



STATUS & INFORMATION REPORT

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 15, 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

- ✓ A grateful citizen called to praise the thoughtful City employee who came to her rescue last Friday as she sat on the side of the road with a flat tire. The man, driving a white City van, stopped and changed her tire. The employee's wife drives the same type of vehicle, so the employee was familiar with the location of the spare tire and jack. The citizen regrets not getting his name so she could personally thank him. Once again, a great example of a City employee going above and beyond.

DEVELOPMENT

- ✓ Sasaki -JLG
Approximately 928 people attended the sessions of the River Corridor Redevelopment Plan Open House held on September 11, 2008 at the Crowne Plaza ballroom. The open house boards are available on-line at <http://www.cedar-rapids.org/development/riverplan.asp>. The final open house will be held October 16, 2008 at a location still to be determined. The intent of this open house will be to receive feedback on the draft framework for reinvestment and revitalization.
- ✓ The City submitted a Notice of Interest to the State on September 12, 2008 for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, often referred to as the "Buyout Program." This funding is provided through Federal and State agencies to reduce the loss of life and property in future disasters. This was only a pre-application exercise and properties can be added or removed for the City's formal application later this year.
- ✓ The City received Survey of Interest forms for 1,126 properties at the time of submission to the State of Iowa. Nearly 35% of these properties were substantially damaged and located in the 100-year floodplain. Approximately 70% of the properties were owner-occupied, while 30% were rental at the time of the flood event.
- ✓ The final application will be guided by the River Corridor Redevelopment Plan, as voluntary property acquisition represents one mitigation component of the City's overall flood management system. It is anticipated the formal application will be due to the State in December, 2008.
- ✓ Questions regarding the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program should be forwarded to the Department of Community Development at (319) 286-5041.
- ✓ As of September 10, 2008, FEMA has received 452 applications from Linn County residents for temporary housing assistance. There are 411 manufactured housing units in manufactured home communities occupied in Linn County. There are 31 applicants

waiting for specific sites, some are waiting on background checks, and others are waiting for housing units to be ready for occupancy.

- ✓ The City has issued 18 permits for temporary occupancy in RVs where building permits have been issued for the permanent structures.

Code Enforcement Division:

- ✓ Staff continues to confirm contractor certification with the City when in the flood-affected area. As of Tuesday, September 9, 2008, over 1,000 companies and 6,650 contractors had gone through the certification process. The list of certified companies is available at www.corridorrecovery.org. The Contractor Certification Center is located in the lower level of Westdale Mall, near Younkers. Hours of operation are 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

FIRE

- ✓ The Public Education Division is in the middle of the first of five visits with over 1,600 third grade students. Our first visit, Home Escape Planning, talks about the proper way to escape from their home in case of a fire. We also discuss the importance of smoke detectors and proper maintenance of those detectors. Students also participate in our annual poster contest for Fire Prevention Week with the chance to win a ride home from school in a fire engine.

LIBRARY

- ✓ A local group of library supporters have organized a fundraiser they've titled "Boogie for Books" 4-8 pm, Sat., Oct. 11. For details, go to their website www.BoogieforBooks.com. It is a library fundraiser and an opportunity to tour new downtown condos.
- ✓ Beginning Monday September 8, story time will resume at the Cedar Rapids Public Library on the following schedule. All programs will be presented at the West Side branch located in Westdale Mall.
 - Story Time for ages 3-5 at 10:30 a.m. – Wednesdays and Saturdays
 - Toddler Time for ages 1-2 at 10:30 a.m. – Thursdays
 - Bedbug Story Time for ages preschool to Kindergarten at 6:30 p.m. – Mondays
- ✓ On Thursday, September 11, the African American Historical Museum and Cultural Center of Iowa will present their Learning Safari program at the West Side branch of the Cedar Rapids Public Library. At 10:30 am, the African Folk Tale Puppet Theatre will be performed. The puppet show features Anansi, the trickster spider, who stars in countless West African folk tales. Children will listen to a story of Anansi's adventures and then create finger puppets to retell the stories. The program will last about 45 minutes. The Learning Safari programs will be presented monthly on the second Thursday of the month from September through December at 10:30 am.

PARKS & RECREATION

- ✓ The Cedar Rapids Parks and Recreation Department is hosting the Iowa Park and Recreation Association Fall Workshop on September 16 – 18, 2008. Department staff and staff from Vinton, Marion and Hiawatha developed educational sessions and recreational activities for park and recreation professionals throughout the state. The workshop will be held at the Clarion Hotel.

- ✓ City of Cedar Rapids Code Enforcement staff and Alliant Energy representatives are working on a plan regarding electrical reinstallation at Ellis Harbor. Preliminary indications are that power to the west side of the harbor will be reinstalled this fall. However, due to the damage and reconfiguration that will need to take place on the east side, power to that side will not take place until spring. Any power restored will be on a temporary basis pending the outcome of the DNR decision regarding boathouses.

PUBLIC WORKS ADMIN & PLANNING

- ✓ The final \$6 million phase of the Edgewood Road viaduct has been authorized by the Federal Highway Administration for bidding. This phase will include a 353 foot long bridge over the CRANDIC Railroad, paving of Edgewood Road and frontage roads, new traffic signals, improved entrance to Hwy 30, associated utilities, and the demolition of the existing bridge over the Prairie Creek. Subject to acceptable bids, construction would start in upcoming winter and complete summer 2010.

PUBLIC WORKS MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES COMPLETED OR IN PROCESS:

- ✓ The Leaf Pickup Program will begin either October 20th or 27th and run for three weeks. Street Maintenance crews will assist Solid Waste in executing the program similar to last year. As a process improvement initiated by feedback from residents, posting of the areas of removal will be released to the paper for a forecasted three day period. It will also be posted on the Public Works Street Maintenance website. During the same time period, Solid Waste will be implementing the Kraft Paper Bag Program and Green Yard Waste collection. Yards are picked up year round for yard waste.
- ✓ Sewer Maintenance program has ordered a new leaf box and leaf vacuum which are to arrive in late October. The new equipment will increase hauling capacity, reduce manpower and target the reduction of one of the highest sources of routine work injuries. The new truck used for this has been modified to be a lift body truck. This will allow it to be used as a dump, flat, or leaf truck body. A plow frame was mounted and the vehicle will replace another vehicle that is beyond economic repair.
- ✓ In a coordinated effort, the river level upstream of the 5-in-1 dam will be lowered on Monday, September 15th to support a storm sewer repair. Following the repair, the level will be restored. Boaters should take additional caution for the lower water level.
- ✓ Rain canceled seal coat work last week. Targeted seal coat work this week includes: Otis Road SE, Rogers Road NW, E Avenue NW, 76th Avenue SW, 18th Avenue SW by West Post Road, and Westwood Road NW. The program is working on the failed roads that have the greatest impact for residents and traffic.
- ✓ Seal coat preparations will be done on Ellis Road NW between 80th Street and F Avenue NW.
- ✓ Sewer construction crews will complete sanitary structure repairs on Sue Lane NW at Julia Ann Drive NW. This residential repair improves the road for residents and eliminates an issue for plow blades.
- ✓ Street program construction crews will be working the following street repairs: Edgewood Road SW by the IHOP, 26th Street SE south of Mt Vernon Road SE, Harold Drive at Harold Court SE.

- ✓ Sewer Maintenance has now cleaned over ½ of the flood zone sanitary lines. Heavy debris continues to be found in the lines. Televising of the sanitary system found two additional flood related line breaks that will be contracted for repairs. On rain days, crews work storm lines in the flood zone. The rain helps the cleaning efforts. Items removed for example include: sand bags, rugs, hub caps, trash can lids, bricks, and toys.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' CALENDAR

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

Monday, September 15	7:00am 7:00pm	Council Briefing, <i>(Lower level conference room, City Hall)</i> Lincolnway Village Neighborhood Association meeting, <i>(Green Acres Storage, 5315 J Street SW)</i>
Tuesday, September 16	7:00pm	Cedar Valley Neighborhood Association meeting, <i>(2300 Rompot Street SE)</i>
Wednesday, September 17	11:30am 5:30pm	Iowa Parks & Recreation Assoc Fall Workshop, <i>(Clarion Hotel)</i> Council Meeting, <i>(AEGON USA Auditorium, 4333 Edgewood Rd)</i>
Thursday, September 18	8:00am	Uptown First Avenue Neighborhood Association meeting, <i>(Coe College)</i>
Friday, September 19	8:00am 9:00am	Council Briefing, <i>(Lower level conference room, City Hall)</i> Swearing in of new PD recruits, <i>(Kirkwood Training and Outreach Center, 3375 Armar Drive in Marion)</i>