



STATUS & INFORMATION REPORT

WEEK OF JANUARY 2, 2008

CITY MANAGER

- ✓ Cedar Rapids has once again been selected to receive a \$20,000 grant through MidAmerican Energy Company's *Trees Please!* Program. Grant money must be used for the purchase of trees only and the trees need to be planted in common areas such as parks, trails and right-of-ways.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- ✓ Staff began meeting in December 2007 to collect data to conduct a "Lean Process" of the Land Development Review System. John Helbling, Director of Field Engineering Processes with Alliant Energy will facilitate. The "Lean Process" provides for a review of each step in a system and requires participants to respond to the question of "Why is this step necessary?" Following the initial data collection, an event will be scheduled in February or March of 2008. The event will include staff and stakeholders.

FINANCE

- ✓ The City was recently notified by their Congressional staff that several federal appropriation awards are expected for our regional area. They are:
 - \$98,400 - Time Check Levee Flood Control Project
 - \$328,000 - CEMAR Trail
 - \$150,000 - Cedar Rapids' brownfields cleanup
 - \$650,000 - Entrepreneurial Development Center
 - \$383,000 - CR Symphony internship program
 - \$300,000 - Marion brownfield project
 - \$219,000 - KCC Advanced Medical Simulation Instruction Center
 - \$103,400 - Linn County Sheriff's Office for tasers and video cameras light bars for patrol cars
 - \$2.19 million - U of I Public Health Research and Education building to consolidate academic, administration and student services for the College of Public Health
 - \$ 3.9 million - UI's Advanced Biomedical Research Institute project
 - \$900,000 - upgrade scientific instrumentation in Coe College's chemistry, physics and biology departments
 - \$350,000 - Marion's Central Corridor Redevelopment Project
 - \$500,000 - to widen Interstate 80 through the Iowa City area
 - \$670,000 - Coralville's planned \$15 million intermodal parking facility and associated development at the Iowa River Landing
- ✓ In addition, "funds provided as necessary" for a flood study of the Indian Creek-Dry Creek watershed in Marion and Cedar Rapids was granted. The Corp of Engineers would fund the first \$100,000 of the cost, splitting additional expenses with the Linn County Regional Planning Commission and Cedar Rapids, Marion, Hiawatha and Robins.
- ✓ Several area agencies have received grants from the Department of Homeland Security's Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program. The Eastern Iowa Airport Police, Fire and Safety officers received \$12,000 to purchase equipment; the Linn County Sheriff's Office was granted \$12,936.15; \$11,500 went to the Coralville Police Department; and the Johnson County Sherriff's Office received \$11,794.
- ✓ Thanks to Senators Harkin and Grassley and Representative Loeb sack for their tireless effort in securing these funds that are so important to our area.

- ✓ The City Council recently passed the resolution approving the City as a member of the nine-member Metropolitan Coalition with Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, Des Moines, West Des Moines, Dubuque, Sioux City, Ames, Council Bluffs, and Davenport. The Mayor, Jim Flitz and Sue Vavroch have worked together with the other cities' representatives over the past few months to form the Metropolitan Coalition as they consider it desirable to unite the larger cities of Iowa with similar concerns in an organization intended to enhance communication and to advance common interests in legislative matters. The Coalition is a non-partisan advocacy organization. It is the intention of the Coalition to work collaboratively with the Iowa League of Cities in promoting the enactment of legislation beneficial to cities and opposing legislation harmful to cities. The Coalition cities are dedicated to a strong Greater Iowa. The mission of the Coalition is to develop sustainable communities for businesses and families through economic growth and good local government. The State legislative session commences on January 14th.

LIBRARY

- ✓ Library Planner George Lawson will meet with the Board of Trustees on January 3rd to review and approve the building program documents for a revitalized Downtown library and an expanded Westside branch. Mr. Lawson has been working with library staff for the past two years and completed the Needs Assessment - thanks to funding from the Friends - last year and has recently completed the Building Program documents.
- ✓ Nearly 300 flyers promoting the Adult Book Discussion series have been mailed directly to local library supporters, retirement homes, places of worship, and clubs. The new book discussions will begin in January.
- ✓ The Religious Fiction section is being expanded and staff members are working from subject heading lists to find materials appropriate for the genre. Due to publishing trends almost all materials have Christianity at the core of the plot. A recent complaint resulted in a meeting of the policy and personnel committee, and the committee decided to broaden the scope of the collection. There is still a requirement that a higher power must be intrinsic to the plot, but the RF genre section will now contain some books that include sex, violence, swearing or drug use in order to include materials representing a wider variety of religious thought.

POLICE

- ✓ Another complimentary email was received following the December 23rd snow storm from a young lady whose car was stuck in a snow bank. The lady voiced her appreciation for the exceptional service received from CRPD Officer Stacy Baye and the courtesy and calming of Dispatcher Ron Fleming. It is very clear that these two employees provided service in an exemplary manner.
- ✓ On Wednesday, December 19th, the CRPD sponsored a Youth Academy that approximately 22 students attended to learn about police work and different areas within the police department. This class was collaborated with the Lincoln Learning Center.
- ✓ As the PD moves toward district policing on January 5th, officers assigned to be District Service Officers had a 12 hour training session. Officers were introduced to other areas of city services such as code enforcement, animal control, neighborhood issues, mediation, Solid Waste abatement program, and Leased Housing. The officers also received refresher courses in Crime Prevention and Narcotics and then went into their districts to familiarize themselves with the existing Neighborhood Resource Centers. The officers and their areas are as follows: Mike Bailey and Becky Fort NE, Michael Kern and Sheila Cruse SE, Martin Eganhouse and Jessica Long NW, Mitch Crist and Michael Goldberg SW.
- ✓ The CRPD again hosted Santa-Cop on December 21st. The CR Police Protective Association raises money to take kids Christmas shopping. This year, the CRPPA spent \$5,240 on 70 children. They were able to buy coats, clothes and toys for each child that participated. What a way to spread the Christmas spirit!
- ✓ The CRPD received a letter of thanks from Cargill for their assistance during the strike in November. Cargill commended the "brave men and women ...who once again have demonstrated their commitment to providing the highest quality police service to the citizens of this community."
- ✓ The Linn County Attorney sent a letter of appreciation for those officers that assisted in the conviction of Kyle Marin, especially Detective Doug Larison for his videotaped interrogation of Marin, which provided the jury with a truly unique look into the mind of a murderer
- ✓ The US Secret Service sent a letter commending CRPD, stating the department is "extremely professional and flexible in meeting their security needs." The letter was sent in regards to the security detail for one of the Presidential Candidates.

- ✓ Officers Matthew Cummings and Casey Bilden recently responded to a Burglary in Progress. Once they arrived, they found footprints in the snow as well as dog prints which led them to where the suspect was. The suspect was arrested and charged.

PUBLIC WORKS

- ✓ Public Works Staff has negotiated mutually acceptable technical and financial terms of an agreement with the CRANDIC Railroad for the proposed Edgewood Rd SW bridge, just south of Prairie Creek. This agreement will allow for construction of embankments and a temporary bypass road to commence in 2008. In the meantime, the proposed bridge design will be modified to accommodate a 3rd track and access road, and will be bid for 2009 construction. This agreement will keep the completion date of the viaduct project unchanged at the end of the 2009 construction season. CRANDIC had modified its design request from 2 to 3 tracks in November 2007 to accommodate expected increased rail usage.
- ✓ **Maintenance Activities**
 - The tree debris, limbs, stumps, and brush pick up will continue into January. To assist the crews and fit into the dump trucks, the limbs need to be cut to six foot lengths. The route areas for the program will be the same as the leaf pickup and maintenance programs. The listing of completed routes can be found on the Public Works/Street Maintenance internet website. Each area of the city (not already completed) will be picked up once. No specific dates are scheduled. The exact pick up date varies based on weather and equipment availability.
 - Downtown snow removal will begin January 3rd depending on the weather. Snow is plowed to the center of the roads when it exceeds roughly five inches in a single event. The snow collection dump is located near 12th Avenue and 3rd Street SE. More than 1,600 truckloads of snow have been dumped this winter.
 - Over 5,000 tons of salt and 4,000 tons of sand have been applied in the ten snow events. The crews have worked over 5,400 hours of overtime. The city obtains its salt from an IDOT contract with a purchase of up to 7,200 tons. It maintains a supply of roughly 3,000 tons on hand. The sand is available, as needed from a local supplier off Old River Road SE.

PURCHASING

- ✓ On December 19, 2007, the City Council Resolution #1079-12-07 was passed to amend the City's purchasing policies. The revised Purchasing Authorization Flow Chart may be found on Citynet under the Purchasing Services tab. Some highlights of the policy changes are:
 - Quotes are not required for purchases under \$1,000. Authorized employees are to use good judgment in making these purchases.
 - Quotes are required for purchases greater than or equal to \$1,000 and less than \$5,000. Quotes shall be kept on file in the department.
 - The Purchasing Services Division will competitively bid all purchases for goods and services greater than or equal to \$5,000.
 - A City Council resolution is required for purchases greater or equal to \$100,000.

These policies are amended as a part of the Purchasing Services Division reorganization efforts. The advantages are:

- The Purchasing Services Division will be focusing their resources on the purchase of goods and services over \$5,000 thus empowering city employees who are authorized to purchase on behalf of the city to do so quickly for goods and services under \$5,000.
- Purchases for goods and services over \$5,000 will now be centralized and competitively solicited by the professional Purchasing Agents, thus enabling city employees to focus on their core job duties, rather than on the bid process.
- The Purchasing Services Division will be focusing their time on where the most dollars can be saved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rob Johnson, president of the Linn Area Mountain Bike Association (LAMBA) reported LAMBA just received a \$1,000 grant from the International Mountain Biking Association and the Cliff Bar Company. The Trail Preservation Grant was awarded for a proposal to protect 60 small oaks from the deer by putting mulch and protective cages around them. It is part of the club's ongoing commitment to protect oak trees in Beverly Park.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' CALENDAR

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

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| Wednesday, January 2 | 5:45pm | Swearing-in Ceremony for new Council Members, (<i>Council Chambers</i>) |
| | 6:00pm | Council Meeting, (<i>Council Chambers</i>) |