

# WEEKLY MEMO

**Date:** December 7, 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:**

**The Work Session for December 11<sup>th</sup> has been canceled.**

*December 18, 2012 – 5:00 PM – Regular Meeting – Council Chambers*

*January 8, 2012 – 5:00 PM – Organizational Meeting – Council Chambers*

## **WEEKLY UPDATE:**

### **Campbell Library Is A Star**

In case you missed it, *Library Journal* listed East Grand Forks' own [Campbell Library](#) as a [star library for 2012](#). The library ranks high among over 7500 rated libraries nationwide in criteria such as circulation per capita, visits, and especially program attendance. East Grand Forks is one of only six libraries in Minnesota to earn such a distinction from the journal. According to the journal:

*LJ Index scores and star ratings are based on data reported annually by public libraries to their state library agencies and compiled nationally by the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) (IMLS).*

Star libraries are identified within their "peer group" as the top in their category. For East Grand Forks, that means that the library's output measures rank among the Top 30 in the nation for libraries with expenditures between \$200,000-\$399,999 (Fiscal Year 2011).

Sometimes, our "Minnesota nice" attitude interferes with our ability to properly recognize our achievements. Our City should be extremely proud of our commitment to the local gem that we have in the library. Our resources are widely used by residents on both sides of the river and throughout the region. And, our programming is stellar, often with waiting lists. Director Charlotte Helgeson and the whole staff deserve widespread praise for their commitment to our City. And, the Friends of the Library and the citizens of East Grand Forks also deserve our gratitude for their commitment to maintaining a top-notch organization.

## **Anniversary Books on Sale**

The City is selling both its 100<sup>th</sup> and 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary history books for the holiday season. The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary book is \$20; the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary book is \$25; and one can buy both books for \$40 while supplies last. There is link to the ordering information on the City web page. They are available in City Hall in the Parks and Recreation Office (1<sup>st</sup> Floor) or the Administration Office (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor). One can contact Administration at [admin@egf.mn](mailto:admin@egf.mn) or 218-773-2483 to order remotely.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

### **Public Works, Jason Stordahl**

Besides their regularly scheduled duties, staff has been busy cleaning and organizing this week. They have been washing vehicles, cleaning inside buildings, and organizing materials.

Wastewater: We are scheduled to meet with Hawkings Company toward the end of the week, to finalize our plan for treating the odor that is surrounding lift one. Once we have the final estimate we will order materials and implement our odor neutralizing plan.

### **Water and Light Department, Dan Boyce**

I am pleased to report that the Minnesota Department of Health has recently recognized the Superintendent and operational staff at the Water Treatment Plant for the positive results of a 2-year DBPs (disinfection byproducts) Optimization Project.

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) reports they are observing a cumulative effect of about 20% to 25% reduction in two groups of disinfection byproduct levels. These regulated disinfection byproducts are potential carcinogens which are formed in reactions between the chlorine used for disinfection and naturally occurring organic matter in the water. Minimizing these unwanted byproducts is an ongoing treatment challenge.

In terms of compliance with the disinfection byproducts rules, the results of this project are a BIG DEAL. It reflects a significant step in optimizing plant treatment performance that has continued over a number of years over a wide range of plant processes. These specific improvements resulted from the Superintendent and the treatment plant operators adapting procedural modifications to existing treatment processes within the available plant capacity to get the best performance from the plant. These dedicated and capable water treatment professionals have not only maintained disinfection byproduct compliance, but have increased the removal levels. I am very pleased at the technical results achieved.

I am equally pleased at the fine professional cooperation exhibited by Lih-in Rezania, Todd Johnson, and other engineering staff at MDH in providing information about regulatory requirements and technical guidance that assisted the Water Plant staff in working towards the joint goal of continued compliance.

Kudos Indeed!

**Police Department, Chief Mike Hedlund**

**Code 3 for Christmas** – The East Grand Forks Police and Fire Departments are holding their third annual “Code 3 for Christmas” holiday toy drive. This program is designed to help children from families who are less fortunate and may not be able to have gifts at Christmas time. New unwrapped gifts for children from ages birth to 16 years old are being collected at the EGF Fire and Police Departments. Cash and check donations are also accepted (receipts available upon request) and are used to provide additional gifts. Gifts such as toys, books, infant clothes and supplies and gift cards to stores, restaurants and theaters are just a few ideas. Wrapping supplies are also needed. Donations will be accepted through December 17 and can be dropped off at the EGF Fire Station (415 4<sup>th</sup> Street NW) during daytime hours (8:00 AM to 5:00 PM) or at the EGF Police Station (520 Demers Avenue) 24 hours a day.

**Just another reminder the Work Session for December 11 has been cancelled.**