

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: FRIDAY, AUG. 16, 2013
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR AUG. 16, 2013

FRIDAY REPORT



- 2012 Crime Rates** – The FBI has a standardized crime statistical metric that is used to measure crime rates around the country. The most common crime rate statistic is known as the Combined Crime Rate, which combines Part 1 and Part 2 crimes, and is normalized into a format that describes the rate of crime per 100,000 population. There are 30 law enforcement jurisdictions in Hennepin County, excluding the University of Minnesota Police Department, MAC Police, Three Rivers Park Police and Osseo. Of those 30 jurisdictions, Brooklyn Center rated the highest with a crime rate of 12,861 per 100,000. Corcoran ranked 30th at 2,087 per 100,000. Edina ranked 27th at 3,501 per 100,000, which we can attribute, in my opinion, to a combination of our respectful, law abiding residents and an excellent Police Department.
- Torchlight Night** – Sunday, Aug. 11 was the annual Lighthouse Night at Centennial Lakes Park. More than 4,000 people attended the event on a beautiful summer evening, which was complete with model yachting, old-fashioned bicycles, Model T display, organ grinder, magician, Jim Shannon piano, Mechanical Man, concert and cheap/free balloons, ice cream, cookies and lemonade. Both the Edina Model Yacht Club and First John Philip Sousa Memorial Band were extremely pleased by the great turnout and the performances. Park staff will meet with the event organizers next week to debrief this year's event and to prepare for next year.
- Joint Meeting with School Board** – The proposed Aug. 19 joint meeting with the School Board has been postponed. Superintendent Ric Dressen and I are comparing schedules for new dates.
- Aviation Noise Meeting** – Congressman Keith Ellison will host a special community meeting 5:30 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 27, at Washburn High School to hear public input and concerns about aviation noise. The City will use its various communications channels to make our residents aware of this opportunity to share their concerns on this issue.
- Park Facility Update** – The Garden Park baseball field renovation is well under way. The earthwork will be completed by the end of the month so that the field can be seeded. With good growing conditions this fall and next spring, the field will be available for play next June.

The Aquatic Center will be close for the season on Aug. 25.

The Yorktown Community Garden parking lot will be completed today.

- France Avenue** – Centerpoint Energy will start next week on a couple of maintenance and repair of gas line along France Avenue. The first location will be at 70th Street and France Avenue, followed by locations on Gallagher Drive and France Avenue and 66th Street and France Avenue. This work involves northbound lane closures. Centerpoint anticipates the work being completed within three weeks.

The next France Avenue urban design meeting will take place 7 p.m. Aug. 21, at the Public Works & Parks Maintenance Facility.

7. **Richfield 9-1-1** – At its meeting earlier this week, the Richfield City Council approved a request from the City Manager to out-source its 9-1-1 emergency dispatching to the City of Edina. An agreement documenting the relationship must still be approved by both City Councils. Staff are working to develop a contract for this service very similar to the existing 9-1-1 dispatching contract we have with the City of Golden Valley. If approved, we anticipate the cutover from Richfield to Edina will occur sometime this fall.
8. **Technology Upgrades** – Braemar Arena began using a new Point of Sale (POS) system on July 17. The Communications & Technology Services Department installed three new registers complete with computers, cash drawers, touch-screen monitors, credit card swipes and receipt printers. The POS system they are using is called Max Enterprise, which is also used at Edinborough Park and the Edina Aquatic Center. The software allows staff to run reports to track statistics (what they sold, when, how much, etc.) and gives them the capability to run credit cards in the concessions stand.
9. **Beyond The Yellow Ribbon** – Edina is in the process of becoming proclaimed as a Beyond the Yellow Ribbon city. We are working with Hopkins, Minnetonka and St. Louis Park. Together, the group will be called the Southwest Twin Cities Beyond the Yellow Ribbon coalition. Beginning last summer, the four cities have been working to fill out the Action Plan as directed by the statewide Beyond the Yellow Ribbon organization. We submitted our action plan for consideration last week and are waiting for the preliminary review. Following any changes that need to be made, our action plan will be submitted to statewide Beyond the Yellow Ribbon. The four cities are planning a Proclamation Celebration at Downtown Park in Hopkins on Oct. 5.
10. **Promenade Improvements** – The Energy & Environment Commission, Park Board and Transportation Commission will review and comment on conceptual plans at their September meetings. Staff will ask City Council to review and approve conceptual plans at the Oct. 1 City Council meeting. Following City 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 and July 2014. We would expect construction to be completed in October or November 2014.
11. **Concord School Project** – The Concord Elementary School remodeling project is running behind schedule, so our Building Inspections team is working with school district officials and contractors to complete needed items to allow the school to be operational on the opening day. The project may not be completed by the start of the new school year, but all the life safety issues will be resolved and the school will be safe to occupy.
12. **EEC Tour** – The Energy & Environment Commission infrastructure tour went well last week. They toured Water Treatment Plant 6, the former public works site, Dublin reservoir, Tracy Avenue, new Public Works & Park Maintenance Facility, Lift Station 6, and Lake Edina Neighborhood Reconstruction.
13. **54th Street Project** – Staff and representatives from the public engagement consulting team will host an interactive community workshop 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, Aug. 19, at Calvary Christian Reformed Church, 5300 France Ave. S. Results of the issues and needs will be shared along with preliminary design scenarios.