

- January Project Highlights -

2017



Ada Hayden path in winter, photo by Kevin Kane

Fire

Suppression

- In 2016 firefighters responded to 7% more incidents than during the previous calendar year.
- Fire crews had the opportunity to participate in some unique training last month. They honed their ice rescue skills utilizing thermo-insulated protective suits with buoyancy liners while training at Ada Hayden Lake. They have also been turning buildings slated for demolition into excellent and rare training opportunities before the buildings come down. These training opportunities afford firefighters the chance to simulate real-world scenarios that are infrequent, but present high risk to the rescuers.
- Firefighters from Ames, Colo and Story City, along with some of their family members, partnered with Youth & Shelter Services and Walmart to host the 13th Annual Shop with a Firefighter program on December 6th. The event took place at both the North and South Walmarts, with more than 80 children participating in the event.

Inspections

- Permits were issued in December for the new airport terminal, two new restaurants in Campustown, two new apartment buildings, and five new homes.

CyRide

1. For the past three years a developer has contributed revenue, through a three-year contract, for one of CyRide's routes along South 16th Street. With the initial contract expiring, the developer has chosen to discontinue this arrangement at a loss of \$113,000 to CyRide's budget. The developer plans on operating its own, separate transit service for their tenants. As a result, the Transit Board reduced its revenues and expenses in next year's proposed budget to reflect this financial impact by proposing to reduce service on the Plum Route operating from South 16th Street to campus. A formal input process is required by the Federal Transit Administration and will begin in February and end with the Transit Board's final consideration of this action in March 2017.
2. Ridership through the end of November 2016 indicates stable ridership with no growth in the number of rides compared to the first five months of 2015. This trend is attributed to enhanced high-occupancy

housing development within walking distance of campus, more temperate fall weather and an ISU/City of Ames emphasis on healthier life-styles through walking, biking, etc.

Police

- Police officers are field testing body camera systems. Changes being examined include more reliable activation systems, longer battery life, more secure mountings, and improved software support.

Library

Holiday Crafts with Santa in December

Over 280 enthusiastic visitors enjoyed activities in the Youth Department on December 22nd. Santa took time out of his busy season to make a visit and all hands were busy creating noisemakers, ornaments and trees, designing holiday banners, frosting cookies, decorating pinecones and cards, and learning new games.



Talk RACE on January 28th

Ames Public Library and the APL Friends Foundation will host a day of free events to talk, read, listen, think, and act on issues of race. The free “Talk RACE” events on Saturday, January 28th, will include:

- 10:30 am - Family Fun themed “Celebrate the Skin You’re In” stories and activities.
- 10:30 am - a panel discussion of race and Ta-Nehisi Coates’ award-winning book “Between the World and Me” about the challenges of growing up black in America. Panelists will include Kekla Magoon, author of several young adult books dealing with race; Joshua V. Barr, Esq., Director of the City of Des Moines Civil & Human Rights Commission; and Dr. Jeanne Bissonnette, Ph.D., Assistant Professor at the Iowa State University School of Education.
- 12:00 pm - Talk RACE Keynote Challenge and Lunch at 12:00 pm. Dr. Reginald Stewart, Ph.D., Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion at ISU, will give a short presentation which will be followed by lunch and small group discussions. (Lunch will be provided. Please register online at www.bit.ly/TalkRaceKeynote or call Ames Public Library’s Adult Services Desk at (515) 239-5646, ext. 4.)
- 1:30 pm - Author visit and book signing featuring Kekla Magoon. Magoon’s books, which are written primarily for young adults, include *How It Went Down*, *The Rock and the River*, and *X: A Novel* (written with Ilyasah Shabazz, daughter of Malcom X). Books will be available for signing and purchase, courtesy of University Book Store.
- 3:00 pm - a discussion of race just for teens and Kekla Magoon’s *How it Went Down*. This timely story follows a community thrown into an uproar after a black sixteen-year-old is shot by a white man. The discussion will be facilitated by Dr. Amy Popillion, Ph.D., Senior Lecturer for ISU Human Development and Family Studies, and Randie Camp, Graduate Assistant for ISU Human Development and Family Studies and will include author Kekla Magoon; RunDSM co-founder Emily Lang; and RunDSM member Jalesha Johnson. There will be free pizza for participants. Participants should register online at www.bit.ly/TalkRaceTeens or by e-mail trastogi@amespubliclibrary.org. Teens and undergrads can get a free copy of the book in advance—courtesy of the Ames Public Library Friends Foundation—by visiting the Library’s Youth Services Desk (while supplies last).

These free “Talk RACE” events on January 28th are presented by the Ames Public Library Friends Foundation in partnership with the Ames Branch of the NAACP, Ames Progressive Alliance, City of Ames Human Relations Commission, Iowa State University Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and RunDSM. Author Ta-Nehisi Coates will

present “A Deeper Black: Race in America” as part of the Iowa State University Lectures Program on Monday, January 30th at 7:00 pm at the Memorial Union.

Youth Services WOW Wall Coming Soon!



Construction is now underway on one of the Library’s final building features. With funds granted by the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust of Muscatine for the Library Renovation and Expansion Project, an interactive play wall will soon enhance the Youth Department. Its various sections will include peg board challenges, alphabet and braille letter matching, “find it” tubes, and a Plinko game—all lighted and designed to provide children the opportunity to wonder, experiment, and learn as they play. Stop in soon to see the Library’s newest addition!

Water & Pollution Control

- Activity at the site of the **new Water Treatment Plant** continues at a frenetic pace. As the building becomes enclosed, the number of subcontractors present on site has grown tremendously. Masons, plumbers, electricians, sheet metal fabricators, HVAC installers, painters, and drywallers are all working concurrently in the facility. A notable milestone during January is the expected delivery and installation of the elevator.

A number of change order items are being processed, and some may be brought to Council in January. Rough estimates for all proposed changes being considered are about \$500,000. Even with these changes, staff is recommending reducing the overall project contingency during the mid-year budget adjustments by a million dollars.

Many of the smaller but still important details are now being pursued, such as furniture, phones, appliances, maintenance equipment and office equipment. Staff is also working with the Public Art Commission on a long-term plan to acquire and display artwork to be housed at the facility.



Cascade Aerators, viewed looking north towards E. 13th Street.



Second floor windows being installed.



View into the lower pipe gallery from a first floor observation window.



Architectural rendering of one of the engineer's offices with furnishings installed.

- Design for the new **North River Valley Wellfield** has reached the 30% complete stage. The project will be ready for bids in late spring or early summer of 2017.

Water Pollution Control

- The fourth compliance period for the **Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) program** concluded on December 31st. **This is the first compliance period in which the Restaurant Surcharge will be imposed for Food Service Establishments (FSEs) that are not in compliance.** Of the 269 FSEs in the City, only 116 have submitted documentation showing compliance with the requirements of the program. The final deadline for submission of the required paperwork is mid-January. Numerous mailings have been sent to the facilities over the past two years to inform and remind FSEs of their obligations under the FOG program, including two mailings in the past four weeks.
- The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has shared a working draft for a new **Wet Weather Flow Policy**. Staff participated in a conference call with several other utilities to review the draft and develop feedback for the IDNR. The draft policy was not what the utilities were hoping for; but the receptivity by IDNR staff to the feedback suggests there is still an openness to working cooperatively on a solution. IDNR had previously told Ames staff that they want a state-wide resolution to the wet weather flow issue before reopening the Ames discharge permit.