



STATUS & INFORMATION REPORT WEEK OF JUNE 17, 2007

CITY MANAGER

- ✓ The Customer Relations Management (CRM) process was implemented city-wide this week. The CRM database, using OnBase, tracks petitions that come to the CM's office, the City Clerk's office, or Council Members, to assure concerns are being responded to in a timely manner. Prompt and courteous attention must be given to each and every petitioner. Council member Kris Gulick recently received positive feedback from citizens about the CRM process when he returned from vacation. Citizens were instructed to contact the CM office in his absence and reported they were able to get their issues resolved before Kris returned. Mr. Gulick commented, "This should only help to improve the ability to measure performance in these areas as well as identify trends."

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- ✓ Due to an increasing number of variance requests regarding sign regulations, the department is coordinating a meeting within the week with sign company representatives to review sign ordinance provisions.
- ✓ A citizen raised a question about billboards owned by the City. A part of the Sinclair site purchase consisted of two billboards at the east end of 14th Avenue SE. The signs were assumed with the leases by the City with that purchase. Development is reviewing the status of that lease.
- ✓ The massive three sculpture art work, "To Wing", located along Wright Brothers Blvd west of 18th Street SW was dedicated on June 5th. This \$650,000 project consists of three sculptures which represent birds taking flight and range from 35 to 60 feet in height.
- ✓ Successful negotiations have concluded with Southwest Capital Company, LLC (Bob Blythe) for City acquisition of about 3.41 acres within the Oak Hill Neighborhood Improvement area. In July, an action team consisting of experts in construction, neighborhood revitalization, and project financing will present their recommendations for new home construction within the area. The acquisition of this property was critical for the successful revitalization of this historic, near downtown, neighborhood.
- ✓ The City Manager's office and the Community Development Department are working together with a consultant, Lisa Raduenz of LJR Inc, to coordinate a panel of professionals to examine the viability of the current Ground Transportation Center (GTC) and the feasibility of any changes to the planned Intermodal Transportation Facility (ITF). The panel consists of city staff members from Community Development, Traffic Engineering, Engineering, Five Seasons Transportation & Parking, and the Assessor; and local members from the Downtown District and the Chamber of Commerce. This panel will examine multiple options for the area and collect as much information as possible for presentation to the City Council in 6 to 8 weeks. The local Point of Contact for this panel is Sam Shea of the Community Development Department.

GOLF

- ✓ Taylor Made Demo Day is Saturday, June 16 at Ellis Golf Course, 10:00am – 2:00pm. The Taylor Made representative will be in attendance as well as professional golf staff.

INSPECTIONS

- ✓ A consultant is currently reviewing the Department to make recommendations to begin a process to build a more effective, efficient, and responsive Department which fosters continuous improvement.
- ✓ Plumbing Inspector **Bob Lynch** just obtained a Master Plumbing License and is working to accomplish a Commercial Plumbing Inspector Certification.
- ✓ Mechanical Inspector **Randy Croft** just obtained his Legal and Management of Building Codes certification. Croft is also Residential, Commercial, Mechanical Code, and Mechanical Plans Examiner Certified.
- ✓ Electrical Inspector **Gabriel Hart** is working on his Certified Electrical Code Official Certification. Hart is also an Electrical Licensed Journeyman, Licensed Master Electrician, Electrical Contractor Certified, Residential, Commercial and Electrical Plans Examiner Certifications. He is also working on his Legal and Management of Building Code Official certification.

✓ **New plans City-wide include:**

- The City Water Department is accepting plan submittals for a \$40 M construction project for Shaver and J water plant
- ADM Corn Sweeteners has started plan submittals to 'fast track' their new Ethanol plant at 60th Ave and Locust Road
- New Horticulture Building at Kirkwood
- Recital Hall at Prairie School with 1,000+ seating has been submitted for review
- College Community Schools have submitted a plan for a new 7, 8, 9th grade building at 76th Ave and Kirkwood Blvd

LIBRARY

- ✓ Discussion is underway with the Hiawatha and Marion libraries to hold a cooperative author event.
- ✓ Total Metro Library Network circulation will soon break the 2 million mark!

PARKS

- ✓ A new pavilion will soon be completed in Wilderness Park, south of F Avenue off Moose Dr. NW
- ✓ A goose round-up in the Ellis Park Robbins Lake will be conducted June 20th in cooperation with the DNR. Park crews will use motor boats to gather and transport the geese to the holding pens. Once in the pens, the IDNR will transport to trailers for release to other lakes and waterways in Iowa. Adult geese can be caught at this time because the birds are molting feathers and can not fly. The goslings are not yet old enough to fly. Last year over 425 geese were removed.

POLICE

- ✓ Numerous cities of comparable size in the region were visited by assigned personnel to gather information on their structure, procedures, and community policing methods. Chief Klappholz has received the information on what is believed to be practices that can be considered for the improvement process.
- ✓ Bike and walking patrols are being deployed by platoons in response to various neighborhoods to accomplish more visibility and contact with the community by the police. Special units are in force to focus on enforcement and prevention efforts in response to complaints in areas of increased crime.
- ✓ Child predator investigations have been conducted by area Federal, State, and Local agencies. The ICAC (Internet Crimes Against Children) unit and the CPC (Child Protection Center) investigators were involved in these cases. Coordination and cooperation between these agencies help to maximize the results of taking these criminals off the streets to protect the children of the community. The news conference helped to warn parents of these activities and to warn the predators that they are subject to prosecution and long prison sentences for these activities.

STREET CLOSURES

Location	Restrictions	Activity	Dept. / Entity	Est Compl.
Edgewood Rd. n/o Ellis Blvd.	Closed	Void Collapse	Pierce-Tobin	6/16/07
1 st Ave. NE @ 14 th St.	1 – WB Lane Closed	Valve Repair	Water Dept.	6/14/07
'J' St. SW s/o Oklahoma Ave.	Type III @ E.O.P.	Road Ends	Traffic Eng.	7/31/07
Alley – 'J' Ave. to 'K' Ave. NW between 21 st & 22 nd Ave	Closed	Camera Stuck	Sewer Dept.	6/13/07
9 th Ave. SE between 7 th St. & 8 th St.	Closed	Sewer Repair	Yordi	6/18/07
Meadowbrook Dr. SE between. 29 th St. & 30 th St.	1 – EB Lane Closed	Street Repairs	Street Dept.	5/18/07
3 rd Ave. SE between 5 th St. & 6 th St.	1 – EB Lane Closed	Sidewalk Repairs	Jelinek	6/29/07
18 th St. NW w/o Johnson Ave.	1 – SB Lane Closed	Water Cut-Off	Vandersee	6/19/07
7004 West Park Rd. N.E.	Center Lane Closed	Manhole Repairs	Sewer Dept.	6/13/07
Walden Rd. NE @ Northfield Dr.	Center Lane Closed	Manhole Repairs	Sewer Dept.	6/5/07
35 th St. NE between Prairie Dr. & Eastern Ave.	1 – EB Lane Closed	Street Repairs	Street Dept.	5/17/07
Northbrook Dr. NE w/o Council St.	1 – WB Lane Closed	Street Repairs	Street Dept.	7/13/07
7016 Lindsey Grove Rd. NE	1 – NB Lane Closed	Manhole Repair	Sewer Dept.	6/5/07
Walden Ln. NE @ Waldenwood Rd.	1 – EB lane Closed	Manhole Repair	Sewer Dept.	6/14/07
Ellis Blvd. NW @ 18 th St.	Closed	Sewer Work	Pierce-Tobin	6/14/07
2 nd Ave. SW between 3 rd St. & 'L' St.	1 – WB Lane Closed	Relocate Utilities	Gaylord	6/15/07
2062 Eastern Blvd. SE	1 – SB Lane Closed	Sewer	Earl's	6/19/07
4061 Mt. Vernon Rd. SE	1 – EB Lane Closed	Water Cut-Off	Gee	6/22/07

COUNCIL MEMBERS' CALENDAR

(Not all meetings are noted. The calendar is **not** an official posting.)

<u>Monday, June 18</u>	1:30pm	Re-Org Task Force meeting, (<i>Council Chambers</i>)
	7:00pm	Lincolnway Village Neighborhood Association meeting, (<i>Green Acres Storage, 5315 J Street SW</i>)
<u>Tuesday, June 19</u>	7:30am	Raise Flag for Freedom Festival, (<i>May's Island</i>)
	11:30am	Tribute to Heroes luncheon, (<i>Cedar Rapids Marriott</i>)
	Noon	Accessible Housing & Parking Brown Bag, (<i>Council Chambers</i>)
	5:00pm	Council Vision Session, (<i>Council Chambers</i>)
<u>Wednesday, June 20</u>	8:00am	Foreign Animal Disease Exercise, (<i>Emergency Management</i>)
	6:00pm	City Council Meeting, (<i>Council Chambers</i>)
	7:00pm	Cedar Valley Neighborhood Association, (<i>Cedar Valley Park</i>)
<u>Thursday, June 21</u>	5:30pm	East Post Road Extension discussion, (<i>Council Chambers</i>)
	6:30pm	Fundraiser for Epilepsy
	7:00pm	Fundraiser for Indian Creek Nature Center