

# - September Project Highlights - 2018



Photos taken at Ada Hayden Park by Kevin Kaine & Wolf Ostereich

## Electric

- **Electric Vehicle Charging: Discount for Ames Residents**

Electric Services has installed two **electric vehicle charging stations** in the Downtown area. One is located by Bandshell Park and the other is in Lot M on the west side of City Hall. These charging stations are mainly intended to charge two new City of Ames all-electric cars. However, the stations are also **available for public use**. The rate is \$2 per hour, but is discounted to \$1 per hour for Ames residents.

To receive the discount, residents will need to call 239-5170 to obtain the special code. This needs to be done only once.



## Planning and Housing Department

- The Planning and Zoning Commission will consider draft zoning standards for new Short Term Rental (Airbnb's) at its September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. The proposed standards are consistent with City Council direction from its Rental Housing workshop in March of 2018 to allow for a variety of short term rental options within single-family dwellings. City Council will consider draft language at an upcoming meeting in October/November.

## Police

- Ames Police completed **Violent Intruder Training** for Ames Community School District staff in the two days leading up to the start of classes.

The informal tradition of "**801 Day**" made the Saturday prior to the start of classes quite busy for Ames PD. Additional bike officers and foot patrols were in place on the morning of August 18. In addition to Ames PD, ISU PD, and ISU staff were active in trying to educate students and discourage underage drinking and public intoxication.

- **Parking outreach and education** has been underway Downtown and in Campustown. In the Downtown area, parking staff have visited a majority of businesses in the 100-300 blocks and discussed use of the smart card, the park mobile app, alternative free parking lots, and other extended meter options for those working in the downtown area. Additional follow-up includes a meeting with Ames downtown

district representatives to discuss their concerns and suggestions. We are also observing parking availability and utilization to better understand current use of parking resources in this area.

In Campustown area a meeting has been set with the Campustown Association, discussing the new mobile app, and alternative parking options for that area. For returning students, staff have been in and around the Greek housing area handing out water and cookies and answering parking questions, delivering materials to Greek houses and the Memorial Union, circulating a map showing common parking issues and solutions, and attending events like Welcomefest and First Friday.

## Fire

- Staff issued TCO/TCs (Temporary Certificate of Occupancy and Certificate of Occupancy) for 554 apartment units from the end of June through today. This includes 157 units at 2700 Lincoln Way (The Union), 98 units at 4415 Lincoln Way (The Core), 84 units at 5414-5472 Mortensen (Mortensen Heights), 195 units at S. 17th (The Quarters), and an additional 20 units in the Cottonwood area.
- Staff has issued 969 permits and have completed 2,068 inspections from June 1 to September 1. This number is only for building and trade inspections and does not include rental inspections or permits.
- All firefighters participated in InBody Testing at Ames Racquet and Fitness. InBody is a non-invasive body composition analysis that provides a detailed breakdown of weight in terms of muscle, fat, and water on an *InBody* Result Sheet. The InBody Result Sheet helps firefighters; track changes over time, strategize and target problem areas, and identify muscle or fat imbalances with the Segmental Lean and Fat Analyses.
- **InBody** testing is done twice a year in conjunction with a twice a year fitness profile. This is part of a holistic approach that the Peer Fitness Team is promoting throughout the department.
- The Fire Department sent 4 firefighters, 2 Lieutenants, and the Training Officer to Denison, Iowa for a **live-fire training conference** focusing on hoseline and ventilation operations. This was taught by firefighters flown in from Los Angeles, Las Vegas, and Cleveland, and attended by over 70 firefighters from as far as Topeka, Ks and Branson, Mo.



## Library

- **Youth Services Manager Jerri Heid Awarded National Literacy Honor**  
During the 2018 Grade Level Reading Week conference in Philadelphia, Youth Services Manager Jerri Heid was inducted into the Grade Level Reading (GLR) Council of Champions.

Jerri knows that “kids who read succeed” and has committed herself to developing

an extraordinary community coalition that includes United Way of Story County, Raising Readers of Story County, the Ames Community School District and others to help ensure that all children accomplish third-grade reading proficiency by the time they reach third grade.



*President and CEO of United Way of Story County Jean Kresse (right) congratulated Library Youth Services Manager Jerri Heid (left) on being named to the Grade Level Reading Council of Champions.*

In her time at the library, Jerri has leveraged resources to implement free-community based programs for families. Working with the Story County Reads network, Jerri led the effort for summer program expansion by utilizing the Library as a meal site and providing literacy-based programs both before and after lunch. The program grew from serving 1,524 meals in 2016 to serving 5,559 this summer.

Under Jerri’s leadership, the Youth Services Department offers library programs that start with infants to ensure that kids are ready to start school, enjoy participating in reading and learning activities, and stay connected to minimize summer learning loss. Jerri has been instrumental in establishing community-driven efforts such as the Summer Lunch Program, the Harrison Barnes Tutoring Program and Harrison Barnes Reading Buddies program at the Library.

## **Water & Pollution Control**

### **North River Valley Low Head Dam**

#### **Improvements:**

Construction is under way on the project that will transform the 30 year old low head dam in River Valley Park into an amenity that can be enjoyed by the entire community. Higher stream flows than are typical of this time of year have slowed the progress, but it is still believed that the in-stream work can be completed in this construction season. Completion is planned for early spring.

#### **Water Plant Construction Contract**

The construction contract for the new Water Plant has still not reached “final completion,” and the liquidated damages clause of the contract is still in effect. Staff has withheld a portion of the final payment to the contractor as an offset against damages incurred as a result of the delay in completion. In response, the contractor has essentially stopped work and is making no further progress towards completing the project. Staff, along with its outside counsel, have had periodic contact with the general contractor in an attempt to find a mutually agreeable resolution.



Construction work in progress on the low head dam.

One of the items that is still uncompleted is some documentation needed to allow the City to apply for its LEED certification. That certification is essential for the City to receive its \$6.5 million loan forgiveness from the Iowa DNR. The City's consultant will begin the process of submitting the LEED documentation to the US Green Building Council in the next two weeks in order to find out how crucial the missing documentation will be.

### **Multiple WPC Construction Projects Underway**

There are many different construction contracts currently in progress at WPC. A major structural rehabilitation project continues, as does the installation of a third bar screen in the facility's headworks. Council recently awarded contracts for the replacement of security cameras and the installation of launder covers for the final clarifiers. The second phase of a major rehabilitation of the digester complex is currently out for bids. An important part of the digester project will incorporate new safety features for the handling of the biogas that is captured and burned to generate electricity.

### **WPC Nutrient Reduction Feasibility Study**

The end result of the nutrient reduction study at the Water Pollution Control Facility (WPC) is beginning to come into focus, with an early emphasis on optimization of the existing infrastructure at the facility and pursuit of watershed-based land practices that offer ancillary benefits in addition to nutrient reduction (such as flood mitigation or recreational opportunities). Additional workshops will take place over the next several weeks, with a public stakeholder meeting planned for mid-October.



Structural weld plates that connect adjacent pre-cast concrete panels are being cleaned and inspected.