



STATUS & INFORMATION REPORT

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 29, 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

- ✓ The S & I Report recently noted a citizen's report about a City employee that had stopped and changed her flat tire. That employee has since been identified as Lonnie Clark, a Water Meter serviceman. Thank you, Lonnie, for your considerate actions.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- ✓ The River Corridor Redevelopment Plan consultants will present a refined flood management strategy to City Council October 1st. City Council will discuss this strategy and provide direction to the consultants in preparation for the October 16th Open House, which will be from 10:00am to 2:00pm and 4:00 to 8:00pm in the Grand Ballroom of the Crowne Plaza Five Seasons Hotel.
- ✓ Staff will be hosting two focus group discussions Saturday, October 4th. Approximately 20 area residents have volunteered to participate in the event. The discussions will revolve around "quality of life" issues, including building design, the transportation system, the natural environment, new housing and housing types, and the future of this community. The results of these discussions will be used by the Infill and Environmentally Sensitive Areas Committees to inform their recommendations to City Council.
- ✓ **Code Enforcement Division** - Staff participated in a week-long LEAN event to evaluate and improve the building permit process. Participants of the event included developers, Code Enforcement Division and Community Development staff, and John Helbling from Alliant Energy. Staff will prepare the results for Council consideration.
- ✓ There continues to be no charge for building, electrical, mechanical and plumbing permits for work performed in the flood-affected areas.
- ✓ Staff continues to confirm contractor certification with the City when in the flood-affected area. As of Tuesday, September 23rd, 1,029 companies and 6,827 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 8:00am – 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. The Contractor Certification Center can be reached at (319) 286-5160.
- ✓ **Housing Services** - As of Monday, September 29th Housing Services has returned to the Public Works Building, located at 1211 6th St. SW. Staff can be reached at (319) 286-5872.
- ✓ **Corridor MPO** - Staff presented the draft Outreach & Communication Plan (OCP) to the Policy Board at MPO's September 25th meeting. The OCP outlines the processes that will be used by the organization to engage the public in the transportation planning process. The Policy Board will now review the document and direct staff to make changes. The Policy Board directed staff to begin drafting options for the creation of a citizen advisory committee. Staff will present these options, based on best practices, to the Policy Board at its October 23rd meeting.

LIBRARY

- ✓ An assessment of the library's IT services is underway, utilizing the services of RSM McGladrey.
- ✓ Interim Library Director Tam Glise has been asked to speak about disasters in public libraries at the annual Iowa Library Association conference in October.

PARKS & RECREAION

- ✓ Last week, NEWT Marine began demolition of house boats in the harbor and harbor area that had been released to the City. They expect to be done sometime this week.
- ✓ The Parks and Recreation Department was selected to receive a community built play space at Hayes Park. The department will partner with KaBOOM! and The Chrysler Foundation as a community partner to build the playground on October 25. Anyone interested in volunteering to help build the playground should contact Gail Loskill at 286-5742.

POLICE

- ✓ The Traffic and Patrol Divisions have stepped up enforcement around the schools, looking for traffic and speed violations as well as smoking violations. There was also a joint traffic enforcement on Boyson Rd NE between Cedar Rapids and Marion Police.
- ✓ Speeders have been a high priority for the department. Interstate 380 has been and continues to be a priority. Other areas of the city are also being watched and tickets issued.
- ✓ On September 23rd, there was a double fatality on I-380 at 8 St SW. A northbound pickup truck on I-380 lost control of their vehicle and crossed the northbound lanes and hit the 8th Street overpass. The driver and his wife were killed in the car crash.
- ✓ The CRPD has taken 300 reports since 9/20/08. Five were burglaries; 16 criminal mischief; 15 theft from vehicles; 11 assaults; 5 domestic abuse; 10 narcotics related arrests and 1 auto theft.
- ✓ The Metro Narcotics Interdiction team (of which our Narcotics division and K9 Unit are part) have been teaming up to hit the I-380 corridor hard. On September 23rd, both divisions seized \$1,090 cash and ¼ pound of crack cocaine from the Comfort Inn on 33rd Ave SW. Two individuals were charged. The next day, the team found ¾ pound of marijuana at the Aspen Inn on Southridge Dr SW. Two people were charged.
- ✓ Flood patrols continue in the flood restricted areas. Crime still seems to be related to bar re-openings. There have been multiple intoxication arrests, thefts and assaults in and around the bars. We are also seeing home owners moving back into their homes and assaults starting to increase.
- ✓ With school back in session, burglaries are starting to increase near all three public high schools. They're occurring during school hours or just after school. It has been a mix of residence being locked and unlocked. Most items taken have been video games and systems, and purses.

PUBLIC WORKS

- ✓ Fleet Services has identified and is in the process of buying seven graders to replace units lost in the flood. Delivery is scheduled for late October or early November. This will provide the same number of graders and plow trucks for this coming snow and ice season as were available last snow season.
- ✓ On Tuesday September 30, 2008 a public information meeting is scheduled for the East Post Road over Indian Creek Bridge Replacement project. The meeting will be held at the Cedar Valley Bible Church on Cottage Grove Ave SE from 5:00 to 6:30pm. The City's project engineering representatives from URS Corporation and Shoemaker and Haaland will be available to provide information on the project and facilitate public feedback along with City staff.
The goal of this meeting is to develop the best possible bridge for the area that best fits the physical setting and preserves scenic, aesthetic, historic and environmental resources, while maintaining a safe and efficient roadway. City Council reviewed neighborhood feedback from previous public meetings on the preliminary plans and directed the bridge and approaches be reconstructed as a two-lane roadway with a trail and sidewalk. This public meeting will provide residents an opportunity to review various aesthetic themes, comment on the desired appearance of the bridge, and provide feedback on how the bridge can enhance the neighborhoods.
- ✓ Roadside vegetation mowing continues in the southwest portion of the City. Crews will complete the area by Westdale Mall and then move south along Wright Brothers Blvd and 6th St SW.

- ✓ Seal coat work on arterial and collector roads is complete. Work has begun on the worst of the residential roads. Greenfield St NE prep work is the second of these in the effort to improve the roads in our neighborhoods.
- ✓ Street construction and sewer crews completed the joint repair program for repairs for 2008 of 20 sanitary box outs (manholes) and nearby failed street panels. This effort was targeted to improve residential roads.
- ✓ Road repairs will be at the following locations.
 - Oakland Rd and 35th St NE to mill and overlay an asphalt mat to repair rough driving conditions
 - 32nd St SE between Bever Ave and Mansfield St
 - The edge of Blairs Ferry Rd NE between Gibson and Buffalo Rd NE
 - 3rd St SW and 19th Ave near I Street
- ✓ Sewer Maintenance crews are working on cleaning sanitary sewers in the southwest and southeast portions of the City in the flood effected areas. Most of the northwest area is complete.
- ✓ Forestry crews continue stump removals. They are completing the west side of the river and are moving to the NE.
- ✓ A Capital Improvement Project to improve flow at Center Point Rd and 42nd Street NE is starting September 29th. Traffic delays are anticipated and motorists are recommended to take alternate routes.
- ✓ The work on storm pipe construction on the northbound lane of Edgewood Road NE near the Cedar River Bridge is completing.
- ✓ Edgewood Rd NE will be down to single lanes in both directions at 42nd St NE starting Tuesday and lasting for approximately 3-4 weeks. The construction project will address a traffic congestion issue. This is the city's only site listed on the State of Iowa top 10 Safety Improvement Candidate Location (SICL) list.

SOLID WASTE

- ✓ Curbside loose leaf pick up will run from October 27 – November 21 this year, weather permitting. Leaf piles should be formed into a windrow leaving 12 inches between the leaf pile and the curb. This enables storm water to run down the gutter and makes pick-up easier for the Streets crews. The collection route information can be accessed in the 3 places: the Gazette will publish routes, by calling the Streets Department or visiting the city's website at www.cedar-rapids.org/streets. Kraft paper bags of leaves only, will be collected October 6 – January 3 on resident's normal yard waste pick-up day.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

- ✓ The Water Pollution Control (WPC) plant has completed what was initially expected to be a 6-to12-month emergency repair project in 12 weeks, thanks to numerous private contractors. The WPC plant has been disinfecting all waste water to DNR standards since September 15, 2008, just 12 weeks after the June flooding disaster. These temporary emergency repairs have improved recreational use of and minimized environmental impacts on the Cedar River. This critical project would not have been completed in such a short time period without the help of hundreds of local contractors, sub-contractors and consultants. Staff put in more than 4,000 hours of overtime work on this project. Contract partners put in an additional 7,000 work hours. These contractors helped City staff clean and repair 70 pumps and motors and replace hundreds of electrical components used in the water treatment process. The partners also hauled 180 tons of flood debris and damaged equipment from the plant. It takes years to build treatment plants and we're doing this in a matter of months thanks to help from the private sector. This milestone accomplishment is part of phase one of the WPC flood recovery plan. Phase two will focus on permanent repairs and phase three will include long term flood mitigation measures. The entire recovery plan is expected to take up to 36 months to complete. The City's waste water treatment processes are still fragile due to the emergency repairs in place. City staff will continue to bolster the reliability of the plant throughout this recovery process.
- ✓ The WPC plant has received the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) Gold Peak Performance award for its water treatment accomplishments in 2007. To achieve this award, City staff met or exceeded National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements for all 3,193 points of compliance during 2007. The NACWA Gold Peak Performance award recognizes the hard work of City employees who work around the clock to provide clean water and efficient waste water treatment services for the citizens of Cedar Rapids. This award was accomplished through the dedication of all of the WPC employees. As the WPC facilities recover from the impact of the flood, the goal will be to repeat such achievements in future years.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' CALENDAR

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

Monday, September 29	8:00am	Council Briefing, <i>(Lower Level Conference Room)</i>
Tuesday, September 30	10:00am 4:00pm	Legislative Update Meeting, <i>(Conference Room B)</i> NTS Ribbon Cutting, <i>(Harambee House, 404- 17th Street SE)</i>
Wednesday, October 1	5:30pm	Council Meeting, <i>(AEGON USA Auditorium, 4333 Edgewood Rd)</i>
Thursday, October 2	8:00am	Legislative Update Meeting, <i>(Conference Room B)</i>
Friday, October 3	8:00am	Council Briefing, <i>(Lower Level Conference Room)</i>
Saturday, October 4	7:30am	Downtown Farmers' Market