



STATUS & INFORMATION REPORT

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 12, 2007

DEVELOPMENT

- ✓ Cedar Rapids' Downtown Vision implementation is underway and citizens are invited to an open house on Thursday, November 15th, 5:00-7:00 pm at the African American Museum to learn about implementation options available to make the Vision a reality. Key elements of the plan will be highlighted, including a Riverwalk around the downtown riverfront, downtown housing options, and concepts for destination activities, such as amphitheatres and places to hold larger events, as well as ideas that utilize sidewalks and other areas of downtown to create vibrancy.
- ✓ The Westdale Mall open house has been rescheduled for December 6th from 5:00-7:00pm in the Vets Memorial Armory.

LIBRARY

- ✓ Plans are beginning for summer reading 2008 when the theme will be "Catch the Reading Bug."
- ✓ Books are still available for check-out for Linn Area Reads. Paul Engle's [A Lucky American Childhood](#) provides a sentimental, but stimulating, look at the city as it was in recent years past. Activities will be offered in the early winter months relating to this book.
- ✓ There is space for enrollment in several computer classes taught by reference librarians and IT staff. The list of classes can be found on the website.

PARKS & RECREATION

- ✓ Gardner and Twin Pines Golf Courses closed for the season Monday, November 12th. Ellis and Jones Golf Courses will remain open as weather permits. The Holiday Golf Shop at Jones Golf Course will be open for merchandise sales through December 24th. After Jones Golf Course closes, the hours for the Holiday Golf Shop will be 11:00am to 6:00pm, Monday through Saturday.
- ✓ Dave Smith, Parks Superintendent, and Matt Nachtrieb, City Forester, are working with a citizen group led by Dale Kueter to coordinate the landscaping and maintenance of a high visibility area along I-380 in Cedar Rapids. This would be a demonstration planting funded by the IDOT if the application for funding is approved. The Parks Division currently maintains the I-380 approaches from Blairs Ferry Road to 27th Avenue. In addition, the Parks Division will assist the Keep Linn County Beautiful organization next spring with their Earth Day Cleanup of the Interstate.
- ✓ On Thursday, November 9th, the Parks Division, representatives from Trees Forever and Alliant Energy, and Linn Mar Success Students planted 15 trees at Fox Trail Park located at 74th Street and Council Street NE. Through the *We Dig Your District Program*, Alliant Energy donated trees with a value of \$3,000 to be planted in the park. Trees Forever served as the coordinating agency. This ongoing partnership has resulted in dozens of high quality young trees being planted in the parks throughout Cedar Rapids over the past few years. Fox Trail Park is one of the newer parks and is experiencing heavy use by young families living nearby. Donations of this type are much appreciated and encouraged as a way to put plant material in public areas.

POLICE

- ✓ The Iowa Gang Summit was held in Cedar Rapids November 5th. Officers Shannon Stokesberry, Matt Magnuson, Randy Jernigan, Jeff Herbert, and Dave Zahn have played a great part in CRPD's efforts in this area. Officers Stokesberry & Magnuson work with the schools in their assignment in Crime Prevention. Magnuson is also an instructor in our GREAT (Gang Resistance, Education and Training) program sponsored by ATF. Officers Jernigan, Herbert, and Zahn have played a large role in our Project Safe Neighborhoods anti-gang initiative through the Department of Justice.
- ✓ Detective Brad Novak received special recognition from the FBI for his work on a multi-million dollar embezzlement case resulting in an arrest and conviction.
- ✓ Two of the six training sessions with PERF (Police Executive Research Forum) were completed last week for officers and civilian staff.
- ✓ CRPD will work with the Salvation Army once again in their Toys for Tots Christmas campaign, in addition to officers volunteering to work during the setup and distribution in this season of giving. Feel free to drop off new unwrapped toys at the PD where a collection box will be located.
- ✓ Sgt. Joe Cerruto met with the Alzheimer's Association to discuss upcoming promotions of their partnership program with CRPD and to assemble roll call training materials.

PUBLIC WORKS

- ✓ The vegetation control program finished the 2007 season with the completion of four mowing rotations. There were over 500 nuisance complaints with over 420 properties mowed. The nuisance runs from May 1st to October 15th.
- ✓ Maintenance activities:
 - Repair of a sanitary structure on Crossing Street NE
 - The leaf pickup program ends on the November 16th
 - Continue leaf pick up from ditches throughout the city
 - Repair of a storm intake at City Hall
 - Pavement repair at 26th and Parkwood Dr SE
 - Install wings and blades for snow and ice control

SOLID WASTE

- ✓ The Iowa Recycling Association's Best Local Government Recycling Program award honors local government programs who lead by example. The City of Cedar Rapids was awarded the Iowa Recycling Association's Best Local Government Recycling Program award in October at the Association's Fall conference in Coralville. In accordance with the Iowa Waste Minimization Act of 1989, which established a mandated statewide landfill diversion of 50-percent, the city of Cedar Rapids, much like other municipalities throughout the state, addressed this recycling challenge by implementing aggressive curbside recycling programs. As waste management educational initiatives took hold and public support grew so did the volume of curbside recyclables, which resulted in the need to increase the size of the recycling container provided to residents. Currently 16,535 customers use the 65-gallon cart with the remaining 23,465 customers still using the smaller 18-gallon blue box. In Fiscal Year 2006, the recycling cart collection system diverted an additional of 129 tons of material from landfill.
"Through their example and leadership, the City of Cedar Rapids has earned the Iowa Recycling Association's Best Local Government Recycling program award and through continued sharing of the lessons they have learned, they will - without question - positively impact the state of recycling within Iowa," commented Erin Novak, Iowa Recycling Association President.
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UPDATES

An email was recently received noting exemplary assistance and money saving suggestions from several employees of the Engineering, Sewer and Water Departments. Keep up the good work!

The Joint Communication Network (JCN) has been selected as a recipient for the Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC) 2007 Excellence in Action Award in the Inter-Governmental Category. The JCN is a cooperative effort between City of Cedar Rapids, Linn County, and Cedar Rapids Community School District to build a high speed fiber optic network to all city, county, and school facilities. The project will be completed in phases with an expected completion date of 2012. The group and the project will be honored at the ISAC Fall School's General Session in Des Moines on either Wednesday, November 28th or Thursday, November 29th.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' CALENDAR

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

Tuesday, November 13	7:00pm	Wellington Heights Neighborhood Association meeting, <i>(Paul Engle Center, 1600- 4th Ave. SE)</i>
Wednesday, November 14	6:00pm	Council Meeting, <i>(Council Chambers)</i>
Thursday, November 15	Noon 5:00pm	Smart Growth Brown Bag, <i>(Council Chambers)</i> Downtown Vision Open House, <i>(African American Museum, 55-12th Ave SW)</i>