

Somerset Property Owners Association, Inc.

July 5, 2011

Dear Somerset Property Owner,

The purpose of the letter is to inform all members of the Somerset Property Owners Association (SPOA) of a change in how street trees (those on the parking or public right-of-way between the curb and the sidewalk) are managed within Somerset.

Effective immediately, the SPOA will no longer provide pruning, mulching, removal, or planting of trees in the public right-of-way areas adjacent to privately owned property.

We realize that many property owners have come to rely on the SPOA to maintain the trees in front of their homes and businesses in years past. However, the SPOA Board of Directors has determined that it is no longer fiscally responsible for the SPOA to continue to provide these services.

Based on the research we have completed, the SPOA has never had an obligation to plant or maintain trees in the public right-of-ways adjacent to privately owned property. These 'street trees' are the property of the City of Ames, and maintenance is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner. The City of Ames Public Works Department will remove dead and hazardous trees, but they will not prune for aesthetic reasons. The City also has a well documented procedure for homeowners to gain City approval to plant in this right-of-way area.

The SPOA will continue to be responsible for trees in the Stange Road medians, in right-of-way areas adjacent to SPOA-owned properties, and in the parks and along bike paths throughout Somerset.

This change will allow the SPOA to focus more attention on the maintenance and addition of trees to the parks and other public areas in Somerset which will continue to add value and provide benefits to all property owners throughout Somerset.

If you have any questions regarding this change, please contact one of the SPOA Board Members. Contact information is available at www.somersetames.com

Sincerely,

SPOA Board of Directors