

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: THURSDAY, AUG. 15, 2014
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR AUG. 15, 2014

FRIDAY REPORT



- 1. Flood Report/Sandbags Collection** – Several months after storms brought heavy rains, overflowing the banks of the Minnehaha Creek in Edina, the outlook for additional flooding threats have subsided. The City will begin pickup of sandbags Saturday, Aug. 23. We plan to collaborate with the Edina High School football team to assist residents with the deconstruction of the back yard flood walls that were created in June. They will help residents not only deconstruct the walls, but also help them move the sandbags to the street in front of the homes so that they can be collected with City staff using heavy equipment. Staff will salvage the materials from the sandbags to use throughout the winter months for watermain breaks and icy intersections.
- 2. GFOA Budget Recognition** – Edina’s 2014-2015 budget was awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award this week by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). The Distinguished Budget Presentation award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting. According to the GFOA, this award “reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting.” This is the first time Edina has received this award, and it is the result of a great deal of work by our Finance and Administration departments.
- 3. City Council Candidacy** – Seven people filed to run for City Council in November: Kevin Staunton, Bob Stewart, Keeya Steele, Thomas Bliss, Blake Johnson, Jennifer Janovy and Council Member Josh Sprague. Lee McGrath also filed, but has withdrawn. No one else withdrew their candidacy by the withdrawal deadline of yesterday, Aug. 14 at 5 p.m.
- 4. Grandview RFI** – The City received 10 responses to our Grandview RFI. Staff will review the responses next week. We plan to reduce the field from 10 to 3 or 4 finalists. City Council will interview the finalists on Sept. 2 at the Council’s work session. The Council will select the development partner shortly thereafter.
- 5. New School Resource Officers** – Two new School Resource Officers (SROs) have been selected jointly by the Police Department and the school district. They will begin their new assignments on Aug. 20. Officer Dave Boosalis will be assigned to the high school and Officer Eric Carlson will cover the middle and elementary schools. The outgoing School Resource Officers are newly promoted Sergeants Brian Hubbard and Aaron White. They will now resume regular assignments within the Department.
- 6. Election Results** – 4,369 Edina citizens cast their ballots in this week’s primary election. We also had 433 absentee ballots cast. Of our 32,338 voters, this amounts to 14.85 percent turnout. All of Edina’s 20 voting precincts came in at the end of the evening balanced and with all paperwork in order. The election statistics indicate things went well.

We are working to improve the signage at Edinborough Park to better facilitate parking and handicapped access. With three new polling places and one school totally torn up, it was challenging for some voters in finding their proper place to vote. We will work with the Sun-Current and use our website to publicize where people need to go for the November election.

Staff will be moving into the Mayor's Conference Room on Wednesday, Sept. 17 in order to prepare to open absentee voting on Friday, Sept. 19. We have decided to be open for absentee voting the following additional dates to accommodate Edina voters: Thursdays Oct. 23 and 30 until 6 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 25 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. These days are in addition to statutory required days of Saturday, Nov. 1 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Monday, Nov. 3 until 5 p.m.

7. **RMTs** – The Metropolitan Airport Commission has notified us that they will need to move up the mobile noise testing study in Edina and St. Louis Park due to some staffing issues they are facing. They plan to place the mobile remote monitoring towers (RMT) on Aug. 18 and retrieve them Sept. 2.
8. **Richfield School Superintendent Meeting** – There is a new Superintendent for the Richfield school district, Steve Unownsky. I will meet with Mr. Unowsky next week to discuss City-School relations and to give him a driving tour of the parts of the Richfield school district that are within Edina.
9. **Traffic Safety Requests** – The Engineering Department received 18 traffic safety requests for the month of July. This is an usually high number, if not a record. Staff is reviewing the traffic safety request process for repeat requests within a specific time frame to try to make our operations more efficient.
10. **Southwest Suburban Cable Commission** – The Managers' Committee met this week with legal counsel Brian Grogan and determined that a "Special" Full Commission meeting of the Southwest Suburban Cable Commission is necessary to discuss Comcast's request to transfer control of our franchise and cable system to Midwest Cable. The meeting will be held at the Hopkins City Hall 4 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17.
11. **2015 Street Reconstruction Projects** – Engineering staff will review many of the 2015 Street Reconstruction Projects with the Transportation Commission next week. We are expecting residents – perhaps a substantial number – from the Arden Park neighborhood to attend to voice their opposition to the preliminary sidewalk plan for their neighborhood.
12. **NOC Meeting at City Hall** – The member cities of the Metropolitan Airport Commission's Noise Oversight Commission will meet in the Mayor's Conference Room in Edina City Hall at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 20.
13. **Morningside Sidewalks** – Sidewalks have been installed in the Morningside Neighborhood along Crocker Avenue, south of 42nd Street, 42nd Street from Grimes Avenue to the city limits, and Grimes from 42nd to Inglewood Avenue.
14. **Safety Camp** – Over 90 kids attended Safety Camp at the South Metro Public Safety Training Facility on Thursday, Aug. 7. Campers learned about fire safety, gun safety, personal safety and more. Safety Camp is an interdepartmental collaboration among our Police, Fire and Parks & Recreation departments.