



# Neighborhood News

Quarterly Neighborhood Update - Winter 2014

## A Safe Neighborhood is a Strong Neighborhood

One of the many things that makes Ames a great place to live is our strong neighborhoods. Strong residential neighborhoods are the building blocks to a vibrant, thriving community, and practicing neighborhood safety helps keep a neighborhood strong.

“Get to know your neighbors,” says Commander Jason Tuttle with the Ames Police Department. “If you know your neighbors, you can look out for each other if there is any suspicious behavior in your neighborhood.” Residents should report suspicious activity to the Ames Police Department at 515.239.5133.

In addition, Commander Tuttle offers the following neighborhood safety tips to consider.

- Keep doors and windows locked at all times.
- Never open the door for someone you don't know.
- Don't leave a spare key under the doormat or in your mailbox.
- Install motion lights near exterior doors.

- Don't leave electronic devices or valuables where they can be seen from windows.
- If you are away overnight, leave inside lights on timers or a radio or TV on so it appears that somebody is inside the house.

If you are going to be away for an extended period of time, here are some additional tips to keep in mind.

- Have mail and newspaper delivery stopped or have someone pick them up.
- In the winter months, make arrangements for snow removal for your driveway and sidewalks.
- In the summer months, make arrangements to keep your lawn mowed.
- Have friends or family stop by to check on your house for security, but also for broken or frozen pipes in the winter, or sump pump operation during rainy periods.
- Let your neighbors know who might be checking your house



Commander Jason Tuttle

- so they don't mistake them for burglars.
- Contact the Ames Police Department and request a vacation house check by calling 515.239.5133.

The Ames Police Department also has a Safe Neighborhoods Team. This team was formed to build positive relationships with the community and neighborhoods. If you'd like to have the team members come to your neighborhood gathering and discuss safety issues, please contact Sergeant Mike Arkovich at 515.231.4661.

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## Celebrate Ames Sesquicentennial in 2014

Plans are being made to commemorate the 150th anniversary of our community, which will be celebrated throughout 2014 with events, educational opportunities, and recognition of Ames' history. The Ames Sesquicentennial marks the platting of the original 12 blocks of the city, which was recorded on Dec. 17, 1864.

In 2014, we will celebrate Ames' history by remembering our past. Look for a variety of events recognizing this significant milestone.

# Eco Fair/Stash the Trash are March 29

## Eco Fair

The City of Ames annual Eco Fair will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 29, in the Community Center Gymnasium, 515 Clark Ave.

In an effort to help Ames residents embrace energy conservation and sustainable practices, the Eco Fair will showcase booths, displays, and vendors featuring energy-saving products. Booths will include information on electric and water conservation, watershed protection, low-impact landscaping, and transportation efficiency.

Join us at this free, family-friendly event and get useful information on products and services from area vendors, see interesting displays, register for door prizes, play games, and enjoy free food.

## Stash the Trash

The City of Ames Resource Recovery Plant will again join community partners in participating in the annual "Stash The Trash 2014" city clean-up day. The event will be held in conjunction with the annual Eco Fair on Saturday, March 29. Reiman Gardens will again act as the launch location, providing drinks for volunteers as they start out, and serving a light lunch upon return.

Watch for more information about signing up for particular areas and websites. Through the efforts of hundreds of volunteers, last year's event collected a total of 1.94 tons of garbage abandoned throughout the community. The goal for Stash the Trash 2014 is to top last year's garbage total.



*A family participates in an alternative electric generation demonstration at a past Eco Fair.*



*ISU students participate in last year's annual "Stash The Trash" city clean-up day.*

## Christmas Tree Recycling Offered

The City of Ames will provide free disposal of Christmas trees at the Parks & Recreation Maintenance Shop, 700 E. 13th Street. This is the facility on the south side of Thirteenth Street and at the bottom of the Ames Municipal Cemetery hill.

The Christmas trees will be recycled into mulch, which will be used in City of Ames parks.

Ames residents can drop off trees at the Parks & Recreation Maintenance Shop during daylight hours throughout January. The driveway will be marked with a sign. The tree stand, tinsel, and all ornaments should be removed from the tree.

## 2014 Block Party Trailer Reservations Available Starting March 15

Reservations for the Street'N'Greet Block Party trailer will be accepted beginning March 15. The trailer may be reserved May through October.

Reservations can be made at [www.streetngreet.webs.com](http://www.streetngreet.webs.com) or by calling the City Planning Department at 515.239.5160.

# Three New Sculptures Added to Neighborhoods

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Through the Neighborhood Sculpture Program, three sculptures were added to the City of Ames Public Art Collection and installed in neighborhood parks and public spaces.

- Barbara's Portal, by Jaak Kindberg, has been placed at Ontario Street and California Avenue in west Ames near the CyRide bus stop turn-around.
- Walker 1.0, by John Brommet, is now located at the Bloomington Road and Fletcher Boulevard intersection at the entrance to the Stone Brooke Neighborhood.
- Hatching Sprout, by Michael Sneller, is installed in Teagarden Park in south Ames.

The Ames Public Art Commission is committed to creating a visual and aesthetic environment that incorporates art into the lives of all Ames citizens.

One important component of that mission is the Commission's Neighborhood Sculpture Program. The Neighborhood Sculpture Committee purchases and places two to three works of art into Ames neighborhoods each year. The sculptures are selected from works of art currently on display in the Ames Main Street Cultural District as part of the Ames Annual Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition.

The Committee encourages all Ames neighborhoods to consider applying to have one of these works of art installed in their neighborhood.

The sculptures available for adoption can be viewed on the City of Ames website at [www.cityofames.org/pac](http://www.cityofames.org/pac) or on the current sculpture exhibition brochure and map, which is available at City Hall or by calling the City Manager's office at 515.239.5101.



*Barbara's Portal*



*Walker 1.0*



*Hatching Sprout*

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## What You Need to Know When There's Snow

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Please remember that property owners or tenants have the responsibility to clear sidewalks within 10 daylight hours from the last accumulation. To report a sidewalk that has not been shoveled, call the dedicated sidewalk reporting number at 515.239.5468 or email [snowwalks@city.ames.ia.us](mailto:snowwalks@city.ames.ia.us) and include the address of the property.

In addition, Ames firefighters ask residents to check the hydrant located near their home to ensure it is visible. If the hydrant is covered, your help is requested in clearing a three-foot wide area around the hydrant to ensure firefighters can locate it during an emer-

gency. If you need assistance clearing the hydrant, call Fire Station No. 1 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 515.239.5108.







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## Newsletter Information

If you received this newsletter by mail, you live in a neighborhood with an active Neighborhood Association registered with the City of Ames. The newsletter is also available online as a PDF and can be sent to you electronically.

If you would like to receive the quarterly Neighborhood News newsletter by email, please give your Neighborhood Association contact person your email address. If you do not know who your association's contact person is, please contact Jeff Benson, City of Ames Neighborhood Liaison, at [jbenson@city.ames.ia.us](mailto:jbenson@city.ames.ia.us) or 515.239.5400.

### Have an idea? We want to hear!

Submit your own story ideas for Neighborhood News. Neighborhood News articles or ideas may be submitted for publication by Ames residents.

To submit information for Neighborhood News via email: [printern@city.ames.ia.us](mailto:printern@city.ames.ia.us).

## Neighborhood News

Neighborhood News is a quarterly publication of the City of Ames, Iowa, mailed directly to Ames residents who are members of established Neighborhood Associations or who ask to be placed on the mailing list. You can receive the newsletter via U.S. Mail or request to be put on the e-mail list.

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