



The Planner

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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

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March 2

Economic Development Committee meeting, Lobby Conference Room, 6:15 p.m.

March 10

Board of Adjustment meeting, Emma Harvat Hall, 5:15 p.m.

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Neighborhood news

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Southeast District

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Neighborhood PIN grant applications due March 12

Applications for Iowa City's "Program for Improving Neighborhoods" (PIN) grant program, which provides funding for neighborhood improvements, are due Friday, March 12. The City has allocated \$15,000 for PIN grant funding for FY11.

All neighborhood associations are eligible to apply for the grants through the Neighborhood Council of Iowa City (NCIC), which will review the requests and make recommendations for funding to the City Council. This is the 15th year the City has operated the program, which last year helped fund educational workshops, neighborhood social events, alley beautification projects, sidewalk repair, and the purchase of recreational equipment, including funds which contributed to the purchase and installation of a splash pad in Wetherby Park.

In the application, Neighborhood Associations are asked to determine a need in their neighborhood, and describe how the project will meet that need. The groups are also asked to provide supporting documentation, project timelines, support that will be available from other organizations, individuals, or other resources, and other information.

Grant applications must be mailed to, dropped off, or e-mailed to City Hall by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 12. Materials should be addressed to:

City of Iowa City
Attn: Marcia Bollinger - PIN grants
410 E. Washington Street
Iowa City, IA 52240

If submitting electronically, e-mail to: marcia-bollinger@iowa-city.org

The Neighborhood Council will determine which projects to recommend for funding at its April 8 meeting, and will present its recommendation to the City Council for final approval at one of the City Council meetings in May. Funds will be available for approved projects beginning July 1.

For more information, or to access the grant application form, visit www.icgov.org/pingrant or contact Marcia Bollinger, City of Iowa City Neighborhood Services Coordinator, at 356-5237 or by e-mail at Marcia-Bollinger@iowa-city.org



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Final workshop scheduled for City's Southeast District Plan

The final workshop for the City's Southeast District Plan is scheduled **Tuesday, February 23 from 7 to 9 p.m.** in the Large Group Room of Southeast Junior High at 2501 Bradford Street. Area residents, property owners, and business owners are encouraged to attend to help finalize the principles, goals and objectives for the Southeast District Plan, and pull together the ideas shared over the last year into a cohesive plan that will guide future investment, improvements, and development in this section of the city. The Southeast District stretches from First Avenue to the City's growth area limit just east of Taft Avenue, and from Highway 6 north to Court Street.



A formal presentation will begin at 7 p.m., although interested parties are urged to arrive early to look over meeting materials, preliminary concepts, and illustrations that are being considered for inclusion in the plan. These include redevelopment plans for the Towncrest business district and concepts that will guide the development of future neighborhoods east of Scott Boulevard.

Space is limited, so those who wish to participate are asked to contact Karen Howard at 356.5251 or e-mail Karen-Howard@iowa-city.org to reserve a seat. For more information on the Southeast District planning process, visit the City website at www.icgov.org/seplan.

BOA time change

Beginning with the March 10 meeting, the Board of Adjustment will change the start time for its meetings to 5:15 p.m.



Manville Heights study

More than 80 people filled the Media Center at Lincoln Elementary School on February 17 to hear findings from a study conducted on the historical and architectural significance of the Manville Heights area. The study and presentation were conducted by historic preservation consultant Marlys Svendsen. The study was funded by a grant awarded to the Iowa City Historic Preservation Commission. For more information, visit www.icgov.org/manvillesurvey





NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

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Grant Wood Association plans class on interior house painting

The Grant Wood Neighborhood Association will offer a class on interior house painting this **Saturday, February 27 from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Grant Wood School Cafeteria, 1930 Lakeside Drive.** Paint experts from Mall Drive ACE Hardware will provide information and give demonstrations on different types of paint and how to select the paint that is best-suited for your project, wall preparation and repair, and how to apply faux finishes.

Participants will also receive a complimentary issue of “Homeowners Survival Guide,” gift cards and discounts for future ACE Hardware purchases, and a chance to win a starter kit filled with painting supplies.

There is no charge to participate in the event, which is sponsored by the Grant Wood Neighborhood Association, the Office of Neighborhood Services, and the City of Iowa City Parks and Recreation Department. For more information, contact Marcia Bollinger, Neighborhood Services Coordinator, at 319.356.5237 or e-mail Marcia-Bollinger@iowa-city.org.

Northside Association to sponsor UniverCity presentation in March

The Northside Neighborhood Association will sponsor a public presentation on the UniverCity Neighborhood Partnership on **Thursday, March 4 at 7 p.m. in Meeting Room A of the Iowa City Public Library, 123 Linn Street.** The presentation, led by Associate City Planner Sarah Walz, will discuss how the City and the University are working together to preserve and promote the Northside and other campus area neighborhoods as attractive and affordable places to live.

The UniverCity Neighborhood Partnership is a newly created housing program developed to instigate long-term revitalization efforts in some of the older neighborhoods surrounding University campus areas. In its first phase, the Partnership plans to return some of the neighborhoods to a more equitable balance of owner-occupied and rental housing by purchasing 20 rental properties, converting them back to single-family dwellings, and then offering them for sale to individuals or families whose incomes fall 20% below the City’s median income level. The new homeowners will, in turn, encourage long-term commitment and ongoing investment in these neighborhoods.

Northside neighbors and any other interested parties are encouraged to attend the presentation to learn more about the program, including homeowner incentives and down payment assistance that may be offered, as well as home renovation and sustainability initiatives, and how members of the neighborhood can play a role in the success of the UniverCity Neighborhood Partnership program. For more information, visit www.icgov.org/UniverCity.

For more information on the Northside presentation, contact Matt Lage at 319.338.3462 or e-mail northside@mchsi.com

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