



STATUS & INFORMATION REPORT

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 19, 2007

DEVELOPMENT

- ✓ The IDOT will hold a Public Information meeting to discuss the status of the proposed extension of Iowa Hwy 100 in Linn County from US30 to Edgewood Rd on November 27, between 5:00 and 7:00pm in the Xavier High School Commons, 6300-42nd St NE. No formal presentation will be made, however personnel will be available anytime to individually discuss the proposed project. A Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) and Final 4(f) Evaluation have been completed for the project and will be available for review at the meeting.

FIRE – PUBLIC SAFETY

- ✓ Political signs are popular with the Iowa caucuses approaching. Zoning staff would like to remind citizens that political signs are not allowed on public property and shall not be located within a visual clearance area of any property. For more information about temporary sign regulations for residential and commercial districts, visit the city website and regulations for political signs.
- ✓ Fire Marshal Jim Thatcher met with the City Planning Commission on November 13th to discuss the recreational vehicle ordinance. This ordinance states that all RVs must be parked behind the front wall plane of the primary structure. RVs must be parked on a hard-surfaced pad and the drive to the pad must be hard-surfaced as well. Thatcher wanted to get the Commission's feedback about the ordinance as it is currently written so any of their recommendations can be given to the City Manager and City Council. The Commission recommended "grandfathering" hard-surfaced pads in place that do not have a connection to the driveway or road, but all new pads must have the hard-surfaced connection to the driveway or road. Upon initial enforcement, it was discussed that RVs would be allowed for 48 hours on a hard surface out of compliance, such as parked on the front driveway for loading or cleaning purposes. The CPC also recommended an adjustment to the ordinance that for side-yard parking, RVs must be at least 20 feet from a sidewalk for safety considerations. It was agreed an educational campaign would accompany any enforcement effort. In addition, there will be a grace period for full compliance as some issues will take time to remedy, such as putting in a hard-surface pad or finding another location for a RV.
- ✓ As of November 15th, the Urban Deer Hunt has resulted in 218 deer harvested - 194 females and 24 males. Hunters have kept 162 for personal consumption and have donated 56 to area lockers that process the meat for local food banks. A portion of the hunter's license fees cover the cost of processing.
- ✓ Last week the NE Regional Coordinator from the Iowa Department of Public Health Bureau of EMS Service Program inspected all fire apparatus in regards to EMS supplies, equipment and training.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- ✓ November 21st is the deadline to turn in enrollment forms for Flexible Benefit Spending Accounts for the 2008 calendar year. You can find the *enrollment form*, *enrollment instructions* and a *Member Enrollment Guide* located on the CityNet. If you have questions regarding Flexible Spending Accounts, please contact Bonnie Pisarik, Human Resources at 286-5078 or Dixie Harland at 286-5112.

LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

- ✓ The City of Cedar Rapids is a partner in the formation of the Metropolitan Coalition. The coalition is comprised of the ten largest cities across the state and is being formed to unite the large cities in Iowa, with similar concerns, in an organization intended to enhance communication and to advance common interests in legislative matters. The large cities involved are Des Moines; Dubuque; West Des Moines; Ames; Waterloo; Sioux City; Council Bluffs; Davenport; Iowa City; and Cedar Rapids.
- ✓ The 2008 intergovernmental, federal and state legislative initiatives and policies have been presented to the City Council and are now accessible on the City's internet home web page under Legislative Initiatives.

LIBRARY

- ✓ If you are already a member of a book club, or if you'd like to start one, take a look at the Book Club Kits the library has to offer. Each tote has multiple copies of the same book, enough for each person in your club to read. Most of the kits also contain large print copies and books-on-CD. Each tote has a packet that includes a book description, author information, book reviews, and sample book discussion questions. To see which titles are currently available as Book Club Kits, search the library website.
- ✓ A new feature has been added to the Recovery Iowa website, an Iowa grassroots effort to reduce the stigma attached to those in recovery from substance abuse addiction. You can read news and events on the blog as well as add your comments. Hopefully, the new format will keep everyone in the recovery community better informed and connected. Visit the library website for additional information.
- ✓ Joan Thaler, Foundation Board President, was recently honored as the recipient of the AFP - Ben Franklin award for her philanthropic work.

PARKS & RECREATION

- ✓ Ellis Golf Course will close for the season at the end of the business day on Monday, November 19.
- ✓ The Cedar River Trail and 4th Street NE north of First Avenue under the I-380 overpass is currently closed as contract crews working for the IDOT paint the steel superstructure that supports the overpass. An alternate route for trail users and motor vehicles using 4th Street will be signed and maintained by a contract road sign company working for the painting contractor. The alternate route will take people to 7th Street NE by the old Allen Motors body shop and allow for continued use of the trail through a short detour.

POLICE

- ✓ Officer's Lucas Liddle and Shawn Burke, two alumni from UNI, represented the CRPD on a recruiting trip to the University of Northern Iowa.
- ✓ The CRPD completed a video with the CR Community Schools on our school emergency plans. This video was shown to all elementary, middle and high school Principal's this week and will begin to be shown to staff in all CR Schools beginning in December.
- ✓ Officer Shannon Stokesberry gave 2 Internet Safety presentations to 110 employees from Aegon.
- ✓ Coe College Health students received a presentation on drugs this week by Officers Glenn Keiler and John McDaniel along with a dog demonstration by Officer Bowie.
- ✓ Officers Jim Kelly and Dan Jabens, ID Officer Ron Johnson, and Det. Doug Larison were an instrumental part in the investigation and eventual conviction of Kyle Marin.
- ✓ Officers Joe Clark, Rod Shifflett, Jim Kelly, Nick Nolte, ID Officer Ron Johnson, Det. George Aboud and Lt. Ken Washburn were instrumental in the investigation and eventual conviction of Christopher Schmidt.

PUBLIC WORKS

- ✓ Public Works will continue the loose leaf pick up program through Wednesday, November 21st. The locations will be listed on the City website. Crews will pick up missed areas following Thanksgiving until the first snow with crews as available. No scheduled routes will be used for missed locations.
- ✓ The "Yardie" yard cart program is available to residents year-round. Collection of yard/leaf bags for the fall period will continue until Friday, December 28th. Yard/leaf bags will also be collected again in the spring during the first three weeks of April. More details on Yardies and lawn bag collection are available on the Solid Waste website or by calling 286-5897.

- ✓ PW Maintenance Activities:
 - Mounting of plows and spreaders for snow and ice preparation
 - Leaf pick up
 - Leaf pick up in ditches
 - Fixing a storm drainage washout by Valley Brook Dr SE

TRANSIT

- ✓ The city buses will run on a reduced service schedule the day after Thanksgiving. Regular route service will be provided on all city bus routes, but there will be no peak service (the shaded trips listed on the bus schedules).
- ✓ The Transit Division recently installed eight new passenger shelters at various locations along the bus routes. Special thanks to Bob Burns and other Public Works employees for including the concrete work in with the City's sidewalk program.

There will be a Smart Growth Open House on Thursday, December 13th from 5:00-7:00pm in the Vets Memorial Armory.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' CALENDAR

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

Monday, November 19	7:00pm	Lincolnway Village Neighborhood Association meeting, (<i>Green Acres Storage, 5315 J Street SW</i>)
Tuesday, November 20	7:00pm	Cedar Valley Neighborhood Association meeting, (<i>2300 Rompot Street SE</i>)
Wednesday, November 21	<i>There will be no Council meeting this week.</i>	