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Citizen Review Board Update

The Citizen Review Board began their required 30 hours of training with the Police Department on November 3. The training takes place at the police station and is being coordinated by Sergeant Laura May. On Wednesday, Chief Jerman, Deputy Chief Jonker, and the Police Captains gave an overview of the department and each division within the police department, Amy Reasner from Lynch Dallas presented on U.S. Constitution and reviewed various Iowa case law and concepts pertaining to law enforcement, and Lieutenant Fields and Sergeant Bieber presented on use of force, crisis negotiation, and K-9 unit. The CRB will attend a total of 10 training sessions throughout November and December to obtain their 30 hours of training as required by the ordinance.

The CRB is also working with the Communications Team to issue a press release to give the community a brief update on the work they have been doing these past few months. The Communications Team will also assist them with their communication efforts by creating a page on the City's website for them to post updates and will also post their updates on the City's social media channels.

Police Officer Applications

On Monday, November 1, the police department began the process for police officer applicants. Applications will be accepted through January 6, 2022. The 50th Basic Police Training Academy will begin on June 6, 2022.

Quaker Oats Flood Control System

The November 9 Council agenda includes a change order in the amount of \$421,584.80 regarding the Quaker Oats Flood Control System project, being done by WRH, Inc. The work added to the contract with this change order is related to the 36" water main that was to be abandoned and replaced with the project. While work was underway to abandon the existing 36" main, a critical valve broke and was stuck in the open position. The broken valve prohibited isolation of the pipe that was to be abandoned and halted the project until a new stop valve could be installed. This created delay and additional work, as proper valve installation for necessary pipe abandonment was

critical to the project. There is a funding balance remaining on the \$1.729 million USEDA grant at Quaker Oats, and USEDA has indicated they will use this balance to contribute to the cost of this change order.

Sustainable Neighborhoods Program Launches

The [Community Climate Action Plan](#) calls for the creation of a Sustainable Neighborhood Program to advance sustainability achievements in our neighborhoods and provide exciting community-building opportunities for Neighborhood Associations. An early version of [this program launched recently](#), with the goal of logging residents' sustainability actions and future commitments. Any homeowner or renter in Cedar Rapids can join the program. An [interactive dashboard](#) charts neighborhood participation, sustainability actions and commitments. City staff will provide quarterly updates to Neighborhood Associations to engage residents on community progress and encourage further participation. Timely educational materials will be provided to help residents take relevant sustainability actions (for example, in the winter time, information will be provided on home energy and heat conservation). A recognition program will be developed to shine a spotlight on residents and neighborhoods making significant progress within the program. The goal is to build engagement, momentum and a culture of sustainability across our entire community. City Council is welcome to [log your own participation](#) and encouraged to help us promote the program by sharing a link to the [Sustainable Neighborhood Program](#) with constituents.

COVID-19 Cases

We have been notified of six City employees testing positive for COVID-19 this week (since Monday, November 1). Four Police department/Joint Communications employees, one Fire employee and one Solid Waste employee. No close contacts were identified. We continue to require masks in all city facilities and encourage employees to take precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Snow Buddies Pilot Program Update

Over the past few weeks, staff have been matching eligible "Snow Hero" volunteers with "Snow Buddy" residents in need. The Snow Buddies program pairs volunteers with residents who are 65 years or older and/or have a mobility impairment, and qualify under the income guidelines, to help clear their sidewalks of snow and ice accumulation this winter. To date, we have matched 17 Snow Hero volunteers with 21 Snow Buddies (some volunteers have been matched with more than one Snow Buddy).

Due to the vulnerable populations being served through this program, all volunteers must pass a background check before they are matched. Staff will continue to match Snow Buddies as additional volunteers submit their paperwork. We still have a need for additional volunteers in order to serve all residents requesting assistance.

Staff will monitor the effectiveness of the program throughout the winter season and assess any needed modifications or the feasibility of continuing the program in future years.

Edgewood Road and 42nd Street NE Development

The developer has requested the preliminary plat which was tabled from the October 28 City Planning Commission (CPC) meeting be placed on the November 18 CPC agenda. The developer has not made any changes to the preliminary plat and has no information at this time about prospective

buyers and land uses.

Parks Update

- Winterization of parks continued this week with closing down the restroom at Ellis Harbor until spring. While restrooms throughout the system have been closed to prevent freezing of pipes and reduce maintenance during months when they are seldom used, portable toilets are available in high use areas.
 - The parks memorial tree program saw a significant increase in requests in 2021. In 2019, two trees were requested to be planted as a memorial, and in 2020, three trees were planted. In the past year, forty-five trees were planted as part of the program. Information about the program will be included in the spring and summer Play guides distributed as part of the Our CR magazine. In addition, the memorial tree program will be promoted through social media.
 - Lights have been installed at the Tait Cummins Sports Complex which will improve this facility for users in 2022.
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