



STATUS & INFORMATION REPORT

WEEK OF OCTOBER 29, 2007

CITY MANAGER

- ✓ The inaugural meeting of the Citizen Feedback Network (CFN) will be Monday, October 29th. The purpose of the CFN is to expand the breadth of feedback the City receives on the work being done, how well goals are being accomplished, and the effectiveness of public participation and communications. This feedback will enable the Council and staff to implement improvements as needed and expand on existing input concerning issues, decision-making, and communication / public participation. The group consists of 10-12 citizens that will meet 2-3 times a year to provide unvarnished feedback to the Council on an ongoing basis. Members will serve as another conduit for information, bringing residents' opinions, concerns, and feedback to the Council and providing information from the City back to residents. Eventually, there will be about 10 groups.
- ✓ The next *Your City* newsletter is being finalized and should be mailed out to homes next week.

DEVELOPMENT

- ✓ Work on the feasibility study for the new Intermodal Transportation Facility (ITF) is well under way. Staff members and partner agencies have identified space needs in the new combined facility. Potential sites in the downtown and near downtown areas are being examined for feasibility and potential flaws. This study is not designed to determine if a new ITF is feasible but rather to discover a site with the greatest feasibility to meet the purpose and needs of a new ITF.
- ✓ Community Development staff will bring the draft Economic Development Policy to Council on November 14 to review comments received from the Entrepreneurial Development Center and Workforce Development, and also receive input from the City Council on additional items they would like to see included in the document.
- ✓ Garman Homes, Inc. has scheduled a meeting with neighbors of their proposed development near Edgewood Road and Zika Avenue NW for Thursday, November 1, at 7:00pm in Council Chambers.

LIBRARY

- ✓ Two new brochures have been printed to help "tell the library story." A general brochure about the library features the Van Vechten window on the front cover. The other brochure about internet safety for children has also been updated. Staff is preparing a targeted mailing to over 1,000 library supporters, media contacts and organizations which will also include the library's 2007 Annual Report and the new general library brochure.

PARKS & RECREATION

- ✓ The last of the park restrooms, drinking fountains and exposed water lines are being winterized. Ten restrooms were left open for public use two weeks past the stated closing earlier in the month to allow park users convenience during recent warm days. Late season portable restrooms are being installed where closed restrooms need to be supplemented. These are located at the Noelrdige Park walking trail, Cherry Hill walking trail and at Cedar Lake. In addition, portable restrooms at Tait Cummins (Cedar River Trail service), Bertram Road parking lot (Sac and Fox Trail service), Cherokee Park Trail and McLoud Run Park on J Ave NE will have portables kept in place through the end of November.

POLICE

- ✓ Officer Mark Asplund attended a Coe College event to show the dangers of alcohol use.
- ✓ Officers Stokesberry and Myrom attended a recruiting fair at Indian Hills Community College circulating CRPD applications.

- ✓ Officer Glenn Kieler assisted College Community High School seniors by conducting a mock interview for students interested in law enforcement which is mandatory for graduation.
- ✓ Officers Stokesberry and Magnuson did an Internet Safety presentation to Harding Middle School PTA.
- ✓ On Saturday October 20th CRPD and AC held an open house at the Animal Shelter that over 200 people attended. Animal control staff and approximately 25 volunteers were present to give tours, show animals, and answer questions. A survey was available for visitors regarding the facilities, staff, customer service, location and other items. The results of this survey are being reviewed.
- ✓ The PERF training conducted last week asked the attendants to complete an examination regarding their commitment to the organization and the community. The training provided great techniques to improve service to the city, community, and the organization. Detectives received 8 hours and the Chief, Captains, and Lieutenants received 12 hours of highly informative training.

PUBLIC WORKS

- ✓ On October 19th, the Sewer Maintenance Division celebrated a new modern day benchmark of a 38-day period with no reported blockages caused by city mains or city issues. The average was 2 or 3 per day in the early 1990's. It had improved to roughly 2 or 3 per week by 2004. In calendar year 2006, the rate was 2 or 3 per month. The rate is now at less than 25% of the national average as reported by the USA Blue Book. Congratulations to the sewer maintenance staff for their proactive efforts to achieve the new benchmark.
- ✓ Streets Maintenance removes dead animals from right-of-ways and the streets. Residents are directed to bag and place small animals in regular trash. If it is on a normal garbage day, Solid Waste personnel will pick up the animals along the routes. If the animal is not in the right-of-way, it is the responsibility of the property owner.
- ✓ The Leaf Collection is starting its second week. Over 230 tons were collected the first three days.
- ✓ Upcoming maintenance
 - Crack sealing on Wiley Boulevard SW
 - Mowing in NE quadrant
 - Sewer Maintenance will start ditch leaf pick up program
 - Starting inspection of plow wings
 - Pavement repairs on Harold Drive SE
 - Pavement repairs on Falbrook Drive NE

TREASURY

- ✓ Phase II of the City's structural reorganization includes consolidation of financial functions. Beginning Monday October 29th, the Treasury Operations Office will become the primary public contact for monetary related parking services. At that time, the public service window at the Parking Operations Office will close. In general, the following parking services are being transferred to the Treasury Office: monthly parking application process, payments and inquiries; parking violation payments and inquiries (including vehicle "tow" payments). During the transition period (through December 31), customers may make payments in person at the Treasurer's Office or may continue to use the "courtesy" payment boxes for either monthly parking payments or parking violation payments. The boxes are located at the 4th Avenue Parkade (Parking Operations Office) and the 3rd Avenue Parkade (near cashier booth). An additional "courtesy" box has been installed on the south side of the 2nd Avenue Bridge across from City Hall's 2nd Avenue entrance.

UPDATES

CRM Training - There will be a refresher class offered for the CRM procedures on Wednesday, October 31, 2007 at 9:30 – 10:30 in Council Chambers. This class will be stepping through the entire process using OnBase and will also allow time for questions. If you plan to attend, please reply to Mary Beck, x5230. Mary can also provide you with the names included in your CRM distribution group.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY - On October 30th, the City will hold a second interview with a CIO candidate. Employees who are part of the IT reorganization will have a chance to meet the candidate from 8:00-9:00am in Council Chambers. This will allow the IT staff time to ask questions of the candidate and provide feedback to the interview team. The CIO candidate will spend the remainder of the day meeting with the City Manager, City Directors, and CIO interview team.

Because of elections on November 6th, the Environmental Protection Commission will meet November 7th in Cedar Rapids. Commissioners will tour storm water demonstration sites followed by a presentation on solar arrays. They will also visit the former site of the Sinclair/Wilson Foods Packing Plant which has been redeveloped using the DNR's Brownfields funds. The regular EPC meeting will begin at 9:00am November 7th at the Wickiup Hill Outdoor Learning Center in Toddville. Public participation is scheduled for 10:30am.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' CALENDAR

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

Monday, October 29	1:30pm 6:30pm	Blueprint Taskforce meeting, <i>(Canney conference room)</i> Citizen Feedback Network meeting, <i>(Council Chambers)</i>
Tuesday, October 30	7:15am 10:30am 12:00	Good Morning Cedar Rapids, <i>(Crowne Plaza)</i> Westdale Mall Business Owner/Managers meeting, <i>(Council Chambers)</i> State Legislative Initiatives & Funding Brown Bag, <i>(Council Chambers)</i>
Wednesday, October 31	<i>Since this is the 5th Wednesday of the month, there will be no Council meeting.</i>	
Friday, November 2	9:00am	CRPD Academy Graduation Ceremony, <i>(Beems Auditorium)</i>
Saturday, November 3	9:30am 10:00am	District 3 meeting with Councilman McGrane, <i>(Johnson Elementary School cafeteria, 355-18th Street SE)</i> District 1 meeting with Councilman Gulick, <i>(Parks & Ops Building, 3601-42nd Street NE)</i>