

# - April Project Highlights - 2017



*Replacement of the tipping floor at the Resource Recovery Plant*

## CITY MANAGER

- Staff has had preliminary discussions with a citizen interested in initiating a project to install consistent, **sustainable landscaping interspersed with public artwork along South Duff Avenue** south of Squaw Creek. Stakeholders being approached include local business people, IDOT, the Public Art Commission and Public Works staff. Should a viable plan be identified, a proposal will be brought to the City Council.
- **Watershed Management Authorities:** Under the leadership of the Story County Board of Supervisors, an additional watershed management authority is being proposed for Story County. The Keigley Branch WMA would include the South Skunk River basin north of the confluence with Squaw Creek in Ames. An initial informational meeting was held in Story City, where County and IDNR representatives described the purpose of a WMA and City of Ames representatives allayed concerns regarding any consideration of an "Ames dam" (circa 1970's). Dialogues with prospective governmental entities will continue to be held by Prairie Rivers RC&D staff. A 28E agreement is being proposed under which the City would participate in this new WMA.

## ELECTRIC

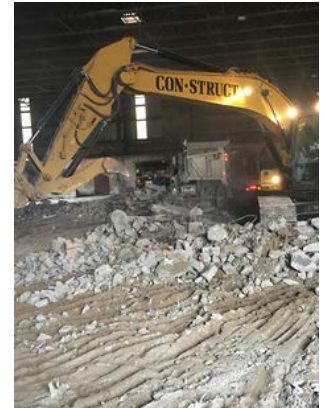
- **Community Solar:** Electric Services staff and its consultant Millennium LLC have been looking at potential sites for the Ames Community Solar Garden. A Request for Proposal to construct the garden is nearly complete, and we are looking to release it to vendors in April. Work has also begun on the customer participation portion of the program. Once complete, this piece will answer questions like these: "What does it cost to participate?" "What happens to my share if I move?" "How will I see the solar energy on my bill?"
- **Electric Engineering** is beginning work on the design for the Top-O-Hollow substation expansion. The project was initially discussed at a Planning and Zoning Commission meeting where rezoning was considered. After that discussion, staff elected to step back and initiate additional talks with neighbors around the substation. Once a full design is complete, staff will hold a public information meeting with residents in the area before moving the project or any rezoning forward.
- **Demand Side Management:** Response to the various rebate programs remains strong. Staff expects demand will significantly exceed the \$1,000,000 budgeted for this program.

- **Gas Turbine 1:** Contractors are on site replacing and installing the engine and the inlet and outlet equipment, and making the unit operational again. The goal is to have the unit available to respond for the peak summer season.
- **Net Metering:** Letters are being sent to all electric customers who have installed solar panels on their roofs. These letters will explain changes to the Net Metering program and how they may affect a customer's utility bill. The changes were passed by City Council on January 10, 2017 and went into effect on March 1st.

**PUBLIC WORKS**

***Resource Recovery***

- The Plant's 42 year old tipping floor was replaced in late March and early April. The project involved removal and replacement of over 325 square yards of concrete. We also cleaned and replaced some of the old drain pipes. Public Works Engineering staff prepared the bid specifications for the project and Public Works Inspections worked with the contractor during all steps of the project. This project involved the use of quartzite as different intermediate and coarse aggregate. Quartzite has improved wear characteristics from normal aggregate to help extend the useful life of the floor. The floor also had a sealer applied to it that will help protect the floor from municipal solid waste.



*Above are more photos of the replacement work for the tipping floor at Resource Recovery*

***Operations***

- **Hydrant flushing began in early April.** This is a necessary and useful annual program to flush the water distribution system to remove any sediment or debris and ensure proper operations of fire protection hydrants. Flushing will take approximately 8 to 10 days.
- The **Ames Foundation** is again partnering with the City of Ames for **proactive planting of replacement trees** in response to the emerald ash borer pest. Trees will be planted within the public right of way in an area roughly from Duff to Grand; 13th Street to Northwood Drive. Volunteers will be solicited from across the City and local businesses. The planting activities are scheduled for April 22<sup>nd</sup>.



***Traffic Engineering***

- **The Hanger Ribbon Cutting and FBO** introduction took place on April 8<sup>th</sup>. The highly successful fly-in breakfast was sponsored by the Flying Cyclones and attracted more than 1500 people.

## ***Engineering***

- The **City Hall parking lot project** has begun! Visit the YouTube video regarding the phasing and available parking for employees and the public. <https://youtu.be/eNd9pgR2ttg>
- **Construction updates** are found this URL: <http://www.cityofames.org/construction>

## **PLANNING & HOUSING**

### ***Planning***

- Downtown façade grant applications are available in April and can be obtained by contacting the Planning Division. The Main Street Cultural District has helped with promotion of the program to downtown business and property owners.
- The final draft of the Lincoln Corridor Plan is available on the City website for public comment. City Council will review the public draft at the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting and provide feedback on the overall framework and specific issues for focus areas.
- Staff participated in a League of Women Voters education session to provide an overview on the Growth of Ames and the development review process.
- Staff will provide an update on the landscaping ordinance changes to the City Council at their April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Planning and Zoning Commission has completed their review of the draft changes and a comprehensive draft of the standards is available online.
- The Campustown Action Association continues to work towards building support for instituting a Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District (SMID). Once the details and participation levels are finalized, the request for the district will need to be approved by the City Council.
- The planned Brick Towne apartment development along South Duff will apply for a change from RH zoning to PRD zoning to accommodate site planning issues for layout and landscaping. A full review of the site development plan will accompany the PRD rezoning request and be before the Planning and Zoning Commission in May.
- The Public Works Department completed Council's requested feasibility study of a sanitary sewer extension to the north along Squaw Creek. The findings will be presented to City Council on May 10<sup>th</sup> along with options on how to proceed with Fringe Plan Amendments and potentially annexation for the properties along Cameron School Road and GW Carver.

### ***Housing***

- The 2017-18 CDBG Annual Action Plan comment period is available from April 5<sup>th</sup> through May 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The deadline for Request for Development Proposals for 321 State Avenue is April 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Staff is preparing to close on the purchase of 321 S. Franklin Avenue (aka Franklin Park).
- Bids for the Public Facilities facade improvements on behalf of YSS are due April 11<sup>th</sup> and tentatively bid acceptance will be at the April 25<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.
- Work on the Public Facilities ADA parking lot improvements on behalf of Mainstream Living will begin this month.

### **Library**

#### **Adult Services programming is focusing on German Iowa in March and April**

This spring, the Library is sponsoring exhibits and programs that showcase the lasting influence of German culture in Iowa. *German Iowa and the Global Midwest* activities are free to the public through Library partnerships with Ames Historical Society, Ames Public Library Friends Foundation, Consulate General of the

Federal Republic of Germany-Chicago, Humanities Iowa, International Programs, Iowa State University Department of History, Obermann Center for Advanced Studies, and Story County Genealogical Society.

The opening reception was held on March 15<sup>th</sup> and a traveling exhibit remained in the Library Gallery until April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Based on research by University of Iowa faculty and students, the exhibit explores current issues and sentiments on immigration, bilingualism, and multiculturalism through an historical lens. Presentations in April included the following:

- ***Germany: A Celebration of Food and Music***

Music by Second Chair Brass; Presentation by Dr. Pamela Riney-Kehrberg, ISU Dept. of History, and Margaret Junkan, owner of Cook's Emporium

- ***Waiting with Packed Suitcases: European Jewish Refugees, 1938-1957***

Tuesday, April 18, 7pm – Library Auditorium

Presented by Dr. Kierra Crago-Schneider, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (Made possible by the Campus Outreach Lecture Program of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Hack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, supported by Alan Solomon, MD.)

- ***Iowa News During the Holocaust***

A History Unfolded Project, Monday, April 24, 7pm – Library Auditorium

## **WATER & POLLUTION CONTROL**

- **Low-Head Dam Safety Modifications.** In late March, staff learned (unofficially) that a grant application to the Iowa Water Trails Enhancement Grant program was successful. Once the state's Natural Resources Commission approves the scoring on April 13<sup>th</sup>, the formal award will be made. This brings the total amount of grant funding for this project to \$392,901! Following Council's approval of additional funding for the project at the March 7<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, the consultant was directed to proceed with the final design. The success of this latest grant application will reduce the Water Fund's contribution to the project. Assuming there are no problems with permitting and that the weather cooperates, the project will likely be bid in late summer for work to take place in the late fall and early winter of 2017.
- **Ada Hayden Park Lakes Water Quality Monitoring.** The FY 16/17 CIP includes funds to initiate a two-year water quality study of the lakes at Ada Hayden Park. The monitoring was last performed in 2009 and 2010. This update to that monitoring is intended to provide a new reference point to gauge any impact to the lakes (positive or negative) from development in the lakes' watershed. A Request for Proposals has been issued and staff is reviewing the two proposals received in response. A two-year contract for monitoring at the lakes is likely to be brought to Council in late April.
- **Digester Pump, Valves, and Piping Replacement.** In 2012, a Facility Assessment was performed at the Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF). One of the items on the prioritized list of maintenance needs was to perform selective pump, pipe, and valve replacement in the Digester Complex. A Request for Proposals was issued, and five responses were received. Staff is currently negotiating a scope of work with the selected firm, and a professional services agreement may be ready for Council in late April.
- **New Water Treatment Plant.** The contractor is holding firm to their commitment to hand over possession of the administrative offices on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. That is also the anticipated date when the 80-hour commissioning test for the facility will commence. The contractual Substantial Completion date (meaning that the facility can be used by the City for its intended purpose) is May 17<sup>th</sup>, and the contractor believes they will be ready to turn over the facility to us a few days ahead of that date. City staff is a little dubious that the necessary work can be completed by those dates, but there is no doubt that the project is entering the final stages. ***Mark your calendars now to attend a ribbon-cutting and public open house on Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup>!***



*Solids Contact Unit No. 1 undergoing its final leak test prior to commissioning.*



*Fluoride feeder, pumps, and associated equipment being installed.*



*Cabinetry has been delivered and is being installed throughout the facility.*

- **Public Art Competition.** Staff is working in partnership with the Public Art Commission to host an art competition and exhibition. The purpose is, over time, to acquire a collection of two dimensional public art that can be displayed throughout the public areas of the new Water Treatment Plant. The competition will culminate in an art exhibition at the new plant that will open on the day of the ribbon-cutting ceremony and will run for two months. Details about the competition and entry forms are available at [www.cityofames.org/artcontest](http://www.cityofames.org/artcontest).
- **Pipeline Contract Dispute.** Staff is still working to find a new date to conduct mediation with S.M. Hentges & Sons, the pipeline contractor on the water plant project. As described in recent monthly briefings, the City has withheld final payment to cover \$239,852.57 in damages and other claims against the contractor.