



CITYSIDE

FEBRUARY 2022

LIVE MUSIC PLANNED FOR CITY AUDITORIUM IN 2022

Exciting things are happening at the Ames City Auditorium in 2022.

Virtually Anywhere & Here

Last year, Ames City Auditorium successfully launched its first livestreamed concert series, “Virtually Anywhere.” The series is back, renamed “Virtually Anywhere & Here,” for livestreaming and in-person attendance! Purchase tickets now to see amazing Iowa artists performing live on the Auditorium stage every Friday in February and March at 7 p.m.

The Reminders

Delayed by the pandemic, The Reminders are finally heading to Ames! On March 1, 4, and 5, this incredible hip-hop duo from Denver, Colo., will hold workshops with youth from YSS, Boys and Girls Club, Ames Public Library Teen Group, and the Ames Middle School.

The husband-wife performers showcase positive expression through music and dance. The Reminders will be holding a hip-hop dance workshop and a TED-style interactive seminar about

2022 Auditorium Events

Virtually Anywhere & Here Concerts:
February - March
7 p.m. | Fridays

The Reminders:
Workshops on March 1, 4 & 5
Concert | 7 p.m. | March 5

ISU Takeover Concert:
7 p.m. | March 25

www.CityOfAmes.org/CityAuditorium

ames logo

the history of hip hop culture that will be open to the public. The Reminders will conclude with a concert at the Auditorium at 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 5.

This event was funded by the Iowa Arts Council and Arts Midwest. It is being presented in partnership with the Ames Public Library, Ames Human Relations Commission, Iowa State University Lectures, and the Ames Police Foundation.

ISU Takeover

On Friday, March 25, student bands from Iowa State University will take over the Auditorium stage for an evening of live performances starting at 7 p.m. This event is being held in partnership with the student music club GENRE and will be the first of its kind at the Auditorium. It will be both livestreamed and in-person.

Tickets for all of these events are on sale. Mark your calendars and check the Auditorium website for more information at www.CityofAmes.org/CityAuditorium

CITY PARTNERS TO MONITOR HEALTH OF LOCAL WATERWAYS

In 2021, the City partnered with citizen volunteers and groups in Story County to implement the first year of a 10-year Story County Water Monitoring and Interpretation Plan. The purpose of the plan is to collect and analyze water sampling data, increase resident’s knowledge and understanding, identify problems in our watersheds, and support and improve water quality.

Citizen volunteers from throughout the county tested samples from waterways, supplementing testing performed by Ames Water and Pollution Control staff. In addition to monitoring 35 sites, seven educational events were held, dozens of presentations scheduled, and many articles were published about water quality and watersheds. Over the remaining nine years of the plan,

monitoring will aid in evaluating the benefits of stream and watershed projects and in determining future project needs. There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer towards these efforts.

To learn more, go to: www.prrcd.org/story-county-water-monitoring. To volunteer, go to: www.storycountyiowa.gov/1536/Water-Quality-Monitoring.

CITY NEWS TO USE

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Volunteer on a Board or Commission
- City Assessor Reminders
- Budget Activities Continue
- Parks and Recreation Notes
- Energy Q&A

CITY OFFICES CLOSED:

City Hall and most City of Ames departments will be closed on Monday, Feb. 21, in recognition of Presidents’ Day. For more information about the City of Ames, go to: www.CityOfAmes.org.



VOLUNTEER FOR A CITY BOARD OR COMMISSION

Volunteer in your community and make a difference by joining a City of Ames board or commission. Boards and commissions make recommendations to the Ames City Council and assist the Council in carrying out various functions of local government.

City Boards and Commissions have continued to meet virtually throughout the pandemic and transitioned back to in-person meetings. There are 20 different boards and commissions, and 16

of those have vacancies occurring in the first part of 2022. While some current volunteers may seek reappointment, there are always vacancies that need to be filled.

More information about each board and commission, its purpose, when it meets, and an application to be considered are available at www.CityOfAmes.org/BoardsAndCommissions.

Applications are also available in the City Clerk's Office. Deadline to apply is **5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 4.**

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE REMINDS RESIDENTS OF TAX CREDITS

The City Assessor's Office reminds homeowners they may qualify for the Homestead Property Tax Credit and/or the Military Property Tax Exemption.



Please stop by the Assessor's Office in City Hall to complete an application if you've never signed up. The Homestead Credit is issued to property owners residing in their property at least six months each year.

The sign-up deadline for the next assessment is July 1, 2022. For more information about the Homestead Credit and/or the Military Exemption, visit www.CityOfAmes.org. (Go to Departments, City Assessor, then Credits & Exemptions.)

The Ames City Assessor's Office is located on the second floor of City Hall, 515 Clark Ave. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number is 515.239.5370.

PUBLIC BUDGET MEETINGS SCHEDULED

The City of Ames began preparing for the Fiscal Year 2022-23 budget last fall with a series of internal staff meetings. Work continues throughout the winter months as each department's budget is reviewed internally prior to presentation to the Ames City Council. There are still plenty of opportunities to get involved.

In February, three meetings are planned for representatives of each of the City's departments to present an in-depth review of proposed budgets. All budget meetings will be held in

the City Hall Council Chambers, 515 Clark Ave., and will be streamed on City of Ames Facebook and YouTube. A livestream is also available at www.CityOfAmes.org/AmesTV

- 5:15 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 1
- 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 2
- 5:15 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 3

A wrap-up of the budget will be held at 5:15 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 8. Setting the maximum levy rate will take place at the Council meeting beginning at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 22, and the final budget

hearing is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 8. It will include an opportunity for public comments. This is also a regularly scheduled City Council meeting.

Like all Iowa communities, the City of Ames must submit its budget to the State of Iowa for certification by the end of March. Budget documents for the current fiscal year are posted on the City's website, and draft documents for 2022-23 will be posted by early February. For more information, go to www.CityOfAmes.org.



CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

City Council meetings are held in the City Hall Council Chambers, 515 Clark Ave., and streamed via the City website, Facebook, and YouTube.

Budget hearings:

5:15 p.m. Feb. 1,2,3

Meetings: 5:15 p.m. Feb. 8

6 p.m. Feb. 22

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Homewood Golf Course and Furman Aquatic Center are now hiring for the 2022 season!
 Lifeguard, Head/Shift Leader, Attendant, Admissions, Concessions, and more!
 To apply and view other openings, please visit www.CityOfAmes.org/Jobs.

UPCOMING CLASSES & ACTIVITIES

MUNICIPAL POOL OPEN SWIM

Take advantage of the last month of Open Swim every Saturday/Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m. On the final weekend, Feb. 26-27, admission to Open Swim will only be \$1.

LIFEGUARD CERTIFICATION COURSE

Last of the indoor certification opportunities, don't miss out!

Lifeguard Training

Class Dates (must attend all three):

Feb. 25: 5 - 10 p.m.

Feb. 26: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Feb. 27: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Skill Testing (must attend one):

Feb. 16: 7 - 8 p.m. or

Feb. 19: 2 - 3 p.m.

Lifeguard Review:

Feb. 20: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

YOUTH TENNIS LESSONS - Grades 1st-6th

Learn the basics of tennis from the professionals inside the Ames Fitness Center South Tennis Bubble. Classes will be held on Saturday mornings, and spots are limited. Begins Feb. 5.

ADULT TENNIS LESSONS

Learn the game or sharpen your skills. Instruction provided by the professionals at the Ames Fitness Center South Tennis Bubble, Saturday mornings at 9 a.m. Begins Feb. 5

WINTER FITNESS CLASSES

Classes include Zumba, Simply Strength, Cycle, TRX, Yoga, and more beginning Feb. 14. More than 50 classes are offered weekly!

TAI CHI INTRODUCTION

This course is to get you started by teaching the basic postures, movement, and breath work, along with first movements of the Yang style Tai Chi form "The Thirteen Principles." Begins Feb. 18.

TAI CHI BEGINNER

This class will continue to practice basics and begin connecting techniques and movements. Class begins Feb. 16.

YOGA BASICS - WELCOME TO YOGA!

Workshop designed to provide a solid foundation and familiarize basic postures and techniques, with an emphasis on personal instruction. All levels welcome. Four-week session begins Feb. 20.



PERSONAL TRAINING

Whether your goals are weight loss, fitness training, balance, flexibility, core strength, or all of the above, our Personal Trainers can empower you to reach your 2022 goals with custom plans! Contact Nancy Shaw, Public Wellness Manager, at 515.239.5353, or nancy.shaw@cityofames.org.

PLAY PALS

Play Pals continue at the Ames Community Center (515 Clark Ave). Offered five days a week (Monday through Friday) from 9 to 11 a.m. for children age 5 and under. Only \$2 admission. Open now through the end of the school year!

AMES/ISU ICE ARENA

Grab your family and friends and join us at the Ames/ISU Ice Arena for the following ice times:

**Public Skate / ISU Public Skate
 Student Night / Figure Free / Stick & Helmet**

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

CONTACTS & INFORMATION

FOR ALL FACILITY SCHEDULES AND MORE INFORMATION REFERENCE:

Web: www.AmesParkRec.org

Phone: 515.239.5350

Address: 515 Clark Ave.

Facebook: Ames Parks & Recreation

SIGN UP FOR THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER:

Get weekly updates and news from Parks & Recreation delivered directly to you!

Go online to www.AmesParkRec.org and sign up. Your emails will not be shared, and you always have the option to unsubscribe. Sign up today and stay in the know!

ENERGY Q&A

Q: As the temperatures drop, I'm getting more concerned about my energy bills this winter. I don't have a lot of extra income to make major investments. Are there other options out there? What can I do?

Does your home feel chilly this year? Maybe it's time to weatherize your home to make it more comfortable and energy efficient. Did you know there is a program that supports weatherization projects for low-income residents?



The Weatherization Assistance Program is a federally funded program that helps low-income individuals lower their energy costs and improve comfort in their homes through insulation and other building envelope improvements. Residents of Story County can learn more and sign up for an appointment at www.micaonline.com or call 515.956.3333 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

If you don't qualify for assistance through the Weatherization

Assistance Program, you can find resources about DIY weatherization projects or sign up for a professional energy audit on our website at www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy. If you're on the fence about an investment in improving your home's energy efficiency, an auditor can help you better understand the opportunities and potential impact of insulation or home 'tightening' projects.

For some low-cost, energy-saving options that don't require a lot of money, consider these helpful tips:

- Set your thermostat down at night and at times during the day when occupants are at work or school.
- Fix drafty doors and windows using inexpensive, easy-to-apply tools like weather-stripping.
- Close the vents and doors to rooms that aren't used. Keep window shades and curtains drawn to retain heat.
- Unplug unused electronics. Many items may still be using electricity even when off. "Vampire electronics" can add unneeded costs to your utility bill.

AT-A-GLANCE ENERGY NUMBERS

FOR NOVEMBER 2021

2.7% ELECTRICITY THIS MONTH WAS GENERATED BY REFUSE DERIVED FUEL (RDF) FROM THE RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT (OR 1,260,742 kWh)

18.9% ELECTRICITY THIS MONTH WAS GENERATED BY WIND ENERGY (OR 8,595,033 kWh)

0.3% ELECTRICITY THIS MONTH WAS GENERATED BY SOLAR ENERGY (OR 148,999 kWh)

34 LED STREETLIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF 5,225

3,000 KILOWATT HOURS OF VEHICLE CHARGING AT PUBLIC ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS FOR A TOTAL OF MORE THAN 9,000 MILES

CITY DUMP TRUCKS USED 664 GALLONS OF PURE BIODIESEL IN NOVEMBER, OFFSETTING CARBON BY 6 METRIC TONS.

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

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
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