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City Administrator Report to Mayor & City Council

April 29, 2011, Edition No. 3

Report Overview

1. Golf Course
2. ATE
3. Meetings
4. Bridge Lighting

Report

1. Golf Course: Thought you might find the following informative. Use of Pre-emergent for crabgrass - We are having unseasonably cool and wet weather this spring which is causing some concern about growing grass on our tee boxes and getting last years damage repaired. Any damage (divots) that incurred late last fall and early this spring before the turf was actively growing and repairing itself is still out there. Typically in late April we would put our pre-emergent down for our crabgrass control for the year. We have elected not to put this product on selected areas and tee boxes in exchange for an extended window to try and grow new grass in these areas. The way our pre-emergent (Dimension) works is: the material is applied in a granular form, it breaks down and the herbicide hangs out in the area between the soil and the thatch layer and lasts from 6 to 16 weeks. When new seedlings germinate they produce a grass blade that then protrudes up through the soil and photosynthesis starts to take place to produce food for the plant. Our pre-emergent then is absorbed by the plant and inhibits cells from splitting which the plant must do in order to survive, it does not inhibit cell growth within the plant which causes it to use up all of its energy then it dies off. This is an effective product against crabgrass as well as any new grass seed that we are trying to grow. We know that we are going to get some crabgrass germinating in some areas where the turf is not thick and healthy, but we have a plan in place to do some post emergent control to kill these plants off.
2. ATE: Park & Washington ATE camera should be operational on May 2nd. April 29, 2011 –The survey was completed at Park & Washington and an on site meeting was held at the intersection Wednesday. In attendance was Asst Chief Sargent, Matt the surveyor from Martin & Whitacre, Harold and Mark Loos the landowners, and Andrew Noble and Rich Kosina from Gatso USA. The survey found there is sufficient room to install the camera pole base within the State ROW. Markings were painted on the pavement and construction will begin this coming Monday.
3. RLC technology training was provided to MPD staff early Wednesday morning. A check to ensure all signage was installed around the City and a photo report is being complied and will be delivered to the City.
4. Meetings: 2011 Iowa Employment Law Conference, Iowa League of Cities Mid-Size City Meeting,
5. Bridge Lighting: Musco (and MPW) crews will be working on the bridge lighting (wiring and fixtures) during the weeks of May 16 and 23. Musco has taken the lead in preparing a plan to address the current issues (repeaters, conduit, and expansion joints) and will coordinate equipment and traffic control with MPW.
6. Articles: Here are some articles on the property tax bills:
 - a. http://www.amestrib.com/articles/2011/05/01/ames_tribune/news/doc4dbcd

"I remember Muscatine for its sunsets. I have never seen any on either side of the ocean that equaled them" — Mark Twain

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- b. <http://statehousenewsonline.com/2011/04/27/cities-fear-revenue-loss-from-property-tax-plan-in-iowa/>
- c. <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9MS5Q380.htm>