

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: FRIDAY, DEC. 5, 2014
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR DEC. 5, 2014

FRIDAY REPORT



- 1. Town Hall Meeting** – The City Council’s fall Town Hall meeting is scheduled for tomorrow – Saturday, Dec. 6, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Senior Center.
- 2. Special City Council Meeting** – Just a reminder that we have a special City Council meeting scheduled for 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9. There will be no pre-meeting Work Session or meal.
- 3. Employee News** – Rachel DeVries will begin work with the City of Edina as a Maintenance Operations Coordinator I – Horticulturist on Monday, Dec. 15. Most recently, Rachel has been working for the City of Minneapolis as a Gardner. She also has worked as a Horticulturist/Clubhouse Grounds Manager for Wayzata Country Club, a floral designer and Shop Manager for Urban Earth Garden Coop and Landscape Designer/Project Manager for Village Green Landscapes. Rachel holds a bachelor’s degree in Environmental Design from the University of Minnesota.

Also starting his new job on Monday, Dec. 15 is Nathan Kaderlik will start work with the Public Works Department as a Public Services Worker – Utilities. Nathan has been a Water/Equipment Operator for Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community since 2009. Prior to that, he worked at Mystic Lake Casino as a Horticulturist/Equipment Operator for 10 years.

- 4. Vision Edina** – The last two public sessions of the Vision Edina workshop will be held on Thursday, Dec. 11 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at the Southdale-Hennepin Area Library, Helen Young Room, and 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Edina Senior Center. Residents also have the option of watching a brief video and taking the survey online through Dec. 12.
- 5. Edina Liquor** – Sales for the month of November were down 7.7 percent from 2013. Year to date sales are down .23 percent. Reasons for the decline are likely twofold: the opening of Total Wine just over the Edina border in Bloomington and the continued rebuilding of sales at 50th & France after closing to remodel the store. Edina does appear to be weathering the entry of Total Wine better than other municipal liquor stores, most of whom are reporting double-digit sales decreases.

The grand reopening of our 50th & France store is Dec. 4-6. Details on special promotions and events can be found on the Edina Liquor Facebook page, www.facebook.com/EdinaLiquor.

- 6. WVV Engagement Process** – Seventeen residents attended the Wooddale-Valley View small area plan progress report on Wednesday, Dec. 3, and offered input on land use and form, public improvements and options for the City-owned parcel. The Small Area Planning Team will review a draft small area plan document by the end of December.

- 7. Infrastructure Education** – As part of an initiative to create more awareness about the importance of sound public infrastructure, a committee comprising of engineering and infrastructure professional organizations working in the public, private and educational sectors developed materials with three main goals: a) Increase public awareness about the importance of our State’s critical infrastructure; b) Develop grades K-12 infrastructure-related curriculum to educate Minnesota’s 2050 leaders and partner with educators, coalitions and foundations to integrate the STEM education fields and infrastructure knowledge; and, c) Establish a platform to help professionals research and advance our infrastructure management message. As we prepare for the Dec. 9 City Council meeting related to infrastructure improvements, please consider viewing the video trailers online at <http://mn2050.org/>. There are also one-hour specials about the same topics that were broadcast on TPT MN that can be found on the channel’s website or on YouTube.
- 8. Centennial Lakes Ice Skating** – The Centennial Lakes Ice Rink will open for the 2014-15 season today at 4 p.m. There is no charge to skate at Centennial Lakes, and skate rental is available for only \$6 per pair.
- 9. Senior Center Holiday Luncheon** – The Senior Center will host its first holiday luncheon on Dec. 8. Fifty-five participants have signed up for the luncheon and will be entertained by the Edina Singing Seniors. We will celebrate the holiday and embrace the comradery that is shared at the Senior Center.
- 10. City Hall Office Closed** – Due to the proximity of the Christmas Day and New Year’s Day holidays to their subsequent weekends, I have authorized City Hall offices to be closed to walk-in traffic on Friday, Dec. 26 and Friday, Jan. 2. Employees may use accumulated paid leave to be absent from work on those two days, or they may use the days to clean, organize and catch-up on projects.
- 11. Edina Art Center** – The Edina Art Center will discontinue media studio services, including video and DVD transfers, on Dec. 31. As many big-box retailers have entered the business at competitive rates, business at the Art Center has continued to decline over the past several years significantly. The Art Center will change the name of the “Peggy Kelly Media Studios” to the “Peggy Kelly Studios” in honor of the generous support from the Peggy Kelly family.
- 12. Southwest Cable Commission** – The Southwest Cable Commission (SWCC) met this week to consider a recommendation on the request from Comcast to transfer its cable television franchise to a new operating company called Midwest Cable. Following a presentation about the proposed Time Warner-Comcast merger and our legal options, the commission voted unanimously to recommend that our member City Councils approved the transfer request. Brian Grogan, attorney and administrator of the commission, will provide the same presentation to SWCC City Councils in December and January.
- 13. Weber Woods Subcommittee Meeting** – The subcommittee of Edina and St. Louis Park City Council Members and staff met this week to discussion options and strategies for our anticipated discussion with the City of Minneapolis regarding the Weber Woods property. We will hold a closed session to brief the Edina City Council prior to the Dec. 16 work session.