



CITYSIDE

JUNE 2022

NEW FIRE TOWER EXPANDS FIRE AND RESCUE EFFORTS

To acknowledge its recently acquired fire and rescue vehicle, the Ames Fire Department held a “push-in ceremony” in April and invited the public to join the celebration!

The new \$1.16 million apparatus, the department’s first tower, features a basket at the end of the aerial device. The basket can hold several firefighters and provides access to high-rise structures for rescues while also allowing for elevated water streams. The vehicle was custom-made for Ames Fire by Pierce Manufacturing in Appleton, Wis., and has been named Tower One. Tower One was a scheduled



vehicle replacement that expands firefighting capabilities to the department.

“We continually look for ways to improve our ability to respond quickly to any public safety incident with the most effective equipment,” said Fire Chief Rich Higgins. “We are excited for the additional resources Tower One provides to Ames citizens.”

Push-in ceremonies are a fire service tradition dating back to the late 1800s. Horse-drawn fire equipment, especially pumper trucks, had to be disconnected from the horses and pushed into fire stations by firefighters.

NATIVE TREE REBATES OFFERED

Spring is a great time to plant trees. People and the environment benefit from the many aspects of trees. Trees in urban environments are particularly important for intercepting rainfall before it becomes stormwater runoff. Tree

leaves, branches, stems, and roots catch falling

rain, filter out pollutants, and absorb stormwater.

The Smart Watersheds Program increases awareness of the importance of protecting our local streams and lakes. The program promotes methods to capture, filter, and reduce stormwater runoff in residential areas.

Purchase and plant a native tree and get reimbursed up to \$75. For more information, visit: www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartWatersheds.



POWER OUT? TEXT US!

Did you know Ames Electric Services customers experiencing a power outage may contact the utility by text to report their address?

Text messaging saves time for both the customer and the utility. Texting allows the utility to confirm information with customers with greater accuracy and higher response rates. Customers can update or register a cell phone number by going to www.CityOfAmes.org/Outage.

Remember, the number to report your power outage remains the same whether you call or text: **515.239.5240**.

CITY NEWS TO USE

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Fee Increases in July
- Facility Rentals Offered
- Consumer Confidence Report
- Parks & Recreation Notes
- Energy Q&A

AMES MUNICIPAL BAND IS BACK!

The Ames Municipal Band will be back for outdoor concerts at Bandshell Park. Join Ames Mayor John Haila and the Ames City Council to kick-off the first concert at 8 p.m. on Thursday, June 2. Details at www.CityOfAmes.org.



SEWER RATE INCREASE TO BEGIN IN JULY

As part of its budgeting process, the Ames City Council approved 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.

RENT A CITY FACILITY FOR YOUR EVENT

Are you celebrating a retirement? Hosting a family reunion? Throwing a birthday party? Parks and Recreation has a number of facilities available to rent for any size gathering and all different purposes. Park shelter rentals can be reserved through Oct. 15 by going online at www.amesparkrec.org or by calling 515.239.5350.



Homewood Clubhouse

The new Homewood Golf Course Clubhouse is a year-round facility that features a large room available to rent for meetings, birthday parties,

graduations, and more. For more information, please contact Nate Pietz at nate.pietz@cityofames.org.

Ames/ISU Ice Arena

The Ames/ISU Ice Arena is available for camps, broomball, outings, birthday parties, and so much more. For more information, please contact Taylor Bassett at taylor.bassett@cityofames.org.

Auditorium and Bandshell

The Ames City Auditorium, located in City Hall, and Durham Bandshell, in Bandshell Park, are perfect venues for entertainment rentals including concerts and performances. For more information, contact Craig Kaufman at craig.kaufman@cityofames.org.

Furman Aquatic Center

The Furman Aquatic Center is available for private pool rentals. Basins can be rented separately or the entire facility can be reserved. Call 515.239.5350 for more information.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT AVAILABLE

The Consumer Confidence Report, the City's annual water quality report, is now available. This report contains important information about the quality of your drinking water.

At one time, the Consumer Confidence Report was included in your utility bill, but now the report is available to read online. This method of distribution helps promote our sustainability efforts and reduces costs. However, printed copies of the Consumer Confidence Report are still available.

If you would prefer to have a paper copy of the Consumer Confidence Report mailed to your home, call the Ames Water Plant at 515.239.5150. The water quality report can be viewed online at www.CityOfAmes.org/WaterReport.



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.

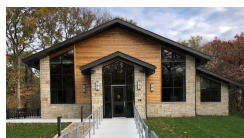
Meetings: 6 p.m. June 14
6 p.m. June 21 (Workshop)
6 p.m. June 28

CHECK IT OUT!!!

2022 PARKS & RECREATION GUIDES - PROGRAMS, FACILITIES, & FITNESS! NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE AT AMESPARKREC.ORG!

HOMEWOOD GOLF COURSE

Homewood Golf Course is open! Online tee time reservations at www.AmesParkRec.org.



BROOKSIDE WADING POOL

Opening June 2, weather permitting. Open daily 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., admission \$1.

AMES/ISU ICE ARENA

The Arena is closed for the month of May for annual maintenance and will reopen June 1. Upcoming program and event times at www.CityOfAmes.org/prcalendars.



FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER

Opening day, May 28. Check out the summer schedule online at AmesParkRec.org or follow the Furman Aquatic Center on Facebook @FurmanAquaticCenter.

REGISTER NOW!!!

***Adult & Pediatric First Aid/ CPR/AED Class:** June 8. Must be 10+.

***Water Polo:** Begins June 1. Ages 16+

***Log Rolling:** Starts June 1. Open to all ages, 6 & under must have a parent in the water, ages 7-9 must have a parent at the facility.

***Pre-Teen & Teen Swim Class:** Ages 9-17, for non-swimmers or limited skills.

***Junior Lifeguarding:** Skills and knowledge for future lifeguards, ages 11-14, June 13-17.

Princess Pool Party at Furman Aquatic Center: Princesses, crafts, and treats at the splash pool on June 18, 8:30-10 a.m. Admission for one adult (ages 16+) and one child, \$25.

Water Walking at Green Hills: Tuesday/Thursday, noon-1pm. Pre-registration required.

Adult, Private, and Group Swim Lessons: June 6-July 28.

Start Smart: Baseball and all sport, ages 3-5, June 14-July 21. Register by June 7.

Youth Sand Volleyball: Grades 3-6, June 6-July 18. Register by June 4.

T-Ball: Blastball (ages 4-5), Little Sluggers (ages 5-6), Big Hitters (ages 6-8). Register by May 27, begins June 6.

Little Tennis (ages 3-5), Youth Tennis (ages 6-16), Adult Tennis (17+): Begins the week of June 6.

Kids Zumba: Fun & 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 age 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.

Yoga in the Park: FREE classes Saturdays, June 4-July 30, 9 - 10 a.m.

Tae Kwon Do: New session June 21, for ages 5+.

Mind-Body Classes at Reiman Gardens: Yoga, Tai Chi, and meditation classes! Full schedule at www.amesparkrec.org and Ames Parks and Recreation Facebook.

Youth Golf League at Homewood: Wednesday morning, begins June 8. Register by June 6.

Father's Day Special at Homewood: Sunday, June 19. Fathers play for free with paying customer.

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

REGISTRATION & INFORMATION: WWW.AMESPARKREC.ORG

PARKS & RECREATION: 515.239.5350 | COMMUNITY CENTER: 515 CLARK AVE.

LOOKING FOR A SUMMER JOB?

WORK AT FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER!

Work with your friends this summer! It's not too late to become a lifeguard, swim lesson instructor, or water slide attendant at Furman! If interested apply online at www.CityOfAmes.org/Jobs.

ADULT & YOUTH GOLF INSTRUCTORS NEEDED AT HOMEWOOD!

Contact Nate Pietz for information, nate.pietz@cityofames.org; 515.239.5363.

ENERGY Q&A

Q: What is happening with the Ames City Council’s goal to develop a Climate Action Plan (CAP) for Ames?

The work of developing a community Climate Action Plan (CAP) continues with the Ames City Council serving as the Steering Committee. The process, which provides a roadmap to reduce community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) production, is being guided by the City’s consultant, Sustainability Solutions Group (SSG) and a City project team. To help gather community feedback, a 27-member Supplemental Input Committee was appointed by Mayor John Haila at the beginning of the project. The Steering Committee has been meeting regularly to discuss progress and make decisions to move plan development forward.

A major milestone in developing a CAP was establishing a GHG reduction goal. In December 2021, the Steering Committee set an aspirational goal to reduce greenhouse gas levels by 83% from 2018 levels by 2035 and net zero by 2050. To guide the community in this vision, SSG identified the major opportunities in Ames to reduce carbon.

Those areas of focus are called the “Six Big Moves” and are identified as:

- Building Retrofits
- Net-Zero New Construction
- Renewable Energy Generation

- Reducing Vehicle Emissions
- Increase Active Transportation and Transit Use
- Reduce Waste Emission



A set of action steps was identified for each Big Move, and this information, along with the results of a second community survey, was presented to the Steering Committee in the spring. The 29 tasks represent potential adaptations for the community to embrace including significant increases in electric vehicle use, maximizing solar rooftop potential, adding new sources of renewable power generation, increasing public transportation use, increasing transportation by walking or biking, and significant decreases to household waste.

The next steps are for City staff to review the feasibility, legality, and financial implications of the suggested actions and report back to the Steering Committee with an analysis. That report is anticipated this summer. Learn more about Ames’ first community CAP and how to get more involved by clicking on the green Climate Action Plan button at www.CityOfAmes.org/Sustainability.

RENEWABLE ENERGY NUMBERS

315,443 kWh
ELECTRICITY GENERATED FROM SUNSMART COMMUNITY SOLAR FARM

3.4% ELECTRICITY GENERATED BY REFUSE DERIVED FUEL (RDF) FROM THE RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT

18.3% ELECTRICITY GENERATED BY WIND

46 LED STREETLIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF 5,417 TOTAL

3,590 kWh
HOURS OF VEHICLE CHARGING AT PUBLIC ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS RESULTING IN 10,770 MILES DRIVEN

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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