



STATUS & INFORMATION REPORT

WEEK OF AUGUST 19, 2007

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Sinclair activities:

- ✓ Received the Limited Phase II Environmental Site Assessment that identifies some soil and groundwater contamination. The levels of contamination identified are manageable and within what would be expected with a 100+ year old industrial site. The Phase II report will be completed after removal of the demolition rubble and access to the ground for soil samples – probably early 2008 - is possible.
- ✓ Received a comprehensive survey and report regarding the natural area on the river side of the levee prepared by the Iowa Valley Resource Conservation and Development Land Stewardship Program. This survey will be the basis for determining how to best conserve and use this natural area as the site is redeveloped.
- ✓ Completed plans and specifications for removal of the demolition debris will be presented to Council next week with a bid opening scheduled for late September. Additional measures to address contractor concerns in the updated bid documents have been taken.
- ✓ Issued a request for bids to repair and secure the historic smokestack so that it can be incorporated into future redevelopment as a project landmark.
- ✓ Issued a request for proposals regarding property management services for selection of a property management contractor in September.

Oak Hill HAND program:

- ✓ Completed acquisition of the Southeast Capital Corporation properties.
- ✓ Reviewing contractor proposals for initial new home construction.

FINANCE

- ✓ The Parking Division has received an offer from an Oak Hill neighborhood resident, to form a volunteer neighborhood group to help care for the landscaping at the City's Park and Ride Lot. The Parking Division would like to take advantage of the offer and is working on a landscaping plan that could involve volunteer help from this group. Doug Forbes has responded to the volunteer and is currently looking at how the neighborhood offer can be used. Once the Parking Division addresses a poison ivy issue, liability, and defines a scope of work, the volunteer group should be able to begin assisting with landscape maintenance.
- ✓ The Transit Department continues to coordinate the installation of concrete pads at many bus stops with the Engineering Department's sidewalk program. The concrete pads are being installed to make the bus stops more accessible and to allow the installation of benches or shelters at busier bus stop locations. Twelve new benches were recently installed, and ten new shelters are scheduled to be installed before the end of the summer. A transit representative recently met with several business owners along 1st Ave East to get their input regarding the placement of shelters or benches at the bus stops located in front of their business establishments.

PARKS & REC

- ✓ Two new bicycle racks have been installed on the Cedar River Trail at McCloud Run Park and Sokol Park. They were donated by Sandy Colton in memory of her husband. A park bench was also installed along the Ellis Park Trail in memory of Sam Davis, long time Riverfront Department employee.
- ✓ Parks crews are installing a new playground at Monroe Park. The playground, age appropriate for children 2-5 years old, is one of three being installed in the parks this summer.

- ✓ The flower beds planted and maintained by the Noelridge Park Greenhouse staff are close to fully mature and very beautiful. Jazz Under the Stars, a showcase of local jazz musicians, will be held in Noelridge park on August 16 and 23.
- ✓ Ushers Ferry will host the 6th annual Folk Festival August 25th from 4-10pm. The festival will feature California folk singer Katy Moffatt. Also in the lineup is a diverse mix of musicians including William Elliott Whitmore, Glenn Lonsdale and Carliss Faurot, wayfaring Strangers, Colin O'Brien, and Matt Maybanks. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the gate. For tickets call Ushers Ferry at 286-5763.

POLICE

- ✓ Chief Klappholz along with Captains Stephens & Walther met with management from both the Road Ranger & Cigarette Outlet on 1st Ave NE regarding neighborhood concerns. Positive steps have already been taken by their corporate offices. New management and employee staff is in place at the Cigarette Outlet. Road Ranger has hired a security firm to perform late night patrol. Both agree to participate in neighborhood meetings. The meetings were fruitful and continued contact was agreed upon.
- ✓ Niles Fruendt has resigned as a Police Reserve Officer after 20+ years of service. Niles was our last Commercial Motor Vehicle inspector. He gave many hours of productive service to the city for \$1 a year.
- ✓ Animal Control received an anonymous gift of stainless steel cat cages valued in excess of \$12,000. These will arrive within a month. This gift fills a critical need for equipment within this department.
- ✓ Captain Walther will meet with Hiawatha interim Police Chief Gary Manhart to discuss school emergency plans for the two CR elementary schools located in Hiawatha to ensure a coordinated mutual response to incidents. A discussion with Linn Mar School District representatives for their schools within CR will be held later in the week. A meeting with CR Metro Catholic Schools is also scheduled. Lt. Risse is meeting with other private schools in the city. With the assistance of Sgt. Hamblin the annual update with CR School District is nearing completion as a training video is being planned.

PUBLIC WORKS

Collins Road Improvements Project Update

- ✓ The environmental assessment (EA) consultant is addressing Federal Highway Administration comments along the entire corridor. A public information meeting on the EA is tentatively scheduled for November 2007. Environmental clearance signoff is hoped by March 2008. Meanwhile, design is progressing on the reconstruction of the 1st Avenue and Collins Road intersection, which will have a fall public information meeting. Lastly, a design contract amendment is in the works to present to City Council in September 2007 to extend the 1st Avenue limits to 40th Street and incorporate gaps in 1st Avenue sidewalk and a planned IDOT pavement repair project for 2009.
- ✓ **Maintenance**
 - Midway Drive NW (from Alma Drive to West Post Road)
 - Alley NW = G & H Avenues / 8th & 9th Streets
 - Alley NW = L & M Avenues / 5th & 6th Streets
 - Alley NW = 12th & 13th Streets North of A Avenue
 - Prep for seal coating at Woodview Drive NE and Milburn Road NE from West Mustang north to Oak Grove Road.
 - Sweeping excess rock from oiling at E Avenue NW (Stoney Point Road to 80th Street)
 - Alley work by Camburn Court SE and Mt Vernon Road SE
 - Starting the break out of 32nd Street NW for concrete pavement repairs
 - Sewer and Forestry crews responded to downed trees and flooded roads on E Avenue and Edgewood Road NW on August 15th caused by a storm.
 - Sewer finished the repair of a storm intake by the J Street NE water plant and is starting installation of an intake on Westwood NW on August 21st (estimated).

COUNCIL MEMBERS' CALENDAR

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

Monday, August 20	7:00pm	Lincolnway Village Neighborhood Association meeting, (<i>Green Acres Storage, 5315 - J Street SW</i>)
Tuesday, August 21	5:00pm 7:00pm	Key Financial Strategies, (<i>Council Chambers</i>) Cedar Valley Neighborhood Association meeting, (<i>Cedar Valley Park</i>)
Wednesday, August 22	7:00am 6:00pm	Chamber of Commerce Board meeting Council Meeting, (<i>Council Chambers</i>)
Thursday, August 23	6:00pm 7:00pm	Cedar Hills Neighborhood Association, general meeting, (<i>St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 4700 Johnson Avenue NW</i>) Northwest Neighbors meeting, (<i>Time Check Recreation Center, 1131- 5th Street NW</i>)