

City of Ames

- May Project Highlights - 2017



Stainless steel "cascade-style" aerators at the new Water Treatment Plant during a raw water high flow test on April 27.

FINANCE

- The Finance Department has drafted a City Debt Policy that will be presented at an upcoming meeting for consideration by Council. The adoption of a comprehensive debt policy is a recommended best practice of Government Finance Officers of United States and Canada and provides assurance to rating agencies that elected officials have reviewed and approved the debt management practices followed by City staff. The draft policy is consistent with long standing practices followed by the City and allows for flexibility within in the policy when specifically approved by Council. We hope to have the debt policy adopted prior to issuance of GO bonds in late summer or early fall. We will forward the approved policy to Moody's as part of the rating review for the bond issue. In addition to being a good general practice, adopting a comprehensive debt policy is part of our process of doing what we can within our sphere of influence to restore our Aaa bond rating.

Fire

Suppression

- Firefighters have again been very busy with public outreach events including speaking to:
 - o More than 20 DMACC Ames Campus students regarding career safety.
 - o Over 100 Sawyer Elementary School students at their annual Science Fair. Students and parents learned the science behind fire and got to see how quickly smoke can move through a building when doors are left open.
 - o Over 70 employees at the Northcrest Community Safety Fair. Firefighters taught attendees how to successfully and safely use fire extinguishers.

Inspections

- Total of 61 building permits issued this *month*, including:
 - 8 new homes
 - 2700 Lincoln Way (River Cadis)
 - 1301 Buckeye (Jethro's BBQ)

- So far this year, 57 new single family permits have been issued, including 164 residential (this number includes both single family and apartments) and 89 commercial permits.

Public Works

Operations

Staff inspects existing sidewalks for deficiencies on a complaint basis, only. Now that the weather is conducive to inspection and repair, staff will be out investigating complaints and posting repair notices when appropriate.

- Standards for Sidewalk Repair or Replacement
Compliance is determined by Public Works using the following criteria in accordance with the United States Access Board’s Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG)
 - Cracked slab or joint with ½” or more horizontal displacement.
 - Change in vertical level greater than ¼” without bevel or up to ½” with a 2:1 bevel



- In addition, the following local standards for extent of damage are applied:

<p>Two or more cracks in one 4' x 4' panels that have a 1/8” or greater opening.</p>	<p>Holes with one dimension greater than ½”.</p>	<p>Spalling ¼” in depth over at least 50% of the panel area.</p>

- All repairs shall be performed in accordance with City of Ames standard specifications. The City of Ames follows Iowa Statewide Urban Design and Specifications (SUDAS) and all local supplemental specifications. Crack sealing is not an approved method of repair.

Library

- **Books, Books, and More Books!**
Many, many books are donated to the Library each week. Volunteers from the APL Friends Foundation process the entire delightful, eclectic mix of treasures. Some of the best books in need of new homes are featured in Literary Grounds, the used book store and “coffee shop” off

the lobby that is always open. Others are offered at bargain prices during special sales that may focus on a theme, such as Veterans' Day, cooking, or gardening. The Mother's Day Sale, coming up May 5-7, will be the perfect place to find gift-quality books suitable for Mom or someone else. You may also want to mark your calendar for the Free Pocket Paperbacks Weekend May 19-21, when paperbacks will fill the lobby and everyone is invited to take as many as they want.

○ **Step Into Storybooks**

Stories came alive for 2,160 visitors inside and outside the Library on April 8.

Joke-telling, climbing on farm equipment, petting farm animals, singing, storytelling, even barn building took place at 22 stations that were hosted by many local agencies, businesses and clubs. Volunteer helpers dressed as animals and storybook characters. The event was presented in partnership with Ames Morning Rotary and Raising Readers in Story County.



○ **Computer Quick Stops**

Two computers were recently set up beneath the stairs in the lobby of the Library for people on the run. Did you leave your phone at home? Do you only have a few minutes to spare? Swing by these stations to check the temperature or the arrival time of the next CyRide bus. Make a quick tap on the screen to search the Library catalog, or log in to book a meeting room, access your e-mail, even print a boarding pass.

○ **National Bookmobile Day**

Our shiny new bookmobile was parked in front of the Library all morning April 12 in celebration of National Bookmobile Day. Visitors enjoyed buttons, coloring pages, and bookmobile trivia as they browsed for materials to check out.

Water & Pollution Control

Water

- The pace of activity at the **new Water Treatment Plant** is so great that this briefing will probably be out of date by the time of its reading. As of the 1st of May, the facility is almost

ready for its commissioning test. Nearly all treatment components have undergone individual system start-ups. A critical test took place on April 27, when raw water from the wells was brought into the plant for the first time. Staff turned on 20 of the Water Plant's 22 wells and brought a flow rate of approximately 10,500 gallons per minute into the facility. [Think about filling 10,500 milk jugs in one minute. Then filling another 10,500 gallons in the next minute. Then 10,500 gallons the next minute....] The water was not treated and was not introduced into the distribution system. But it did provide operational confirmation of the capacity of the front end of the treatment plant, as well as providing some important flushing of the aerators and the solids contact unit influent piping.

A considerable amount of additional operational testing is still required. Once that is completed the entire treatment facility will undergo a thorough disinfection procedure. The contractor is optimistic that the facility will be ready to undergo an extensive 80-hour demonstration test by the end of May.



Aerators on September 16, 2016



Aerators on April 27, 2017

About the Aerators:

- The units were designed by WesTech Engineering, an Ames-area company.
- The units are 9' in diameter and are 9.5' tall
- Each of the three units is capable of handling 4,000 gallons per minute.
- The purpose of the units is to oxidize the iron that is present in the well water, making it easier to remove. The units also strip out hydrogen sulfide (the rotten egg smell that people often associate with well water) and carbon dioxide.
- The units are made of stainless steel and will not rust. Over time, though, they will

take on a rusty appearance. This is from the iron in the well water depositing on the surface of the units.

- The basin that the units sit in is designed to accept a fourth aerator when the time comes to expand the facility.
- These are the only portion of the water treatment process that takes place outdoors.

Water Meter

- As of the end of April, staff was 23.6% completed with the Automatic Meter Reading conversion. 4,617 meters have been converted to the new radio-read system.

Administration

- Staff is working on a comprehensive update to the Water and Sewer portions of Chapter 28 of the Municipal Code. The majority of the revisions are related to standards for water meter installation (to bring the Code into agreement with the current requirements of the Automatic Meter Reading technology) and to update to the Industrial Pretreatment Program requirements. Additionally, miscellaneous revisions are included. Plans are being developed to gather stakeholder input and feedback during the summer, with the final version planned to be brought to Council by the end of the year.

Water Pollution Control

- Several project-related issues at the Water Pollution Control Facility will be presented to Council in May. These include the following: awarding a professional services agreement for a digester pipe, pump, and valve replacement project; accepting completion of a switchgear cleaning project; issuing a Notice to Bidders for the replacement of a bar screen; approving an annual renewal to a multi-year agreement for biosolids disposal; and awarding contracts for recoating the primary clarifiers and for a structural rehabilitation project.
- There have been no recent discussions with the Iowa DNR on the **discharge permit renewal for WPC**. Staff are participating in a stakeholder task force working with IDNR on a state-wide wet weather flow policy that may eventually lead to a resolution of one of the key sticking points in the permit negotiations.