



CITY SIDE

MARCH 2020

CAMPAIGN REMINDS AMES RESIDENTS TO “CLAIM AMES” IN 2020 CENSUS

Ames Mayor John Haila, Iowa State University President Dr. Wendy Wintersteen, and John Cook with the U.S. Census Bureau officially launched the “Claim Ames” public outreach campaign for the 2020 Census at a recent kick-off event.

For the next several months, the Claim Ames campaign will focus on educating those living in Ames about how and why they need to complete a census form. Special outreach is planned to connect with Iowa State University students. Census rules require college students to complete a form in the community they live for the majority of the year. ISU students living in Ames should remember to “Claim Ames.”

Having an accurate count is important for every community because \$675 billion annually is distributed in federal funds based on census numbers, and political representation is determined by population.

“The census provides a picture of our nation that helps determine where to build new schools, hospitals, and businesses; how federal funding is distributed; and how congressional seats are apportioned. It also helps us see how our communities have changed over time,” Mayor Haila explained.

For the first time in history, census forms can be completed online, as well as by telephone or mail.



Beginning in mid-March, people will receive a notice in the mail to complete the 2020 Census. Returning a census form is safe, easy, and important. Remember to Claim Ames!

PILOT PROJECT PUTS BIOFUEL IN CITY SNOW PLOWS

They may look like regular snow plows, but several of the City’s trucks are doing their part to reduce our community’s carbon footprint.

Through an innovative partnership with Ames-based Renewable Energy Group (REG) and Optimus Technologies, from Pittsburgh, Penn., five snow plows in Ames are being powered by B100 biodiesel. Harsh Iowa winters create



challenges for plant-based fuels, which have a tendency to gel in extreme temperatures. The Ames pilot project

tackles that concern by using two fuel tanks on each truck to hold both diesel and B100. Once the engine has warmed using diesel fuel, the engine switches to run completely on B100. Data gathered by each truck will provide efficiency measurements. The pilot project is anticipated to continue for three years with each gallon of biodiesel used reducing the amount of carbon produced by the City’s fleet. That’s a smart choice!

CITY NEWS TO USE

IN THIS ISSUE:

Street ‘N’ Greet Party Reservations
Hydrant Flushing Begins in March
Project Share Helps Those in Need
Energy Q&A

ECOFAIR ON APRIL 25:

Don’t forget the annual EcoFair is planned for Saturday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the City Hall Community Center, 515 Clark Ave. Learn more about sustainability and conservation!



BLOCK PARTY TRAILER RESERVATIONS TO BEGIN MARCH 16

Block parties are a great opportunity for residents to interact, welcome new residents, and build neighborhood connections. The volunteers who originally organized the Street 'N' Greet Block Party Trailer believe that neighborhood block parties strengthen relationships within and between neighborhoods and help Ames be a more welcoming and inclusive community.

The Street 'N' Greet Block Party Trailer makes having a block party convenient and easy. The trailer is available free



of charge to Ames residents. Inside the trailer you'll find street barricades, folding tables and chairs, canopy tent,

portable lighting, a sound system, outdoor games and activities for children and adults, and more.

The trailer is available for weekend block party events from the end of March through October. Each weekend the trailer is available for two events: Fridays (5 to 9 p.m.) or Saturdays and Sundays (10 a.m. to 9 p.m.).

Beginning Monday, March 16, submit an online reservation request to schedule the trailer at www.CityOfAmes.org/trailer.

HYDRANT FLUSHING BEGINS MARCH 25

The Ames Public Works Department plans to begin flushing rust from water mains on Wednesday, March 25, weather permitting, and continuing for approximately two weeks. Each year, this program provides Ames residents with the safest and highest quality water possible.

Flushing serves the following purposes:

- Dislodges and removes mineral deposits and sediments from the water mains
- Verifies the proper operation of fire hydrants and valves
- Helps identify weaknesses in the water system
- Checks for closed valves and weak flows in the water system

During the flushing process, Ames residents may experience rust in the water, even when crews are not working in the immediate area.



To avoid rust, follow these tips:

- Turn on cold water first to check for rust. This avoids drawing it into your hot water heater.
- If the water looks rusty, run the tap for one to two minutes until it clears.
- If rust discolors clothing in a washing machine, rust remover is available at the City Hall information desk, 515 Clark Ave., Ames fire stations, the Water Treatment Plant, 1800 E. 13th St., or by calling 515.239.5550.

Specific information about the times, dates, and locations of the crews will be posted at www.CityOfAmes.org.

LOOKING FOR A SUMMER JOB?

Looking for a summer job that's engaging, rewarding, and active? Ames Parks and Recreation has many opportunities for motivated candidates who are looking for work that's fulfilling and fun. We're hiring lifeguards, cashiers, and slide attendants at Furman Aquatic Center, cashiers at Homewood Golf Course, camp counselors at summer camps, coaches for youth sports, and more!

Working at Parks and Recreation is flexible. It's a great opportunity for high school and college students, and also retirees, stay-at-home parents returning to the workforce, teachers, educational associates, school nurses, and professors on summer break. Come join our team!

Apply online at www.CityOfAmes.org/Jobs

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

City Council meetings are held in the City Council Chambers, 515 Clark Ave.

Meetings:

6 p.m. March 10 (Final budget hearing)
6 p.m. March 24

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG



ELECTRIC

PROJECT SHARE HELPS THOSE IN NEED

The Ames Electric Services Project Share program continues to be a success because of the compassion and generosity of our customers. This winter season, through January 15, 2020, we have been able to provide \$9,330 in assistance to 72 households. A simple way to share the warmth with those in need is to make a monthly pledge or a one-time contribution to Project Share.

The purpose of the Ames Electric Services Project Share program is to solicit and accept contributions which are used to assist our low-income customers. A committee

appointed by the Ames City Council determines the permissible uses of the funds donated to the Project Share program. The committee has adopted guidelines to ensure that every dollar contributed is used to assist low-income customers.

All expenses incurred administering the program are covered by Ames Electric Services as a donation in-kind. Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA) assists the City of Ames in the administration of the program by determining eligibility of applicants for Project Share funds.

Please Consider a Contribution to Project Share

I wish to make a monthly contribution to Project Share. I understand this amount will be listed on my monthly utility bill and that I can cancel my pledge at any time by contacting the City of Ames Utility Customer Service office.

\$1/month \$2/month \$5/month
\$10/month other ___/month

I wish to make a one-time contribution to Project Share rather than making a monthly pledge. I have enclosed a \$_____ donation to Project Share.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please return this form with your utility bill payment or mail to:

Ames Electric Services, Attn: Project Share Committee, P.O. Box 811, Ames, IA 50010-0811

RENEWABLE ENERGY NUMBERS

18.4% ELECTRICITY USED THIS MONTH GENERATED FROM WIND

0% ELECTRICITY THIS MONTH WAS GENERATED BY REFUSE DERIVED FUEL (RDF) FROM THE RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT (DUE TO MAINTENANCE ISSUES).

75% SUNSMART AMES POWER PACKS PLEDGED

DEGREE DAY INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/ELECTRIC

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

- Power Out 515.239.5240
- Street Light Out..... 515.239.5500
- Utility Bills..... 515.239.5120
- Energy Questions 515.239.5177
- Tree Too Close to Electric Line? 515.239.5500
- Digging? Contact Iowa One Call..... 811
- Storm Water Concern..... 515.239.5160
- Rusty Water..... 515.239.5551

City Side is a publication of the City of Ames, Iowa
Editor: Susan Gwiasda, Public Relations Officer
Questions?
515 Clark Ave. • Ames, IA 50010
Phone: 515.239.5204 • www.CityOfAmes.org



ENERGY Q&A

Q: How can I learn about community sustainability efforts, and what I can do to become more energy efficient? What does the City of Ames offer to help?

A: Great questions. The City of Ames has several opportunities you should find interesting. The upcoming EcoFair (see article below) offers one-stop shopping for a variety of City of Ames and Ames-community resources on sustainability. City departments including Water, Public Works, Electric, Parks and Recreation, and the Ames Public Library will be participating along with vendors, organizations, and student groups. The EcoFair will provide easy tips on how to be more energy-efficient, as well as comprehensive, big picture initiatives that address community sustainability. Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 25!

Stash the Trash is a community-wide event that helps beautify our community and clear garbage. Participants pick a neighborhood, park, or greenspace and get to work. This year's event will be held over two days. Stash the Trash begins from noon to 5 p.m. on Friday, April 3, and continues on Saturday, April 4, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Look for details on the City's

website or the next edition of City Side.)

As part of Eco April, which includes the EcoFair and the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, the City of Ames will host environmental speaker Chad Pregracke, who founded the river clean-up organization "Living Lands and Waters," at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21, at the City Auditorium, 515 Clark Ave. In this free lecture, Chad will share his organization's efforts to protect and preserve rivers and watersheds around the Midwest, and what others can do to help.

To reduce your own carbon footprint, remember the City of Ames offers several rebates that incentivize conservation of natural resources by decreasing the use of water or electricity. Get a rebate after purchasing a rain barrel, food composter or energy-efficient appliance. Learn more about City sustainability initiatives like electric vehicle charging stations, Complete Streets, or the greenhouse gas inventory at www.CityOfAmes.org/Sustainability.

Kayley Barrios Lain, Energy Services Coordinator
515.239.5177 | KLain@cityofames.org

EcoFair Planned for April 25!

In celebration of two anniversary milestones

this year, EcoFair 2020

will be bigger and better

than ever. First, the 50th

anniversary of worldwide

Earth Day will be recognized

on April 22. Second, the

10-year anniversary of

the City of Ames EcoFair

will be celebrated from 9

a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 25, in the City



Hall Community Center Gymnasium, 515 Clark

Ave. Activities will be held both inside and

outside! In recognition of these April milestone

anniversaries, several activities, challenges, and

educational opportunities are being planned

leading up to EcoFair 2020. The final of three

EcoChats is planned for Monday, March 30 at

the Ames Public Library. It will begin at 6:30 p.m.

with the open house, followed by short lectures

at 7 p.m. in the auditorium at Ames Public

Library, 515 Douglas Ave.

INFORMATION

ELECTRIC VEHICLE REBATE OFFERED

Did you know there are incentives for purchasing electric vehicles offered to customers of public power utilities like Ames Electric Services?

The American Public Power Association and Nissan are offering a rebate of up to \$3,500 on a new Nissan LEAF for Ames Electric Services customers through March 31, 2020. Visit www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy for more information.