

CITY OF NEWTON WEEKLY REPORT

Week of April 27, 2018

FROM THE DESK OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR...



As of Tuesday May 1st, 2018 the Iowa DOT will be completing ADA pedestrian sidewalk improvements on the NW corner of 1st Ave. W & W 8th St. The project requires cutting through the City of Newton's traffic signal loop detection wires for this intersection. During the duration of this project, the intersection traffic signals will be placed to a four way red flash, thus creating a four way stop of the intersection.

Start date: 5/1/2018.

Project schedule: Approximate two weeks.

NEWTON IN THE NEWS

• NPd TO HOST CHILD SEAT INSPECTIONS

The Newton Police Department is partnering up with Skiff Hospital and Lauterbach Buick, GMC for a safety event on child car seats. Read more: <http://www.newtondailynews.com/2018/04/26/npd-to-host-child-seat-inspections/au41s7t/>

• CITY UPDATES CODE ON DOOR-TO-DOOR SALES

To help protect citizens against fraudulent or intrusive door-to-door salesmen, the city is working to update its code to ensure better compliance. Read more: <http://www.newtondailynews.com/2018/04/26/city-updates-code-on-door-to-door-sales/af6zh2m/>

• NEWTON MAIN STREET VOLUNTEER RECOGNIZED AT STATE CEREMONY

Longtime community advocate Larry Hurto was recently honored as Newton Main Street's Volunteer of the Year. Read more: <http://www.newtondailynews.com/2018/04/25/newton-main-street-volunteer-recognized-at-state-ceremony/ay5dnob/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Newton YMCA Healthy Kid's Day on April 30, 2018, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM @ Newton YMCA
- Annual Plant Sale at the Newton Arboretum on May 4, 2018, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM @ Newton Arboretum and Botanical Gardens
- Annual Plant Sale at the Newton Arboretum on May 5, 2018, 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM @ Newton Arboretum and Botanical Gardens
- Jasper County Historical Museum Brown Bag Lunch on May 9, 2018, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM @ Jasper County Historical Museum

Find more events at www.newtongov.org/communitycalendar

CONTINUE READING THE CITY OF NEWTON WEEKLY REPORT TO LEARN WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

ADMINISTRATION

NEWTON FEST UPDATES

Newton Fest is excited to announce Black Hills Energy and TPI Composites have donated to this year's Newton Fest and will be title sponsors for the community event scheduled for June 7 – 9.

"We are thrilled about this commitment from Black Hills Energy and TPI Composites," said Jessica Lowe, chair of Newton Fest. "These types of partnerships, between community organizations and private businesses and corporations, are vital to advancing the goals of our community."

With the support of Black Hills Energy and TPI Composites, along with additional sponsors who will be announced soon, Newton Fest 2018 is set to be the largest Newton Fest to date. In addition to live music, car show, BBQ contest, carnival, Bill Riley Talent Show, free art activities and vendor fair, Newton Fest committee members have added a variety of family-friendly activities aimed at enhancing the experience for all.

Newton Fest will feature another great line up of music this year with Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, a Des Moines oldies rock & roll band, and Big Time Grain Co., a fast rising country band from the Midwest. Dirty Rotten Scoundrels will take perform at 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 9 followed by Big Time Grain Company at 8 p.m. Both groups will perform on the DMACC/ Baker Group Stage.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT NEWTON FEST:
WWW.NEWTONFEST.ORG**

NEWTON RAGBRAI ANNOUNCES THEME AND LOGO FOR 2018 OVERNIGHT STOP

The Newton RAGBRAI® committee has chosen a theme and a logo for the July 25 local celebration of visiting RAGBRAI bikers and community members - "Aloha/Mahalo – Newton 2018". The Hawaiian/Tropical theme, logo and mission statement were unveiled at the April 9 community town hall meeting in Newton. Aloha translates to "hello" and "goodbye" while Mahalo translates to "thank you".

Committee members explained the theme was chosen after discussion regarding selecting a festive summer theme, welcoming the cycling visitors and conveying an atmosphere of fun in Newton all while being memorable and easy to carry out by various committees and volunteers.

The logo includes a visual element of cycling with a fun and playful feel. T-shirts will be printed with the new logo and offered for sale in the community prior to the event and to RAGBRAI guests the week of the overnight stay.

The sun-themed mission statement, representing what the committees plan to accomplish with the RAGBRAI overnight stay was also announced at the meeting: "To create fun in the sun for cyclists, guests and Newton community members."

The Newton RAGBRAI committees and subcommittees will continue to meet regularly to plan entertainment and other activities for the July 25 visit.



HOW CAN YOU HELP WITH RAGBRAI?

VOLUNTEER

Extending hospitality to such a large crowd is a huge undertaking - but one we are sure we will achieve successfully with the help of volunteers. [Click here](#) to learn more about volunteering.

BECOME A SPONSOR

This event is only made possible through our local volunteers and your generous contributions. [Click here](#) to learn more about becoming a sponsor.

HOST RIDERS

Host RAGBRAI riders at your home, in your backyard or in your driveway! [Click here](#) to learn more about hosting riders during RAGBRAI.

BE A VENDOR

Over 25,000 guests will be visiting Newton on Wednesday, July 25. This event is a great opportunity to make money for your business or non-profit group. [Click here](#) to learn more about being a vendor.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT RAGBRAI:
WWW.NEWTONRAGBRAI.COM**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

UPDATE ON HOTEL MAYTAG

The asbestos remediation and demolition work has been completed in the building, including the iconic Ballroom, with inspections and punch-list items from the demolition project currently being addressed. Construction of the 45 apartments is slated to begin by mid-May.

FOUNTAIN HILLS ESTATES

The re-plat of east side lots in the subdivision was completed, and the seven newly expanded lots are ready to be sold. A Jasper County builder continues to express interest in Fountain Hills the new lots, located on the east side of E 22nd Street S.

CARDINAL RIDGE

Both the spec single family and duplex townhomes are within a month of final completion, and a May date for a Grand Opening and Open House will be announced soon. Construction on the custom twin-home is well underway, with a summer completion date scheduled. Ground Breaker Homes reports a high level of interest in the subdivision.

NEWTON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION UPDATES

A company that manufactures bio-degradable products was in Newton in early April to take a look at a couple of potential sites. They were looking for a minimum of 40,000 square feet.

Graphic Packaging recently finished an upgrade at their plant that included new larger restrooms, break room and conference room. Atlas Hydraulics/Gates Corporation

is working to complete a new parking lot just east of their building. TPI Composites has started manufacturing components for the bus bodies at Plant Two.

Newton Elite Properties continues to remodel the former Newton Manufacturing building on First Avenue East to attract new tenants. Bliss recently moved in and Capstone will be occupying space in the building in the near future.

Newton Professional HR Series on May 9 that DMACC Newton. For more information about attending contact tanyam.ndc@gmail.com or call 641.787.8210.

NEWTON HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION UPDATES

The Fairmeadows North Plat 8 Ribbon Cutting ceremony was held on Friday, April 13. 5 lots have been sold and closed, with 3 lots under contract, and the City has been reimbursed \$125,000 for the 5 sold lots. Two homes are currently under construction, with two more to be started in early May.

The Barton land sale is complete and NHDC has several potential developers interested in building both single family and duplex homes in the future.

There have been numerous meetings with three multi-family residential developers interested in both private and City-owned parcels in the community. Other potential builders we are in contact with include single and multi-family firms from North Liberty, Pella, Des Moines and Marshalltown. 7 new homes permitted and in various stages of construction,

including 2 on former "D&D" lots, 8 custom homes and 7 spec homes. 5 permits have been issued so far in 2018, with 3 more expected soon. Projecting at least 20 new homes total in 2018. Since July 1, 2014, 47 units have been permitted totaling over \$11,000,000 in value.

Home builders currently in Newton include Venture Homes (West Des Moines), Ground Breaker Homes (Clive), Teck Builders (Ankeny), Giovanti/Jag Homes (Ankeny), Farrell Properties (Newton), Moorman Construction (Baxter), Holland Hill Inc. (Pella) at Woodlands Construction (Tama), and DMACC/Newton Rotary Foundation (Newton).

Habitat for Humanity will host their first Board meeting April 24th - will elect officers and start planning for projects in 2018.

Funding from Iowa Finance Authority was approved or WishRock to purchase and renovate McCann Village (80 unit low income elderly housing), with the renovation project beginning this fall.

DMACC GREENSPACE UPDATE

The DMACC Greenspace Committee continues to meet with OPN & Hitchcock. Three concepts were presented to the Committee and shared with a group of community stakeholders. The design team will be integrating the key elements identified by the Committee and stakeholder groups into more comprehensive models of a proposed Greenspace master concept for further review.