



CITY SIDE

AUGUST 2020

WELCH AVENUE AND SOUTH GRAND AVENUE PROJECTS SHOW PROGRESS

Those out and about this summer may encounter two significant projects currently underway. After years of planning and design work, the Ames Public Works Department launched the reconstruction of Welch Avenue and the extension of South Grand Avenue. Minimizing the inconvenience of any construction project is always a priority. With the Welch Avenue project, it's important to remember that businesses nearby will remain open except for a short time when sidewalks are paved later in construction.

#WhatTheWelch

The Campustown Public Improvements project (Welch Avenue) kicked off in May with utility upgrades along Lincoln Way. In mid-June, reconstruction of Welch Avenue commenced from Lincoln Way to Kingland/ CVS driveway. This phase includes utility replacements and temporarily rockering the road for access during the next construction phase. Phase 4 of construction moves



ABOVE: Rendering of **Welch Avenue** reconstruction and streetscape improvements looking north.



ABOVE: Rendering of **South Grand Avenue** extension looking north from South 16th Street.

south between the Kingland/ CVS and Fire Station No. 2 driveways. During this time, a temporary traffic signal will be placed at the Hayward Avenue alley for full access to Public Parking Lot X. The contractor

will then pave the travel lanes before constructing nine tree trenches to improve water quality and bike lanes in each direction of travel. Phase 5 will complete the project from the Fire Station driveway to

Chamberlain Street. Overall construction completion is set for November 2020.

South Grand Avenue

The extension of South Grand Avenue (from Squaw Creek Drive to South 16th Street) and South Fifth Street (from South Grand Avenue to South Duff Avenue) represents one of the community's most anticipated street constructions. This project includes shared use paths along one side of each South Grand Avenue and South Fifth Street to increase bicycle connectivity. Pedestrian sidewalks will be constructed on the other side of each roadway. Two bridges along South Grand Avenue will allow the road to be passable during major flood events.

Water quality improvements are being achieved through construction of a stormwater wetland along South Fifth Street and native plantings and bioswales along South Grand Avenue. Construction is anticipated to be completed in summer 2021.

CITY NEWS TO USE

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CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

To get the latest information on street construction occurring throughout Ames, check our website. A summary of projects and a map is available at www.CityOfAmes.org/construction.



CENSUS 2020: COMPLETE YOUR RESPONSE AND 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 has been conducted once a decade since 1790. The pandemic has affected the 2020 Census and the effort has been delayed, but it's not too late to participate.

If you have not responded to the short questionnaire - online, by phone, or by mail - it's easy to complete your census at www.2020Census.gov. This will mark the first time that the census will take place online! Completing your census 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.

MOVING? DON'T LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND

Graduating, moving, or leaving over a school break are all very exciting changes, but these events may pose some logistical questions. How are you going to move your aquarium? Who will watch your pet if you move? Does your new apartment allow snakes? There are many decisions to be made, but this one is always wrong: never dump your tank into a waterway or release your pet into the wild.



Most pets released to the wild do not survive, and many suffer before they die. If they do manage to survive, they can wreak major havoc! Releasing non-native plants or animals into natural areas can harm the environment and the economy.

Many plants used in aquariums become invasive species if introduced into a natural system. Some of the most notorious invasive species in the United States were originally sold as pets or plants for water gardens and

aquariums.

Prospective pet owners should make sure they will be able to accommodate all life stages of a pet before buying or adopting it. If your circumstances change, the responsible choice is to find your pet a new home. If you are not able to place your pet with another caring owner, contact the Ames Animal Shelter, a natural resource agency, or even a pet store near you. The knowledgeable personnel in these places can help you find the right place for your pet.

NATIVE PLANTINGS REBATES OFFERED

Have you ever considered replacing some of your lawn with native landscaping? Native plants provide a connection to our prairie heritage. Once established, native plants are aesthetically pleasing and require little watering, fertilizing, and mowing. The City of Ames Smart Watersheds Program has a rebate for up to \$350 for areas converted to native landscaping.

The SmartWatersheds Program also provides incentives for other practices that reduce urban stormwater runoff, improve stormwater quality, and increase groundwater recharge. For more information and rebate forms, go to www.CityofAmes.org/SmartWatersheds.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

6 p.m. August 11
6 p.m. August 18 (Workshop)
6 p.m. August 25

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG



ELECTRIC

TIPS FOR REDUCING SUMMER ELECTRICITY COSTS

Energy can be expensive, and summers in Iowa are hot. This combination can drive utility bills higher. The good news is we can do some things that may help. Any reduction in the amount of electricity you consume on hot summer days benefits



the utility system, helps keep our rates low, protects our environment, and lowers your bills.

reduce your air conditioner's energy usage by 3 to 5 percent.

- Setting your thermostat lower will not cause your air conditioner to cool faster, it will just run longer and waste energy.
- Clean and/or replace furnace filters. Dirty filters cause your system to work harder when circulating air and leads to higher energy bills and a shortened life span.
- Check your air ducts for leaks. Most air leaks occur in a central air conditioning system's return air ducts. When these leaks occur,

warm air is pulled into the system causing it to work harder and longer.

- Use ceiling fans. If you use the fan to supplement air conditioning, you can raise the thermostat setting up to 4 degrees above your normal setting and still be comfortable. A fan uses much less energy than your air conditioner.
- Try running your air conditioner for 20 minutes during early morning hours. This can clear humidity, reduce air conditioner run time, and make your home more comfortable for the day.

- For each degree Fahrenheit you raise your thermostat, you can

Sirens Provide Outdoor Severe Weather Alert

Warm weather signals the arrival of storm season, and severe storms may produce tornadoes. In Ames, we are fortunate to have an outdoor emergency siren system to warn us of an approaching tornado. Did you know:

- There are 23 sirens located around Ames, 18 maintained by the City and five at Iowa State University. They are placed so they can be heard from any populated area.
- The sirens sound as warnings for people

outdoors. They may or may not be heard from inside a building.

- Weather radios may be purchased to ensure warnings are heard inside buildings.
- Sirens are tested the first Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m.
- Sirens are tested weather permitting. If the weather is stormy, the sirens won't be tested until the following Wednesday.

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	:

CitySide is a publication of the City of Ames, Iowa
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 Questions?
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ENERGY Q&A

Q: I heard that there are new Smart Energy rebates available beginning July 1. Can you tell me more about them?

A: Absolutely! We have four major changes to our Smart Energy program this year. One program has been retired, one updated, and two new rebate programs created.

1. The LED rebate program has been retired to make room for new programs. LEDs are still a great energy efficiency measure that will save you money, even without a rebate.
2. The minimum efficiency for the Air Conditioner rebate has been increased to 16 to match federal energy efficiency standards.
3. We've created a new rebate program for Electric Vehicle Chargers. You can receive up to \$250 back on your purchase of a programmable charger to fuel your battery electric vehicle! EVs are more affordable and practical than ever. They're a great way to lower your greenhouse gas emissions, save on fuel costs, and replace gasoline usage with locally generated, low-emissions electricity. Check out resources at www.CityOfAmes.org/ev if you're curious about going electric.
4. We've also created a new rebate program for select water heaters. New improvements in heat pump technology (as well as lower emissions intensity of electricity in Iowa)

have made **Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) Water Heaters** a more sustainable and economic option than fossil fuels for water heating. Note that water heaters must be "CTA-2045 ready" in order to qualify for the rebate. Call us at 515.239.5177 for help finding a water heater with this feature or determining if your device is compatible.

Solar Thermal Water Heaters heat water with renewable solar energy. In order to qualify for a rebate, these systems must replace an electric resistance water heater or use electric auxiliary heat. To complement these water heating solutions, a rebate is also available for Drain Water Heat Recovery Systems.

Smart Energy programs are designed to help our customers use energy more efficiently. In addition to rebates on your energy efficient purchases, we offer watt meters and home energy monitors for check out, do-it-yourself energy audit guides, and professional energy audits. Commercial customers can access additional resources through the Smart Business Challenge.

As always, if you have questions about how to conserve energy, contact me! You can find more information online at www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy or call me at 515.239.5177.

Kayley Barrios Lain, Energy Services Coordinator
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AT-A-GLANCE ENERGY NUMBERS

FOR MAY 2020

13%	ELECTRICITY THIS MONTH WAS GENERATED BY REFUSE DERIVED FUEL (RDF) FROM THE RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT	57	LED STREETLIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF 5,051
75%	SUNSMART AMES POWER PACKS PLEDGED	242	KILOWATT HOURS OF VEHICLE CHARGING AT PUBLIC ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS

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

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.