New Employees

Bill Kirkm P & R – Parks & Grounds Maintenance Repair Worker I effective June 12. Bill joins the City from the City of Mt Vernon.

Promotions

Christopher Hinrichs, CRFD – promoted to Fire Captain effective June 10. His previous position was Firefighter.

Retirees


Employment Opportunities

PW Laborer, SW Laborer Extra Driver, Facilities Maintenance ADA Specialist, Transit Service Worker,

If you have questions about any of the opportunities, please contact Jenelle Sisneros, 286-5001.

Here is a link to view and print all job postings

A Benefit Enhancement Coming Your Way

Through the bidding process, the City was able to negotiate premium rates that allow double the face value of base life insurance policies for all employees! Effective 7/1/17, all base life policies will go up to $50,000 in coverage. The City was also able to negotiate lower Long Term Disability (LTD) premiums, and no premium increases for Supplemental life insurance and Child life insurance. If you haven’t done so recently, we encourage you to take a moment and review your life insurance beneficiaries. If updates need to be made, contact your Benefits team of Bonnie Pisarik or Molly Bagby in the Human Resources Dept.
City Manager and Director Update

Well Field Access Roads Being Cleared of Sand and Reconstructed with FEMA Funding

A FEMA funded project to remove river sand from a City of Cedar Rapids well field near Ellis Harbor began on Monday, June 12. The sand was deposited during flooding in Sept. 2016. Peterson Contractors Inc. will be moving approximately 20,000 tons of sand from the west well field by Ellis Harbor to a site near the Northwest Water Treatment Plant (7807 Ellis Rd. NW). After relocating sand, access roads will be reconstructed in the well field. During the project, semi-trucks hauling sand and materials will be routed west on Ellis Road NW, south on Edgewood Road NW, and west on 16th Avenue SW to the HWY 30/100 project location. Truck traffic may make it difficult at times to access Ellis Harbor and for the public to put boats in at that location. The work will only be done on weekdays and is expected to take two weeks to complete, weather permitting.

Tall Grass, Noxious Weeds & Non-Purposely Planted Tree Nuisance Abatement Program

The Solid Waste & Recycling Division operates the Tall Grass, Noxious Weeds & Non-Purposely Planted Trees Nuisance Abatement Program from May 1 through Oct. 15 annually. The program is complaint driven. When the Division receives a complaint regarding a specific property, the following abatement process is triggered:

- Letter is sent to the address notifying the property owner that a complaint has been lodged and a Nuisance Abatement Officer will visit the property 4 days from the date the letter is issued.

- Nuisance Abatement Officer visits property to determine if a violation is present. Examples of violations include grass and weeds that exceed 12 inches in height; noxious weeds like thistles and wild parsnip; and self-propagating trees and bushes less than 3 inches in diameter that are close to foundations, fences or other structures on the property.

- If a property has a violation, a work order is created and a red door tag is placed on the property indicating the violations will be corrected by the City’s contractor within 3 days. The cost of mowing in addition to an administrative charge of $119.41 is charged to the property owner once mowing is completed. Stark Enterprises, Inc., was chosen through a competitive RFP process as the City’s mowing contractor for this Nuisance Abatement Program.

This abatement process only applies to privately owned property. Public property is mowed and maintained by the Parks & Recreation Department.

Forestry Wind Damage Response

Wind and rain storms overnight Wednesday morning and mid-day Wednesday caused tree damage throughout Cedar Rapids, particularly on the northeast side. As of 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, more than 140 phone calls or emails had been received from the public reporting 86 downed trees or tree limbs. Fourteen of those were critical, meaning a tree came down on a house, a car or a street and was blocking traffic. Forestry staff continued to work on the critical falls on Thursday, and then cleanup of the remaining 72 non-critical items followed. Clean-up is not expected to be complete until the middle of next week.

Stoney Point Road Rehabilitation Work

Street Division crews are responding to deteriorating conditions on Stoney Point Road. Due to the closure of 80th Street, Stoney Point Road has seen an increase in traffic. This has accelerated pavement decay and is requiring ongoing maintenance and closures. Street crews will perform asphalt inlay work next week to address the road failures. They will apply a chip seal in the weeks ahead to seal the surface and preserve areas that are currently cracking. This treatment method will add approximately five years of service life to the roadway. Traffic impacts the next two weeks will include full closure starting Wednesday. The entire project will be completed by the end of June and will address two immediate needs: slow the deterioration of the road to ensure it can support the construction efforts of the DOT as they use it for a detour; and avoid additional closures that have been required for ongoing maintenance. This will provide an immediate, intermittent solution until permanent repairs can be conducted. These efforts are being coordinated with the DOT to support their HWY 100 extension; staff from the City and DOT continue to evaluate this together. 80th Street is expected to open next week.

Downtown Traffic Signals

As part of our ongoing efforts to support the downtown’s growing pedestrian activity, traffic signal removals are being coordinated with the pavement and conversion projects planned over the next few years in the downtown core. There are many reasons for these removals, including a decrease in vehicle traffic downtown, the increase in residential housing and pedestrian foot traffic, and the benefits such as reducing vehicle speeds and unnecessary idling/emissions. Traffic signal removals are currently planned for both 2nd and 3rd Avenue SE.

- 2nd Avenue at 2nd Street, 3rd Street, 5th Street, 7th Street, and 8th Street SE; and 2nd Avenue at 1st St SW
- 3rd Avenue at 3rd Street and 5th Street

The signal at 2nd Avenue and 1st St SW will be removed Monday, June 19; the project will also include the installation of pedestrian ramps that meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards. The remaining signal removals will be coordinated with the two-way conversion and capital improvement projects.
City Council and Director Update (cont)

1st Street SW Road Diet and Parking
To support the growth and redevelopment of the Kingston Village District, improvements are planned for 1st Street SW between A Avenue and 8th Avenue. This will include what’s called a “road diet” – going from four lanes to three lanes, which will allow for additional on-street parking. The current layout of the road includes two travel lanes in each direction. Upon completion of the project, traffic will consist of one lane in each direction, with a center turn lane. New bike lanes and on-street parking will also be added on both sides of the road, creating additional connection and access to the area. A new roadway surface will also be applied to extend surface life and reduce driver confusion when the new pavement markings are installed. This design change has been supported by Kingston Village stakeholders, and will help increase parking for housing, retail, and the amphitheater. The project will begin early August and will be completed in approximately one month.

City Council Records
Now Available to Search, View Online
Residents can now use the City of Cedar Rapids’ new Public Access Viewer tool to search and view many Cedar Rapids City Council public records from their own computers and mobile devices. The new search tool is available on the City’s website at cedar-rapids.org.

Current and recent Council meeting documents will still be featured on the Meeting Documents page, but the new search includes these materials from past years as well, along with additional types of documents. Documents available are:

- Contracts since 2001
- Resolutions since 2001
- Ordinances since 2001
- Council meeting agendas since 1994
- Council packets since May 2015
- Council meeting minutes since 1989

The new Public Access Viewer tool will make finding City Council documents easy and convenient for residents.

To request records that aren’t currently available on the City website, users can email cityclerk@cedar-rapids.org, call 286-5060, write to the Office of the City Clerk, 101 First Street SE, or visit the office at City Hall.

Women’s Employee Resource Group (ERG)
Connect with others and explore new opportunities
Making connections with co-workers throughout the organization can benefit your daily work, as well as the overall enjoyment of your job. In order to provide employees more opportunities to connect, the City’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Team is developing Employee Resource Groups (ERGs). The goal is to bring employees with diverse work functions together around a shared characteristic or common interest.

The first ERG will focus on women in the organization. The group will begin with a few informal get-togethers during the summer to brainstorm ideas for future meetings.

Please join us for our first meeting on Thursday, June 29 from 5-7:00 p.m. at Kickstand, 203 16th Ave SE, and put all three summer meeting dates on your calendar. All women and men interested in supporting women’s issues are welcome to attend.

Women’s Employee Resource Group Summer Kickoff Meetings:
- Thursday, June 29 @ Kickstand – 5-7 pm
- Thursday, July 27 @ Della Viti – 5-7 pm
- Wednesday, Aug 9 @ Sag Wagon – 5-7 pm

Please contact Yvonne Aubrey, Y.Aubrey@cedar-rapids.org or X5008 with questions.

City News
If you are interested in learning more about City news, programs, and projects, sign up for text or email alerts using CR News Now, or visit the “City News” section of our website at www.cedar-rapids.org/newslist. Also be sure to follow the City of Cedar Rapids on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
Mental Health Awareness Activity Challenge

Try to complete all the squares in at least one row (vertical/horizontal or diagonal) to earn a bingo. Each bingo earns one chance in the drawing. Complete ALL the squares for a BLACKOUT and 4 additional chances to win. One $25.00 gift card will be awarded.

The Challenge runs June 1 - 30. Turn your bingo card in to your Wellness Ambassador by 5pm July 7.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visit Prairiewood Spirituality Center and hike the trails, walk the labyrinth, or explore the meditation rooms.</th>
<th>Organize an area of your home, office, or your car</th>
<th>Do something creative! Enjoy an art project, music concert or other creative hobby</th>
<th>Go for a walk with your family or friends in one of your local parks!</th>
<th>Spend an afternoon or evening socializing with your friends outside of work</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attend one of the Chair Yoga Sessions On Thursdays in June! Check the newsletter for days/times for more info!</td>
<td>Take 10 minutes and practice deep breathing on your lunch break. <a href="http://www.mindful.org/a-five-minute-breathing-meditation/">http://www.mindful.org/a-five-minute-breathing-meditation/</a></td>
<td>Take a Technology-Fast: Turn off the TV, phone, tablet, computer, and other electronics for ONE FULL DAY.</td>
<td>Start a gratitude journal: Write down 3 things you are grateful for today!</td>
<td>Take a 30-minute walk with a co-worker(s). Record name(s):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take a 30 minute walk on your lunch break.</td>
<td>Cut out all caffeine for ONE FULL DAY!</td>
<td>Free Space</td>
<td>Attend a spiritual activity of your choice. Record activity:</td>
<td>Go to bed 30-60 minutes earlier than you usually do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get your blood pressure checked and record the date you checked it here: ______________</td>
<td>Volunteer at a local charity or organization. Record name of organization: ______________</td>
<td>Take a 30 minute walk on your lunch break.</td>
<td>Try a mindfulness practice by going to: <a href="http://www.freemindfulness.org/download">http://www.freemindfulness.org/download</a></td>
<td>Book a massage for yourself!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watch your favorite funny movie or go to a comedy show!</td>
<td>Take a 30-minute walk with a co-worker(s). Record name(s): ______________</td>
<td>Attend a spiritual activity of your choice. Record activity:</td>
<td>Cut out added sugars in your diet for ONE DAY! That includes alcohol!</td>
<td>Practice breathing meditation for 15 minutes</td>
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Help Make this Summer Hunger Free

When school ends, so does access to nutritious meals. Over 82% of children who receive food through the free or reduced-price lunch program during the school year will not be getting that assistance during summer.

That’s why we need your support during our Share a Lunch, End Summer Hunger campaign. Your gift helps HACAP Food Reservoir provide nutritious food to children who are at risk for hunger when school is not in season. Every $10 donated, or the cost of one takeout lunch, will provide 60 meals.

This year, the CR Care Committee members will be conducting fundraising events in departments to help support our Eastern Iowa Freedom From Hunger Campaign here at the City, from June 12 – 30.

Please consider donating through a fundraising event, or you may contact one of the CR Care Committee members to make a donation. Let’s try and beat our 2016 Top Performer record of 8,555 meals!

Office Chair Yoga

Join Anji for a gentle Chair Yoga class designed to relieve tension through gentle stretching and strengthening yoga exercises. You don’t even have to change clothes. Come as you are and discover the health benefits of yoga and feel revitalized in your day.

June 22 12:15—12:45 4th floor Ballroom, Vets Memorial
Quarter 2 Activity Incentive Program

Quarter 2 runs April 1 – June 30

Tracking data for Quarter 2: Employees and spouses must track all their data for April 1 – June 30 by July 7. If your data is being automatically synced you will not need to do anything. All data will be automatically loaded. Only if you are manually reporting, some activities need to be entered by July 7.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestones: Average Steps Daily</th>
<th>Quarterly Goal</th>
<th>Drawing chances earned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>Qtr 1: Establish baseline milestone</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7,500</td>
<td>Qtr 2: If same as Qtr 1</td>
<td>1 chance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>Qtr 2-4: if advanced to next milestones</td>
<td>2 chances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12,500</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>15,000</td>
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Register now for Quarter 2, if you haven’t already.

Every quarter employees and spouses must enroll in the new quarter. See the steps below for how to register for quarter 2 – ensure that your device is synced (see below) and that you have manually back-entered activity starting April 1.

- Log in to your personal Health Solutions account
- Under the “Challenges”, click “Choose” (see right)
- Select the Quarter 2 Activity Challenge (see right)
- Click “Enroll”