

# The Front Line

For and About the City of Des Moines Employees



Volume 6—Fourth Quarter - October –December 2004

Amelia Hamilton-Morris, Editor

## City of Des Moines Mission Statement

*To provide and maintain essential services that meet the collective basic needs of the citizens of Des Moines and to identify and seize opportunities for a higher quality of life.*



### THIS ISSUE

Increased Funding =  
Improved Streets

Air Traffic Control  
State-of-the-Art

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High Tech !

## City Employee Rory Freeman stars in “Survivor” TV Show

By: Amelia Hamilton-Morris



Rory Freeman and son Zion

Iowa's first contestant in the CBS TV reality show “Survivor” is City of Des Moines employee

Rory Freeman. Freeman is a Section 8 Housing Case Manager in the Des Moines Municipal Housing Agency.

Freeman came to work for the city in March 2004 with the understanding that he would take a leave of absence

without pay for some special event that he could not discuss.

To the surprise of all of Des Moines, on August 17th Rory was announced as a candidate on the CBS TV reality show “Survivor: Vanuatu Islands of Fire.”

According to the CBS Survivor website, a total of 18 new castaways will compete in separate tribes of men versus women on "Survivor: Vanuatu – Islands of Fire," the ninth installment of the hit TV series, which premiered on CBS, Thursday, Sep-

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## City to Host Another National Soccer Championship

After successful regional soccer championships in 2003, another national event is coming to Des Moines. The United States Youth Soccer Association (US Youth Soccer) has selected our city to host the 2006 US Youth Soccer National Championships. “One of the major factors in securing this event was the quality of the James W. Cownie Soccer Complex,” said Donald M. Tripp, City of Des Moines Park and Recreation Director. “Mr. Jim Cownie partnered with the City of Des Moines, Polk County, and businesses in this community to help build one of the finest soccer



facilities in the country. The award of this national bid reinforces what has been done for this community,” Tripp added.

The Park and Recreation Department teamed up with the Greater Des Moines

*(Continued on page 3)*

**WRF Fall 2004 Sludge-Stroke Open  
Friday Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>**

**4-Person Best Shot**

Shotgun Start @ 9:00am

*Terrace Hill Golf Course, Altoona*

Cash Prizes for 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup> and 3<sup>RD</sup> Place Finishes, Longest Drives, Longest Putts and Closest to the Hole on Front and Back Nine. Additional Prizes to be announced at a later date

Entry Fee- \$50.00/person includes: 18 Holes & ½ Cart, (4) Beer Tickets per Player, Cash Bar Available, Lunch to follow including All You Can Eat Beef Burgers with 2-Sides

Deadline for entry/payment Oct. 1st, 2004 no exceptions

**144 Participants Maximum -  
So Make Your Reservations Today!**

Name:           Tel:   Company:   Golf

1.

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2.

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3.

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4.

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**Please return or mail entry forms to  
Bill Miller or Jim Zahn  
and make checks payable to:**

EAC GOLF

C/O WRF

3000 Vandalia Rd.

Des Moines, Ia. 50317

Tel: 515-323-8046 or 515-323-8038

Fax: 515-323-8052

E-mail: [BCMILLER@DMGOV.ORG](mailto:BCMILLER@DMGOV.ORG)

or [JDZAHN@DMGOV.ORG](mailto:JDZAHN@DMGOV.ORG)

Questions please contact Bill Miller or Jim Zahn at the corresponding phone numbers above.



Back Row: Lea "Sarge" Masters, Brook Geraghty, Leann Slaby, Mia Galeotalanza and John Kenney. Middle row: Travis Sampson, Ami Cusack, John Palyok, Dolly Neely, Scout Cloud Lee, Rory Freeman, Chad Crittenden and Julie Berry. Front row: Eliza Orlins, Brady Finta, Chris Daugherty, Twila Tanner and Lisa Keiffer. Photo courtesy of CBS.

*(Continued from page 1)*

tember 16, CBS. "Survivor: Vanuatu – Islands of Fire" takes place on the islands of Vanuatu, located in the remote waters of the South Pacific near the tumultuous "Ring Of Fire," a land of volcanoes and rituals where sorcery and black magic are a part of tribal life and the spirits of the dead are believed to have power over the living.

More than 80 islands are home to more than 100 languages and a diverse group of tribes and clans whose history includes cannibalism. The team colors are yellow for Yasur (the women) and red for Lopevi (the men).

Freeman says he cannot discuss anything about the program until after the winner of the episode is announced which approximately 14 weeks premiere. What we do know is Rory Freeman was born in Des Moines, Iowa, on October 30, 1968. He has three brothers, Richard, James and Olabanji (OJ), and one sister, Dahomey. Freeman lives with his wife of six years, Simone, their three-year-old son, Zion, and their two dogs. They are members of Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church.

He attended boarding school in Connecticut before graduating from Washington High School in Kansas City. He went on to attend Georgetown University School of Foreign Services, where he studied African govern-

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Public Works Video Helps Educate

By: Amelia Hamilton Morris

In January of 2004, Public Works Director, Bill Stowe authorized formation of a leadership committee to explore ways to provide more competitive solid waste services relative to price, service and customer satisfaction. City staff were joined on the committee by neighborhood leaders Brian Millard, Becky Morelock, Bill Scott and Betty Volm. The customer feedback provided by Brian, Becky, Bill and Betty has helped to improve the effectiveness the Public Works department's public information programs. In particular, the residents stressed the need for a short video to both educate residents on recycling and to encourage them to do it.

A Public Works team consisting of Barb Rodgers, Lee Boisen and Pat Kozitza worked with the Public Information Office to develop a script and hire a video crew to shoot the program. Instead of hiring an actor the team choose to



use Public Works Employee Chris Brookhart, Sr. Refuse Collector as the personality in the video with a message from Public Works Director Bill Stowe at the end of the program.

Chris did an outstanding job in both acting and revising the script for a more realistic tone. The final video is three and half minutes long and explains how the city's recycling lowers cost, helps the environment and saves landfill space. It also offers helpful tips on how to correctly pack a recycle bin.

The video is running on the city cable channel DMTV-7 and it has been distributed to neighborhood associations and other community groups. A 30 second PSA was also created and is scheduled to run across the MediaCom Cable System and is being made available to all local television stations.

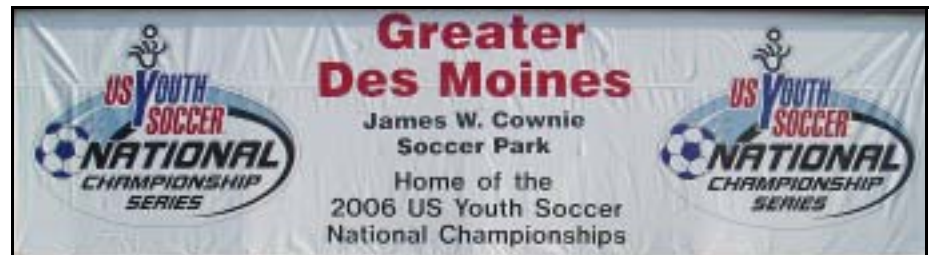


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Convention and Visitors Bureau, Iowa Soccer Association and the local soccer community to win the bid for this event to Des Moines. More than 3,000 athletes and fans are expected during the weeklong championships at the James W. Cownie Soccer Complex in Des Moines. The event is anticipated to generate over 4,000 room nights, and have an estimated economic impact of nearly \$2.5 million.

David Messersmith, president of US Youth Soccer said, "The US Youth Soccer National Championships are the crown jewel of our sport and we look forward to being in the great city and with the great people of Des Moines in 2006."

The US Youth Soccer National Championships **will bring in teams and media from across the entire nation.** Approximately 1,000 players representing 48 teams participate in the US Youth Soccer National Championships. The 48 teams advance to the national championships by winning their regional tournament in their respective age divisions. The age divisions range from under-14 to under-19



for both boys and girls. Nearly 130,000 players and over 7,000 teams vie for the opportunity to participate in the national championships.

As is becoming the norm for bidding on sporting events, Des Moines faced strong competition from larger, first-tier cities. Other cities competing for the 2006 US Youth Soccer National Championships included Portland, Oregon; Frisco/Dallas, Texas; St. Charles/Chicago, Illinois; and Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The popularity of youth soccer in the state of Iowa was another positive angle used to bring the US Youth Soccer National Championships to the capital city. In Iowa, there are over 36,000 youth soccer participants, one of the highest per capita participation states in the U.S.

"I believe the award of this

bid is just another step in the journey to elevate the sport not only in Iowa but in the Midwest. This event, albeit the most prestigious thus far, is meant to be another building block in our journey. By securing this nationally recognized soccer championship - the only one of its kind in the United States - we will continue the journey for future generations of youth soccer players," said Tim Pearson, president of the Iowa Soccer Association.



# Des Moines Public Library



## New Central Library Update from the Director

Construction of the building shell is progressing from east to west. Foundation walls are complete. The slab on grade has been placed in the entire lower level, as well as the underground parking. The elevated slab for level one has been placed on the east and south wings and at the main entry and foyer areas. Columns and shafts are being formed from level one to level two and form work for the second level structure is now underway. Backfilling of the foundation walls has begun on the east and south sides of the building. Air handling units have been lowered into the basement area to be placed in the mechanical rooms.

The Master Project Schedule has been finalized and it indicates a completion of January 2006. The projected opening date is April 2006.

## Celebrate Your Freedom to Read

Banned Books Week 2004 is from [September 25 through October 2](#) and this year is the twenty-third annual celebration of the freedom to read. This freedom, not only to choose what we read, but to select from a full array of possibilities, is firmly rooted in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees freedom of speech and freedom of press. As we revel in the increasing quantity and availability of information and reading material, we must ensure that access to this material is also preserved. This is the third year that the library has partnered with the Iowa Civil Liberties Union in observing Banned Books

Week,

On Monday, Sept. 27, from 7:00 to 8:00 PM the Forest Ave. Library will host Skywalker Payne's introductory discussion of the book, *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan. The Friends of the Franklin Library will discuss the classic banned book, *The Scarlet Letter* on Tuesday, Sept. 28 at 2:00 PM. North Library will be the site for a Liberty Circle discussion on the First Amendment and freedom to read, on Thursday, September 30 from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. Liberty Circles are democratic conversations intended to engage people in thoughtful, vigorous exchanges of perspectives about their Constitutional rights. All events are free and open to the public.

## Author Kashmira Sheth Discusses Her Award-Winning First Novel

Author Kashmira Sheth has written a wonderful story of an Indian girl who moved with her family to Iowa City where her father taught at the university. Her award-winning book, *Blue Jasmine*, describes the twelve-year-old's experiences as she tries to fit into a new culture while longing for her beloved home in India. Sheth will give a program and sign books at the Franklin Avenue Library on September 25 at 2:00 PM. Books will be available for sale with 20% of the proceeds going to the Friends of the Franklin Avenue Library.

## Visit by "All Iowa Reads" Author Elizabeth McCracken

Franklin Avenue Library will host Elizabeth McCracken, author of this year's All Iowa Reads book, *Niagara Falls All Over Again*, on

Thursday, October 7 at 2:00 PM. Selected as the 2004 All Iowa Reads book, *Niagara Falls All Over Again*,

is an elegant and uniquely American novel, storytelling at its finest - and powerful proof that Elizabeth McCracken is one of the most dynamic and wholly original voices of her generation.

## A Really Big Show for Toddlers!

Families with children 2-4 years old are invited to join in the fun of literacy-enriching activities featured at a toddler festival this fall.

Saturday, Sept. 25, 2004  
10:00 AM to Noon

State Historical Building, 600 East Locust Street, Des Moines

Plenty of parent-child interactive, literacy-enriching activities to enjoy with your toddler, including storytelling, puppets, hands-on crafts, and more. If you have a toddler or you care for a toddler, plan to attend this fun, FREE event sponsored by: Friends of the Clive Public Library, Bobcat Company, Capital City Equipment, Child Care Resource and Referral of Central Iowa, Junior League of Des Moines, Metro Libraries - Altoona Public Library, Bondurant Public Library, Clive Public Library, Des Moines Public Library, Grimes Public Library, Johnston Public Library, Pleasant Hill Public Library, Urbandale Public Library, Waukee Public Library, and West Des Moines Public Library, Polk County Empowerment, State Historical Society of Iowa, and United Way.

(Continued from page 2)—SURVIVOR

ment and history. He left college before graduation in order to accept a position as a television reporter for the Nigerian Television Authority. He remained in Nigeria for 18 months prior to returning to the U.S. to work for an inner-city social service agency back in Des Moines. He remained there for seven years as a counselor specializing in substance abuse, mental health evaluations and drug testing. Most of his professional career has been spent working in adult and adolescent corrections and detention centers. .

Freeman's hobbies include reading, golf, hiking, camping, traveling and attending professional sporting events (he's a huge fan of the Kansas City Chiefs). He collects Negro League Baseball memorabilia and jerseys. He enjoys reggae, Afro-Caribbean, hip-hop and gospel music.



## Sewer Division Goes High Tech !

By Pat Kozitza and Kim Piper

On August 25<sup>th</sup> the sewer cleaning division introduced the use of laptop computers, and those involved received training on how to use them. The Sewer Cleaning Equipment Operators previously used large, bulky plat books that detailed the city's sewer systems. The plat books did not lend themselves to field work.

The laptop computers contain all of the details of the city's sanitary and storm sewer systems. The Operators now simply have to enter a location and all required information will appear on the screen. This will enable the Operators to do their job more efficiently and in less time.

Eventually the computers will be used in conjunction with the Sewer Infrastructure Management System (SIMS) database, which the division is in the



Sewer Operations Administrator, Jay Bennett, assisted by Crew Chief, Ed Jacobe, (standing), train the sewer cleaning equipment operators on how to use their new laptop computers. The operators are; clockwise from bottom left, Chuck Burrell, Randy Schooley, Tony Pirillo, Dave Melling, Tim Tyler, Ron Sowden, and Jim Milligan

process of building. Once the entire system is operational, the construction division will also be using laptop computers on each crew. This will give the Public Works Department the capability of sending work orders electronically to crews in the field.

## National Public Works Week

By Pat Kozitza

On the agenda for May 17, 2004, was a Proclamation declaring May 16 through May 22, 2004, as National Public Works Week. The American Public Works Association celebrates National Public Works Week annually to highlight the essential nature of infrastructure maintenance in our communities. The mission of the City of Des Moines Public Works Department is to "protect the public's safety, health and waterways." The Proclamation read as follows:



Left to right: Michael J Stroud, Sewer Maintenance Worker, Public Works Sewer Maintenance; Councilman Bob Mahaffey; Ronald E Hudnall, Senior Refuse Collector, Public Works Solid Waste Collection; Mayor Frank Cownie; Roxanne L Sikes, Street Maintenance Worker, Public Works Street Maintenance; Keith A Warne, Tree Trimmer, Forestry; Phuong C Nguyen, Fleet Services Service Person, Public Works Garage Administration

WHEREAS PUBLIC WORKS SERVICES PROVIDED IN OUR COMMUNITY ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR CITIZENS' EVERYDAY LIVES; AND,

WHEREAS, THE SUPPORT OF AN UNDERSTANDING AND INFORMED CITIZENRY IS VITAL TO THE EFFICIENT OPERATION OF THE PUBLIC WORKS SYSTEM AND PROGRAMS SUCH AS WATER, SEWERS, STREETS AND HIGHWAYS, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, AND SOLID WASTE COLLECTION; AND,

WHEREAS, THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND COMFORT OF THIS COMMUNITY GREATLY DEPENDS ON THESE FACILITIES AND SERVICES; AND,

WHEREAS, THE QUALITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THESE FACILITIES, AS WELL AS THEIR PLANNING, DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCTION, IS VITALLY DEPENDENT UPON THE EFFORTS AND SKILL OF PUBLIC WORKS OFFICIALS; AND,

WHEREAS, THE EFFICIENCY OF THE QUALIFIED AND DEDICATED PERSONNEL WHO STAFF PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENTS IS MATERIALLY INFLUENCED BY THE PEOPLE'S ATTITUDE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WORK THEY PERFORM.

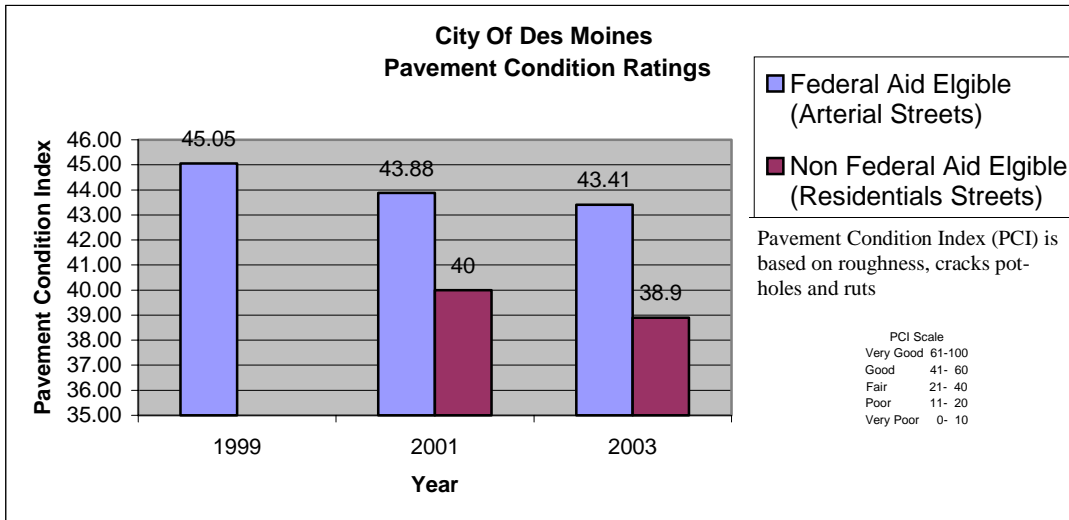
NOW, THEREFORE, I, T. M. FRANKLIN COWNIE, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF DES MOINES, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE WEEK OF MAY 16-22, 2004, AS: "NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK"

# Increased Funding = Improved Streets

By: Bill Stowe and Jeb Brewer

The Public Works and Engineering Department's street maintenance strategy is to perform preventative maintenance in order to protect the City's substantial investment in its roadways and to improve overall riding surface for motorists. Failure to perform timely preventative maintenance on roadways has resulted, at times, in unpleasant riding experiences for Des Moines' drivers and the need for more costly replacement.

Many of Des Moines' streets have reached or exceeded their design life as many are approaching 100 years of age. For this reason, many of the City's streets require major rehabilitation within the next decade. The Public Works Department monitors the condition of the City's 900+ miles of streets. Biannual pavement condition indexes (PCI) have revealed continued deterioration despite current funding levels as shown below:



The addition of the funding expected from the City's share of gambling and franchise fee revenues will enable the City to perform needed resurfacing of streets over the next two years in addition to the currently funded programs. This resurfacing will help curb the current

downward trend of street infrastructure deterioration thereby improving the City's overall street pavement condition.

Over the long run, timely maintenance of existing infrastructure is the most cost-effective means of extending useful design life, encouraging pride in the City, promoting neighborhood stabilization, and overall economic development.

# Airport Employs State-of-the-Art Control System

By: Gary Hagan

The Des Moines International Airport is one of a select group of airports across the country chosen to implement the new Standard Terminal Automation Replacement System (STARS). Karan Bhatia, Asst. Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs for the U.S. Department of Transportation, came to Des Moines for the unveiling of the new system at a press conference on June 22. Bhatia said, "With this sophisticated software, technology has given air traffic controllers information on aircraft and weather at the touch of a keyboard!" Another feature of the system is its backup capability that keeps operating even if there's a malfunction in one part of



Karan Bhatia, Asst. Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs for the U.S. Department of Transportation at Press Conference in Des Moines

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STARS system at Air Traffic Control Tower at the Des Moines International Airport.

the operation. The system can also help with security. For instance, it can map out the limits of restricted air space such as the recent presidential visits on Air Force One. Bhatia said Des Moines was one of the first 20 airports selected because of its mix of aircraft—passenger planes, private planes, cargo and military jets. Also, the sharp increase in air traffic here warrants attention.

This \$2.1 million air traffic control system is the centerpiece of the Bush administration's plan to upgrade control equipment that dates back to the late 60's. It promises to reduce delays and increase safety at the airport.

"In air traffic control, we just went from propellers to jets with this system," said Ed Carroll, Asst. Air Traffic Manager for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) at the airport. Aviation Director, Bob Hagener, agreed that the system is quite an improvement over the 60's version. "The system, that has been in use since March of this year, enhances radar information so controllers can take data from up to 16 radar systems and combine them to develop a more accurate picture of sky activity, quickly projecting an aircraft's path and arrival time." said Hagener. "The digital color radar provides more detailed weather information to help route planes around storms."

Altogether, the joint FAA and Department of Defense program will upgrade air traffic control at more than 300 civilian and military facilities nationwide within the next seven years at a cost of \$1.7 billion. Des Moines is fortunate to be on the cutting edge of this system employment and it will reap many dividends for the airport and central Iowa travelers.

## Service Plus

Recognition of the  
extra effort given by  
City Employees.



August 21, 2004

Dear Action Center:

Just a note to thank you for all your help over the years. You have really made our life easier. For 52 years we lived at 4020 Second Avenue. Our garage was off of the alley. When we were knee deep in mud in the alley, you helped. When bushes and trees blocked the alley, you helped. When there was problems with a neighbor, you helped (which turned out to be a meth lab—much to our surprise)

There were so many other things. We just wanted you to know how much you were appreciated. We have now moved to West Des Moines for retirement. Thanks again and God bless you.

Hugh and Donna Woody

Cc: City Council

# Rededication of Iowa Tuskegee Airmen Memorial

By Gary Hagan



On Saturday, July 24 at 2:00 p.m., many dignitaries, key military personnel, and distinguished guests were proud to be in the company of four of the original Tuskegee Airmen as the memorial commemorating their valiant service was rededicated at the Air National Guard at the Des Moines International Airport. The fiberglass shell of the P-51D Mustang with its classic "Red Tail", symbolic of the courageous fighter unit, is a monument of valor to these black



Atty. William Morris, Ft. Des Moines Memorial Park Board member, accepts plaque from the Tuskegee Airmen on behalf of his brother and the Park founder, Robert V. Morris .

airmen that played an integral part in strategic air missions and flying support for crucial military recognizance during World War II. During a period shackled with unwarranted racism, the story of these brave heroes is significant in the right that they were fighting two wars at the same time—the enemy abroad and racism at home.

The original dedication took place on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2002, but the monument



Congressman Leonard Boswell

hadn't been erected at that time. The ceremony was in conjunction with the ceremonies for the opening of the Fort Des Moines Memorial Park and Education Center. Some of the planned agenda was rearranged as a rainy forecast brought the festivities inside. Lt. General Russell C. Davis and Congressman Leonard Boswell spoke

on the significance of the unit's role in the war and to the impetus they provided in changing mindsets in the United States Military. Scholarship candidates were introduced and Captain Luther Smith had the audience mesmerized with his anecdotal speech of the airmen's experiences.



Captain Luther Smith



## Front Line

 <p>Amelia Hamilton-Morris <b>Editor</b></p>	 <p>Lorna Davros <b>Copy Editor</b></p>
<b>Staff Writers</b>	
Aviation City Clerk Community Dev. Engineering Fire Human Resources Information Technology Legal Department Library Parks Police Public Works	Gary Hagan Karen Herzberg Deb Atkins Jeb E. Brewer Brian O'Keefe Michele Bischof Connie Ashby Susan Low Jan Kaiser Trudy Webb Tony Steverson Pat Kozitza
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