



# Neighborhood News

Quarterly Neighborhood Update - Spring 2014

## Block Party Trailer Still Popular

Reservations for the City's Street 'N' Greet block party trailer are continuing to fill for the 2014 season, which runs weekends in May through October.

"Some neighborhoods have used the trailer regularly for their block parties, so they know to call in as soon as reservations open to book the weekend of their choice," said Jeff

Benson, City of Ames Neighborhood Liaison. "Weekends reserve quickly, and generally we have only one or two weekends a season that the trailer isn't booked."

The Street 'N' Greet trailer was created through the efforts of Strengthening Neighborhoods, a community action volunteer group that believes that

neighborhood block parties strengthen relationships within and between neighborhoods and help Ames become a more welcoming and inclusive community. The items included in the trailer--tables, chairs, road barricades, children and adult games, audio system, and more--make it easy for neighbors to host and gather at block parties. The approximately \$8,000 for the costs of the trailer was donated by individuals, businesses and organizations. In-kind donations include the City's costs to insure, house and maintain the trailer.

The Street 'N' Greet block party trailer debuted in

*Street 'N' Greet, contd. on pg. 2*



*The Street 'N' Greet trailer is available for block parties.*

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### IMPORTANT DATES:

- **April 19:** Yard Waste Free Day
- **April 26:** Ames 150 Tree Planting Water Plant Open House
- **May 24:** Furman Aquatic Center opens for season
- **May 26:** Memorial Day, City offices closed
- **June 5:** Ames Municipal Band Concert season opener

## Water Plant Open House is April 26

The community is invited to the Water Plant Open House from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 26, at 300 E. Fifth St. Displays will have a strong tie to the Ames sesquicentennial, showcasing the Water Utility's beginnings in 1891 all the way through to the plans for the new Water Plant that will come on line in 2017. There will be "behind the scenes" tours of the water plant, water meter shop, and laboratory, as well as many educational activities for both kids and adults.



*The City's Water Plant is located at 300 E. Fifth St.*

# Street 'N' Greet, continued from page 1

the City's 2009 Fourth of July parade. Tripp Street holds the honor as the first neighborhood to use the trailer for its block party on July 25, 2009.

Colonial Village neighborhood, located along Friley Road just west of Jack Trice Stadium, has reserved the Street 'N' Greet trailer for its annual Labor Day weekend block party. "This is the 30th year that I have

organized the Labor Day weekend block party, and this will be the second year we will be using the Street 'N' Greet trailer," said Dionne McElroy, neighborhood resident. "We find the tables and chairs from the trailer to be most useful. In the past, everyone brought their own lawn chairs and tables, so having these provided in the trailer is very convenient."

Torrey Pines neighborhood, located north of Veenker Golf Course, has also already reserved the trailer for its block party this October. "I think this is the fourth time we have reserved the trailer for our block party," said Linda White, who organizes the event for her neighborhood. A tradition at their gathering is for each neighbor to tell about things that have happened in their life over the past year, such as anniversaries, new babies, job changes, etc. "The microphone that is provided with the trailer makes it much easier for everyone to hear about these milestones," said White. The tables and chairs are also appreciated, she added.

The block party trailer is available free of charge to Ames residents for use at neighborhood parties, whether they are part of an official neighborhood association registered with the City or not.

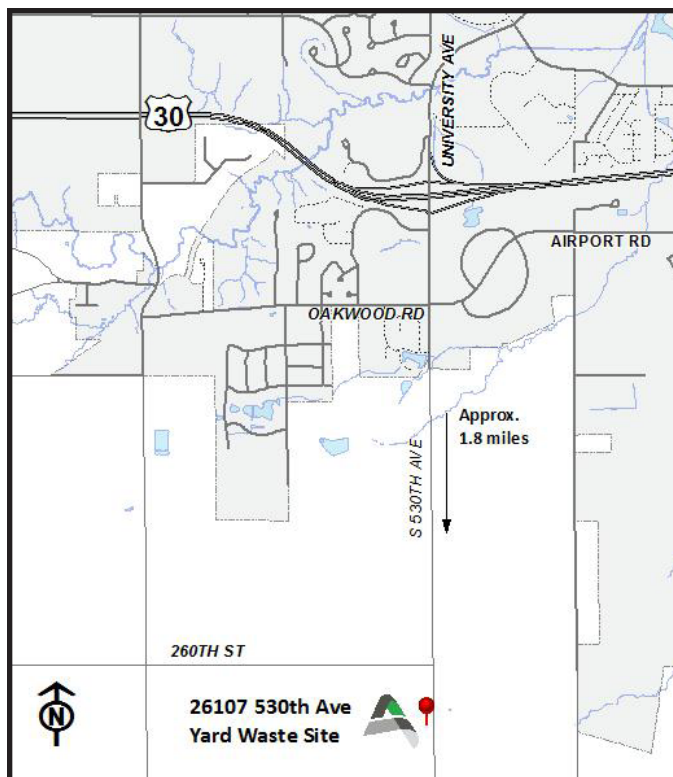
Each reservation request is reviewed for compliance with City requirements before final approval is given. The trailer is then delivered to the block party location by City staff at least two hours prior to the event, and then picked up within one day after the party. For more information or to reserve the Street 'N' Greet trailer, call 515.239.5400.

## Yard Waste Free Day is April 19

If your spring cleaning includes yard work, be sure to mark Saturday, April 19, on your calendar for the Spring Yard Waste Free Day. Participants may dispose of yard waste, lawn clippings, branches, shrubs or brush that day between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. at Chamness Technology, 26107 530th Ave.

To get to the site, drive south on University Boulevard and continue along the gravel road (University Boulevard becomes 530th Street) for almost two miles. The yard waste site is located on the west side of the road.

Participants must follow Chamness Technology's rules for proper yard waste disposal. For more information, call Chamness at 515.450.0450.



Street 'N' Greet trailer contents include tables, chairs, road barricades, children and adult games, audio system, and more.

# Events Planned Throughout 2014 to Celebrate Sesquicentennial

A variety of events are being planned this year to celebrate the 150th anniversary of our community. The Ames Sesquicentennial marks the platting of the original 12 blocks of the city, which was recorded on Dec. 17, 1864.

The first event will be the planting of 150 trees in City parks and public rights-of-way on Saturday, April 26. This event is one of two legacy projects planned that will not only mark the Ames Sesquicentennial, but also leave something for future generations to enjoy. The second legacy project is Ames Historical Society's history trailer, a "mobile museum" that will be available to the public. The trailer will debut at the Ames 150 on the Fourth festival.

A full blown festival celebrating the history and future of Ames will take place July 3 through 5. A community barbecue, birthday cake, live music, entertainment and fireworks will kick-off the weekend on July 3 at Reiman Gardens. On July 4, the celebration will start with the annual community pancake breakfast at City Hall, followed by the Bill Riley Talent Search and parade. Ames 150 on the Fourth Festival will open at noon on Friday, July 4, and continue through Saturday evening, July 5, on Main Street. Both days of the festival will bring food vendors, a beer garden, youth and family games and activities, and live music with the main acts at 8 p.m. The fun continues on July 5 with the festival opening at 10 a.m. and including, in addition to Friday's activities, new youth and family activities, the downtown Farmers Market, and a Chautauqua in Bandshell Park. The festival will conclude on July 5 with a headliner at 8 p.m.

Other events planned to celebrate the sesquicentennial are Dinkey Day on Sept. 26, in Campustown, and a Platting Day celebration on Dec. 17.

For more information on the sesquicentennial celebration, visit [ames150.com](http://ames150.com).

## Neighborhood Improvement Program Grants Available

Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP) grants of up to \$5,000 are available to Ames neighborhoods.

The purpose of the NIP is to strengthen a neighborhood's appearance with the addition of permanent physical improvements and to promote a greater sense of community through resident participation in a neighborhood project.

Eligible projects must be permanent physical improvements to the neighborhood which result in an improved appearance to the neighborhood and which positively affects a significant number of residents. Examples of eligible projects include street lighting improvements, neighborhood watch signs, playground equipment at a neighborhood park, demolition of unsightly structures in the neighborhood, permanent plantings, or alley improvements.

Projects must include a direct contribution of \$1 in cash or in-kind labor (or a combination of both) valued at \$1 for every \$1 of City funds received.

For more information about the Neighborhood Improvement Program or the application form, visit [www.cityofames.org/NIP](http://www.cityofames.org/NIP), or contact Diane Voss, City Clerk, at 515.239.5105.



The DZ Triangle Neighborhood received an NIP grant to renovate the public space located at the intersection of Sunset Drive and Pearson Avenue. Pillars, a brick patio, native grasses and shrubs, seating, paths, and park signage were installed.





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## Find City Projects Updates on Website

Have you noticed City crews working around town or in your neighborhood? Wondering about what projects the City is working on? Look for the answer on the City's website.

The City Manager's Office compiles a monthly report highlighting projects of each City department. These reports are posted on the City's website and may be found at [www.cityofames.org/monthlyhighlights](http://www.cityofames.org/monthlyhighlights).

### Have an idea? We want to hear!

Submit your own story ideas for Neighborhood News. Neighborhood News articles or ideas may be submitted for publication by Ames residents.

To submit information for Neighborhood News via email: [printern@city.ames.ia.us](mailto:printern@city.ames.ia.us).

## Neighborhood News

Neighborhood News is a quarterly publication of the City of Ames, Iowa, mailed directly to Ames residents who are members of established Neighborhood Associations or who ask to be placed on the mailing list. You can receive the newsletter via U.S. Mail or request to be put on the e-mail list.

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