



STATUS & INFORMATION REPORT

WEEK OF JULY 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 consultant team of Sasaki-JLG will be on-site Tuesday through Thursday this week. The team is still in the data-gathering phase of the River Corridor Redevelopment Plan. They will meet with several stakeholder groups, including the Recovery & Reinvestment Coordinating Team (RRCT), Sherman Associates, Stanley Consultants and Anderson-Bogert, and the Downtown District. Additional meetings are being scheduled. The Sasaki-JLG team will host three open houses on July 29, 2008. The meetings will take place at:
 - Metro High School from 12:00pm to 2:00pm
 - Madison Elementary School from 5:00pm to 7:00pm
 - Washington High School from 8:00pm to 10:00pm
- The purpose of the July 29th Open House is to present information and solicit feedback on key issues such as:
 - Planning process and goals
 - Timeline
 - Impacts of June 2008 Flood
 - Replacement housing options
 - A broad range of flood control options
 - Key information for neighborhood redevelopment
- The next open house dates have been set for September 9th and October 14th. Locations have yet to be determined.
- ✓ The Cedar Rapids Historic Preservation Commission will host two (2) workshops Monday, July 21st to provide residents with information about repairing their older homes. The workshops will be held from 1:00pm to 3:30pm at Jefferson High School and 6:00pm to 8:30pm at Washington High School. Experts from the State Historic Preservation Office, the Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation will provide practical information about repairing, salvaging, and replacing parts of flood-damaged homes.
- ✓ Staff will be attending an upcoming workshop in August regarding the application process for the CAT and RECAT (River Enhancement Community Attraction and Tourism) grants. The workshop will be hosted by the Department of Economic Development in Des Moines, Iowa.
- ✓ Based on City Council direction, a demolition program has been initiated to remove structures determined to pose an immediate threat to public health, safety, or welfare. A secondary assessment of properties has been completed and the original list of 41 properties was reduced to 28 with four (4) new buildings added. Due to the extraordinary circumstances created by the flooding of June 2008, the City has made efforts to inform the property owners at least three (3) days prior to demolition by:
 1. Posting a notice on the subject building
 2. Mailing a notice to the last known address of the property owner of record
 3. Posting the list of addresses on the www.corridorrecovery.org website, and
 4. Publishing the list of addresses in the legal section of the Gazette on Saturday, July 19, 2008.

The Purchasing Department has administered a competitive bid process with submittals due Monday, July 21st with City Council approval on Wednesday, July 23.

- ✓ Beginning Monday, July 21st office hours for the Code Enforcement Division (CED) will return to regular hours of 8:00am to 5:00pm Monday through Friday. CED will no longer be open weekends.
- ✓ FEMA is expected to finish substantial damage estimates by mid-week. CED will notify all property owners within the 100-year floodplain as to the status of their structure, whether or not it is substantially damaged. Property owners will likely receive their letters by Monday, July 28, 2008.
- ✓ Mayoral Proclamation #10 was signed July 18th. The proclamation reduces further the temporary hold on building permits established in response to the flood of 2008. Properties in the 500-year floodplain, including RED placarded structures that have completed structural repairs, can apply for all Building Permits. Structural work on non-residential buildings in the 100-year floodplain may be permitted, and owners of such structures may apply for structural permits provided that they **are not** substantially damaged. Owners seeking permits for non-residential structures must provide a signed and certified contractor's estimate of all repairs or an itemized list of all materials and labor costs for review prior to the issuance of permits.
- ✓ Owners of non-residential structures who have substantial damage must comply with the Cedar Rapids floodplain ordinance and may repair **only** after obtaining a Floodplain Development Permit and approval has been granted for necessary repairs that will ensure compliance.
- ✓ The Contractor Certification Center has certified 5,079 individuals and 789 companies as of July 17, 2008. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, from 8:00am – 5:00pm in the lower level of Westdale Mall. A list of certified companies is available at www.corridorrecovery.org.
- ✓ Between June 25 and July 18, CED has issued 2,126 building permits. Over the same period in 2005, 2006, and 2007 CED issued 1,034, 952, 1,026 permits respectively.
- ✓ The Section 8 Housing waiting list has grown by 283 individuals since June 10, 2008. In total, 2,456 individuals are currently on the list waiting to receive housing assistance. Over 200 flood-impacted individuals, not previously in the Section 8 program, have applied for housing assistance. More than 100 current program members were displaced by the flood and are searching for new homes. Of those, only 21% have been able to find a place of residence.
- ✓ The housing rehabilitation waiting list has also increased since the flood. Approximately 165 flood-impacted property owners have applied for assistance. Priority for rehabilitation assistance will be given to flood-affected properties that financially are feasible to rehabilitate.
- ✓ The Corridor MPO approved and adopted the FY09 – FY12 Transportation Improvement Program and Passenger Transportation Development Plan on July 15th. The next meeting is planned for August 21st at Hiawatha City Hall beginning at 1:30pm.
- ✓ The Context Sensitive Design Solutions (CSDS) Policy Group will begin meeting in the coming weeks. The Group will begin working to draft a CSS and Complete Streets policy statement. The Group will seek out public input in developing these new policies. For additional information, contact Drew Westberg at (319) 286-5067 or d.westberg@cedar-rapids.org.
- ✓ Updated placard maps, as of July 17, 2008 are available on the FTP site, ftp.cedar-rapids.org. The maps will be updated weekly until further notice. New maps will be available Monday mornings from the GIS.

FIRE

- ✓ On Tuesday, July 15th, Cedar Rapids lost one of its finest. "Moe Bandy's Dillon", at the age of thirteen. He passed away at the Eastern Iowa Veterinary Specialty Center. He joined the Fire Department in May 1997 and retired in 2005 after having a highly distinguished career. He was instrumental in receiving the Governors Award for Investigator of the Year and was considered by most as one of the best of the best. He brought a smile to thousands of children's faces. As a friend and partner he will be missed.
- ✓ The leasing of a storage/warehouse to store the special response vehicles is still being looked into.
- ✓ Chief Brown in the training department is continuing with the hiring process of 6 rookie firefighters that will start in September. The next phase of the hiring process, the physical qualifications test, will be held Saturday July 26th.
- ✓ There have been many inquiries as to when the river will reopen. Until the cable has been re-attached and the contamination levels are at an acceptable level, the river will remain closed.
- ✓ Company inspections of area businesses have been put on hold until further notice.

- ✓ A company has been contracted to remove the remaining houseboats that are submerged in the river as well as removing railcars and the damaged railroad bridge from the river.

LIBRARY

- ✓ Library staff, board members, and local media had their first opportunity since the flood to tour the library on Friday, July 18. The first floor of the building has been gutted and power washed. An estimated 200,000 items, including the entire adult collection and reference materials, were destroyed as well as all furniture and equipment. The second floor remains largely intact and has been partitioned off and “stabilized.” Second floor materials in the Children’s Department and the Iowa Substance Abuse Information Center (ISAIC) may be removed if appropriate storage is located.
- ✓ The Library Board of Trustees continues to study options for providing library services to residents, including leasing temporary space. It may be a year or more before the downtown facility is rebuilt.
- ✓ The West Side Branch is expanding into another store front on the second floor of Westdale. Adult and youth books are being placed in a space two doors from the existing Branch. A Grand Opening will be held Friday, August 1. New and more information is on the temporary website <http://crlibrary.info>

POLICE

- ✓ The Animal Shelter has shut down its flood operations. They are still being housed at Kirkwood until appropriate facilities are found. There are only 28 cats left from the flood.
- ✓ Officer Shannon Stokesberry attended a weeklong training in Appleton, Wisconsin for “Protecting Children Online”. It was hosted by Fox Valley Institute and was free to law enforcement agencies. It dealt specifically on child exploitation issues on line.
- ✓ Officer Matt Magnuson attended the GREAT Conference in St. Louis for Gang Resistance, Education and Training. He received updates on the curriculum and innovative ideas to enhance the program.
- ✓ The Cedar Rapids Police Academy is at its midway point. The recruits took their midterms on Friday, July 18th and will graduate September 19th.
- ✓ The Traffic Bureau has resumed its traffic enforcement, targeting several areas of concern during peak hours; I-380, Hwy 30, Edgewood Rd and Blairs Ferry Rd. The enforcement officers wrote almost 200 tickets on these streets.
- ✓ Sgt. Dave Dostal attended a weeklong training at Jacksonville, FL, on Verbal Judo. This is the art of tactical persuasion, using verbal deflectors and redirection.

PUBLIC WORKS

- ✓ Mowing crews are finishing the northeast and will then move to the southeast side,
- ✓ Debris pickup support continues in the flood zone for metal and appliances. Contractors are picking up Freon appliances, trash and other materials.
- ✓ Road crews continue sweeping streets in the Cedar Hills area and the flood zone.
- ✓ Sewer crews are repairing storm intakes from the flood. Other crews are televising the sanitary pipes in the flood zone at the rate of roughly 2.5 to 3 miles per day. They have found heavy mud, nails and other material in the pipes which is being cleaned along with the televising.
- ✓ Road work for seal coat preparation is starting. Once natural gas service is restored to Public Works, seal coating will begin.
- ✓ Underwater diving and scour investigations of the bridge, sanitary sewer and water main crossings of the Cedar River were postponed during the week of July 14th due to higher water elevations than desired for safe completion of this activity. The water surface is projected to rise, and will be monitored closely to get the diving activity performed as soon as possible. In the meantime, weekly above water inspections will continue.
- ✓ Sanitary sewer construction is substantially complete on the Council Street NE from Dry Creek to Idledale Road project. The \$5 million paving phase plans will be submitted to the Iowa DOT on July 22nd.
- ✓ The final beams for the new Edgewood Road SW Bridge over the Prairie Creek and Union Pacific Railroad are scheduled to be placed on July 21st and July 22nd.

TRANSIT

- ✓ The Transit Division is relocating the City bus transfer location to the south end of Lot 44 at the corner of 12th Ave. & 2nd St. SE today. The new location will provide for safer passenger transfers and allow the buses to better maintain their schedules and connections.

TREASURY

- ✓ Flood Legislative Update - Even before the flood waters crested, the City started in motion efforts at the legislative level to address the many anticipated needs of the City and its residents. The City Council and staff have been working diligently behind the scene to secure funding and housing for the flood affected areas. Mayor Halloran, along with her fellow city council members, has been in contact with Iowa's congressional delegation of Senator Harkin, Senator Grassley, and Congressman Loeb sack. Each congressional office has been, and still are, working on items such as FEMA trailers, securing funding for rebuilding Cedar Rapids, and moving the replacement of the Federal Courthouse project up on the list. The hard work of our Congressional delegation, Governor Culver and state legislators resulted in Cedar Rapids securing interim housing in a matter of weeks instead of months in order that some of our affected residents could have a place to live. President Bush, Senator Harkin and Congressman Loeb sack personally visited Cedar Rapids within days of the flood to witness firsthand the aftermath of the flood devastation.

The City has submitted a list of preliminary costs to the congressional delegation which includes clean up and recovery costs for the city, county, schools, non-profits and other entities. Discussions surrounding flood mitigation are taking place and additional funding for the levee study that was already in progress is being requested.

At the State level, Governor Culver created the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission. We have local representation with Carroll Reasoner being named as one of the members. The fourteen members will join with commission chair Gen. Ron Dardis, who currently serves as Adjutant General of the Iowa National Guard, to address recovery and rebuilding issues due to the recent tornadoes and floods. The commission will report to the Office of the Governor and to the Legislature within 45 days of the first meeting. Their report will include an assessment of the impact on the state – including people, schools, businesses, and private and public infrastructure - and recommend initial steps the legislative and executive branches can take to assist in recovery. The Commission will develop a comprehensive long-term vision for rebuilding a safer, stronger, and better Iowa. The Commission is charged with reaching out to the private sector and government, and citizens of all walks of life, from all parts of the state. The Commission will also advise on the state's ongoing recovery efforts at the federal, state and local levels, and assess progress towards meeting the rebuilding vision.

- ✓ A post office box for payments to the City has been in existence for a month. The PO Box number is 2148 and the new zip code is 52406-2148. This box will be used primarily for receivable payments to the city. Mail addressed to this PO box will be picked up by the city courier at 7:30am delivered to the Treasury Office by 7:45am allowing for adequate processing time. Please change the remittance address to PO Box 2148 on any city correspondence that may result in payment coming to the city. Other non-payment mail addressed to 50 Second Ave Bridge or 51 First Avenue Bridge will be delivered to a postal box, separate from the post office box already established by the city that the post office is using for City Hall mail. This mail will be picked up daily after 11:00am by the City's courier and will be delivered to City Hall North.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

- ✓ The plant staff was successful in getting the primary clarification treatment process started on July 15th. Focus will now be on the intermediate lift and starting the bio-roughing filters to provide additional treatment. Kudos to the entire WPC staff for the long hours and dedication in getting the treatment plant partially operational. There have been several set-backs along the way and surprises throughout the process, however; the "can do" attitude and creative problem solving of the staff has been truly remarkable. This has provided a great example of how things can get done in the City; empower our employees to bring ideas forward, give them the tools to execute their ideas and get out of the way and let them get it done. By doing this, we can achieve the highest level of performance as an organization.

UPDATES

Scott Olson recently reported that Green Square Meals will team with the Witwer Senior Center meals program to begin their meal preparation at the Vets Memorial Stadium on August 1st.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' CALENDAR

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

Monday, July 21	7:00am	Boards & Commissions interviews, (<i>Lower level conference room, City Hall North</i>)
	8:00am	Council Briefing, (<i>Lower level conference room, City Hall North</i>)
	7:00pm	Lincolnway Village Neighborhood Association meeting, (<i>Green Acres Storage, 5315 - J Street SW</i>)
Tuesday, July 22	5:00pm	Conversations with Council, (<i>Java Creek Café 588 Boyson Rd NE</i>)
	6:00pm	Neighborhood Meeting, (<i>Jefferson HS Auditorium, 1243- 20th St SW</i>)
Wednesday, July 23	5:30pm	Formal Council Meeting, (<i>AEGON USA Auditorium, 4333-Edgewood Rd NE</i>)
Thursday, July 24	5:00pm	Cedar Hills Neighborhood Association meeting, (<i>St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 4700 Johnson Avenue NW</i>)
	7:00pm	Neighborhood Meeting, (<i>Washington HS cafeteria, 2205 Forest Dr SE</i>)
Friday, July 25	7:00am	Boards & Commissions interviews, (<i>Lower level conference room, City Hall North</i>)
	8:00am	Council Briefing - Flood Mitigation, CD; Community Open Houses (<i>Lower level conference room, City Hall North</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
Code Enforcement consisting of Building/Zoning/Fire Public Safety/Housing Inspections (Rental)	Westdale Mall, 2600 Edgewood Rd SW, Upper level next to Library	286-5831 286-5836 286-5166 286-5197
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 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