

WEEKLY MEMO

Date: August 3, 2012

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:

August 7, 2012 – 5:00 pm – Council Meeting – Council Chambers

August 14, 2012 – 5:00 pm – Work Session – Training Room

August 21, 2012 – 5:00 pm – Council Meeting – Council Chambers

August 28, 2012 – 5:00 pm – Work Session – Training Room

WEEKLY UPDATE:

125th Anniversary Celebration

The 125th Anniversary Celebration for the City of East Grand Forks is upon us. Festivities start as early as Tuesday with a wagon train from Fisher's Landing to East Grand Forks City Hall. Events will continue through next weekend with a packed schedule. Some of the many highlights include:

- Six (at least) music events throughout the celebration at the Boardwalk and at the East Grand Forks Performing Arts Center
- Over 30(!) inflatable games for children across the street from City Hall
- A fireworks show on Saturday night that will be 2-3 times the normal July 4th celebration
- Three parades
- Free swimming on Sunday, August 12th
- East Grand Forks School reunion activities
- Clowns, comics, art exhibits, a car chow, food, and much more

One can find a complete schedule through several media outlets, celebration booklets, or online on the City web site under the "Community" section, or <http://www.egf.mn/index.aspx?nid=365>.

Candidate filing

Candidate filing for Mayor and City Council began this week and continues through Tuesday, August 14th at 5:00 pm. There are five Council seats and the Office of the Mayor up for election. Interested candidates file for office at City Hall through the 14th. The Administration Office also has candidate packets available for potential candidates.

Primary election

The primary for state and county offices is Tuesday, August 14th. Ward maps and polling locations are available on the City web site under the “City Council” section, or <http://www.egf.mn/DocumentView.aspx?DID=1159>. We expect to have an updated precinct finder soon from Polk County.

Civic Center to host Clean Energy Resources Teams

On August 15th, the East Grand Forks Civic Center will host “Saving Energy in Ice Arenas: Project Case Studies and Financing. East Grand Forks received a partial grant last year from the Minnesota Clean Energy Resources Teams (CERTs) to conduct an energy efficiency study of the City’s three indoor ice arenas. The event will feature East Grand Forks’ study and answer key questions such as the following.

- What funding is available?
- How do you do it?
- How have other local governments, and specifically ice arenas, approached and accomplished such projects?

Interested participants can view the event flier at

http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/sites/default/files/CERTs_EGF_LUGs_halfpage.pdf

and can register for free at <http://nwlocalgovt.eventbrite.com/>.

Swimming Pool

The City Council will reconsider the Mayor’s veto of the swimming pool contract on Tuesday as required by City Charter. The Save Our Pool group will hold its next organizational meeting after the City Council meeting at 6:30 pm at the Campbell Library. The internal swimming pool working group also will meet next week to discuss options for the swimming pool project including, but not limited to, rebidding the project and redesigning the project. Representatives of Save Our Pool are invited to the meeting.

Budget season is upon us

Department Heads are busy preparing their budget requests per City Charter. And, Administration staff is working feverishly on projected operational costs for the 2013 budget. There will be several challenges to the 2013 budget. Debt service on long-awaited capital and equipment replacement will begin in 2013. Also, Local Government Aid (LGA) is flat for the third year in a row. Some state representatives will claim victory that they have “held the line” on LGA funding. However, the “same amount as last year” also equates to the same amount that in 2010, which itself is about \$600,000 less than previous years. In effect, East Grand Forks has been cut \$2 million in LGA funding just since 2008 – and counting. I intend to give the City Council a preliminary look at projected budget on August 14th, with a more formal presentation on the work session of August 28th. The City Council will consider the preliminary levy on Tuesday, September 4. The Council must approve the preliminary levy and budget no later than September 15. The final levy, approved in December, can be less – but not more – than the preliminary levy. I have attached one slide from a Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities presentation that shows that LGA would be funded at \$817 million in 2012 had the program simply kept with inflation since cuts first began 2002. The 2012 actual funding amount was

\$425 million – a cut of *48 percent*. For East Grand Forks, the LGA could (or should) have been roughly \$3.5-4.0 million, instead it is \$2,471,550 for 2013.

Personnel resignations

Michelle French, Executive Secretary, submitted her resignation effective August 16, 2012. The City of Moorhead has selected Michelle to be its new City Clerk. Tom Spoor submitted his resignation effective October 31, 2012. Both Michelle and Tom have served the City of East Grand Forks for several years. We will greatly miss their knowledge, expertise, and dedication.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Library, Charlotte Helgeson

Imagine That at the Library will be concluding this next week with the Campbell Picnic. All Reading Passports are to be turned in to have hours of reading counted for prizes sponsored by the Library and the Optimist Club. The summer was a grand success for many children. A review of the summer activities will include how to be able to serve more children this next year as our waiting lists for many of the weeks were of unacceptable length.

The Library will be closed August 4-6 for uploading our new software, Evergreen. PALS will be hosting and supporting the open source software. The Library was able to participate in a Museum and Library Science Institute grant to defray part of the data migration cost. PALS has maintained a strict schedule and the Campbell Library staff has worked hard on daily assignments to learn the new programming. With a soft opening on Monday August 6, Council members are invited to renew their library cards or perhaps, sign up for their very first ones.

Public Works, Jason Stordahl

Construction project at the Bygland Road flood closure is complete, and the road is open to traffic.

Police Department, Chief Mike Hedlund

National Night Out

The East Grand Forks Police and Fire Departments will be joining other regional public safety agencies in a National Night Out event at the Purpur Arena in Grand Forks, ND on August 7, 2012. National Night Out is a family friendly event that works to support crime and drug prevention and increase neighborhood and community spirit. The event runs from 5:00 PM until 8:00 PM and the first 1,000 people get free hamburgers. Area law enforcement agencies, fire departments, EMS agencies and military organizations will have displays including squad cars, fire trucks, military vehicles and other equipment. There will be interactive games and lots of information on a variety of topics. Door prizes will be given away throughout the evening. Come out and help us celebrate our community!

Minnesota Strengthens Synthetic Drug Laws

Effective August 1, 2012 the State of Minnesota has strengthened its laws regarding synthetic drugs (often times called names such as Spice and bath salts). Synthetic drugs have become a serious issue for law enforcement in recent years. Part of the reason for this is the ability of the manufacturers to slightly modify the formulas of the drugs that they are making, thus skirting around the laws of the various states. Synthetic drugs have been advertised as being safe but they are anything but. People's reactions to these drugs seem to vary greatly with many people

experiencing extreme reactions and even death. In recent weeks two subjects have died in Grand Forks/East Grand Forks and several others have been hospitalized after taking synthetic drugs. The new laws stiffen the penalties for the sale of synthetic drugs and move new synthetic drugs into Schedule I of the state's narcotics schedules (Schedule I drugs are considered the most dangerous).

AGENDA ITEMS:

There are two scheduled bid letting items both related to the library. The first Item #3 rejects the first round of bids for the library roof repair. Previously, the library received only one bid, and a minor design error published the design specifications with incorrect quantities. The second item #4 considers approving the current bids. The final project cost is within \$5000 of the design estimate. There was some discussion among the Library board to install a metal roof on the library. The Library Director and I do not recommend a metal roof. A metal roof would cost approximately \$80,000 more, and the difference in maintenance is negligible compared with 40-year asphalt shingles. The resolution to approve bids also includes construction management budgets (previously approved contracts) and contingency.

The consent agenda includes the following:

- Consider approving a contract with Headliner Talent Marketing for a comedian at 125th Anniversary during the children's playground activity.
- Consider approving a contract for fireworks at the 125th Anniversary
- Consider declaring as surplus 23 seized vehicles
- Consider declaring as surplus Civic Center hockey boards that will be replaced
- Consider approving a request to fill up to nine Paid on Call fire fighter vacancies
- Two items to approve the 2013 transit agreements with the State of Minnesota

Item 20 reconsiders the resolution to award a swimming pool improvements bid to ICS, Inc for \$1,523,736. Mayor Stauss vetoed Resolution 12-07-66. Reconsideration by the full Council is automatic in the City Charter. An override of the veto requires six votes.

Item 21 reaffirms the City Council's support of the waste water interconnect project. It allows staff to renew projections on the proposed project and to clarify items as necessary with additional parties related to the project.

Item 22 considers the expenditure of \$17,930 to relocate a MNDOT traffic signal box from the corner of 4th and DeMers to farther down the block adjacent to DeMers Avenue. The traffic signal box sits atop the proposed Minnesota Heights development. MNDOT has submitted a cost estimate of \$32,600 to relocate the box. The developer has agreed to split the cost with the City. The City contribution includes a 10-percent contingency.

Item 23 considers a resolution supporting the revised and updated Greenway Trail Plan for East Grand Forks and Grand Forks. The Parks and Recreation Superintendent will present the item.

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125th Anniversary Celebration

Now is the time for planning for this special occasion in 2012! East Grand Forks will be celebrating its 125th Anniversary as a City, and the KEM Shriners will be hosting the Midwest Shrine Convention in the Grand Cities. Putting these events together will be an exciting week in Grand Forks and East Grand Forks.

We expect the hotels, and campgrounds to be full throughout the week. This event will also boost the local economy with shopping in the communities.

A history of the past 25 years has been written by Warren Strandell and a DVD of East Grand Forks 125 years of history will be produced by WDAZ.

We plan on having a large fireworks display along the banks of the Red River with live bands playing in the parking lot behind the Riverwalk Centre. Numerous games will be available for the children, a banquet for the Senior Citizens and two parades for everyone to enjoy. Many other activities will be planned for that week.

We need your help to sponsor many of these events during the week of August 8-12, 2012. With your support, we can make this a very exciting event for all ages and a memory to last a lifetime!

Sincerely,

Lynn Stauss
Mayor



Contact

Lynn Stauss
Mayor
[Email](#)

Michelle French
Executive Assistant
[Email](#)

600 DeMers Ave.
East Grand Forks, MN
56721

Ph: (218) 773-2483
Fx: (218) 773-9728

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

DONATIONS WELCOME!

If you wish to donate funds to help support the 125th Anniversary Celebration, please make checks payable to the City of East Grand Forks 125th.

Mail Donations to:
City of East Grand Forks
600 DeMers Ave.
East Grand Forks, MN 56721

East Grand Forks Celebrates 125th Anniversary

Schedule of Events

August 7th – August 12th 2012

ALL EVENTS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Tuesday August 7th

9:00 am - Wagon Train from Fisher's Landing Rest Stop to East Grand Forks ending by City Hall. Lunch to follow.

Wednesday August 8th

8:00 am – 10:00 am Pickleball played at O’Leary Park

5:00 pm – Senior Citizen Dinner at the East Grand Forks Senior High for residents 55 and older

7:00 pm – Fall Creek Quartet will play at the East Grand Forks Senior High Auditorium (PAC) for residents 55 and older

Thursday August 9th

8:00 am – 10:00 am Pickleball played at O’Leary Park

9:00 am - Kids Scavenger Hunt Registration – Prizes given away include \$200, \$300, and \$500 prizes – Register at City Hall

11:00 pm – 1:00 pm – Youth Swimming Contest – Register with the Parks & Rec Dept by stopping in or calling 773-8000

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm – Shriner’s Parade along Demers Ave

8:00 pm – 12:30 am – The Roosters will be performing on the Boardwalk Stage

Approximately at 9:00 pm the Cabela’s 50th Anniversary Winchester 38-55 Lever Action Rifle will be auctioned off. Minimum bid beginning at \$500.00 for a gun worth \$1200.00. The gun is currently on display in the Cabela’s Gun Library.

Shriner Band will be parading up and down the Boardwalk Street throughout the night.

Friday August 10th

8:00 am – 10:00 am Pickleball played at O’Leary Park

9:00 am – Class Reunion Golf Tournament – Contact Valley Golf Course for more information

10:00 am – 12:00 pm – Shriner’s Clown Contest – Boardwalk Stage

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Frisbee Golf Contest with registration at 12:30 at RJ Zavoral Park

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm – People Movers – Starting at City Hall, revisit Downtown and Sherlock Park.

Rides will also be taking place on Saturday and Sunday during the same time.

2:00 pm - John Berquist will perform at Campbell Library

As one of the Minnesota’s most respected folklorists, John presents concerts and programs that bring to life the heritage and lore of the Upper Midwest.

4:00 pm – All Class Reunion Pep Rally – Hall of Fame Selection – Boardwalk Street by the River

5:00 pm – 8:00 pm – Class Reunions (Each Class is responsible for their own Reunion)

7:00 pm – 12:30 am – 4-wheel Drive & Fuse will be performing on the Boardwalk Stage

Saturday August 11th

7:00 am – 10:00 am – Breakfast at VFW put on by EGF Heritage Village

9:00 am – 10:00 am – City Parade commemorating 125th Anniversary Celebration along Demers Ave

10:00 am – 12:00 pm – Shriner’s Parade along Demers Ave

12:00 pm – 5:00 pm – Art Show at City Hall will also be held on Sunday during the same time

12:00 pm – 5:00 pm – Inside the Council Chamber, Footage from the flood of 1997 will be shown every 30 minutes

12:00 pm – 7:00 pm – Children’s Wonderland Activities – Wide variety of activities provided by Games Galore with snow cones and cotton candy available. Musicians will be playing throughout the afternoon by City Hall. Games will be located by the cows across from City Hall.

12:00 pm – 8:00 pm – Class Reunions (Each Class is responsible for their own Reunion)

12:30-2:00 pm Ice Cream Social - Join the Friends of the Campbell Library in celebrating the library and its resources. Enjoy an ice cream sundae and a self-tour of the library.

1:00 pm -5:00 pm – Car Show at City Hall Parking Lot

2:00 pm author J.A. Arnold will be at Campbell Library - J.A. Arnold, Minnesota author, publisher of eBook “Oxcart Angel” will discuss his book and experience with e-publishing

7:00 pm – 12:30 am – Jimmy Buffett Impressionist & Bob & the Beach Combers performing on the Boardwalk Stage

10:15 pm – Largest East Grand Forks Fireworks Display along the Red River between downtown Grand Forks and East Grand Forks

Sunday August 12th

12:30 pm – 1:45 pm – Tribute to Military, Veterans, Policemen, and Firemen at the Civic Center – This is a must to attend. Bring the family to thank our veterans, along with the Grand Forks Air Force Base, East Grand Forks and Grand Forks Fire and Policemen. You will be proud to be an American when you leave this program. Show your support for all of those who keep you safe both at home and aboard.

12:00 pm – 7:00 pm – Children’s Wonderland Activities - Wide variety of activities provided by Games Galore with snow cones and cotton candy available. Games will be located by the cows across from City Hall.

1:00 pm – 7:00 pm Free Swimming

2:00 pm – 4:00pm – Community Picnic Downtown along the river on the Boardwalk Street. The cost for this event will be \$2.00 per person. This is being hosted by the City of East Grand Forks and Hugo’s Family Market Place.

2:00 pm – 5:00 pm – A Comic along with Bob & the Beachcombers will be performing during the picnic

6:30 – 7:00 Opening Act Gary Emerson and Maury Finney will be performing before The Shadows in the PAC

7:30 – The Shadows including impressionists of Buddy Holly, Richy Valens, Big Bopper, & Patsy Cline will be performing at the East Grand Forks Senior High School Auditorium (PAC) Tickets will be \$10.00 per person and seating is limited. Tickets will be sold on a first come, first served bases.

***125th DVD History of EGF & The First 100 Years Book & The Last 25 Years Book will be available for sale.**



Saving Energy in Ice Arenas: Project Case Studies & Financing

Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2012 from 1-4pm

East Grand Forks Civic Arena
300 15th Street NE, East Grand Forks, MN 56721

Join Northwest CERT, energy experts, and your peers for a discussion of financing tools and opportunities that are currently available to assist local governments and schools with energy efficiency improvements for their ice arena projects, as well as improvements for other buildings.

We'll answer key questions: What funding is available? How do you do it? How have other local governments, and specifically ice arenas, approached and accomplished such projects? Q&A will follow presentations.

Cost: Free

RSVP: nwlocalgovt.eventbrite.com

Event Partners:



Minnesota Ice Arena Managers Association



**For more info, full agenda,
and to register to attend:**
nwlocalgovt.eventbrite.com



LGA Payment History

