



STATUS & INFORMATION REPORT

Week of April 29, 2007

*This report includes a schedule of next week's meetings for elected officials. We cannot assure that all meetings are noted, since not all meetings are coordinated through City offices. This calendar is **not** an official posting.*

MEETING CALENDAR

<u>Tuesday, May 1</u>	Noon 6:30 pm	Riverfront Development Brown Bag, (<i>Council Chambers</i>) South West Area Neighbors (SWAN) meeting, (<i>Wilson Middle School Cafeteria, 2301-J St. SW</i>)
<u>Wednesday, May 2</u>	1:00 pm 6:00 pm	Transition Communication Plan, (<i>4th Floor Conf. Room</i>) Council Meeting, (<i>Council Chambers</i>)

CITY MANAGER - The next *Blueprint for the Future Open Houses* are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, May 8	5:00pm – 7:00pm	Washington High School cafeteria
Thursday, May 10	11:00am – 1:00pm	US Cellular Center
Saturday, May 12	10:00am – 12:00pm	Jefferson High School cafeteria

The next "Enhance Our Neighborhoods" Open Houses are scheduled as follows:

Thursday, May 17	5:00 – 7:00pm	Time Check Recreation Center, 1131-5 th Street NW
Saturday, May 19	10:00am – 12:00pm	Horizons, 819-5 th Street SE

The City is moving to expand and improve team functions. Effective communication is key to team performance. When people communicate poorly in the workplace, they waste time, squander resources, fail to accomplish goals and sour their relationships. When people communicate well in the workplace, their exchanges are likely to produce mutual understanding, agreement and action. The following are characteristics of an effective team:

- Atmosphere is informal and relaxed
- Pertinent discussion
- Tasks/objectives are well understood
- Members listen to others' ideas
- There is disagreement
- Most decisions are by consensus
- Criticism is frequent, frank and relatively comfortable
- Freedom to express feelings
- Action – clear assignments
- Group leader does not dominate
- Group is self-auditing

FIRE - Chief English met with FEMA officials to determine which items damaged during the ice storm may be recovered financially, and if there will be any further assistance to the City for costs incurred during the storm. Chief English attended a meeting with other emergency responders at the Cedar Rapids Gazette offices to discuss ways the two entities can serve one another.

The Public Education division has started their fifth and final visit to the third grade classrooms for this school year. The trailer is a 40 foot mobile trailer that we tow to each school. The children go through the trailer in groups of five to identify hazards that are placed throughout the kitchen and living room. The children then proceed to the bedroom where we review their home escape plan. Theatrical smoke is introduced during the exit drill to simulate a real fire. The trailer is a great tool we use to review many of the fire safety topics we cover during our visits. Two juveniles were referred to our Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Program by the Juvenile Court Services this week for fires they set in a house. The two hour interview with the offender and their parents helps determine the chance of the juvenile to re-offend. An educational component is a large part of the program and homework and follow-up surveys are sent 60 days later. A Public Information Notification Procedure plan was introduced to departmental media representatives for discussing and evaluation.

The new Zoll E-Series AED/Cardiac Monitors and the Zoll AED Pro are in all of the stations. As part of the Iowa ROC research project, data has already been collected from one of the machines and has been sent to the University of Iowa. Being involved in the study will provide research data for improving cardiac arrest survivability nationwide. This data will also provide the CRFD with feedback/QA that we can incorporate in our training to improve these skills in the field. Pulse Oximeters have been placed on all first-response fire apparatus to use another evaluation tool for patient care.

The CRFD and the Midwest Regional Water Safety Council will be hosting a Basic Swift Water Rescue training class the weekends of April 21 & 22 and April 28 & 29. Certified instructors from the Iowa DNR, Des Moines Fire Water Rescue team and the Muscatine County Sheriff Department will be coming to Cedar Rapids to conduct the training which will include classroom instruction and rescue techniques.

LIBRARY - The Library will be revising the ISAIC informational pamphlet, *Here to Help*, a brochure that describes the substance abuse and problem gambling services offered. Problem Gambling materials are available through the online ordering system on the ISAIC website, <http://www.drugfreeinfo.org>. Pamphlets, posters, magnets and pencils are available to all Iowans. Local community involvement includes ISAIC facilitating at the Linn County Partnership on Substance Abuse Stakeholders meeting, and upcoming participation in the development of a mental health and substance abuse course of study at Kirkwood Community College.

Jazz at the 'Brary was very successful again this year. A change to April didn't dampen jazz enthusiasts. This was the last in the series of the jazz programs with the Jazz grant.

From March 2006 to March 2007, 3,676 more items were circulated than the past year just in the Young Adult area. This means that on average, each month we had 306 more items circulating than the year before.

PARKS - About 700 volunteers participated this year in the *Keep Linn County Beautiful* event filling 650 big orange bags or approximately 8 tons of litter along 20 miles of I-380/Hwy. 30/Hwy. 100, as well as 7 miles of trails and 8 park areas. The park crews picked up the orange bags.

The 15-in-5 Riverfront group has organized a volunteer clean-up day for Saturday, April 28 along the riverbank from Czech Village to the 5-in-1 dam. Also Saturday, there is a clean up of McLaud Run from McLaud Place NE to the Collins Road area by Hawkeye Fly Fisherman group.

Fox Trail Park at 74th and Council St. NE has been selected as a tree planting site for the Dig Your Neighborhood program sponsored by Alliant Energy. The tree planting will take place in the fall.

POLICE - Capt. Mellgren attended Linn County Drug Endangered Children (DEC) meeting April 20th with area Criminal Justice and Social Services personnel. Public Information Officers (PIO) from CRPD and other law enforcement agencies will be meeting with the Gazette in the near future for media relations.

Target Stores security held an open house for law enforcement agencies to showcase their surveillance equipment at the Edgewood Rd store. They are using state-of-the-art equipment and working with agencies to fight crime.

Officers Merriweather and Peiffer participated in a Multi Hazard drill at Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa, which involved several agencies from the Des Moines area and National Guard. Bombing, fire, chemical release, and accidental explosion scenarios were worked during the drills.

Platoon 2 did emergency drills at Prairie High and Middle School April 25th. Utilizing a grant for Seatbelt Enforcement and OWI, emphasis focused on Halt Aggressive and Drunk Driving (HaDD), underage possession of alcohol, intoxication, and open container violations.

RECREATION - The City of Cedar Rapids Farmers Markets will open May 1st for the season and will run through October 27th. The 8th Avenue Market, previously located at the Riverside Roundhouse, will now be held in the city parking lot on the corner of 8th Avenue and 2nd Street SE. It will be open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00 – 6:00pm and Saturdays from 7:30am - Noon. The Noelridge Farmer's Market will begin May 2nd and is open on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 4:00 -6:00pm.

STREETS – The mowing season begins May 1st and runs through October 15th. Permanent street repairs are now possible since the asphalt plants have opened. Staff has begun chemical spraying paved medians to help eliminate weeds. Dirt projects & seeding are in full swing along right-of-way areas. Graders are now blading the City’s 21+ miles of gravel alleys and over 63 miles of granular shoulders.

STREET CLOSURES

LOCATION	RESTRICTION	ACTIVITY	DEPT/ BUSINESS	ESTIMATED COMPLETION
34 th St. SE @ Bel Air Dr.	1 – NB Lane Closed	Street Repairs	Street	4/30/07
1 st Ave. NE @ 34 th St.	1 – WB Lane Closed	Storm Sewer	Schmitt	4/18/07
1900 Block of Ellis Blvd. NW	Closed	Storm Sewer	Pierce Tobin	5/18/07
1524 26 th St. SE	Centerline Closed	Manhole Cave In	Sewer	4/30/07
8 th St. S.E. between 4 th Ave. & 5 th Ave.	Parking Lane Closed	Utilities	Rinderknect	4/30/07
1450 Miami Dr. NE	1 – WB Lane Closed	Street Repairs	Water	4/27/07
3926 Nancy Jane Ln. NE	1 – EB Lane Closed	Replace Hydrant	Water	4/27/07
Meadowbrook Dr. SE between. 29 th St. & 30 th St.	1 – EB Lane Closed	Street Repairs	Street	5/18/07
602 Greenvalley Terr. SE	1 – NB Lane Closed	Street Repairs	Street	5/4/07
347 Parkland Dr. SE	1 – SB Lane Closed	Sewer	KenWay	4/27/07
3014 Oakland Rd. NE	1 – EB Lane Closed	Saw Cutting	Water	4/25/07
3515 'F' Ave. NW	1 – EB Lane Closed	Saw Cutting	Water	4/25/07
110 1 st St. SW	2 – NB Lanes Closed	Saw Cutting	Water	4/25/07
2110 Johnson Ave. NW	2 – WB Lanes Closed	Saw Cutting	Water	4/25/07