



## STATUS & INFORMATION REPORT

WEEK OF AUGUST 25, 2008

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*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**

- ✓ Rich Patterson, Indian Creek Nature Center, expressed special thanks to Julie Sina, and Steve Krug for their support and help with the state REAP grant recently submitted. He also wants to thank all City employees and Council for their continual hard work with the flood recovery. He appreciates the great difficulty and stress this creates and feels everyone is doing an exceptional job under the most challenging of conditions.

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

- ✓ The consultant team of Sasaki-JLG consultants will be meeting next week to discuss infrastructure and housing issues for the River Corridor Redevelopment Plan. Work will also continue on the development of draft concepts for the next open house, scheduled for Thursday, September 11. The open houses will be held at the U.S. Cellular Center from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and 4:00 to 8:00 pm. The consultants will provide City Council with an update on Wednesday, September 27.
- ✓ The proposed \$8.7 million downtown renovation of the Roosevelt by Sherman Associates continues to move forward pending purchase of the property. The project will provide 97 rental units (82 low-income, 16 market-rate, and 1 manager-unit). The project also includes renovation of the first floor commercial. Project financing is being provided through a number of sources including low-income tax-exempt financing, state and federal historic tax credits, low income tax credits, Enterprise Zone state tax credits, and a \$650,000 City loan. City Council approved up to \$775,000 for the project at their May 28, 2008 meeting. Staff will continue to work with the developer to determine the proposed loan terms for City Council approval. Staff will also coordinate the developer's Enterprise Zone application for Iowa Department of Economic Development Board approval.
- ✓ Staff met with the Recovery & Reinvestment Coordinating Team (RRCT) group last Thursday to present information on eligible disaster recovery activities that could be funded under Supplemental CDBG. A similar presentation will be made to representatives from City departments. Both groups will be asked to provide data on the needs.
- ✓ Eligible Disaster Recovery activities include:
  - Acquisition of damaged properties and relocation of residents to safer areas
  - Relocation payments to displaced persons and businesses
  - Housing rehabilitation and reconstruction, sometimes new construction
  - Homeownership assistance (down payments, interest rate subsidies, and loan guarantees)
  - Construction or rehabilitation of public facilities, neighborhood centers, etc.
  - Public services to disaster victims
  - Job retention/creation in impacted areas
  - Critical infrastructure repair/replacement

- ✓ The first supplemental funding package has been passed with \$85 million allocated to the State of Iowa. Over \$200 million remains at the Federal level that still has not been allocated to the states. The second supplemental funding package is still pending, which contains \$1.87 billion for Midwest Disaster Recovery. The State of Iowa has not received the funds to date. Rebuild Iowa will be coordinating the disbursement of the funds to cities. Regulations and waivers will be published in the Federal Register. All the needs will be compiled and presented to the RRCT for their review. RRCT will prioritize needs and make recommendations to the City Council.
- ✓ The LEAN Task Force met August 21, 2008 for a progress report on action items developed during the April 2008 Kaizan Event, which focused on the Site Development Plan process. Staff provided updates on action items that had been implemented or are in the process of being implemented. The only code change that needs to be completed is the amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to grant City Planning Commission authority to approve Preliminary Site Development Plans. This item was reviewed by the City Planning Commission on August 19, 2008 and was recommended for approval. The amendment will be scheduled for a motion setting a public hearing for the September 19, 2008 City Council meeting and should be completed October 13, 2008. Staff also updated the group on the Land Development web site, which will be up and running later this year.
- ✓ Housing Services reports encouraging news with regards to flood-impacted families who participate in the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program. When last reported (August 4, 2008), only 25% of the families had found replacement housing or returned to their pre-flood unit. The most recent information shows that more than 50% of the flood-impacted rent-assisted families have now found housing. In addition, one of the rent-assisted families that had indicated they wanted to transfer their assistance to another community has returned. Still, 47 families with Vouchers are either searching for a replacement unit or waiting for their pre-flood unit to become habitable.
- ✓ Staff continues to confirm contractor registration with the City when in the flood-affected area. As of August 20, 936 companies and 6,240 contractors had gone through the certification process. The list of certified companies is available at [www.corridorrecovery.org](http://www.corridorrecovery.org). The Contractor Certification Center is located in the lower level of Westdale Mall, near Younkers. Hours of operation are 8:00am – 5:00pm, Monday through Friday.

## **LIBRARY**

- ✓ The online catalog for the Metro Library Network is up and running. Patrons may now renew items, reserve books, and track their checkouts at <http://catalog.crlibrary.org>
- ✓ CRPL was proud to be included in the visit to Cedar Rapids made by Jaroslav Kurfurst, Deputy Chief of Mission for the Embassy of the Czech Republic and Frantisek Gal, Deputy Head of Missions from the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Chicago.

## **PARKS & RECREATION**

- ✓ Three golf professionals have been nominated for Iowa Section PGA Awards. All nominations are made by fellow PGA professionals from the Iowa Section. Congratulations to the following nominees:
  - Jeff DeCook                      Assistant Professional of the Year
  - Steve Charters                  Junior Golf Leader of the Year
  - Lisa Miller                        PGA Professional of the Year
  - Horton Smith Award (for involvement in Education)
  - Public Merchandiser of the Year
- ✓ Jones golf course has its new irrigation pump installed and functioning. The seeding contractor will begin the seeding process Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. Depending on the weather, seeding will take approximately two weeks to complete. The Golf Operations has asked for volunteers to assist in installing straw blanketing over newly seeded tees, greens, green banks and sand bank collars. This process is labor intensive and must be completed just following the seeding of these delicate areas of the golf course. Interested volunteers have been asked to call the Golf Operations office (286-5588) to sign up for times/days.
- ✓ The Twin Pines driving range has been closed over 50 days this golf season resulting in over \$15,000 loss of revenue. With the help of the Parks construction crew, existing drainage tile has been lowered as well as the level of the pond adjacent to the driving range. The goal is to allow the surface drainage to move towards the collection pond at a higher rate. After some additional surface shaping, the range will be reseeded by September 15<sup>th</sup>.

- ✓ The free swim offered on August 19 drew a total of 2,651 swimmers to Cherry Hill Aquatic Center and 717 swimmers to Bever Pool.
- ✓ Last week the Parks and Recreation Department began a cleanup effort in the harbor area. This could not have been accomplished without the aid of the CRFD and Solid Waste Departments. Boathouses that were damaged in the flood and released to the city by the owners to have them demolished were removed. These boathouses were both on the bank and in the water and by the combined effort of the three departments about half of the structures that needed to be removed were taken care of. Once the remaining boathouse owners whose structures were affected by the flood have been contacted there will be another day in which the three departments will finish the project.

## **POLICE**

- ✓ The Cedar Rapids Police Protective Association sponsored “Shop with a Cop” in which 218 kids were able to shop for back to school supplies and clothing with a police officer. This year, children affected by the floods and foster children were sponsored. Each child was able to get their school supplies, one outfit, shoes and socks.
- ✓ Officer E.J. Merrieweather, Sgt. Charlie Fields and Sgt. Joe Cerruto attended an Armorer Course August 19-21, 2008, presented by Rock River at the Cedar Rapids Police Range on maintenance of the M-16 Platform Rifles.
- ✓ Police employees Dawn Stanford and Karen Rainbolt attended a NIBRS/UCR training session in Johnston, IA. August 19 -20, 2008. NIBRS/UCR are federal crime reporting systems that are mandatory for the CRPD.
- ✓ Officer Shannon Stokesberry was at the Henry Davis Back to School event hosted by the Henry Davis Program. The event was at Van Vechten Park and provided lunch and school supplies for kids.
- ✓ Lt. Mark Risse met with Summit Schools in NE Cedar Rapids, Mt. Vernon Schools, and Mt. Vernon Police Department to help update their school emergency plans. Lt. Risse wrote a script for a video that was made by the Cedar Rapids Community Schools and presented to all of the public schools last year. Lt. Risse is working with Summit Schools and Mt. Vernon Schools to organize further training for their teachers and staff.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

- ✓ The natural gas was restored to the Public Works oil house this week. Seal coating work has started. The time window for this type of work ends in mid-September when daily temperatures drop below the requirements for optimum results. There are a dozen high priority failed road sections that need to be complete in the next month. These are on collector or minor arterial roads.
- ✓ Crews are power screening sand (sifting debris) in the water well field by Seminole Valley Park NE. Sand was deposited on the site by the floods. The sand will be used for future sand bags and road use in the winter.
- ✓ The Prairie Creek Bridge on Edgewood Rd SW is closing for a week. During this time the following repairs will be performed; road patching, bridge repair on the old bridge, river embankment stabilization under the old bridge and the installation of a new sewer line to support the new bridge project.
- ✓ Underwater Bridge Inspections of the Cedar River bridge crossings have been completed. Most repair items noted were minor, with the exception of the Edgewood Road Bridge which has scour issues at the piers. Edgewood Road can remain open, but it will need prompt attention to prevent deterioration of the substructure.
- ✓ Mowing is finishing on the SW portion of the city. Crews will be in the Kirkwood Blvd and 6<sup>th</sup> Street SW areas. They are moving next to NW area of the City on E and F Avenues. Edgewood Rd NW will follow.
- ✓ Sewer televising has completed roughly 1/3 of the flood zone. Significant debris continues to be cleaned from the lines in the residential areas.
- ✓ Sewer construction crews will finish street repairs in the 100 - 300 blocks of 31<sup>st</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> Streets NW. They will also fix a storm pipe at M Ave NW and 1<sup>st</sup> Street that is causing a sink hole by the trail.
- ✓ Work in the southern portion of the city will concentrate on Hawkeye Downs Rd SW and the 800 block of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street SW.
- ✓ Work in the eastern portion of the city will continue on Otis Rd SE and temporary repairs to sidewalks in the downtown.
- ✓ Work in the western portion of the city will continue on E Ave NW near Stoney Point Road NW.
- ✓ Street repairs will be performed on in the 100 -300 blocks of 31<sup>st</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> Streets NW. Work will begin on Memorial Drive for a panel section damaged by the late May rains.

**WPC**

✓ On Monday, August 18, milestone #1 for the Secondary Treatment Recovery Phase was completed on schedule. City staff worked through the weekend and often into the evening on the week days with nearly 100 contractors to ensure the milestone was met on-time. In addition, 30 semi tanker loads of seed sludge were brought in from the City of Dubuque wastewater plant to seed the activated sludge process. The majority of the waste is now being treated and there soon will be disinfection on-line as well. The next milestone is September 8 and everything is currently on schedule to meet it on time.

Special thanks go to the entire WPC staff, the Utilities Engineering group, Wendler Construction, Price Electric and Brecke Mechanical for helping to achieve this milestone on-time. Truly, this is an amazing team effort that requires a lot of skill, experience and hard work. City employees are greatly appreciated and it's a pleasure to be working alongside them.

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**COUNCIL MEMBERS' CALENDAR**

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

<b>Monday, August 25</b>	7:15am	<b>Boards &amp; Commissions interviews,</b> <i>(Lower level conference room, City Hall)</i>
	8:00am	<b>Council Briefing,</b> <i>(Lower level conference room, City Hall)</i>
<b>Tuesday, August 26</b>	5:00pm	<b>Conversations with Council,</b> <i>(Godfather's Pizza meeting room – 282 - 6th Street SW)</i>
<b>Wednesday, August 27</b>	5:30pm	<b>Council Meeting,</b> <i>(AEGON USA Auditorium, 4333 Edgewood Rd)</i>
<b>Thursday, August 28</b>	5:00pm	<b>Cedar Hills Neighborhood Association meeting,</b> <i>(St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 4700 Johnson Ave NW)</i>
<b>Friday, August 29</b>	7:00am	<b>Boards &amp; Commissions interviews,</b> <i>(Lower level conference room, City Hall)</i>
	8:00am	<b>Council Briefing,</b> <i>(Lower level conference room, City Hall)</i>

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