Employee News

New Employees


Cassandra Curd, TEIA – Airport Guest Services effective May 14.

Promotions

Denni Randall, CRPD – has been promoted to Police Lieutenant effective May 12. Her previous position was Police Sergeant.

Sara Buck, CD – has been promoted to Housing Services Manager effective May 12. Her previous position was Assistant Housing Program Manager.

Ronda Jones, FIN – has been promoted to Budget Analyst III effective May 21. Her previous position was Budget Analyst II.

Retirements


Here is a link to view and print all job postings.
City Manager and Director Updates

Passenger Shelter Relocations
Cedar Rapids Transit will begin relocating several passenger shelters during the summer months to reallocate our resources to locations that benefit more passengers. The focus will be on relocating shelters from bus stops with extremely low usage (less than 5 passengers per day) or low usage (6-10 passengers per day) to bus stops with high usage (20-30 passengers per day) or very high usage (30+ passengers per day). The relocation determinations will also take into account shelter locations with recurring vandalism or accessibility issues. In high use and recurring vandalism locations, the shelters will be replaced with benches.

Lindale Mall Passenger Transfer Site Relocation
Lindale Mall has informed us that they do not consider their property to be a long-term option for our passenger transfer site for Route 5 (1st Ave to Lindale Mall), Route 20 (Marion Circulator), and Route 30 (NE CR & Hiawatha Circulator). Although Lindale Mall wants to continue receiving bus service to their location, they do not want multiple buses staging in front of the mall for several minutes each hour while passengers transfer between buses. At Lindale’s request, we had previously relocated the transfer site away from their front entrance to an unused area of their parking lot within walking distance of the mall’s main entrance. That location has worked well from a logistics standpoint, but it has become apparent that the Lindale parking lot was not built to a standard that can withstand the wear and tear from the additional bus activity. Based on the damage to the parking lot, and according to Lindale, the planned redevelopment of that location, Lindale has asked that we vacate the current site and reimburse them for the damage to the parking lot.

We have identified a location along Twixt Town Rd NE as a viable option to establish a new transfer site. We plan to install three bus stop pads and shelters within the public right-of-way behind the Bed, Bath & Beyond store. The proposed location will allow for transfers to continue between Routes 5, 20, and 30, along with the continuation of bus service to Lindale Mall for our passengers. In addition, the sidewalk improvements included in the Collins Rd Reconstruction Project will provide improved pedestrian access to the proposed Twixt Town transfer site.

Human Resources Department Update
The Human Resources Department has undergone many changes this past year as staff continues to implement recommendations from the operational study conducted on the department. One of the recommendations was to hire an Assistant Human Resources Director. As the Recruiting Program Manager took a position with another organization, the Recruiting position was reclassified into an Assistant Human Resources Director position. The Assistant Director will oversee recruiting, classification and compensation, labor relations, training functions of the department as well as management of employee records. The City has contracted with Management Resource Group (MRG) search firm to find quality candidates for both the Human Resources Director position as well as the Assistant Director position. Interviews with candidates for the Director position will be occurring over the next few weeks.

After nearly 18 years with the City, Bonnie Pisarik, Benefits Program Manager, is retiring. Gretchen Barske, was hired to serve as the new Benefits Program Manager beginning May 29, and will be overseeing Tara Menderscheid, the new Benefits Specialist. Kate Schaefer was also recently hired as a Data Specialist for the department. These two new employees join Amanda Felton who is working with employee and labor relations, and classification and compensation, as well as her regular duties, Katie Meyer in recruitment, and Lisa Kerker who will move back from covering benefits work to her permanent position as the department administrative assistant.

Another recommendation of the Human Resources Department operational study was to reallocate duties between program areas and modify the organizational structure of the department. A resolution to eliminate the Classification and Labor Relations Program Manager position and create a Human Resources Generalist position that will serve the needs of the department and align with the revised organizational structure is on the upcoming City Council agenda.

As the department continues to transform, the employees within the department have been working to strengthen their team and are hopeful and excited for what’s to come.

1st Avenue Improvements
Work will begin soon on the 1st Avenue East project, between 34th Street and 40th Street. The majority of the pavement and utility work has already been completed in previous years; work taking place this summer will focus primarily on sidewalk, intersection reconstruction, and traffic signal replacement. The intersections that will be under construction this year are 38th Street/1st Avenue, and 40th Street/1st Avenue. This will include realigning the intersection, improving sight distance, and installing new traffic signals and sidewalk ramps. Traffic impacts this year will consist of single curb lane restrictions as crews install or widen sidewalk, and restrictions at the intersections while alignment work is underway.

Parks and Recreation Director Update
We are happy to announce that Scott Hock has accepted our job offer and will join the team as Parks and Recreation Director on July 9. Scott has many years of leadership experience in Parks and Recreation, most recently as Director of Parks and Recreation in Davenport. We are confident he will bring quality leadership skills and experience to the City of Cedar Rapids, adding continued success to our current outstanding efforts.
May Employee Speaker Series

Thanks for taking the City Manager’s 1-Bag Challenge!

On May 15, more than 20 city employees took to the Mound View neighborhood to clean up litter! There’s still time to RSVP to the clean-up event on May 29. Please RSVP by May 24 for a FREE lunch!

If every Cedar Rapids resident collected one bag of litter each year, we’d be the cleanest community in the world. That’s the gist of City Manager Jeff Pomeranz’s 1-Bag Challenge. And now he’s calling on YOU, City employees, to answer the call! Bring a coworker, pick up a bag, and enjoy “class outside” while we clean up our community. Plus, FREE FOOD.

Tuesday, May 29 | Noon - 1:30 p.m.
Meet at McGrath Amphitheatre
475 1st Street SW, Cedar Rapids

FREE LUNCH FROM JIMMY JOHNS!

Please RSVP by Thursday, May 24 to participate and reserve your lunch.
RSVP by emailing: citymanager@cedar-rapids.org
Skip the waiting room – Visit a Doctor from your phone!

Did you know you can visit a doctor on your smartphone, tablet or computer? With Wellmark’s Doctor on Demand, employees and your family members can connect face-to-face with a board certified doctor 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

**Treatment is available for:**
- Cold and flu
- Bronchitis and sinus infections
- Urinary tract infections
- Sore throats
- Allergies
- Fever
- Headache
- Pink eye
- Skin conditions
- Mental health issues

The average cost for a televisit is $49, versus $180 for urgent care and $1010 for an ER visit. Wellmark estimated 24,266 office visits and 42 ER visits by city employees and family members last year could have been done through the Doctors on Demand service, saving money for both you and the City.

**Getting started is easy:**
1. Download the Doctor on Demand app or visit DoctoronDemand.com.
2. Have your Wellmark member ID card ready.
3. Create an account or sign in.
MEMORIAL DAY — SERVICE
at the ALL-VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK
MAY 28, 2018 10:00 am

SPONSORED BY the METRO AREA VETERANS COUNCIL
John Powers, President
Howard Purdy, Vice President
Cheryl King, Secretary

With special thanks to the Veterans Memorial Commission

Please bring a non-perishable contribution for the Veterans Food Bank