



THE BELOIT REPORT

CONTINUING ITS RESURGENCE AS A GEM OF THE ROCK RIVER VALLEY

CURRENT EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

**September 7,
2012**

*A weekly publication
from the Office of the
City Manager*

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Special points of interest:

- **Community Events
(page 4)**

DEDICATION AND RIBBON CUTTING FOR NORTH RIVERSIDE PARK AND THE RENAMED KEN HENDRICKS MEMORIAL BRIDGE—TOMORROW!

Although it has taken an extraordinary effort and a lot of extra work hours, both the North Riverside Park and the bridge are close enough to completion to celebrate the construction of these significant “milestone” improvements within the City. Some work remains to finish the bridge, and that will be completed later with the contractor working under traffic with periodic lane closures. The bridge will be open following the ceremonies, which will be held on **Saturday, September 8, 2012 beginning at 10:00 a.m.**, on the east side of the bridge.

The ceremonies will mark the completion of the north Riverside Park improvements. The American Legion will be in attendance to rededicate the WW1 Veterans Memorial Plaque that was relocated as a part of the north park improvements. A representative from Beloit 2020 and Friends of RiverFront will then speak on the final completion of the twenty-year Riverside Park renovation and construction project. Following the park dedication, Hendricks family members and dignitaries will be unveiling a special plaque installed on the bridge commemorating Ken Hendricks' extraordinary accomplishments and contributions to the City of Beloit. Following the dedication, the final ribbon cutting will be held to open the newly renamed Ken Hendricks Memorial Bridge.

This will be an extraordinary event in the City's history, marking the final completion of the 20-year Riverside Park improvement program and, of course, reopening of the newly constructed bridge renamed to honor Ken Hendricks. Following the dedication ceremonies, the contractor will actually open the bridge for resumption of normal use.

Parking for the ceremonies will be in Riverside Park, the Eclipse Center, and Wooten Park (pedestrians will be able to walk across the bridge for the ceremony). Limited parking for family members and dignitaries will be available on Henry Avenue, just east of the bridge near the north end of the park.

RIBBON CUTTING AND TOUR FOR COMPLETION OF THE PUBLIC HOUSING RENOVATION AND RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

The last building to be completed as part of the City's two-year renovation of Public Housing Units is complete and tenants are occupying the space. This past week, we had an open house at the Parker Bluff Senior Housing building. A large number of residents and other interested persons walked through the facility. Once again, both

the interior and the exterior met the quality expectations, including energy efficiency, which has been a hallmark of this project from the start.

BUDGET PREPARATION UPDATE

Among a number of on-going activities this past week, the Budget Committee met and finalized work on the remaining operating funds. At this time, all of the funds in the City's 2013 proposed budget are in balance. Cuts made in 2012 carried over into the 2013 budget preparation process and made it possible for us to balance this proposed budget without resorting to any service or staff reductions. The Capital budget was sized to fit within the city's General Obligation Bond capacity so we will once again have a smaller but still significant infrastructure investment in 2013.

As completed, the proposed budget includes a small increase in the tax levy within the parameters of the State's levy limitation law; however, the tax rate will be slightly lower next year, which will have a positive impact on existing property owners. The City is reviewing its fees and charges, as we do every year; however, there are no increases in utility charges (if eligible, the City may apply for a small "cost of living" increase for the Water Utility later in 2013) included in the proposed budget at this time. The document represents one of the more "status quo" budgets that we have prepared in a number of years, keeping all services, programs and current staffing levels without any new taxes or major fee increases proposed.

Dates to note:

- **Monday, October 1, 2012**
7:00 p.m., City Hall Forum
The proposed budget will be presented to the City Council and the community at the regular City Council meeting.
- **Monday, October 8, 2012**
8:00 a.m., Beloit Public Library Community Room
Full day workshop with the City Council on the proposed budget. This workshop is open to the public
- **Monday, October 15, 2012**
7:00 p.m., City Hall Forum
Formal Public Hearing on the proposed budget in conjunction with the regular City Council meeting. Open to the public and residents are invited to speak.

The entire proposed budget document will be posted to the City's website with a link from the home page on **Wednesday, September 26, 2012 by 5:00 p.m.** The document is voluminous; however, interested residents will be able to review it on the website and/or download portions or all of the document at their discretion.

CITY CENTER COMMITTEE FOCUSES ON MARKETING FOR DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

The City Center Committee met this past Thursday and focused much of the meeting on marketing activities in support of Downtown Business Development. We had representatives in attendance from Beloit College's marketing group who have been conducting customer surveys within the City and the region, examining demographic patterns and shopping trends to better assist potential retailers and restaurateurs in making site selection decisions regarding Beloit's City Center locations.

ROCK RIVER CORRIDOR SIGN DEDICATION AT JOHN ROSE KAYAK AND CANOE LAUNCH

Next Wednesday evening, **September 12, 2012 beginning at 5:30 p.m.**, the Rock River Corridor Coalition will dedicate new sample signage that will be used up and down the river to facilitate its use by paddle craft. The ideal location for such a dedication ceremony of course, is the John Rose Kayak and Canoe Launch located right here in downtown Beloit. Once again, the group will assemble for the event at approximately 5:30 p.m. and the public is invited and encouraged to attend.

INMAN PARKWAY EXTENSION

We have prepared a letter, along with attachments related to the Inman Parkway Extension project and its importance to the City of Beloit, as well as residents living in the nearby Townships. A copy of the correspondence (minus the map) is [attached](#) to this edition of the Beloit Report for your information and use. The Rock County Highway Committee will be meeting next Wednesday morning to consider a recommendation to the full County Board. City officials will be in attendance at that meeting, as well as the County Board meeting on which this item will be presented for decision, currently scheduled for Thursday, September 27.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Beloit welcomes another new corporate citizen. We were very pleased this week to see the announcement from "Comply 365" a new software company that has leased 4,000 sq. ft. of space within the Iron Works campus. This is a newer, high technology company with a high growth business plan. Once again, welcome Comply 365 to the beautiful City of Beloit.

CITY MEETING CALENDAR SEPTEMBER 10–14, 2012

Monday, Sept. 10	4:30 p.m.	Appointment Review Committee , City Manager's Conf. Room (C. Haynes and M. Spreitzer)
Tuesday, Sept. 11	4:00 p.m.	Alcohol Beverage License Control Committee , Forum (K. Leavy)
Tuesday, Sept. 11	7:00 p.m.	Board of Appeals , Forum
Wed., Sept. 12	4:30 p.m.	Special Community Development Authority , Forum (K. Leavy and D. Luebke)
Wed., Sept. 12	6:30 p.m.	Park, Recreation & Conservation Advisory Comm. , DPW Operations Center (S. De Forest)

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

This is just a sample of events coming up in Beloit. A more complete listing is available on the Visit Beloit website:
www.visitbeloit.com

Beloit Public Library offers many events for youth, teens and adults. Please click [here](#) for more information.

Saturdays throughout the summer offer an opportunity to attend the **Farmers Market**, at the intersection of State and Grand, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Sept. 7–9

Heritage Days. Please see [attached](#) for more information.

Friday, Sept. 7 7:00 p.m.

Music and More. Harry Moore Pavilion at Riverside Park. Free concert, food available for purchase. "The Crown Vics" present 1950's Rock and Roll.

Saturday, Sept. 8 10:00 a.m.

Dedication Ceremonies at the Henry Avenue Bridge. Please see [attached](#) invitation for further details.



City of
BELOIT, Wisconsin

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Equal Opportunity Employer

September 6, 2012

Mr. J. Russell Podzilni, Chair
Rock County Board of Supervisors
51 South Main St.
Beloit, WI 53511

RE: INMAN PARKWAY EXTENSION

Dear Russ:

As you know, planning for the Inman Parkway Extension has focused on designing a lettered county road, which would link County Road S (Shopiere) and County Road G (Prairie Avenue) north of the City. The project was originally intended to create this rural connector for the purpose of diverting much heavy truck traffic off city streets that pass through existing residential neighborhoods. As a side benefit, access to Beloit Memorial Hospital, the North Prairie Avenue commercial district and the Town of Beloit's Business Park would all be improved if the linkage were built as originally designed.

At the time planning for the project began, the County Materials complex had not yet been built, nor had the interstate highway reconstruction project been approved. Both of these recent developments will result in a substantial increase in heavy truck traffic in this area. Further, the Inman Parkway extension would provide much needed access for local traffic within the Greater Beloit Area during the Interstate 43 interchange reconstruction, which is anticipated to be a two-year process. These two projects alone underscore the significance of building the Inman Parkway linkage, and explain why the State Department of Transportation has recently elevated the priority for moving this project to construction.

While the matter has received numerous approvals from the County Board, recent opposition to the project primarily orchestrated by the Town of Turtle Board has created questions and resulted in a more thorough evaluation of other options and alternatives to the original proposed alignment. After evaluating all of these alternatives, the Beloit City Council adopted the attached resolution at their regular meeting on August 20, 2012, unanimously supporting the original concept to extend Inman Parkway. This resolution was adopted because the proposed alignment is, by far, the superior alternative for this project for the following reasons:

1. The purpose for building this link is to create better and more direct access to the Interstate highway for residents and businesses in this area of Beloit, along with the Towns of Beloit and Turtle. Town of Turtle residents living along Murphy Woods Road have been particularly vocal about their opposition to traffic using that small rural street as a cut through between Prairie Avenue and Shopiere Road. The construction of Inman Parkway as originally proposed would do much to relieve that traffic as residents, businesses and truck drivers use the new and more conveniently aligned Inman Parkway extension. As previously noted, heavy truck traffic would use this route, thereby diverting much of this traffic off of Prairie Avenue and Cranston Road, which pass through existing City residential neighborhoods.
2. An alternative suggested to build a linkage running north to Philhower Road would provide minimal relief for the heavy traffic and would likely result in the construction of a "road to nowhere." In addition, almost as much land would be required for right-of-way, including the possibility of taking residences in order to facilitate construction along this much more expensive route.
3. The "no build" option, which continues to utilize Beloit City streets for heavy truck traffic is also an unacceptable choice. The unusually long and large loads that will be generated by County Materials plus all of the construction related traffic required to support the Interstate reconstruction, should not be passing through City residential neighborhoods. Further, the ability to use the new linkage as a local traffic alternate during the I-43 Interchange construction would be lost.

Much of the Town of Turtle's opposition to this project centers around their fear that the City of Beloit is supporting construction of the road as a subterfuge to annex more Township property. This argument persists despite the existence of a Boundary Agreement between the City of Beloit and the Town of Turtle, which precludes annexation in this area of the Town. This Boundary Agreement is in effect for at least another nine years into the future. The attached Figure 3, taken directly from the Boundary Agreement, illustrates in color the boundary adjustment area for the City of Beloit. The entire area north of the City's current limits and east of the Prairie Avenue Business District is outside the Boundary Adjustment Area and the City has **NO** legal ability to annex any properties in that vicinity without the direct concurrence of the Town of Turtle governing board. Further, the design plans for this road call for a rural cross section with no water or sewer utilities installed as part of the project. Design engineers affirmed at a recent public meeting that access to the roadway will be limited, minimizing curb cuts and the availability of this road to be used for development purposes.

As noted previously and reiterated in this correspondence, there is a need to build this roadway at this particular time. Earlier decisions by the County Board to support this project were correct. Despite opposition, which often accompanies any anticipated infrastructure improvement, a final vote in the affirmative to proceed would be the best decision for improving access and safety for the motoring public while protecting the interest of residents in the City of Beloit as well as the adjacent Township areas.

J. Russell Podzilni, Chair
September 6, 2012
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As always, if you have questions or if the City can be of any assistance with regard to this matter, do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Larry N. Arft
City Manager

LNA:pl
Enc.

C: Rock County Board of Supervisors
Craig Knutson, County Administrator
Ben Coopman, Jr., County Director of Public Works
C. Haynes, City Council President
Beloit City Councilors
Roger Anclam, Town of Turtle Board Chair
Rob Pavlik, Town of Beloit Board Chair
Brian Wilson, Town of Beloit Administrator
Greg Britton, President, Beloit Health Systems
Mike Flesch, Beloit City Engineer
Kent Woller, Site Manager, County Materials Corp.
Bob Kennedy, Rock Road Companies, Inc.

FILE# 8558

AUG 20 2012

CITY OF БЕЛОIT
CITY CLERK

**RESOLUTION
SUPPORTING THE CONSTRUCTION OF
INMAN PARKWAY EXTENSION ALTERNATIVE
FOR THE CTH G CONNECTOR**

WHEREAS, this project will connect CTH G to CTH S and provides improved interstate access to the northeast side of the City, and;

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin would like to use the CTH G Connector and CTH G as an alternate route for I39/90 during and after the I39/90 reconstruction, and

WHEREAS, Rock County and the State of Wisconsin are the lead agencies for this project and the Rock County Board will be selecting a preferred route from three alternatives at a meeting in September and;

WHEREAS, the No Build alternative would use existing routes and would not remove traffic from local streets or improve interstate access and is not desirable to the City, and,

WHEREAS, Alternative 2 would improve Philhower Road and add a new connection to CTH S, re-directs traffic too far north from the Prairie Avenue Business Corridor to be beneficial to the City and is not desirable, and

WHEREAS, Alternatives 1A-1D (Inman Parkway Extension) closely follows the corridors officially mapped by the city in 1970(Prairie Ave to Creek Road) and 2004(Creek Road to Shopiere Road), and,


WHEREAS, Alternatives 1A – 1D provides the most direct linkage between CTH G and CTH S with apparent significant benefits to the City of Beloit's northeast business corridor, and,

WHEREAS, the existing intergovernmental agreement between Rock County and the City of Beloit for this connector project that has the city paying one third the local share of the improvement costs was based on an Inman Parkway Extension, and,

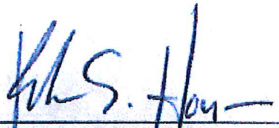
IT IS RESOLVED, that the City of Beloit's preferred alternative is 1A-1D Inman Parkway extension.

Dated at Beloit, Wisconsin this 20th day of August, 2012.

City Council of the City of Beloit


Charles M. Haynes, President

ATTEST:


Rebecca S. Houseman, City Clerk