

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: FRIDAY, OCT. 11, 2013
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR OCT. 11, 2013

FRIDAY REPORT



- 1. City Council Meeting** – Just a reminder that our City Council Meeting next week is on Monday, Oct. 14. Our work session will start at 5:30 p.m.
- 2. SWBTYR Event** – At 4 p.m. Oct. 12, there will be a celebration event to proclaim Edina, Hopkins, Minnetonka and St. Louis Park as official “Beyond the Yellow Ribbon” cities. The event will be held in Hopkins Downtown Park. The event will include military and veterans’ family recognition, military vehicle display, exhibits about available resources, proclamation ceremony and guest speakers and entertainment.
- 3. Employee News** – Police Officer Joy Fragodt has announced that she will be retiring November 30 after serving for 24 years. Administrative Assistant Susan Howl has announced her retirement. Her last day with the City will be Nov. 29. We will begin our Fire Chief recruitment efforts next week. The deadline to apply will be Nov. 4.
- 4. Cry Wolf** – City staff were trained this week on the “Cry Wolf” module for our Police Records Management System. “Cry Wolf” was a 2013 CIP project that allows us to automate our alarm response from initial phone call to response to any billing/payments for false alarms.
- 5. Golf Enterprise Update** – Total golf rounds sold at the City’s golf courses are down 16.8 percent from 2012. Total golf revenues are down 18 percent from 2012 and are currently running 31 percent below the levels needed to make budget by the end of the fiscal year.
- 6. Development Revenue** – The City continues to collect building inspections revenue at a brisk pace. We are approaching record levels for revenue based on the continued high levels of residential redevelopment activities combined with the aftermath of the major Aug. 6 hail storm, which generated more than 1,500 new roof inspections.
- 7. Arts Update** – Recreation Supervisor Dawn Beitel and Art Center General Manager Michael Frey have coordinated an innovative new art program for the 2014 winter season that focuses arts attention and energy in an unusual place: ice rink warming houses. The “Rink Rats Art Club” for 6 to 10 year olds will be held in eight warming houses throughout the City in January and February with a different activity each Friday from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. or Sunday from 2 to 3 p.m.
- 8. Development News** – The Planning Commission recently considered a sketch plan proposal to redevelop the property at 3655 Hazelton Road. This is the former Szechuan Star site. The proposal is to tear down the existing vacant restaurant and construct a two-story bank on the site. The applicant would seek a Site Plan review and potentially a variance to develop the site. We have tentatively scheduled this sketch plan for a Council review on Nov. 4.

- 9. Edina Demographics** – Senior Planner Joyce Repya attended an event this week sponsored by the Edina Chamber of Commerce that examined population and demographic projections for Edina’s future as soon seen through the eyes of the State Demographer’s Office. These projections are more than a little different than the projections we have seen from the Metropolitan Council. Joyce will do some research to reconcile the two models. We will prepare a presentation on this subject for a future Council work Session.
- 10. Bikeable Community Event** – Bloomington Public Health in collaboration with the Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota and Minnesota Departments of Health and Transportation are hosting a Bikeable Community Workshop at Edina Public Works on Wednesday, Oct. 23, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This workshop is funded by the Statewide Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) in an effort to make Edina more bike friendly. This workshop is designed for local elected officials, public administrators, health officials, transportation planners and other local stakeholders. The day will focus on how local land use and transportation decisions affect biking habits, personal health and overall physical activity. There will be discussion concerning successful city design to promote biking, safety, education, enforcement and encouragement. Workshop participants will take part in a bike audit of Edina that will help identify obstacles to biking and suggest potential short- and long-term solutions. Participants will need to wear comfortable shoes and clothing suitable for the weather and bring a bicycle and helmet to participate in the mobile workshop portion – a leisurely paced 4/5-mile bike ride in small groups, highlighting bicycle facilities and opportunities. If you have questions or are interested in participating, please contact Nick Mason at nick@bikemn.org or 612-986-6096, or Jessica Smith at jsmith@ci.bloomington.mn.us or 952-563-8936. Please RSVP by Wednesday, Oct. 16.