



City Hall Office Hours:  
 Monday – Friday 9:00 AM – Noon  
 Other times by appointment



# City of Colo Newsletter

www.colo-iowa.org

September/October 2008



For a small, rural town in Iowa, we have special people who devote a lot of time into pulling off an awesome Colo Crossroads Festival! Thank you!

-The Timmerman Family

## Open Burning Window Expands

The Fall open burning season will soon be here. During the time period of October 1st through November 15th, residents may burn yard and garden waste generated on their own property on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:00 noon until 8:00 p.m. The Saturday burn times of 7:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon are in effect all year. If fires are still burning at the designated end time, they must be extinguished.

**To report an illegal burn**, contact the Story County Sheriff's Office at 911 (Emergency) or 515-382-6566 (Non-Emergency)



### WANTED:

**BICYCLES: ANY SIZE, ANY CONDITION**



Donated bikes will go to Working Bikes co-op of Chicago. These bikes are refurbished and shipped to Central America and Africa.

To donate, please call Randy Stoeffler at 641-377-2490 or 641-377-6603 and leave a message.

I will make arrangements to pick-up if needed.

**THANK YOU!**

Colo Cares will meet at 7:00 p.m., Monday, September 8, 2008 at the Colo Community Center. We welcome anyone from the community to join us as we seek to support local families. Thank you to all who donated and assisted with the July Clothing Share. You have allowed us to provide a valuable service to families. The next Clothing Share will be in October.

## Colo Library Programs

K-4 After School Program at the Colo Public Library is Mondays from 3:45 p.m. — 4:45 p.m., September 8—October 20, 2008.

Preschool Story Time is Fridays at 10:00 a.m. at the Library, September 12 — October 31, 2008.

Toddler Time is September 9 & 23 and October 7 & 21, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at the Library.

Afternoon Reading Group is Friday, September 26 at 2:00 p.m. The group will discuss the book Cane River by Lalita Tademy. If you are interested, please stop by the library for a copy of the book.

**Thank you to everyone who helped make RAGBRAI a success!**



## LIGHTING OF THE NEW CHRISTMAS LIGHTS IN COLO!

Come join us in the lighting of the new Christmas lights in Colo at the Winter Festival on Saturday, December 6 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. There will be many activities and fun for all ages. Put this date on your calendar and look for more details later. Let's have pride in Colo and celebrate the season together!



### City Council Meetings

Tuesday, Sept. 2—7:00 p.m.  
 at City Hall  
 Monday, Oct. 6—7:00 p.m.  
 at City Hall  
 Monday, Nov. 3—7:00 p.m.  
 at City Hall

*Open to the Public*

### It's Time to Trim Low Hanging Tree Limbs



Almost everyone agrees that mature trees add value to our property and provide welcome shade during those hot summer months. However, that tree does occasionally require some TLC.

City Hall receives several calls each year regarding low tree limbs overhanging streets, alleys and sidewalks. Even though the tree may be located within the city street right-of-way, the Colo City Code requires the owner of the property abutting the street or alley to trim the tree. Tree branches are required to be trimmed to a height no less than 15 feet above street and alleys and 8 feet above sidewalks.

The code gives the City the authority to trim trees and assess the cost against the adjoining property owner or to issue a citation for a municipal infraction if trees are not trimmed after notification. Adjoining property owners are also responsible for the removal of trees located in the street, which may be diseased or trees which constitute a danger to the public, or which may otherwise be declared a nuisance.

The code also prohibits the planting of any new trees or shrubs in any street right-of-way.

To get more information on tree planting restrictions or many other City Code requirements, visit the FAQ's section on the City's web site at [www.colorado-iowa.org](http://www.colorado-iowa.org)



## FREE GARBAGE DAY

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2008; 8:00 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.; 110 CENTER AVENUE, AMES**  
QUESTIONS? CALL 515-239-5137 or Toll Free 1-877-639-5661

The City of Ames will be sponsoring a Free Day at the Resource Recovery Plant Saturday, September 13, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Residents of Story County are eligible to use the Plant on this day to dispose of **regular household waste. Furniture, carpet, and lawn mowers** will be accepted but not processed in the Plant; these items will be landfilled/recycled. Separating these items from other regular household waste before bringing them to the Plant will prevent delays in service. Please access the plant from the west on 2nd Street, not from Lincoln Way. Expect a wait, so please be patient!

**There will be a limit of two (2 in total) televisions or computers from each household. NO TVs OR COMPUTERS WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM BUSINESSES. Goodwill Industries, 3718 Lincoln Way (by HyVee West), accepts ONLY WORKING TVs and computers (working or not) at no charge for refurbishing or recycling.**

Regular charges will still be in effect for these items:

Tires will be disposed of for a fee: 16" tires \$ 2.25

- 16 - 24" \$ 4.25
- 24"+ \$ 6.25
- Tractor \$35.00
- Tires on rims \$ 5.00



All appliances will be disposed of for a fee of \$20 each. Appliance may include but is not limited to stove, refrigerator, freezer, dishwasher, water heater, humidifier, dehumidifier, washer, dryer. **Bell Salvage, 500 Freel Drive, 232-9372, also takes appliances; call to see if they are still accepting them for less than what we charge.**

Construction/demolition debris will NOT be accepted; this includes wood scraps, bricks, concrete, and other debris. These materials must be disposed of at the Ames-Story Environmental Landfill at 2101 Watt St. (phone 232-5864). Wood waste will be considered construction/demolition material and will not be accepted at the Resource Recovery Plant.

Waste oil will be disposed of free up to five gallons; for each gallon over five, \$.25 will be charged.

Car batteries (lead acid batteries) will be disposed of free.

Paint cans will be accepted only if they are empty or dried out; leave the lid off so that it can be checked. If you have cans of latex paint to dispose of that are not quite empty, leave the lid off for a few days to dry out the paint, or pour the paint into a box filled with shredded newspapers, let the box dry out, and we'll dispose of all of it for you, **AS LONG AS THE PAINT IS DRY.**

Yard waste such as lawn clippings, branches, shrubs or trees will not be accepted; these items must be disposed of at All Seasons Contracting Services, 407 Freel Drive. Saturday, April 26, 2008 is also a Yard Waste free day, and includes brush. All Seasons' phone number is 233-8508.

### Yard Waste Free Days

**8 a.m. to 4 p.m. ; November, 2008, to be announced; Location: 407 Freel Drive, Ames**

Residents may bring their yard waste such as leaves, grass, and lawn clippings including brush. These yard waste items are NOT accepted at the Resource Recovery Plant.

The City of Ames contracts with All Seasons Contracting Services to accept yard waste at no cost to Story County residents on free days. Participants must abide by All Seasons guidelines for yard waste disposal. For questions, call All Seasons Contracting Services at (515) 233-8508.

**Fire Prevention Week is October 5 — 11, 2008**

**Practice Your Escape Plan and replace the batteries in your smoke detectors in your home.**

**Thank you to all the volunteer Fire & Rescue members in our community!**

City of Colo  
P.O. Box 294  
Colo, Iowa 50056-0294

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**City Hall Business Office**  
**Mon-Fri. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon &**  
**Other times by appointment**  
**641-377-2238**  
**www.colo-iowa.org**  
**colocity@netins.net**

Postal Patron  
Colo, Iowa 50056



## **STORM SEWER PROJECT MOVES FORWARD**

**Plans for storm sewer improvements for Colo are moving forward with a goal set for spring 2009 construction.** Project engineer Anthony Bellizzi of Veenstra & Kimm, Inc. reported that as of August 1<sup>st</sup> the design phase of the project was 40% complete.

The project is the result of a study commissioned by the Colo City Council and completed in March 2007. The study provided a detailed analysis of the current storm drainage system and street infrastructure and made recommendations for future improvements. The City applied for a Community Development Block Grant and was notified in March of 2008 that Colo would be awarded \$250,000 from the CDBG program.

The engineering contract was awarded in April. Since then the City has been working through the requirements for environmental assessment, procurement, code of conduct and residential anti-displacement and relocation assistance plan (it is not anticipated that anyone will be displaced or relocated as a result of this project).

**The project will involve some construction throughout the city**, however, according to the preliminary engineering report a majority of the work will be along the following streets:  
Bailey Street from Fifth Street to West Street  
Voorhies Street from Third Street to Sixth Street  
South Street from Third Street to West Street  
Sixth Street from Park Street to Bailey Street  
Fifth Street from Park Street to South Street

**The preliminary project cost estimate is \$800,000.** Allowing for the CDBG grant, the City will need to finance approximately \$550,000 through the sale of general obligation and/or storm sewer revenue bonds. General obligation bonds are repaid through increased property taxes while storm sewer revenue bonds would be repaid through user fees, much like water and sewer charges.

The current project timeline calls for a midwinter bid letting with Spring/Summer 2009 construction. Preliminary plans can be viewed at City Hall.

**Articles for the Nov.—Dec.  
Newsletter are due before  
October 20th**



**City Hall  
will be closed  
September 1st to  
observe  
Labor Day**

## Community Survey

With the help of Alliant Energy, the Colo Planning and Zoning Commission recently completed the Colo Resident Satisfaction Survey.

The Commission makes recommendations to the Colo City Council regarding long-term capital improvements.

The survey is one of the resources used to determine priorities for improvements.

Here are the results of the first 2 questions in the survey. Additional results will be included in future newsletters.

Please indicate your level of satisfaction with each of the following services.				
Answer Options	Exceeds requirements	Meets requirements	Needs improvement	No position
Animal control	6.5% (14)	<b>55.6% (119)</b>	29.9% (64)	7.9% (17)
Cemetery	13.5% (29)	<b>55.3% (119)</b>	4.2% (9)	27.0% (58)
Enforcement of nuisance ordinances	7.7% (16)	<b>54.6% (113)</b>	24.2% (50)	13.5% (28)
Fire services	41.1% (90)	<b>50.2% (110)</b>	0.5% (1)	8.2% (18)
Garbage collection/recycling	15.1% (33)	<b>62.8% (137)</b>	19.7% (43)	2.3% (5)
Law enforcement	12.0% (26)	<b>71.3% (154)</b>	11.1% (24)	5.6% (12)
Library	44.2% (50)	<b>47.9% (103)</b>	1.9% (4)	6.0% (13)
Parks	23.5% (50)	<b>62.9% (134)</b>	8.5% (18)	5.2% (11)
Recreation programs	8.9% (19)	<b>52.1% (111)</b>	14.6% (31)	24.4% (52)
Sanitary sewer	8.6% (18)	<b>75.1% (157)</b>	11.5% (24)	4.8% (10)
Snow and ice control on streets	13.0% (28)	<b>58.6% (126)</b>	26.5% (57)	1.9% (4)
Storm water drainage system	5.2% (11)	<b>49.3% (105)</b>	39.0% (83)	6.6% (14)
Street maintenance	5.1% (11)	<b>52.8% (114)</b>	37.5% (81)	4.6% (10)
Water system	10.8% (23)	<b>78.4% (167)</b>	8.5% (18)	2.3% (5)

Which three of the following additional services/programs do you think the city should pursue? Please check the three most important.	
Answer Options	Response Count
<b>Improved downtown area</b>	<b>109</b>
<b>Train whistle abatement</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>Economic development</b>	<b>76</b>
Street paving	74
Expanded Community Center	71
Walking/biking trails	55
New residential housing development	53
Sidewalk improvements	46
New recreation facilities	28
Recreation programs	27