

City Administrators Report

November 6 - November 20, 2025

Ames Resource Recovery

You will notice that the agenda includes a discussion regarding the 28E agreement we currently hold with the City of Ames, along with an updated version they are requesting that we sign.

There are three primary differences between our existing agreement and the proposed one.

1. Agreement Term- Ames is requesting that all communities sign a new 20-year agreement, which is consistent with the length of our existing agreement. However, they would like this new agreement to be signed prior to 2027, while our current agreement remains valid until 2034.

2. Refused Fuel Language; and

3. Waste Reduction Requirements- The updated version includes clearer expectations tied to DNR waste-reduction requirements, specifically outlining how communities must participate in or support recycling and diversion efforts.

This week, I attended the Ames Resource Recovery meeting at the Story County Administration Building to hear their updates and the ongoing discussion regarding the closure of the current Resource Recovery Center and the construction of their new facility. The new Resource Recovery facility is planned to open in July 2027 and will be located on Freel Drive.

The DNR is requiring the closure of the existing center. The current facility has become increasingly difficult and costly to operate, especially after the DNR mandated that Ames switch its fuel source from coal to natural gas. That transition has caused significant wear on the system, particularly the tubing throughout the facility, leading to more frequent and expensive replacement needs. Because this is a new facility, some cost-structure changes within the 28E agreement are required:

- Our per-capita fee will remain the same, at \$10.50 per person.
- However, the tipping fee—which is paid by haulers when they dump garbage at the facility—will increase from \$75/ton to \$95/ton, a \$20 increase.

The primary reasons for this increase include:

- Costs associated with transporting waste to the Carroll County Landfill instead of Boone County,
- Ames' cost of approximately \$30/ton to utilize the Carroll facility,
- An additional \$30–\$40/ton in trucking costs, and
- \$25–\$35/ton needed to build, operate, and maintain the new Resource Recovery facility.

The new facility will also expand services, allowing citizens to bring in:

- Normal household waste
- Light construction materials (e.g., drywall, scrap metal)
- Recyclables
- Organic debris (such as leaves and tree limbs)

Under the new agreement, cities will be required to provide Ames with information on how they are participating in or improving waste-reduction efforts, primarily through recycling. This requirement can be met in several ways, and we have a number of years to determine the best approach for Nevada. Options include:

- Participating in Ames' recycling program through their contracted recycling provider,

- Working with our local haulers to implement recycling collection, or
- Creating a community drop-off location for recyclable materials.

Each option has its benefits and drawbacks, but at this time, I believe joining Ames' recycling program may ultimately be the most cost-effective and least complicated option.

To ensure transparency and to address questions directly, I have invited all haulers operating in Nevada to attend this evening's council meeting. This will allow them to listen to the discussion, ask questions, and share their perspectives. There has been a significant amount of misinformation circulating, and I want to make sure everyone has accurate information.

Some of the concerns I have heard include:

- Who will be transporting waste to Carroll County?
 - All haulers will continue to drop off in Ames; the City of Ames will handle trucking to Carroll.
- Will cities be required to recycle?
 - Yes, in some form—but how we fulfill that requirement is flexible, and we have several years to create a plan.
- How will construction materials be handled?
 - Large-scale construction debris, such as roofing or concrete, will need to be taken directly to Carroll. Light construction materials can be taken to the new Ames facility.

This updated agreement represents a significant operational shift, but it also ensures continued access to waste processing services following the closure of the current facility. Tonight's discussion will help us better understand the expectations, the financial impacts, and the options available to our community moving forward.

WHKS

Joe, Ryan, Shawn, Devin, and I recently met with WHKS to review and plan for the City's upcoming projects for next year. Our discussion covered several key areas, including the trunk sewer line, upcoming road improvement projects, and potential maintenance or upgrade needs for existing municipal buildings. As noted in a previous report, our primary focus for the coming year will be on several significant road projects, specifically along Lincoln Highway, E Avenue, and N Avenue. During the meeting, we worked through a preliminary strategy for how to approach these improvements, including timelines, staging, and the most cost-effective construction methods. Based on early estimates and planning discussions, we believe that the approach we take may allow us to complete these projects at a lower cost than originally budgeted, though final pricing will depend on bids and material costs as we move further into the process. Overall, the meeting was productive and helped establish a clear and organized plan for addressing both infrastructure upgrades and facility needs in the year ahead.

DNR Visit

I have been working to connect with the EPA, and we have been playing ongoing phone tag as we try to resolve several outstanding questions regarding TTO requirements and the specific regulatory expectations for Almaco. Both the DNR and EPA have their own testing standards that must be met, and aligning the two has proven to be a complex process. One of the primary challenges involves the EPA's requirement for Total Toxic Organics (TTO) testing. As previously mentioned, each TTO sample must undergo dilution prior to analysis, but that dilution often results in the sample becoming invalid, which then triggers the need for additional samples and repeat testing. This cycle makes it difficult to establish consistent results, and we are seeking clarification to ensure we are following the correct procedures. At this time, we are actively working with both agencies to determine the proper testing protocols, acceptable dilution

methods, and the appropriate compliance path moving forward. Our goal is to ensure accurate sampling, avoid unnecessary retesting, and maintain full regulatory alignment. Overall, the recent DNR visit went smoothly, and their team was satisfied with our operations, the information provided, and the cooperation shown by the staff. We will continue coordinating closely with both the DNR and EPA to resolve the remaining testing challenges and ensure continued compliance across all facilities.

Verbio

I recently met with Verbio's engineer to review the details of their current agreement with the City and to address any questions he had regarding sampling requirements and regulatory expectations. The DNR has updated its guidance, and due to changes in Verbio's operational processes, the volume and type of wastewater they generate has shifted from what was originally anticipated when the agreement was established. Under the existing agreement, Verbio is required to submit three samples per week, a requirement that was based on the processes they had planned to implement at the time. However, since a portion of that process is no longer taking place and we will not be receiving wastewater from that specific operation, the DNR has indicated that this level of sampling is no longer necessary. Based on the revised operations, the DNR has stated that Verbio is only required to provide one sample every two weeks. As a result, we anticipate that an amendment to their current agreement will be needed to formally update the sampling requirements and align the document with the new regulatory expectations. The meeting was productive, and Verbio's engineer was appreciative of the clarification. We will continue coordinating with both Verbio and the DNR to ensure the agreement accurately reflects the current operating conditions and compliance standards.

JEO

I recently met with JEO to discuss the ongoing concerns regarding the bridge on Lincoln Highway, specifically the need to stabilize the area to prevent future sediment buildup and erosion. Our goal is to reinforce the embankment and protect the structure long-term. However, because the work would occur within or near the Union Pacific (UP) right-of-way, their approval and oversight are required. Under UP's process, any work impacting their right-of-way must be reviewed by their own engineering team, and UP also requires that their personnel be present on-site during construction. The initial cost estimate for UP's involvement was \$60,000, which was already considered excessive. I was able to negotiate the cost down to \$30,000, but even with this reduction, the price remains significantly higher than what is reasonable for the scope of the project. Because of this, we are exploring alternative methods that will allow us to complete the stabilization work without entering the UP right-of-way. Joe is currently researching contractors who may be able to perform the work from the roadway side, which would eliminate the need for UP oversight and the associated fees. The plan under consideration would involve pumping concrete in and around the bridge embankment to lock the existing rock in place and prevent further erosion. This approach would achieve the stabilization we need while avoiding the excessive costs tied to UP's review process. We will continue evaluating these alternatives and determine the most cost-effective and efficient way to proceed.

Monthly Meetings

Rotary

Design Committee

IAMU

NEDC Exec

WWTF

JEO



STAFF MEETING AGENDA

Monday, November 17th, 2025 @ 9:00 A.M

- i. CDBG- Historian/Lead/Asbestos
- ii. Decommission
- iii. LW and 8th Street Bridge
- iv. DNR- November 4th
- v. ARPA Visit
- vi. New Addition
- vii. I and I- Smoke testing
- viii. Oak Park Trail
- ix. 51 Acres
- x. Sierra Heights
- xi. Land Discussion
- xii. Splashpad
- xiii. Northview
- xiv. Capstone
- xv. Keystone
- xvi. WWTP
- xvii. X-mas Tree

For: November 24, 2025 Council Meeting

To: Mayor
Nevada City Council
City Administrator

From: Amanda Brewer, Library Director

**Nevada Public Library
Council Report**

MY REPORT

See attached December programs and activities at the library.

December at the Library

Sunday

Monday

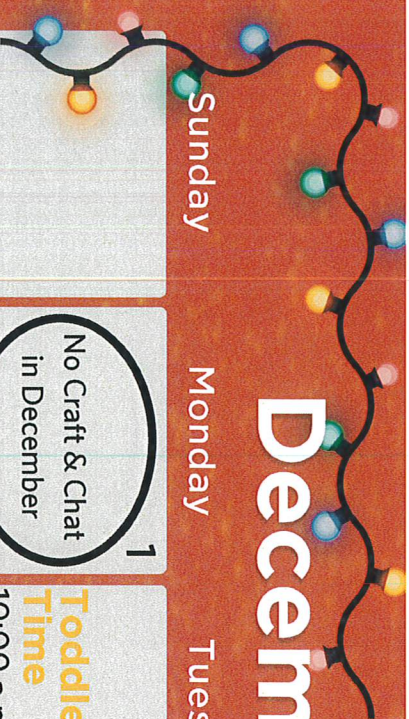
Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



1
No Craft & Chat
in December

2
Toddler Time
10:00 a.m.

3
T.A.L.E.S
3:30-5:00 p.m.
Teen Lounge
3:30-5:30 p.m.

4
STEAM Lab
3:15-4:00 p.m. ★

5
SOMA YOGA
10:30 a.m.
Friends of the Library
Book Sale
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

6
Grounds for Murder
Mystery Book Club
10:00 a.m.
Friends of the Library
Book Sale
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Hometown Christmas
DIY Ornaments
2:00 - 4 p.m.

7
NPL Adult Puzzle Competition
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

8
Toddler Time
10:00 a.m.
Community Connections
2:00 p.m.

10
T.A.L.E.S
3:30-5:00 p.m.
Teen Lounge
3:30-5:30 p.m.

11
Coffee, Coloring, & Conversation
10:00 a.m.
@ Renh's Cafe
STEAM Lab
3:15-4:00 p.m. ★

12
Sweet Reads
Romance Book Club
10:00 a.m.

14
NPL Board Meeting
5:00 p.m.
NPL Friends Mtg
7:00pm

16
Toddler Time
10:00 a.m.
Books After Dark
General Book Club
7:00 p.m.

17
T.A.L.E.S
3:30-5:00 p.m.
Teen Lounge
3:30-5:30 p.m.

18
STEAM Lab
3:15-4:00 p.m. ★

19
Movies
at the Library
10:30 a.m.

21
Holiday Wrapping Party
5:00-7:30 p.m.

23
Library Closed for the Holiday

24
Library Closed for the Holiday

25
Library Closed for the Holiday

26
Library Closed for the Holiday

27

28
Holiday White Elephant BINGO
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

29
Library Closed for the Holiday

31
Library Closed for the Holiday

Program Details & Registration:

0-Prek K-3rd Grade 4th-6th Grade

7th-12th Grade Adults All Ages

★ Registration Required