



## STATUS & INFORMATION REPORT

WEEK OF MARCH 24, 2008

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### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- ✓ The Corridor MPO will host the second meeting regarding the Tower Terrace Road Corridor Management Plan on March 25, 2008 at the Lowe Park Arts & Environment Center from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. The meeting will focus on addressing questions raised during the first meeting, the Corridor Management Plan's goals, and roadway design characteristics (i.e. medians, street trees, bike lanes, benches, etc.).
- ✓ Staff and representatives from Mercy Medical Center and St. Luke's Hospital met on March 18, 2008 to discuss potential collaboration on the development of a Medical District Master Plan. The group reviewed a draft Request for Proposal to secure a firm to design a plan. The draft RFP incorporates the following
  - Boundary delineation and branding
  - Way finding
  - Transit links
  - Housing alternatives
  - Creating a connection between the medical district and the downtown and the planning efforts articulated in the Downtown Area Plan

The group also reviewed the opportunity for the City and hospitals to jointly fund the development of a Medical District Master Plan. This issue remains open. Staff will continue to provide updates on the status of these discussions.

- ✓ A representative from Alliant Energy recently contacted the City's Code Enforcement and Zoning Division indicating that Clipper Windpower is considering applying for a building permit, to start construction sometime in May, 2008, for a wind turbine on property located north of 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue and west of "C" Street SW and owned by Kirkwood Community College. The request is for property currently zoned "A" (Agriculture Zone District). The height would span between 230 to 295 feet. The City's Zoning Ordinance does not address wind turbines, although Section 32.05.010.D. exempts windmills from height restrictions. As such, staff identified a number of issues related to this request that require additional review including:
  - Proximity to The Eastern Iowa Airport
  - Structure height
  - Noise produced by a turbine
  - Safety issues related to power lines and adjacent uses
  - Information gathered regarding regulations adopted in other comparable cities

### FIRE – PUBLIC SAFETY CODE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

- ✓ Two of the 28 housing properties that the Code Enforcement Division has identified as "red" on the triage list (in the most serious condition and needing immediate attention as being unsafe structures) have been removed from the list. These properties were located at 1307 6<sup>th</sup> Street NW (house) and 1552 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE (garage). The debris has been cleaned up at both sites.
- ✓ The Code Enforcement Division completed a series of five feedback forums that enlisted comments from contractors, trades professionals, architects, fire alarm companies, and fire sprinkler companies. All written comments submitted after the feedback forums indicated that the dialogue was beneficial and participants would like to see the feedback opportunities continue. At this time, the Code Enforcement Division plans to have bi-annual forums to continue to receive and share information with those that regularly do business with the Division. The latest forums focused on organizational changes within the Division, customer survey cards, and progress on filling a Plans Examiner position.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

- ✓ HR is forming several focus groups and is looking for employees who are willing to take 90 minutes to share their thoughts. Contact Conni Huber, 286-5019 if interested.
- ✓ An employee recognition task force is also being formed to recognize the many great things that City employees do each and every day. Six to eight employees are needed to make recommendations on how the City can do a better job of recognizing and celebrating those accomplishments. Contact Conni Huber, 286-5019 if interested.

## LIBRARY

- ✓ Several students from Kirkwood are performing service learning this week. They have been collating patron packets, straightening shelves and helping with craft preparation for upcoming programs.

## PUBLIC WORKS

- ✓ The City of Cedar Rapids will formally be recognized as a Tree City USA for the 30<sup>th</sup> consecutive year at an April 3<sup>rd</sup> awards ceremony in Des Moines. The City's longtime Arborist, Eric Faaborg (who retired in June 2007) will also be personally recognized. This achievement is a direct reflection on the successes of the hard-working Forestry program personnel. The City's new arborist, Matt Nachtrieb, is currently working on a new forestry master plan to continue this designation to a 31<sup>st</sup> year and beyond.
- ✓ An ice dam formed on the Cedar River March 16<sup>th</sup> about 9:00p.m that caused sustained flooding which reached the equivalent of an 18 feet river level upstream of the Edgewood Rd bridge. Water crossed Edgewood Rd by Ellis Park on March 17<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon closing the road for 7 hours. The downstream side of the bridge peaked at 14.1 feet that caused minor street flooding in two cases and the closure of Otis Rd SE for the week. Otis Road is scheduled to reopen Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> after the ice chunks and debris are removed and the completion of a sewer culvert replacement. There were no reported sanitary sewer backups from the river flooding. The sewer system performed for the first time in the past decade with this river level with no by-pass pumping of sanitary sewer to the river. This reduction of untreated sanitary discharges increases the quality of life and water quality for our city.
- ✓ Street sweeping will begin this week. The initial cleaning will occur on the primary roads followed by residential streets. The process will take 6 to 10 weeks for the first cleaning. There was over 13,000 tons of sand used on streets this winter. The city will be testing the dirt sifter screen machine for reuse of sweep dumps for sand for the next winter season. If this approached is cost effective, it will save future money for purchase, significantly reduce landfill fees, and most importantly landfill space.
- ✓ Council and C Ave NE north of 74<sup>th</sup> St NE are both restricted to one lane due to frost boils. Repair work will begin Monday and is expected to take one to three days, depending on the depth of the repairs.
- ✓ As April nears the progress of the tree debris removals will increase. Over 500 tons have been removed since the December storm. As we complete the snow and ice control season and subsequent pothole repairs, the Street program personnel will move into this effort to assist the Forestry program.

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## COUNCIL MEMBERS' CALENDAR

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

<b>Monday, March 24</b>	6:00pm	Taylor Area Neighborhood Association meeting, <i>(Taylor Elementary School cafeteria, 720- 7th Ave SW)</i>
<b>Tuesday, March 25</b>	5:00pm	Conversations with Council, <i>(1<sup>st</sup> Ave Hy Vee deli)</i>
<b>Wednesday, March 26</b>	6:00pm	Formal Council Meeting, <i>(Council Chambers)</i>
<b>Thursday, March 27</b>	5:00pm	Cedar Hills Neighborhood Association meeting, <i>(St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 4700 Johnson Ave NW)</i>
	7:00pm	Northwest Neighbors meeting, <i>(Time Check Recreation Center, 113- 5th St NW)</i>