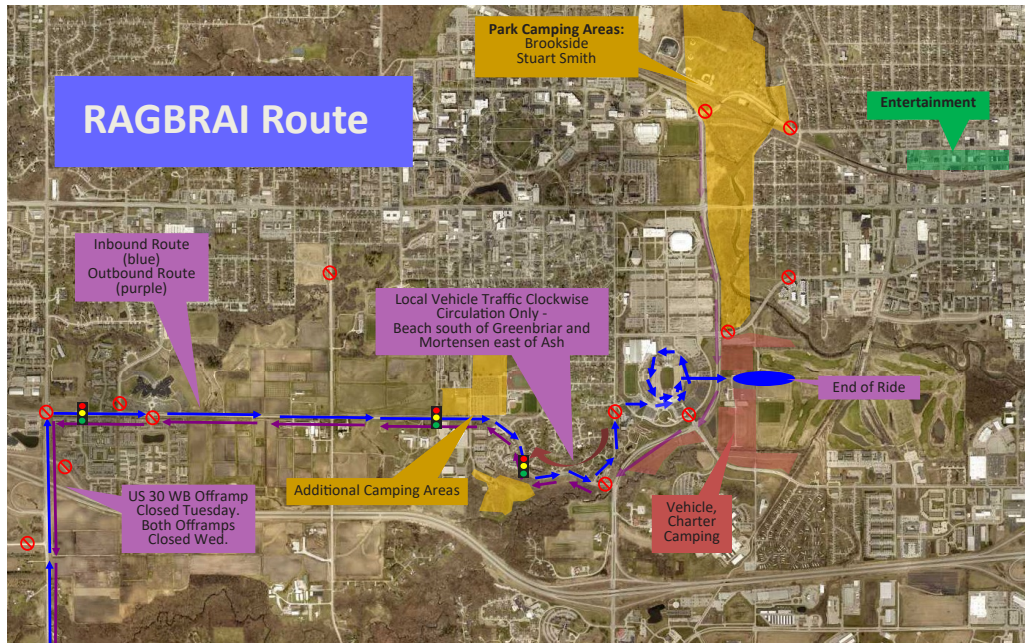




CITYSIDE

JULY 2023

ARE YOU READY? RAGBRAI ARRIVES ON JULY 25!



Thousands of bicyclists, support vehicles, and guests are expected to arrive in Ames from Carroll on Tuesday, July 25, as part of the Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI). As RAGBRAI celebrates its 50th anniversary, the crowds are likely to be the biggest in the event's history.

RAGBRAI was last in Ames in 2018, and there are lots of ways to get involved in this year's event. Volunteers are needed to welcome riders, host bicyclists, help at campsites, and staff information areas.

Bicyclists will ride into Ames from

the west along Mortensen Road before heading north on Beach Avenue, and over to Jack Trice Stadium. Campsites will be located primarily at Stuart Smith Park and Brookside Park, but expect to see cyclists all over town. Plan ahead and give yourself extra time if you need to get around the community that day. Downtown Ames will serve as the hub for entertainment. Bicyclists will depart for Des Moines on Wednesday, July 26, by reversing their path out of Ames.

More information is available at www.discoverames.com/RAGBRAI.

FOURTH OF JULY

Start your holiday off with the Independence Day fireworks at dusk on Monday, July 3. Fireworks typically begin between 9:30 and 10 p.m., and will be launched from near Jack Trice Stadium. Please remember that lighting fireworks in the Ames city limits is illegal.

The annual Fourth of July parade begins at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, July 4 in Downtown Ames.

RUMMAGE RAMPAGE

Experience Rummage RAMPage, a community-wide sale held at 129 Hayward Ave., that sells donated items at bargain prices.

Item Drop-off ONLY
Friday, July 28, noon - 6 p.m.

Sales and Drop-off
Saturday, July 29, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday, July 30, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Monday, July 31, noon - 6 p.m.
Tuesday, Aug. 1, noon - 6 p.m.
Wednesday, Aug. 2, noon - 6 p.m.
Thursday, Aug. 3, noon - 6 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 4, noon - 6 p.m.

Half-Price Sales (no drop-off)
Saturday, Aug. 5, 8 a.m. - noon

www.CityOfAmes.org/RummageRampage

CITY NEWS TO USE

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Moving this Summer?
- Public Art in Ames
- Tree City Designation
- Parks & Recreation News
- Energy Q&A

FOURTH OF JULY CLOSINGS:

Most City of Ames departments and divisions will be closed Tuesday, July 4, in recognition of Independence Day. Offices will resume normal business hours on Wednesday, July 5.



Moving Soon? Call us Today to Update Your Utilities!

If a move is in your future, make a point to contact Utility Customer Services

as soon as possible to have your utility service started, stopped, or transferred.

You may submit your start, stop, or transfer



request at www.amesutilities.com or by contacting the Utility Customer Service office

at 515.239.5120. The office is located in City Hall, 515 Clark Ave. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

REBATES OFFERED FOR NATIVE LANDSCAPING

Have you considered replacing some of your lawn with native landscaping? Do you have an area that's difficult to mow because of a steep slope or is frequently shady or wet? That part of your property might adapt well 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. Reduced maintenance can lead to significant savings 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 rebates offered include incentives for lawn soil quality restoration, native trees, native grass turf, rain gardens, composters, and rain barrels. For more information, go to www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartWatersheds.

AMES NAMED "TREE CITY USA"

The City of Ames has again been recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources as a

"Tree City USA" by demonstrating a commitment to caring for and managing public trees. To qualify for the Tree City USA award, a city must have either a city forester or an active city tree board, have a tree ordinance, spend at least \$2 per capita annually for its community forestry program, and have a tree planting and maintenance plan.



The City of Ames has been a recognized "Tree City USA" since 1983. Tree City USA is a national program that provides the framework for community forestry management for cities and towns across America. Ames has approximately 11,000 right-of-way trees, 3,500 park trees, and 700 to 800 acres of public-owned woodland areas. The Parks and Recreation Department and City Forester perform all the work necessary to maintain the health of these trees.

For more information about trees, go to www.CityOfAmes.org/trees. For concerns about trees at city parks or on city right-of-way, call Parks and Recreation at 515.239.5342.

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. July 11

6 p.m. July 18

No Meeting on July 25

(Moved to accommodate RAGBRAI)

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/CCMEETINGS

DIGITAL PROGRAM GUIDES

SUMMER IS HERE! CHECK OUT ALL THE PARKS & RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN THE DIGITAL GUIDES, ONLINE AT WWW.AMESPARKREC.ORG.



REGISTER TODAY!

THE PROGRAMS BELOW ARE CURRENTLY ACCEPTING REGISTRATION.

SUMMER CAMP (GRADES K-6): Sessions July 10-14, July 17-21, and July 24-28. Session activities vary with different themes throughout the summer. Join us for Camp Hollywood, Surf's Up, and Carnival themes to end the summer!

LITTLE TENNIS (AGES 3-5): This parent/child class will teach the basics of tennis. All instruction will be led by a tennis pro. One parent per child. The session begins on July 11.

YOUTH TENNIS (AGES 6-16): The program will emphasize specific skills and games for each age level using the USTA quick start format. Two sessions, July 10-20 and July 24-Aug. 3.

ADULT TENNIS (AGES 17+): Learn or improve your tennis skills with the help of the Ames Racquet and Fitness Tennis pros. Next session begins July 11.

AQUA CLASSES AT FURMAN: Deep Water Fitness and Total Aqua Conditioning offered at various times and days throughout the week. Next session begins on July 10.



SUPERHERO PARTY AT FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER:

Party with a Superhero on Saturday, July 15, 8:30-10 a.m. Take pictures, create themed crafts, and swim in the splash pool. Donuts and juice will be provided. Registration is \$27 for one adult (ages 16+) and one child.

LOG ROLLING: Open to all ages Wednesday evenings, 8:15-9 p.m. at Furman Aquatic Center. Staff will provide demonstrations and instruction. Give it a try! New session begins July 5.

ADULT WATER POLO (16+): A fast-paced game open to experienced and novice players Wednesday evenings, 8-9 p.m. at Furman Aquatic Center. Must be comfortable swimming in deep water. Register at www.amesparkrec.org.

JUNIOR LIFEGUARD PROGRAM (JULY 10-14): Designed for ages 11 to 14, this program provides a foundation of knowledge, attitudes, and skills for future lifeguards. The focus is five key areas: prevention of drowning and diving accidents, physical fitness, emergency response, leadership, and professionalism.

FREE CONCERTS AT BANDSHELL.....

The Ames Municipal Band performs free concerts every Thursday evening at 8 p.m. Concerts will continue through July 27!

FREE YOGA IN THE PARK CLASSES.....

Classes continue at Bandshell Park (Sixth & Duff) on Saturdays, 9-10 a.m., through July 29 (no class July 1). Classes are conducted by yoga instructors from various yoga studios in Ames. Participants should wear comfortable clothing and bring their own mat or towel.

ICE ARENA CLOSED FOR MAINTENANCE.....

The Ames/ISU Ice Arena will be closed for annual ice and facility maintenance June 24-Aug. 14. Staff is working on painting the facility and releveling the ice. Check the Ames/ISU Ice Arena's Facebook page to check out the progress!

FACILITY CALENDARS.....

Facility calendars for Furman Aquatic Center, Ames/ISU Ice Arena, and Community Center Gymnasium/Weight & Cardio Room can be accessed at www.CityOfAmes.org/prcalendars.

HOMEWOOD GOLF COURSE.....

Have you made it out to Homewood Golf Course this season? Join us for a round of golf or rent the



clubhouse for your next meeting or social event. Reserve your tee time at www.AmesParkRec.org. For group outings and rentals call 515.239.5363 or email nate.pietz@cityofames.org.

PARK FACILITY RESERVATIONS.....

Rent shelters, ball fields, sand volleyball courts, and tennis courts now through Oct. 15. Call 515.239.5350 for more information or view availability online at www.AmesParkRec.org.

JOB OPENINGS!.....

Interested in a part-time job with flexible hours that allows you to work outdoors and within a team environment? Join Parks & Recreation! View all the current job opportunities online at www.CityOfAmes.org/Jobs.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER FOR THESE PROGRAMS, PLEASE VISIT WWW.AMESPARKREC.ORG OR CONTACT THE COMMUNITY CENTER AT 515.239.5350.

ENERGY Q&A

Q: I have an older air conditioning unit that my heating contractor managed to keep going last summer. I'm afraid it doesn't have a lot of life left in it. What should I look for when I'm replacing my AC this summer? Any other tips for me when I'm making this choice?

A: Great question. I have two main points for you to consider:

First, if you think your furnace or air conditioner is going to need replacement sometime soon, plan NOW for how you're going to do that. About 80 percent of heating and cooling replacements are done when the existing system is already failing or has failed. That's not fun for you or your contractor to work under that time frame. You're likely to be uncomfortably hot (or cold, depending on the season) while trying to make a choice about what equipment will be in your home for the next 15 to 20 years. Further, if you need an emergency replacement, your choices will be limited to what your contractor already has in storage. You might want a broader range of options to choose from.

Secondly, the best air conditioner unit to cool your home is actually a heat pump that can cool AND heat your home. We've talked about heat pumps before (back in December). A heat pump is a two-in-one machine that is more efficient than an AC, makes life more comfortable, and saves you money.

Our Smart Energy Rebates for heat pumps are larger than our rebates for a standard, cooling-only AC. And there

SMART ENERGY 
www.cityofames.org

are great tax incentives that can help pay for a heat pump. A heat pump that can keep you cool can also keep you warm in very low temperatures. If you have a furnace, you may barely need to use it, if at all. (This is usually referred to as a hybrid system and is a great way to ease off gas). If you're excited about running your whole home on electricity, you should consider a cold-climate certified heat pump that can pump out heat all the way down to -17 degrees with no furnace required!

Bonus tip: If you are thinking about upgrading your furnace or AC or are considering other improvements to your home like insulation, or a new water heater, sign up for a FREE home energy audit to get expert advice on best practices and what rebates Ames has to offer. Go to www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy.

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

RENEWABLE ENERGY NUMBERS

FOR APRIL 2023

20 LED STREETLIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF **5,786**

21,240 MILES OF VEHICLE CHARGING AT PUBLIC ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS

RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT RECYCLING:

- GLASS: **17.98 TONS**
- METALS: **108.76 TONS**
- FOOD WASTE DIVERSION: **2.25 TONS**
- REFUSE-DERIVED FUEL: **2,471 TONS**

THE CITY'S B100 PROGRAM REACHED A MILESTONE IN APRIL WITH 50,000 GALLONS OF PURE BIODIESEL USED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE PROGRAM IN 2020, WHICH OFFSET 497 METRIC TONS OF CARBON. THIS IS THE EQUIVALENT OF THE ELECTRIC USE OF 250 HOMES FOR ONE YEAR.

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

Editor: Susan Gwiasda, Public Relations Officer
515 Clark Ave. | Ames, IA 50010
515.239.5204
www.CityOfAmes.org

