



STATUS & INFORMATION REPORT

WEEK OF JULY 7, 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

- ✓ Electrical inspections continue. Private property owners will be responsible for getting a licensed, insured and bonded contractor to perform service work. The contractor work will need to be inspected by Code Enforcement Division electrical personnel.
Contractor Certifications as of Saturday, July 5, 2008:
 - 650 companies certified
 - 4,436 individuals certified
 - 7 arrests have been made as a result of the certification process
- ✓ Staff continues to coordinate the “direct housing mission” with FEMA to deliver temporary housing to flood victims. Staff provided and continues to update a survey of the available sites in the metropolitan area leased land communities. Work also includes providing FEMA with municipal code requirements and inspection information. An order issued by W. Stuart Crine, the Iowa State Building Code Commissioner, provides relief from local code requirements to allow the FEMA housing units on a temporary basis. Twenty four housing units were delivered July 3rd to the Squaw Creek Village manufactured housing community and set-up crews started prepping the units for occupancy. FEMA will deliver additional units daily. The current delivery estimate totals 162 units by July 10th. FEMA continues to provide dwelling units, lease lots and upgrade to accommodate unit type. In addition, FEMA will coordinate all requests for interim housing. Those requesting interim housing assistance should call 1.800.621.FEMA.
- ✓ The contract between the City and Sasaki Associates for the Cedar Rapids River Corridor Redevelopment Plan will be presented to City Council for action on Wednesday, July 9th. Some of the outcomes of the plan, as described by the City Council on June 17, 2008 include:
 - Defining opportunities to re-build neighborhoods
 - Coordination of city, county, and school recovery efforts
 - Re-building the affordable housing stock
 - Identification of flood controls options
 - Methods to leverage federal and state funds with local funds
 - Future land use plan
 - Coordination of non-profit, volunteer, and donation efforts
 - Methods for business recovery and economic vitality
 - Development of a communication system to disseminate plan options and outcomes
- ✓ Sasaki Associates, JLG Architects, and City staff met with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to secure information regarding flood control processes and options. Representatives from the Corps are slated to meet with City Council on either July 11th or July 14th to review roles and typical timelines related to flood control work. The data collected through these discussions will be incorporated in to the Cedar Rapids River Corridor Redevelopment Plan. Public meetings to present preliminary options are slated for July 29th. Location announcements will be forthcoming.

- ✓ The hold on permits for nonstructural work for flood-damaged buildings outside of the 100-year flood plain previously designated with “green” or “yellow”, placards was lifted by Mayor Proclamation No. 5 on July 3, 2008. The non-structural work will be subject to electrical, plumbing, and mechanical inspections. However, if in any particular circumstance the Code Division staff reviewing the applications determines that safety concerns indicate no permit should be issued, then none shall be issued and the temporary hold on permits for such a structure shall continue.
- ✓ Timelines relating to Smart Growth, Task Force, and Design Guidelines will be reestablished in the next 30 days. As such, when the updated information is available, it will be provided to City Council.
- ✓ The Preliminary Plat LEAN session scheduled for July 28 has been rescheduled for the week of September 15. The remaining LEAN events will take place, each with a two-month delay. Any further updates will be provided to City Council as soon as available.
- ✓ The Institute for Building Technology and Safety continues to provide additional staff support for re-inspection of placarded properties, detailed evaluation of purple placarded properties, and front-line customer service permitting and zoning for the Code Enforcement. The estimated total of additional staff is approximately 20 individuals.

LIBRARY

- ✓ The Library continues to provide service to patrons from its West Side Branch at Westdale Mall. Children’s programming and Summer Reading Programs are in progress at this location. For more information, go to <http://crlibrary.info> or call the West Side Branch desk, 390-7806. Marion & Hiawatha public libraries continue to assist the CRPL by circulating returned CR materials.
- ✓ The CRPL Board of Trustees is seeking additional temporary space from which to operate. Among the properties being considered is the old Big Lots building near Westdale.
- ✓ The CRPL has received word that materials in the Children’s Department on the second floor of the downtown facility are mold free and usable. However, the Trustees will not issue a public statement until they have a written report from the lab in hand. The Board wants 100% assurance that these materials can be safely circulated again.

PUBLIC WORKS

- ✓ Debris pick-up is nearly complete for the first rotation. Contractors are continuing on the main roads. PW staff is concentrating on the east side and alleys. Separation of the material into trash, electronics, appliances, metals and yard waste is important for efficient and effective pickup.
- ✓ Roadside vegetation mowing has begun with 50% capability. Crews are finishing the south west and will move into E & F Ave NW at the end of the week. They will then work along Edgewood Road NW.
- ✓ Pothole patching is being performed. You can call 286-5826 to report a pothole.
- ✓ Sandbags are being picked up in the flood effective zone at the curbside. Outside of the flood zone, residents can put bags at 16th Ave SW and Williams Blvd SW site. If the neighbors in the non flood zone collect sandbags in a pile of over 100, a crew will come to collect them by calling 286-5826 during normal office hours.
- ✓ Sewer crews have begun inspections in the flood zone of the sanitary sewer. This will take approximately 2 to 4 months.
- ✓ The water surface elevation at the 6th Street SW crossing of Prairie Creek was 2.6 feet above the 100-year flood elevation this month. The existing bridge deck surface was flooded by approximately 3 feet. This bridge is currently slated for 2009 replacement, with a design that will better pass water. The thinner bridge design will allow for raising the bottom of the bridge by over 4 feet, which will also allow for a trail crossing underneath. The new bridge would not have flooded in the 2008 floods. The approach roadways of 6th Street (south approach), Hwy 30 Ramps, and 50th Avenue Court were planned to be raised above the 100 year flood elevation, the current design would not have avoided flood inundation on these 3 roads. The design currently is being re-evaluated to raise the all roadway elevations south of the new bridge to above the 2008 flood elevations. This is particularly important from a public safety standpoint, because Fire Station No. 2 is on 50th Avenue Court, which is a cul-de-sac, and therefore has no other way to access it.

- ✓ Underwater bridge inspections for the 5-in-1 and Edgewood Road Bridges over the Cedar River, originally scheduled for the fall have been moved up to mid-July. These types of inspections are required every 5 years. There are only 4 firms nationwide pre-qualified by Iowa DOT that perform this work. In light of the flooding, the scope of the inspections will be expanded to all Cedar River bridge crossings, as well as water main and sewer crossings and earth and concrete levees. PW staff is also working to schedule sonar tests of the bridges to look for undetected cracks.

Information is updated daily on the website www.corridorrecovery.org. Several frequently asked questions (FAQ) and resources of information are available at this site.

Cases of suspected price gouging should be reported to the State’s Attorney General’s office at (515) 281-5926 or toll free at 888-777-4590 or on the website at http://www.state.ia.us/government/ag/consumer_advisories/natural_disasters/price_gouging.html

COUNCIL MEMBERS’ CALENDAR

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

Monday, July 7	8:00am	Council Brown Bag briefing, <i>(Lower level conference room, City Hall North)</i>
Tuesday, July 8	11:00am 7:00pm	Press Conference, <i>(CRPD)</i> Wellington Heights Neighborhood Association meeting, <i>(Paul Engel Center, 1600- 4th Ave SE)</i>
Wednesday, July 9	9:45am 5:30pm	IEDC site visit with Chamber and Priority One, <i>(Chamber Board Room)</i> City Council meeting, <i>(AEGON USA Auditorium, 4333-Edgewood Rd NE)</i>
Thursday, July 10	7:00pm	Noelridge Neighborhood Association meeting, <i>(Noelridge Park Church, 1147 Clifton St NE)</i>
Friday, July 11	8:00am 11:00am	Council Brown Bag briefing, <i>(Lower level conference room, City Hall North)</i> Press Conference, <i>(CRPD)</i>
Saturday, July 12	10:00am	Mound View Neighborhood Association meeting, <i>(Central Park Presbyterian Church, 1700-B Ave NE)</i>

Below is the list of City Departments and their current locations and contact information.

Department Name	Current Address	Phone Number
Animal Control	6301 Kirkwood Blvd SW (Animal Health Technologies)	286-5993
Assessor	Westdale Mall, 2600 Edgewood Rd SW, Upper level next to Library	286-5888
Building/Zoning/Code Enforcement	Westdale Mall, 2600 Edgewood Rd SW, Upper level next to Library	286-5831
City Clerk	3851 River Ridge Drive NE	286-5060
City Council	3851 River Ridge Drive NE	286-5051
City Manager	3851 River Ridge Drive NE	286-5080
Civil Rights	3851 River Ridge Drive NE	286-5036
Community Development	3851 River Ridge Drive NE	286-5041
Eastern Iowa Airport	2515 Arthur Collins Parkway SW	362-3131
Engineering (Division of Public Works)	3851 River Ridge Drive NE and Jefferson High School, 1243 20th Street SW, Room 268	286-5802
Facility Maintenance	1201 6th Street SW	521-5374
Finance	3851 River Ridge Drive NE	286-5006
Fire	3851 River Ridge Drive NE	286-5200
Forestry	Jefferson High School, 1243 20th Street SW, Room 268	286-5747
Fleet	Central Fire complex, 222 Third Street NW	551-3947
Golf	3601 42nd Street NE	286-5588
Housing Inspections (Rental)	Westdale Mall, 2600 Edgewood Rd SW, Upper level next to Library	286-5197
Housing Services (Section 8, Leased Housing, Rehab)	Westdale Mall, 2600 Edgewood Rd SW	286-5872
Human Resources	3851 River Ridge Drive NE	286-5000
Information Technology	3851 River Ridge Drive NE	286-5500
Joint Communications	505 1st Street SW	286-5383
Library	3851 River Ridge Drive NE	398-5123
Neighborhood Liaison	3851 River Ridge Drive NE	286-5077
Parking – Revenue Collections/Customer Service	Water Dept., 1111 Shaver Road NE	286-5003
Parks	3601 42nd Street NE	286-5760
Police	505 1st Street SW	286-5378
Sewer Maintenance	Jefferson High School, 1243 20th Street SW, Room 268	286-5815
Street Maintenance	Jefferson High School, 1243 20th Street SW, Room 268	286-5826
Traffic Engineering	Jefferson High School, 1243 20th Street SW, Room 268	286-5176
Purchasing	3851 River Ridge Drive NE	286-5021
Recreation	2000 Mt. Vernon Road SE	286-5731
Solid Waste & Recycling	Westdale Mall, 2600 Edgewood Road SW	286-5897
Transit	Westdale Mall, 2600 Edgewood Road SW	286-5573
Treasurer’s Office	Water Dept., 1111 Shaver Road NE	286-5003
Ushers Ferry	5925 Seminole Valley Trail NE	286-5763
Veterans Memorial	3851 River Ridge Drive NE	286-5038
Water	1111 Shaver Road NE	286-5900
Water Pollution Control	7525 Bertram Road SE	286-5286