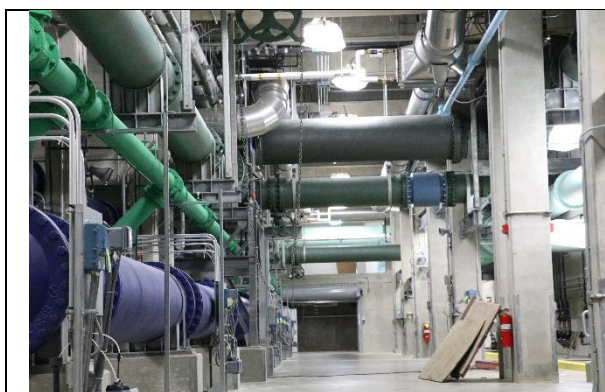


- August Project Highlights - 2017

Water & Pollution Control

Water

The **new Water Plant project** is rapidly moving towards substantial completion. As of this writing, the facility is not yet on-line, but the functional testing is well under way. **The entire community is invited to a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 9:00 AM on Saturday, August 26th. Immediately following the ceremony, an open house with displays and tours of the new facility will be held.**



View from inside the pipe gallery



Chemical feed pumps installed and ready

Design work continues on the **Low Head Dam Safety Modifications project**. Staff has received the 60% complete set of plans from the consulting team.

Water Pollution Control

Council will be asked to award a contract in August for the installation of a **new bar screen**. This new screen will replace a demonstration system installed several years ago that did not perform as well as anticipated.

The **Structural Repairs** and **Clarifier Painting** projects are both underway at the facility, and are anticipated to wrap up later this fall.

Interviews were completed in July to fill two vacant **Treatment Plant Maintenance Worker** positions. The WPC team is looking forward to having two new members join them in August.

Administration

A significant update to **Municipal Code Chapter 28 Divisions II (Water Service) and III (Sewers)** is underway. These revisions will make a number of changes, including: updates to the Water Meter requirements to account for the transition to the Automatic Meter Reading system; updates to the Industrial Pretreatment Program to address items requested during a recent US EPA audit; revisions to the Fats, Oils, and Grease program; and other smaller revisions. Staff anticipates having this Code revision package ready for Council consideration by early October, after providing opportunities for input by various potentially impacted stakeholders.

Public Works

Engineering

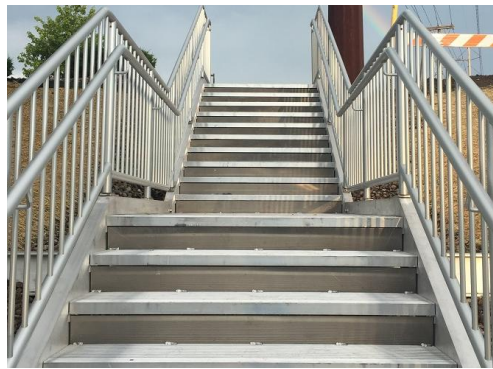
Construction continues to progress on projects all over Ames. Updates can be found here: <http://cityofames.org/construction>.

Operations

The **Grand Avenue stairs** have been removed and replaced. This project lasted over two years as the original design for concrete stairs was not cost effective. The new stairs will be safer for citizens and will also sustain through weather conditions. (See picture below.)

Sanitary sewer lining will begin in late July. This work involves inserting a liner into the existing sanitary sewer to keep ground water out of the sanitary system. The liner is inflated inside of the sewer and cured with steam. Individual sewer services are then cut back into the liner. The liner helps not only with keeping ground water out, but also improves sewer performance since the new liner is smoother which helps flow downstream.

A project to **repair contraction joints in shared use paths** will begin in late July as well. This will involve filing the joints with a special material that is designed to fill the gap and smooth out the ride of the path. Following these joint repairs, paths will be evaluated if they need an additional surface treatment to extend the life span and aesthetics of the path.



Traffic/Airport

The **West Lincoln Way Widening project** has begun. West Lincoln Way from South Wilmoth to Marshall Avenue will go from a 4-lane to a 5-lane street. Additionally, improvements to the Franklin Avenue intersection will be completed with the installation of a new traffic signal.

The **Ames Airport Terminal building project** is nearing completion. Currently the flooring and finishes are being installed as well as outside work such as sidewalks and landscaping. The project is estimated to be complete by the end of August. A dedication ceremony is also being planned, with the date to be announced soon. (See attached pictures)

Project Notice: 2017/18 West Lincoln Way (Franklin Avenue)



Staging Notes:

1. **Stage 1B:** Start Date: **Thursday, June 27, 2017**; Work: Widening lanes on south side of Lincoln Way, East of Franklin Ave. Includes remove and replacement of trail along south side.
2. **Stage 1A:** Start Date: following Stage 1B; Work: similar work to Stage 1B.
3. **Stage 2:** Start Date: following Stage 1A; Work: intersection improvements and traffic signal modifications.
4. **Stage 3A, 3B, & 4 (North Side):** Start Date: following Stages 1B, 1A, & 2 (South Side); Work: Widening lanes on south side of Lincoln Way, East of Franklin Ave. Includes remove and replacement of side walk along south side (Stage 3 A/B). Intersection improvements and traffic signal modifications (Stage 4).

For updates as the project progresses, please visit:
www.cityofames.org/construction



Resource Recovery

Staff member Lorrie Hanson is working with Robert A. Stoker, Industrial Hygiene and Safety Manager for the National Centers for Animal Health, to showcase the City's Resource Recovery System and Household Hazardous Materials program. Included are the following events:

- July 25th at 10 AM ... hosting a webinar from 1920 Dayton Road ... presentation to Agricultural Research staff across the United States
- September 20th at 11 AM ... in person at 1920 Dayton Road, Ames, IA ... presentation to National Centers for Animal Health staff
- September 24th at 10 AM ... hosting a webinar from 1920 Dayton Road ... presentation to Veterinary Services staff across the United States

Police

Ames Police command staff had the first meeting with St. Ambrose University Professor Chris Barnum regarding the **study of disproportionate minority contact**. Follow up steps are currently underway, including development of the contract and data collection plan associated with the goal. Professor Barnum currently does similar work for Iowa City, Davenport, and Dubuque.

The **Ames Animal Shelter** staff was asked by Best Friends Animal Society to attend their national conference and speak about the no-kill efforts our shelter has made over the last few years.

Fireworks calls peaked on July 4th with 32 fireworks complaints to the PD during that 24 hour period.




One example of the calls the Police Department received. This is a photo of the left over debris that remained at Ada Hayden.

The radio communications trouble noted in last month's update has been isolated and is in the process of being addressed. A communications antenna installed on the ISU campus was generating interference on the tower used for Ames public safety communications. Additional testing is underway and corrections are in progress.

The Ames Emergency Communications Center is now capable of receiving emergency text messages. There will be more promotion of this capability as the rest of the 911 centers across the state install the necessary equipment.

National Night Out will be held August 1st in Bandshell Park from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Join us!

Electric Services

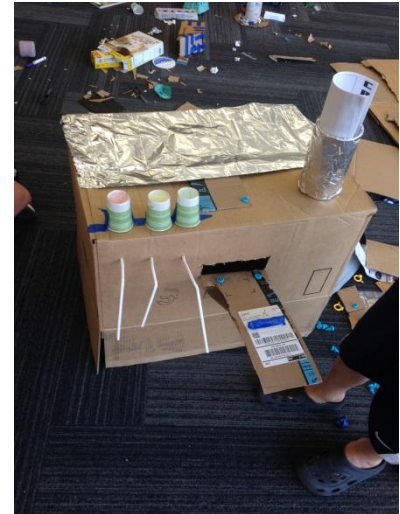
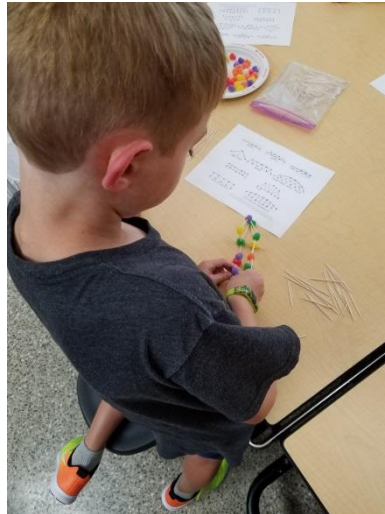
During July EUORAB has hosted several  **SunSmart Ames workshops**. At these workshops Board members and Electric Services staff have shared information about the community solar project being planned for the community. This project is a bit different than most, since Electric Services customers can directly participate in the project through the purchase of a "Power Pack". For every power pack purchase a customer will receive a credit on their City utility bill over the next 20 years.

In July we experienced some pretty hot and humid weather. The extreme heat leads to **higher demands for electricity**. The good news is that both our customers and City employees took extra steps to conserve energy during our peak periods. This allowed us to avoid hitting a new peak, thus delaying the need to build or purchase additional power generation. In the end this will keep our rates lower for everyone.

Library

Creative Kids Love the Youth Services Makers' Space

Summertime activities at the library this year include hands-on construction and engineering-type projects, as well as computer coding. Youthful visitors explore ideas, test models, hammer, glue, draw, create and have fun. These are some of the reasons APL was named "Best Kid Friendly/Family Place" in Ames Tribune's Best of Story County 2017 awards.



Above: Sometimes instructions come in handy for making a successful model. Having a chance to "chew on" the problem also helps when the materials are tasty! This child is building a bridge with gumdrops.

Other children let their imaginations run wild and set to work building from scratch. This 3D computer printer was built with glue and special tools designed for construction with heavy-duty cardboard .

Pub Fiction Literary Pub Crawl

The Ames Public Library Friends Foundation is holding a new fundraising event called Pub Fiction on Thursday, August 17th. It is a literary themed pub crawl in downtown Ames. Participants are invited to dress as their favorite literary character and visit five downtown Ames drinking establishments, all with different themes, games, and exclusive drink specials. Tickets are available for \$10 on-line at <http://bit.ly/pubfiction> or at the Welcome Desk. Participants must be 21 years of age or older and must sign a release form. By holding events such as this, Ames Public Library Friends Foundation is able to enhance Ames Public Library's collections, programs, and services.



This event was **Summer Learning Day** presented by Ames Reads, a community partnership that includes the Ames Public Library. Special thanks go to the staff at the Furman Aquatics Center for being super hosts. Photo on the left is Police Chief, Chuck Cychosz. Photo on the right is Jean Kresse, Executive Director of United Way; Michael Crumb, Editor of the Ames Tribune; Shawn Bayouth, COA Fire Chief; Mayor Ann Campbell; and Jerri Heid, Youth Services Manager at Ames Public Library.

Fire

Inspection Division records indicate that complaints have been received regarding the property at **4004 Phoenix St.** as early as May of 2007. Since that time, numerous attempts by staff had been made to bring the property into a compliant condition. After a recent case was reopened in July of 2015, staff worked with attorneys, realtors, and the homeowner for more than a year and a half to have this deteriorating eye-sore removed. Recently, neighbors (among others) were elated when the home was successfully sold, the structure was torn down, a new single family residence was rebuilt on the property parcel, and the home was showcased in the 2017 Ames Homebuilders Association's "Parade of Homes" (see the attached before-and-after photos).



CyRide

Hiring challenges – With extremely low unemployment in Ames (2.1% in May) combined with commercial driver’s license challenges and the Iowa DOT’s backlog of testing appointments, CyRide is experiencing significantly lower driver staffing levels and longer training periods for new drivers. CyRide anticipates more than 700 open hours (hours not assigned to drivers) to begin the school year, which will need to be covered with overtime from current drivers and management staff driving service on a daily basis. CyRide has advertised its need for drivers in numerous ways and other City departments have helped “get the word out” about CyRide’s need to gain interest in these positions. This challenge is also a concern in other transportation sectors of Ames, of Iowa, and nationally.

CyRide staff is busy preparing to **implement the System Redesign Plan** approved by the Transit Board of Trustees in April 2017. With almost every route/schedule changed in some manner, it will be a big undertaking for staff and for the public to understand how the new services will impact their daily trips. CyRide has hired a marketing firm to assist in developing materials to assist in the education of its riders and the public. The changes are scheduled for implementation in two phases: May 2018 for summer routes, and August 2018 for school year service. Information regarding these changes will be available after the first of the year. Many activities required to implement changes of this magnitude, including the following:

- Bus Stop Modifications/Signage Changes
- Towers Turnaround Construction
- Printed Route Map/Schedule Modifications
- Title VI Planning Assessment
- Incorporation into the 2018/19 Budget
- Education/Information Plan and Development of Material
- Develop Bus Schedules/Driver Work Schedules
- Community Conversations (Target, Mall)

Planning & Housing

The City Council will hold a joint workshop with the Planning and Zoning commission on August 15th to receive a presentation on examples of Comprehensive Plans and options for the City’s upcoming **Comprehensive Plan update**.

Ames will participate in a national **Chalk the Walks event** on August 15th to promote community building by using sidewalk chalk to spread messages of inspiration and optimism. There will be several “chalking” locations set up across Ames.

The City Council initiated a Major Land Use Policy Plan Amendment for the **Northwest Gap Area** along GW Carver and Cameron School Road to allow for its eventual annexation and development. The first informational meeting will be held August 10, before preparing for public hearings with the Planning and Zoning Commission and the City Council later this fall.

Council also directed Planning and Inspection to conduct community outreach for neighborhoods and landlords on the issues of **rental occupancy standards**. Two meetings are planned for August 17th. The City is considering changes to its current rental licensing program in response to state law changes about the occupancy limits for unrelated individuals that will go into effect on January 1st.