



STATUS & INFORMATION REPORT

WEEK OF APRIL 21, 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.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- ✓ The Linn County Sheriff's Department Civil Division and the Landlords of Linn County will participate in the Housing Fair scheduled for May 15, 2008, from 5:00 – 7:00pm in the Veteran' Memorial Armory. The Housing Fair will highlight the City Departments and community agencies that can assist citizens and property owners in housing-related matters.
- ✓ Staff will discuss a concept plan and provide input to the National Czech and Slovak Museum concerning its expansion options at the Project Review Group meeting on April 23, 2008.
- ✓ The Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization (Corridor MPO) will host a planning workshop April 22, 2008 to discuss the future development in the northern metropolitan area between the cities of Robins and Marion. The meeting will be held at St. Mark's Church, located at 8300 C Avenue, Marion, Iowa from 6:30 to 8:30pm. 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, 286-5067 or d.westberg@cedar-rapids.org.
- ✓ A summary of the information generated from the LEAN Event will be presented to the City Council at the May 7, 2008 work session. All 18 members involved in the event will meet over the next two weeks to prepare materials for the presentation. Initial action plan steps are underway.
- ✓ Mark Wyatt of the Iowa Bicycle Coalition gave a presentation April 17, 2008 to the Corridor MPO on Complete Streets and Bicycle Friendly Communities. CDs of the presentation will be distributed to City Council within the next couple of weeks and will be made available to others upon request.

LIBRARY

- ✓ The spring half-day Staff Day will be held on Friday, April 25 from 8:00am-1:00pm. Both library locations will be closed at that time.
- ✓ The first Out Loud! author visit will be from children's writer and illustrator Bruce Hale, who will visit the Metro libraries on April 29th and will then give a talk at TCR that evening at 7:00pm. All events are free and open to the public. The Out Loud! series is a joint project of the Cedar Rapids, Marion and Hiawatha libraries and is funded by a generous grant from the Giacoletto Foundation.

PARKS & RECREATION

- ✓ Tom Lavrenz, former Golf Director, has retired after 29 years of service to the City of Cedar Rapids and the golfing community in Cedar Rapids. A reception will be held in his honor on Monday, April 21st from 9:30am to 1:00pm at the Jones Golf Course Clubhouse.
- ✓ Cedar Rapids will celebrate Arbor Day 2008 with the planting of trees in Noelridge Park on Friday, April 25th at 10:30am. The Mayor and City Council members, Harding Middle School students, Trees Forever

representatives, and the City Arborist will join together at the City Gardens and Greenhouse in Noelridge Park. Fifteen trees native to the state of Iowa will be planted at various locations in the park. This year marks the 30th year for the City of Cedar Rapids to be declared a “Tree City USA” by the National Arbor Day Foundation and the Association of State Foresters. Funding for this spring’s tree planting in Noelridge Park comes from a Mid American Energy grant to help replenish trees within the city. The public is invited to participate in this annual event.

- ✓ The park season for the availability of restrooms, drinking fountains, rental of open-air pavilions and general day to day operating conveniences began on Saturday, April 19th. The season runs through October 12.
- ✓ City leased garden plots were tilled and marked April 16th and are now ready for planting.
- ✓ The Tuma Soccer Complex hosted a 218 team Chill-Out Tournament April 12 and 13. Over 10,000 individuals participated contributing to a 1.2 million dollar economic impact in Cedar Rapids. Tuma will also be the site of club and AYSO soccer for the next two months. League and tournament play has also begun at Tait Cummins Sports Complex.
- ✓ Illegal dumping continues to be heavy especially in remote areas of the parks. Dumping occurs at the Sac & Fox Trail, Roller Dam, and Don Murphy Lake. Tires, appliances and remodeling debris are often dumped by unknown individuals.
- ✓ Summer staff hiring is in full swing. The Aquatics Division is seeking applications for lifeguards.
- ✓ Golf courses took a direct hit from the snow and ice this year. Thousands of square feet have been reseeded and fertilized at all four golf courses. It appears that tees and fairways took the worst of it; however several greens and collars have large patches of dead grass from the extended number of days with snow and ice cover. Turf covers have been used to help in the germination process and to hold moisture for grow-in. All six superintendents have taken a proactive team approach to address the needs of each golf course.

POLICE

- ✓ Sgt. Tony Robinson, Officer Al Fear and his 4 legged partner Marco and Officer Glenn Kieler recently gave a presentation to Four Oaks Staff and foster parents on methamphetamine.
- ✓ The five Police Chief finalists were in town last week for a Police Departmental interview, City Hall Interview and a “Meet and Greet” for the public at Czech Museum. The finalists are: Kenneth Graham, Ocala, FL; Joe D’Agostino, Port St. Lucie, FL; Jeff Hadley, Fort Wayne; Steve O’Konek, Cedar Rapids, IA; Bernie Walther, Cedar Rapids, IA. Following their final interviews, City Manager Jim Prosser will make the appointment with City Council approval after gathering input and information from various sources.

PUBLIC WORKS

- ✓ Street sweeping is completed on the majority of the main roads. Crews are starting to clean residential areas as they complete the remaining arterials. The progress of individual areas of the City can be noted on the Street Maintenance website. Test sample results have been received and reviewed by an IDNR representative for reuse as construction fill. The beneficial application form is being generated this week. It was discussed orally with expected positive approval.
- ✓ Forestry is completing the last of the hangars this week from the December 11, 2007 ice storm. The crews will then be returning to trimming work as reported by residents. Stump removals will not start until late May or June.
- ✓ Snow fence removals are complete. Crews are working sod damage from the plows. This will continue into May.
- ✓ Permanent repairs of frost boils and pot holes are being started with the opening of the asphalt plant. A list of the most significant sites is listed on the Street Maintenance website.
- ✓ Sewer Maintenance completed a spot repair last week using an internal pipe patch on a hole in a sanitary line, which allows crews to make trenchless (no digging) repairs to our infrastructure which minimizes traffic and residential interruption. This will cut the cost of repairs and improve quality of life from less traffic flow interruptions while insuring a key public health infrastructure system for future generations.
- ✓ The Emerald Ash Borer has yet to make an appearance in Cedar Rapids. Steps are currently being taken by the Forestry program to reduce the ash tree population to dampen the impact of the pest when it arrives. Everyone is reminded this upcoming camping season to buy local firewood, and burn it locally. Questions about this insect can be directed to Matthew Nachtrieb, City Arborist, x5839.

- ✓ Edgewood Rd SW between 37th Ave SW and 76th Ave SW – 2008 and 2009 have substantial construction activity scheduled, now that agreements have been resolved with both the Union Pacific and CRANDIC RR.
 - 2008 Work - Two of the seven bridge piers are complete on the new 902 foot long bridge to span the Prairie Creek and UP Railroad. Construction will continue on this \$4 million bridge until completion late 2008. (Traffic will remain on the existing bridge until a second bridge over CRANDIC RR is opened). In April 2008, a \$2 million reconstruction project begins on Edgewood Road from Wendling Quarry to south of 60th Avenue. In May 2008, an estimated \$2.6 million bid opening is scheduled for grading, utilities and frontage road work associated with the future CRANDIC RR bridge. Edgewood Road will be detoured to the west and CRANDIC RR crossing signals moved temporarily to allow for fill to be placed for the bridge approach. This work is scheduled to begin around July 4th and continue until Christmas.
 - 2009 Work – The future CRANDIC RR bridge is under re-design to allow for a future 3rd track at CRANDIC's request. CRANDIC will be constructing a 2nd track beginning in 2008 at 26th Street crossing and move to Edgewood in 2009. In late 2008, an estimated \$5 million construction contract will bid for the actual CRANDIC bridge, mainline paving approaching and between the bridges, Hwy 30 ramp modifications, completion of frontage roads, access to Beverly Gardens and replacement of failed Edgewood Road pavement between Hwy 30 and 37th Avenue. The City Council has also approved a pavement rehabilitation (no significant changes) project in next year's budget on Edgewood Road SW between 60th Avenue and 76th Avenue SW, which will begin design for 2009 construction, pending an agreement with Linn County, which owns half the road in this area.
 - 2010 Work – Final aesthetic restoration and demolition of existing bridge.
 - Upcoming City Council work session on Edgewood Road – Public Works staff has worked with the Visual Arts Commission and a local historian, in addition to the neighborhood and environmental agencies. This area has some early history, with the arrival of the railroads, the Beverly Depot, Beverly cattle yards, etc. A May or June 2008 work session for City Council decision will involve the history and how it can be tied to aesthetics, potential naming of the bridge(s), and bridge plaque content. The neighborhood and Visual Arts Commission had suggested keeping things simple and the top rated bridge name was “Beverly Bridge” to pay tribute to the history of the area. The current bridge construction has a provision to embed the name Beverly into bridge approach concrete, if the City Council desires.
 - Around the corner on 60th Avenue SW – Additionally a \$4 million paving and turn lane project will commence from Edgewood Road to 6th Street SW. This paving of seal coated area is supported by an economic development grant, and local public funds are further leveraged ADM is participating in turn lane costs near their future ethanol plant.
- ✓ 33rd Avenue SW from Coyote Road SW to 10th Street SW - The construction of the second of the two new bridges over the railroad tracks is progressing. The paving phase between 18th Street and 12th Street is scheduled to bid May 20, 2008. Only the 18th Street intersection paving is planned in 2008 and the bulk of this work will occur in 2009. This roadway may open as early as August 2009. One final contract on the extension phase will then remain to be bid in 2009, which is a landscaping contract. The City Council is also expected to consider a final design contract at the May 14th Council meeting for the section between Coyote Road SW and 18th Street SW. Right-of-way acquisition is expected to be complete on this section in May 2008, and utility work, including city sewer, will begin here in the summer and fall 2008. Paving is scheduled to begin in 2009.
- ✓ Wilson Avenue SW from Arlington Street to Stoney Point Road, extension - Final right-of-way was secured and certified to Iowa DOT on April 16, 2008. This will allow the project to be bid May 20, 2008. Pending acceptable bids, construction should begin late July 2008 with project completion in spring 2009. Although paving may be completed by Christmas, the road may remain closed over the winter, to allow additional cure time and prevent damage that can occur from having road salt on a road that hasn't had enough cure time.
- ✓ Public Works staff met with representatives from ITC Midwest to help them plan a replacement of the high voltage transmission line from south of Highway 30 near 26th Street SW to near L Street NW and the Cedar River. (Alliant sold its transmission facilities to ITC Midwest recently.) Alliant may also use the poles for local energy distribution. Coordination will help preserve future public infrastructure items, such as the proposed sidewalk corridor on Wilson Avenue, and the extension of 18th Street SW between Wilson Avenue and 16th Avenue. The transmission line rebuild may start in 2009. City staff is in preliminary design phases of Wilson Avenue walk and 18th Street SW extension and would foresee construction there within the next 5 years. ITC Midwest has inquired if moving the pole line on the City property at Shawnee Park may enhance

the rear yards of the homes where the line currently exists. Both Public Works and Parks and Recreation staff are reviewing this alternative.

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.

COUNCIL MEMBERS’ CALENDAR

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

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| Monday, April 21 | 9:30am | Retirement Open House for Tom Lavernz, <i>(Jones Park Clubhouse)</i> |
| | 7:00pm | Linn County Mayor’s meeting, <i>(Hiawatha City Hall)</i> |
| | 7:00pm | Lincolnway Village Neighborhood Association meeting, <i>(Green Acres Storage, 5315 J Street SW)</i> |
| Tuesday, April 22 | 12:00 | PLAY Brown Bag luncheon, <i>(Council Chambers)</i> |
| | 5:00pm | Conversations with Council, <i>(Panera Bread, Edgewood Rd)</i> |
| Wednesday, April 23 | 6:00pm | Formal Council Meeting, <i>(Council Chambers)</i> |
| Thursday, April 24 | 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, 1131- 5th St NW)</i> |
| Friday, April 25 | 10:30am | Arbor Day Tree Planting, <i>(City Gardens & Greenhouse, Noelridge Park)</i> |
| Saturday, April 26 | 9:00am | Keep Linn County Beautiful |