

# WEEKLY MEMO

**Date:** September 24, 2010

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

**From:** Scott Huizenga

**RE:** Weekly Update

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

*September 27, 2010 – 6:30 pm - Curbside Chat*

*September 28, 2010 – 5:00 pm – Work Session*

*October 5, 2010 – 5:00 pm City Council Meeting*

*October 6, 2010 – 5:00 pm Budget Meeting*

*October 7, 2010 – 2:15 pm - MN Governor Candidate Tom Horner Visit – Council Chambers*

*October 12, 2010 – 5:00 pm Work Session*

*October 13, 2010 – 5:00 pm Budget Meeting*

*October 14, 2010 – 7:00 pm Public Hearing – 2040 Comprehensive Plan – Council Chambers*

## **WEEKLY UPDATE:**

### **Newsletter**

The City's first edition of the new online newsletter, *Release from the East*, is available on the website. One can access the release by simply clicking "Newsletter" from the home page. I am pleased with both the content and the look of the first edition. Many thanks go to Michelle French for creating the newsletter; along with the departments for providing content for the newsletter.

### **Upcoming Events**

City Hall will be a busy place in the next couple of weeks with several exciting events and discussions. This Monday, September 27, Charles Marohn, President of [Strong Towns](#), will host a [Curbside Chat](#) at City Hall starting at 6:30. I am very excited for this visit. Many concepts of sustainability and Smart Growth are not universally embraced. Nonetheless, I believe the discussion will raise several important questions that the City will ponder for years. On Wednesday, September 29, the Red River Basin Downstream Impact Group will be at City Hall to discuss a potential joint powers agreement with several jurisdictions throughout the valley. This is not a formal City Council meeting. The Council is invited to attend. Finally, Independence Party gubernatorial candidate Tom Horner is the first to confirm a post-primary engagement at City Hall on October 7 at 2:15 p.m.

### **Fall Cleanup**

As the Public Works Superintendent notes below, Fall Cleanup begins run from October 4-8. Hazardous Waste dropoff is on Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **Department Reports**

### **Parks and Recreation**

1 - The columbarium at Resurrection Cemetery is in, we have some work to do on it but it looks great.

2 - The Senior Center had their pork roast on Sunday, September 19 and there was a good turn out.

3 - The trees will be cut down, all the trees he was hired for.

4 - They have started on the VFW roof and it should be done before the Arts and Craft Show.

5 - Arts and Crafts will set up Oct 1 and will begin Oct. 2 - 3

### **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

IQBID.com is hosting an online auction for the city. The auction will begin on September 27 and run until October 6<sup>th</sup>. You can go on line to this site and preview the items that are on auction starting September 22.

#### **LAFAVE PARK BOAT DOCK**

The dock will be removed the week of September 28<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting.

#### **SANITATION**

Residential fall clean-up will be held the week of October 4<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>. Hazardous Waste/Electronics Drop Off is October 9 from 9am to 3pm at the Public Works Building.

#### **FLEET**

The Police Department received a grant for new LED digital light bars. Each PD cruiser (four total) will be retrofitted with the new light bars. This will take approximately 20hrs per car. I expect the work to be completed sometime in November.

#### **WASTEWATER**

The new motors and impellers for sanitary lift station #16 have been received. Electric pump should begin rehabilitation of the lift station in the next two weeks.

#### **FLOOD CONTROL SYSTEM/STORMWATER**

Dye testing has been completed for the area west of River Road and North of Forest Court. Dye testing of the storm water system will continue throughout the fall, as time permits. To date, staff has not found any cross connections between the storm system and the wastewater system.

### **Library**

The Library Board will meet September 28, 7 a.m. in the library's large meeting room. The first topic discussed will be maintenance of the building. The Fire Department will be using its thermo-imaging equipment to photograph the library's roof to locate heat loss, so a permanent correction can be made to the leakage problem. Bids will be

*considered for cleaning the carpets. Our restroom doors have been removed to better facilitate our handicapped patrons. No problems with line-of-sight.*

*An on-going discussion will be continued in regards to reciprocity with the Grand Forks Library. A strong point of contention among board members is how our rural East Grand Forks residents will be included.*

### **Fire Department**

*The aerial platform down riggers are repaired and the tower is now back in service. The fourth and last down rigger on tower will need to be repaired after the first of the year.*

*Fire Department crews installed the new gear lockers at station one and will install lockers at station two next week.*

*We are starting to prepare for open house on the 4<sup>th</sup> of Oct.*

### **Police Department**

#### ***EGF Police Volunteer for Special Olympics***

*Chief Mike Hedlund and Officer Aeisso Schrage of the East Grand Forks Police Department, along with Sgt. Barb Erdman of the Polk County Sheriff's Office, volunteered with the Tip-A-Cop for Special Olympics program this week at Applebee's Restaurant in East Grand Forks. This program, which is a major fundraiser for Special Olympics, involves law enforcement officers working with the Applebee's staff. The officers greet the customers and explain the long standing relationship between law enforcement and Special Olympics. The officers then provide a donation envelope for the customers to use if they choose to do so. The event took place during the evening on September 21 and 22 and a total of \$717.00 was raised during the two nights.*

#### ***Local Business Burglarized***

*Sun-N-Things, a local tanning salon and store, was burglarized during the evening of September 21/23, 2010. This is the third North End business to be broken into in recent weeks (Spare Husband and Subway are the others). EGFPD detectives continue to work on various leads in these cases.*

## **AGENDA ITEMS:**

The City Council has several important items to discuss at work session next week. Note that budget work sessions will be on Wednesday, October 6. They will continue each Wednesday evening in October.

1. The City Engineer will present the bids for 2010 Assessment Job No. 2, which is Storm Sewer Improvements for Northstar Terrace. Mr. Boppre recommends rejecting all bids due to the high costs and the lateness of the season. The City would rebid the project in the spring.
2. Andy Magness will debrief the City Council on the recent Adventure Race that took place in East Grand Forks and Grand Forks.
3. Council Member Buckalew will present the State Aid Task Force recommendations. This will likely be the first of several conversations regarding the long-term issues of special assessments and street maintenance funding.

4. The Public Works Superintendent will present bids for snow plow rental for the upcoming winter season.
5. Chief Gust will request authorization to begin recruitment for a vacant firefighter position.
6. The City received official notice from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) that DNR awarded a fifty-percent grant to the City for reconstructing the city trail along the Red Lake River. The City match will be \$95,000 plus soft costs (approximately \$30,000) if the City Council approves the project.
7. Council Member Gregoire will discuss potential on-street, upright pedestrian signs on designated crosswalks.

# Curbside Chat

A discussion of new strategies for the economic realities facing America's towns.

## YOUR COMMUNITY CAN FIND THE PATH TO FINANCIAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY...

This is a pivotal time for your community. Years of unstable property values have created uncertain revenue streams. Local government aid has been cut, and more cuts are imminent. Budgets are stretched. The shifts and delayed maintenance of prior years are starting to show up on the ground.

Local leaders are looking for answers. What they are discovering is that they are largely on their own.

The standard approach emphasizes *growth over resiliency*. This is a key part of our problem. To truly do more with less, we need to understand how we have built ourselves into decline. How have local investments failed to generate prosperity? Why is the standard approach harming our towns and neighborhoods?

Most importantly, how do we start a *real recovery*?

## AN INSIGHTFUL DIALOGUE...

The team at Strong Towns has prepared the Curbside Chat for local officials and key community leaders. We are traveling across Minnesota to deliver this talk to communities. Our presentation has five parts:

1. Background on the current financial crisis.
2. The triggers forcing changes in the way we inhabit the landscape.
3. The "dead ideas" we need to overcome to renew prosperity in our towns and neighborhoods.
4. What the coming new economy is likely to look like.
5. What local leaders can do to position their communities for success in the new era.

\*We are willing to travel outside of our target area to deliver this briefing if the host community can offset our travel expenses. Please fill out the form above and we'll contact you to discuss further.

## ATTEND A CURBSIDE CHAT NEAR YOU...

East Grand Forks  
Monday, September 27 at 6:30 PM  
East Grand Forks City Hall  
600 Demers Ave

[WWW.CURBSIDECHAT.ORG](http://WWW.CURBSIDECHAT.ORG)

[WWW.STRONGTOWNS.ORG](http://WWW.STRONGTOWNS.ORG)

or Call Toll Free

888-454-5226

