

CITY OF HOWELL

MEDIA RELEASE

2008 HOWELL CHARRETTE SEEKS COMMUNITY INPUT

NEIGHBORHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
& FORM-BASED CODE INITIATIVE

The City of Howell is embarking on an exciting three year plan for infrastructure improvements throughout the City. The plan, beginning in July, 2009, includes reconstruction of approximately 11 miles of the City's 36 miles of streets, replacement of aging water and sewer lines, and storm sewer improvements. The condition of infrastructure is an important element that can significantly impact the long-term economic strength of a community and the value of its residential and commercial properties. Many of the streets included in the program have not undergone any significant rehabilitation within the last twenty years

As part of the infrastructure improvement program, the City is also examining a new type of zoning ordinance called a form-based code. Using a form-based code will ensure that our infrastructure improvements and our planning, zoning, and building codes support the community's vision of what our streets, neighborhoods, and downtown should look and feel like.

Design of the infrastructure improvement program and form-based code initiative will kick-off with a community wide charrette. A charrette is a collaborative planning process in which interested parties, residents, businesses, and community organizations, take part in the design process. The 2008 Howell Charrette will begin with a public work session on Monday, September 29th at 6:00 p.m. at the Howell High School auditorium. This public session will include a presentation on the infrastructure improvement project and form-base code initiative; a review of the components of street design, walkability, and best practices in form based codes; followed by breakout sessions based upon specific neighborhood areas.

On Tuesday, September 30th, design consultants from Glatting Jackson & HRC, along with City staff, will conduct site visits and walkabouts of the areas to be reconstructed. These site visits will provide another opportunity for residents and businesses to offer input into the design process. Glatting Jackson will also set-up a charrette room in the City with drop-in hours at which residents and other stakeholders unable to attend the public presentation can offer input.

Consultants and staff will review all input from residents, businesses and other stakeholders and incorporate it into the design process. The 2008 Howell Charrette will conclude with the presentation of the final street design scheduled for Thursday, October 9th, at 6:00 p.m. at the Howell High School auditorium.

Don't miss this opportunity for input into the design of your streets and your community. Your contributions are critical. Please plan to attend the 2008 Howell Charrette on Monday, September 29th at the Howell High School auditorium.

For additional information, contact the City of Howell at (517) 546-3502 or visit our 2008 Howell Charrette website: www.howellstreets.org.