



CITYSIDE

MAY 2023

AMES PREPARES TO HOST RAGBRAI RIDERS OVERNIGHT IN JULY

The community's population will grow by tens of thousands on Tuesday, July 25, as participants in the Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI) spend the night in Ames before heading off to Des Moines.

This year marks RAGBRAI's 50th anniversary, and a record number of cyclists are anticipated to enjoy the week-long trek across the state as it replicates much of the original route. Ames was an overnight stop on the first RAGBRAI in 1973, and has served as an overnight town in 1983, 2008, and most recently in 2018.

Organizing the overnight stay will be a community-wide endeavor. Discover



Ames (formerly the Ames Convention & Visitors Bureau) will lead a local organizing committee consisting of leaders from the City of Ames, Ames Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Ames, Story County, and Iowa State University.

Similar to 2018, Downtown Ames will

serve as the hub for entertainment. This year, the main stage band will be coordinated by RAGBRAI and announced in the spring. Details about the Ames overnight stay are still being addressed, but residents should expect an influx of cyclists on Tuesday, July 25, and a stream of cyclists heading south the next day. Plan ahead and give yourself extra time if you need to get somewhere during the RAGBRAI visit.

Volunteers are needed to welcome riders, host bicyclists, help at campsites, staff information areas, and be a part of many more opportunities. For more information, contact Discover Ames at 515.232.4032 or at www.DiscoverAmes.com/ragbrai.

JOIN THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL BIKE RIDE PLANNED FOR MAY 20

Looking forward to getting out your bicycle this spring? (Maybe you've already started practicing for RAGBRAI!) Ames Mayor John Haila and the Ames City Council are hosting two biking events suitable for all ages.

The annual Mayor and City Council Bike Ride will begin at Ames City Hall, 515 Clark Ave., at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 20. 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!

"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. We vary the route each year so we can explore different parts of Ames."

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 15.

CITY NEWS TO USE

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Thank you, Holubs
- Water Rate Increase
- Watch for Street Painting
- Parks & Recreation Notes
- Energy Q&A

MEMORIAL DAY (MONDAY, MAY 29):

A Memorial Day parade is planned at 10:30 a.m., followed by a presentation at the Ames Municipal Cemetery at 11 a.m. In case of rain, the parade will be canceled, and the program will move indoors. Also, City Hall and most City offices will be closed. Details will be posted at www.CityOfAmes.org.



HOLUB GREENHOUSE AND VOLUNTEERS KEEP AMES PARKS BEAUTIFUL FOR 25 YEARS

For nearly 25 years, the flowers surrounding Ames park signs have brought beauty and color to life. Volunteer gardeners plant and maintain approximately 50 gardens throughout Ames with flowers donated by Holub Garden & Greenhouses.



The Adopt-A-Flower program pairs flower donations by Holub with volunteer gardeners. The volunteers are responsible for spring planting and maintenance throughout the growing season, such as weeding and seasonal cleanup. City staff provide guidance on plant selection and maintenance, and assist with watering during the growing season. The program includes both experienced and novice gardeners. Volunteer gardeners and Holub are recognized with garden signs.

A huge thank you goes to Holub Garden & Greenhouses, which has donated thousands of dollars in flowers and materials through the years.

For more information or to inquire about gardening opportunities, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 515.239.5341 or joe.newman@cityofames.org.

WATER RATES TO INCREASE IN JULY

The Ames City Council will give final approval soon to an 8 percent increase in water rates, effective for bills due on and after July 1, 2023.



The need for the proposed rate adjustment is a reflection of increased costs combined with high user demand over the past year. A significant impact to operating the Water Utility has been unprecedented increase in chemical costs including a 78 percent increase in chlorine.

One way to reduce the increase in 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. Consider investing in a rain barrel to help with your outdoor watering and converting traditional turf into low impact, native plantings that need less water. Rebates are available to reduce some of the initial investment at www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartWatersheds.

WATCH FOR TRAFFIC CREWS

To counter the wear and tear of a long 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 paying attention to their surroundings and proceeding slowly when traveling in areas where crews are working.



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 9
6 p.m. May 16 (Workshop)
6 p.m. May 23

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/CCMEETINGS

FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER

OPENING DAY IS MAY 27! Purchase your season pass by May 1 to receive a 10 percent discount. Passes are sold at the Community Center or call 515.239.5350.

FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER IS HIRING!! Become a lifeguard, swim lesson instructor, water slide attendant, and/or admissions/concessions attendant! Apply today at www.CityOfAmes.org and join the team!

YOUTH & ADULT SPORTS

FIRST AID/CPR/AED COURSE (AGES 10+): Two classes offered, Saturday, May 6 or Saturday, May 20, 8:30-11 a.m. Registration closes one week prior to each class start date.

LIFEGUARD TRAINING CERTIFICATION: Interested in becoming a lifeguard at Furman Aquatic Center? Sign up for the May 19-21 class. Passing of pre-skills required prior to the class. Register by May 1.

LIFEGUARD REVIEW: Recertification for current lifeguards, May 14. Register by May 7.

YOUTH KICKBALL LEAGUE (GRADES 3-6): Recess at Miracle Field, May 23-June 15. Join the fun and stay active! Register by May 3.

TAE KWON DO (ALL AGES): New session begins May 9!

PICKLEBALL LEAGUE: Begins May 9 for all ages and skill levels. Leagues on Tuesday or Thursday evenings or Wednesday mornings. Register your team of two prior by May 1.

8v8 Co-Ed Soccer League (17+): Begins May 31. Games on Wednesdays and Sundays. Competitive and recreational divisions are offered. Register by May 14.

Co-Ed Sand Volleyball League (4v4 & 6v6): Begins mid-May, with games Mondays-Thursdays. Register by May 1.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE (16+): League begins May 15, with games on Monday evenings. Register individually by May 1.

HOMWOOD GOLF COURSE

HOMWOOD GOLF COURSE IS OPEN!

Book your tee times at www.AmesParkRec.org.

CLUBHOUSE AT HOMWOOD GOLF COURSE: 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.

COUPLES GOLF LEAGUE: Tuesday nights, May 2-July 25. Register by April 27.

MEN'S GOLF LEAGUE: Monday nights, May 1-August 7. Register by April 27.

MOTHER'S DAY OUTING AT HOMWOOD, MAY 14: Moms play FREE with a paid family member between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.

FITNESS & WELLNESS

SUMMER FITNESS SESSION DATES: May 15-June 25 and June 26-August 6. Sign up today!

View all classes at www.AmesParkRec.org.

AMES/ISU ICE ARENA

AMES/ISU ICE ARENA WILL BE OPEN DURING MAY AND JUNE IN 2023!

Looking for a location for your next team outing, event, or birthday celebration? Come to the Ames/

ISU Ice Arena! Group discounts and equipment rentals available! Contact us at 515.239.5110 or email taylor.bassett@cityofames.org.

AMES CITY AUDITORIUM EVENTS

May 6: Central Iowa Symphony Concert

May 7: India Cultural Association Event Featuring "Chai Tunes"

May 13 & 14: Performance Dance Recital

May 20: Dancer Dancer Recital

View more events, times, and admission at www.AmesParkRec.org or contact Craig Kaufman, Auditorium Manager, at 515.239.5365.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Did you know Parks & Recreation offers scholarships for recreation programs and season swimming passes? Contact or visit the Community Center, 515.239.5350,

or go online to www.AmesParkrec.org for more information.

ENERGY Q&A

Q: It's great that Ames has made some additions to its Smart Energy Rebate offerings. Are there other places that I can find additional funding to help make some energy improvements to my home?

A: Yes, in addition to the new Smart Energy rebates – which you can review at www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy – there are new, larger federal tax credits for a whole range of home energy efficiency projects. These projects existed in the past but were much smaller and had a cumulative lifetime cap.

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) brought several changes, one of which is the extension of the residential energy efficiency tax credits. Many home upgrades from insulation to water heating to new heat pumps are eligible for a tax credit of up to 30 percent of their installed cost, and there is now a much higher annual limit of the amount of tax credits you can take.

Additionally, the renewable energy tax credits have been renewed at their full 30 percent levels. Both geothermal and solar are eligible upgrades (and these two practices have no upper limit on cost). The renewable energy tax credits and the residential energy efficiency tax credits run through 2032.

The federal tax credit for electric vehicles (EVs) was also renewed in 2023, but vehicles will need to be under a certain price with an identified percentage of each vehicle's manufacturing based in the United States to qualify for the credit. New this

year is an EV tax credit for used electric vehicles (up to \$4,000) for income-qualified households (under \$150,000

per year for joint filers). Remember, if you're purchasing an EV, there is now a Smart Energy rebate that provides up to \$500 for Level 2 vehicle chargers.



We've placed some good links to more information on Smart Energy rebates, federal tax credits, and other utilities incentives on our website: www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy. Once on the web page, look for residential programs and find "Other Energy Incentives" at the bottom. Finally, if you have energy questions, please contact me!

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

RENEWABLE ENERGY NUMBERS

FOR FEBRUARY 2023

15 LED STREETLIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF 5,737

21,510 MILES OF VEHICLE CHARGING AT PUBLIC ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS

RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT RECYCLING:

- GLASS: 16.93 TONS
- METALS: 115.87 TONS
- FOOD WASTE DIVERSION: 2.5 TONS
- REFUSE-DERIVED FUEL: 2,693.27 TONS

CITY TRUCKS USED MORE THAN 2,866 GALLONS OF PURE BIODIESEL IN FEBRUARY, OFFSETTING CARBON BY 26 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

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