



# CITY SIDE

OCTOBER 2020

## AMES NAMED A 'BIRD FRIENDLY COMMUNITY'

Bird Friendly Iowa recently named Ames a "Bird Friendly Community" making our city the first municipality in Story County to be officially designated as "Bird Friendly."

Ames received the recognition for its dedication to improving habitat in city parks; for encouraging and supporting residents' efforts to plant native trees, perennials and shrubs that benefit birds; for reducing threats to birds; and for celebrating conservation at a community event such as EcoFair.

Through policies and programs, the City of Ames

is committed to preserving and expanding habitat and encourages citizens to engage in birding, bird conservation, and related outdoor recreation activities.

"By offering various conservation programs, rebates, and environmental education opportunities, the City provides opportunities for citizens to improve bird



habitats," said Municipal Engineer Tracy Warner. She added the adoption of very progressive storm water management ordinances helps in the efforts. These laws improve water quality, manage flooding, protect natural resources, re-establish native landscapes, create stream and riparian buffers, and promote interconnected greenways and environmental corridors

throughout Ames. Reducing threats to birds is an important aspect of becoming a "Bird Friendly Community." Ames does not allow free-roaming cats (the number one human-caused threat to birds), and the Ames Public Library provides educational materials about threats to birds. The Iowa Wildlife Center and City of Ames Animal Control created an educational initiative about the dangers that exist for free-roaming cats and their wild prey. Ames Parks and Recreation Department also works to reduce the use of pesticides as part of park management.

## 'CYCLONES CARE' PROMOTES HEALTHY CHOICES FOR EVERYONE

"Cyclones Care," is a public health education campaign focused around four pillars of healthy behavior.

The four pillars include:

1. Wear a face covering
2. Maintain physical distancing of 6 feet or greater
3. Wash/sanitize your hands frequently
4. Stay home if you're sick

Developed by Iowa State communicators with input from experts on behavioral change, accessibility, and diversity, Cyclones Care promotes responsible decision-making to reduce COVID-19 transmission.

When embraced by everyone, these four actions make the greatest impact in ensuring that our local health care facilities are able to keep up and treat sick people who need medical attention.



## CITY NEWS TO USE

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- New Restroom at Brookside
- No Charge Yard Waste Days
- Parks & Rec Moves Online
- SunSmart Ames
- New EV Chargers Coming
- Energy Q&A

### STORY COUNTY IOWA ALERTS:

- Do you want to receive a phone call or texts during an emergency? Sign up online for Story County Iowa Alerts. Go to [www.CityOfAmes.org](http://www.CityOfAmes.org) and look for the green "Emergency Alerts Sign Up" button at the bottom left.



## BROOKSIDE PARK RESTROOMS OPEN WITH 'ROLL CUTTING' CELEBRATION

Ames Parks and Recreation Department recently celebrated the opening of new Brookside Park restrooms with a special "roll-cutting" celebration. Mayor John Haila snipped a roll of toilet paper to signify the restrooms were ready for use.

The Brookside Park restroom building was constructed in the 1930s as a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) project. On May 5, 2018, a fire started in a garbage can under the building's overhang and caused significant damage.

The renovated facility includes four gender-neutral, ADA-compliant restrooms. The roof has been rebuilt out of brown metal and includes skylights for each restroom. The skylights allow in

daylight and reduce the need for lighting. Infrared occupancy sensors will turn the lights on based on body temperature. The feature will serve multiple purposes. Lights will only turn on when needed and will stay on as long as someone is in there, illuminating the dome on the skylight. If this happens after park hours, the lit dome will be an indicator for police in the area to check the restroom.

"Permanent restrooms are an essential amenity in community parks," said Ames Parks and Recreation Director Keith Abraham. "Renovating the facility gave us the opportunity to provide restrooms that can be used by the wide diversity of park users and also add energy-saving and safety features."



Thinking ahead to cooler fall days? This is the time to mark your calendar for fall's No Charge Yard Waste Days. Look for more information to come about a voucher option and brush day. The four Saturdays are:

- Saturday, Oct. 31
- Saturday, Nov. 7
- Saturday, Nov. 21
- Saturday, Nov. 28

The yard waste site is located at 400 Freil Drive. Those participating in Yard Waste Free Day are asked to enter the site from South Dayton Avenue

to Southeast Fifth Street and exit onto Lincoln Way. Yard waste is not accepted at the Resource Recovery Plant (RRP).

The RRP receives garbage from Ames and the surrounding communities in Story County for processing. Metals are extracted and sold for recycling. The remainder is shredded by machines, and the burnable portion becomes Refused Derived Fuel (RDF). RDF is piped to the City's Power Plant and used with natural gas to generate electricity.

For more information, go to [www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartTrash](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartTrash)

## PARKS & REC MOVES ONLINE

Instead of mailing your Fall/Winter Ames Parks & Recreation Program and Facilities Guide this year, the department will be providing information regarding programs and classes online only.

Find all the latest updates on Parks and Recreation Department offerings, as well as the ways programs and services are being adapted during the pandemic, at: [www.amesparkrec.org](http://www.amesparkrec.org)

## DID YOU KNOW?

October is Watershed Awareness Month! Look for more information on our social media @CityOfAmes.

## CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

City Council meetings will be held via teleconference. See website for more information.

6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13

6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 20 (workshop)

6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27

[WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/COUNCIL](http://WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/COUNCIL)



# ELECTRIC

## SUNSMART AMES BREAKS GROUND; SOLAR PROJECT MOVES FORWARD

Ames Electric Services hosted a recent groundbreaking event for the SunSmart Ames Community Solar Project. The new solar farm is located at 405 Airport Road. SunSmart is on track to be producing electricity by the end of the year. Implementing a community solar project has been a long-established goal of the Ames City Council.



“A community solar project allows all residents to invest in renewable energy,” said Ames Electric Services Director Donald Kom. “This 2-megawatt community solar farm will add clean, solar energy to our renewable energy portfolio, which includes refuse-derived fuel.”

The solar generation facility is being built and operated by ForeFront



Power of San Francisco, Calif., and Ames Electric Services will purchase all electricity provided by the solar panels.

It’s not too late for Ames Electric Services customers to get involved in SunSmart. Subscribe to the solar farm by buying energy shares or “Power Packs” for a one-time investment of \$300. Customers will receive a small monthly credit on their utility bill for 20 years based on the amount of energy generated.

“Ames Electric Services customers have shown their support for this project, with more than 75 percent of Power Packs purchased to date,” said Kom. “We are excited to see this project moving forward.”



## SETTLEMENT FUNDS MORE ELECTRIC CHARGERS

Ames Electric Services recently received three grants totaling \$157,200 to install one DC fast charger and two Level 2 community chargers for electric vehicles from Iowa’s Volkswagen Settlement Environmental Mitigation Trust. These planned charger installations will serve residents, visitors, and travelers passing by Ames on Interstate 35 and U.S. Highway 30.

There are currently Level 2 charging stations available at Ames City Hall and Bandshell Park. The new chargers will serve Campustown and the area west of campus on Lincoln Way. The DC Fast Charger will be installed near the intersection of I-35 and Highway 30. Supporting adoption of electric vehicles reduces tailpipe emissions in our community, replaces gasoline with locally- and regionally-sourced energy, and supports the City Council’s goal of reducing citywide greenhouse gas emissions.

## 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 | : |

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# ENERGY Q&A

**Q: In August, Ames was hit by a major storm event that caused massive damage to the electric transmission system. Shortly after the storm, lineworkers showed up in the city from all over. How does that happen?**

A: Ames was among the many cities impacted by a powerful storm known as a derecho that moved from eastern Nebraska across Iowa and parts of Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana on Monday, Aug. 10. The storm downed trees and power lines, cutting off power throughout the entire city of Ames.

An outage of this size and duration hasn't happened in Ames in decades, and we are still addressing the damage from this extraordinarily powerful event. Fortunately, our city was able to draw lineworkers from several other communities to supplement our own crews in re-energizing customers as quickly as possible. Even with the assistance of 10 other agencies, we still had some customers without electricity for nine days.

Ames Electric Services is part of the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, a group which organizes mutual aid in the form of lineworkers and equipment from other communities to assist during significant outages. After assessing the damage the day of the storm, the call went out immediately for assistance. Because the derecho was far-reaching, other communities were also seeking help. Over the next 10 days, crews from Glidden, Lehigh, Webster City, Algona, Cedar Falls, Denison,

Eldridge, Maquoketa, Winterset, and Zoske Electrical from Iowa Falls came to Ames bringing lineworkers and equipment. Crews worked 16-hour days each day until power was restored to the entire community.



During the aftermath of the storm, we were heartened by the kind and thoughtful gestures of Ames citizens who brought lineworkers pizza, coffee, donuts, cold water, and many words of appreciation. Also, we want to thank our customers for their amazing grace and patience during a storm situation like no other we have experienced.



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## AT-A-GLANCE ENERGY NUMBERS

FOR JULY 2020

|             |                                                                                                           |            |                                                                                |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1.8%</b> | <b>ELECTRICITY THIS MONTH WAS GENERATED BY REFUSE DERIVED FUEL (RDF) FROM THE RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT</b> | <b>48</b>  | <b>LED STREETLIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF 5,131</b>                         |
| <b>75%</b>  | <b>SUNSMART AMES POWER PACKS PLEDGED</b>                                                                  | <b>769</b> | <b>KILOWATT HOURS OF VEHICLE CHARGING AT PUBLIC ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS</b> |

**DEGREE DAY INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT [WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/ELECTRIC](http://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.

### CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

Be careful and call Iowa One Call before you dig. Have your yard marked free of charge. Now it's even easier to call. You can call 800.292.8989 or just dial 811.