



STATUS & INFORMATION REPORT

WEEK OF OCTOBER 8, 2007

CITY MANAGER

- ✓ Council member Kris Gulick has been appointed to the Executive Board of the Iowa League of Cities. His appointment was effective September 28th at the League's Annual Business meeting. Mr. Gulick is also a member of the Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce and is currently the program director for the Leadership for Five Seasons program.

FIRE / PUBLIC SAFETY

- ✓ There have been 208 nuisance complaints about the conditions of buildings (residential and commercial properties) since the beginning of the year. To date, 66 of the properties have been considered successfully resolved, meaning the property was rehabilitated, repaired, demolished, or otherwise brought into compliance. This means over 30 percent of the complaints have been resolved in less than a year. There are still some challenging issues (locating owners, legal proceedings, etc.) on other properties that need to be pursued.
- ✓ Housing Inspection Services Customer Service Update - In an effort to enhance customer service, payment of housing inspections and registration fees of rental properties can be paid by credit card. Please contact Code Enforcement – Housing Inspection at phone (319) 286-5831 if you have any questions.

IT

- ✓ The IT department has been working cooperatively with Linn County, the Cedar Rapids School District, and Traffic Engineering in a joint project (JCN – Joint Communications Network) to install fiber optic cabling to connect our city buildings, traffic signals, county buildings, and the metro schools. Phase I of the project is to install fiber in the downtown corridor to connect City Hall, Police, Public Works, and Central Fire. Phase I of the fiber has been installed and tested and we are in the process of migrating to the fiber network. The link from City Hall to Police went online Thursday 9/27 and is now operating at gigabit network speeds. The remainder sites will be upgraded within the next few weeks. Upon completion of this multi-year project, all city, county, and school facilities will be connected to a high speed fiber optic network. Additionally, this fiber network will foster efficiencies with additional intergovernmental sharing. IT is currently working with the County to share an internet connection that will result in greater bandwidth and a lower cost due to a volume purchase.

LIBRARY

- ✓ The Children's Programming staff will visit the Jane Boyd Preschool this week. Each child will receive a book courtesy of Cargill, Inc. Trinity Lane Preschool and St. Paul's Focus have already been visited as part of this offsite outreach effort.

PARKS & RECREATION

- ✓ October 7 marked the final day of full service park operations for the season. Open air park pavilions are not rented for specific time periods the remainder of the fall and winter. Two pavilions will have winterization panels installed and be available for rent October 12th thru November 11th. Restrooms in outlying parks will be winterized to protect against freezing and limited restroom service will remain available for the next couple of weeks at the major parks and on the Cedar River Trail. Parks will still be open for visitors to enjoy picnic areas, playgrounds and athletic fields as they always are throughout the year. Park hours are 6:00am to 10:00pm daily. Parks are closed after 10:00pm daily by city ordinance.

- ✓ The Twin Pines Task Force met Oct. 2nd and discussed potential drainage solutions for Twin Pines Golf Course and the costs associated with correcting the drainage issues. The Task Force reviewed financial statements for the four separate golf course operations and spent time suggesting options for assisting the golf division in reversing the trend of negative debt that has been experienced for the last four years. The next Task Force meeting will be October 16th, from 7:00-8:30pm. Members will begin the process of identifying the pros and cons of each of the options previously presented.

POLICE

- ✓ Capt. Walther, Lt. Deeds, and Wanda Miller from the City Clerk's Office met with representatives from the City of Dubuque to review & exchange information on licensing of alcohol establishments. Dubuque PD takes a proactive approach to forecasting problem establishments and offering suggestions to licensees to curb those problems.
- ✓ Capts. O'Konek & Walther met with members of the Peoria IL Police Dept. to discuss their administrative tow fees and procedures. Information was also exchanged on alcohol licensing which is also becoming an issue there.
- ✓ Sgt. Hamblin & Officer Stokesberry attended a 40-hour training session on School Resource Officer & school safety. Information was gained that will enhance the current school program that is being used in CR Schools. Many changes will be taking place over the next school year.
- ✓ The CRPD will receive a grant to assist in the Gang Resistance Education & Training program (GREAT). The ATF grant will fund one officer to teach the GREAT program at Polk & Johnson Elementary schools and McKinley Middle School.

PUBLIC WORKS

Maintenance

- ✓ Sanitary structure repairs at 1st Ave West and Rockhurst in the 6800 block area and on Hillside NW north of O Ave NW
 - ✓ Vegetation removal/cutting in the detention basin by Teakwood Dr NE
 - ✓ Assist WPC in a valve repair along trail behind Heinz by C St SW
 - ✓ Pavement patching work on Edgewood Rd. between. Beverly Rd. & 60th Ave SW
 - ✓ 60th Ave. between Willow Creek & Edgewood Rd SW
 - ✓ The mowers will continue around the airport, (Wright Bros., 6th Street, and Edgewood Road areas)
 - ✓ Crack sealing on Edgewood Rd NW for E Ave to Crestwood Dr NW
 - ✓ Joint asphalt repairs on 22nd St NW (Johnson to Burch Ave)
 - ✓ Asphalt will be installed at 42nd St NE (Westchester Dr to Finch Ct) Westbound lanes
 - ✓ Alley work between 21st and 22nd St NE by B Ave
- ✓ Maintenance crews performed roughly 159,000 square yards of seal coating in the last three months and are now shifting to fall work of patching, final pavement projects, ditching, sweeping and leaf pick up.

UPDATES

Holiday Inn on Williams Blvd. - The footings are being removed and backfill dirt needs to be put into place. This project should be completed shortly.

939 Jacolyn Dr. NW – Permit for repairs issued; Building Department will monitor

Leaf pick up – Crews will be picking up leaves from October 22nd through November 16th. Citizens are asked to use the yard cart and paper yard bags October 15th through December 28th. As in the past, the schedule will be on the City's Web Site with a "shortcut" to the schedule which will show 2 days at a time. This will also be in the CR Gazette.

Legislative Initiatives

The City recently requested the appropriated amount of \$300,000 from the State of Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship for the Time Check Levy Flood Mitigation study. These funds will help offset the costs to evaluate improvements to the earthen levee along First Street NW.

Sue Vavroch has solicited final submissions of state legislative issues and funding requests for inclusion in the 2008 legislative session's initiatives list. All items submitted by the City Directors are included in the list that will be presented to the City Council at a brown bag scheduled for October 30th. Larry Murphy, the city's state lobbyist, will be in attendance to assist in the discussion of prioritizing the initiatives.

In September the City Council began the process of reviewing the City's intergovernmental policies which include local, state and federal items. The finalization of these policies will occur at a brown bag scheduled for October 16th in the City Council Chambers.

Jim Prosser was a guest presenter on September 12th at a Legislative Property Tax Study Committee meeting held in Des Moines. This committee is studying the reformation of the property tax system in the state to make it more equitable across classes of properties. Jim presented some of the challenges Cedar Rapids faces in terms of property tax valuations and revenue and the cost of government.

Cedar Rapids is a partner in the formation of a metropolitan cities cooperative. This cooperative is in the formative stage, but the intent is that it will serve as a forum for larger city issues. The partnering of the nine largest cities across the state, which function as the economic engines for the state, will provide better communication and the creation of alliances on issues that affect the most populous cities.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' CALENDAR

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

Monday, October 8	6:30pm	Harbor Neighborhood Association meeting, (<i>Time Check Recreation Center, 113-5th St NW</i>)
	7:00pm	Kenwood Park Neighborhood Association meeting, (<i>Kenwood Park United Methodist Church, 175 – 34th St NE</i>)
	7:00pm	Oak Hill Jackson Neighborhood Association meeting, (<i>St. Wenceslaus Church Gym Building, 1224- 5th St SE</i>)
Tuesday, October 9	7:00pm	Wellington Heights Neighborhood Association meeting, (<i>Paul Engle Center 1600 - 4th Ave SE</i>)
Wednesday, October 10	11:30am	Priority One Annual Meeting, (<i>CR Marriott</i>)
	6:00pm	Council Meeting, (<i>Council Chambers</i>)
Thursday, October 11	11:00am	Legislative Outlook Forum, (<i>CR Chamber of Commerce</i>)
Saturday, October 13	10:00am	Mound View Neighborhood Association, (<i>Central Park Presbyterian Church 1700 B Ave NE</i>)