

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: FRIDAY, SEPT. 12, 2014
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR SEPT. 12, 2014

FRIDAY REPORT



- 1. 50th & France** – The approved purchase agreement for the Hooten Cleaners & Launderers site has been executed. The due diligence on the transaction is proceeding quickly with an anticipated closing to occur within the next 30 days. Due to delays with the availability of construction materials, the owner of 3939 W. 50th St. (the 50th & France Building) has decided to postpone the new façade project until the spring of 2015.
- 2. Pamela Park Project** – The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District has approved the City’s project at Pamela Park. Field construction in the park will start Tuesday, Sept. 16. No further sport activities can take place in the construction area of the fields. The main focus in the park this fall will be the installation of the athletic turf field.
- 3. Save The Date: Braemar Field Grand Opening** – Staff has tentatively scheduled the grand opening event for Braemar Field (the new sports dome) for the evening of Friday, Dec. 5. More on this later.
- 4. Veterans Memorial Groundbreaking Event** – The event is scheduled for 9 a.m. Friday, Sept. 19 at Utley Park. Please attend if you’re available.
- 5. Planning Commission Update** – The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing Oct. 8 to consider an ordinance amendment regarding front street setback requirements for single-family homes, the first floor one-foot rule for teardowns and rebuilds, and commercial lighting. The goal of the amendment is make the ordinance easier to interpret and meet the original intent.

The Planning Commission held a public hearing Sept. 10 to consider final rezoning for a proposal to tear down the existing 12,199-square-foot office building and build a new 10,000-square-foot retail building with a coffee shop drive-thru at 5108 Edina Industrial Blvd. The Commission is recommending the proposal. The proposal will be considered by the City Council Oct. 7.

- 6. Employee News** – Dave Schmitzer has been promoted to the position of Captain in the Fire Department. Dave will begin his new duties on Sunday, Sept. 21. Dave joined the Department in 1996 and worked as a Paramedic/Firefighter until he was promoted to Lieutenant in 2000.
- 7. 40th & France** – I attended a work session of the St. Louis Park City Council this week to hear their discussion about the City of Minneapolis’ offer regarding the 40th & France property. I think it would be a good idea for us to have a discussion on the subject as well before the close of this month. I will ask Executive Assistant Heather Branigin to reach out to Council Members to identify a date for a brief special meeting to consider this matter.
- 8. Alley Improvements** – The alley improvement project between Xerxes and York avenues from 54th to 56th Sstreets has started. The contractor has reclaimed the existing alley pavement in preparation of grading and final paving.

9. **Grandview RFI** – There is a majority of Council support to select a tentative development partner from among the four development teams that were interviewed Sept. 2. The Council’s Sept. 16 work session has been structured to be a discussion among the Council about the interviews and next steps. If the Council reaches consensus on the selection of a development partner at the work session, staff have prepared an action for the Council to take at the Council meeting later that evening to affirm that choice and direction.
10. **Arden Park Neighborhood Street Reconstruction Project** – The second neighborhood meeting with the Arden Park Neighborhood is scheduled for Sept. 22. Staff will continue discussions with the neighborhood on improvements related to the 2015 street reconstruction project.
11. **Back To School Celebration** – Edinborough Park staff organized a “Back to School Celebration” at Edinborough Park Thursday, Sept. 4. A small collection of new school supplies were donated by guests, and will be given to local organization VEAP. Highlights of the day included:
- Visits from the Edina Police and Fire departments, who showed off their uniforms; gave the kids a close-up look at a squad car; and handed out stickers, coloring books and other goodies;
 - Entertainment by Mary Hall Show for Pipsqueeks;
 - Storytime with Joey the miniature horse; and,
 - An interactive juggling demonstration by the Jugheads in the Great Hall.
12. **Police Officer Training** – Patrol Officers began using a new online training system this week called PATROL. This web-based training tool enhances our current in-service and training program by providing officers with consistent, structured training modules on a variety of relevant topics. We will evaluate after a year to determine if the program should be continued.
13. **Focus In** – The Focus In topic for September is distracted driving.
14. **Acting City Manager** – I will attend the annual conference of the International City/County Management Association in Charlotte, North Carolina, Sept. 12-16. My return flight is scheduled to arrive in the late afternoon of Tuesday, Sept. 16; I will be back in time for the Council’s work session and meeting that evening. During my absence, Assistant City Manager Karen Kurt will be Acting City Manager.