



# The Planner

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 9 Week of **SEPTEMBER 28, 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

### October 1

**Neighborhood Council,**  
5:30 p.m., Lobby Conference  
Room, City Hall. *Page 3.*

## Inside

### Odd-even signs

New signs for the changeover to odd/even street parking will be installed beginning Monday. *Page 2.*

### Neighborhoods

The Miller-Orchard Neighborhood will present its neighborhood plan to the City Council on Monday. Plus, residents around Twain School are trying to organize a Neighborhood Association. *Page 3*

### Art in the Park

Pheasant Hill Park now boasts a beautiful new attraction, thanks to a local art teacher and students from three local schools. *Page 6.*

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## Public comment period for JCCOG transportation projects now underway

The public comment process is now underway for proposals that have been submitted to Johnson County Council of Governments (JCCOG) for over \$4.5 million in transportation funds for fiscal year 2011-12. Communities represented by JCCOG, including Coralville, Iowa City, North Liberty, Tiffin and University Heights, have submitted proposals totaling more than \$24.6 million – more than five times the amount of funding available. Decisions on how the money will be allocated will be made by the JCCOG Urbanized Area Policy Board at a meeting on December 2.

The 2010-11 funds include \$3,940,561 in Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds, which can be used for any surface transportation infrastructure projects, and \$572,763 in Transportation Enhancement (TE) funds, which are intended for non-road facilities, including sidewalks, trails, landscaping or streetscaping projects, and other transportation-related facilities. JCCOG communities have submitted eleven requests for \$16,094,647 in STP funds. Ten projects totaling \$8,570,026 were submitted for TE funds, most of which were for construction of trails or trail improvements. To view the full proposals, visit the JCCOG website at:

**[www.jccog.org/documents/STPSubmittals.pdf](http://www.jccog.org/documents/STPSubmittals.pdf)** and  
**[www.jccog.org/documents/TESubmittals.pdf](http://www.jccog.org/documents/TESubmittals.pdf)**

Residents whose communities are represented by JCCOG can offer input on the proposals and identify which projects they think should receive priority by attending one of three public meetings or by submitting written comments. Meetings are scheduled as follows:

**Tuesday, October 13:** JCCOG Regional Trails and Bicycling Committee meeting, 4 p.m. in room 203C of the new Johnson County Health and Human Services Building at 855 S. Dubuque Street in Iowa City. The committee will discuss TE applications.

**Tuesday, November 10:** JCCOG Transportation Technical Advisory Committee meeting, 10:30 a.m., Emma Harvat Hall in City

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## JCCOG TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

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## New street parking signs going in

Installation of the City's new on-street parking signs, which will notify drivers that parking regulations have changed from a calendar to an odd-even system, will begin September 28. The work will get underway on Brown Street and then continue south, and should be completed within one to two weeks.

The City implemented the change to align more effectively with the odd/even parking restrictions enacted during City snow emergencies.

With the odd-even system, drivers will be required to park their cars on the "even" side of the street (with even-numbered house addresses) on "even" dates (such as October 12) and on the other side on "odd" dates.

The odd-even system, which primarily impacts the Near Northside neighborhoods, will be enforced from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Parking will continue to be allowed on both sides of the street after 5 p.m. daily, and all day Sunday, unless a snow emergency is in effect.

A flyer with information about the new requirements will be posted on all cars parked in areas that will be impacted, beginning Monday. The flyers are also available in the lobby of City Hall and the Iowa City Public Library. For more information, visit [www.icgov.org/oddeven parking](http://www.icgov.org/oddeven-parking) or contact Darian Nagle-Gamm at 356.5254 or e-mail [darian-nagle-gamm@iowa-city.org](mailto:darian-nagle-gamm@iowa-city.org)

## Comment period

(continued from page 1)

Hall, 410 E. Washington Street in Iowa City. The committee will discuss and make recommendations for STP and TE funding.

### Wednesday, December 2:

JCCOG Urbanized Area Policy Board meeting, 4:30 p.m., Emma Harvat Hall in City Hall, 410 E. Washington Street in Iowa City. The Board will make funding decisions at this meeting.

Written comments may also be submitted to: JCCOG, Attn: Kristopher Ackerson, Assistant Transportation Planner, 410 E. Washington Street, Iowa City, IA 52240 or by e-mail to [kristopher-ackerson@iowa-city.org](mailto:kristopher-ackerson@iowa-city.org) or by fax to 356.5217.

All comments received by **November 23** will be forwarded

to the JCCOG Urbanized Area Policy Board for consideration prior to its meeting on December 2. For additional information, contact Kristopher Ackerson at the phone or e-mail listed above.

## McCollister Bridge dedication planned for October 2

The public is invited to attend the dedication of the new McCollister Bridge and Boulevard, Iowa City's first new river crossing since the early 1960s. The bridge connects South Gilbert Street (east of the Iowa River) with Old Hwy 218 (on the west side). The dedication will be held on Friday, October 2 at 2 p.m. on the east end of the bridge. For more info, contact Carol Sweeting at 356.5164.



### In with the new...

Beginning Monday, September 28, signs like the ones above will start to be installed around town, notifying drivers of the City's change to an odd-even street parking system.



## NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

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## Neighborhood Council

### MEETING INFORMATION

Thursday, October 1 at 5:30 p.m. in the Lobby Conference Room of City Hall, 410 E. Washington Street.

### AGENDA

Jorey Bailey, the City's new Crime Prevention Officer, will give a presentation at the meeting about crime prevention in neighborhoods and Neighborhood Watch opportunities. The public is invited to attend.

## New neighborhood association

Neighbors in the Mark Twain School neighborhood are trying to establish a neighborhood association for the area. Informational flyers have been sent to residents who live in the vicinity of the school to encourage them to attend a meeting at Faith United Church of Christ at 1609 Deforest Avenue on Monday, September 28. The free monthly Twain Neighborhood Dinner will be served at 6 p.m., followed by the start of the meeting at 6:30.

The group will discuss neighborhood associations and Neighborhood Watch programs, and hear a presentation by Jorey Bailey, the City's new Crime Prevention Officer. For more information, contact the church at 338.5238 or e-mail [faithucc@q.com](mailto:faithucc@q.com).

## Miller-Orchard Neighborhood Plan to City Council

The Miller-Orchard Neighborhood Association will present its Neighborhood Plan to the City Council at the Council's work session on September 28.

For nine months, the neighborhood worked with the City of Iowa City Planning & Community Development Department and students from the University of Iowa Urban Planning program to create a vision, an identity, and a plan for a better, stronger neighborhood in the future.

In its proposal, the Association acknowledged that Miller-Orchard is a quiet, family-oriented neighborhood that has been negatively impacted by housing deterioration, increased traffic congestion, unfriendly pedestrian routes, and crime.

The neighborhood, they wrote, is well-suited for revival as it has a diverse housing stock, close proximity to commercial businesses, conveniently located elementary school, an attractive park and trail network, a multitude of commercial resources, and dedicated residents.

Their plan seeks to offer a safe and secure environment for residents that promotes an active, caring, and informed neighborhood where people want to remain long-term.



Through the planning process, the Miller-Orchard Neighborhood identified five core strategies for improving their quality of life:

**Promote** neighborhood identity through beautification and community.

**Encourage** homeownership and preserve a diverse housing stock through housing rehabilitation.

**Create** a safer neighborhood for residents, pedestrians, and visitors.

**Advocate** for investment in the commercial district.

**Investigate** options to improve traffic safety.

To view a full copy of the proposal, visit the City's website at [www.icgov.org/default/?id=1924](http://www.icgov.org/default/?id=1924)



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## Second drawing held for new homes in Iowa City

A second drawing for ten new homes under construction in Iowa City through the state-funded Single Family New Construction Unit Production Program was held at City Hall on September 23. Ten names were drawn from a pool of 22 applicants for the homes that remain available.

The program has helped fund construction of 40 new single-family homes throughout Iowa City to help replace housing stock that was lost during last year's floods. The program was geared toward flood victims and households whose incomes were at or below the median income levels for Iowa City, which for a family of four is \$76,000 per year or less. A forgivable loan for up to 30% of the purchase price was also offered to homeowners for use as a down payment.

To qualify, applicants had to meet income guidelines, qualify for a mortgage loan ranging between \$115,500 and \$126,000, work with City-approved local lenders — and be one of the lucky applicants whose name was drawn in the City drawing. The Housing Trust Fund of Johnson County is administering the program for the City. For more information, visit [www.icgov.org/newhomes](http://www.icgov.org/newhomes) or contact Tracey Achenbach or Andrew Donham at 358.0212 or e-mail [TAchenbach@htfjc.org](mailto:TAchenbach@htfjc.org) or [ADonham@htfjc.org](mailto:ADonham@htfjc.org).

## Flood programs update

### Buyout demolitions

As of September 23, five homes purchased by the City of Iowa City as part of the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program have been demolished. The first round of demolitions, totaling nine homes, will end the week of September 28. Meanwhile, the City has purchased three more properties through the FEMA buyout program, which will be demolished and converted to green space. All homes in the buyout are located in the Parkview Terrace neighborhood and along Taft Speedway.

### Grant proposal

Staff members from the City's Planning & Community Development and Water departments

are preparing a grant proposal for FEMA funds to protect three well water heads located near the Iowa City Water Treatment Plant. The amount of funds requested in the proposal will be approximately \$560,000. The grant proposal will be submitted by the end of October.

### BRAP checks

Disbursement of checks is underway for businesses that applied and qualified for the Business Rental Assistance Program (BRAP).

### Subcommittee

A case management subcommittee of the Johnson County Long-Term Recovery Committee, composed of representatives

from the Johnson County Crisis Center, United Way, Project Recovery Iowa, JCCOG and the City of Iowa City has been meeting regularly since the flood to discuss individual flood victim cases and identify programs and agencies that could potentially provide assistance.

### Jumpstart 3

PCD staff continues to review applications for disbursing State Jumpstart 3 funding. A total of \$781,720 in Jumpstart 3 funds remain for housing rehab/repair, downpayment assistance, and interim mortgage assistance. Flood victims who have previously submitted applications for Jumpstart funding do not need to reapply, as their application will automatically be considered.



## URBAN PLANNING

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## Planning & Zoning Commission

### MEETING INFORMATION

There will **not** be a Planning & Zoning Commission meeting on Thursday, October 1. The next scheduled meeting will be October 15 at 7 p.m. in Emma Harvat Hall in City Hall.

### TO VIEW A MEETING AGENDA & INFO PACKET

Agendas and information packets for all scheduled meetings are posted to the City website at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. To view this information, visit the City's Calendar page at [www.icgov.org/default/apps/GEN/calendar.asp](http://www.icgov.org/default/apps/GEN/calendar.asp), click on the date of the meeting, and then on the name of the group that will be meeting.

## Lecture scheduled on increasing energy efficiency in older homes

The Historic Preservation Commission, Friends of Historic Preservation, and ECO Iowa City are sponsoring a lecture titled "Making Your Older Home Energy Efficient." The speaker is Thomas McInerney, a local architect. There is no charge to attend the event, which is scheduled Thursday, October 1, at the Iowa City Public Library.



### Porch time

*Fall has now officially arrived, and there's no better time to enjoy the cool evenings and colors of the season. One of the best spots to take it all in is the front porch — or by taking a stroll through some of our older neighborhoods to see the spectacular architecture of porches in the City, including this one on North Linn Street in the Northside Historic District.*



## PUBLIC ART

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## Public Art to present proposal to City Council

The Public Art Advisory Committee will present a proposal to City Council on September 28 to modify the FY10 budget to allow some of the lower-cost public art projects to be retained through a scaled-back program. The proposal asks the Council to consider keeping the following programs, at a total cost of \$14,750:

Temporary showcase pads on the Pedestrian Mall and in Peninsula Park

Poetry in Public

Public Art in Private Spaces

Mural projects with Tate High School or others

Neighborhood Art Project

Elementary School Mascot Program

Artsfest Kidztent

The request also asks for funds for ongoing maintenance of existing inventory and a staff review of proposals for gift donations.



## Art in the park

Iowa City's Pheasant Hill Park just became even more magical with the completion of a bench mosaic Neighborhood Art Project, funded through the City's Public Art Program. The project, which was a collaborative effort by the Washington Hills Neighborhood Association, City High Visual Arts Teacher Jill Harper, and students from Lemme Elementary, Hoover Elementary, and City High, creates a grand entranceway to the park, located on Green Mountain Drive.



Although work on the bench is now complete, there is still more work to do before the art project is finalized. Ten concrete mosaic plinths — or pillars — still need to be constructed. Once set, the plinths, which will be 5 feet tall and 24 inches in diameter, will also be covered in mosaic tiles and will be positioned to create a walkway through the park. Public Art Coordinator Marcia Bollinger is trying to find a concrete contractor for the job, so if you know of someone who would be interested, please have them contact her at 356.5237 or e-mail [marcia-bollinger@iowa-city.org](mailto:marcia-bollinger@iowa-city.org). The artists hope to complete the project yet this fall.

The art motif for the bench mosaic — which will eventually also be carried through on the plinths — was created from drawings of "Woodland Creatures" made by the elementary school students. City High students, under Jill's supervision, then recreated the drawings in glass mosaic. The mosaic designs were completed in the school art studio and then transferred to the bench, where they were mortared into place and grouted. On the back of the bench, the names of the schoolchildren who created the original sketches are displayed — and two small unfinished areas on the sides of the benches will eventually host the names of City High students who worked on the project, as well.

After the entire art project has been completed, a dedication will be held to highlight the efforts and recognize the community members and students who contributed to this unique new addition to one of our City parks.

Job well done!

## WHO SHOULD YOU CONTACT?

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