



# CITYSIDE

APRIL 2022

## TWO NEW ELECTRIC BUSES TO JOIN CyRIDE FLEET

CyRide will soon be getting two new battery electric buses, which are scheduled to be delivered early this summer. These clean vehicles were funded by the Federal Transit Administration Low- or No-Emission Grant program for \$1.6 million and the Iowa Department of Transportation Volkswagen Settlement Environmental Mitigation Trust for \$390,000.



The new buses will lower carbon emissions, control noise pollution, and reduce the operating costs of CyRide's large bus fleet. Instead of an engine burning diesel fuel, these vehicles run from 564-kWh batteries, which could power a house for an entire month. These buses will look familiar as they are from the same manufacturer as CyRide's articulated buses.

CyRide reduce its emissions. We are grateful for the funding and excited to implement this next phase of public transit improvements."

The new electric buses will feature a special exterior bus wrap design selected through an online competition that highlights the electric power source. In addition to the electric buses, CyRide continues to reduce its carbon footprint through hybrid buses, hybrid driver relief vehicles, biodiesel fuels, an energy-efficient administrative building, and solar-powered bus shelters.

"This is terrific news for CyRide, our riders, and the Ames community," said Transit Director Barbara Neal. "Supporting public transportation is a great way to reduce your own carbon footprint, while moving to electric buses will help

## BLOCK PARTY TRAILER RESERVATIONS AVAILABLE NOW!

Block parties are a great opportunity for residents to interact, welcome new residents, and build neighborhood connections. The volunteers who originally organized the Street 'N' Greet Block Party Trailer believe that neighborhood block parties strengthen relationships within and between neighborhoods and help Ames be a more welcoming and inclusive community.



### Street 'n' Greet Block Party Trailer

The Street 'N' Greet Block Party Trailer makes having a block party convenient and easy. The trailer is available free

of charge to Ames residents. Inside the trailer you'll find street barricades, folding tables and chairs, canopy tent,

portable lighting, a sound system, outdoor games and activities for children and adults, and more.

The trailer is available for weekend block party events from April through October. The trailer is available for two events per weekend. Choose from Fridays (5 to 9 p.m.), Saturdays (10 a.m. to 9 p.m.), or Sundays (10 a.m. to 9 p.m.).

Submit an online reservation request to schedule the trailer at [www.CityOfAmes.org/trailer](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/trailer).

## CITY NEWS TO USE

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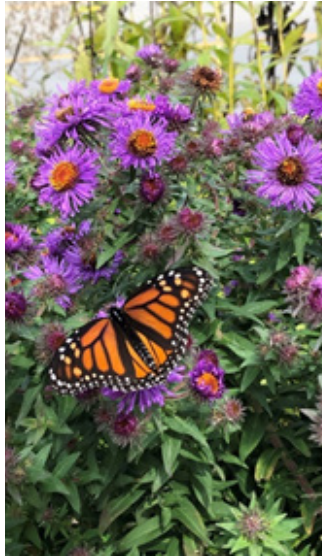
### WATER PLANT OPEN HOUSE

Learn more about Ames' great-tasting water at the Water Plant Open House from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 23. The plant is located at 1800 E. 13th St.



## COST SHARE REBATES IMPROVE WATER QUALITY

April is a perfect time to upgrade your landscape with practices that capture rainfall and reduce stormwater runoff while beautifying your property. The City's SmartWatersheds rebate program provides a cost share for eligible practices. Currently native trees, native landscaping, soil and lawn quality restoration, rain gardens, rain barrels, and composters are eligible.



These solutions reduce stormwater runoff into the city storm sewer system and improve the water quality and the health of our waterways and lakes.

For more information and applications go to [www.CityOfAmes.org/Smartwatersheds](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/Smartwatersheds) or call the Ames Public Works Department at 515.239.5160.

## SAVE THE DATE: RUMMAGE RAMPAGE RETURNS

Mark your calendars for the sixth annual Rummage RAMPage, which begins with donations drop-off on Friday, July 29, and continues through Saturday, Aug. 6, as the final day of shopping.

# RUMMAGE RAMPAGE

The City of Ames, in partnership with the ISU Office of Sustainability and local non-profit organizations, holds this community-wide garage sale to keep reusable items out of the waste stream. Items are donated for sale, and volunteers from local non-profit groups help run the sale and share in any profit. The event is held at the Ames Intermodal Parking Ramp, 129 Hayward Ave.

"This event grew from the desire to repurpose items often left on the curb during the annual move out and lease changeovers, and to keep these items out of the landfill," said Resource Recovery Plant Superintendent Bill Schmitt. "With the large number of lease changeovers at the end of July, the event provides an alternative for residents who are not only looking to dispose of household goods, but also acquire still-usable items that might be thrown in the trash or randomly dumped otherwise."

Rummage RAMPage has continued to grow each year. In 2021, this event diverted 90,000 pounds of furniture and housewares from the landfill and raised more than \$40,000 for local non-profit agencies. The first orientation meeting for interested non-profit organization is planned for May. Go to the City website for updates at [www.CityOfAmes.org/RummageRampage](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/RummageRampage).

## SPRING NO-CHARGE YARD WASTE DAY SET FOR APRIL 30

Story County residents can dispose of yard waste at no charge during the Spring No-Charge Yard Waste Day planned for Saturday, April 30, at GreenRU (formerly Chamness Technology), 400 Freel Drive. Hours are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. This yard waste drop-off day will include both yard waste and brush.

Participants should 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. Please follow GreenRU's rules for proper yard waste disposal. For more information, call GreenRU at 515.450.0450.



### 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.

Meetings: 6 p.m. April 5  
6 p.m. April 12  
6 p.m. April 19  
6 p.m. April 26

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



## MIRACLE LEAGUE - SUMMER 2022 SEASON

Parks & Recreation is excited to offer the second year of Miracle League! This league is a non-competitive baseball league for youth and adult participants, ages 5 and older, with special needs. Registration is now open through April 17. League play begins May 7.

Register by visiting the Community Center in City Hall, 515 Clark Ave., calling 515.239.5350, or online at [www.amesparkrec.org](http://www.amesparkrec.org). Interested in becoming a Miracle League Buddy Volunteer? Parks & Recreation is seeking groups and organizations to assist players on the field during the game. The goal is to provide a buddy to each

player at each game to ensure players have a safe and enjoyable experience! If interested or to learn more, contact Ben Flaherty at 515.239.5367 or [ben.flaherty@cityofames.org](mailto:ben.flaherty@cityofames.org).



## HOMWOOD GOLF COURSE

Homewood Golf Course Opening Day, is Friday, April 1 (weather permitting)! Buy your season pass or punch card at the Clubhouse, 401 E. 20th St., or call 515.239.5363. Tee times are available March 18.

## FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER

Furman Aquatic Center Opening Day is Saturday, May 28. Pool passes are available for purchase online or at the Community Center. Receive a 10% discount when purchased by May 1.

## UPCOMING CLASSES & ACTIVITIES, REGISTER TODAY!

**GOLF LEAGUES:** Men's League (Mondays), Couples' League (Tuesdays); shot gun starts at 6 p.m. Register prior to the start of the league, which begins the first week of May.

**YOUTH & ADULT GOLF LESSONS:** Begins the week of April 11, at Veenker Golf Course Driving Range.

**MEN'S & CO-ED ADULT SUMMER SOFTBALL:** Registration ends March 31.

**ULTIMATE FRISBEE (16+):** Individual registration through May 1.

**START SMART SOCCER (PARENT/CHILD, AGES 3-5) & KIDDIE KICKERS (AGES 5-6):** Register before March 31, spots limited!

**VOLLEYBALL SPRING CAMP (GRADES 3-6), SUNDAY, MARCH 27:** Led by Ames High Volleyball coaching staff and players. Register by March 21.

**DRIVE THE ZAMBONI EXPERIENCE, AMES/ISU ICE ARENA:** Friday, April 15, from 7 to 9 p.m.

**APRIL FISHING EVENT AT ADA HAYDEN:** Trout-stocking, prizes, and fun activities! More information online.

**FITNESS CLASSES (NEW SESSION STARTS APRIL 4):** More than 60 group fitness classes offered weekly. Register prior to April 4!

**TAI CHI (6-WEEK SESSION):** Intro Class, Fridays from 11 to 11:45 a.m.; Beginner Class, Wednesdays, from 11 to 11:45 a.m. at the Community Center. Register prior to the start date, April 18.

**YOGA BASICS (4-WEEK SESSION):** Sundays beginning April 24, from 6 to 6:45 p.m. Register prior to the start date!

**SUMMER PROGRAM INFORMATION & REGISTRATION:** Available online March 1!

REGISTRATION & INFORMATION: [AMESPARKREC.ORG](http://AMESPARKREC.ORG)

PARKS & RECREATION: 515.539.5350 | COMMUNITY CENTER: 515 CLARK AVE.

### SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:

Parks and Recreation offers scholarships for recreation programs and season swim passes for qualifying Ames residents. Go to [www.amesparkrec.org](http://www.amesparkrec.org) or contact the Community Center for information.

### WORK AT FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER THIS SUMMER!

Lifeguards, Swim Lesson Instructors, and Water Slide Attendants are NEEDED! To apply and view job descriptions, go to [www.CityOfAmes.org/Jobs](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/Jobs)

# ENERGY Q&A

**Q: The Ames City Council has made establishing a Climate Action Plan a priority. Is Ames Electric Services involved in creating the plan?**

Excellent question. The short answer is yes! Ames Electric Services is involved in the new climate action planning initiative. A Climate Action Plan (CAP) provides the framework and actions needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in a community. The Ames City Council has made developing a plan a priority, but also has set an ambitious goal to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. Developing a CAP is a tool that helps communities understand their influence on GHGs, and allows them to reduce their carbon footprint while still supporting community well-being and economic growth.

Additionally, a CAP helps communities to align their infrastructure planning processes with their GHG reduction targets, and identify opportunities to integrate local renewable energy solutions. Ames Electric Services plays an important role in the creation of a community CAP because up to one-third of GHG emissions in Ames are connected back to electric production.

The electric utility continues to take steps to reduce that number through investments in the SunSmart Ames Community Solar Farm, contracts for wind energy, exploring new renewable



options, and involvement in the City’s waste-to-energy study, which is determining future investments in the Resource Recovery Plant.

Another important role of Ames Electric Services in community carbon reduction is through expanding electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure. In addition to adding public EV chargers around the community, Ames Electric Services offers EV charging rebates to customers who add chargers to their homes. Creating a CAP is important because investments today will determine climate and development outcomes long into the future. Reducing Ames’ carbon footprint is a goal that will require the support of the entire community. One way to stay involved in the CAP process is to check the website for participation opportunities: [www.CityOfAmes.org/Sustainability](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/Sustainability) and click on the “Climate Action Plan” green box.

## RENEWABLE ENERGY NUMBERS FOR JANUARY 2022

**95,585 kWh**  
ELECTRICITY USED THIS MONTH GENERATED FROM SUNSMART COMMUNITY SOLAR FARM

**2.8%** ELECTRICITY THIS MONTH WAS GENERATED BY REFUSE DERIVED FUEL (RDF) FROM THE RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT

**79** LED STREETLIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF 5,351 TOTAL

**4,200 kWh**  
HOURS OF VEHICLE CHARGING AT PUBLIC ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS RESULTING IN 12,000 MILES DRIVEN

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

CitySide is a publication of the City of Ames, Iowa.  
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