MEMO

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Renee Hall, City Clerk
Date: November 20, 2026
Subject: Packet of Communications to Council

Listed below are the communications to the City Council known to staff as of November 20, 2026:

1. Matthew Randall, Randall Corporation – November 9, 2026
   RE: Request for Traffic Study at South 16th Street and Golden Aspen Drive

2. Stacy Woodward, Ames Resident – November 12, 2026
   RE: Regulations and concerns with Campustown

3. Geoff Huff, Chief of Police – November 17, 2026
   RE: Elks Lodge – Trespass Procedures

4. Joel Buehler, Ames Resident – November 18, 2026
   RE: Concerns regarding proposed Stange Road improvement plan

5. Christine Laumer, Ames Resident – November 18, 2026
   RE: Request to look into the Together in Purpose grant

Hall, Renee

From: Matthew Randall <matt@randallcorp.com>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2026 8:09 AM
To: Hall, Renee
Cc: Pregitzer, Damion; scott@randallcorp.com; patti@randallcorp.com
Subject: Request for signal warrant analysis - S 16th St and Golden Aspen Dr

You don't often get email from matt@randallcorp.com. Learn why this is important

[External Email]

Renee,

Please share this letter with the Mayor and City Council.

Mayor and Council,

I'm asking the Council to direct staff to complete a traffic signal warrant analysis at South 16th Street and Golden Aspen Drive.

Traffic through this intersection has picked up with the South 16th improvements around Jack Trice Stadium and the extension of Grand from South 4th, and it will keep growing. Turning onto and off of South 16th at Golden Aspen is getting dangerous, especially at peak times.

Vehicles on South 16th move at high speed through this stretch, and the road rises between Grand and Golden Aspen. That hill makes it hard for drivers at Golden Aspen Drive to see oncoming traffic and judge a safe gap, and it gives eastbound drivers coming over the rise less time to react to a car pulling out.

Damion Pregitzer in Traffic Engineering told me the City hasn't studied this intersection yet and that a study would need a request to Council. I'd rather the City get real counts and an engineering answer now than wait for the crash numbers to make the case.

If the analysis shows a signal isn't warranted, I'd ask that staff recommend what would help there instead.

Thanks.

Matt Randall
Randall Corporation

Matthew Randall

Hall, Renee

From: Haila, John
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2026 9:57 AM
To: Hall, Renee
Cc: Stacy Woodward; City Council and Mayor
Subject: Re: Concern

Renee,

Please place this in the dispositions packet for the November 24th council meeting for council to decide how to proceed with the request.

Kindest regards,

John A. Haila
Mayor

CITY OF ames

515 Clark Ave. | Ames, IA 50010
main: 515.239.5105
mobile: 515-290-5436
john.haila@cityofames.org

From: Stacy Woodward <stacywoodward25@aol.com>
Date: Friday, November 13, 2026 at 4:10 AM
To: City Council and Mayor <mayorcouncil@amescitycouncil.org>
Subject: Concern

[External Email]

Mayor and Council -

Below is a thread of messages I exchanged with Sara VanMeeteren, Chief Huff, Steve Schainker and Chief Higgins. I was asked to share this with all of you as you are who directs staff on issues like this.

Thank you, Stacy

One more concern since I have your attention

There has been a homeless person camping/sleeping at Campustown Court on the ledge for over a week. He moved after I called non emergency number on Saturday, but he was back on Sunday morning and he is still there today.

I called because it was Family Weekend at ISU and that isn't a great look for the University or the City. It is also a City park and if I recall no one is allowed to camp in a city park overnight.

Thanks for checking into this. Stacy

Here is the response from the Police Chief:

While this is technically a city park, it has historically been treated differently as it functions more like a public plaza, gathering space, or pedestrian area. It is also not the only one, such as Tom Evans Park that also technically would "close" at 10:30, but people routinely are in after that time. We have never enforced the hours or been asked to in the past due to these historical differences. There are businesses open in the vicinity that are open after 10:30pm including food carts that attract the use of the park after 10:30pm which has been acceptable.

People present after 10:30pm have never been removed, warned, or cited. Students (not exclusively, but mostly) have been allowed to stay after bar close, eat, socialize, etc. Unless the 10:30pm rule is enforced equally, it cannot really be enforced at all.

It is possible a different rule could be put in place that would allow us a tool, but there is not currently one that is enforceable.

Thanks!

Chief Huff -

Thank you for your response to my concerns and my apologies for the delayed reply.

I understand the point about the park historically being used as more of a gathering space than a traditional city park. However, I still don't think these two situations are comparable.

A person attempting to establish a homestead in a public space is very different from a college student stopping by after bar close to grab a hot dog, eat, and visit with friends. One is an attempt to use public property as a place to live, while the other is simply using the space temporarily.

Just because people have traditionally been allowed to gather in this space after 10:30 p.m. doesn't mean every situation or type of activity should be treated the same. There is a big difference between people stopping by to eat and socialize and someone trying to turn a public space into their home.

I have walked past Campustown Court each of the past four days and this gentleman has been camping there. This puts it at week 4 - isn't there something that can be done to help him? The weather is changing and Ames has many resources to help. Is there someone at the City that I can contact with my concerns?

Thank you,

Stacy Woodward

From: Stacy Woodward
To: City Council and Mayor
Subject: Re: Concern
Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2026 5:28:05 PM
Attachments: image.png

[External Email]

Mayor and Council -

As a follow up, I wanted to share this photo of the gentleman I have emailed about. As you can see, he is creating a homestead in Campustown Court. He is seen in this photo scrolling his phone with a crock pot/rice cooker plugged in next to him. He has been in the same location for well over a month.

Thank you, Stacy



On Thursday, November 12, 2026 at 02:56:04 PM CST, Stacy Woodward <stacywoodward25@aol.com> wrote:

Mayor and Council -

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college student stopping by after bar close to grab a hot dog, eat, and visit with friends. One is an attempt to use public property as a place to live, while the other is simply using the space temporarily.

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Thank you,

Stacy Woodward

MEMO

To: Mayor & City Council

From: Geoff Huff, Chief of Police

Date: November 17, 2026

Subject: **Trespass Process (Elk's Lodge, 522 Douglas Ave.)**

Purpose

This memorandum is in response to a City Council referral on November 10, 2026 to explain the Ames Police Department's role and procedures when responding to trespass complaints involving private businesses, specifically, the Elk's Lodge located at 522 Douglas. Questions occasionally arise regarding when officers can order individuals to leave private property, when a trespass citation or arrest may be appropriate, and how the department balances private property rights with the rights of individuals present on those properties. While a specific request was made about the Elk's Club located at 522 Douglas, the procedure would be same for any private business.

Legal Authority

Trespass enforcement in Iowa is governed primarily by Iowa Code Chapter 716. Under Iowa law, private **property owners** and their **authorized representatives** have the right to control access to their property and determine who may remain on the premises.

A person may commit criminal trespass when they:

- Enter property without lawful authority.
- Remain on property after being notified or ordered to leave by the property owner or an authorized representative.
- Re-enter property after having previously been barred from the premises.

For businesses open to the public, customers generally have an implied invitation to enter during normal business operations. However, that invitation

may be revoked by the owner or their authorized agent for lawful reasons, at which point the individual must leave the property.

Role of the Ames Police Department

Ames Police Policy 434 outlines Trespass Procedures.

434.2: POLICY
It is the policy of the Ames Police Department to issue or serve trespass notices when there is a criminal predicate supporting the action. Businesses retain primary responsibility for managing customer service issues, policy or rule violations, or initial incidents of non-criminal trespass.

434.3: DEFINITIONS
Trespass Notice: A written directive, typically signed by a person in a position of leadership or ownership and issued by law enforcement notifying an individual that they are prohibited from entering the property.
Criminal Predicate: A criminal offense or attempt, such as theft, assault, disorderly conduct, threat, harassment or other unlawful activity, involving the business premises, employees or patrons.

(While not included specifically in the policy, a criminal predicate also includes repeated documented trespassing)

434.4.1: Prohibited Practices
Officers shall not serve Trespass Notices solely for business convenience, policy/rule enforcement, or non-criminal disputes.
Officers shall not serve a Trespass Notice at the request of a business unless there is evidence of criminal activity.

434.5: BUSINESS RESPONSIBILITIES
Businesses are responsible for managing rule violations, customer disputes, and the first instance of non-criminal trespass (e.g., loitering without prior incident). A business may request that an individual leave their property without police involvement and/or issue their own Trespass Notification. If officer assistance is requested, an officer may respond and document the interaction. Future violations may result in criminal trespass charges when probable cause can be established.

In cases where an arrest may be appropriate, the person in a position of leadership or ownership must make a request for an arrest and be willing to testify in court should it be needed.

Limitations and Considerations

The department's role is limited to enforcing lawful requests from property owners and ensuring compliance with applicable state law. Officers do not become parties to private disputes concerning property ownership, tenancy, contractual disagreements, or civil matters unless a criminal violation is present.

Additionally, officers cannot enforce trespass requests that would violate constitutional protections or discriminate against individuals based on protected characteristics. Enforcement actions must be based on lawful authority and lawful reasons.

Commitment to Fair and Consistent Enforcement

The Ames Police Department remains committed to providing fair, impartial, and consistent enforcement of trespass laws. Our officers strive to resolve these situations voluntarily whenever possible while respecting both private property rights and the rights of community members.

522 DOUGLAS AVE Calls for Service past 12 months:

MEDICAL ASSIST/AMBULANCE CALL	4/5/2026	8:04:33PM
WELFARE CHECK	5/27/2026	11:10:46AM
DRUG ACTIVITY/INVESTIGATION	7/3/2026	11:06:16AM
WELFARE CHECK	7/11/2026	11:50:09AM
MEDICAL ASSIST/AMBULANCE CALL	7/25/2026	1:44:43PM
MEDICAL ASSIST/AMBULANCE CALL	7/25/2026	6:00:54PM
TRESPASS	7/28/2026	7:43:34AM
WELFARE CHECK	8/2/2026	1:11:33PM
CITIZEN CONTACT	9/2/2026	1:55:02AM
TRESPASS	9/9/2026	8:12:10PM
TRESPASS	9/12/2026	12:12:42PM
MEDICAL ASSIST/AMBULANCE CALL	9/27/2026	7:10:56PM
911 HANG UP / INCOMPLETE CALL	10/7/2026	9:20:21PM
LOST OR FOUND PROPERTY	11/2/2026	10:34:19AM
CITIZEN CONTACT	11/9/2026	12:25:21AM

Additional Calls for Service, 500 block of Douglas (not otherwise assigned to an address):

EQUIPMENT/SIGN MALFUNCTION	12/11/2025	10:41:45AM
EQUIPMENT/SIGN MALFUNCTION	1/7/2026	12:41:11PM
TRAFFIC STOP / ENFORCEMENT	1/15/2026	8:10:31AM
OUTREACH	5/17/2026	9:37:28AM

MOTOR VEH CRASH/PROP DAMAGE	6/2/2026	7:18:03AM
SUBJECT WITH WEAPON	6/9/2026	11:04:58PM
CITIZEN CONTACT	6/23/2026	1:52:17PM
PUBLIC INTOXICATION	8/14/2026	9:09:30PM
EXTRA PATROL	8/22/2026	12:25:04AM
EQUIPMENT/SIGN MALFUNCTION	8/25/2026	9:11:19AM
FIREWORKS COMPLAINT	8/29/2026	9:12:18PM

Hall, Renee

From: Joel Buehler <joelbuehler@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2026 10:28 AM
To: City Council and Mayor
Subject: Fwd: Concerns regarding the proposed Stange Road improvement plan

Some people who received this message don't often get email from joelbuehler@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

[External Email]

Dear Mayor and Members of the Ames City Council,

am writing to express concerns regarding the proposed Stange Road improvement plan and its potential impact on traffic flow, safety, and accessibility throughout North Ames.

In addition to the concerns outlined in this letter, I encourage City officials to review the multiple posts and numerous public replies on the Ames People Facebook page, which has a community of approximately 30,000 members. The volume of discussion and opposition surrounding this proposal should not be overlooked. While social media comments do not necessarily represent every resident's opinion, they provide valuable insight into the concerns, questions, and frustrations being expressed by members of the community. These concerns deserve meaningful consideration before the City moves forward.

The City's traffic modeling indicates that this segment of Stange Road does not require four travel lanes to accommodate projected traffic volumes through 2050. However, having sufficient theoretical capacity does not necessarily mean the proposed design is the most practical or efficient long-term solution for the community.

The proposed changes, including reducing traffic to one through lane in each direction, adding a separate parking loop, and installing all-way stops at Northridge Parkway and Aspen Road, raise several important questions.

Traffic Flow: Stange Road is an important north-south corridor serving North Ames residents, commuters, Iowa State University traffic, and emergency services. Has the City adequately considered peak commuting periods, university events, future development, and potential delays created by all-way stops? Traffic modeling data and intersection performance projections would help demonstrate how the proposed design will perform under these conditions.

Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Scooter Safety: Improving pedestrian safety and accessibility is worthwhile. However, additional crossings and shared-use paths create more interaction points between vehicles, cyclists, scooter riders, and pedestrians.

Throughout Ames, bicyclists, electric scooter riders, and other similar users can frequently be observed traveling through existing four-way stop intersections without stopping or yielding as required. This creates unpredictable and potentially dangerous situations for drivers and pedestrians.

Simply installing additional stop signs does not guarantee that all roadway and path users will follow them. How does the City plan to address compliance with traffic controls among cyclists, scooter riders, and other shared-use path users? What measures will be implemented to ensure everyone understands and follows the rules, particularly at the proposed all-way stops and new pedestrian crossings?

Parking and Business Access: The need for a separate parking loop serving west-side businesses is also unclear, particularly in the Somerset area, where numerous existing parking lots are available. Has the City conducted a parking utilization study demonstrating that additional parking infrastructure is necessary?

Project Costs and Infrastructure: Could pedestrian safety improvements, enhanced crosswalks, pedestrian-activated flashing signals, and necessary stormwater improvements accomplish the City's goals without such a significant roadway redesign? Additional clarification on the project's overall cost and the amounts allocated to roadway changes, parking, pedestrian improvements, and drainage would also be helpful.

Neighborhood and Emergency Impacts: Has the City evaluated potential traffic diversion onto surrounding residential streets, emergency response times, and the impact of narrower lanes and additional infrastructure on snow removal and winter maintenance?

Before moving forward, the following items deserve further consideration:

1. Make the traffic modeling data and assumptions available for review.
2. Explain why all-way stops were selected over alternative traffic-control options.
3. Clarify how compliance with traffic controls by cyclists, scooter riders, and other shared-use path users will be addressed.
4. Provide data supporting the need for the proposed parking loop.
5. Clarify project costs and evaluate less disruptive alternatives.
6. Demonstrate how emergency access, winter maintenance, and surrounding neighborhood traffic impacts will be addressed.

Improving pedestrian safety, accessibility, and stormwater infrastructure are worthwhile goals. However, these improvements should be balanced with efficient traffic flow, neighborhood safety, accessibility, and responsible use of taxpayer dollars.

The fact that two travel lanes may accommodate projected traffic volumes through 2050 does not automatically mean the proposed redesign is the best long-term solution. The City should demonstrate that the benefits justify the costs and potential impacts before moving forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your attention to these concerns and look forward to understanding the reasoning behind the proposed design.

Sincerely,

Joel A. Buehler
North Ames Resident

Hall, Renee

From: Christine Laumer <christine.laumer17@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2026 12:14 PM
To: City Council and Mayor
Cc: moores@mgmc.com; erin@thebridgehome.org; arch@mgmc.com; director@amesromerohouse.org
Subject: Encouraging Exploration of the Together in Purpose Grant for Community Connection in Ames

Some people who received this message don't often get email from christine.laumer17@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

[External Email]

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

As a resident who loves Ames and cares about the wellbeing of everyone who calls our community home, I am writing to share an opportunity I recently came across. Like many of you, I have been paying close attention to the growing challenges surrounding housing insecurity, homelessness, and mental health needs in Ames. While these issues are complex, I believe we are uniquely positioned to take our collective impact even further.

I encourage the City to look into the Together in Purpose grant initiative (administered through Lever for Change). This opportunity is specifically geared toward communities ready to bridge divides and strengthen local ecosystems. When I look at Ames, I see a community that already possesses the foundational infrastructure and collaborative spirit necessary to demonstrate high readiness for this kind of major funding. Between the vital daily hospitality of **Ames Romero House**, the crisis-response innovation of **ARCH**, the regional shelter and housing support of **The Bridge Home**, and the multi-agency coordination of **HOST**, we aren't starting from scratch. We have an extraordinary network already on the ground.

With that strong foundation in place, this grant could allow Ames to launch an initiative focused on active connection between the broader community and neighbors navigating housing or mental health crises. While our service providers do remarkable work, gaps often remain between everyday residents and those in need of support.

A collaborative application could explore programs such as:

- **Expanded Peer Navigation:** Scaling up peer-to-peer outreach models where individuals with lived experience of homelessness or recovery help guide others through housing and healthcare systems.
- **Community-Wide Engagement & Volunteer Integration:** Creating structured pathways that bring everyday Ames residents, local faith communities, and businesses together with unhoused neighbors through mentorship, shared community meals, and practical resource sharing.

- **Landlord and Housing Stability Network**: Create a structured partnership program that bridges the gap between local Ames property owners, unhoused neighbors, and mental health support teams.

- **Crisis-to-Stability Handoffs:** Strengthening the bridge between immediate crisis response and long-term supportive housing so that vulnerable residents stay connected to care after an emergency stabilizes.

Our local organizations have built trust with the people they serve, and this opportunity could be transformative. I strongly encourage the Mayor, Council, and City staff to review the Together In Purpose guidelines, convene a conversation with leaders from HOST, The Bridge Home, ARCH, and Ames Romero House, and explore whether Ames could spearhead a coalition application before the window closes in January.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication to making Ames a welcoming, supportive home for everyone. I look forward to seeing how our community can continue to lead with unity and purpose.

Warmly,

Christine Laumer
Ames Old Town resident
712-870-0200

https://leverforchange.org/open-calls/together-in-purpose/#about-the-challenge