



The Planner

VOLUME I, ISSUE 2 Week of AUGUST 3, 2009

Newsletter for the Iowa City Planning & Community Development Department

Urban Planning | Historic Preservation | Housing Rehab | Community Development
Economic Development | JCCOG Transportation Planning | Neighborhood Services | Public Art

Calendar

Thursday, August 6

The **Planning & Zoning Commission meeting** set for August 6 has been rescheduled for August 20. *Page 6.*

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Grant applications

The City is submitting grant applications for \$100 million for infrastructure projects, many of which would provide flood damage protection.

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To sign up for your FREE subscription to *The Planner*, go to www.icgov.org/subscribe, then to "Newsletter," and then click on "Planner Newsletter." We'll e-mail a copy directly to you each time a new issue is released. If you have ideas or comments for *The Planner*, contact Jodi DeMeulenaere at 319.356.5236 or e-mail jodidemeulenaere@iowa-city.org

Welcome, students!

This is the time of year when the population of Iowa City increases by literally tens of thousands as new University of Iowa and Kirkwood Community College students arrive, and the students who left town for the summer return for another year. We extend a warm welcome to all students, along with the hope that your experience here is a rich one that will provide a lifetime of good memories and great friends, as well as an excellent education.

To help make your transition as easy as possible, the Neighborhood Services Division of the City of Iowa City will offer a variety of free informational handouts and brochures to help you learn about the Iowa City community and the services and recreational opportunities it can provide. Beginning on Tuesday, August 4, an information rack will be set up in the lobby of City Hall at 410 E. Washington Street. Please stop by between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday to see the information we have available, and let us assist you with any questions you may have.

If you're unable to make it to City Hall, we encourage you to visit our website at www.icgov.org for general community information, and www.icgov.org/site/CMSv2/File/planning/neighbor/handyGuide.pdf for "The Handy Guide: Tips and Info for Neighborhood Living in Iowa City." This resource provides a wealth of information on City rules and regulations; public transportation; parks and recreation; garbage, solid waste and recycling; responsible pet ownership; and other topics that will be especially useful for students who will be living off-campus this year. The Newcomers' Guide to City Services would also be useful: <http://www.icgov.org/default/?id=1493>.

Other websites you may want to check out include:
Iowa City Chamber of Commerce: www.iowacityarea.com
Convention & Visitors Bureau: www.iowacitycoralville.org
Downtown Association: www.downtowniowacity.com

Flood recovery grant applications: City seeks \$100 million in grant funds for public infrastructure projects

Two City of Iowa City department directors provided details of eight infrastructure projects they are hoping to finance with federal and state grant funds to members of the City Council at a July 27 work session. Director of Planning & Community Development Jeff Davidson and Director of Public Works Rick Fosse reported that staff from the two departments have been working with the City's flood recovery staff to assemble the information required for nine separate grant applications totaling \$100 million in State of Iowa I-JOBS funds and federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Infrastructure grant programs. If awarded, the grant monies would be combined with revenue from the 1% local sales tax and federal Economic Development



Administration (EDA) funds the City is attempting to access to fund the proposed eight projects:

Relocation of North Wastewater Treatment Plant

EDA: \$22 million
I-JOBS: \$10 million
CDBG: \$5 million
Sales Tax: \$26 million
Total: \$63 million

This project will construct a new wastewater treatment plant adjacent to the existing south plant and decommission the existing North

Wastewater Treatment Plant which is located in a flood-prone area. It will allow for eventual redevelopment of the north plant area, creating a high-density urban neighborhood with the most flood-prone areas converted to green space. Plans also call for a trolley car connection between this area and River Landing in Coralville using the CRANDIC railroad tracks.

Reconstruction / elevation of Dubuque Street and Park Road Bridge

CDBG: \$25 million
Sales Tax: \$4 million
EDA: \$3 million
Total: \$32 million

This project will reconstruct and elevate Dubuque Street and Park Road Bridge so that

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Correction

In last week's issue of *The Planner*, (July 27, "State of Iowa Single Family Housing Program: Construction gets underway!"), we stated that the downpayment assistance offered to eligible homeowners in the program would be forgiven if the owner lived in the home for 10 years. The term is actually five years.



A view of the City's North Wastewater Treatment Plant, surrounded by floodwaters last June.



Dubuque Street (left, overlooking the University of Iowa Mayflower Residence Hall) and Park Road Bridge (above) were inundated with floodwater last summer. The City is applying for grant funds to reconstruct and elevate the street and bridge for future flood protection.

they are not inundated during future flooding. The City is coordinating with the University on this project regarding Mayflower Residence Hall and the new location for Hancher Auditorium. The City will also be completing a grant application to the Federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER)



Scene from last year's flood: the intersection of Dubuque Street and Foster Road.

program to provide an alternative source of revenue for the project in case one of the above funding sources does not come through.

Fire Station #4

Funding requests: \$3 million from I-JOBS and Economic Stimulus Program
 Because Fire Station #4 is not a project which was directly impacted by the flood, it is only eligible for a 50/50 funding commitment from I-JOBS, rather than the 75% share for disaster-impacted projects. In addition to the I-JOBS grant application, the City is also requesting a 70% grant through the federal Economic Stimulus Program. It appears

possible that if both grants were received, the City could match state I-JOBS funds with federal economic stimulus funds. Depending on which grant funds are received, the City hopes to defray 50 to 100% of the \$3 million expense of this project, which is currently locally funded, from the City's budget.

UniverCity home ownership program in older neighborhoods

Funding request: \$1 million from I-JOBS
 This grant would provide seed money for UniverCity, a neighborhood stabilization joint venture between the
(continued on next page)

City and the University to provide incentives for home ownership in older neighborhoods surrounding the University. The \$1 million would provide funding for both downpayment assistance and rehabilitation of older homes. The University has tentatively committed \$200,000 to this program.

West Side Levee

Funding request:
\$4.4 million from CDBG
Public Infrastructure program
This project would construct a levee between McCollister Bridge and the CRANDIC Railroad on the west side of the river to provide flood protection for the Baculis and Thatcher Manufactured Housing Parks as well as the Commercial Drive and Commercial Court areas. The new levee would replace the existing temporary levee that provided protection to these areas during the 2008 flood. A trail would be built on top of the levee. No local match is required.

East Side Levee

Funding request:
\$3.3 million from CDBG
Public Infrastructure program
This would construct a levee with a trail built on top between the new McCollister Bridge and the intersection of U.S. Highway 6 and Gilbert

Street on the east side of the river. It would provide protection to commercial businesses between Napoleon Park and U.S. Highway 6, as well as the City Parks and Streets Division facilities. No local match is required.

Rocky Shore Drive Lift Station and Flood Gates

Funding request:
\$6.5 million from CDBG
Public Infrastructure program
This project is part of a larger project being coordinated between the City of Iowa City, the City of Coralville, and the University of Iowa. The City is applying for \$6.5 million to assist with storm water management improvements in the vicinity of the former Tom Riley Law Office building on U.S. Highway 6. The flood gates on the Rocky Shore Drive Railroad Bridge are part of a larger strategy designed by the City of Coralville which includes reconstruction of the CRANDIC Railroad levee adjacent to the river.

For more information,
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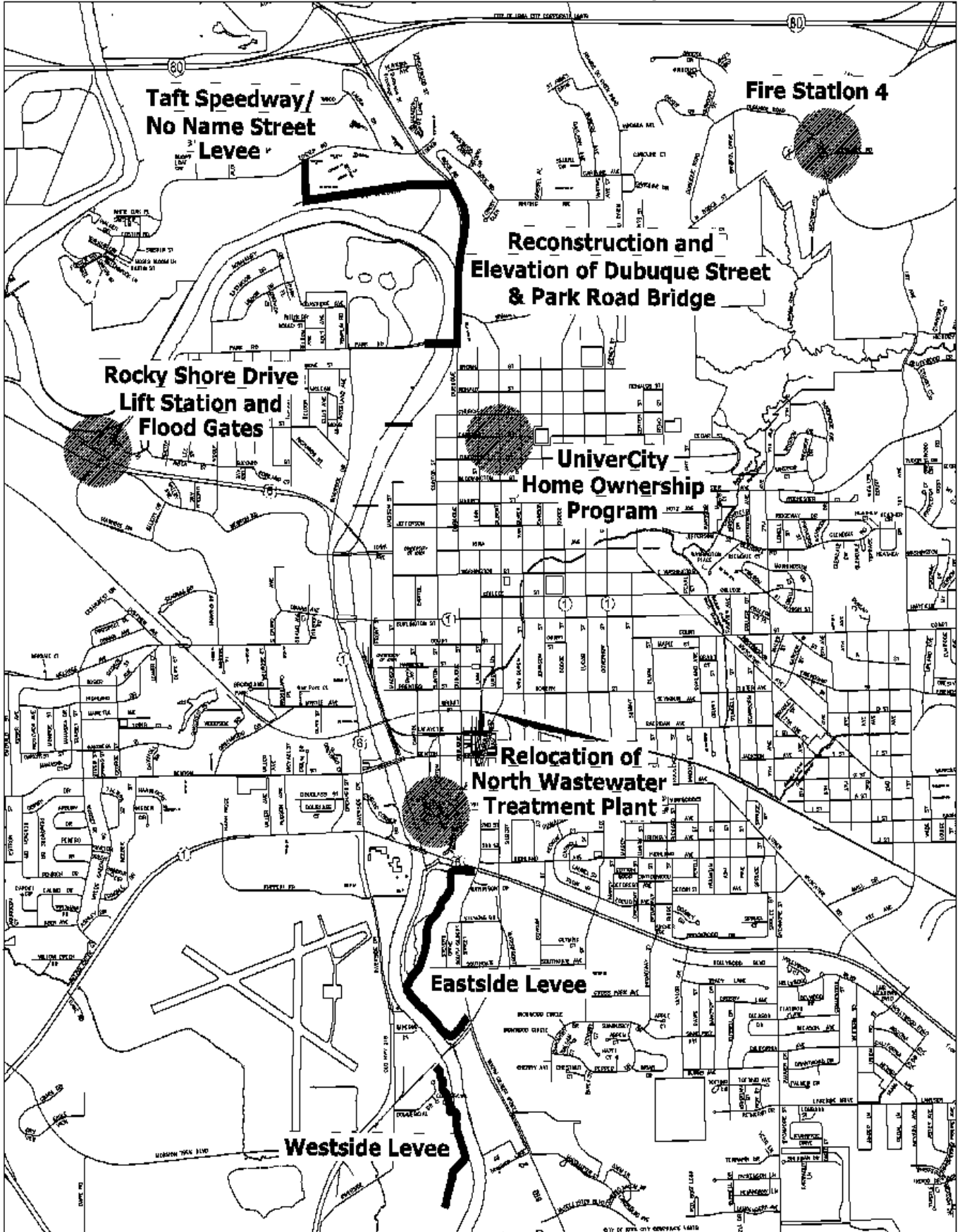
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Taft Speedway/ No Name Street Levee

Funding request:
\$10 million from CDBG
Public Infrastructure program
This project would elevate Taft Speedway from the Dubuque Street intersection to No Name Street and then north to the intersection of Foster Road. This would create a levee which would protect the Idyllwild Condominium property. This is a good strategy for protection of this neighborhood and preservation of \$20-\$22 million in property tax base. It would also allow an additional 12 condominium units to be built at Idyllwild, with protection provided by the new levee.

Davidson and Fosse told members of the City Council that these grants are highly competitive, and have required significant effort by staff to compile information and prepare applications on very short timelines. Some of the grant applications required authorizing resolutions, which were presented and approved by the City Council at their formal session on July 28. If the City acquires these grant funds, it is not obligated to construct any of the above-referenced projects. The funds would simply give the City the ability to implement the projects if it made a final decision to proceed.

Grant Applications Location Map





URBAN PLANNING

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Community volunteers sought for open board, commission seats

The City is seeking applicants from the Iowa City community for openings on its Historic Preservation Commission and Board of Adjustment.

Historic Preservation Commission: One three-year seat is available for a Northside representative on the Historic Preservation Commission. The 10-member commission conducts studies to identify and designate historic districts, historic landmarks, and conservation districts; considers applications for Certificates of Appropriateness on exterior work proposed for homes located in historic districts; and engages in other historic preservation efforts. For more information, visit www.iowa-city.org/icgov/apps/boards/members.asp?id=16 or contact Christina Kuecker at 319.356.5243 or via e-mail at christina-kuecker@iowa-city.org.

Board of Adjustment: A resignation leaves an open seat on the Board of Adjustment for a term that runs through January 1, 2012. This five-member board considers requests for special exceptions and variances and hears appeals to decisions made in the enforcement of the zoning ordinance. For more information visit www.iowa-city.org/icgov/apps/boards/members.asp?id=10 or contact Sarah Walz at 319.356.5239 or by e-mail at sarah-walz@iowa-city.org.

Planning & Zoning meeting is rescheduled

The Planning & Zoning Commission meeting originally set for Thursday, August 6 has been rescheduled for Thursday, August 20. The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Emma Harvat Hall, City Hall, at 410 E. Washington Street. Discussion of the Walden Woods development will be on the agenda. More information will appear in an upcoming issue of *The Planner*.

Oh, what a beautiful city!
This view along E. Jefferson
is just one of many beautiful
streetscapes in Iowa City.





JCCOG TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

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City Council passes resolution to adopt JCCOG Metro Bicycle Master Plan

Last year, the City of Iowa City and other Johnson County communities agreed to develop a new regional bicycle plan to inventory existing facilities and identify opportunities to improve bicycle access. At its meeting on July 28, the City Council passed a resolution officially adopting the new *JCCOG Metro Bicycle Master Plan* as a guide for future improvements. Public input played an important role in identifying goals and priorities of the community. Over 600 residents in the urbanized area participated in workshops to share ideas for improving the area’s bicycling facilities. To view the complete document, go to: www.jccog.org/documents/DraftBikePlan.pdf

The Metro Bicycle Master Plan will also increase the strength of the City’s upcoming application to the Bicycle Friendly Community Program, which provides incentives, hands-on assistance, and award recognition for communities that actively support bicycling. A Bicycle Friendly Community welcomes cyclists by providing safe accommodations for cycling and encouraging people to bike for transportation and recreation.

For more information, contact Kristopher Ackerson at 319.356.5247 or by e-mail at kristopher-ackerson@iowa-city.org



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Party in the Park series wraps up for the summer with two final events this week

The City’s “Party in the Park” summer fun series wraps up this week with events at **Hunter’s Run Park** and **North Market Square Park**. This year, Iowa City residents have enjoyed twice the number of parties, as the City increased the events from one to two per week due to the popularity of the series. Neighbors and friends have greatly enjoyed the opportunity to meet in their local park for a relaxing evening of fun, entertainment, and conversation.

On Tuesday, August 4, the party will be held at Hunter’s Run Park on Duck Creek Drive in southwest Iowa City. Live music will be provided by the Mad River Duo, with performances of original jazz-influenced folk/blues with clarinet, guitars and vocals. On Thursday, August 6, the party moves to North Market Square Park, at the intersection of Fairchild and Johnson Streets. The Clover Ridge Trio, an eclectic blend of violin, cello, guitar and voices, will perform. In addition to live music, there will be games, arts and crafts, and ice cream. Both events are free of charge. The parties are sponsored by the Iowa City Parks and Recreation Department and the Neighborhood Services Division. For more information, contact Joyce Carroll at Parks & Recreation at 319.356.5223 or Marcia Bollinger at Neighborhood Services at 319.356.5237.

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