



## STATUS & INFORMATION REPORT

### WEEK OF JULY 22, 2007

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#### **BUILDING & HOUSING**

- ✓ Inspection Services Feedback Opportunity - The Cedar Rapids Fire Department, along with the Building, Zoning and Housing Divisions will be holding a series of meetings in August and September to gather feedback from groups that utilize services, such as inspections, permits, or plan review, from these city departments. All meetings will be held at Mount Mercy College, Basile Hall, Community Room unless otherwise indicated. The meetings will be held from

1:00-2:00pm on Wednesday afternoons.

- August 1 - Home Builders Association members
- August 8 - General Contractors (Room 212 of Basile Hall)
- August 15 – Developers
- August 22 – Architects
- August 29 – Engineers
- September 5 - Sprinkler contractors
- September 12 - Fire alarm contractors

Representatives from the Fire Department and Building, Zoning and Housing Divisions will be available to listen to feedback concerning services. This is an opportunity to share thoughts, opinions or concerns. It is also an opportunity to learn more about the inspection process, plan reviews, and other services offered by these city departments.

The initial meetings were designed to meet the specific needs of various groups that regularly do business with the inspection services departments. Beginning in October, there will be bi-monthly meetings held for all groups and individuals to continue providing feedback. The public is always welcome to attend any meeting.

In an effort to continually provide the best possible, cost-effective service, we would like to know how you feel our services are provided. Our goal is to make the steps for the inspection or permit process as easy to understand and accomplish, as possible.

#### **LIBRARY**

- ✓ Christina Riedel has been hired as the new Circulation Services Coordinator and will begin her duties on July 24.
- ✓ The Noon Lions Club will be offering free vision screenings to pre-school aged children during the Summer Reading Celebration.
- ✓ Children's Summer Reading programs conclude next week with many fun and free programs for the family:
  - Mystery movie matinee at 1:30pm on July 23<sup>rd</sup> (Beems Auditorium)
  - A "Dragon Egg" craft at 7:00pm on July 23<sup>rd</sup> and again at 10:30am on July 24<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> floor lobby)
  - Farming Science Discovery program at 1:30pm on July 25<sup>th</sup> (Beems Auditorium)
  - Blue Trunk Rainforest Adventure at 10:30am and 1:30pm on July 26<sup>th</sup> (Beems Auditorium)
  - "Dragon Egg" craft at 11:15am on July 26<sup>th</sup> (West Side Branch)
  - EIEIO Story Time and craft at 10:30am on Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> (Bever Park)
  - Summer Reading Celebration at 10:00am on July 28<sup>th</sup> (Beems Auditorium) with storytelling, a scavenger hunt and food to celebrate the end of the Summer Reading Program (Beems Auditorium)

## **PARKS & RECREATION**

- ✓ The All City Competitive Swim Meet will be held Saturday, July 21<sup>st</sup> at Cherry Hill Aquatic Center. Nine teams or approximately 500-600 swimmers are expected to compete in 72 events. Spectators are welcome to attend for an admission fee of \$2 per person charged at the gate. Cherry Hill Aquatic Center will be closed to the public for swimming all day Saturday. All other municipal pools will follow their regular Saturday schedules.
- ✓ The Golf Department has hired the firm of Golf Property Analysts to conduct the feasibility/market study for the Twin Pines Golf Course project. The golf consultants will be in Cedar Rapids during the week of July 23<sup>rd</sup>. The first open house for the possible Twin Pines 20 acre sale and renovation of the Twin Pines Golf Course property will be August 1 from 3:30-5:30pm at the Golf Department conference room on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street NE. Parking is available on the 42<sup>nd</sup> Street side of the building.
- ✓ The Junior Golf Program concluded July 18<sup>th</sup>. Over 130 juniors took part in the Drive, Chip and Putt local contest. The final Drive, Chip and Putt state competition will be held on August 11 at Twin Pines Golf Course.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

- ✓ Maintenance crews responded to the July 16-17 five-inch rainfall by removing nearly a dozen trees that blocked roads. Street sweeping cleared three washouts that resulted from the rain. Emergency pumps were utilized to maintain sanitary sewer levels in the northwest quadrant which blocked E Ave at 11<sup>th</sup> St NW and D Ave at 13 St NW. They were removed following the significant rain threat on Thursday. No sanitary backups were reported due to the storm.
- ✓ Road vegetation mowing is starting its third rotation. Each rotation includes roughly 700 acres of general areas, right-of-ways and detention basins.
- ✓ Significant upcoming work includes:
  - 3700 block of E Ave NE and 32<sup>nd</sup> St NW by Johnson Avenue – full pavement concrete repairs
  - Northbrook Dr NE – full pavement concrete repairs
  - E Ave and Rock Valley Rd NW – gravel and seal coat repairs
  - Hinkley Blvd. NW (from 15<sup>th</sup> St to Johnson Ave) seal coating
  - 17<sup>th</sup> St. NW (from 1<sup>st</sup> Ave to Johnson Ave) seal coating
  - Maple Dr NW (from 18<sup>th</sup> St to Johnson Ave) seal coating
  - Westwood and Waveland NW – storm sewer inlet construction
- ✓ Weed abatement calls should go to Public Works at 286-5826. Problem sites will be inspected for compliance with city ordinances. If the site is not compliant, a notice is sent with follow-up inspection. Those that fail the second inspection are contracted for mowing and the property owner is billed. This program also applies to evasive vines and weeds.
- ✓ Michelle Sweeney, Civil Engineer, passed her Engineering Intern exam.
- ✓ On July 17<sup>th</sup>, the Iowa DOT audited the Public Works Department's National Bridge Inspection Program files and visited 5 bridges in the field to ensure that federal standards are being met. The Iowa DOT will issue its final report in 30 days.

## **WATER**

- ✓ The Water Department was recognized by the Centers for Disease Control for excellent work by water department staff in maintaining optimal levels of fluoride in CR drinking water. The CDC states that, "Consistent high-quality water fluoridation practice, as demonstrated by this water system, is a safe and effective method to prevent tooth decay, improving the oral health of community residents of all ages."

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**US Cellular Center** – The Five Seasons Facilities Commission voted to move forward with the exterior cleaning and sealing of the US Cellular Center. The actual work could get started yet this construction season.

**Dilapidated home** - The owner of **114 16th St. NE** has advised that they will be demolishing the home and removing the common driveway. The demolition is scheduled to be completed by the end of August.

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**COUNCIL MEMBERS' CALENDAR**

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

**Monday, July 23**

- 6:00pm Taylor Area Neighborhood Association Meeting, *(Taylor Elementary School Cafeteria, 720 7th Avenue SW)*
- 6:30pm Cedar Valley Neighborhood Association Meeting, *(Cedar Valley Park, Otis Rd & Memorial Drive SE)*

**Wednesday, July 25**

- 6:00pm Council Meeting, *(Council Chambers)*

**Thursday, July 26**

- 6:00pm Cedar Hills Neighborhood Association Meeting, *(St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 4700 Johnson Avenue NW)*
- 7:00pm Northwest Neighbors Association Meeting, *(Time Check Recreation Center, 1131 5th Street NW)*