



CITYSIDE

FEBRUARY 2023

NEW RADIO SYSTEM BRINGS PUBLIC SAFETY ORGANIZATIONS TOGETHER

A new radio system connecting public safety and public service agencies throughout Story County is now in operation after years of planning. The \$10 million land mobile radio (LMR) system provides each agency capacity to serve its residents as well as supporting agency-to-agency communication. The new system replaces aging technology first implemented in 1989.

“Tackling this upgrade has been a major undertaking to ensure we are meeting each organization’s need and the needs of the communities being served,” said Ames Police Chief Geoff Huff. “We want to implement the best, most efficient, most reliable system because we understand the importance of the information being transmitted.”

The project was organized by StoryComm, a collaboration between the City of Ames, Iowa State University, and Story County, and represents the Ames Police, Fire, Public Works, Electric, and Water Departments; Story County Sheriff’s Office, ISU Police Department, ISU Department of Public Safety, and



all Story County law enforcement, volunteer fire, and emergency medical services.

Planning for the project began in 2017 when users noted coverage, capacity, and reliability deficiencies in the existing radio system. Specifically, the system lacked sufficient channels to support the number of users and it did not offer the modern technologies that public-safety agencies needed. Also, much of the equipment had reached its end of life, making it difficult to procure replacement parts, which in turn made maintenance extremely difficult.

StoryComm worked with Mission Critical Partners to implement the new radio system, which utilizes five communication sites and required construction of four new radio towers. The new system increases coverage, capacity, and reliability significantly while supporting more than 1,500 mobile and portable radios.

“The improvement is extraordinary, and all agencies have been pleased with the results,” Huff said. “We feel confident this investment will provide residents with exceptional service.”

SCHEDULE RIDES ON CYRIDE’S EASE, MOONLIGHT EXPRESS THROUGH APP

CyRide is offering a new way for passengers to schedule rides on East Ames Service Extension (EASE) and Moonlight Express services by connecting directly through the Ride Pingo app.



details and allow the app to access your location during use. Enter where you are and where you want to go, and the app helps get you a ride. It will also show transfers to or from EASE to our fixed route services at City Hall.

EASE passengers can still call to schedule ride at 515.239.5560. EASE runs weekdays, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Moonlight Express runs Friday and Saturday while ISU is in session, 10:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m.

Those with questions should contact the CyRide main phone number at 515.292.1100.

Download the free app at the App Store/Google Play Store by searching for “Ride Pingo.” Once downloaded, fill out your

CITY NEWS TO USE

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Volunteer on a Board or Commission
- Learn more about 190th Street Study
- Budget Activities Continue
- Parks and Recreation Notes
- Energy Q&A

CITY OFFICES CLOSED:

City Hall and most City of Ames departments will be closed on Monday, Feb. 20, in recognition of Presidents’ Day. For more information about the City of Ames, go to: www.CityOfAmes.org.



VOLUNTEER FOR A CITY BOARD OR COMMISSION

Volunteer in your community and make a difference by joining a City of Ames board or commission. Boards and commissions make recommendations to the Ames City Council and assist the Council in carrying out various functions of local government.

There are 20 different boards and commissions, and 15 of those have vacancies occurring in the first part of 2023. While some current volunteers

may seek reappointment, there are always vacancies that need to be filled.

More information about each board and commission, its purpose, when it meets, and an application to be considered are available at www.CityOfAmes.org/BoardsAndCommissions. Applications are also available in the City Clerk’s Office.

Deadline to apply is **5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 3, 2023.**



190th Street Corridor Study

As Ames continues growing to the north, City staff is analyzing current and future traffic needs for 190th Street from George Washington Carver Avenue to U.S. 69/Grand Avenue.

This study will evaluate the volume of traffic, crashes, vehicle access, trails and sidewalks, as well as consider proposed development. To learn more about the project and to provide input, go to www.CityOfAmes.org/190thStudy.



Visit www.cityofames.org/190thStudy to provide your input!

PUBLIC BUDGET MEETINGS SCHEDULED

The City of Ames began preparing for the Fiscal Year 2023-24 budget last fall with a series of internal staff meetings. Work continues throughout the winter months as each department’s budget is reviewed internally prior to presentation to the Ames City Council. There are still plenty of opportunities to get involved.

In February, three meetings are planned for representatives of each of the City’s departments to present an in-depth review of proposed budgets. All budget meetings will be held in the City Hall Council Chambers, 515 Clark Ave., and will be streamed on City of Ames Facebook and YouTube. A livestream is also available at www.CityOfAmes.org/AmesTV.

- 5:15 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7
- 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8
- 5:15 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9

A wrap-up of the budget will be held at 5:15 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 14.

Setting the maximum levy rate will take place at the Council meeting beginning at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 28, and the final budget hearing is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14. It will include an opportunity for public comments. This is also a regularly scheduled City Council meeting.

Like all Iowa communities, the City of Ames must submit its budget to the State of Iowa for certification by the end of March. Budget documents for the current fiscal year are posted on the City’s website, and draft documents for 2023-24 will be posted by early February.

For more information, go to www.CityOfAmes.org/Finance.



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: 5:15 p.m. Feb. 14
6 p.m. Feb. 28
- Budget hearings: 5:15 p.m. Feb. 7,8,9

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG

YOUTH & ADULT PROGRAMS

PARENT/CHILD DANCE (AGES 2-3)

Learn basic dance moves through fun music and games. Parents have an active role in the class with their child. Class every Thursday, March 2-April 13. Register by Feb. 24.

YOUTH TUMBLING

Tumble Bugs (ages 2-3, parent/child), Tumbling Tykes (ages 3-4), Tumbling Tots (ages 4-5). Classes offered throughout the week, Feb. 25-April 15. Register by Feb. 17.

ADULT TENNIS LESSONS (17+)

Learn or improve your skills with help from the tennis professionals at Ames Racquet & Fitness. Every Saturday morning, Feb. 4-March 4. Register by Feb. 2.

LITTLE TENNIS

(AGES 3-5, PARENT/CHILD)

Partner with your child to learn the basics of tennis! Every Tuesday, Feb. 14-March 7. Register by Feb. 7.

YOUTH TENNIS LESSONS (GRADES 1-6)

Great introductory program for those wanting to learn the sport or improve their skills. Classes are Saturday mornings, Feb. 4-March 4. Register by Feb. 2.

NEW! PRIVATE SWIM LESSONS

Session begins Feb. 12. View classes at www.amesparkrec.org or call the Community Center at 515.239.5350 for additional information.

AMES/ISU ICE ARENA

LEARN TO PLAY BROOMBALL, AMES/ISU ICE ARENA (AGES 10+)

Broomball is played in athletic, close-toed shoes, so no skates or experience required! Instruction will be provided, including live games. Final session offered Feb. 11, 6:45-7:45 p.m.

LEARN TO CURL, AMES/ISU ICE ARENA (AGES 10+)

Learn about the sport of curling and compete in matches. Final session offered Feb. 11, 8:15-9:15 p.m.

AMES COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO SCHOOL DAY ACTIVITY, FEATURING TENNIS ON ICE (ALL AGES)

Interested in trying the best kept secret in sports since 1938? Join us for Tennis On Ice, Feb. 13. Strengthen your skating skills and agility by wearing skates or play with close-toed shoes. View the online calendar for times and fee at www.amesparkrec.org/prcalendar or contact the Ice Arena at 515.292.6835.

FITNESS & WELLNESS

NEW SESSION OF FITNESS, YOGA, AND SMALL GROUP TRAINING CLASSES

Begins Feb. 13. Go online at www.amesparkrec.org to view all classes or contact Nancy Shaw, nancy.shaw@cityofames.org, 515.239.5353, for more information. In-person and virtual options are available!

TAI CHI

Introduction, Beginner (Levels 1 & 2), and Practice Group offered Wednesday, Feb. 1-April 26, at Homewood Golf Course Clubhouse.

NUTRITION SIMPLIFIED

Clear away any confusion surrounding nutrition and receive the building blocks to help you navigate a sustainable nutrition plan. Topics include eating for your goals, meal prep, macros, and label reading. The final class will conclude with a grocery shopping tour! Every Thursday, 12:15-1 p.m., Feb. 16-March 9. Register by Feb. 14.

PERSONAL TRAINING SESSIONS

Certified Personal Trainers are available to help you reach your health goals. Sessions can be scheduled for any day or time to accommodate your busy schedule! To get started contact Nancy Shaw, Wellness Manager, at 515.239.5353 or at nancy.shaw@cityofames.org.

PILATES REFORMER TRAINING

Ames Parks & Recreation offers private reformer lessons. The Pilates method focuses on improving posture, increasing muscle flexibility and strength, as well as enhancing core stability and endurance. To make your reformer appointment call Nancy Shaw, Wellness Manager, at 515.239.5353.



CALENDARS

CHECK OUT EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENING AT THE AMES CITY AUDITORIUM, AMES/ISU ICE ARENA, COMMUNITY CENTER, AND HOMEWOOD GOLF COURSE BY VIEWING THE MONTHLY CALENDARS AT WWW.AMESPARKREC.ORG/PRCALENDARS.

SPRING GUIDES

PROGRAM & FACILITIES GUIDE, ALONG WITH THE FITNESS & WELLNESS GUIDE, WILL BE AVAILABLE FEB. 1. VISIT WWW.AMESPARKREC.ORG TO FIND THE DIGITAL GUIDES AND GET REGISTERED FOR ALL PROGRAMS, CLASSES, AND EVENTS MARCH - MAY 2023!

ENERGY Q&A

Q: *Even though electric vehicles (EVs) have no tailpipe emissions and don't directly pollute, it typically takes coal or other fossil fuel to make electricity. I understand that Iowa is better than other states in utilizing other sources like wind and solar to make electricity. What are the facts? Is driving an electric vehicle really cleaner than a gasoline one?*

A: Thanks for getting in touch. EVs are certainly cleaner than their gasoline or diesel counterparts – but it's true that they still draw on power that comes, in part, from fossil fuels. Ames Electric has a variety of energy sources that are used to make electricity.

The Ames Power Plant burns natural gas and refuse derived fuel (made from processed garbage). Ames also directly buys wind and solar energy. A little over half of the electricity used in Ames each year is purchased from the regional energy market. That energy is a mix of whatever generation is running at the time. The Union of Concerned Scientists has done a study comparing the greenhouse gas emissions from a gasoline car to an EV (accounting for “downstream” electric vehicle emissions like power plants) and figured that in the United States, an

average EV produces the same amount of emissions per mile as a gasoline car that gets about 88 miles per gallon.

The study probed about 20 regional energy grids. Iowa is part of the MROW grid, which has a lot more wind than the national average, and a lot more coal as well. On average, the MROW grid provides electricity that can power an EV so that its per mile downstream pollution is equal to a gasoline car that gets 55 miles per gallon. This study is updated about once per year, and the results for electric vehicles keep getting cleaner as more renewable energy is added to the grid and more coal comes offline.

If you want to dig deeper, this article goes into more detail: <https://www.ucsusa.org/sites/default/files/2020-05/evs-cleaner-than-gasoline.pdf>.

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



AT-A-GLANCE ENERGY NUMBERS FOR NOVEMBER 2022

19.7% ELECTRICITY THIS MONTH WAS GENERATED BY WIND ENERGY (OR 11,177,473 kWh)

0.3% ELECTRICITY THIS MONTH WAS GENERATED BY SOLAR ENERGY (OR 193,957 kWh)

6 LED STREETLIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF 5,630

19,500 MILES OF VEHICLE CHARGING AT PUBLIC ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS

RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT RECYCLING:

- GLASS: 23.95 TONS
- METALS: 154.55 TONS
- FOOD WASTE DIVERSION: 3.25 TONS
- PUMPKINS COMPOSTED: MORE THAN 7.5 TONS

DID YOU KNOW?

THE CITY'S HYBRID GAS/ELECTRIC POLICE VEHICLES USE ABOUT 40% LESS FUEL THAN THE GASOLINE-ONLY MODELS.

CITY TRUCKS USED MORE THAN 1,200 GALLONS OF PURE BIODIESEL IN NOVEMBER, OFFSETTING CARBON BY 9 METRIC TONS.

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

City Side is a publication of the City of Ames, Iowa
Editor: Susan Gwiasda, Public Relations Officer
Questions?
515 Clark Ave. • Ames, IA 50010
Phone: 515.239.5204 • www.CityOfAmes.org

