

# Accelerating Towards Summer

Even though the weather did not always reflect it we are heading towards summer fun! School wraps up in about a month, outside activities for are ramping up, and everything is starting to bloom. We have a busy May with our oldest graduating high school. I look forward to seeing the senior banners in the downtown area over the next couple of weeks. Now let's get you caught up on the month.

First off council continued working on the budget for next fiscal year. Council shaved nearly \$24K off the originally submitted budget and worked through the new formula the state provided for the levy. A public hearing was held this past meeting and council then adopted the levy for FY24.

Second, staff presented new chipping rules and process for this year. Chipping is now every other Tuesday lining up with recycling week. This program is not designed for tree removal. The purpose is to clean up small tree trimmings and small fallen debris. As a reminder, the next limb pickup will be Tuesday May 2nd.

Below are the updated guidelines:

- Piles must not exceed 3' wide x 3' high x 8' long
- Limbs must need exceed 2" in diameter
- Piles must be placed in a neat pile for easy pickup
- One limb pile per house, per bi-weekly pickup
- No root balls allowed

Third, another workshop was held to continue working on the 1st Phase of the Old Town District. This includes infrastructure updates to a portion of Main Street and Traer. The Krobs were on hand to discuss their development project on the north end of property. The goal is to put the first phase out to bid later this year. This project is on the council's agenda for the meeting on May 1st.

Lastly, council discussed updating the 2 mile fringe area plan between Linn County and the City. This has not been updated in quite a few years, and by agreeing on the future use of these areas, it allows for more purposeful growth and expected use in the future. Staff will be working with the county throughout the year to get this completed and will keep council updated.

Thanks for taking the time to get caught up. As always, please reach out to myself, a council member or staff if you have any questions or concerns. We'd love to hear from you on how we can continue to improve our community!

Until next time.

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