



CITY SIDE

APRIL 2020

CENSUS INVITATIONS PROVIDE OPTIONS TO “CLAIM AMES”

The 2020 Census counts every person living in the 50 states, District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories. The count is mandated by the Constitution and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, a nonpartisan government agency. Every home in Ames will receive an invitation to respond to a short questionnaire - online, by phone, or by mail. This will mark the first time that the census will take place online!

Remember to “Claim Ames” when you complete and return your census form. This is an important step to ensure Ames has an accurate count and receives all the federal funding we deserve. Iowa State University students living in Ames



should remember census guidelines direct college students to claim the community they live in the majority of the year.

The census provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for you and your community. Every year, \$675 billion in federal funding goes to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other resources based on census data. The results of the census also determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives and are used to draw congressional and state legislative districts.

Returning a census form is safe, easy, and important. Remember to “Claim Ames!”

CITY RECEIVES FLOOD MITIGATION GRANT FOR SQUAW CREEK

There’s good news for a project to address flooding concerns along Squaw Creek. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced a grant to the State of Iowa that includes funding for Ames. The Ames City Council recently approved a funding agreement with FEMA to move the project forward. Through a nationally competitive grant process, the City of Ames is receiving funds for the Squaw Creek Flood Mitigation project to lower flood levels in the South Duff Avenue area. The grant will cover 75 percent of the project’s \$4.9 million cost, or \$3.7 million.

“The South Duff Avenue area has experienced four major flooding events that each significantly impacted area residents,

businesses, and infrastructure. The most recent was in 2010,” said Tracy Warner, Municipal Engineer. “Securing a federal grant to fund the Squaw Creek project moves us towards the goal of mitigating impacts of future flooding.”

The Squaw Creek Flood Mitigation project is estimated to reduce flooding by two feet along the major flood damage center in the South Duff Avenue commercial corridor. The project will include channel excavation of Squaw Creek at South Duff Avenue to improve creek capacity and resilience in large storm events. Additionally, the project will use stabilization techniques including natural channel design, streambank toe protection, and planting native vegetation to increase protection to area development.

CITY NEWS TO USE

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Adopt-A-Flower Garden Program
- Stash the Trash on April 3 & April 4
- Discounts for Pool Passes
- EcoFair in April
- 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!



ADOPT-A-FLOWER GARDEN PROGRAM READY FOR NEW YEAR!

In warmer months, flowers all around Ames beautify our public parks and park signs, but it's not City of Ames staff who bring those vibrant blooms to life. Volunteer gardeners plant and maintain approximately 50 flower gardens throughout Ames with flowers donated by Holub Garden & Greenhouses.

Did you know the Adopt-A-Flower program, with donations by Holub, has been going on for more than 20 years?

Volunteers sponsor a particular flower garden and are responsible for spring planting and maintenance throughout the growing season, such as weeding and spring and fall garden cleanup. City staff provide guidance on plant selection and maintenance, and assist with watering during the growing season. The program includes both experienced and novice gardeners. Look for the volunteer gardener's name near each garden sign.

A huge thank you goes to Holub Garden & Greenhouses, which has donated thousands of dollars in flowers and

materials through the years. For more information or to inquire about gardening opportunities, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 515.239.5341 or jnewman@cityofames.org. For more information about Parks and Recreation Department programs and services, go to www.AmesParkRec.org.



STASH THE TRASH NOW SCHEDULED FOR TWO DAYS

The Resource Recovery Plant is again partnering with the Volunteer Center of Story County for the annual Stash the Trash program. This year's event will be held over two days to encourage more participation.

Stash the Trash is a volunteer community clean-up to improve the appearance of the city and appropriately dispose of waste. It will be held from noon to 5 p.m. on Friday, April 3, and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 4.

Registration and supply pickup begins at Reiman Gardens. Participants can register in advance to select a particular area for cleaning by going to the Volunteer

Center of Story County website at: www.vcstory.org.

Volunteers are invited to return to Reiman Gardens for snacks at the event on Friday, April 3. An appreciation luncheon will be held at Reiman Gardens from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 4.



CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

City Council meetings are held
in the City Council Chambers,
515 Clark Ave. 6 p.m. April 14
6 p.m. April 21 (Workshop)
6 p.m. April 28

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG

DISCOUNT OFFERED FOR POOL PASSES

Summer might seem like a long way away, but now is the time to purchase your discounted pool passes. Buy your season swim pass on or before May 1, and you'll receive a 10 percent discount.

Passes can be purchased or renewed at the Ames Parks and Recreation Community Center, 515 Clark Ave., from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday; from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday; and from 1 to 7 p.m. on Sunday. Purchases may also be made over the phone by calling 515.239.5350 and using a credit card. (MasterCard, Visa or Discover are accepted.) Pass purchases and renewals are not available online.

The opening day for the Furman Aquatic Center is Saturday, May 23.



ELECTRIC

EcoFair Provides Education, Information, and Fun on April 25

The upcoming 10th annual EcoFair on Saturday, April 25, is bigger and better with events planned throughout the month. The EcoFair will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in City Hall Community Center Gym, 515 Clark Ave.

In the days leading up to the EcoFair, keynote speaker Chad Pregracke will kick off the week at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday April 21, in the City Hall Auditorium. Pregracke founded the organization Living Lands & Waters in 1998 with a passion to clean up the trash in the Mississippi River. The organization has

hosted 1,145 river cleanups in 21 states. Other projects he has led include growing and donating more than 1.3 million trees and removing invasive species. Learn more about Pregracke at www.livinglandsandwaters.org

The EcoFair will provide a broad overview of sustainability-related information including City of Ames departments showcasing efforts to conserve energy, implement sustainable projects, and opportunities for residents to reduce their carbon footprint. Throughout the event, experts will give

mini talks on important topics including Monarch butterflies and other pollinators, urban birds, urban native landscaping, and prairie restoration. Longer lectures will provide updates to the City's Comprehensive Plan 2040, Forward 2045, and the City's Long Range Transportation Plan. A local climate specialist will give a Climate Outlook presentation. There will be activities for all ages including a downtown



scavenger hunt (see article below) and an upcycling activity. Environmentally themed art will also be on display. View the City's new biodiesel fleet, electric vehicles, and the Iowa DNR educational and

WaterRocks! trailers.

Enjoy local food trucks, browse and learn from experts, then commit to making lifestyle changes that conserve and promote good stewardship of our resources!

Grab Some Friends and Join the EcoFair Scavenger Hunt

In celebration of the 10th EcoFair in Ames on Saturday, April 25, join our first ever Scavenger Hunt! From 9 a.m. to noon during the EcoFair, participants can be part of an interactive challenge to learn more about many sustainability opportunities that Ames offers. Make a team of two to four people and complete five of the 15 tasks for a free LED lightbulb

or complete 10 of the tasks to enter your name for a chance to win one of three grand prizes, including an exclusive tour of the Ames Power Plant, gift cards, and merchandise from local sustainable businesses! Look for the Scavenger Hunt Booth at the EcoFair to begin the challenge!

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: *What can I do to make the best choices for the environment? With both big choices and small ones, it can be confusing to know what's really helping.*

A: Great question. It can be difficult to know the right thing to do, but doing a little research can provide some direction. The internet is full of “The Top 10 Ways to ...”, and energy conservation is no exception. Replacing your old light bulbs with LEDs, washing your clothes in cold water, and buying green energy are some easy changes that really do make a difference!

There are also bigger decisions that can drastically reduce your carbon footprint. These are things you may not be able to put on your weekend to-do list, but you can keep them in mind for the next time you're considering moving or purchasing a car.

1. Reduce the number of miles you drive. This might mean more stay-cations or getting some extra exercise while walking or biking to work, school, or errands. The “walkability” of your neighborhood will affect your ability to do these things without a car. It might be a factor you consider the next time you move.

2. Reduce your emissions per mile. When you're looking for a new car, prioritize those with better gas mileage. An electric car would further reduce your emissions per mile. Visit www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy and navigate to “Electric Vehicles” for more data about emissions from electricity and electric cars.

3. Reduce the number of cars in your household. If you're able to reduce daily dependence on driving, you may be able to get by with one fewer car and enjoy the savings! Or you might choose to make one of your family's cars electric to use around town and keep one gas-powered vehicle to enjoy long road trips without range anxiety.

Did you enjoy this month's CitySide? Share with us! What Ames or central Iowa stay-cations do you recommend for people looking for fun with a smaller carbon footprint? You may see your suggestion in next month's issue!

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

RENEWABLE ENERGY NUMBERS

FOR JANUARY 2020

- 17.9%** ELECTRICITY USED THIS MONTH GENERATED FROM WIND
- 1.3%** ELECTRICITY THIS MONTH WAS GENERATED BY REFUSE DERIVED FUEL (RDF) FROM THE RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT
- 75%** SUNSMART AMES POWER PACKS PLEDGED
- 79** LED STREETLIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF 4,063
- 264** HOURS OF VEHICLE CHARGING AT PUBLIC ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS

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

TREE VOUCHER PROGRAM

On Saturday May 2, the City of Ames Public Works and Ames Trees Forever will be distributing tree vouchers to Ames residents and businesses.

This year the voucher is increased from \$50 to \$75 and can be used to purchase one or more trees. A free bag of mulch is also provided when the voucher is redeemed. Participants who attend a brief program about proper tree selection, planting and caring for trees are eligible to receive the voucher.



This year the event will be held at Country Landscapes, 3801 E. Lincoln Way, and Earl May Nursery, 1601 S. Kellogg Ave. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m., and the program will start at 10 a.m. Vouchers can also be redeemed at Lowe's, 120 Airport Road.

INFORMATION

POWER OFF? START HERE!

Check if the power is off in the whole house or just part of it. Also, check your main electric panel to see if a breaker has tripped or fuse has blown.

If the problem is not in your panel, check if your neighbors have been affected. Report your outage by calling the outage reporting system at 515.239.5240. You will be asked to provide your name, address of the outage, and phone number at the outage address.