

**City of Ramsey
Weekly Update
11/08/12**

1. **Weekly Update - 11/08/12**

Weekly Update

1.

Meeting Date: 11/08/2012

Information

Weekly Update

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Attachments

Weekly Update

Form Review

Form Started By: Kathy Schmitz

Started On: 11/08/2012 04:33 PM

Final Approval Date: 11/08/2012

November 8, 2012

Weekly Calendar of Events

Monday, November 12, 2012

City Offices Closed in Observance of Veteran's Day



Tuesday, November 13, 2012

5:00 p.m. – Canvassing Board – Lake Itasca Room

Immediately Following Canvassing Board – Personnel Committee – Lake Itasca Room

Immediately Following Personnel – City Council Work Session – Lake Itasca Room

7:00 p.m. – City Council – Council Chambers

Immediately Following City Council – HRA – Council Chambers

Preview of Next Week

Stepping Stone Emergency Housing Open House. November 11, 2012, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m., Anoka Regional Treatment Center Cronin Building. RSVP no later than, Thursday, November 8, by calling 763-323-7006 or emailing rsvp@steppingstoneeh.org. *Attached to the Weekly Update is the Invite to the Stepping Stone Emergency Housing Open House.*

Canvassing Board (5:00 p.m. - LIR)

- Canvassing Board/Canvas the Results of the 2012 General Election

Personnel Committee (Immediately Following Canvassing Board - LIR)

- Consider a Resolution to Hire a Patrol Officer

City Council Work Session (Immediately Following Special CC – LIR)

- Consider Modification of TIF District 14
- Consider Lease Agreement with Independent Auto Service INC for use of Cold Storage Area; and Consider Sublease Agreement with First Choice Towing (6745 Hwy 10).
- Consider EDA Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Application
- Consider Development of 15153 Nowthen BLVD, Old City Hall Site

City Council (7:00 p.m. – CC)

- Report from the Personnel Committee - Meeting Date November 13, 2012.
- Consider Deferral for Development Fees - Sunwood Retail Area
- Consider Modification of TIF District 14

HRA (Immediately following CC - CC)

- Approve Preparation and Submittal of Stormwater Management Plan for The COR
- Consider Award of Construction Contract - North Commons

Council Update

Local Election Results. The General Election was held on November 6, 2012, with 12,347 Ramsey residents voting in the polls. A total of 1,239 residents voted absentee, with 611 of those voting at the City's counter. As of 7:00 a.m. Election morning, the total number of registered voters was 13,791. The election judges registered another 2,454 people at the polls on Election day. Staff has not yet received the number of new registrations that were included in the absentee voting. It was a VERY busy election! The results of the Election are as follows: Sarah Strommen was elected Mayor, John LeTourneau was elected Councilmember At Large, Mark Kuzma was elected Councilmember Ward 2, and Chris Riley was elected Councilmember Ward 4. The polling places had a steady stream of voters all day long. Sixteen Co-Chair Judges head up the eight precincts with a crew of 65 more judges to assist. There was about an 84 percent voter turnout.

A big "Thank You" to Jo Thieling and all the Public Works, Maintenance, and Admin staff that helped make the election run smoothly.

Update on Comprehensive Plan Amendments. As the City Council is aware, through two (2) separate processes, the City Council approved Comprehensive Plan Amendments at Green Valley Road/Nowthen Boulevard, Hope Fellowship (south of Highway 10), and The COR. The Green Valley Road and Hope Fellowship amendments were approved in 2011 and involved reverting back to the previous/current land use designations. The COR amendment obviously involved the change of the former Ramsey Town Center Master Plan. Because of their size, the Green Valley and Hope Fellowship amendments have been approved administratively. The Application for The COR amendment has now been considered complete for review, and will be heard on December 3rd (Community Development Committee) and December 12th (full Metropolitan Council). As a result, the City's preliminary recommendation for TOD Grant Approvals for Center Street (\$650,000) and Mississippi Skyway (\$100,000) will be heard by the Metropolitan Council on December 12th.

Beautiful Pea-Green Boat. Probably no Owls or Pussycats...but there were more than 384 uses of the self-serve canoe and kayak system at Sunfish Lake between April and August of this season. It is assumed that at least half the time the users had two people in a canoe – which would equate easily to more than 600 hundred paddling patrons for the Year and a Day. The free (no Honey or Money needed) card access system tracks precisely when and who activates the lockers holding the equipment. 43% used the boats between 4:00 and 8:00 p.m., and 22% before noon and the rest in the afternoon – with none by the Light of the Moon.

Sunwood Drive Project. The contractor has finished paving the wear course of bituminous and the project is nearing completion. The landscaper is installing the irrigation system and the trees in the boulevard on Sunwood Drive. After the trees are installed, the electrician will install the planned electrical receptacles next to the trees and the boulevard can be hydro-mulched for the winter. We anticipate that the striping and signage will also be completed this week.

Department Activities:

Building Maintenance

- General election set-up and take down
- Assist with rail station ribbon cutting
- Change clocks and equipment for daylight savings

City Clerk

- Open extra hours for absentee voting
- Election prep – Elections – and post Elections duties
- Election Judge Payroll

Finance

- 2013 Parking Ramp Maintenance Budget and Puma Allocation
- Oct Credit Card Reconciliation
- Regular and Election Judges Payroll

Fire

- Notable Responses
 - 11/1- Natural gas line struck in the 18900 block of Yttrium St NW. Crew pinched off line and stood by for Centerpoint to arrive.
 - 11/1- Ceiling light in business on fire in the 7900 block of Sunwood Dr NW. Crews arrived to a fire out, but heavy smoke inside resulting from a failed electrical ballast. Shut off power to ballast and ventilated building.
 - 11/2- Two vehicle accident at the intersection of Hwy 47 and Viking Blvd. Crew assisted with patient care and wash down of roadway.
 - 11/5- Smoke filling house in the 7800 block of 188th Ln NW. Crew arrived to find active fire within furnace. Fire was extinguished and home was ventilated.
- Administration
 - Final inspections of Commuter Rail Station
 - Completed sprinkler plan review of Residence
 - Sprinkler inspections of townhomes
- Training this week: Major Maintenance

HR

- Worked with vendor concerning online benefit enrollment & readiness
- Prepared for and held Open Enrollment meetings
- Coordinated a small scale employee fall wellness fair

IT

- Complete go-live for CRM

Parks

- All of the new fall planted trees have been planted, mulched, wrapped with protective tree wrap, tree guards installed and thoroughly watered for winter
- Irrigation systems have all been blown out with all the meters removed and stored for winter
- The ARAA purchased (in excess of \$2,000) 40 tons of ag lime for each baseball field at Alpine Park. Staff carefully placed the material with two pieces of equipment, and manually removed the grass 'hump' at the edge with seasonal workers
- Grounds maintenance activity including leaf and litter pick up at City Hall in advance of the Northstar Ribbon Cutting

Planning/Building

- Begin process and final data entry for Septic Maintenance Program
- Begin processing request for Seasons of Ramsey (Podawiltz/Town Center Gardens 3rd)
- Scope Site Planning Activities for Former Municipal Center and West of Armstrong
- Coordinated EPB Meeting, including background report on Rain Garden Demonstration Project

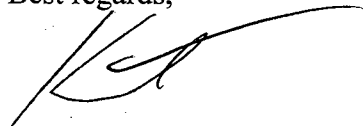
Public Works

- Remove large garage door from the Nordvick building, before demolition, and reuse at our sign/utility building.
- Help admin. set up/tear down for rail station ceremony
- Locate ROW at 5800 164th Ln for some minor grading to improve drainage
- Nick Maras is attending a 3-day work shop covering maintenance on our new squad cars

Save the Date:

- **John Enstrom Invite.** John Enstrom invited the public to come to Verteran's Lake on Veteran's day, Monday, November 12, in recognition and honor of those that served.
- **Mediation Services 25th Anniversary & Volunteer Recognition Celebration** – to be held Friday, November 16, 2012, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the new Harvest Grill at Bunker Hills golf Course, Coon Rapids. Tickets are \$35 per person which includes dinner. *Attached to the Weekly Update is the flyer and information relating to the Mediation Services event.*
- **Annual City of Ramsey Holiday Party**– To be held on Friday, January 4, 2012. Stay tuned for details.

Best regards,



Kurtis G. Ulrich
City Administrator

Attachments: Invite to the Stepping Stone Emergency Housing Open House
Press Release Regarding Northstar Service
Flyer and information relating to the Mediation Services event
Press Release Regarding Anoka County Commissioner Dan Erhart
Letter and 2012 Activity Summary from Metropolitan Mosquito Control District

Welcome Home

Stepping Stone Emergency Housing invites you to be our honored guest:

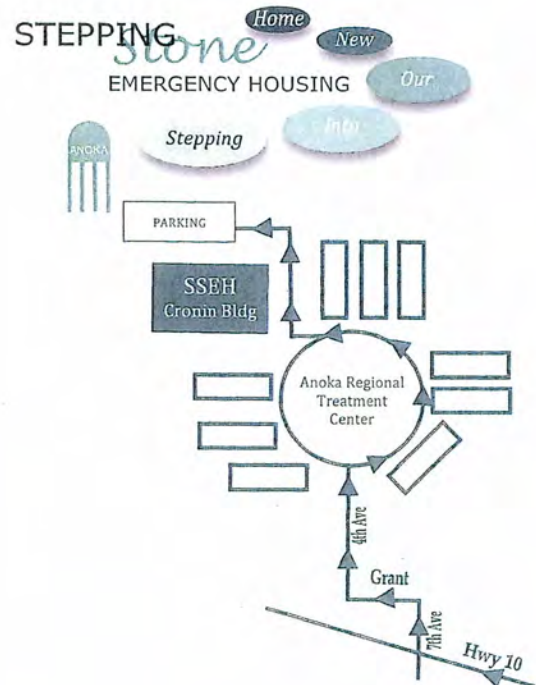
OPEN HOUSE

November 11 ~ 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Anoka Regional Treatment Center
Cronin Building

Let us show you our gratitude and the results of the work, donations, support and services you provided to Stepping Stone in its move to the expanded and new-to-us facility.

Heavy appetizers will be served.
Welcoming remarks scheduled for 3:30 p.m.

Please let us know no later than
Thursday, November 8
if we should be expecting you.
(763) 323-7006 ~ rsvp@steppingstoneeh.org





**Special copy of news release for Ramsey Star Express riders.
Get ready to upgrade your ride from bus to train on Nov. 14.**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 29, 2012

RAMSEY STATION TO OPEN FOR NORTHSTAR SERVICE NOV. 14

RAMSEY, Minn. – (Oct. 29) –Northstar commuter trains will begin service to the newly constructed Ramsey Station on Wednesday, Nov. 14.

Twelve Northstar trips will serve the station each weekday during rush hours. The station will also be served by six trips on Saturdays and Sundays as well as specially scheduled trains for large downtown events such as Vikings games and Saturday Holidazzle parades. The one-way weekday fare between Ramsey Station and Minneapolis is \$3.50 (see other fares at metrotransit.org/northstar or call 612-373-3333).

“Ramsey Station will provide hundreds of daily connections for commuters and travelers – including veterans accessing the new Northwest Metro VA Outpatient Clinic in Ramsey,” said Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb.

Located between Elk River and Anoka stations, Ramsey Station is the seventh along the line and the only new station added since Northstar began service on Nov. 16, 2009. A skyway from the adjacent Ramsey Municipal Parking Facility connects the station to parking spaces for Northstar customers.

In celebration of the station opening and the line’s third anniversary, the public is invited to enjoy free rides on all Northstar trains from all stations on Nov. 14 and 15. Metro Transit staff will be available at all stations to assist first-time customers and will also provide transfers to buses and the Hiawatha light-rail line at Target Field Station.

Weekday departures	
Southbound	Northbound
5:16 a.m.	6:43 a.m.
6:06 a.m.	4:27 p.m.
6:36 a.m.	4:57 p.m.
7:06 a.m.	5:27 p.m.
7:36 a.m.	5:55 p.m.
5:21 p.m.	6:45 p.m.

Saturday departures	
Southbound	Northbound
10:38 a.m.	12:00 p.m.
1:38 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
5:28 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
Sunday departures	
9:48 a.m.	11:10 a.m.
12:08 p.m.	1:50 p.m.
2:58 p.m.	5:25 p.m.

Station funding was provided by the City of Ramsey, Anoka County Regional Rail Authority, the Counties Transit Improvement Board, State of Minnesota and Metropolitan Council. Sheehy Construction is the general contractor. The project will be completed on schedule and well within its \$13.2 million budget.

Northstar is operated by Metro Transit, a service of the Metropolitan Council. Customers boarded Metro Transit buses and trains 81 million times last year.

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Note: The last day for Ramsey Star Express bus service will be Nov. 13. Watch for a special “Welcome to Your New Ride” packet on the bus with appreciation gifts from local businesses.

Come Celebrate With Us!

Mediation Services for Anoka County's
25th Anniversary
& Volunteer Recognition Celebration

Friday, November 16, 2012 - 6 to 9 pm
The new Harvest Grill at Bunker Hills Golf Course, Coon Rapids

Tickets = \$35 per person

Dinner, Silent Auction, Wall of Wine and more!

Help us celebrate 25 years of nonprofit service to the area, recognize our wonderful mediators and learn exciting news about the future.

Please consider sponsoring the event to help us meet the growing needs in Anoka County for conflict resolution
\$1000+ Gold \$500 Silver \$250 Bronze \$100 Table Host

All contributions are appreciated! RSVP reply card and payments by mail should be received no later than Wednesday, November 7th, 2012. Learn more about the event at our new website: www.mediationservice.org

Mediation Services for Anoka County is a community-focused 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are very much appreciated and are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by the law.

2520 Coon Rapids Blvd. Suite 100 Coon Rapids, MN 55433

www.mediationservice.org office: 763-422-8878 fax: 763-422-0808 info@mediationservice.org

Contact: Anoka County Commissioner Dan Erhart
Phone: 763-421-1884

**County Attorney finds no basis for conflict of interest accusation
in KSTP news story targeting Anoka County Commissioner Dan Erhart**

Washington County Attorney Pete Orput's office has found no basis for the conflict of interest claim directed at Anoka County Commissioner Dan Erhart in a KSTP television story aired Monday during the 10 p.m. newscast.

The story revolves around Erhart being one of several people in a partnership that owns a piece of hunting land in South Dakota. Also in the partnership is an employee of a company that sells bonds for Anoka County.

Erhart has voted to give contracts to the company. KSTP reporter Jay Kolls interviewed a professor who claimed Erhart had violated the conflict of interest laws by not disclosing his relationship with the company employee who, in the past, performed work for the county. Kolls also interviewed the current county board chair who said an investigation was needed.

The professor, board chair and reporter all got it wrong, says Erhart. He has a legal opinion from Washington County Attorney Pete Orput's office to back him up. Washington County Assistant Attorney Richard Hodsdon says there is no arguable violation of Minnesota statutes.

"There is simply no association of business between ownership of hunting real estate in South Dakota and issuance of bonds through Anoka County," said Hodsdon. "Therefore in my opinion there is no basis to conclude that there is any conflict of interest subject to disclosure or even that meets the definition of conflict of interest."

Erhart is considering legal avenues to pursue for what he sees as reporter Jay Kolls' reckless disregard of the truth.

"I'm sorry to see dirty politics leak into local elections," Erhart said. "Unfounded accusations can do a lot of damage to reputations of individuals and, in fact, the entire county. It's sad some people put their political agendas ahead of what's best for residents and businesses of the county."

Erhart faces a re-election challenge Tuesday in Anoka County district seven, which serves portions of Anoka, Andover and Coon Rapids.

Erhart asked the Anoka County Attorney's Office to review the conflict of interest accusations. The request was forwarded to Washington County in order to avoid any appearance of bias.



*Weekly Update
11/8/12*

Website: www.mmcd.org

Metro Counties Government Center
2099 University Avenue West
Saint Paul, MN 55104-3431

Phone: 651-645-9149
FAX: 651-645-3246
TTY use Minnesota Relay Service

Kurt Ulrich
Ramsey City Administrator
7550 Sunwood Drive NW
Ramsey, MN 55303

November 2, 2012

Dear Mr. Ulrich:

Enclosed is a summary of work done by the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (MMCD) in the Ramsey area during the 2012 mosquito control season.

It was a tale of two seasons when it came to mosquito production in 2012. Early spring brought above normal temperatures and rainfall resulting in MMCD treating 205,775 acres of wetlands to control immature mosquitoes by mid July. After mid July very little rain fell and MMCD treated only 30,172 acres for the remainder of the season.

After the rain slowed in mid July, MMCD observed elevated rates of West Nile virus (WNV) infection in mosquitoes and birds tested in our laboratory. Twenty of 26 birds tested returned positive results and 105 mosquito samples were positive for the virus from 742 tested. In 2012 the Minnesota Department of Health reported 70 human West Nile virus (WNV) illnesses, fifteen of those cases were reported in people who lived within our District. In addition, four La Crosse encephalitis cases were reported in residents of the state, one within the District. MMCD employees continued to monitor and control populations of mosquitoes capable of transmitting disease right up until we received heavy frost this fall.

MMCD employees also controlled immature black flies in small streams and large rivers throughout the metropolitan area. These treatments have resulted in significantly fewer adult black flies when compared to a time before we conducted treatments. MMCD staff also continued to monitor the distribution of ticks capable of transmitting disease, and worked with the Minnesota Department of Health to provide information designed to reduce the risk of tick transmitted diseases.

If you have any questions, or would like to meet to discuss our agency's activities within Ramsey, please contact me.

Sincerely,

James R. Stark, Executive Director
(651) 643-8363 jimstark@mmcd.org

Metropolitan Mosquito Control District

2012 Activity Summary – Ramsey

Larval Sites Inspected = 1,651

Larval Mosquito Treatments = 7,138 acres

Adult Mosquito Treatments = 1,240 acres

Customer Calls = 50

Catch Basins Treated = 2209

Tires Removed = 1,243

Areas Regularly Treated

1. Camp Guy Robinson

2. Central Park

3. Wayside Rest Park

Special Events

Armstrong Ranch's Game Fair

Trott Brook Horse Trials