



STATUS & INFORMATION REPORT

WEEK OF APRIL 14, 2008

Cedar Rapids is a vibrant urban hometown - a beacon for people and businesses that are invested in building a greater community for the next generation.

CITY MANAGER

- ✓ The Cedar Rapids Civil Service Commission has submitted a certified list of Police Chief Candidates to the City. City Manager Jim Prosser will interview each candidate April 16th or 17th. The candidates certified to interview include:
 - Joseph D'Agostino, Port St. Lucie, Florida
 - Kenneth Graham, Ocala, Florida
 - Jeff Hadley, Ft. Wayne, Indiana
 - Steve O'Konek, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
 - Bernard Walther, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

A public reception for the community to meet and greet the candidates will be held Thursday, April 17th 2008, 7:30 to 9:30am at the Czech and Slovak Museum & Library Heritage Hall, 30 Sixteenth Avenue SW.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- ✓ On April 7-9, a representative of HUD's Environmental Compliance office in St. Louis, MO, conducted a visit to monitor the City's compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and related HUD regulatory provisions in its administration of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership Programs. The Department's Environmental Review Records and individual project files were reviewed, and a number of project sites were visited to verify compliance. The exit conference report indicated the department has achieved an exemplary level of compliance with environmental review requirements and the report to HUD will contain no "findings" or "concerns."
- ✓ Mark Wyatt of the Iowa Bicycle Coalition will make a presentation on Bicycle Friendly Communities and Complete Streets at the regular Corridor MPO meeting, to be held April 17, 2008, at 1:30pm in Council Chambers.
- ✓ Smart Growth Committees - The City moves one step closer to the goal of implementing smart growth and sustainable principles. City Council's newly appointed Environmentally Sensitive Areas Committee and Infill Development Committee will begin meeting April 15, 2008, at 6:30pm. The committees will address two issues ranked at the top of concerns during the Smart Growth Open House in December, 2007. Over the next six months, the committees will examine the City's existing policies and procedures, identify challenges, and gather data and best practices. An initial Open House will be held to provide the public with best practices on these issues and initiate discussion. The committee will use the feedback received to guide the development of options for improving policies and procedures. These options will be presented to the public in a second Open House for review and discussion. Then, the refined list of options will be brought before the City Council for consideration.

The committee members are as follows:

Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Christopher Thoms
Elwood Garlock
Frank Bellon
Dale Brodt
Bart Woods
Carole Teater
Brett Papendick

Infill Development

Scott Drzycimiski
Clark Rieke
Mike Flynn
Maura Pilcher
Lisa Peloquin
Robert Meisterling
Jo Ann McNeil

- ✓ Lowe Park District Plan - The Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization (Corridor MPO) will host a planning workshop April 22, 2008, to discuss the future development of the area bounded by Robins and Marion, north of Cedar Rapids. The meeting will be held at St. Mark's Church, 8300 C Ave., Marion, IA, from 6:30-8:30 pm.

Forecasts completed by the Corridor MPO in 2005 suggest a substantial increase in population to the northern metropolitan area over the next 30 years. By 2040, the region's total population is expected to exceed 50,000 residents, an increase of more than 35,000 over the 2000 census. This is roughly the equivalent the City of Cedar Falls, IA moving to the northern metro-area.

The planning workshop will bring together a diverse group of stakeholders to discuss this anticipated growth. Meeting attendees will be divided into small topic-specific groups and asked to identify goals and concerns for future development. The Corridor MPO is coordinating this project with the assistance of staff from Cedar Rapids, Marion, and Linn County. Any questions may be directed to Drew Westberg at 286-5067 or d.westberg@cedar-rapids.org.

- ✓ Cedar Rapids has been awarded an EPA Brownfields Clean-up Grant in the amount of \$200,000 to be used to assist in cleaning up contamination on the Sinclair Meatpacking Plant. This is the third clean-up grant awarded to Cedar Rapids for its brownfields program with the previous grants being used for the Iowa Iron Works and the Iowa Steel sites. The funding will be available for use on October 1, 2008.
- ✓ A question was raised regarding item number 27 on the April 9 Council agenda as to the assignment of street names. Street naming is governed by Cedar Rapids Municipal Code **33D.07 STREET NAMES**. This ordinance provides that street names "shall not duplicate the spelling or phonetic sound of any existing street name within the greater Cedar Rapids area." The proposed street name is unique to the current Cedar Rapids streets list.

FIRE

- ✓ There is a Public Information Officer (PIO) group within the city that meets quarterly. At last week's meeting, the notification flow chart and press release format was reviewed as well as upcoming PR events throughout the city that may need a PIO. The next quarterly meeting at the Linn County Emergency Operations Center will include discussions regarding utilizing resources at the EOC in case of a large scale emergency.
- ✓ Citizens have started signing up for the 10th annual Citizens' Fire Academy that will be held every Wednesday from 6:00 – 9:00p.m. during June and July. The CFA is an eight week course designed to show citizens what their Fire Departments are all about and to see and use the equipment that their tax dollars are spent on. Citizens that go through the academy are always amazed at all of the equipment, knowledge and training that is required to be prepared for any type of emergency. The cost is \$60 and participants get to go through CRFD's physical agility test, rappel, cut cars apart using the jaws of life, drive a fire truck, dress out in level A Haz Mat suit, search and rescue drills and ultimately go inside of a burning building to fight a live fire. If interested contact the CRFD as there are still a few time slots available.
- ✓ Kid's Camp is fast approaching. For one week in June kids ages 5-9 can attend summer camp and learn all about fire safety, bicycle and helmet safety, basic first aid and much more in a fun, exciting environment. Registration is \$75 and registration will be available on-line beginning at 8:00am Saturday, April 26th. See our web page for more details.

FIRE-PUBLIC SAFETY CODE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

- ✓ Building and housing inspectors of the Code Enforcement Division participated with community police officers, neighborhood organizers and community leaders in a Neighborhood Enhancement Action Team (NEAT) initiative in the 1400 block of Bever Avenue SE last Friday. This was the first of several scheduled NEAT team initiatives that will occur in all quadrants of the City. Embracing the Enhance Our Neighborhoods initiative, the NEAT Teams are made up of City staff from numerous departments who work with neighborhood groups to improve the quality of life for all residents and seek to protect property values by encouraging maintenance of our homes and investment in properties.
NEAT Teams will be canvassing neighborhoods to positively impact the area and educate residents on what factors contribute to blight and are violations of the Municipal Code. The NEAT Team will enforce City ordinances, educate citizens in the neighborhood about code compliance, apply the community-policing problem solving philosophy, and provide information about how to receive rehabilitation assistance. The NEAT team effort on Friday involved the inspection of 26 properties in the block. All 26 properties had some type of violation, with the top three violations cited as: chipping or peeling paint, junk in the yard and alley, and incomplete siding/soffit/fascia. Code Enforcement will continue to work with the Police Department, Housing Rehabilitation, Solid Waste, City Manager's Office (neighborhood initiative) and neighborhood groups to positively impact our community with these NEAT team initiatives.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- ✓ The City of Cedar Rapids is the featured employer at the Iowa Workforce Development office. There is a display case filled with items, pictures, and information from a wide variety of City departments. This is a great way for potential employees to learn about the various opportunities available at the City.
- ✓ City employees are taking to the streets! The employee Wellness campaign for April and May is a walking campaign. Employees are encouraged to walk 45 minutes three times a week. Maps of walking routes are posted in departments and employees can use a calendar to mark their progress.
- ✓ The Human Resources Department is conducting an employee survey to get feedback on the wellness and fitness programs offered. The survey is available via the internet, intranet and hard copy. Everyone is encouraged to provide feedback in order to continually provide programs that are beneficial.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- ✓ Computer based training is now available on CityNet for the following software: Outlook, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, Visio and Project. Look for the Microsoft eLearning Library link under the Information Technology section.

LIBRARY

- ✓ The final Creative Gardening program of the year, sponsored by ISU Extension and the Linn County Master Gardeners, will be on Tuesday evening from 6:30-8:00 in Beems Auditorium. Glenn Herold, Professor of Horticulture at Illinois Central College will present, "Shrubs for Cold Climates: Beyond Burningbush". No advance registration is required, though seating is limited to 150.

POLICE

- ✓ On April 9th, 190 Harding Middle School students competed against 29 CRPD Officers in numerous games of dodge ball and raised \$1,000 for the CRPD K-9 Unit.
- ✓ CRPD will complete their Taser training with about 70 officers certified to carry and utilize the X26 Taser. This is a less-lethal tool available for officers.
- ✓ CRPD has narrowed their candidates down to a Civil Service certified list of 16 officers that have passed their background checks. They are currently getting their medical physicals.
- ✓ Lt. Jerry Potter and Sgt. Joe Cerruto recently completed a 2 day firearms update.
- ✓ The Joint Communications and E911 Boards will be revising the E911 reverse call system. This is a great way to get emergency messages out to the public.

PUBLIC WORKS

- ✓ Public Works Maintenance crews completed the tree debris pick up from the December 11, 2007 ice storm last week, removing approximately 1,200 tons of material. Crews are assisting Parks crews this week in the removal of piles of tree debris in their area. Forestry is nearly complete in the removal of hangars caused by the storm. Crews returned to locations identified from the early routes that had significant debris remaining in an effort to give the entire city an improved hometown appearance.
- ✓ Pot hole and frost boil patching continues. The recent rains have caused a spike in the number of pot holes. The asphalt plant opens until the week of April 21st. Streets crews will then begin to make permanent repairs.
- ✓ Sweeping activities have removed over 500 tons of street debris last week. The efforts were reduced from more than 800 to 1,000 tons from the previous week due to rain. The sample results have not yet been received from DNR to support the Beneficial Use Application for alternate uses of the sweepings.
- ✓ The Edgewood Road SW bridge over Prairie Creek had a surface deck failure on April 9th. The bridge was closed for six hours as a temporary repair was made using a steel plate. When equipment from the Iowa DOT is available and other supporting roads in that area are open, a permanent repair will be made. The replacement bridge is scheduled for completion in early 2009, but traffic cannot use the route until a second bridge over CRANDIC Railroad is completed in late 2009.
- ✓ The heavy rains on April 10th combined with saturated soil conditions caused the sanitary sewer system to exceed its capacity at the intersection of West Post Road and E Ave NW and the 1500 block of E Ave NW. In-ground manhole pumps and trash pumps were used to pump wastewater to storm structures. This activity prevented any reported back-ups into homes. Capital Improvement Projects are in design to address this issue. In the early 1980's the city had a system of 21 in-ground manhole pumps that transferred fluids to the storm system. With completion of capital improvement projects, the number was reduced to 13 in 2003. Upon further review over the last four years, the number of pumps was reduced to 4 with two more deactivated on April 10, 2008. Currently the City only maintains two active pumps.
- ✓ A neighborhood Open House was held on April 9th to learn preferences for extending either Old River Road or 41st Avenue SW between Ely Road and C Street. Twenty residents were in attendance. The Ely Road SW neighborhood was challenging access, either via the one lane arch bridge with limited sight distance and flood plain concerns or via East Road and Highway 30, which will eventually close when Highway 30/151 has further access controls implemented. Either 41st Avenue or Old River Road extensions are feasible and have similar costs. The general sentiment of those attending was for Old River Road over 41st Avenue. A work session for City Council will be scheduled on this topic.

SOLID WASTE

- ✓ Keep Linn County Beautiful coordinates and holds its annual I-380 Clean Up in conjunction with events held across the country to celebrate Keep America Beautiful. This year the clean up will be held Saturday, April 26th from 8:00am – Noon. In addition to the I-380 on/off ramps, volunteers can choose to clean up other areas around town such as the east and west side of the downtown riverfront; the Hoover, Cedar Lake, McCloud Run and Cedar Valley trails; County Home Road between I-380 and Hwy 13 and/or North 10th Street in Marion. Anyone interested in volunteering to participate in this year's Keep Linn County Beautiful can apply on line at the Keep Linn County Beautiful website, www.keeplinncountybeautiful.org.
- ✓ On Sunday March 30, 2008, the Solid Waste and Recycling Division issued its spring issue of the bi-annual "Abisert Flyer" in the Gazette newspaper. The four page color flyer provides customers with general information about collection programs including, "how they can obtain the larger CURBY cart". On Monday, March 31, 2008, the division received 270 phone calls. Regular daily call volume is between 90 and 100 calls. Approximately 45 CURBY carts have been delivered the last two weeks.
- ✓ As our community transitions from winter to spring, the curbside volume of yard waste increases as the weather improves. The following tables reflect how the tonnage of yard waste has increased on a daily basis over the past month and a half. The tonnage shown in the tables does not include the brush the Street Department collected on a daily basis.

March 03 to March 28, 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekly Total
1.02	1.36	1.26	2.00	1.67	7.31
3.23	- - -	4.14	4.33	9.02	20.72
19.62	18.69	20.40	30.06	36.43	125.2
41.47	62.91	58.93	64.64	60.84	288.79

April 03 to April 10, 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekly Total
89.50	97.20	87.44	90.76	50.08	414.98
98.31	126.99	117.90	123.64		466.84

UPDATES

215 - 15th St NE – Vacant property has been acquired by Coe College and will likely be torn down.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' CALENDAR

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

Monday, April 14	6:30pm	Harbor Neighborhood Association meeting, <i>(Time Check Recreation Center, 1131- 5th St NW)</i>
	7:00pm	Kenwood Park Neighborhood Association meeting, <i>(Kenwood Park United Methodist Church, 175- 34th Street NE)</i>
	7:00pm	Oak Hill Jackson Neighborhood Association meeting, <i>(St. Wenceslaus Church Gym Building, 1230- 5th Street SE)</i>
Tuesday, April 15	5:00pm	Our City/Our Neighborhood Housing Fair, <i>(Veteran's Memorial Armory)</i>
	7:00pm	Cedar Valley Neighborhood Association meeting, <i>(2300 Rompot Street SE)</i>
Wednesday, April 16	5:30pm	Meet & Greet with Police Chief candidates, <i>(Council Chambers)</i>
	6:00pm	Council Work Session, <i>(Council Chambers)</i>
Thursday, April 17	7:30am	Police Chief Candidate Public Reception, <i>(Czech & Slovak Museum)</i>
Friday, April 18	11:30am	Vision Presentation Brown Bag, <i>(Council Chambers)</i>