

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: FRIDAY, NOV. 2, 2012
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR NOV. 2, 2012

FRIDAY REPORT



- 1. City Council Meeting** – Just a reminder that our City Council meeting next week is on Monday, Nov. 5. We will begin the night with our Work Session at 5:30 p.m. We have two Work Session subjects: the report of the Human Services Task Force and the third quarter business meeting report.
- 2. 2013 Recycling Charges** – Based on the new contract, staff have calculated the proposed rate for recycling collection in 2013. The current rate is \$2.50 per month. The proposed rate is \$1.75 per month. The proposed rate will be part of the larger rates and charges resolution that will be presented to the Council for approval in December.
- 3. Braemar Arena** – A contractor will complete work on the repairs to the West Arena refrigeration equipment this morning. They plan to turn the equipment on later this afternoon. If all goes according to plan, Arena staff will begin the process of replacing the ice sheet in the West Arena early Saturday, Nov. 3.
- 4. Telecom Savings** – In a previous Friday Report, I told the Council that Communications & Technology Services Department employees were working on a comprehensive audit of our telephone system. They have completed their work and are now processing the necessary changes through our various vendors and service providers. The end result of their efforts is that we expect to save more than \$30,000 per year starting next year. We expect to save close to \$10,000 in 2012.
- 5. Wooddale Avenue** – Staff will distribute a letter today to Wooddale Avenue area residents telling them about some changes we are planning to implement on Wooddale Avenue. First, we will remove a number of advisory signs that are not required by state or federal law for the recent bike lane project. Second, we will install temporary reflective markers down the centerline of the street, as defined as the midway point between the two dashed white advisory bike lane lines. The markers are a temporary measure that will help define the middle of the road. They are not likely to last past the first snow removal, but they will help drivers define the middle of the street until then. We are planning to start this work on Monday, Nov. 5, weather permitting.
- 6. Fall Town Hall Meeting** – The Fall Town Hall Meeting will be held at the Senior Center on Saturday, Nov. 10 from 10 a.m. to noon. Staff are planning to use the same format we've used for other Town Hall meetings.
- 7. Special City Council Meeting** – Per our discussion at the last Council meeting, staff have begun to notify property owners involved in the 2013 street reconstruction projects of the special City Council meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 11 that we have scheduled to conduct the preliminary assessment hearings. That meeting will begin at 6 p.m.
- 8. Golf Dome Replacement** – Staff continue to work closely with Traveler's claim staff to reach a settlement for the Braemar Golf Dome. We have an important meeting with them Friday, Nov. 9, which should yield enough information for a Council briefing at the Nov. 20 Council meeting.

9. **Burglary Investigation Results** – Our Detectives have charged 11 people over the last month for nine separate burglaries that occurred earlier this year. This is an unheard number for such a short period of time. Three people were charged for one burglary on Vernon Avenue, which is why we have 11 people for nine burglaries. That number of “cleared” arrests is likely to climb. The total number of burglaries in 2012 is currently lower than the number for the same period in 2011.
10. **Municipal Legislative Commission** – At our MLC operating committee meeting Nov. 1, we heard from a panel of government relations staff leaders representing Metro Cities, League of Minnesota Cities and the Minnesota Inter-County Association. They discussed their expectations for the upcoming election and likely outcomes for the 2013 legislative session. They were in agreement that only six seats in the Minnesota Senate are still considered to be too close to call at this point. One of those six seats is Senate District 49.
11. **Hornets Nest** – The project continues to move at a pace that appears to be about two weeks behind our original deadline. I will work with the Parks & Recreation staff to arrange a tour of the new facility for the Council sometime later this month. It would be good for you to see the scale and quality of the project before it is completed. Also, staff are still working on a briefing for the Council on a cost overrun related to relocating the City’s water and sewer utilities at the site. The work has been completed. The change order will not exceed 10 percent of the total project cost, but it will be large enough that Council should be briefed on it. I am planning to share that briefing with the Council at the Nov. 20 Council meeting.
12. **Employee Charitable Giving Campaign** – The campaign kicks off today with the start of the annual used book sale. There will be two tables set up near the stained-glass corner on the first floor of City Hall. We will sell books as they are donated.
13. **Xcel Rate Increase Request** – Xcel Energy has filed a rate increase request with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC). They cite the economic downturn, loss of several large customers and lower customer usage in 2011 as the primary basis for their request. They are also requesting an elimination of rate class subsidization, which would likely effect the rates that we pay for power to produce and distribute water. Staff will keep the Council updated as the case moves forward at the PUC.
14. **Staffing** – Parks & Recreation Director John Keprios has announced his retirement. His last day in the office will be Thursday, Dec. 27. I have named current Assistant Parks & Recreation Director Ann Kattreh his successor. She will be her role as director on Dec. 28.