

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: FRIDAY, NOV. 1, 2013
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: KAREN KURT, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR NOV. 1, 2013

FRIDAY REPORT



1. **Employee News** – Steve Kirchman has announced his retirement date of Feb. 28, 2014. We will quickly begin a candidate search for this critical position.

Our new Traffic Safety Coordinator, Joe Feriancek, begins work on Monday, Nov. 4. He has a bachelor's degree from the University of North Dakota in civil engineering. He is an Engineer in Training and has worked for the City of Coon Rapids and North Dakota Department of Transportation.

2. **Liquor Operations** – The Bloomington City Council will hear an application to grant an off-sale liquor license to Total Wine and More at its Nov. 4 meeting. Total Wine and More is a national liquor retailer that does business in about 15 states with close to 100 stores. Total Wine and More intends to open a store next to Trader Joe's located at 494 and France. The proposed store would be 17,000 square feet and the largest store in the south metro -- perhaps the largest store in the state. City staff have expressed their concern to Bloomington officials about the number of liquor licenses in that area.
3. **Elections** – School District elections will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 5. This is the first time the City will be using new election equipment purchased by Hennepin County. The election equipment has a digital scanning system that will provide greater detail reporting after the election. The equipment also has a large clear screen that will provide the voter with a better experience in the polling place.
4. **Neighborhoods** – This week, the City of Edina officially announced it will be using Nextdoor, a private social network for neighborhoods. Edina residents can use www.nextdoor.com to create and manage private websites for each of Edina's 45 approved neighborhoods. The City is also able to post information to each neighborhood's account to update neighborhoods on City activities. The service is free for residents and the City. Nextdoor will serve as a supplement to other neighborhood-based communication tools such as "City Extra."
5. **Communications** – Edina Channel 16's new video playback equipment was installed earlier this week. While the high-definition channel will not be in place until later this month, the new equipment has already improved the Edina Channel 16 service. We are now able to upload content directly to the video playback system. In the past, staff were required to complete several steps to get content on the air. Eden Prairie Channel 16's equipment was also installed. We are in the process of getting it up and running, as we will be managing the playback of their content from Edina City Hall.
6. **50th & France Parking Improvement Study** – The consultants and Advisory Team are on schedule and making good progress. Dozens of pages of input have been gathered in recent weeks via focus groups and online surveys. In the days ahead, possible solutions will be prepared based on estimated costs of the highest priority needs. The preferred solution is scheduled for City Council review in December. Most businesses are united on four issues: (1) free customer parking is needed to remain competitive, (2) parking

improvements are overdue and strongly needed, (3) there is a high sensitivity to the cost of special assessments, and (4) the City should consider bearing some costs since 50 & France is Edina's "downtown."

7. **Grandview Advisory Team** – The team is making progress toward issuing an RFI in early 2014. Consultants are engaged to inventory existing community facilities and to survey Edina residents. Staff presented examples of the type of public and private/public projects that can fit on a three-acre site. Additional sessions are scheduled for November to review the initial draft of the RFI.
8. **New Business** – Prime Therapeutics, a pharmacy benefits manager, is moving 250 employees to 76th and France. They are subletting office space with a 5-plus-year lease.
9. **Fun Fact** – If your kids really want to fill their buckets and treat bags on Halloween, the site ZipRealty says Edina is one of the best places to go in the United States. Zip Code 55424 was one of the top 15 zip codes for trick-or-treating, according to the website. The list of was compiled by analyzing three evenly weighted factors from MLS data nationwide: zip codes with median home sales prices twice as high as the median price for that metro area, zip codes with the highest density of single-family homes and zip codes that are the most walkable.