

Raccoon River Neighborhood Association Newsletter

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or

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Important Dates to Remember:

Next Neighborhood Association Meeting:
3/29/06 at 6:30 p.m. at Commerce Church

Next Plan & Zoning Commission Meeting:
4/5/06 at 7:00 p.m. at WDM City Hall

New Neighborhood Association Organizes to Serve You

A new neighborhood association has been formed in your area. This neighborhood association was formed at the request of numerous neighbors concerned about the City of West Des Moines's comprehensive plan. This plan includes a six-lane, major arterial bridge on South 35th Street across the Raccoon River through Walnut Woods State Park, which will result in increased traffic and a decline in the quality of life throughout our neighborhoods. The plan shows South 35th Street becoming a major arterial road at Grand Avenue, while remaining a minor collector north of Grand Avenue. The concerned neighbors believe this bridge is unnecessary and

want it removed from the comprehensive plan. In addition to opposing the bridge, this neighborhood association will also take on short- and long-term goals and projects as suggested by its membership.

The new neighborhood association, being called the Raccoon River Neighborhood Association, includes Commerce, Hidden Creek, homes between South 35th Street and Quail Park on Grand Avenue, and the subdivisions north of Grand Avenue on South 35th Street to Mills Civic Parkway.

The City's comprehensive plan is currently being



reviewed by the Plan & Zoning Commission. The Plan & Zoning Commission is requesting public comments about the plan. Now is the time to organize ourselves to comment on the comprehensive plan and make our voices heard. Together we truly can affect change. ☞

Neighborhood Association Meeting Planned

The newly formed Raccoon River Neighborhood Association will meet on Wednesday, March 29th at 6:30 p.m. at Commerce Community Church. Commerce Church is located at 4007 High Street off Commerce Drive. The

agenda for this meeting includes electing leaders for the association, sharing information about the Plan & Zoning Commission's review of the comprehensive plan, collecting contact information from interested people,

and discussing how to publicly comment on the plan. If you are interested in joining the association but cannot attend this meeting, please contact Tom & Danielle Stull at 225.7861 so you can be kept informed. ☞

Your Neighborhood is in the News

The neighborhood opposition to the bridge on South 35th Street has been a newsworthy issue lately. The Des Moines Register ran two articles, one on February 22, 2006 and another on March 16,



2006, describing the numerous reasons why the bridge is being opposed and the formation of this neighborhood association. These articles, written by Melissa Walker, bring attention to this issue and will hopefully generate public comments about the comprehensive plan. The articles can be read online at <http://desmoinesregister.com>. ☞

New Online Group Formed for Neighborhood Association

To facilitate solid communication between all members of the Raccoon River Neighborhood Association, a new online group has been set up. This group allows members to post

messages to the group, email individual members, view photos and files, and check the group calendar. Joining the group is simple. Just email your name, phone number, address, and email address to raccoonriverneighbors@yahoo.com. The group moderator will then send you an invitation to the group and you will have full access. If you do

not have Internet access, please call Tom & Danielle Stull at 225.7861, and they will work out another way to keep you informed.

Currently, there are several items posted in the online group that will interest you, including PDFs of both Des Moines Register articles as well as notes from a recent meeting with a City Engineer. New files are being uploaded regularly.

Our hope is that as we all do research, we will post information to keep us all informed. If you have questions about using the online group, please contact Tom and Danielle. They'll do their best to help you. ☞

Do Your Part: Comment on the Comprehensive Plan

Send written comments to the following address:

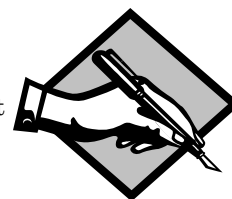
Comprehensive Plan Comments
Community Development Dept.
4200 Mills Civic Parkway
P.O. Box 65320
WDM, IA 50265-0320
Attn: Kara Tragesser or Naomi Hamlett

If the comprehensive plan is implemented as it is drafted, it will dras-

tically change the quality of life in our neighborhoods. Fortunately, the plan isn't finalized yet and you have a say. Do your part by submitting written comments about the plan.

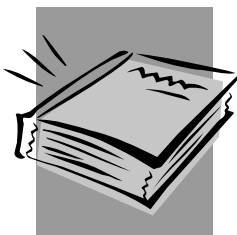
There is a formal process in place to accept these comments, and they are distributed to each member of the Plan & Zoning Commission. These comments become part of the public record. It's important for everyone with an opinion to share it.

If you have an opinion but aren't sure how to put it in words, contact the neighborhood association. The association has put together a template that gives you some ideas on how to structure your comments and address the Commission effectively. The template can be emailed to you or dropped off at your home. ☞



Read the Comprehensive Plan Online or in Hardcopy

If you have not read the West Des Moines comprehensive plan, you will want to because the changes proposed in the plan will affect your neighborhood. You can read the current draft of the plan online at <http://www.wdm-ia.com/>. The plan is at the top of the home page in the Community Highlight box.



partment so they become part of the public record.

There is also an online message board on which you can post your opinions. In addition to posting online comments, please send them in to the Community Development De-

If you do not have Internet access, you can call 222-3620 to request a copy of the plan. Copies are also available for viewing at the West Des Moines Public Library at 4000 Mills Civic Parkway.

There will be a 3'x4' color comprehensive plan map at the next neighborhood association meeting for you to view. ☞