

- July Project Highlights - 2017

Public Works

City Hall Parking Lot: The first phase is now completed with the pavers installed and lines painted. The Parking Lot is required to be open for events on July 4th (parade) and July 8th (Midnight Madness). Following those events, the next phase will be on the south side of the parking lot.



City Hall Parking Lot

Reconstruction of the Grand Avenue Stairs at the east end of North 2nd Street has begun! The stairs were closed due to safety issues with deteriorating concrete. Costs to replace the stairs in a like fashion were prohibitively expensive due to the constraints of the stair location being on a steep hill with limited access from any direction except the top. Thus, a design was pursued that would allow for easier maintenance of the stairs in the future.



Grand Avenue Stairs Material

The existing stairs have been removed to or just below ground level. It is not desired to remove them completely because they are helping hold the dirt slope in place. The new stair design is made of aluminum and will span over the top of the old stair location. This aluminum stair is able to have pieces removed and replaced if damage occurs in the future. Also, this stair has an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) approved open grating that will minimize winter maintenance and deicing materials. It was these deicing materials that eventually exacerbated the failure of the original stairs. A stretch of sidewalk along the west side of Grand Avenue is also being replaced in conjunction with the stairway project.

Public Works crews have demolished the existing stairs. Following the demolition new concrete footings will be placed and the stairs will be erected on top of the footings. Expect work in the area to take about 3 weeks.

City of Ames Complete Streets: Proposals were received from five very good firms and the committee with interested stakeholders met Monday, June 26th to review and score the proposals. The committee selected a top first and second choice and the Traffic Engineer will begin work on negotiating a final scope and contract with the first chosen firm. Plans are to bring the contract to City Council for approval by the end of July.

Traffic Calming Test (One Way/Do Not Enter at 12th Street and Kellogg Avenue adjacent to Mary Greeley Medical Center): Staff is testing traffic calming devices to prevent cut-thru traffic. Test installation will be placed in mid-July and evaluated through the summer and fall months.

Construction Updates on road projects around the City can be found at <http://www.cityofames.org/construction>

Police

Fireworks complaints are on the rise. Between June 15 and July 3, Ames Police have had 96 fireworks calls. For the same period last year, there were 14 fireworks calls.

Library

USDA Summer Food Program Expanded for 2017: The USDA's Summer Food Service Program, also known as the Summer Meals Program, was established to ensure that children continue to receive nutritious meals when school is out. Last year the Library and other Ames partners offered free lunches three days a week during June and July. This year, meals are being provided every weekday from June 5 through August 22. Lunches are free for children and teens through age 18 and may be purchased by adults for \$3.50. About 100 kids per day have been served so far this year.

The 2017 Summer Food Service Program effort is made possible by collaboration among the following groups:

- Boys and Girls Club of Ames – working with the State and USDA as the Sponsor to manage the program and reimbursements;
- Nevada Public Schools – providing the food preparation and distribution site;

- Ames Public Library – hosting the safe and supervised “dining” environment, story time programs before and after lunch, an AmeriCorps/Vista supervisor, Volunteer Coordinator, and teen volunteers who assist with serving and engaging kids in mealtime conversations;
- United Way of Story County – granting funds for the purchase of coolers to transport lunches and a commercial refrigerator for storing unused meals overnight, and serving as the AmeriCorps/Vista liaison.

Special thanks are due to APL Friends Foundation donors Dean Hunziker and Elaine Hieber for their support of the Summer Meals Program.



ABOVE: APL Youth Volunteers, under the supervision of AmeriCorps/Vista worker John Rochford (in blue at left) and Youth Services Intern Kiki Kramer (in teal at right) set up to serve lunch each week day. The teens are eager workers who try to find a little time to clown around, too.

All-America City Nomination

Ames was nominated for the All-America City Award (AAC) this year for using collaborative civic efforts to improve grade-level reading. Research has long shown that when children read at proficient levels by third grade they are more likely to complete high school prepared for college, a career, and active citizenship. The All-America City Awards Gathering, hosted by the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading and the National Civic League, was held in Denver in June. Youth Services Manager Jerri Heid (APL), Carolyn Jons and Kim Hanna (Raising Readers in Story County), and Jean Kresse (United Way of Story County) traveled to Denver to represent Ames. Although Ames did not win the 2017 AAC Award, Iowa was well-represented by being home to three of the 15 communities that did – Council Bluffs, Des Moines, and Dubuque.

Sealine Enameled Glass

The Library Board of Trustees recently accepted a donation from Shirley Wood of an original piece of enameled glass by Eric Sealine. The beautiful piece shown below now hangs in the east bank of windows in the Danfoss Room.



Eric Sealine graduated from Ames High School in 1966 and received his undergraduate degree from ISU in 1970. His first one-man show was held at the Octagon in 1972. The work now hanging inside the Library was acquired by Dr. Wood in 1977, when Sealine had a second-floor studio in the 200 block of Main Street. At that time he was a young, semi-starving artist working extensively with glass, leaded glass, and vitreous enamel fused onto plate glass at high temperatures.

Since then, Sealine has grown to be a highly regarded artist whose work has been shown in prestigious venues, both nationally and internationally. ISU Museums has a number of his pieces and the State Gym houses a wall mural entitled "Learning to Fly," which received a Covering Installation and Design Award in 2013.

Electric Services

With the first wave of **summer heat**, the Electric system performed very well. Electric outages were minimal and the demand for energy remained less than expected. Our current 2017 peak consumption of 118.4 MW occurred on June 13th at 4:00 pm. This is compared to our all time peak of 130.7 MW which occurred back in 2012. Staff attributed the lower load to three things: lower humidity, effective demand side management programs, and windier conditions.

Responses to the City's **Community Solar Farm RFP** were due on June 20th. Staff is working on evaluating those proposals, as well as on the customer marketing program.

Fire

Suppression

Firefighters are currently finishing up training in the former Carriage House/American Natural Treats building at 1131 North Dayton Avenue before it gets demolished. Fire crews were able to conduct live, real time training on hose line operations, roof operations, ventilation operations, search and rescue, forcible entry, and firefighter mayday scenarios. This is also the second time this year that the Fire Department was able to pass an acquired structure on to the Police Department for training use. Over the previous year, firefighters have trained in over a dozen different acquired structures, and are thankful for these opportunities to conduct realistic training in buildings slated for demolition.

Inspections

Between May 1st and June 20th the Inspection Division issued the following number of permits:

- 120 new building permits
- 18 new single family dwelling permits
- 10 new multi-family dwelling unit permits (with 195 total dwelling units)

Planning & Housing Department

Housing & Community Development

Now that the 2017-18 CDBG allocations for entitlement communities were issued this past month, staff has prepared a **Revised/Proposed Annual Action Plan**. It has been made available for a 14-day public comment period that will end on Wednesday, July 5. Staff will be presenting the Revised/Proposed Annual Action Plan for City Council review and approval at the July 11th Council meeting. The updated plan must be submitted to HUD by August 16, 2017.

At the June 13th City Council meeting, staff was directed to work with JCorp to revise their Request for Proposal for the development of 321 State Avenue to better match project costs with the \$550,000 budget that is being proposed in the 2017-18 Revised Proposed CDBG Annual Action Plan. Staff will present those options to City Council at the July 11th City Council meeting.