

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: FRIDAY, JULY 12, 2013
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR JULY 12, 2013

FRIDAY REPORT



- 1. 6500 France** – On July 10, the Planning Commission held a public hear to consider a request to develop 6500 France Ave. with 197 units of senior housing and care suites. A recommendation for approval of the project failed on a vote of 4 ayes and 5 nays. The Planning Commission was generally in favor of the use on the site, but had issues with the site plan. Concerns included impacts on the adjacent Cornelia Place apartments caused by the proximity of the garage entrance, loading docks and chiller location on the west side of the property. Additional concerns were regarding the low number of proposed affordable housing units, lack of pedestrian engagement to France Avenue and sustainable design measurable goals, and, to a lesser extent, density. The City Council will review this request on Aug. 5.
- 2. 2013 Night to Unite** – This year’s annual Night to Unite is scheduled for 6 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 6. We should encourage residents to register their Night to Unite block parties through the Police Department. Block party applications are available online under the “Licenses and Permits” section of our website.
- 3. Richfield 9-1-1** – The City of Richfield is continuing to consider outsourcing its 9-1-1 emergency dispatching services. The Richfield City Council discussed the proposal at a work session this week. They are considering proposals from Edina, Bloomington and Hennepin County.
- 4. Neighborhood Associations** – We will be kicking off a neighborhood publicity campaign this month to encourage residents to sign up for City Extra by neighborhood and to educate residents about the opportunity to form neighborhood associations. The campaign will include postcards at Night to Unite events and utility billing inserts. Our first neighborhood workshop is scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 28, at the Senior Center.
- 5. Golf News** – Braemar’s junior lesson programs have more than 600 kids signed up to date. It is the largest enrollment ever.

While overall golf operations have been hampered by poor weather this year, Braemar Golf Course hosted its largest golf event of the season this past week with over 170 Edina Realty golfers utilizing all 27 holes and 200 for lunch and dinner.

A groundbreaking celebration for the Braemar Golf Dome will be held the morning of Tuesday, July 30. More details are forthcoming.

- 6. American Legion Baseball Tournament** – The Public Works Department’s Parks Maintenance division met with staff from the Edina Baseball Association to work out the logistics of the American Legion State Baseball Tournament that is scheduled for Aug 1-5. An opening ceremony will be held the afternoon of Thursday, Aug. 1.
- 7. Residential Redevelopment Ordinance Update** – On June 26, the Planning Commission recommended approval of a Zoning Ordinance Amendment regarding residential redevelopment. Highlights of the proposed ordinance for lots less than 75 feet wide include: reducing the maximum building height from 35 feet to 30 feet, increasing side yard setbacks up to two feet, allowing construction of a single-stall garage, limiting a front-facing garage to 60 percent of the width of a principal structure, limiting garage door height to nine feet, limiting a front-facing garage from sticking out more than five feet beyond the front building line, and requiring a five-foot side yard setback on one side for egress windows. For all lots: Eliminating the five-foot side yard setback requirement for attached garages, clarifying drainage requirements, requiring a five-foot setback for retaining walls over four feet tall, eliminating the increased side yard setback requirement for second stories over 15 feet in height, establishing sidewall articulation requirements for new homes, allowing nonconforming front yard setbacks to continue as long as the square footage encroachment of the new home does not exceed the square footage encroachment by more than 200 square feet, and requiring a residential maintenance access from a front yard to a rear yard of at least three feet. The City Council will hold a public hearing and consider the ordinance July 16.
- 8. Proposed Grandview TIF District Update** – The City and HRA previously scheduled a public hearing to consider establishing a Grandview 2 TIF District on July 16. Since that announcement, City staff and consultants learned that not all properties would be available for inspection until fall 2013. As such, the public hearing will be delayed so that the conditions of more buildings can be evaluated and considered for inclusion in a potential TIF District. After the consultants evaluate the existing facilities, a public hearing will be scheduled. This will likely occur in the fall of 2013 or winter of 2014.
- 9. 4th of July Parade** – Edina’s 4th of July parade was seen live not only in Edina, but also in Inver Grove Heights, Mendota Heights, South Saint Paul and West Saint Paul. It is being rebroadcast on Edina Channel 16 10 p.m. Sundays, 7 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays, 3 and 11 a.m. Tuesdays and Fridays and 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. Saturdays through July 31. It is also available for online viewing. To date, it has been viewed 392 times on the City’s YouTube channel.
- 10. Focus In for July** – As a part of the 2013 “Focus In” campaign, Edina patrol officers are focusing their efforts on pedestrian safety during the month of July.
- 11. Online Bill Pay** – The Finance Department and the Communications & Technology Services Department are working together on a project to give our utility customers the option to pay their utility bills online. e-bills should be available to customers before the end of the year.
- 12. Building Inspections News** – Permit volume in the Building Inspections Division remains high. In order to reduce the current four-week wait time for a permit, we are bringing on a part-time employee to help with plan reviews. We have 13 applicants for the position. In addition to the part-time plan review position, we have reached an agreement with Eden Prairie’s Building Inspections Division to assist us in reducing our plan review backlog.

13. Summer Recreation Programs – This has been an extremely wet week at Edina Parks & Recreation’s Summer Playground program, but not because of any rain! Each summer, the Edina Fire Department generously accepts an invitation to bring out a fire truck to each one of our 16 programs and uses the fire hoses, giving the participants a 30-minute shower of water fun! Year after year, the playground staff and children tell us that the visit from the Fire Department is one of the highlights of the summer.

14. Employee News – Nathalie Gage has accepted the position of Community Television Administrator. She will begin her new position July 24, overseeing playback of the public and education access channels for Edina, Eden Prairie, Hopkins, Minnetonka and Richfield. Gage has been a part-time Video Production Assistant for the City for nearly seven years and will continue to support the Edina government access channel as time allows.

Part-time Communications Assistant Emilie Kastner’s final day with us will be July 19. Kastner has accepted a full-time position as Communications Coordinator for the City of Plymouth.

Former 9-1-1 Dispatcher Julie Ann Norgren started her new job as our Property & Evidence Specialist on June 28.

Lee Renneke started his new job as an intern in our Health Division on June 18.

Annie Johnson started her new job as the City Management Fellow on July 1.

Alec Fischer started his new job as a Video Production Intern on June 24.

15. MAC 101 – MAC Executive Director Jeff Hamiel has confirmed that he will attend the City Council’s July 16 meeting and give an introductory presentation about the Metropolitan Airports Commission.