

# WEEKLY MEMO

**Date:** October 28, 2011

**To:** Mayor Lynn Stauss, Council President Craig Buckalew, Vice President Wayne Gregoire, Council Members Marc Demers, Ron Vonasek, Henry Tweten, Greg Leigh, and Mike Pokrzywinski.

**From:** Scott Huizenga

**RE:** Weekly Update

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

*November 1, 2011 – 5:00 pm – Council Meeting – Council Chambers*

*November 2, 2011 – 11:30 am – State of College NCTC - Northland Community & Technical College – Rm 250*

*November 3, 2011 – 10:00 am - MnDot Meeting - Training Room*

*November 8, 2011 – 4:00 pm – Work Session – Training Room*

*November 15, 2011 – 5:00 pm – Council Meeting – Council Chambers*

*November 22, 2011 – 5:00 pm – Work Session – Training Room*

## **WEEKLY UPDATE:**

### **Swimming Civic Center Upgrades**

The East Grand Forks Blue Line Club has dedicated approximately \$20,000 to update weight training equipment at the Civic Center Arena. The City's cost will be less than \$4000 to install new flooring and paint to accommodate the updated training facility. As noted below, the City's "reader boards" have been transferred from the Riverwalk Centre to the Civic Center. The boards will be live when network connections are established at the Civic Center sign near Highway 220.

### **Northland State of the College**

Northland College will hold its State of the College event next Wednesday, November 2 at noon at the college.

### **MnDOT meeting**

Representatives from the Minnesota Department of Transportation will be at City Hall on Thursday, November 3 at 10:00 am in the training room. The meeting is directed primarily toward Council Members who often do not have the opportunity to directly interact with MnDOT.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

### **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Northland Technical College is providing Boiler Certification training to staff this week. Certification is needed for compliance with the state of Minnesota rules governing boiler operations.

## WASTEWATER

Smoke testing of the wastewater system is being accomplished this week in select areas. The smoke testing will allow operators to find sections of the wastewater system that are causes of inflow and infiltration (I&I). Once identified repairs will be coordinated with the City Engineer.

## STORM WATER

The storm water team along with F/S Engineering is exploring possible mitigation efforts to combat the early flooding of the 4<sup>th</sup> Street NW underpass. ICS will be contacted to provide a quote on replacing or repairing the valve.

## **Library, Charlotte Helgeson**

Selected Library Staff are participating in Creating Digital recording classes sponsored by NW MN Arts Council Grant. They are being taught by Michael Harvey, who has taught similar courses through OLLI, local museums and workshops.

Volunteer Potluck Reception was well-attended. It shows appreciation to those who helped through the summer months. Many of the volunteers at the library are seasonal. Our Snowbirds are leaving and those who spent their summers at the lake are returning. The library has the equivalent of a full-time staff member's hours covered by volunteers.

## **Fire Department, Chief Randy Gust**

The East Grand Forks Fire Department has been notified by the Eagles Club of East Grand Forks that they are tentatively looking at donating a new Arctic Cat Rescue Snowmobile to the Department. They stated the value is approximately \$10,000. They wish to have our old snowmobile given back to them so they can raffle it off to offset the cost of the new one. The old one was donated to us by the club years ago.

Fire Department personnel are training at confined space rescue using city structures. They are working in conjunction with the Rope rescue team. This is voluntary training and members are not being compensated.

Emergency Apparatus Maintenance will be in town within the next few weeks to start annual pump certification testing on all fire trucks.

## **Police Department, Chief Mike Hedlund**

### **Halloween Safety Tips**

Halloween is an exciting time for everyone but it can also be a very dangerous time. By following the following tips you can help to keep Halloween safe while still having a good time.

#### **Parents**

- Make sure an adult goes with younger children when they are trick-or-treating.
- Check over your children's costumes to make sure they are not too long and that they can see properly.
- Look over your children's treats after you get home and throw away any treats that appear to have been opened or tampered with.
- If your children are older and are going out with friends give them a curfew and know the route they plan to travel.

#### **Children**

- Remember to look both ways before you cross the street and try to cross at the corners. Driver's may be distracted and not notice you, especially in poorly lit areas.

- Remember that Halloween “Tricks” like smashing pumpkins, throwing eggs at cars or homes and toilet papering homes and yards may seem like innocent fun but they are actually crimes and can do lots of damage.
- Only go trick-or-treating at the homes of people that you know.

#### **Adults**

- Many adults enjoy taking part in Halloween festivities. If you go out plan ahead and have a designated driver.
- If you are driving anywhere keep in mind that children are excited for Halloween and may not remember to look before they cross the road. Drive defensively and help everyone stay safe.

#### **Parks and Recreation, Dave Aker**

Reader boards have been moved to the Civic Center sign and will be hooked up soon.

Weber's are putting in doors at Stauss Park and the Senior Center

Dale Gulbranson is busy blowing out the lines this week, he will finish with the campground.

The Civic Center is up and running, Thursday is the first day of skating.

The Figure Skating program starts Monday.

#### **AGENDA ITEMS:**

There will be one formal public hearing on the storm water special assessment project for North Star Terrace. There is one property owner who agreed to the assessment before the project started. The consent agenda also contains the annual assessments for grass mowing, delinquent utility bills, and sidewalk replacement. Finally, the consent agenda includes the a resolution to accept the proposal from Springsted, Inc. to update the City’s classification and compensation plan.

Item 12 is reconsiders Resolution 11-10-09 to approve the Cost of Service Analysis (COSA) for the proposed Waste Water Interconnect project. The Mayor vetoed the resolution after the last Council meeting. Therefore, the resolution will require six votes to pass.

Item 13 is a resolution to submit a grant application on behalf of the City to Minnesota Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs). The City’s application would be for technical assistance to study energy efficiency alternatives at the City’s arena facilities. The City will not have a financial commitment unless the grant is awarded, in which the grant would pay for most of the study.

Item 14 is a quote from Eagle Electric to update lighting at the VFW arena in the locker rooms. The Water and Light Commission already has approved funding from its City energy conservation fund for the project. The City Council only has to formally approve the contractor quote.