

# WEEKLY UPDATE

*Administrator's Report*



July 25, 2013

**Tuesday, July 30, 2013**

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. – Special Election – Ward 1 Polling Locations

**Thursday, August 1, 2013**

7:00 p.m. – Planning Commission – Council Chambers

**Farmers Market.** The Ramsey Farmers Market will begin July 18 and continue throughout the summer. This event will be held on Thursdays in conjunction with The Draw Summer Event Series.

### *Preview of Next Week*

**City Hall Open Saturday for Absentee Voting.** Staff will be at City Hall on Saturday, July 27, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to accommodate persons who need to vote absentee. Hours will also be extended to 5:00 p.m. on Monday, July 29 for the same reason.

**Local Government Officials Meeting.** The quarterly Local Government Officials Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 31, at 6:00 p.m. at the Chomonix Golf Course, 700 Aqua Lane, Lino Lakes. The County Commissioners will be grilling dinner for the attendees. Jo has sent a calendar request to Mayor and Council.

**Special Election, July 30, 2013** – Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The two polling location are:

- Ward 1 – Precinct 1: Pathways Community Church, 6341 – 167<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW, Ramsey
- Ward 1 – Precinct 2: Cross of Hope Lutheran Church, 5730 – 179<sup>th</sup> Lane NW, Ramsey

**Candidates running for the office of Councilmember Ward 1 are:**

- Jill Johns
- Tom Heifort

**Planning Commission (7:00 p.m. – CC)**

- Consider Request for Conditional Use Permit for Expansion of Pathways Community Church
- Review Sketch Plan for Alpine Woods Third Addition
- Consider Ordinance to Amend City Code Related to Surfacing Requirements in the Official Map Overlay District and Other Highway 10 Improvement Areas
- Receive Update on Public Input Process for 15153 Nowthen Blvd NW: Former Municipal Center

- Consider Recommendation from Economic Development Authority (EDA) for Policy on 167<sup>th</sup> Avenue B-1 General Business District Node
- Discuss Options for Areas Desirable for Employment/Industrial Future Land Use Designations

## *Council Update*

**MCFOA Region IV Session.** The Municipal Clerks and Finance Officers Association Region IV (which includes Ramsey) held an all-day session on Preparing for the Unthinkable, presented by Stefan Salmonson, PROtective Services, Inc., here in the Alexander Ramsey Room on Monday, July 22. There were about 60 employees from cities around the Metro Area in attendance. Staff received numerous compliments about our beautiful facility, including the cleanliness of the building, the landscaping outside, and the wonderful, spacious conference room!

**Public Accuracy Test.** The Public Accuracy test for the Special Election was conducted at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday morning, July 23. Notification of the test was published in *The Anoka County Union*. The test is proof for the public, should they desire to attend, that the AccuVote machines are working properly and the sample ballot votes are counted correctly. The test came out perfect and the machines have been set into Elections Mode!

**Canvassing Board.** The City Council serves as the canvassing board for City elections. The council must meet to canvass the returns and declare the results within three to 10 days after a general election. We follow the General Election guidelines for Special Elections. The Canvassing Board has been scheduled for Tuesday, August 6, beginning at 5:15 p.m. in The COR Conference Room.

**Establishment of a Quiet Zone at the Alpine Drive BNSF RR Crossing.** In 2010, the city constructed raised median improvements on Alpine Drive at the BNSF railroad crossing with the intent of making this crossing a quiet zone. Last week the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) inspected the improvements, and the improvements were determined to fall short of satisfying the current quiet zone requirements. The improvements were required based on a preliminary quiet zone risk assessment which showed that the risk without a non-traversable raised median would not be acceptable to ensure the crossing is compliant with the Train Horn Rule per 49 CFR Part 222. This rule specifies that a non-traversable raised median must be at least 100 feet in length on both sides of the grade crossing and 6 inches in height beginning at the lowered gate arms to permit a quiet zone to be established. Per the FRA's field inspection, the raised median on the west side of the crossing is only 82 feet long, while the east side median measures 100 feet as required. In addition, the height of both median noses are less than 6 inches at the crossing gate arms. The raised median on the west side of the tracks therefore needs to be extended approximately 18 feet, and the ends of both medians near the tracks need to be reconstructed to a height of 6 inches at the crossing arms. The FRA also requested that the city provide updated traffic counts for Alpine Drive. Once the median improvements are complete and the traffic counts are provided, the city can apply for the new

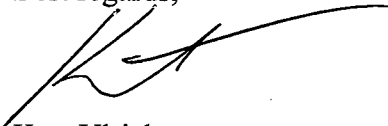
quiet zone crossing. This process includes submittal of a Notice of Intent (NOI), which requires a 60-day comment period following reviews by BNSF, Amtrak, MnDOT, FRA, and other interested partners. While this review is being completed, the FRA needs to verify that the crossing is equipped with the required constant warning time. Then, if all partners agree that the supplemental (median) safety improvements are acceptable, and if the crossing is equipped with constant warning time, a Notice of Establishment can be submitted which requires a 21-day notice prior to establishing the new quiet zone to cease the use of locomotive horns. The city therefore plans to collect updated traffic counts and complete the necessary raised median improvements on Alpine Drive prior to applying for a new quiet zone. This work, which will be a continuation of the 2010 project per feedback received from the FRA. With the establishment of a quiet zone at the Alpine Drive crossing, and following the completion of the Armstrong/10 interchange, the city of Ramsey will be a quiet zone in its entirety, except whistles will still be sounded for the Jarvis Street crossing that borders Elk River.

**Shared Fire Services.** The representatives for Oak Grove have indicated that their City will not be proceeding with a formal fire district arrangement with the other four cities (Bethel, Nowthen, Ramsey, and St. Francis) but had hoped to continue with an informal cooperative arrangement. A resolution to consider Ramsey's on-going support of the Joint Fire Services will be brought to the Council for consideration in late August.

**Save the Date:**

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Police Explorer Bowling Fundraiser.** Saturday, August 17, 2013, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Super Bowl, 6720 Riverdale Drive NW, Ramsey. All proceeds go to the Ramsey Police Explorer POST 3819. For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact Kristin Camacho, 763-576-4301 or [kcamacho@ci.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:kcamacho@ci.ramsey.mn.us).

Best regards,



Kurt Ulrich  
City Administrator

Attachments: August 2013 Government Calendar

# August 2013

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
			<b>1</b> <i>cancelled</i> Park Andover P&R 7:00 pm Ramsey Board of Adj/Planning Comm Kevin
<b>5</b> 7:00 pm Andover City Council Taylor 7:00 pm Anoka City Council Chris 6:30 pm Champlin ERC Cory	<b>6</b> <b>National Night Out Night to Unite</b> 7:00pm Champlin Park & Rec Cory	<b>7</b> 7:00 pm Anoka Planning Commission Lynnette	<b>8</b> <i>On hiatus until October</i> Ramsey P & R Riverdale Park 9:00am Anoka Update Schmidt 4:30pm Andover Update Howard
<b>12</b> 6:00pm Champlin EDA mtg. 7:00pm Champlin City Council Cory 5:00pm Anoka HRA Chris	<b>13</b> 7:00pm Andover Planning Commission Lynnette 7:00pm Ramsey City Council & HRA Matt 4:00pm Ramsey, Your council, your community Tossey & Kuzma	<b>14</b> 9:00am Anoka Champlin Fireboard mtg Chris 4:30pm Champlin Update Nelson	<b>15</b> 7:00pm Andover P & R Lynnette 10am Cable Commission Will
<b>19</b> 7:00pm Anoka City Council Chris 7:00pm Champlin Planning Commission Cory	<b>20</b> 7:00 pm Andover City Council Taylor	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 10:00am Andover Update Trude 9:00am Anoka Update Freeburg
<b>26</b> 7:00pm Champlin City Council Cory 6:30pm District 11 School Board Mtg. Will	<b>27</b> 7:00pm Ramsey City Council & HRA Matt 4:00pm Ramsey, Your council, your community Backous & Riley	<b>28</b> 11:00am Champlin Update Johnson	<b>29</b> 7/22/2013 7:49 AM