



CITYSIDE

NOVEMBER 2021

PLAZA TO BRING YEAR-ROUND RECREATION DOWNTOWN

The Ames City Council has made redeveloping the municipal parking lot across from City Hall, 515 Clark Ave., into interactive open space a priority as part of their goal to create a fun, vibrant community that attracts and retains residents. Construction on the space, located east of City Hall between Fifth and Sixth Street, is slated to start in 2022. The City has engaged nationally recognized landscape architecture firm, Confluence, to design the plaza.



redevelopment. With the focus on public art, small gatherings, water features, and winter ice skating, the new plaza will complement our existing businesses and public spaces.”

The initial concept for the approximately one-acre plaza was unveiled by City and Confluence staff for public comment earlier this year. Through a robust engagement process, residents identified water features, space for food trucks and small festivals – along with the public facilities to support them – as top priorities. The new design includes an interactive water feature and ice skating ribbon to promote year-round recreation. Public art will be featured throughout the park.

“We’re transforming an underutilized parking lot into a vital community asset for our residents,” said Kelly Diekmann, Ames Planning and Housing Director. “For many years, this lot was identified on the City Council’s list of priorities for

FALL NO CHARGE YARD WASTE DAYS PLANNED

Story County residents can dispose of yard waste at no charge during Fall No-Charge Yard Waste Days planned in October and November. The scheduled Saturdays are Oct. 30, Nov. 13 (includes brush), Nov. 20, and Nov. 27, at Chamness/GreenRU, 400 Freel Drive. Hours are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

from noon to 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 12, at 400 Freel Drive.

Those participating in Fall No-Charge Yard Waste Days are asked to enter the site from South Dayton Avenue, then west on Southeast Fifth Street, and north on Freel Drive. Drivers should exit the site north on Freel Drive to East Lincoln Way.

A voucher option will again be offered for those unable to take advantage of the Saturday, Nov. 13, drop-off date, which includes brush. A voucher may be picked up in advance at the Resource Recovery Plant, 110 Center Ave. This voucher may be used

Yard waste is not accepted at the Resource Recovery Plant. For more information about yard waste disposal, visit www.CityOfAmes.org/YardWaste

No Charge Yard Waste Days

Saturday, Oct. 30
(leaves only)

Saturday, Nov. 13
(leaves and brush)
Voucher available for Nov. 12

Saturday, Nov. 20
(leaves only)

Saturday, Nov. 27
(leaves only)

CITY NEWS TO USE

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Traffic Calming Techniques
- Town Budget Meeting Set
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HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

City Hall and most City of Ames offices will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 11, for Veterans Day, and Thursday, Nov. 25, and Friday, Nov. 26, for Thanksgiving.



TRAFFIC CALMING TECHNIQUES USED AROUND CITY

Ames Public Works crews like to keep traffic flowing, but when motorists go too quickly, there are tools available to remind drivers to slow down. All around Ames are examples of traffic calming techniques to prompt drivers into lowering their speed or being more alert to their circumstances.

“Traffic affects most Ames residents, and we’re available to talk with neighbors who have concerns in order to suggest or implement some potential solutions,” said Traffic Supervisor Brad Becker. “In some cases, we conduct speed studies and analyze driver behavior to better understand the issue.”

Some traffic concerns require

complex and elaborate solutions, but there might be simple tools to address others. For example, for streets where motorists are driving too quickly, increased traffic enforcement can help temporarily relieve the problem. For a more lasting impact, dynamic speed signs provide drivers with immediate feedback by showing their speed. The signs will flash if someone is driving too quickly. The most common response is for drivers to slow down, which means the tool is working.



Recently, Public Works crews installed small rumble strips around the intersection of Ontario Street and North Dakota Avenue near Sawyer Elementary School after numerous reports of distracted driving. When motorists drive over the strips, it reminds them to pay attention to the approaching intersection and slow down.

“Areas around schools are busy with lots of activity and children,” said Becker. “These are streets where drivers need to be aware of the surroundings.”

Contact Ames Public Works by calling 515.239.5160 or report concerns on smart phone by using the Ames On The Go app.

BUDGET MEETING PLANNED FOR NOV. 4

The City of Ames budget process kicks off in the fall with the annual Town Budget Meeting. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 4, in the City Council Chambers, second floor, City Hall, 515 Clark Ave.

A brief overview of the City’s budget, including revenue and expenses, will be presented. This is followed by a time for citizens to give input and ask questions regarding the coming year’s budget. The meeting is broadcast live on City Channel 12 and streamed live at www.CityOfAmes.org and on the City’s Facebook and YouTube pages. Viewers may call in questions to 515.239.5214 or submit questions through the live Facebook or YouTube broadcasts in the comments section.



The Town Budget Meeting begins the months-long process of developing the City’s annual operating and capital improvements budget. The public is encouraged to attend. City of Ames current and past financial documents are available on the City’s website at www.CityOfAmes.org/Finance.

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

The City of Ames Public Art Commission celebrated its 30th anniversary recently with a reception and art tour in City Hall.

The Public Art Commission (PAC) was formed by resolution of the Ames City Council in 1991 to establish public art philosophy and develop a public art plan for the City. PAC monitors the public art budget and recommends funding for public art within City facilities, develops guidelines for selecting artwork, seeks funding for public art, and develops educational, promotional projects for public arts programming.

The Commission has established several public art programs, including the Annual Ames Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit – now in its 25th year – and the Neighborhood Sculpture program.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

City Council meetings are held in the City Hall City Council Chambers, 515 Clark Ave. See website for more information.

6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 9

6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 16 (workshop)

6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 23

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT AMES CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS, GO TO WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/CCMEETINGS

UPCOMING CLASSES

WELLNESS CLASSES

BOGA FIT AQUA FITNESS

Boga Fit, an anchored down mat that floats on the water surface and is like a stand-up paddle board, builds strength and improves balance and coordination!

DEEP WATER FITNESS

This high energy cardio workout uses a variety of exercises to enhance cardiovascular fitness while strengthening and toning muscles. You must be able to swim in deep water.

TAI CHI INTRODUCTION

Learn the basic postures, movement, and breath work which have many benefits including flexibility, stress reduction and balance.

TAI CHI BEGINNER

This class continues to practice the basic postures, movement, and breath work learned in the intro class and begins to connect the techniques and movements.

YOUTH AND ADULT ACTIVITIES

YOUTH BASKETBALL (GRADES 3-6)

Leagues are organized by grades 3-4 and 5-6. Teams play in the Central Iowa Recreation League and play games at the Ames Middle School and surrounding towns.

YOUTH BASKETBALL (GRADES K-2)

Instructors will lead kids through drills and games focusing on teamwork, fundamentals, and the rules of basketball.

TENNIS LESSONS (GRADES 1-6)

Youth get the chance to learn tennis basics from professionals inside the Ames Fitness Center South Tennis Bubble.

START SMART (AGES 3-5)

Participants will learn basketball basics through fun drills and games. Parents will partner with their children and be led through activities by instructors.

PRIVATE SWIM LESSONS (MINI SESSIONS)

Students will work one-on-one with an instructor to develop their skills and work towards their personal goals.

WINTER INDOOR VOLLEYBALL

Women's and Men's officiated leagues are offered Monday - Thursday and Coed leagues play on Friday evenings and Sundays. Games at the Community Center.

AMERICAN RED CROSS ADULT AND PEDIATRIC FIRST AID/CPR/AED

This blended learning (online & classroom) certification course will prepare you to recognize and care for a variety of first aid, breathing, and cardiac emergencies involving adults, children and infants.

Successful completion results in an Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED certification valid for two years.

FOR MORE DETAILS AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION FOR ALL PROGRAMS, GO TO AMESPARKREC.ORG OR CALL 515.239.5350.

RENTALS

HOMWOOD CLUBHOUSE

NOW OPEN!



BOOK YOUR SPECIAL EVENT AT THE NEW CLUBHOUSE TODAY!

Rent the clubhouse for your family or company event and enjoy this beautiful venue located at the Homewood Golf Course! Please contact Nate Pietz at nate.pietz@cityofames.org or 515.239.5347.

AMES/ISU ICE ARENA

You can now find the Ames/ISU Ice Arena on social media! Follow the Ice Arena on Facebook: @AmesISUIceArena, Instagram: amesIsuIcearena, and Twitter: @AmesISUIceArena to keep up to date on the happenings of the arena, schedule changes and updates and so much more.

The Ice Arena is also available to rent or host a birthday party! Please contact Taylor Bassett at taylor.bassett@cityofames.org or 515.292.6835 to book your event now!



ENERGY Q&A

Q: I want to reduce my carbon footprint, but Iowa has cold winters that require adequate heating. What are some ways to have a warm house, but still be good to the earth?

A: We talk a lot about how to make our natural gas heating more efficient, but scientists say we need to get to zero carbon as soon as possible. You've raised a great question, so let's explore the pathway to zero carbon heating. Space heating accounts for about one-third of our energy use. Luckily, there is wide consensus about a feasible pathway for space heating. Scientists and strategists (see links to sources like Bloomberg Philanthropies and the National Academies Press at CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy) agree on a three-part solution: energy efficiency, low carbon electricity, and building electrification.

For homeowners this looks like:

1. Energy Efficiency – All of the tips we've talked about for decades are more important than ever to reduce energy use in your home. Lower your thermostat setting to provide the least necessary heating (including setbacks when your home is unoccupied over vacations), caulk and seal around windows and doors, and replace leaky windows and doors.

2. Low Carbon Electricity – Low Carbon Electricity – This is something Ames Electric Services is working on for you. We quantify it in our "Emissions Factor" (EF), which is (metric) tons of carbon emissions per MWh of electricity. With the conversion of the Ames Power Plant to natural gas in 2016, 36 MW of wind energy, and a new community solar farm, Ames' emissions factor keeps dropping, falling below 0.5 tons/MWh in 2019 (neighboring utilities had EFs of 0.52-0.57 in 2018). You could also install solar panels or participate in the SunSmart Ames Community Solar Farm to further reduce your carbon emissions.
3. Building Electrification – Low carbon electricity can take the place of fossil fuels in space heating, mostly through geothermal HVAC systems. Geothermal is more expensive to install but saves money, reduces emissions, adds value to your home, and lasts for decades. Tax incentives, rebates, and low interest loans are available to help.

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AT-A-GLANCE ENERGY NUMBERS FOR AUGUST 2021

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

0.9% ELECTRICITY GENERATED BY REFUSE DERIVED FUEL (RDF) FROM RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT (592,429 kWh)

0.4% ELECTRICITY GENERATED BY SOLAR POWER (249,266 kWh)

7% ELECTRICITY GENERATED BY WIND POWER (4,432,033 kWh)

6,455 MILES DRIVEN BY ELECTRIC VEHICLES USING PUBLIC EV CHARGING STATIONS

FLEET BIODIESEL PROJECT - Prior to January 2020, City snowplows had an annual biodiesel use of 8%. Since January 2020 using new technology, biodiesel use is at 83%. Between January 2020 and July 2021:

12 trucks used more than **16,000** gallons of biodiesel, which reduced carbon by **156** metric tons.

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
 Editor: Susan Gwiasda, Public Relations Officer
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