Employee News

New Employees


Congratulations!!

Andrew Gmeiner, Utilities - completed his Engineer-in-Training examination with the Engineering and Land Surveying Examining Board.

Employment Opportunities

Here is a link to view and print all job postings.

If you have questions about any of the employment opportunities, please contact Katie Meyer, x 5138.

Healthiest State Walk & Tailgate

This short, fun event is designed for you to move, connect, and get back to the office. Walkers can have lunch, socialize, and enjoy tailgate-style entertainment. Walkers will meet in front of City Hall, Oct. 3, leave promptly at Noon, and arrive at Greene Square 20 minutes later, where our Parks & Rec department will be grilling burgers and hot dogs.

Wednesday, Oct 3, Noon

One “Wellness Hour” can be used for this event.
City Manager and Director Updates

First & First West Property

The City is inviting innovative developers to submit qualifications to be selected as the Master Developer of nearly 8 acres of property along 1st Avenue West, between 1st Street and 3rd Street. This prime redevelopment property, known as “First and First West” lies at the intersection of the Downtown District and the growing Kingston Village District. The Master Developer will be responsible for producing multiple concept plans for the property, including options for site layouts, architectural styles, and possible uses supported by market feasibility studies or data. The City will host public open houses, visual preferences surveys, and other means of receiving community feedback on proposed master plan elements. Request for Qualifications are due to the City on November 9, 2018. City Council will be able to select a Master Developer Team this December, with public input and community vision-casting kicking off spring/summer 2019.

Hughes Park

Hughes Park Phase 1 construction is progressing as scheduled. Property line fencing between the park and adjacent properties is almost complete and the raised berm is partially constructed. Water and sanitary sewer services infrastructure have been installed for future phases. The majority of the right-of-way sidewalk along Wilson Avenue is complete and the park sidewalk along the driveway to the existing storage building is underway.

Anticipated work in the next several weeks will include completion of Phase 1 sidewalks, driveways and parking lots. Phase 1 finish grading and seeding will be completed this fall. The Parks and Recreation Department will be notified in October if REAP grant funds for Phase 2 construction will be awarded.

Downtown Street Lighting

The City has partnered with Alliant Energy to replace existing downtown street lights with new decorative, energy efficient street lights. The first phase of the project is still underway on the west side of the river in the Kingston Village area. Crews are installing the concrete foundations, underground conduits, and wiring. The process to replace the street lights will be ongoing for the next two to three years. Installation has also begun on new specialty lighting on the 3rd Avenue Bridge. This is a separate project, in partnership with the Downtown SSMID District. The City contributed to this project with an amount equal to the cost of replacing the lights. The 3rd Avenue Bridge lights will be installed and operational in the next three weeks.
Information Technology Teams Up

In March of 2018, the Information Technology management team formed a new committee within the department. The Customer Service committee, consisting of one employee from each of the four divisions, was created to assess and enhance customer service.

The goals the team identified include: 1) measuring the success of customer service initiatives, 2) clarifying service levels, and 3) providing feedback and training to IT staff. The committee uses the City’s Core Values as the basis for customer service. In teaming up with departments to achieve these goals, they have reinstituted the IT User Group and conducted a customer service survey. The results of the survey can be found here: [http://cratwork/BusinessTools/technology/Documents/2018_IT_Customer_Service_Responses.pdf](http://cratwork/BusinessTools/technology/Documents/2018_IT_Customer_Service_Responses.pdf)

In addition to their focus on teaming up with city departments, the customer service team has taken a look internally. They participated in the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator training in August. Over the next few months they will participate in The Ideal Team Player training as well as Mastering Conflict training. Each of these programs is designed to assist the team in communicating together and enhancing their customer service.

Here are some thoughts from committee members when they were asked, “What do the City Core Values mean to you?”

*We see all three city Core Values at work within the Customer Service Committee. We are an enthusiastic group who looks for ways to have fun while getting our work accomplished. You can’t fake enthusiasm. We team up between divisions to generate creative solutions. There is no need to be the lone ranger when there is a team working together. We find a way to solve problems by honoring our individual differences and gathering ideas from the team.*

For more information about the organizational health initiative at the City of Cedar Rapids contact: Sue Sager, Organizational Development Manager, [s.sager@cedar-rapids.org](mailto:s.sager@cedar-rapids.org) 319-777-1699.
Join us as City Council recognizes the City’s commitment to safety and urges all citizens to join in the effort to raise awareness and understanding of workplace safety through a proclamation!

Tuesday, September 25 at 5:30pm – Council Chambers, City Hall

Please complete a brief safety perception survey:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DH7O8NC
Blood Drive Thank you!
We had a wonderful Blood Drive on Wednesday Sept. 19. There were 32 signed up and Mississippi Valley Blood Center was able to collect 30 units of whole blood. This beats our goal of 25 units and is our highest total since 2014! The blood donated can help up to 120 people in need. Thank you all for your generosity; your donation could save someone’s life.

The CR Cares Committee is collecting winter coats for Eastern Iowa’s annual coat drive, Coats For Kids.

Donations at City sites will be collected from September 2-28

Coats should be new or gently used, sized Infant, Child, Teen, or Adult
*Gloves, mittens, hats, scarves and snow pants are also accepted

Questions? Please contact Jourdan Jiruska at j.jiruska@cedar-rapids.org
Congratulations and thank you for your attendance at the Wellness Fair. We hope to see you next year!

The Wellness Ambassadors.

2018 Wellness Fair Results

The 2018 Wellness Fair was held September 12 in the large vehicle bay located at the City Services Center building. This event is planned and organized by the City’s Wellness Ambassadors and because of their special effort to make it a success there were 175 employees in attendance with many of the attendees signing up for a chance to win prizes donated by the exhibitors. Those lucky winners included:

Pam Murdock - Finance
Emmy Boland - Finance
Chad Stonebreaker - Risk
Jennifer Selby - Public Works
Abigail Cornelison - Library
Andrew Gmeler - Water
Mark Troendle - Fleet
Karla McMurrin - Library
Shane O’Neill - Sewer
Barb Michel - Water
Phil Cronbaugh - Sewer
Meril Bailey - Streets
Haley Roe - Sewer
Sara Thomas - Building services
Heather Vasquez - Public Works
Adam Palmer - Sewer

Marci Williams - Transit
Sheila Ainesworth - Water Eng
Scott Kullander - Traffic
Jennifer Barton - CD Housing
Hunter Swartz - Streets
Lisa Kerker - HR
Joe Sherbon - Fleet
Michael Scaffinger - Streets
Todd Nathem - Sewer
Jeff Koffron - Facilities
June Schumacher - Parks & Rec
Sue Schoenfelder - HR
Susan Heath - Public Works
Amanda Vande Voorde - Public Works Eng.
Drew Mather - Streets

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The Wellness Ambassadors.

Wellness Initiatives

Are you enjoying the current Wellness and Rewards programs at the City?
Do you have ideas on how to enhance the initiatives currently provided?
We want to hear from you!
Please take this short survey to share your feedback:

City of Cedar Rapids Wellness Program Survey