

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: JAN. 3, 2014
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR JAN. 3, 2014

FRIDAY REPORT



- 1. Employee News** – We have completed the hiring process for two immediate police officer openings. Anna Limbeck will join us from the Lakeville Police Department and Mike Sussman is coming from the Mound Police Department. They will start employment with the City on Jan. 21 and Jan. 22, respectively. Heather Branigin started her new job as the Executive Assistant in the Administration Department on Monday, Dec. 30. Laura Alder, Water Resource Coordinator, has completed the requirements to be a Certified Floodplain Manager.
- 2. MLC Legislative Breakfast** – The annual MLC West Metro legislative breakfast meeting will be 7:30 to 9 a.m. Feb. 21, in Plymouth. If you want to attend, please let me know and I will coordinate a group RSVP from the City.
- 3. Collective Bargaining Agreements** – We have reached tentative agreements with both IUOE Local 49 (Public Works and Parks Maintenance Workers) and Teamsters Local 320 (Police Patrol) for new two-year contracts (January 2014-December 2016). The unions have scheduled votes of their members on the tentative agreements. If they vote approve them, I will present the tentative agreements to the City Council for approval in February.
- 4. Jerry's Foods** – Jerry's Foods closed temporarily after an early morning fire on Friday, Jan. 3. There was very limited fire damage, but a great deal of smoke throughout the store. The store cannot reopen until it receives approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- 5. Taco Bell** – The Planning Commission on Jan. 8 review a sketch plan for the tear down and rebuild of the Taco Bell restaurant located at 3210 Southdale Circle. The City Council will review the sketch plan on Jan. 21.
- 6. Ordinance Changes** - The Planning Commission will also discuss two zoning ordinance amendments. The first is regarding tree preservation on construction sites. The second is regarding subdivision regulations and minimum lot size requirements for large lot areas. Recommendations on the ordinance are anticipated to be forwarded to the City Council in early 2014.
- 7. Liquor Sales** – For 2013, Edina Liquor stores showed an increase in sales of \$481,000, or 3.6 percent. Customer counts increased 8,881, or 1.77 percent and the average transaction increased 48 cents to \$26.92 for the year. The Southdale store did more than \$6.25 million in business, which should make this the single highest grossing municipal store in the state for 2013. Coors Light 24-pack cans were tops in total sales at \$92,350 and J Lohr Chardonnay was No. 1 in profit and No. 1 in total units sold at 8,840.
- 8. Technology Advancements in Building Inspections** – Building Inspectors now complete inspections with iPads and are paperless. Contractors receive the inspection report via email before the inspector leaves the site. This allows the contractor to forward the report

on to the subcontractors who make the necessary corrections. This saves everyone time and improves the communications. We will improve our phone answering by having available inspectors answer phone calls when the front desk people are busy and by adding a phone queuing system that will tell the caller the number of callers before them in the queue. Finally, we are working on electronic plan review software, more e-permits, improved customer service and faster plan reviews.