



CITY SIDE

MAY 2022

JOIN THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL BIKE RIDE ON MAY 21

Want a reason to dust off your bike helmet and pump up the tires? Here's an event to get you excited about bicycling this spring!

Mayor John Haila and members of the City Council invite the community to participate in a family-friendly bike ride starting at Ames City Hall, 515 Clark Ave. The fourth annual Mayor and Council's Bike Ride will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 21. Bikers should gather in the west parking lot.

Bicyclists of all ages and experience levels are welcome to join the ride. There is no pre-registration necessary or cost to participate. Bike helmets are



strongly encouraged. Watch the City of Ames website (www.CityOfAmes.org) for more information, a route map, and how to get involved! This year's bike route will include a visit to the Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor, which is a Story County park inside the Ames city limits.

"With May being National Bike Month, it's a great fit to offer this fun, spring event," said Mayor Haila. "Enjoying a community bike ride is a terrific way to celebrate the many benefits of bicycling as well as enjoying the sights of our city. The route south this year will allow us to take a few extras stops and explore new bike paths."

Additionally, Ames City Hall will serve as the kick-off location for the Bike To Work Week breakfast as part of National Bike Month. Join the Ames City Council and City staff members for a free light breakfast from 7 to 9 a.m. on Monday, May 16. Start your day with a bike ride and join the fun!

NEW EQUIPMENT HELPS REPAIR INFRASTRUCTURE QUICKLY

It's not uncommon to see Ames Public Works crews and assorted equipment around the city performing maintenance and repair. Department responsibilities include streets, signage, infrastructure, and more! Patching a pothole or testing traffic signals are routine fixes, but sometimes - particularly when the work is underground - it's less clear what's happening.

Recently, Public Works employees began using



equipment to locate blockages in the sanitary sewer system. This equipment allows crews to work faster and more efficiently.

The Sewer Line Rapid Acoustic Testing (SL-RAT for short) equipment consists

of a transmitter and receiver unit that are inserted into sanitary sewer manholes. The transmitter unit sends out an audible noise signal that travels through the sanitary sewer line and is collected by the receiving unit.

The signal is evaluated by the receiver and a score from one to 10 is given. A lower score indicates loss of a portion of the audio signal and can indicate a potential blockage or issue in the sanitary sewer.

Once a low score is found, televising and cleaning equipment is dispatched to the area to investigate and clear any obstructions.

"Utility Maintenance crews are able to investigate five to 10 times more segments per day than traditional investigation methods and at a much lower cost," said Justin Clausen, Operations Supervisor. "We save time and money, and avoid inconvenience for our

CITY NEWS TO USE

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MEMORIAL DAY:

The annual Memorial Day celebration will begin with a parade at 10:30 a.m., followed by a presentation at the Ames Municipal Cemetery at 11 a.m. Also, City Hall and most City offices will be closed on Monday, May 30. Memorial Day details will be posted at www.CityOfAmes.org



WATCH FOR TRAFFIC CREWS IN MAY

To counter the wear and tear of winter, City of Ames traffic crews will begin re-stripping streets; painting curbs, crosswalks, stop bars, and symbols; and refreshing parking lot lines the first week in May. Painting takes place every year after the temperatures are warm enough to apply paint, and surfaces have warmed enough for the paint to properly adhere. By the end of the season, crews will have painted the equivalent of a 4-inch stripe from Ames to Minneapolis, Minn., or about 200 miles of new street markings.



Street and curb painting can have a temporary impact on traffic flow by requiring brief lane closures. Although the paint applied is quick drying, drivers can help by being cautious and proceeding slowly when traveling in areas where crews are working.

SUSTAINABILITY-THEMED ECOCHATS CONTINUE MONTHLY THROUGH JUNE

Join the City of Ames and Ames Public Library for EcoChats 2022, a series of in-person and virtual lectures focused around sustainability topics. The 2022 EcoChats are scheduled for 6 p.m. the fourth Thursday of each month through June. Information about how to participate is available on the Ames Public Library's website (www.AmesPublicLibrary.org).

The EcoChat on May 26 will feature Bill Schmitt, Superintendent at the Resource Recovery Plant, sharing information about the 2022 Rummage RAMPage. Rummage RAMPage is a community-wide garage sale designed to keep reusable items out of the waste stream. Items are donated for sale, and volunteers

ECOCHATS



from local non-profit groups help run the sale and share in the profits. This is the sixth year of the event which will be held from Friday, July 29 through Saturday, Aug. 6, at the Ames Intermodal Facility, 129 Hayward Ave. Information about volunteering and donating items is available at www.CityOfAmes.org/RummageRampage or 515.239.5137.

The EcoChats will continue with a June 23 presentation featuring Ames Electric Services. Previous EcoChats are recorded and available on the Library's website.

SEWER RATES

TO INCREASE IN JULY

The Ames City Council will give final approval in May to a 5 percent increase in sewer rates, effective for bills due on and after July 1, 2022.

The need for the proposed rate adjustment is a combination of multiple factors. The increase will help finance a multi-year upgrade to the Ames Water Pollution Control Facility. The upgrade will allow for a significant increase in the facility's nutrient removal efficiency, ultimately achieving the goals of Iowa's Nutrient Reduction Strategy.

Other projects to be financed in the next five years include a multi-million dollar renovation of the facility's headworks (the front end of the plant where the flows enter). Upgrades are planned to improve the facility's ability to accept hauled wastes. Finally, there is an ongoing program of sanitary sewer rehabilitation and replacement.

One way to reduce your water bill is through conservation. This is the time to inspect irrigation systems for frozen or broken lines and make sure heads are only delivering water to plantings that truly need to be watered.

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. May 10
6 p.m. May 17 (Workshop)
6 p.m. May 24

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/CCMEETINGS

**PARKS & RECREATION SUMMER 2022 GUIDE – NOW AVAILABLE
ONLINE AT WWW.AMESPARKREC.ORG
CHECK OUT THE FULL SUMMER LINEUP!**

HOMEWOOD GOLF COURSE

Homewood Golf Course is open! Online tee time reservations can be made at www.amesparkrec.org.

Host your next special event, meeting, group outing, and more at the year-round Homewood Clubhouse!

Contact Nate Pietz at 515.239.5350 or nate.pietz@cityofames.org for more information.

AMES/ISU ICE ARENA

The Ames/ISU Ice Arena will be closed in May for annual maintenance and will reopen June 1. View the facility calendar for program and event times at www.CityOfAmes.org/prcalendars.

Host your birthday party at the Ames/ISU Ice Arena. To book your party or ice rental, contact Taylor Bassett at taylor.bassett@cityofames.org or 515.292.6835.

FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER

Opening Memorial Day weekend! Purchase your season pass by May 1 to receive a 10% discount. Passes are sold at the Community Center or by calling 515.239.5350.

HIRING!!!

Become a lifeguard, water slide attendant, and/or swim lesson instructor at Furman Aquatic Center! Apply today at www.CityOfAmes.org and join the fun team at Furman.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: Did you know Parks & Recreation offers scholarships for recreation programs and season swimming passes? Contact or visit the Community Center or go online to www.amesparkrec.org for more information.

REGISTER NOW!!!

With summer right around the corner, register for the following programs being held May through August:

- **Early Bird Lap Swim, Furman Aquatic Center:** Monday-Friday, 5:30 to 7:30 a.m.
- **Swim Lessons, Furman Aquatic Center:** June 6-August 3, morning and evening.
- ***Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED Course:** May 7, 21, and June 8. Must be 10+ years old.
- ***Junior Lifeguarding:** Provide a foundation of knowledge and skills for future lifeguards, ages 11-14. Session 1, June 13-17.
- ***Lifeguard Training:** Ages 15+, pre-requisite skills required. Successful completion results in two-year certification for Lifeguard, First Aid, and CPR/AED. Sessions May 20-22, May 23-27, June 10-12.
- ***Lifeguard Review:** Recertification course for

currently certified lifeguards. May 22, 24, or June 7.

- **Start Smart:** Baseball and all sports, ages 3 to 5, June 14-July 21. Register by June 7.
- **Youth Sand Volleyball:** Grades 3rd-6th, June 6-July 18. Register by June 4.
- **Blastball (ages 4-5), Little Sluggers (ages 5-6), Big Hitters (ages 6-8):** June 6-July 18. Register by May 27.
- **Little Tennis (ages 3-5), Youth Tennis (ages 6-16), Adult Tennis (ages 17+):** Begins the first week of June.
- **Kids Zumba:** Fun and fitness for ages 7-14. June 8-July 13, register by June 6.
- **Youth Dance:** Levels for ages 2-7+. Register by June 3.
- **Youth Tumbling & Gymnastics:** Levels for ages 2-5+. Register by June 3.
- **Summer Camps:** Junior Campers (K-1), Camp Funshine (grades 2-4), Camp Explorers (grades 5-6). Six one-week

sessions, June through July.

- **Tae Kwon Do:** Ages 5 and up. Begins May 10, register by May 14.
- **Golf Leagues:** Youth (ages 8-18) Wednesday mornings, begins June 8. Couple's League, Tuesday evenings, begins May 3, and NEW! Men's Golf League begins May 2. Register prior to the start date.
- **Co-Ed Soccer League:** 8v8 league, 17+ years of age. Recreational & Competitive Divisions. Register by May 15.
- **6v6, 4v4, 2v2 Adult Sand Volleyball Leagues:** For participants ages 17+. Registration deadline, April 28.
- **Ultimate Frisbee:** 16+ years of age. Register by May 3.
- **Fitness and Green Hills Aqua Classes:** New session of Fitness and Aqua classes begin May 16. Ages 14+.

(*) Deadline is one week prior to the start date.

**REGISTRATION & INFORMATION: WWW.AMESPARKREC.ORG
PARKS & RECREATION: 515.239.5350 | COMMUNITY CENTER: 515 CLARK AVE.**

ENERGY Q&A

Q: What is National Electrical Safety Month?

National Electrical Safety Month is recognized in May as a way to encourage safety around electricity. Electricity has become such an integral part of the day that most people give it little thought. You flip a switch and the light comes on. You push a button and your computer fires up. It's only when something goes wrong that electricity becomes a focus. It's important to remember that while electricity has created endless ways to improve our everyday lives, it can also be dangerous if not used safely.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) is a non-profit organization dedicated exclusively to promoting electrical safety in the home, school, and workplace. The organization encourages electric safety to reduce and eliminate electrical-related fires, fatalities, injuries, and property loss. During Electrical Safety Month, and throughout the year, Ames Electric Services continues to remind customers of the importance of being safe around electricity.

There's good reason to exercise caution. The ESFI reports that thousands of people in the United States are critically injured and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes each year. An average of 51,000 electrical home structure fires occur each year, claiming almost 500 lives, injuring more than 1,400 people, and causing more than

\$1.3 billion in property damage (National Fire Protection Association, 2003-2007). In addition, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reports that nearly 400 people are electrocuted in the U.S. each year.

Electric injuries, deaths, and home fires can be prevented simply by understanding basic electrical safety principles and adhering to safe practices. Experts agree the best way to protect your family and your home against the risk of electrical fires or electrocution is to hire a qualified, licensed electrician to perform electrical work in your home.

May brings warmer weather and outdoor projects. When working outside the house, remember these tips to avoid potential dangers and stay safe this spring:

- Ladders that come into contact with a power line can prove fatal. Keep all ladders at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines.
- Unplug outdoor tools and appliances when not in use.
- Inspect power tools and appliances for frayed cords, broken plugs, and cracked or broken housing. Repair or replace damaged items.
- Water and electricity do not mix. Avoid damp conditions, including wet grass, when using electricity.

RENEWABLE ENERGY NUMBERS

FOR FEBRUARY 2022

255,858 kWh

ELECTRICITY GENERATED FROM SUNSMART COMMUNITY SOLAR FARM

20

LED STREETLIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF 5,371 TOTAL

2.9%

ELECTRICITY GENERATED BY REFUSE DERIVED FUEL (RDF) FROM THE RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT

3,330 kWh

HOURS OF VEHICLE CHARGING AT PUBLIC ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS RESULTING IN 9,990 MILES DRIVEN

22%

ELECTRICITY GENERATED BY WIND

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

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