



# CITY SIDE

JULY 2021

## CELEBRATE NEW LIGHTS AT THE DURHAM BANDSHELL

Events at the Durham Bandshell in Bandshell Park just got a lot more colorful. The Bandshell, originally constructed in 1935, was recently upgraded to include state-of-the-art linear LED lights that have color-changing capabilities. Those in the area might have noticed some of the fun color schemes like pastels in spring, as well as green, red, purple and blue combinations in the evenings.

The lighting and electrical upgrades add a new dimension to concerts and performances, and they also address safety and code issues. The Durham Bandshell has served as an important entertainment venue in the community for decades, so updating infrastructure was crucial to ensure the facility provides

a quality, safe experience for users.

The Ames Municipal Band will return this summer to the Durham Bandshell. The new lighting project will be recognized during

Council Night at the Bandshell with Simon Estes on Thursday, July 8. Enjoy refreshments and a brief ribbon-cutting ceremony.



## FOURTH OF JULY

The Fourth of July Community breakfast **will not be back** this year, and the event is officially retired. However, enjoy other Fourth of July activities including the Fourth of July parade! Ames Police, Fire, CyRide, Water, Public Works, and the Ames Public Library Bookmobile are just a few of the many vehicles included this year. The parade begins at 11 a.m. on Sunday, July 4.

Start your holiday off with the Independence Day fireworks at dusk on Saturday, July 3. Fireworks typically begin after 9:30 p.m., and are launched from near Jack Trice Stadium.

## EMERGENCY BROADBAND BENEFIT OFFERED

The Emergency Broadband Benefit is a temporary FCC program to help households struggling to afford internet service during the pandemic. Eligible households are now able to enroll in the program to receive a monthly discount off the cost of broadband service from an approved provider.

In Ames, local internet providers including Mediacom and Verizon are participants in the Emergency Broadband Benefit program. Eligible households can access a list of approved providers and apply by visiting [www.GetEmergencyBroadband.org](http://www.GetEmergencyBroadband.org)

The \$3.2 billion Emergency Broadband Benefit program provides a discount of up to a \$50 per month toward broadband service for eligible households. The benefit also provides up to a \$100 per household discount toward a one-time purchase of a computer, laptop, or tablet.

The City of Ames and Ames Public Library have joined the FCC to raise awareness about the Emergency Broadband Benefit. The Ames Public Library is offering computer access to the public, and Library staff can provide basic guidance to those applying for the benefit.

## CITY NEWS TO USE

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- Parks & Recreation News
- Tree City Designation
- Fee Increases in July
- Moving this Summer?
- Energy Q&A

### FOURTH OF JULY CLOSINGS:

Most City of Ames departments and divisions will be closed Monday, July 5, in recognition of Independence Day. Offices will resume normal business hours on Tuesday, July 6.



**AMES/ISU ICE ARENA BIRTHDAY PACKAGES**

**PACKAGE 1: \$160.00**

- 8" Dairy Queen Ice Cream Cake
- 3 Large 1 Topping Pizzas
- 3 Pitchers of Pop
- Admission for 10 skaters
- Skate Rental for 10 skaters

**PACKAGE 2: \$205.00**

- 10" Dairy Queen Ice Cream Cake
- 4 Large 1 Topping Pizzas
- 4 Pitchers of Pop
- Admission for 15 skaters
- Skate Rental for 15 skaters

**PACKAGE 3: \$260.00**

- Dairy Queen Ice Cream Sheet Cake
- 5 Large 1 Topping Pizzas
- 5 Pitchers of Pop
- Admission for 20 skaters
- Skate Rental for 20 skaters

Have your next birthday party at the Ames/ISU Ice Arena! Email [taylor.bassett@cityofames.org](mailto:taylor.bassett@cityofames.org) for more information!

**FREE YOGA IN THE PARK CLASSES**

Parks and Recreation presents the eighth annual Yoga in the



Park! This FREE class will be held at Bandshell Park, 6th & Duff Avenue, June 5 – July 31 (no class July 3) on Saturdays, 10 - 11 a.m. Join guest yoga instructors from various yoga studios in Ames for this free class. Wear comfortable clothing and bring your own mat or towel.

**FACILITY CALENDARS**

Facility calendars for the Ames/ISU Ice Arena, Community Center, Furman Aquatic Center, and Municipal Pool can be accessed at [www.CityOfAmes.org/prcalendars](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/prcalendars). This is where you register for an ice skating session at the Ames/ISU Ice Arena, reserve a basketball hoop or weight/cardio room time at the Community Center, and reserve a lap lane at Municipal Pool.

**FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER**

Furman Aquatic Center opened for the season May 29. Limited capacities are in place. Open swim capacity is 75% of capacity which is 1,071 patrons. If capacity is reached, additional patrons will be permitted on a one in, one out system to maximize capacity. Summer season passes can be

purchased during your visit or by calling 515.239.5350. Please read the Aquatic Center's COVID-19 rules to make sure you are willing to follow prior to purchasing a season pass or visiting the pool. The COVID-19 rules can be accessed at [www.amesparkrec.org](http://www.amesparkrec.org). The Aquatic Center is available

for private pool parties typically daily at 8 p.m. Limited morning rentals are available upon request. Each basin rents for \$150 per hour. Choose any combination of the 50-meter pool, Lazy River, or Splash Pool. For additional information and to book your party, please call 515.239.5350.

**REGISTER FOR CLASSES**

With summer here, and fall around the corner, registration for the following programs are being accepted:

- Small Wonders Preschool (2021-22 school year)
- Youth Tennis Lessons
- Summer Camps
- Youth Fall Soccer
- Youth Fall Volleyball
- Fall Start Smart Soccer
- Swimming Lessons
- Scheduled Private Swimming Lessons
- Junior Lifeguarding
- Early Bird Lap Swim
- Adult Water Polo
- Fall Adult Softball Leagues (Men's & Coed)
- Fall Adult Sand Volleyball Leagues (Coed)
- Stroller Power
- Extreme Outdoor Bootcamp
- Tai Chi
- Parkour
- Fitness Classes (In-person, Outdoor, Virtual, & Recorded)

For more information and to register, please visit [www.amesparkrec.org](http://www.amesparkrec.org).

**CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS**

City Council meetings are scheduled:

6 p.m. Tuesday, July 13

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

6 p.m. Tuesday, July 27

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT [WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG](http://WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG)

## AMES NAMED "TREE CITY USA"

The City of Ames has again been recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources as a "Tree City USA" by demonstrating a commitment to caring for and managing public trees. To qualify for the Tree City USA award, a city must have either a city forester or an active city tree board, have a tree ordinance, spend at least \$2 per capita annually for its community forestry program, and have a tree planting and maintenance plan.



**TREE CITY USA®**

areas. The Parks and Recreation Department and City Forester perform all the work necessary to maintain the health of these trees.

"Trees are an important part of Ames and enhance the environment in many ways," said City Forester Paul Tauke. Trees absorb carbon dioxide, improve water quality through filtration and

erosion control, provide temperature control and wind breaks, and support wildlife habitat necessary for biodiversity. "Assessing the need for pruning or removal and replacement ensures that we maintain a healthy and diverse stock of trees," said Tauke.

For more information about trees in Ames, go to [www.CityOfAmes.org/trees](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/trees). For concerns about conditions, maintenance, or safety of trees at city parks or on city right-of-way, call the Parks and Recreation Department at 515.239.5341.

The City of Ames has been a recognized "Tree City USA" since 1983. The Tree City USA program is a national program that provides the framework for community forestry management for cities and towns across America. Ames has approximately 11,000 right-of-way trees, 3,500 park trees, and 700 to 800 acres of public-owned woodland

## WATER RATES TO INCREASE

With the completion of the 2021-2022 fiscal budget, the City has identified one utility fee increase that will begin on July 1. Water rates will increase 6 percent.

The need for the proposed rate adjustment is a combination of multiple factors. A series of construction projects is planned over the next 10 years that is intended to accomplish three things: replace aging infrastructure; increase resiliency to both natural and man-made disasters; and to stay ahead of anticipated growth in the Ames community.

Additionally, periodic adjustments are needed to keep pace with the increase in routine operating expenses such as chemicals, energy, and labor. Residents can mitigate utility increases by looking for ways to conserve water. To learn more water conservation ideas, go to [www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartWater](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartWater)

## RENEWABLE ENERGY BY THE NUMBERS

**16.8%** ELECTRICITY THIS MONTH GENERATED FROM WIND (OR 7,332,842 kWh)

**626** KILOWATT HOURS OF ENERGY CHARGED AT ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) CHARGING STATIONS

**144** LED STREET LIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF 4,864

**0.4%** SUNSMART COMMUNITY SOLAR FARM GENERATED SOLAR ELECTRICITY (OR 190,129 kWh)

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

## ELECTRIC TIPS

### 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: call 800.292.8989 or just dial 811.



# ENERGY Q&A

**Q. There's a lot of focus right now on electric vehicles, but are they as good as they say? Also, is there enough investment in local and national infrastructure to make them a practical choice?**

A. Electric vehicles (called EVs) use local, sustainable energy. EVs charged with electricity from Ames Electric reduce greenhouse gas emissions by over 60% compared to a gasoline vehicle. Instead of gasoline shipped in from all over the world, EVs charge with locally sourced energy, including wind, solar, and waste-to-energy generation.

**EVs can be grid resources.** EVs are unique electric appliances. The average vehicle is parked about 95% of the time, and only needs a full charge once a week. That means that the time at which the vehicle is charged can usually be flexible, so you can choose to charge when there tends to be an excess of wind energy available on the grid, between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

**EVs are more affordable than ever.** You can reduce your "fuel" costs by 60% when you drive electric! And you can count on those savings into the future because electricity prices are notoriously more stable than gasoline and other fossil fuels. And finally, more of the money you spend on charging stays in the local economy, where your electricity is generated.

**EVs are fun to drive.** Electric vehicles are smooth, super responsive, and almost silent. If you haven't driven an EV,

I recommend that you take a test drive when you get the opportunity!

If you're considering a switch to an electric vehicle, be sure to look at the resources at [www.CityOfAmes.org/ev](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/ev), including rebates for EV chargers, information about tax incentives, and a full handbook about Electric Vehicles in Ames.



As for infrastructure? Yes, that's being built. More communities, including Ames, are making the investment in electric charging stations. In fact, Ames Electric Services has received three grants from the Volkswagen Settlement Environmental Mitigation Trust totaling \$157,200 to install two DC fast chargers near the I-35 and US 30 interchange and two Level 2 community chargers at the Ames Intermodal Facility and in west Ames. Watch for details on our July ribbon-cutting for our first fast charger!

**Kayley Barrios Lain, Energy Services Coordinator**  
**515.239.5177 | [Kayley.Lain@cityofames.org](mailto:Kayley.Lain@cityofames.org)**

## Moving this Summer? Call us Today to Update Your Utilities!

If a move is in your future, make a point to contact Utility Customer Services as soon as possible to have your utility service started, stopped, or transferred.



You may submit your start,

stop, or transfer request at [www.amesutilities.com](http://www.amesutilities.com) or by contacting the Utility Customer Service office at 515.239.5120. The office is located in City Hall, 515 Clark Ave. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## INFORMATION

### SMART ENERGY PROVIDES REBATES FOR CUSTOMERS TO REDUCE CONSUMPTION

Did you know Ames Electric has rebates on geothermal heating and cooling systems, heat pump water heaters, and drain water heat recovery systems? Smart Energy is our suite of energy efficiency rebate programs and educational information aimed

at improving comfort, reducing electric bills, improving the efficiency of customer energy use, keeping future electric rates low, and reducing our greenhouse gas emissions. Check out all of our rebates and energy efficiency resources at [www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy!](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy!)