



## STATUS & INFORMATION REPORT

### WEEK OF JANUARY 7, 2008

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#### **CITY MANAGER**

- ✓ The *Your City Newsletter* is mailed to homes in Cedar Rapids every other month. Recognizing that all City employees do not reside in Cedar Rapids, the *Your City Newsletter* will be emailed to all employees as an attachment with the S & I report. Print and post the newsletter as well as the S & I Report so all employees have the opportunity to read it. The newsletter is also available on the City website.

#### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

- ✓ The Linn County Regional Planning Commission, which is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Cedar Rapids area, has changed its name to Corridor MPO. Corridor MPO is comprised of Cedar Rapids, Marion, Hiawatha, Robins, Ely, Fairfax, Shueyville, and Linn County. This change was made to avoid confusion regarding the relationship between the MPO and Linn County government and to allow the name to remain appropriate as the MPO grows.
- ✓ Corridor MPO will hold its first public Open House on Thursday, January 10, 2008 for the FY09 – FY12 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in Cedar Rapids City Council Chambers from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Staff will give a brief presentation. Projects from member jurisdictions requesting TIP funding will be displayed. The public will have the opportunity to provide their input at this Open House.
- ✓ Corridor CMPO will be participating in the 2008 National Household Travel Survey (NHTS) “add-on” Program conducted by the USDOT. The survey will provide CMPO with data on household travel characteristics in the Cedar Rapids metropolitan area and surrounding rural areas. This data will be used to examine the existing transportation system and forecast future demands in the area. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is currently finalizing their study design and residents will be surveyed beginning in March, 2008. Questions and comments related to this information can be directed to Sushil Nepal @ 286-5075.

#### **FIRE**

- ✓ Firefighters delivered Christmas presents to area residents through the “Be a Santa to a Senior” Program in December. While delivering the presents to the elderly, firefighters asked if they could enter their homes to check on their smoke alarms. Ninety three homes were visited over a 3 day period and 18 batteries that were no longer energized were changed and 40 new smoke alarms installed. Last year firefighters delivered presents to 86 homes, replacing 22 batteries and putting up 38 new smoke alarms. Residents thought it was great that firefighters would come to their home and check their smoke alarms to make sure they were protected.
- ✓ Year end statistics are being organized for the CRFD annual report that will be out in early February. Last year there were 8,430 runs; this year the number grew to 8,975. There will be a more complete breakdown of statistics and highlights from 2007 in the annual report. A copy of the report will be in pdf format on the website.
- ✓ Fire Prevention Bureau staff will be moving their offices and joining the other Building, Housing, and Zoning inspectors in the Public Works building this week.

## **LIBRARY**

- ✓ The Library Board voted unanimously to accept the updated Strategic Plan document that will guide library services through 2011. This important document is the result of a great deal of hard work among Board members and staff, with Regenia Bailey facilitating the project. A copy of the Strategic Plan will be posted on the library web site soon.  
The Board also voted unanimously to accept the building plan document for the downtown and West Side library locations. This document is the result of two years of hard work on the part of the staff and George Lawson, who gathered information from staff to craft the plan. It addresses community needs for library services and facilities for the next 20-30 years.
- ✓ Plans are continuing for the intergenerational reading program Read the River and for Paddle Day activities that include a writer/illustrator seminar on February 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **PARKS & RECREATION**

- ✓ All golf clubhouses are now closed. Anyone who wishes to purchase a season golf pass over the winter may do so at the golf office at the Parks Ops building on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street between 7:00am – 4:00pm, Monday – Friday.

## **POLICE**

- ✓ 2008 has presented several changes within the department. The first change was to District Policing. The City will be divided into 4 quadrants: NE, SE, NW, and SW, known as Districts. In each District, there will be 2 District Service Officers (DSO) assigned to continue with specific Community Oriented Policing. One DSO will work during the day and the other in the evening. All officers will participate in the CR COPPS programs, but designated DSO's will coordinate efforts on their specific District.
- ✓ The second major change is in the work week hours. Officers are now working 10 hour days, 4 days a week. There are 5 shifts with everyone having different days off. (In the Platoon system, the entire Platoon had the same days off.)
- ✓ Crime Prevention is continuing to do Bank Robbery Presentations for financial institutes and businesses throughout the community with approximately 25 presentations scheduled the month of January.
- ✓ CRFD Battalion Chief John Pulver was grateful for the assistance of an unnamed Police Officer during a house fire in early December. The officer went above normal assistance by shoveling sand on the sidewalk and driveway to allow firefighters to fight the fire and not have to deal with the ice that was forming.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

- ✓ Notification has been received that two Cedar Rapids sidewalk projects have been recommended to the IDOT Commission to receive federal funding. One is for sidewalks in the vicinity of Cleveland Elementary School and the other for a sidewalk near Garfield Elementary School. Pending approval at the January 8<sup>th</sup> IDOT Commission meeting, they are scheduled to be constructed prior to the end of the 2009 construction season.
- ✓ The US Army Corps of Engineers reported they received \$150,000 to begin the Time Check Area Flood Study. The Corps and City staffs are scheduled to meet in January to finalize an agreement for the scope of work to be performed, project schedule, and cost sharing between the City and Federal government. The City will also estimate the value of anticipated staff time and previous levee and soils studies for consideration as in-kind services and partial credit to the City's cost share, along with the state grant funds already received for the study.
- ✓ With the recent warmer weather, maintenance crews are taking the opportunity to clear snow and ice from sidewalks and pushing/removing snow from intersections and right-of-ways. With three additional months of possible winter weather, this is a great opportunity to address the ice build up. City staff will also be removing ice and snow from storm intakes to improve street drainage. The warming weather will also increase the rate of potholes. Staff will be scheduled to patch them as soon as they are reported.
- ✓ City staff and residents should contact the Public Works Department anytime at 286-5826 if pot holes or street ponding is observed in your neighborhood. Concerns can also be emailed to [street@cedar-rapids.org](mailto:street@cedar-rapids.org) for follow-up during regular working hours.
- ✓ The tree debris removal program for major limbs and branches will resume as crews are available. The program will run into February. Residents are encouraged to use the Yard Waste program to the maximum extent as possible

## WPC

- ✓ Cedar Rapids Water Pollution Control Facilities is responsible for maintaining and implementing the Industrial Pretreatment Program required by our NPDES Discharge Permit. The Annual Audit/Inspection of the Industrial Pretreatment Program was conducted by Iowa DNR staff on December 17, 2007. The conclusion of the audit stated, "Overall, the Cedar Rapids Industrial Pretreatment Program remains a strong and effective program. The level of compliance among the various Significant Industrial Users is good. There were no obvious areas that need improvement at this time." Maintaining a strong, effective Industrial Pretreatment Program requires daily effort and focus by many employees throughout several Utility areas - Environmental, Laboratory, & WPC Operations.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Correction – It was previously announced that the Indian Creek/Dry Creek watershed study would be partially funded by the Corridor MPO (formerly LCRPC) however at this time the watershed study will not receive any funds from the Corridor MPO.

**Housing Updates** - Three fire-damaged properties have had the insurance company take out the state-required \$10,000 demolition reserve fund. These properties are at 5420 Wyoming Dr. SW, 1440 3rd Ave. SE and 1307 6th St. NW. It is the owner's responsibility to complete home repairs. The demolition reserve fund is used by the City if the owner fails to rectify the situation in a timely manner.

Other Concerned Housing Properties Updates:

**1707 2nd Ave. SE** - Sale is pending on this property. New owners will be required to bring the property into compliance. The sale is to be completed by the end of January.

**2740 2nd Ave. SE** - Was in need of some minor repairs; building inspection in mid-December concluded there were no longer any exterior issues.

**1422 3rd Ave. SE** - Awaiting court decision that the owner has pending with an individual that was purchasing the home on contract; this is a fire-damaged property that the owner indicates that he would like to demolish.

**1500 3rd Ave. SE** - Permits to complete work on this property have been taken out and, as of 12/27/07, the owner is working under the permit process.

**1206 6th Ave. SE** - Permits to complete work on this property have been taken out and, as of 01/02/08, the owner is working under the permit process.

**823 7th St. SW** - Received complaint that the left side of the house was not secured; City had the windows boarded and assessed the owner. City is having difficulty locating the proper owners. A tax asset group has also purchased an interest in the property, which adds some complexity to notifying all owners. This house is in poor condition and the City recommends demolition.

**726 G Ave. NW** - Minor work was needed and, as of 12/27/07, a building inspection indicated that the exterior appears compliant.

**822 A Ave. NW** - Minor work was needed and, as of 12/27/07, a building inspection indicated that the exterior appears compliant.

## COUNCIL MEMBERS' CALENDAR

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

<b>Monday, January 7</b>	4:30pm 7:00pm	Budget Meeting, <i>(Council Chambers)</i> Library Town Hall Meeting, <i>(First Presbyterian Church)</i>
<b>Tuesday, January 8</b>	7:00pm	Wellington Heights Neighborhood Association meeting, <i>(Paul Engle Center, 1600- 4th Ave SE)</i>
<b>Wednesday, January 9</b>	6:00pm	Council Meeting, <i>(Council Chambers)</i>
<b>Thursday, January 10</b>	4:30pm 7:00am	Vision Accelerator Session, <i>(Cedar Rapids Museum of Art)</i> Noelridge Neighborhood Association meeting, <i>(Noelridge Park Church, 1147 Clifton Street NE)</i>
<b>Saturday, January 12</b>	10:00am	Mound View Neighborhood Association meeting, <i>(Central Park Presbyterian Church, 1700 B Ave NE)</i>