

# OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: FRIDAY, AUG. 9, 2013  
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER  
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR AUG. 9, 2013

## FRIDAY REPORT



- 1. Torchlight Concert at Centennial Lakes** – On Sunday, Aug. 11, the First John Philip Sousa Memorial Band will play its annual Torchlight Concert at Centennial Lakes Park in the amphitheater. The concert will begin at dusk, around 8:30 p.m. The concert is set at a simpler time, at the turn of the 20th Century, and features serenades, marches, overtures and soprano Maggie Burton (flutist with the band) who will sing.
- 2. Night To Unite** – Officers attended 49 block parties for “Night to Unite” before the severe weather scuttled the event for the night. Police Department staff developed an emergency plan earlier that day because of the predicted threat of severe weather. They activated our Code Red system to notify all block party organizers of the impending storm. The notification was well received.
- 3. Arts Update** – The EdinaScapes Exhibit moved to the Edina Historical Society. The exhibit honors Edina’s 125th anniversary.

The Edina Art Center’s 2013 summer camp and class registrations revenue is up \$20,964 over July 2012. There are three weeks of Art Center summer camps left to go. We are attributing some of the excellent attendance this year to some online coupons that were offered.

The Arts & Culture Commission held a strategic planning session on June 29. The results of the planning session are working their way through the commission and will eventually make their way to the Council in the form of Work Plan amendments and proposals.

The deadline for the Edina Film Festival Poster Contest has been extended to Aug. 12. Two entries have been received so far.

The Art Center program schedule can now be found in the Edina Parks & Recreation *Activities Directory*. It has a new, clean look with great design. *Activities Directory* will be sent late next week to all Edina households in addition to non-residents on the Art Center mailing list.

- 4. Storm Damage** – There was a small amount of property damage due to the storms on Aug. 6. Four police vehicles sustained hail damage. The Police Department is taking time to warn residents to be aware of scams related to storm damage. We are encouraging residents to be cautious before paying a company for tree trimming, roofing, siding and windshield replacements.
- 5. 54th Street Project** – Staff and representatives from the public engagement consulting team will host an interactive community workshop on Monday, Aug. 19, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Calvary Christian Reformed Church, 5300 France Ave S. Results of the issues and needs will be shared along with preliminary design scenarios.

6. **The Farm Report** – Beans, peas, chives, basil, radishes and lettuce are a few of the vegetables that are being harvested by families at the Edible Playground at Lewis Park.  
  
Farmers market attendance has been good as well, with more than 1,600 people attending during each of the past three markets.  
  
The Yorktown Park Community Garden parking lot will be paved the week of Aug. 12. Final restoration will be completed after paving.
7. **Speed Enforcement** – In July, the Edina Police Department wrote the third highest number of speeding tickets in the state, just behind the State Patrol and St. Paul Police. This coincided with a statewide campaign to reduce traffic injuries and deaths. The average citation issued by the Edina Police Department was for 16 mph over the limit on side streets and 17 mph over the limit on the highways. The top speed was for 97 mph in a 55 mph zone.
8. **Centennial Lakes Park** – Revenues at the park through the end of July 2013 are ahead of July 2012 total by \$12,415. Some of the individual 2013 revenue line items compared to their July 2012 totals are as follows: Putting \$55,565 (+ \$10,355); Lawn Bowling \$1,912 (- \$512); Croquet \$480 (- \$272); Paddleboats \$13,988 (+ \$2,052); and Concessions \$4,122 (+ \$792). Last week's showing of "The Impossible" was the third straight Movie in the Park with an attendance over 1,500.
9. **Community Television** – Community Television Administrator Nathalie Gage and the Southwest Suburban Cable Commission's Transition Team are making steady progress toward taking over playback of public and educational access programming from Comcast. This week, Gage met with school district officials to talk about playback and other issues related to the educational access channel and producers from the cities of Eden Prairie, Edina, Hopkins, Minnetonka and Richfield to talk about similar things for the public access channel. The majority of the equipment necessary for playback was installed on Thursday, Aug. 8. At this point, the Commission is waiting for Comcast to install or provide its equipment and set an exact cut-over date.
10. **Promenade Improvements** – The timeline has started for the development of possible improvements to the Promenade. On Aug. 8, Environmental Engineer Ross Binter briefed the Energy & Environment Commission on the proposed underground infiltration system. The Park Board will review and comment on conceptual plans on Aug. 13. The Transportation Commission will receive plans for a review and comment on the proposed pedestrian and bike facilities. On Sept. 10, staff will ask the Park Board to recommend approval of a specific plan. Staff will ask City Council review and approve the Park Board's recommendation at the Oct. 1 Council meeting. Following Council approval, project consultant URS will be able to complete the final design in November through January and bid out the project in March for start of construction in June/July 2014. We would expect construction to be completed in October/November of 2014.
11. **France Avenue** – The next France Ave urban design meeting will take place at 7 p.m. Aug. 21, at the Public Works and Parks Maintenance Facility.