

WEEKLY MEMO

Date: November 10, 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 15, 2011 – 5:00 pm – Council Meeting – Council Chambers

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

November 29, 2011 – 5:00 pm – Work Session – Training Room (If Needed)

WEEKLY UPDATE:

Senator Klobuchar to visit

Senator Amy Klobuchar will visit City Hall from 12:30-1:30 pm on Saturday, November 12. Senator Klobuchar will offer praise for local veterans and speak briefly on regional and national issues.

Northwest Corridor Study Committee

The Northwest Corridor Study Committee held its final meeting on Thursday. A public hearing on the committee's recommendations is Thursday evening (tonight, as of the time of this memo) at 5:30 pm. The committee will discuss and solicit final input regarding proposed changes to the intersections of 5th Ave NW/Highway 2 and River Road NW/17th Street NW/12th Ave NW. The City Council expects to see the final report in December after final input is gathered.

City Hall will be closed Friday, November 11 to observe Veterans Day.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Police Department, Chief Mike Hedlund

Prescription Drug Abuse

The abuse of prescription drugs is a national problem that is growing steadily into one of the biggest problems for law enforcement agencies. While many different prescription drugs are targeted some of the most commonly abused drugs are Oxycontin and Hydrocodone. These drugs are frequently prescribed as pain medications and can be very addictive. Subjects who become addicted to these or other medications may resort to stealing medications if they can find them or stealing other property which they then sell to get money to buy the drugs. Residents can help to minimize the opportunity for these thefts to occur by keeping their medications securely stored and by properly disposing of their unused medications. Many law enforcement agencies, including the EGFPD, will accept unneeded prescription medications and will arrange for proper disposal of those medications.

Prescription drugs are amongst the most frequently stolen items during residential burglaries and the burglary of pharmacies is a crime that is occurring more and more frequently. Several

pharmacies in our region have burglarized in recent weeks including the pharmacy in Pamida in EGF. This past week local law enforcement agencies made arrests of subjects from two separate groups of people that have been involved in these thefts but as with most crime it is just a matter of time before someone new starts again.

Library, Charlotte Helgeson

"Art on the Prairie" exhibit opens Monday, November fourteenth at 6:30. Short story contest winners will be announced.

AGENDA ITEMS:

The consent agenda contains several routine agreements and contracts including the following.

Memoranda of Understanding with the City's five bargaining units regarding a change of health insurance providers from Health Partners to Medica.

The City's formal acceptance of a change in employee health insurance provider from Health Partners to Medica.

The annual agreement with Lutheran Social Services (LSS) to provide fixed cost meals at the East Grand Forks Senior Center.

An agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) that formally authorizes the state agency to disburse federal transportation funds to the City.

Item 13 is a request from the Parks and Recreation Director and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to formally appoint Catherine Johnson as the new manager for the Red River State Recreational Area (RRSRA).

Item 14 is a resolution to express the City's support and release a Request for Proposals (RFP) to develop the city-owned lot at the corner of 4th Street NW and DeMers Avenue.

Item 15 is a resolution of support from the City Council on behalf of Ideal Aerosmith to apply for a business loan through the Northwest Regional Enterprise Fund.

Item 16 is a resolution to request an advance of State Aid funding to reconstruct 15th Street NE.

Item 18 is a resolution to formally accept a donation from the Eagles Club to purchase a search and rescue snowmobile for the Fire Department.