

WEEKLY MEMO

Date: September 6, 2013

To: Mayor Lynn Stauss. Council President Craig Buckalew, Vice President Greg Leigh, Council Members Clarence Vetter, Ron Vonasek, Henry Tweten, Mark Olstad, and Chad Grassel

RE: Weekly Update

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Special Meeting – September 10, 2013 – 5:00 PM – Training Room

Work Session – September 10, 2013 – 5:00 PM – Training Room

Regular Council Meeting – September 17, 2013 – 5:00 PM – Council Chambers

Work Session – September 24, 2013 – 5:00 PM – Training Room

Regular Council Meeting – October 1, 2013 – 5:00 PM – Council Chambers

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Department, Chief Larson

We are at 698 calls for the year. We are back at school watch to help promote crossing safety for the children and to make sure there are no perpetrators in the area.

We have had a busy week preparing for our Live Burn Training on Saturday. We have moved the time to 7 AM and hope to start training sets by 8 AM. Once again everyone is welcome to attend and see what your firefighters do. We hope to burn the house down by 2 PM. The address is 15476 440th Ave SW.

I have included a letter from Polk County Sheriff thanking us and the City for our participation in the search for Anthony, the 11 year old autistic child that went missing. I cannot say enough about all the departments that helped and worked together on this search. It makes a person very proud to be part of the East Grand Forks community. Have a great week.

Police Department, Chief Hedlund

Traffic Safety

It is a busy time of year in the Red River Valley and the East Grand Forks Police Department is reminding our citizens to drive cautiously. There are many activities in the area that people need to be aware of!

- Construction Projects – There are currently road construction projects in several areas of East Grand Forks.
 - River Road – From 17th Street NW – 23rd Street NW this area is local traffic only with no through traffic due to a major water main project.
 - Highway 220 North of MN Highway 2 – Ongoing road construction.
 - Highway 2/Gateway Drive – Ongoing road construction.

- Demers Avenue – Demers Avenue at 2nd Street NW is currently closed due to construction. Traffic is being detoured around this area.
- Business Highway 2/4th Street NW – Some areas of curb and gutter are being replaced to make these corners more ADA accessible.
- The Demers Avenue project will be further complicated this Saturday, September 7, 2013 when the roadways currently being used for detours (as well as the Sorlie Bridge) will also be shut down for special events.
 - EGF is hosting the “Uff Da Mud Run” along the Red River. This 5K mud run/obstacle course race is currently scheduled to bring over 600 racers to EGF and is sure to bring excitement to the Greenway! This event starts at 10:00 AM and the Boardwalk area North of Demers Avenue will be closed for the duration of this event.
 - Potato Bowl Parade –Also being held Saturday September 7, 2013 is the annual Potato Bowl Parade which starts in Grand Forks and ends in East Grand Forks. This parade – one of the largest in the region – will follow the traffic detour South from Demers Avenue and loop around Cabela’s before concluding in the River Walk Center parking lot. The Parade will start at 10:30 AM.
- Back to School – School has started in East Grand Forks and that means there will be lots of activity near all of our school buildings. Please drive with care and remember to yield to pedestrians! On a related note South Point Elementary, New Heights Elementary and Central Middle School all have drop off zones near their front entrances. These are strictly drop off zones and are “**No Parking**” areas. When people park their vehicles in these areas it makes it unsafe for other students who are being dropped off and it can cause problems if emergency vehicles need to respond to the school. Thank you for your help in not parking in these areas!
- Harvest Time – The harvest season has begun. With that comes major truck traffic in and around our community. As beet harvest gets under way we will certainly wind up with beets on our roadways and these can present traffic hazard so please be cautious. Wet fields result in muddy roadways so also be aware of the potential hazards associated with mud and dirt on our roads.

Campbell Library, Charlotte Helgeson

Andrea Lorenz, the Library’s new Program Coordinator, started Thursday, September 5, 2013. She is scheduling fall and winter events while being introduced to our regular activities. Her energy and experience are going to be great assets to the Campbell Library.

The Library starts its new hours this week. Monday-Thursday, 8-8; Friday, 8-5; Saturday 10-2 and Sunday 12-4.

AGENDA ITEMS:

The Special Meeting will consist of two resolutions which will be passing the tax levy collectable in 2014 and approving the preliminary budget.

The Work Session has eight items on it.

Item 1 will be a presentation from the MPO about the Long Range Transportation Plan.

Item 2 will consider accepting a grant from Project Lifesaver and be able to offer services to local families.

Item 3 will consider keeping the pay plan consist for both union city workers and non-union city workers.

Item 4 is a request from the Public Works Director for street repairs that were included in the 2013 Streets budget.

Item 5 is a request from the Public Works Director to have a pump replaced in Lift Station 1.

Items 6 and 7 are discussions regarding a possible increase to the fixed sewage rate and waste water treatment system.

POLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Barb Erdman

Chief Deputy James Tadman

August 28, 2013

Chief Gary Larson
East Grand Forks Fire Department
414 Fourth St. NW.
East Grand Forks, MN 56721

Dear Chief Larson,

On behalf of the Polk County Sheriff's Office, I wish to sincerely thank you and your firefighters for the assistance and resources East Grand Forks Fire Department provided during the missing child case involving Anthony Kuznia on August 7th and 8th, 2013.

The East Grand Forks Fire Department response, which included you and your staff assisting with the search, setting up for and directing volunteers, and the use of your facilities and equipment, was critical. The professionalism your Department displayed along with the many other public safety agencies coming together and working tirelessly to locate 11 year old Anthony was very evident.

While the final outcome was not what any one of us desired, finding Anthony provided closure to his family. Finding Anthony was the result of public safety working together along with the support of our community; the East Grand Forks Fire Department was an integral part of that process and for that, please accept my sincere thanks and appreciation.

Sincerely,



Barb Erdman, Sheriff
Polk County Sheriff's Office

Cc: Mayor Lynn Stauss

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