



CITYSIDE

SEPTEMBER 2022

POLICE ADVISORY GROUP HOLDS FIRST MEETING

In an effort to continually improve its service to the public, the Ames Police



Department recently hosted the inaugural meeting of the Ames Resident Police Advisory Committee (ARPAC). The volunteer commission was established by Ames Mayor John Haila and the

Ames City Council to bring a resident perspective into the resolution of complaints.

“Our first meeting was extremely productive,” said Ames Police Chief Geoff Huff. “We want to make sure we are connecting with all our residents. ARPAC members will help us bring a voice to the underserved. We are looking forward to learning from their insight.”

In addition to bringing a resident perspective into complaint resolution, ARPAC members will provide thoughtful recommendations regarding the policies and practices of the Ames Police Department, report concerns regarding complaint investigation outcomes to

the City Manager, and increase public confidence in the professionalism and accountability of the Ames Police Department.

ARPAC members are appointed by the Mayor. The current committee includes William Arce, Edna Clinton, Roberto Dubiel, Tim Rasmussen, Emily Rebollozo, Virginia Speight, and Chunhui Xiang.

For more information, contact the City Manager’s Office at 515.239.5101 or go to www.CityOfAmes.org/ARPAC.

NEW COMMUNITY GARDEN OPENS ON DELAWARE AVENUE

Ames Mayor John Haila and the City Council recently cut the green ribbon on the Community Garden on Delaware Avenue, the former site of a west Ames water tower removed in 2015.

The new garden expands the City’s Community Garden program to include 61 plots at the Ioway Creek Gardens and 28 raised beds at Carr Park. Delaware Avenue Community Garden provides 14 ground-level beds, fencing, and a water hydrant.

“We have been able to repurpose this land as green space and provide additional community garden plots,” said Parks and Recreation Director Keith Abraham. “The City’s Community Garden program has been very



City Councilmember Anita Rollins plants vegetables as part of the community garden dedication event.

popular and successful for many years, and this project has helped us add more capacity.”

Ames City Council first directed staff to provide information about the possible expansion of the Community Garden program in 2020. Subsequently, staff conducted a survey and held two public input meetings to gauge community interest in adding garden plots. As a result, the Delaware Avenue site was identified and selected for a new community garden.

Those interested in applying for a spot for the 2023 season should go to www.amesparkrec.org and click on “Garden Plot Interest” in the left navigation panel.

CITY NEWS TO USE

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Smart Watershed Rebates
- EcoFair - Save the Date!
- Library Card Month
- Parks & Recreation Notes
- Energy Q&A

LABOR DAY:

City Hall and most City of Ames offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 5, for the Labor Day holiday. For more information about the City of Ames calendar or hours of operation, go to www.CityOfAmes.org.



SMART WATERSHEDS PROVIDES NATIVE LANDSCAPING REBATE

Have you considered replacing some of your lawn with native landscaping? Maybe you have a steep slope that is difficult to mow or a shady or wet area where grass won't grow. These might provide the perfect opportunity to change part of your landscape to native vegetation.

The use of native plants in landscapes provides a connection to our prairie heritage. Once established, native plants are aesthetically pleasing and require little watering, fertilizing, or mowing. The reduced maintenance can lead to significant cost savings when compared to labor-intensive turf grass.

Native landscaping attracts songbirds, dragonflies, butterflies, and other desirable species. It also helps restore soil quality over time and helps landscapes absorb more



rainfall, reducing the amount of runoff from urban spaces.

The City of Ames Smart Watersheds Program has a rebate for up to \$350 for areas converted to native landscaping. The minimum area required is 100 square feet so you can start small if you like.

Other program rebate incentives are for lawn soil quality restoration, native trees, native grass turf, rain gardens, composters, and rain barrels. City of Ames utility customers are eligible to apply. For more information and rebate forms, go to www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartWatersheds.

SAVE THE DATE!

CITY OF AMES
ECOFAIR



The sustainability-themed EcoFair will return to City Hall from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 1. Learn more about City rebates, programs, and services that encourage conservation and lower your carbon footprint. Watch for more information!

DO YOU HAVE A LIBRARY CARD?

September is Library Card Sign-up Month. With an Ames Public Library card you can discover new and exciting worlds!

From borrowing audiobooks to streaming movies to taking virtual classes, there is so much you can access with a library card. Pursue your passions and dreams through your library's resources and programs.

With school just around the corner, the most important school supply is a library card! With access to technology, innovative programming, and educational resources, a library card gives students of all ages the tools to succeed.

Visit www.AmesPublicLibrary.org to learn more.



CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

City Council meetings are held in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 515 Clark Ave.

6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 13

6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 20 (workshop)

6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 27

UPCOMING CLASSES & ACTIVITIES

With fall right around the corner, registration for the following programs is being accepted:

- Youth Dance
- Youth & Adult Tennis Lessons
- Kiddie Kickers
- Youth Gymnastics & Tumbling
- Start Smart Soccer
- Adult Indoor Volleyball Leagues (Men's, Women's, and Co-Ed)

WEST COAST SWING

In this open style dance class, no experience or partner is necessary. West Coast Swing is a social dance and can be applied to almost any four-count music including R&B, Hip Hop and Blues. Join us Mondays at the Community Center from 6:45-7:45 p.m., Sept. 19-Oct. 24.

YOGA BASICS

Welcome to Yoga! This workshop is designed to familiarize beginners with basic yoga postures and breathing techniques. Four-week session every Sunday beginning at 6 p.m. on Sept. 11

BELLY DANCE

Learn the beautiful ancient art form of Belly Dance and learn basic techniques, including posture, shimmies, isolations and traveling steps. Class will be held at Roosevelt Park Thursdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Sept. 15-Oct. 20.

HEALTHY FOOT

This class can help you alleviate or prevent foot pain associated with bunions, hammer toe, plantar fasciitis. Classes take place on Thursday, 9:15-10:15 a.m., Sept. 8-29.

FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER

Final day of the 2022 summer season is Monday, Sept. 5 at Furman Aquatic Center. Check out the remaining schedule online at www.AmesParkRec.org or on Furman Aquatic Center Facebook Page.

HOMWOOD GOLF COURSE



Come play golf with us at Homewood Golf Course! Call or book your tee time online at www.AmesParkRec.org or call 515.239.5363.

AMES CITY AUDITORIUM

A special showing of the famous documentary *Man With A Movie Camera* will be presented on Sept. 10 at the Ames City Auditorium. This silent film will be shown with a live score featuring Texas based ensemble Montopolis. *Man with a Movie Camera* was filmed in the cities of Odesa and Kyiv, Ukraine in 1929 and is considered to be one of the greatest documentaries ever made. For more information about the event, go to www.CityOfAmes.org or follow Ames City Auditorium and Durham Bandshell on Facebook.

AMES/ISU ICE ARENA

NOW HIRING!

Shift Leader positions (early morning, day shifts, and evenings), and Cashiers! Join a fun work environment, team atmosphere, and flexible hours. To apply and view full job descriptions, go online to www.CityOfAmes.org.

Drive the Zamboni Experience

Join the next experience Saturday, Sept. 17, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Ames/ISU Ice Arena. Spots are limited. Registration available at the Community Center, the Ames/ISU Ice Arena, or online at www.AmesParkRec.org.

BANDSHELL

Free Movie Night at the Bandshell, Friday Sept. 2, featuring "The NeverEnding Story." The movie will begin at approximately 8:15 p.m. Remember to bring a blanket or chair. This is a fun event for all ages and a great way to celebrate a fun-filled summer! We hope to see you there!



REGISTRATION & INFORMATION: WWW.AMESPARKREC.ORG

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

ENERGY Q&A

Q: I'm in the market for a new car, and I'm considering going electric. How much would the charging affect my electric bill? How would the cost compare to what I spend on gasoline?

A: Great question! With gas prices so high right now, many people are thinking about electric vehicles (EVs). Let's calculate the cost per mile for each car to compare them. We'll assume the efficiencies of the cars are 30 miles per gallon and 3.5 miles per kWh. If you know the specific values for your car, you can use your own numbers.

$$\text{Gasoline: } \frac{\$4.50}{\text{gallon}} * \frac{\text{gallon}}{30 \text{ miles}} = \$0.15/\text{mile}$$

$$\text{Electric: } \frac{\$0.10}{\text{kWh}} * \frac{\text{kWh}}{3.5 \text{ miles}} = \$0.03/\text{mile}$$

By these calculations, the cost to fuel an EV is 80% less than that needed to operate a gasoline-fueled car.

Here are some more cost implications you should consider:

- Federal tax credits up to \$7,500 are available for many EVs. Check the current rebates for specific cars at: fuelconomy.gov/feg/taxevb.shtml
- EVs require much less maintenance because their mechanical systems are simpler than internal combustion engines.

- Registration fees for EVs will be increased this year to contribute to infrastructure costs. Gasoline vehicles contribute to these funds through taxes at the pump.

Overall, the five-year cost of ownership is now similar between many EVs and their gasoline counterparts, even though you may pay a premium on the initial purchase. Consumer Reports completed a study in 2020 finding that “owning an electric vehicle will save the typical driver \$6,000 to \$10,000 over the life of the vehicle, compared to owning a comparable gas-powered vehicle.”

If you're looking to find out more about EVs, check out PlugStar, a great website that has lots of information including a comparison of the total cost of ownership for both electric and internal combustion vehicles: <https://plugstar.com/cars>. Or, stop in at one of Ames' local dealerships and ask for more information.

Remember that Ames Electric Services offers public electric vehicles charging at many locations throughout town, and there is a Smart Energy rebate for home and business vehicle chargers. Get the details at www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy.

Joel Zook, Energy Services Coordinator
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RENEWABLE ENERGY BY THE NUMBERS

FOR JUNE 2022

4.3%	ELECTRICITY THIS MONTH WAS GENERATED BY REFUSE DERIVED FUEL (RDF) FROM THE RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT (OR 2,490,348 kWh)	7	LED STREETLIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF 5,463
10%	ELECTRICITY THIS MONTH GENERATED BY WIND POWER (OR 6,943,440 kWh)	0.5%	OR 422,789 kWh OF ELECTRICITY THIS MONTH GENERATED BY SOLAR
		11,610	MILES DRIVEN BY ELECTRIC VEHICLES USING PUBLIC EV CHARGING

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

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