



CITYSIDE

SEPTEMBER 2023

CITY COUNCIL SEEKS INPUT ON INFILL HOUSING OPTIONS

In an effort to expand housing opportunities and diversify housing choices, the Ames City Council is exploring policies around allowing accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and duplexes within single-family neighborhoods. City Council is seeking feedback on these new options.

ADUs are also called second units, granny flats, or mother-in-law units. They are accessory living areas smaller than and detached from the primary single-family home, but still have a bedroom, kitchen, and bathroom. Duplexes are attached two-family dwellings, sometimes called twin homes, that are two independent living spaces and are not linked with a single-family home. Currently, City Code limits options for duplexes and second units in single-family neighborhoods. Some private



covenants within subdivisions also limit these uses.

“There is a national interest in having more housing choices as costs increase,” said Planning and Housing Director Kelly Diekmann. “Exploring more housing choices within existing neighborhoods that complement the surroundings aligns with our goals for choice, sustainability, and vitality as described in the Ames Plan 2040 comprehensive plan.”

The proposed standards for ADUs

include a size limit of 900 square feet, one bedroom, one parking space, and that the property owner reside in either the primary home or the ADU, which allows for one unit on the property to be rented if desired. Duplexes are proposed with design standards to address design compatibility related to the existing neighborhood.

For more details, go to www.CityOfAmes.org/AddHousing. The page includes information on how to provide comments. Additionally, dates and locations of public open houses are listed for participants to provide feedback and ask questions. Staff is available to speak to civic groups and organizations.

This topic will return to City Council in the fall and will include all the collected public input.

AMES MUNICIPAL AIRPORT RENAMED FOR JAMES HERMAN BANNING

A dedication ceremony was held recently for the renaming of the James Herman Banning Ames Municipal Airport. Banning, who moved to Ames in 1919 to attend Iowa State College, was the first African American to receive his pilot’s license from the U.S. Department of Commerce. Banning and mechanic Thomas C. Allen were the first African Americans to complete a transcontinental flight.

The renaming event featured Christopher Hart, Banning's great-nephew, who is a pilot and safety consultant. “We are pleased to honor James Herman Banning and his contribution to our city’s history by renaming the airport after him,” said Mayor John Haila. “He has been called a trailblazer because of the challenges he faced on his journey become a pilot. He persevered and paved the way for other Black aviators.”



CITY NEWS TO USE

IN THIS ISSUE:

- EcoFair - Save the Date!
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LABOR DAY:

City Hall and most City of Ames offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 4, for the Labor Day holiday. For more information about the City of Ames calendar or hours of operation, go to www.CityOfAmes.org.



SAVE THE DATE!

CITY OF AMES ECOFAIR



The sustainability-themed EcoFair will return to City Hall from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 30, in the west parking lot. Learn more about City rebates, programs, and services that encourage conservation and lower your carbon footprint.

Enjoy booths, vendors, activities, and displays, along with live music and food trucks. The goal of the EcoFair is to share a broad array of conservation information. The City of Ames will highlight its EcoSmart programs, which include electricity, water, watershed, and trash.

Activities are planned for all ages. Don't forget the Ames Repair Cafe volunteers will be available inside City Hall to fix your broken items at no charge. Mark your calendar to join us for this free, fun, educational event!



CyRIDE RECOGNIZED BY IOWA DOT

CyRide was recently awarded the Large Urban Transit System of the Year by the Iowa Department of Transportation. This award recognized CyRide's overall system efficiencies and the hard work that has gone into rebuilding its ridership base in the aftermath of the COVID pandemic. The award is presented annually at the Iowa Public Transit Association Conference and Annual Meeting and recognizes efforts of the previous fiscal year.

"This last year was not easy for public transit," said CyRide Director Barbara Neal. "We want to thank our employees and the community who helped make this award possible."



Pictured with the award are Barbara Neal, Christine Crippen, Kevin Gries and Shari Atwood from CyRide, along with DOT employees.

WATCH FOR PEDESTRIANS!

Motorists may notice the yellow, diamond-shaped pedestrian sign and flasher around Ames - called a rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB) - but not all drivers know how to respond when it's activated. With back-to-school season coming up, this is a great time to review driver obligations.

"Put simply, drivers should yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk as they would at any other pedestrian crossing," said Traffic Supervisor Brad Becker. "The RRFB simply highlights the pedestrian crossing signs



and helps to grab motorists' attention to the pedestrian crossing."

RRFBs are placed at uncontrolled, marked crosswalks. When flashing, drivers should stop to allow pedestrians to safely cross the street. RRFBs have been proven to significantly reduce motorist-pedestrian accidents.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

City Council meetings are in City Hall City Council Chambers, 515 Clark Ave., and streamed via the City website, Facebook, and YouTube.

6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 12

6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 26

WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/CCMEETINGS

UPCOMING CLASSES & ACTIVITIES

DANCE AND GYMNASTICS (AGES 3-9+): Variety of classes offered for every skill level. Classes begin the week of Sept. 11.

TENNIS LESSONS (YOUTH & ADULT): Lessons are taught by Ames Fitness Center tennis professionals. Open to all skill levels. Lessons begin the week of Sept. 9.

PARENT/CHILD START SMART SOCCER (AGES 3-5): Instructor-led drills and games to introduce the fundamentals of soccer, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Session begins Sept. 5.

KIDDIE KICKERS SOCCER: Instructors will lead teams with their volunteer coach through practices and drills. Games will be played the second half of the season. Register prior to Sept 1. First session begins Sept 11.

FLEX6 LACROSSE CLINIC: Cyclones Youth Lacrosse Club will teach participants the basics of lacrosse through a simplified version of lacrosse, Flex6. All equipment is provided. Session begins Sept. 11. Meets every Monday/Thursday for three weeks.

INDOOR FALL VOLLEYBALL LEAGUES (MEN'S, WOMEN'S, CO-ED): Games begin the week of Sept. 25, with an end of season tournament in December.

WEST COAST SWING (BEGINNER & INTERMEDIATE CLASSES): Open style classes offered to learn the basics or take it up a notch to learn more complex patterns. No experience or partner is necessary. Classes offered Monday evenings beginning Sept. 11 for four weeks.

YOGA BASICS: Designed to familiarize beginners with basic yoga postures and breathing techniques. Offered Sunday evenings beginning Sept. 10 for four weeks.

HEALTHY FOOT: Class designed to help alleviate or prevent foot pain associated with bunions, hammer toe, plantar fasciitis. Every Thursday beginning Sept. 12 for four weeks.

BEGINNER LINE DANCE: Learn the basics of country line dancing. No partners or experience needed. Offered Monday evenings beginning Sept. 11 for six weeks.

HOMWOOD GOLF COURSE & CLUBHOUSE

Book your tee times at www.AmesParkRec.org, or 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.



AMES/ISU ICE ARENA

HELP WANTED: Early morning shift leader, evening shift leads, and cashiers are NEEDED! Join a fun work environment, team atmosphere, and flexible hours. To apply and view full job descriptions, go online to www.CityOfAmes.org/Jobs.

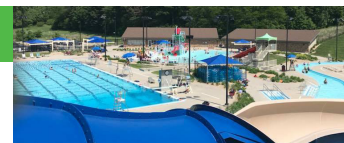
RENTALS & PARTIES: Ice rentals and birthday parties are available for booking today at the Ames/ISU Ice Arena! Contact Taylor Bassett at taylor.bassett@cityofames.org or 515.239.5110 for more information.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIALS: Find out about Ames/ISU Ice Arena upcoming programs, activities and happenings on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter at [@amesisuicearena](https://www.instagram.com/amesisuicearena).



FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER

The 2023 season ends Monday, Sept. 4. End of season passes are now available for purchase online at www.AmesParkRec.org or by calling 515.239.5350.



BANDSHELL PARK

FREE MOVIE NIGHT AT BANDSHELL PARK: This free event will feature "ET the Extra-Terrestrial" at approximately 8:15 p.m. Friday, Sept. 1. Remember to bring a blanket or chair. Great way to celebrate the end of the summer!

FALL CONCERT SERIES AT AMES CITY AUDITORIUM: Concerts beginning in September! View the lineup at www.AmesParkRec.org or follow the Ames City Auditorium and Durham Bandshell on Facebook for updates!



REGISTRATION AND MORE INFORMATION FOR ALL PROGRAMS AND CLASSES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT WWW.AMESPARKREC.ORG OR BY CALLING 515.239.5350.

ENERGY Q&A

Q. I noticed that the rates for electric vehicle charging has gone up at City-owned charging stations. What's the reason for the increase? Are electric vehicles still affordable with the higher cost?

A. Charging rates at Level 2 stations are now 12.6 cents per kWh and charging at the Level 3 “fast chargers” is 17.6 cents per kWh. This rate increase of 2.6 cents per kWh is due to an Iowa law that took effect on July 1. The state is collecting the 2.6 cents per kWh from public EV charging stations. This tax is a counterpart to the state gasoline or diesel fuel tax that pays for much of the road improvements in the state. Ames will collect the tax from users and pass on the payment to the state.

It’s important to note that the 2.6 cent per kWh tax only applies to public charging stations. There is not an energy cost for residential charging stations. Instead, EV owners pay a separate electric vehicle registration fee, higher than internal combustion powered vehicles.

Even with the increase in costs, EV charging remains an affordable option for drivers. Fueling electric vehicles with electricity at the City of Ames’ Level 2 charging rate is comparable to paying \$1.15 per gallon of gas, when evaluating the cost of fuel per mile driven.

Overall, the five-year cost of ownership is now similar between many electric vehicles and their gasoline counterparts, even though you may pay a premium on the initial purchase. Consumer Reports completed a study in 2020 finding that “owning an electric vehicle will save the typical driver \$6,000 to \$10,000 over the life of the vehicle, compared to owning a similar gas-powered vehicle.”



Additional public charging is offered throughout Ames by private businesses. To locate charging stations, go to <https://www.plugshare.com>. This website includes all brands and ownership, along with information on the charging cost and type of charger for each location.

For more information about EV chargers or rebates, contact me at joel.zook@cityofames.org or 515.239.5177, or visit www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy.

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

RENEWABLE ENERGY NUMBERS

FOR JUNE 2023

34 LED STREETLIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF **5,859**

26,445 MILES OF VEHICLE CHARGING AT PUBLIC ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS

RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT RECYCLING:

- GLASS: **21.23 TONS**
- METALS: **66.02 TONS**
- FOOD WASTE DIVERSION: **2.52 TONS**
- REFUSE-DERIVED FUEL: **1,542 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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Editor: Susan Gwiasda, Public Relations Officer
 515 Clark Ave. | Ames, IA 50010
 515.239.5204
www.CityOfAmes.org

