



CITYSIDE

NOVEMBER 2022

PLAZA TO BRING YEAR-ROUND RECREATION DOWNTOWN

The Ames City Council has made redeveloping the municipal parking lot across from City Hall, 515 Clark Ave., into interactive open space a priority as part of their goal to create a fun, vibrant community that attracts and retains residents. Construction on the space, located east of City Hall between Fifth and Sixth streets, started on Sept. 6 and will continue until the project is completed in June 2023. Work on Clark Avenue will start near the end of September and be completed before winter. The City has engaged the landscape architecture firm, Confluence, to design the plaza, and hired Henkel Construction Company as the contractor.



Corey Mellies, Ames Fleet and Facilities Director. “This area has been identified by the City Council as a redevelopment opportunity, and the new design will provide gathering space, showcase public art, and add more green, natural areas to Downtown. The plaza will complement our existing businesses and public spaces.”

The new design includes an interactive water feature and ice skating ribbon to promote year-round recreation. To replace lost parking, a new parking lot was built north of City Hall on Sixth Street. Also, new parking stalls are planned in front of City Hall to replace the 10-minute parking from the previous parking lot. The utility dropbox will be relocated during construction on Clark Avenue and will be put back in a dedicated parking stall once construction is complete.

“It’s very exciting to see construction start on this project,” said

FALL NO CHARGE YARD WASTE DAYS PLANNED

Story County residents can dispose of yard waste at no charge during Fall No-Charge Yard Waste Days planned in October and November. The scheduled Saturdays are Oct. 29, Nov. 12 (includes brush), Nov. 26, and Dec. 3, at Chamness/GreenRU, 400 Freel Drive. Hours are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A voucher option will again be offered for those unable to take advantage of the Saturday, Nov. 12, drop-off date, which includes brush. A voucher may be picked up in advance at the Resource Recovery Plant, 110 Center Ave. This voucher may be used

from noon to 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 11, at 400 Freel Drive.

Those participating in Fall No-Charge Yard Waste Days are asked to 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 to East Lincoln Way.

Yard waste is not accepted at the Resource Recovery Plant. For more information about yard waste disposal, visit www.CityOfAmes.org/YardWaste.

No Charge Yard Waste Days

Saturday, Oct. 29
(leaves only)

Saturday, Nov. 12
(leaves and brush)
Voucher available for Nov. 11

Saturday, Nov. 26
(leaves only)

Saturday, Dec. 3
(leaves only)

CITY NEWS TO USE

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Accessible Launch at Ada Hayden
- Town Budget Meeting Set
- Water Plant Celebrates 5 years
- Parks & Recreation Notes
- Energy Q&A

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

City Hall and most City of Ames offices will be closed on Friday, Nov. 11, for Veterans Day, and Thursday, Nov. 24, and Friday, Nov. 25, for Thanksgiving.



NEW ACCESSIBLE LAUNCH INSTALLED AT ADA HAYDEN

Ames Parks and Recreation Department celebrated the new accessible kayak/canoe launch recently installed at Ada Hayden Heritage Park with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in September. The accessible launch project is a public-private partnership between the City of Ames and various local outdoor recreation organizations that together raised more than \$36,000 through the “Access Ada Hayden” campaign.



The new launch allows adaptive paddlers, including those in wheelchairs or experiencing mobility issues, to transition into a canoe or kayak more easily. The system uses a floating dock, a gangway with handrail, and an adjacent sloped

chute to slide a kayak or canoe into the water. A sliding bench helps the paddler transition into the watercraft with overhead handrails and straps to assist.

“One of our goals in improving our recreational amenities is to ensure all residents can enjoy being outdoors,” said Ames Parks and Recreation Director Keith Abraham. “We continue to seek ways to expand parks, facilities, and programs to be inclusive, and we encourage everyone to explore our offerings and share ideas with us for new options.”

BUDGET MEETING PLANNED NOV. 1

The City of Ames budget process kicks off in the fall with the annual Town Budget Meeting. The meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 1, in the City Council Chambers, second floor, City Hall, 515 Clark Ave.

A brief overview of the City’s budget, including revenue and expenses, will be presented. This is followed by a time for citizens to give input and ask questions regarding the coming year’s budget. The meeting is broadcast and streamed live at www.CityOfAmes.org and on the City’s Facebook and YouTube pages. Viewers may call in questions to 515.239.5214 or submit questions through the live Facebook or YouTube broadcasts in the comments section.



The Town Budget Meeting begins the months-long process of developing the City’s annual operating and capital improvements budget. The public is encouraged to attend. City of Ames current and past financial documents are available on the City’s website at www.CityOfAmes.org/Finance.



ALREADY? AMES WATER PLANT HITS 5-YEAR MILESTONE

The Ames Water Plant, 1800 E. 13th St., recently celebrated the five-year anniversary of its 2017 grand opening ceremony. The ribbon-cutting and open house attracted nearly 2,000 people. The 15-million-gallon per day (MGD) water treatment plant replaced the more than 90-year-old facility located at 300 E. Fifth St.

Planning for the new plant began in 2008 when a study determined that the future needs of the Ames community could not be met by the current plant site. The entire cost of the project was nearly \$70 million. The new plant is the largest LEED-certified water treatment plant in Iowa.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 8

6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15 (workshop)

6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 22

For more information about Ames City Council meetings, go to www.CityOfAmes.org/CCmeetings

PARKS & RECREATION NOVEMBER HOLIDAY HOURS:

COMMUNITY CENTER:
 Thursday, Nov. 24:
 Closed
 Friday, Nov. 25:
 6 a.m. - 5 p.m.

AMES/ISU ICE ARENA
 Thursday, Nov. 24:
 Public Skate, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 Friday, Nov. 25:
 Public Skate, 9-11 a.m.

HOMWOOD GOLF COURSE
 Thursday, Nov. 24:
 Closed
 Friday, Nov. 25:
 Closed

FOR FACILITY SCHEDULES, GO TO WWW.AMESPARKREC.ORG/PRCALENDARS.

HOMWOOD CLUBHOUSE RENTALS:

Host your next social outing, meeting, or party at the year-round Homewood Clubhouse!



| Room | Occupancy | Fee | Availability |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|-------------------|
| Community Room | 80 people | \$100/hour | Year Round |
| Pro Shop | 24 people | \$50/hour | Nov. 1 – March 31 |
| Community Room & Pro Shop | 104 people | \$125/hour | Nov. 1 – March 31 |

REGISTER TODAY!!!

YOUTH (GRADES 1-6) AND ADULT TENNIS LESSONS:

Learn from the professionals inside the Ames Fitness Center South Tennis Bubble. Next session starts Nov. 19. Register by Nov. 13.

WINTER BREAK TENNIS CAMP (GRADES 1-6):

Dec. 27-30. Register today!

YOUTH BASKETBALL (GRADES 3-4): Boys & Girls leagues offered. Teams will play in the Central Iowa Recreation League against nearby communities. Register by Nov. 6. Volunteer coaches are needed. Contact Ben Flaherty at ben.flaherty@cityofames.org.

EUCHRE LEAGUE: Offered Mondays at Homewood Clubhouse. Begins Nov. 7, 6-7:30 p.m. Register by Nov. 1.

CRIBBAGE LEAGUE: Wednesday mornings (10-11:30 a.m.) or evening (6-7:30 p.m.) at Homewood Clubhouse. Begins Wednesday, Nov. 9. Register by Nov. 1.

FIRST AID/CPR/AED: Class offered Saturday, Nov. 12, 9-11 a.m. Register by Nov. 5.

NUTRITION SIMPLIFIED: Receive building blocks to help navigate a sustainable nutrition plan. New session, Thursdays 12:15-1 p.m., Nov. 3 - Dec 1. Register by Oct. 30.

ADULT FITNESS CLASSES: New session begins Nov. 14. Includes TRX/Tramp, Yoga, Cycling, Boxing Bootcamp, and more! In-person and virtual class options available. Register now! View the full list of offerings at www.amesparkrec.org.

SKATE-GIVING 5K - 34 LAPS - SKATING EVENT: Join us before the big feast on Nov. 24 for a Skate-Giving 5K at the Ames/ISU Ice Arena. For more information, go to www.amesparkrec.org. Register by Nov. 7 to guarantee t-shirt size.

DRIVE THE ZAMBONI EXPERIENCE: Bring your family, friends, and everyone in between for the Thanksgiving Drive the Zamboni Experience, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Nov. 25 Learn about all things ice and time in the driver's seat! Open to ages 18-plus with a valid driver's license. Limited space. Register now!

LEARN TO CURL (AGES 10+): Curling has come to Ames! Class includes instruction, demonstration, and practice time. Classes offered Nov. 12, 8:15-9:15 p.m., and Nov. 26, 10-11 a.m.

LEARN TO PLAY BROOMBALL (AGES 10+): Hockey plus Soccer equals Broomball! Interested in learning a new sport or participating in a fun activity? Look no further than Learn to Play Broomball. Classes offered Nov. 12, 6:45-7:45 p.m., and Nov. 26, 12:45-1:45 p.m. Includes rules, instruction, demonstration, and practice time.

REGISTRATION & INFORMATION: WWW.AMESPARKREC.ORG

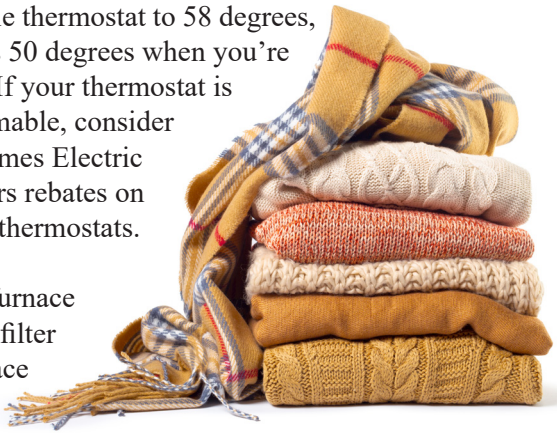
PARKS & RECREATION: 515.239.5350 | COMMUNITY CENTER: 515 CLARK AVE.

ENERGY Q&A

Q: As we head into winter, what can I do to help keep my energy costs down?

A: Winter is coming. You can feel it in the air. Don't let the cold weather get you down, though. Here are some tips to keep you comfortable and save you money:

- Pull out your favorite winter sweaters, grab your blankets out of storage, and set your thermostat on the cooler side. You save by warming up yourself instead of the entire room or home.
- When out of the house, set your programmable thermostat to 58 degrees, and as low as 50 degrees when you're out of town. If your thermostat is not programmable, consider upgrading. Ames Electric Services offers rebates on wifi-enabled thermostats.
- Check your furnace filter. A dirty filter reduces furnace efficiency.



During the heating season, you should change your furnace filter once per month.

- It's never a bad time to consider upgrades to your home's insulation. If you feel overwhelmed or confused by the task of weatherizing your home, take advantage of a free energy audit through Ames Electric Services.
- If your furnace is getting old, start thinking now about a replacement. Consider savings from a high-efficiency furnace, or a geothermal or air source heat pump system that also provides highly efficient heating and air conditioning. Ames Electric Services offers rebates to help you with the investment, and you can save thousands of dollars a year on operating costs.
- If your household income is moderate- to low-income, you may qualify for heating assistance through LIHEAP, administered by Mid-Iowa Community Action. Find more information at www.micaonline.org/liheap or call 641.752.7162

Joel Zook, Energy Services Coordinator
515.239.5177 | Joel.Zook@cityofames.org

AT-A-GLANCE ENERGY NUMBERS

FOR AUGUST 2022

2.6% ELECTRICITY THIS MONTH WAS GENERATED BY REFUSE DERIVED FUEL (RDF) FROM THE RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT (2,028,573 kWh)

3.5% ELECTRICITY GENERATED BY WIND POWER (2,778,480 kWh)

0.5% ELECTRICITY GENERATED BY SOLAR POWER (380,713 kWh)

13,140 MILES DRIVEN BY ELECTRIC VEHICLES USING PUBLIC EV CHARGING STATIONS

58 LED STREETLIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF 5,546

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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