

# OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: FRIDAY, AUG. 23, 2013  
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER  
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR AUG. 23, 2013

## FRIDAY REPORT



- 1. Employee News** – Police Officer Scott Thompson has announced his retirement. Scott has been with the City since November 1987. His last day of employment will be Sept. 6. Officer Thompson spent many years on our Traffic Unit, SWAT Team, two tours on our Narcotics Task Force and served in an undercover assignment with the FBI. He will be missed.

Director of Engineering Wayne Houle has been asked to speak at the American Public Works Association 2013 Congress next week in Chicago. Wayne will speak on Edina's sustainability initiatives. Three other municipalities across the United States, along with two consultants, will also speak on their sustainability initiatives.

The Building Inspections Division will welcome Jessica Archer as a Part-time Building Inspector on Tuesday, Sept. 3. She has six years of experience as a Building Inspector at the City of Plymouth. She holds an associate degree in Architectural Drafting and Design and is currently finishing her bachelor's degree at the University of Minnesota – Crookston.

- 2. Wick's Site Redevelopment Proposal** – Staff received a sketch plan for a redevelopment of the old Wick's site at 6725 York Ave. The specific proposal is to tear down the existing commercial building and the five single-family homes to the east, and build a six-story, 273-unit upscale apartment building with 22,289 square feet of retail (potential supermarket/deli) on the first level. The Planning Commission will consider the sketch plan on Aug. 28. City Council will do its sketch plan review on Sept. 17.
- 3. 54th Street Project** – More than 70 stakeholders attended a public engagement workshop hosted by staff and the consulting team on the proposed project on Monday, Aug. 19. The workshop was setup with five stations that included three for the different segments of 54th Street and two for the storm water issues related to Minnehaha Creek. The attendees visited three of the stations throughout the evening to offer input on the different design elements. The next step is to assemble the design scenarios and share them with the stakeholders in September.
- 4. Southdale Medical Office Project** – On Aug. 28, the Planning Commission will also consider a request to build a four-story, 60,000-square-foot medical office expansion and new parking ramp expansion to the existing 273,000-square-foot Southdale Medical Office building located at 6525-45 France Ave. The new addition would be located on the south side of the existing building and west of the existing parking ramp. City Council review for this project will be Sept. 17.

- 5. France Avenue Urban Design Workshop** –The third in a series of three workshops on the proposed urban design elements of the France Avenue Corridor Improvements Project was held Aug. 21. The workshop focused on the patterns and connections within the corridor that relate to the traveling public on both public rights-of-way and private property, followed by a look at the elements for the streetscape improvements to the corridor. Our consultant will now pull together the elements to create the landscaping plan for the corridor, which will be shared with the public in September.
- 6. Edinborough Pool** – The Edinborough Park Pool is 26 years old and is undergoing several major improvements between now and Sept. 3. These improvements include the installation of a new plaster pool shell, new tile lane lines and replacement of the pool heater. The existing pool shell was badly stained, cracking and in need of maintenance. In addition, the pool filters will be flushed and the pump motor will be serviced. In July, the air compressor and supply fan for the pool were replaced because they had both failed. The pool will re-open on Sept. 3 and will be in great shape to kick off our fall activities.
- 7. More Pool News** – Attendance has sharply increased at the Aquatic Center this past week with the onset of the hot weather. Aug. 20 was one of the busiest days this year with the sale of 1,287 daily admissions. To date, we have sold 10,782 individual season passes, which is slightly less than the number sold in 2012. The total number of FlowRider Season passes sold this year is 306. Group reservations have been very steady throughout the season and we had a total of 91 groups visit, not including Edina Kids Club. The Aquatic Center will close at 8 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 25, after another safe season.
- 8. Even More Interesting Pool News** – On Aug. 22, the Aquatic Center pool had to be cleared briefly due to an eagle dropping an 8-inch live coy fish into the pool!
- 9. Edina Film Festival** – The third-annual Edina Film Festival will be held Nov. 7-9 at Landmark’s Edina Cinema. The first Edina Film Festival Poster Contest had 11 entries. Entrants aged from children age 14 and 15 (Art Academy students at the Art Center) to adult. Nancy Carlson, Minneapolis College of Art and Design Professor and former Edina resident, was the judge. A poster of the top 10 entries will be created for display and sale at the festival.
- 10. Southview Vandalism** – We have closed the damage to property case at Southview Middle School. We have submitted the reports to the County with the expectation that three juveniles will be charged.
- 11. Aviation Noise Meeting** – Congressman Keith Ellison will host a special community meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 27 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Washburn High School to hear public input and concerns about aviation noise. The City is using its various communications channels to make our residents aware of this opportunity to share their concerns on this issue.
- 12. Art Center Camps** – There are only 1.5 weeks left to go with summer classes and summer children’s camps at the Art Center. The Edina Art Center offered 72 camps originally with 11 added classes for a total of 83 camps. Five camps were cancelled due to low registrations – or 6 percent of the total. A total of 693 children participated in Art Center Summer Camps; 107 members (15 percent) and 607 (85 percent) non-members, and 21 cancellations. Forty-one camps had 8 students or more. Clay on the Wheel is the most popular summer camp. The Art Center offered a

LivingSocial coupon June 14-24 for summer camps and memberships. 127 summer camp vouchers were purchased, and so far 106 have been redeemed. Non-redeemed vouchers are mostly Art Center memberships. Total income produced was \$2,353.44.

**13. Fire-Rescue & Inspections Department** – The Fire Department and project contractor coordinated a test of the new Golf Dome fire suppression system today. The system uses video surveillance cameras and water cannons. The test was successful.

Firefighters have been training in the old Edina Realty building this past two weeks. The structure works great for many different training exercises.

We have seen an increase in heat-related medical emergencies this past week. We hope cooler weather should help.

**14. Centennial Lakes Park** – We are down to our last 10 concert/movies for the season, but attendance remains good. The part-time staff has started to leave in droves, leaving us a bit shorthanded. We are currently aerating and topdressing the lawn games area and hope to start the putting course next week.

We are preparing final payment for the outside restroom addition at the Hughes Pavilion. Early morning joggers love having access to restrooms before 8 a.m. The general public has also been using them much heavier than we had anticipated.

We had an electrician install an LED light fixture at the Pinecone, which replaced an old floodlight fixture that constantly gave us trouble. The new lighting seems to work pretty well, although it still does not really stand out due to the amount of ambient light from the walkway fixtures. The lights will give us over 60,000 hours of service.

**15. Mill Pond Weed Removal** –Staff quickly reorganized the weed removal process for the Mill Pond upstream of the Browndale Dam after the original weed removal contractor failed to remove the weeds. We contracted with another company that was able to remove weeds this week. We have received a number of positive comments regarding this change.

**16. Richfield 9-1-1** –We held our first meeting with Richfield to plan the proposed transition of their 9-1-1 calls to our dispatch center. Our goal, with Council approval, is to “go live” on Dec. 1. The transition team will meet weekly over the next few months to ensure that we are prepared.

**17. Planning Commission** –Jeff Carpenter will attend his last Planning Commission meeting on Aug. 28. Mike Fischer will then take over in his place at the Sept. 11 meeting. This transition plan ensures that we will not have any commission meetings where we have unfilled commissioner spots.