

# OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: THURSDAY, JULY 3, 2014  
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER  
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR JULY 4, 2014

## FRIDAY REPORT



- 1. Transportation Updates** – The contractor has completed the pavement markings on Hazelton Road. Access has been restored to Rue de France from France Avenue. Additional access is also now available from France Avenue on Hazelton Road to Byerly's. Access to Guitar Center continues to be from the east and York Avenue.

The Xerxes Avenue bridge over the Crosstown reopened last weekend.

Hennepin County appears to have coalesced around a design for Xerxes Avenue from Crosstown to Minnehaha Creek. They are planning a construction timeline to do the project later this year.

The contractor for the France Avenue pedestrian improvement project is cleaning up the area in anticipation of the July 4 holiday and the fireworks at Rosland Park. The contractor is putting up traffic control to clearly designate where it is safe for pedestrians during this event.

- 2. Watershed Districts** – Staff met with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) last week to discuss the details of an agreement between the City and MCWD for future projects and initiatives that are mutually beneficial to both parties. Staff will bring this document to Council for review and discussion later this summer.
- 3. Employee News** – Paul Froiland has accepted the position of Maintenance Operations Coordinator I at Edinborough Park and will begin work on Tuesday, July 8. Paul most recently was the Lead Building Maintenance/Custodian at the City of Monticello.

On Monday, June 30, Jason Cotten was promoted to the position of Maintenance Supervisor at Braemar Arena. Jason will be the direct supervisor of all maintenance staff at Braemar Arena.

The Engineering Department is in the process of filling two open positions: a Graduate Engineer/Engineering Technician and Traffic Safety Coordinator. Interviews have started and we have good candidates for both positions.

We are contracting with WSB to provide the City with supplemental assistance in our Planning Division to review a backlog of building permit applications.

- 4. 7200 France** – The Planning Commission did a sketch plan review at its meeting last week for a redevelopment proposal for 7200 France Ave. The applicant proposes to raze 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 applicant

has pledged to make 20 percent of the housing units fit the affordable category. City Council will have its first look at the proposal on July 15.

5. **Wooddale and Valley View (WVV) Small Area Plan** – The City received 14 applications from residents and businesses to serve on the planning team for the WVV small area plan. Planning Commissioners Arlene Forrest and Susan Lee and City staff reviewed the applications and are forwarding a slate of five residents and two business representatives to the Planning Commission for appointment to the team on July 9. The same group also reviewed seven proposals for consulting services and recommends that three firms be interviewed. Those interviews are scheduled to take place on July 30 with the small area planning team.
6. **Police Department Update** –The Presidential visit last week had a significant impact on the Police Department as more than 25 officers were mobilized to provide traffic control/security for the motorcade.

The promotional process for Sergeants is underway. Finalists will undergo an assessment before a decision is made.

We had great weather for the Torch Run and Chaplain BBQ June 26. Thanks to everyone who turned out to cheer us on along our route and to the Chaplains for feeding us so well after the run.

7. **Golf Update** – Braemar Golf Course has managed to stay relatively busy in spite of the large amounts of rainfall in June. We lost significant business two weekends in a row due to rain. The 4.5 inches received on June 18 and 19 was particularly painful to our finances because the course wasn't playable for those days, which caused us to cancel two large golf events and dinners as well as a banquet luncheon rental when the driveway became impassable due to flooding.
8. **Election 2014** – It seems hard to believe, but we opened for absentee voting for the Primary Election on Friday, June 27. The Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 12. City Hall is a polling place for absentee voting. Minnesota Election Law dictates that no campaigning may take place in a polling location. For the Primary Election, absentee voting will take place in the Council office located behind the Council chambers. We will place signs near the entrance directing people to the correct door.
9. **Centennial Lakes Park Clock** – A Verdin street clock has been installed in front of the Hughes Pavilion at Centennial Lakes Park. It chimes on the half hour for park visitors. The 15-foot tall, 1,200 pound clock was generously donated to the City by the Edina Rotary Foundation.
10. **Music in Edina** – We had an excellent turnout for the first Music in Edina concert on June 13 with Michael Monroe of Grand Marais. Between 250 and 300 people turned out on a beautiful Friday evening for the concert, with appearances by the Edina Police Department and its K9 unit. Police cars and a fire truck were available to view and tour. The Arts & Culture Commission had a small booth to promote its events and two food vendors joined us as well. The next concert is July 4 with the First John Phillip Sousa Band, and then Patty Peterson on July 18.