



MAYOR'S MEMO

Community Updates, Directly From Your Mayor

Welcome To The Eighth Edition!

TOPICS: Truck Route Plan, Downtown Revitalization Updates & Streets Department Achievements



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As we move into what will probably be the busiest two weeks for Indianola, I again want to welcome our guests and visitors to our great community. We hope you find your time here rewarding and pleasant, and we do wish you will continue to visit us in the future. Visit ExperienceIndianola.com to explore what our community has to offer.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

The West Clinton Pavement Improvement Project, between Howard Street and Buxton Street, remains under active construction. All underground utility work has been completed, and the contractor is now preparing the subgrade in anticipation of concrete paving. Progress in the coming days will depend on weather conditions, but the contractor remains within the allocated 60 working days since the start of construction.

TRUCK ROUTE ORDINANCE CONSIDERATION

Indianola currently does not have a truck route ordinance in place. We have designated arterial streets that normally carry truck traffic. Arterial and collector streets are usually designed to carry heavier loads as well. We want to make sure the trucks are on the roads designed to handle such loads. We also want to make sure semis are not going through residential areas that could, in some instances, slow or stop traffic flow, or worse yet, cause issues with Fire, EMS and Police.

TRUCK ROUTE PLAN OPEN HOUSE

Our departments, from Public Works to Police and Fire, are working to package together some proposals for designated truck routes. Once they have a preliminary plan in place, the City will be holding a community open house to take comments and questions. Specifics on how the plan will actually work will be detailed at that open house, which is **Tuesday, Aug. 5**, at the Indianola Activity Center, located at 2204 W. 2nd Avenue. It starts at 5:30 p.m. I encourage you to attend to see where the proposed routes will run and to share your comments and/or concerns at that time. We welcome public input, and this is a great chance to let your opinions be known.

DOWNTOWN FAÇADE REVITALIZATION

If you do not know, the City of Indianola, along with Indianola Main Street and business owners, have been working to revitalize the front of eight buildings on and around the Indianola Downtown Square. The City Council, in our meeting on July 21, approved the plans, specifications, form of contract and estimate of costs to move forward with the Downtown Façade Revitalization Program. Cornerstone Commercial Contractors was awarded the competitive bid contract.

The City was awarded a \$650,000 Community Development Block Grant Award in June 2024. That funding, along with matching 25% contributions from the City and participating property owners, roughly \$1.3 million will be invested into the Square for improvements. After reviewing the renderings from Curtis Architecture, there is a whole lot of excitement to see the historical renovation that will take place. To see the renderings for yourself, and to read more information about the journey and process, please visit: indianolaiowa.gov/downtown-revitalization.

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SIMPSON-INDIANOLA PARTNERSHIP

Recently, Indianola City Manager Jacob Meshke and I had the pleasure of attending the announcement of the appointment of Interim Simpson College President Dr. Sue Stuebner. While our interaction with President Stuebner was brief, I do think we all see the need to work together for both Simpson and Indianola. We also had the chance to talk with Board Chair Terry Lillis and Acting Interim President Terry Handley. We will continue to work on strengthening the Simpson-Indianola relationship.

STREETS DEPARTMENT ACHIEVEMENTS

A fun fact: This past fiscal year, the Indianola Streets Department poured 584.25 cubic yards of concrete and used 2,760.14 tons of rock to repair streets and sewer intakes. Repairs are necessary

due to age but also to things clogging the system and the need then to find a better way to resolve that issue. Please join me in thanking our staff of the Streets Department for their hard work.

GRASS CLIPPINGS REMINDER

Any grass clippings left in our streets eventually get flushed into the storm sewer system and, unfortunately, some even go through the sanitary treatment system. The problem lies in getting the clippings there.

Lots of grass and leaves in a particular storm water intake can plug a storm sewer, requiring additional time to clean and maintain - which adds additional costs. Let's be good stewards of our sewer rate dollars and make sure we keep clippings in our yards.

