



CITYSIDE

JUNE 2023

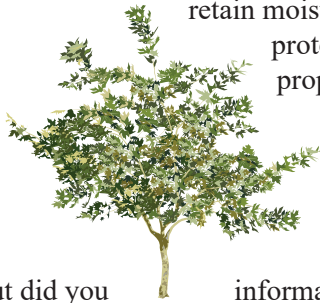
KEEPING AMES GREEN INCLUDES ENCOURAGING TREE PLANTING

The benefits of trees are well documented, and Ames has a long history of nurturing its beautiful and diverse urban forest. The City offers a rebate to encourage residents to plant trees on their own property. Because trees can live for decades, it's important to be strategic and deliberate about tree planting. City Forester Gabriele Edwards has some fun facts about trees and tips to help your trees thrive.

“The shade from large, established trees can lower the surface temperature by 20-45 degrees compared to unshaded areas, not to mention the ambient temperature reduction from the tree’s evapotranspiration,” Edwards said. When combined with the myriad of other benefits including reduced atmosphere particulates, higher soil infiltration, and reduced stormwater runoff, planting trees is great for people and the planet. But did you

know that planting a tree is not just digging a hole, putting the tree in the hole, and watering?

“There are specific steps that need to be done correctly to ensure a healthy, happy tree that will give you back all of these wonderful benefits,” Edwards said. Planting trees involves careful consideration of the tree’s root ball, creating a hole that’s wide enough but not too deep, adding organic mulch to retain moisture and protect the roots from the elements, and protecting the trunk from injury. Learn more about proper tree planting tips at www.CityOfAmes.org/Trees.



Don't forget the rebate! The Smart Watersheds Program raises awareness of the importance of protecting waterways. 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**.

RUMMAGE RAMPAGE 2023 is COMING!

Mark your calendars for the seventh annual Rummage RAMPage, which begins with donations drop-off on Friday, July 28, and continues through Saturday, Aug. 5, as the final day of shopping.

The City of Ames, in partnership with the ISU Office of Sustainability and local non-profit organizations, holds this community-wide garage sale to keep reusable

items out of the waste stream. Items are donated for sale, and volunteers from local non-profit groups help run the sale and share in any profit. The event is held at the Ames Intermodal Parking Ramp, 129 Hayward Ave. More information available at www.CityOfAmes.org/RummageRampage.



CITY NEWS TO USE

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Fee Increases in July
- Consumer Confidence Report
- Ames Public Library Summer Fun
- Parks & Recreation Notes
- Energy Q&A

AMES MUNICIPAL BAND IS BACK!

The Ames Municipal Band will be back for outdoor concerts at Bandshell Park. The first concert be held on Thursday, June 8. Watch for details at www.CityOfAmes.org.



WATER RATE INCREASE TO BEGIN 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 for 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.

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.



AMES PUBLIC LIBRARY OFFERS SUMMER FUN!

Join Ames Public Library, 515 Douglas Ave., for free special activities and a reading challenge for all ages this summer! Everyone from babies to adults can earn prizes just for tracking their reading in the Summer Reading Challenge.

Pick up a game board or sign up online starting June 1.

Once again this summer, children and teens can eat a nutritious free lunch at Ames Public Library. Lunch is available weekdays from Monday, June 5, through Friday, Aug. 18. (The Library will be closed on Tuesday, July 4.)

Check the Library's calendar for free events including:

- Book clubs, meetups, and presentations for adults
- Storytimes for babies, toddlers, and pre-readers including some fun in Ames parks
- Weekly events for families featuring magic, music, comedy, science, animals, and other exciting performers
- A variety of activities for teens, from writing workshops to VR videogames
- And much more!



Visit the Library's website at www.AmesPL.org or pick up a Page One newsletter at the Library for more information.

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 13
 6 p.m. June 20 (Workshop)
 6 p.m. June 27

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/CCMEETINGS

CHECK IT OUT!

2023 PARKS & RECREATION GUIDES - PROGRAMS, FACILITIES, & FITNESS! NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE AT WWW.AMESPARKREC.ORG

NOW HIRING!

VIEW ALL THE CURRENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES
ONLINE AT WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/JOBS

JOIN PARKS AND RECREATION

WORK AT FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER!

It's not too late to become a lifeguard or swim lesson instructor! Apply at www.CityOfAmes.org/Jobs.

ADULT & YOUTH GOLF INSTRUCTORS NEEDED AT HOMEWOOD!

Contact Nate Pietz, nate.pietz@cityofames.org, 515.239.5363.

BROOKSIDE WADING POOL: Opening day Thursday, June 1, weather permitting. Open daily 11 a.m.-4 p.m., admission \$1.

FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER: Opening day Saturday, May 27. Check out the summer schedule online at www.AmesParkRec.org or follow Furman Aquatic Center on Facebook @FurmanAquaticCenter.

HOMEWOOD GOLF COURSE: Homewood Golf Course is open! Book your tee time online at www.AmesParkRec.org or call 515.239.5363.

AMES/ISU ICE ARENA: Closed for maintenance June 25-Aug. 13. Tasks include the releveling the subgrade sand and repainting the ice sheet.

REGISTER NOW!!

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER,
VISIT WWW.AMESPARKREC.ORG OR
CALL THE COMMUNITY CENTER AT 515.239.5350.

WATER POLO: Begins June 7. Ages 16+

LOG ROLLING: Begins June 7. Open to all ages. Those 6 & under must have a parent in the water. Ages 7-9 must have a parent at the facility.

JUNIOR LIFEGUARDING: Knowledge and skills for future lifeguards. Ages 11-14, June 19-23.

PRINCESS POOL PARTY AT FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER: Princesses, crafts, and treats at the splash pool! June 17, 8:30-10 a.m. Admission \$27 (one child, one adult).

ADULT, PRIVATE, AND GROUP SWIM LESSONS: June 12-Aug. 3, visit AmesParkRec.org for more details.

START SMART: Baseball and All Sport, ages 3-5. Register by June 1, begins June 13.

YOUTH SAND VOLLEYBALL: Grades 3-6, June 5-July 17. Register by June 1.

T-BALL: Blastball (ages 4-5), Little Sluggers (ages 5-6), Big Hitters (ages 6-8). Register by May 26, begins June 5.

LITTLE TENNIS (ages 3-5), **YOUTH TENNIS** (ages 6-16),

ADULT TENNIS (17+): Begins the week of June 5, register by June 2.

KIDS ZUMBA: Fun & fitness for ages 7-14, June 7-July 12. Register by June 5.

YOUTH DANCE: Varying levels, ages 2-7+. Register by May 29, begins the week of June 5.

YOUTH TUMBLING & GYMNASTICS: Varying levels, ages 2-5+. Register by May 29, begins the week of June 5.

SUMMER CAMPS: Six one-week sessions, June-July. Spots are limited.

YOUTH LACROSSE CLINIC: Grades 2-8, June 12-29. Monday/Thursday. Register by June 5.

YOGA IN THE PARK: FREE classes Saturdays, June 3-July 29, 9-10 a.m.

TAE KWON DO: New session June 20. Ages 5 and older.

MIND-BODY CLASSES AT REIMAN GARDENS: Join us for yoga! Full schedule at www.AmesParkRec.org.

YOUTH LEAGUE AT HOMEWOOD: Wednesday mornings, June 7-July 26. Register by June 2.

FATHER'S DAY SPECIAL AT HOMEWOOD: Sunday, June 18. Fathers play for free with paying customer.

AQUA CLASSES: Begin at Furman Aquatic Center June 5. Morning and evening classes available.

GROUP FITNESS: Virtual and in-person classes. New session begins June 26.

SUMMER FITNESS: Take your workout outside with a variety of outdoor fitness classes.

WEST COAST SWING: New session begins June 19.

SLED HOCKEY 101: Learn about sled hockey and play games, June 3, 4:30 p.m. Call the Ice Arena, 515.239.5110, for more details.

PAINTING WITH A TWIST: Painting class \$37 or painting class & public skate, \$45. June 23, 3:30-5 p.m.

LEARN TO CURL: Ages 10+. June 10, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

ICE RESURFACER EXPERIENCE: Ages 18+. June 17, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

YOUTH BROOMBALL CLINIC: Ages 8-18. June 21, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

ENERGY Q&A

Q: I know summer is on the way and hot temperatures are coming. What should I do now so I'm prepared later?

A: Great question. Spring is here and warm weather will soon be with us again. Last year, we were all caught by surprise by the early return of summer heat on May 12. There were many service calls that day from customers that didn't realize their air conditioner was in need of repair. Beat the heat and contact your HVAC provider for a seasonal tune-up now.

Here are several reasons why you should consider tuning up your AC this spring:

- **Improved Efficiency:** Regular maintenance of your AC unit can help ensure that it is running at maximum efficiency, which can lead to lower energy bills and less strain on your system.
- **Increased Lifespan:** Routine maintenance can also extend the lifespan of your AC unit, as technicians identify and address potential problems before they become issues.
- **Enhanced Comfort:** An AC unit that is functioning optimally will provide more consistent and reliable cooling throughout your home, leading to greater comfort for you and your family.

- **Peace of Mind:** Regular tune-ups can provide peace of mind, as you can rest assured that your AC unit is in good working order and less likely to break down unexpectedly during the hottest days of the year.



If a technician recommends that you replace your air conditioner for any reason, be sure to ask about upgrading to a heat pump that can heat and cool with clean, reliable electricity. Upgrading your heating and cooling system before it breaks down is always preferred, as you'll have time to carefully consider your options to invest in an important piece of equipment for your home.

Look at higher efficiency models that qualify for our rebates at www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy and check out an outline of additional federal incentives listed at <https://www.rewiringamerica.org/app/ira-calculator>.

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

RENEWABLE ENERGY NUMBERS

FOR MARCH 2023

29 LED STREETLIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF 5,766

19,080 MILES OF VEHICLE CHARGING AT PUBLIC ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS

RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT RECYCLING:

- GLASS: 22.28 TONS
- METALS: 142.44 TONS
- FOOD WASTE DIVERSION: 2.2 TONS
- REFUSE-DERIVED FUEL: 2,583 TONS

THE CITY'S BIODIESEL PROGRAM HAS REACHED A MILESTONE. THE CITY OF AMES HAS USED B20 (20% BIODIESEL) IN FLEET VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT SINCE 1997. IN 2020, THE CITY BEGAN USING B100 (100% BIODIESEL) IN SELECT VEHICLES. THE COMBINED USE OF B20 AND B100 FUEL IN THE CITY'S FLEET HAS OFFSET OVER 500 METRIC TONS (MT) OF CARBON EMISSIONS IN 3 YEARS. THE 500 MT IS EQUIVALENT TO CARBON EMISSIONS FROM ELECTRICITY CONSUMED IN 48 HOUSEHOLDS FOR THREE YEARS.

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.
Find past editions: www.CityOfAmes.org/CitySide

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