

City of Ames

- February Project Highlights -

2017



Airport Terminal Construction

Fire **Suppression**

- Fire crews participated in several events this past month, including a mock drill at the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service complex, the Edwards School's Read-a-Thon Celebration held for over 250 students who had achieved their goals for reading, and lastly discussed fire safety with 20 children at the Vet Med Child care center.
- As part of a previous year's Capital Improvement Project, a new roof installation is near completion at Fire Station 2 in Campustown.

Inspections

- The dilapidated home that sat vacant at 4004 Phoenix for several years was demolished on December 20, 2016! Just ten days after demolition, the Inspection Division approved the footing inspection, and shortly after the foundation and plumbing ground work inspections were approved. Inspections is optimistic that the final outcome will be a drastic improvement for the neighborhood, and City as well.
- Inspections received requests for six new single family homes and a few interior remodel projects, and Inspections' Building and Zoning Inspector successfully passed the International Code Council examination for the Residential Building Inspector certification.

Public Works

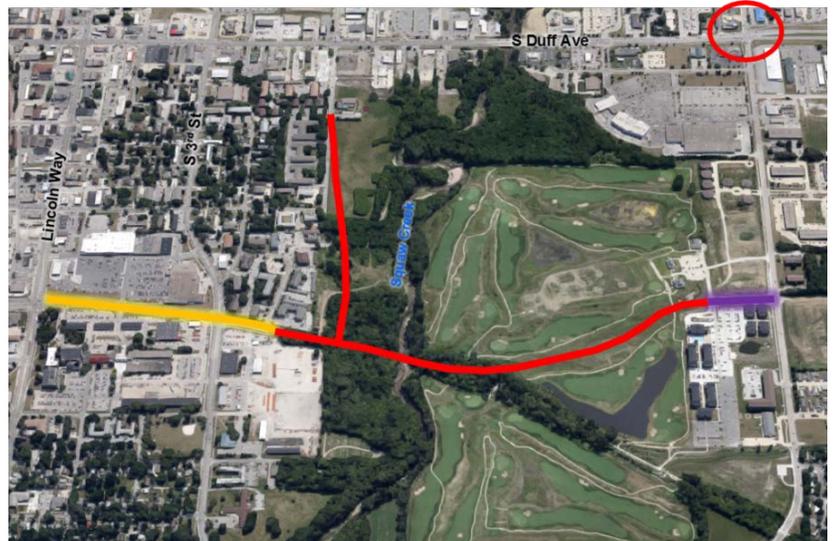
- **New Ames Airport Terminal Building - Progress Update**
This month the contractor building the new terminal building at the Ames Municipal Airport began erecting the steel frame for the building. It is an exciting phase of the project as you can start to see the building take shape, both in its size and its placement on the airport property.
- **Public Works Staff attends 2017 Iowa Bicycle Summit in Des Moines**
On January 20, 2017, four members of the Public Works Traffic Division (Damion Pregitzer & Tony Filippini) and Engineering Division (Tracy Warner & Mark Gansen) attended the annual day-long bicycle summit held at the HyVee Convention Center in Des Moines, where there were numerous training sessions on bicycle facility planning, selection, and design. This summit covers national standards and best practices, and also provides an opportunity for peer exchange between professionals and advocates alike on how to promote and grow cycling and cycling infrastructure in communities across the state.

- **Old Town Neighborhood Association & Walkability**

Public Works staff met with a representative from the Old Town Neighborhood Association regarding the walkability issues that were brought up by their neighborhood. Staff discussed the possibility of organizing a "safety walk" similar to the annual event in Campustown/SCAN. The neighborhood would prefer to focus specifically on sidewalks, including existing walks in disrepair, missing linkages and vegetative impediments. The Association is tentatively planning an event on April 8th to utilize volunteers to inventory the issues around the neighborhood. They felt it was important to get a handle on the types and extent of issues before developing a plan to approach improvements.

- **Grand Ave Extension Phase 3**

The public hearing for the Environmental Assessment (EA) of Grand Avenue Extension Phase 3 has been scheduled for Feb 9, 2017 at the Library's Farwell T. Brown Auditorium. It will be an open house style meeting with a brief presentation at 5:30 pm. The public and other agencies have been notified and we will be accepting comments and questions through Feb 25, 2017 to be included in our formal response. Information about the project and the signed EA are available online at <http://www.cityofames.org/grandave> with physical copies available at the Public Works City Hall office and the Ames Public Library Reference Desk.



Engineering

- The **2016/17 CyRide Route Pavement Improvements (S. 3rd Street/S. 4th Street) Project** will be let through the Iowa DOT on February 21 at 10:00 a.m. The late start date for construction is April 3, with an estimated completion date of August 1, weather dependent. Informational and coordination meetings were held with CyRide representatives, Ames Bicycle Coalition representatives and the general public. The construction project will include pavement rehabilitation and reconstruction, improvements to various sanitary and storm sewer components, and the reconfiguration of S. 3rd Street between S. Grand Avenue and S. Duff Avenue from a 4-lane section to a 3-lane section with standard bicycle lanes. The construction will be performed in two separate phases, with the South Grand Avenue intersection being the dividing line between the phases.
- **Water System Model.** Stanley Consultants of Des Moines will be performing updates to the City's water model which was last established in 2005. The updates will reflect several pumping scenarios at the new water treatment plant on E. 13th Street and will also include improvements that have been made to the distribution system since 2005. The updated model will be used to recommend future CIP projects and to determine development/redevelopment impacts on the distribution system.
- The **2016/17 Downtown Street Pavement Improvements (Sherman Avenue)** will be designed by WHKS & Company of Ames. These services will include topographic survey, roadway design, preparation of plans and specifications, and holding one public informational meeting to discuss the impacts and the staging of the proposed construction. The bid letting is expected to take place by May 2017 with construction occurring in the summer/fall of 2017.

- **2016/17 Concrete Pavement Improvements (Dawes Drive)** will also be designed WHKS & Co. of Ames. These services will include roadway design, structural design of minor repairs to the concrete box culvert under Dawes Drive, preparation of plans and specifications, and holding two public informational meetings to discuss the impacts and the staging of the proposed construction. The bid letting is expected to take place in May 2017 with construction expected to take place in the fall of 2017.

Planning & Housing

Planning

- The Planning & Zoning Commission's first review of the Landscape Ordinance update was held on February 1, and the Commission will hold a second meeting to discuss the new standards on February 15. Staff will then prepare a draft ordinance for City Council review on March 28. Background information can be found on the Planning Division website.
- A Neighborhood Representative Leaders meeting will be hosted by the Planning Division on February 23 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting is a chance for neighborhood representatives to meet with other leaders from across the City.
- The Campustown Façade Grant application period is now open for projects that can be completed within the 2017 calendar year. The application deadline is February 27, 2017. It is anticipated that approval of Grant awards would be made at the March 28th City Council meeting. Please contact the Planning Division for more information.

Housing

- The City held two listening sessions for the general public in preparation the draft 2017-18 CDBG Annual Action Plan. The proposed programs and funding for the next year will be presented to City Council in February. Staff will then prepare a draft plan for public comment, with adoption of the final plan expected in May.
- The City Council provided direction for the 321 State Avenue affordable housing development request for proposals (RFP) at its January 10 meeting. The draft RFP will be provided for City Council review at its February 28 meeting. Once City Council has reviewed the draft RFP, staff will solicit developer interest during March and provide responses to City Council on development proposals in April.

Water & Pollution Control

- Staff is preparing to release a Request for Proposals for a **two-year study of the Ada Hayden Lakes' Water Quality**. Monitoring of the lakes began even prior to the City's acquisition of the old Hallett's Quarry. This is a task that staff recommends repeating every five to seven years to monitor the long-term health of the water bodies for recreational use as well as continued use as an indirect backup drinking water supply. This round will occur over the summers of 2017 and 2018, with a contract for the work being brought to Council for award in the early spring.
- The fourth compliance period for the **Fats, Oils, and Grease Control Program** concluded in December. While this was the fourth six-month period since the adoption of the program, it was the first period where non-compliance resulted in an additional surcharge being added to a food service establishment's sewer bill. Each monitoring period has seen an increase in the compliance rate compared to the prior period. However, roughly one-quarter of all food service establishments are still not even responding to repeated notifications about the program. Recently there have been two sewer blockages due to significant grease accumulations. Staff has informed establishments in these areas that their compliance with the FOG program will be a critical factor in determining whether to assess their facility with the clean-up costs of any future blockages.

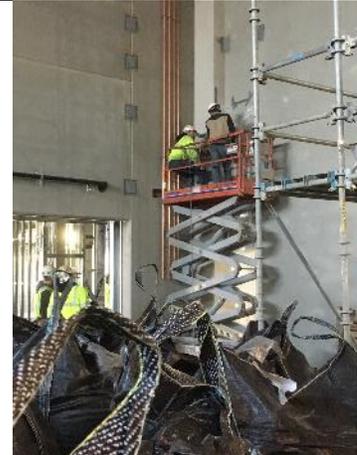
- Work continues on the **new Water Treatment Plant**. However, it is beginning to appear that the contractor is falling behind schedule. A number of change orders are being processed that, in total, are approximately \$500,000, with a number of the tasks including requests for additional time. Staff's best guess at this time is that the work will not achieve substantial completion until at least mid-June. Work in the coming weeks is expected to include the framing of the control room and laboratory, completion of the fire sprinkler system, and installation of the storefront windows in the main entryway. Start-up training for City staff is still three months away.



Wiring for power and controls is underway. Each spool contains approximately one-half mile of wire.



View looking across the Solids Contact Unit (SCU) catwalks. Each SCU is capable of treating 5 million gallons per day.



The mechanical contractor is running chemical feed lines and sample collection lines throughout the facility.

- **FOG Compliance Over the Past 18 Months**

Review Period	No Response	Responded, but Not Compliant	Compliant
2 nd Half 2015	34.3%	35.4%	30.3%
1 st Half 2016	34.6%	34.6%	37.6%
2 nd Half 2016	25.4%	21.5%	53.1%

Library

Library Receives \$10,000 Award for Innovation – Small Talk in Story County

- The Library received an award of \$10,000 and book donations after being named first-place winner of the Penguin Random House Foundation's inaugural Library Award for Innovation for the **Small Talk in Story County Program**. The award recognizes the nation's most innovative community-based library programs that engage citizens in reading and strengthen the social and cultural fabric of their community. Small Talk is a formal collaboration of the Library, Iowa State University and Raising Readers in Story County. Through classes held at the library, parents are taught how



to talk, read, and sing with their babies to enrich their environment and expose them to more words.

These efforts have been shown to enhance a child's development, expand an infant's vocabulary, and improve pre-literacy skills, especially among those who live in poverty. Small Talk Project Coordinator Kay Marner and Library Director Lynne Carey graciously accepted the 2017 Library Award for Innovation at the American Library Association Midwinter Meeting in Atlanta on January 20th.

