



STATUS & INFORMATION REPORT

WEEK OF OCTOBER 1, 2007

FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

- ✓ Meetings have been scheduled with staff to gather any additional input regarding the reorganization. The meetings will include a review of the re-org process, the current status, and an outline of the program's plan for success. If anyone would like to review the outline, contact Dean Archer.
- ✓ Invitations will soon be extended to various employees asking them to be on an Energy Efficiency committee. Utility cost is second only to personnel cost in our organization and improvements in all areas are essential. The intent of the committee is to look into facility operations, equipment, lighting, flexible fuel vehicles, hybrid electric/gas vehicles, bio diesel fuel etc. to develop a report of short and long term recommendations to improve the City's ongoing energy efficient needs.

FIRE

- ✓ The Building, Electrical, Mechanical, Plumbing, Zoning, Fire, and Housing Inspection teams have consolidated into one Code Enforcement Division under the Fire / Public Safety Department. Housing Inspection has moved to the new location and, in the near future, Fire Inspection will be moving to the Public Works building at 1201-6th St SW. The general telephone number is 286-5831. Leased Housing (Section 8) and Rehab Assistance will remain at the Housing Services location.
- ✓ The Training Division held classes last week for all firefighters at a house donated by Aegon. The house on Buffalo Rd NE was used to teach various firefighting techniques in a controlled environment. Firefighters also reviewed and practiced roof ventilation techniques. The house was burned completely to the ground on Thursday.
- ✓ Members of the CRFD assisted in the annual CITA fire training weekend at Kirkwood's Environmental Training Center. Hundreds of firefighters from all over the state attend various firefighting classes to practice and learn new skills.
- ✓ October is Fire Prevention Month. October 7th through the 13th is Fire Prevention Week. The theme for this year is "Practice Your Escape Plan." Residents are encouraged to develop a home escape plan and to practice the plan so that everyone in their family will know what to do in case of a fire. Firefighters will be busy this month with tours and showing their gear and equipment to children of all ages.
- ✓ Fire extinguisher demonstrations are conducted by firefighters in October. Businesses request hands-on training sessions for their employees, and firefighters will deliver a safety presentation on the proper uses of a fire extinguisher. Each employee will be assisted in approaching a small fire that is lit in a burn barrel, and then the employee will extinguish the fire thus getting an idea of how to put out small fires that may start at work or home.
- ✓ There have been 64 deer killed as of 9-28-07 during the Urban Deer Hunt.

LIBRARY

- ✓ Barb Gay, Substance Abuse Program Manager, will be serving as a mentor for the Prairielands Addiction Technology Transfer Center's 2007 Leadership Institute. The goal of the program is to cultivate new leaders within the addiction field, including a six month mentoring relationship. The Leadership Institute is open to persons who work in addiction treatment in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North and South Dakota.
- ✓ There have been changes and additions at the West Side Branch to make it more attractive and inviting to patrons. Look for a larger display featuring the New Titles and a more definitive browsing area.

- ✓ Library supervisors are contributing action items to the library's Strategic Plan. The plan will cover three years and is accompanied by a projected three-year budget plan.
- ✓ Phyllis Fleming is the new Board of Trustees member for the library.
- ✓ Lori Barkema has been invited to participate in the planning and design project for Westdale Mall redevelopment, the Westdale Action Team ("WAT.")

PARKS & RECREATION

- ✓ Golf reservations/tee times will no longer be taken by phone or Webtrac. Golfers will need to play on a "first come first serve" basis. Please check the golf course calendar on the department website for outings and tournament scheduling conflicts.
- ✓ Nine irrigation heads had to be rebuilt at Gardner golf course due to the lightning strike last month. Total repair costs exceeded \$1,800.
- ✓ The Twin Pines Task Force meets October 2 at 7:00pm at the Parks Operations conference room.
- ✓ Two sessions, led by Horticulture staff, have been held to permit the public to take cuttings from the Noelridge Park Flower gardens. A final session will be available October 4 at 9:30am.
- ✓ Office space remodeling at the Parks and Recreation Department administrative building on 42nd Street is underway. The building's office space is being reconfigured due to the consolidation of the departments.

POLICE

- ✓ The 1st annual "Race for the Paws" was held September 23rd at Noelridge Park to raise money for the Cedar Rapids Animal Shelter. Petsmart and many other businesses attended and contributed. The event was very successful and the plan is to make this an annual event.
- ✓ The process for recruiting police officers has begun. Recruitment at college campuses is essential therefore officers have begun making recruiting trips. Officers visited Iowa State University last week.
- ✓ The CRPD began its Fall Basic Skills sessions last week. All sworn personnel receive in service training twice a year. This session includes firearms, driving, report writing, and tactical skill building.
- ✓ Sgt. Hamblin and Officer Stokesberry attended training in Des Moines put on by the US Justice Dept. on the "Police Role in Schools, School Safety Programs, Agency self-assessment, Developing Strategies, and Internet Crime".

PUBLIC WORKS

- ✓ Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) representatives gave a presentation to the City Council on September 26th regarding proposed revisions to the Floodplain Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for the Cedar River in Cedar Rapids.

FEMA is updating floodplain maps for Linn County and requested the City verify its levee system meets Federal requirements for height and structural integrity. The City's engineering consultant determined the levee system does not meet Federal requirements. In 1982 when the original map was made, guidelines for levees existed, but Federal requirements were not established until 1986.

The City prepared a preliminary map to illustrate the probable revised floodplain limits. This map can be viewed on the City's website from a link on the Engineering Department web page. This map indicates that more properties, particularly on the west side will be in the floodplain than with the current map. Affected properties may be required by their insurance companies or lending institutions to obtain flood insurance. Note that the current levee system has provided adequate protection to date, and the 100-year flood elevation has not been met or exceeded since river gauging began in 1902.

FEMA will review the City's mapping data for accuracy and indicated they will issue a preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map in fall 2008. After this map is issued, FEMA will provide flood insurance specialists to assist in area meetings with affected property owners, anticipated in the spring of 2009.

- ✓ **Maintenance Activities**
 - Repair pavement blowouts on Wiley Blvd SW
 - Complete 42nd St NE east of Edgewood Rd NE pavement repair
 - Minor repairs of detention basin at Teakwood Rd NE, Stoney Pt Rd SW, and Carpenter Rd NE
 - Joint and pot hole repairs on Edgewood Rd SW from Beverly Rd to 76th Ave SW
 - Mill out bad spot at 34th St and Lamplite Ln SE and replace with asphalt

- Box out repairs for three sanitary sewer structures in the 6800 and 6900 blocks of 1st Ave West.
- Install a drain line at Bobcat Ln and Rogers Rd NW

UPDATES

Westdale Mall

- ✓ An experienced developer recently toured the mall and surrounding community. Meetings and tours with other experienced developers are scheduled for the next two weeks. These meetings help generate developer interest in this property and their experienced reactions provide staff with insight regarding redevelopment potential.
- ✓ An initial meeting was conducted with the staff “action team” that will oversee and monitor planning activities and redevelopment alternatives. This team includes Development, Parks, Public Works, Library, City Assessor, Transit, and City Attorney.
- ✓ Developer contacts and staff activities are being communicated to the mall owners.

Sinclair

- ✓ There is an Open House scheduled for October 2nd from 5:00 to 7:00pm in Council Chambers. The objective is to gather public input regarding the EPA Clean-up Grant application as well as the overall brownfields redevelopment projects.
- ✓ Award of contract for removal of demolition debris to be considered by Council on Wednesday.
- ✓ Award of Building 49 and elevator shaft demolition contracts pending additional information regarding relocation of electrical service for Bimm-Ridder. These small structures are in very poor condition and need to be removed as soon as possible.
- ✓ Property management contract under review and staff is meeting with parties to address questions and concerns.
- ✓ Staff continues to work with tenants including Bimm-Ridder (expansion) and Linn Star Transfer (loading dock alterations).

Chief Information Officer for IT (CIO)

The Interview team is reviewing applications and will be meeting Friday to select candidates to interview. The City would like to have interviews completed within three weeks.

Concerned Housing

429 A Ave. NW – Owner will demolish home pending legal clearance with a scheduled October court date.

903 F Ave. NW – House has been refurbished.

1630 F Ave. NW – Fire damaged home and it is now under repair.

150 Outlook Dr. SW – The attached garage has been repaired.

339 27th St. Dr. SE – House and garage have been demolished.

202 30th St. Dr. SE – Currently securing bids with demolition scheduled to begin in October.

648 32nd St. NE – Garage has been demolished.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' CALENDAR

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

Monday, October 1	1:30pm	Blueprint Task Force, <i>(Council Chambers)</i>
Tuesday, October 2	5:00pm 6:30pm	Brownfields Open House, <i>(Council Chambers)</i> South West Area Neighbors (SWAN) meeting, <i>(Wilson Middle School cafeteria, 2301 J Street SW)</i>
Wednesday, October 3	6:00pm	Council Meeting, <i>(Council Chambers)</i>
Thursday, October 4	12:00	TIF Report Brown Bag, <i>(Council Chambers)</i>
Friday, October 5	12:00	Community Briefing, <i>(Beems Auditorium)</i>