, it is anticipated the length of the right turn lane onto westbound Highway 62 will be determined and the barricade at 61st Street can be adjusted appropriately to reflect final conditions.