

- October Project Highlights - 2017



Public Works

- **Airport Terminal**

The public is invited to attend an Open House at the new Airport Terminal. The goal of the open house is to welcome the community to the airport and to show appreciation to the terminal building's supporters. The event is scheduled for October 21 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am.

- **Clark Avenue: On -Street Bike Facilities**

Clark Avenue, from Main Street to Lincoln Way, has reopened to traffic. The street reconstruction includes on-street bike facilities such as bike boxes and designated bike lanes. These may be new and unfamiliar to many motorists.

The green bike boxes are painted in front of the white stop bar at intersections to allow cyclists traveling in bike lanes to move in front of cars at an intersection during a red light. Motorists will continue to stop at the white stop bar behind the green box while cyclists stop in the bike box through the duration of the red light. This increases visibility and safety for cyclists. Once the light turns green, cyclists will clear the intersection in front of motorists. Bike boxes will restrict right turn on red for motorists at this intersection. A corresponding sign is posted at the intersection.



Bike boxes are new to the City of Ames, and the Clark Avenue bike boxes represent a pilot project to be considered for other street improvements. City Staff will be monitoring the bike facilities and accepting feedback regarding their use. Questions about this project or on-street facility can be directed to the City of Ames Traffic Division at traffic@city.ames.ia.us or 515.239.5160.



Clark Avenue was identified for pavement, utility, and sidewalk improvements through the City's Capital Improvement Plan. Additionally, on-street bike lanes were added to the pavement improvement project to provide a designated lane and intersection space for bikes traveling on Clark Avenue.

Water & Pollution Control

WPC

Staff celebrated receipt of a Platinum 27 Peak Performance Award from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies. The award recognizes the City of Ames for 27 consecutive years with 100% compliance with the numeric discharge limits of the Water Pollution Control Facility's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. Ames holds the second longest compliance record in the nation!

Staff will meet with the City Council in October to review the results of a recent Digester Gas Utilization Study. The study looked, in part, at the cost-effectiveness of using methane produced on-site to generate electricity. Based on a purely economic evaluation, the study concludes that generating electricity is more expensive than purchasing power from the rural electric coop. Staff will present the results of the study to Council and seek their input on how much of a premium, if any, they feel is appropriate to continue to produce renewable power on-site at WPC.

Water Plant

Construction activity has certainly slowed at the New Water Plant Project, but is far from complete. Controls and security continue to be fine-tuned, and a myriad of punch list items are still being completed.

A final stakeholder engagement meeting was held in late September for the North River Valley Low Head Dam Safety Modifications Project. The bid package is expected to be released yet this calendar year, with construction taking place based on the successful contractor's schedule and Mother Nature's concurrence.

Administration

Staff will also be presenting to Council in October a draft ordinance that will modify and update portions of Chapter 28 of the Ames Municipal Code that apply to the Water and Sewer utilities. Among a number of smaller changes, the proposed ordinance includes the following items.

Addition of language that will allow staff to waive the “summer rate” for water for customers who have experienced a mechanical failure such as a leak in a hot water heater.

Language that would require the full replacement of a lead water service line anytime such a line is exposed. It would no longer be permissible to only replace a portion of the service line.

Language that would require individual water metering of multi-family housing units. Staff has made numerous outreach efforts to likely stakeholders on this topic, but has received minimal response.

Language that would make revisions to the Industrial Pretreatment Program. These revisions are in response to feedback received from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency during a recent audit of the program.

Police

Neighborhood Parking Enforcement continues in and around the campus area. Neighborhood and campus outreach alerted residents to the initiative and allowed for advance warning and discussion of legal parking options. Additional Community Service Officers (CSOs) are in the hiring process and will be in training shortly. As that training is completed, more enforcement periods will be routinely monitored.

Professor Chris Barnum of St. Ambrose University has agreed to oversee the study of police traffic stops and provide analysis of minority contacts. Professor Barnum is the primary researcher on similar projects in Davenport, Iowa City, and Dubuque. A Memorandum of Understanding is being finalized and the data collection is expected to begin shortly thereafter.

Mission Critical Communications is under contract with the Story County 911 Board to analyze radio communications needs and recommend local solutions. They will be seeking input from Public Safety (Police, Fire, EMS) and Public Service (Utilities, Public Works, Parks & Rec, CyRide, etc.) entities regarding current and future radio needs during the month of October.

Planning & Housing

Staff will be presenting the 2016-17 CDBG Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) for approval and submittal to HUD by October 13. The CAPER is available for public comment on October 5, 2017.

The City of Ames and Habitat for Humanity of Central Iowa will be having a ground breaking ceremony at 1125 Maxwell on Thursday, October 5 at 4:30 pm.

Electric

Electric Services held a neighborhood meeting for people living near the Top - O - Hollow electrical substation. Plans are to enhance the reliability of the electrical service in the area by upgrading the substation and adding breakers. Work should begin in the fall of 2018.

At the present time 31% of the SunSmart Ames community solar project has been spoken for. When the project reaches 80%, staff will bring the project before the City Council for approval.

Library

- **Ames Talent On Show at the Library in October!**

At 6:30pm on Thursday, October 12, the Library will show "In Pursuit of Silence," a film co-produced by Ames native Cassidy Hall. The film is an 81-minute meditative exploration of our relationship with silence, sound, and the impact of noise on our lives. Ms. Hall will be available for discussion after the film. (Supported by Ames Public Library Friends Foundation and Rena & Dick Hall)

On Monday, October 16, at 7 pm, Michelle Hoover, former Ames resident, will be available to meet library patrons. Hoover is the author of the 2017 All Iowa Reads selection, "Bottomland". Her book has been described as a "haunting literary mystery that spans decades." Set in the wake of World War I, Bottomland follows the Hess family as it attempts to escape anti-German sentiment. After the youngest two daughters vanish in the middle of the night, they try to piece together what happened while struggling to maintain life on the unforgiving Iowa plains. Books will be available for purchase and signing, courtesy of University Book Store. (Provided in partnership with KHOI Community Radio with support from Ames Public Library Friends Foundation)

On Sunday, October 22, local musicians Jim Coppoc and Reggie Greenlaw will play live music and talk about the artists that inspired them at 2 pm. Jim Coppoc blends an assortment of fingerstyle elements into a full, unique guitar sound. He will be joined by members of Cody

Road and Disappearing Songs Project. Reggie Greenlaw will play a variety of country rock, county folk, roots, and alternative genres. Audience members may enter a drawing to win two free tickets to see Bumper Jacksons as part of the Stephens Auditorium 2017-2018 Performing Arts Series. (Provided in partnership with Stephens Auditorium 2017-2018 Performing Arts Series and KHOI Community Radio with support from Ames Public Library Friends Foundation)

- Spread the Habit



Help us spread the read-aloud habit across the country—or, at least, let's do our part in Ames! Join the Library in this month's national campaign to develop the reading habit. Research shows that reading aloud is one of the most important activities to help a child be successful in school—no matter the age. Starting October 1, a reading challenge begins that involves reading aloud 15 minutes a day for 21 days in a row. Patrons who return completed reading challenge sheets have a chance to win a set of four tickets to the production of Dr. Seuss's "The Cat in the Hat" at Iowa State Center in November. You may also register online at <http://www.readaloud.org/> and be eligible for daily gift card drawings throughout October.