



CITYSIDE

FEBRUARY 2024

FITCH FAMILY INDOOR AQUATIC CENTER MOVES FORWARD

The Fitch Family Indoor Aquatic Center continues to move forward and recently achieved two significant milestones. In November, the Ames City Council approved sending the plans out for bid. In December, staff learned they had received \$500,000 towards the project in Iowa Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) funding. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$XX million.



Although the facility was going to feature geothermal wells, testing on the site revealed hard, sandy shale that could not support a horizontal well field. The facility will be built with a traditional, high-efficiency heating and cooling system, but will be constructed with the ability to all rooftop solar panels. On site stormwater management includes bioretention cells in the southwest

The Fitch Family Indoor Aquatics Center will be constructed at the intersection of North Oak Street and Lincoln Way on property formerly owned by the Iowa Department of Transportation. With the demolition of the City's Municipal Pool in 2022, there has been a need in the community for indoor, recreational aquatics. The new facility will feature three basins including a lap pool, current channel and play area, warm water pool, and a slide.

and northwest corners of the site, and permeable pavers and underground storage in the parking lot.

The Fitch Family Indoor Aquatics Center will provide a year-round opportunity for swim lessons, water recreation, lap swimming, and therapeutic support. The proposed construction timeline begins in April 2024, and the facility is anticipated to be complete in fall of 2025. Look for information on a groundbreaking this spring!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SERVE ON CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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.

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. 2, 2024.**

There are 20 different boards and commissions, and 15 of those have vacancies occurring in the first part of

CITY NEWS TO USE

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Consider a Job in Public Safety
- 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. 19, in recognition of Presidents' Day. For more information about the City of Ames, go to: www.CityOfAmes.org.



HAVE YOU CONSIDERED A CAREER IN PUBLIC SAFETY?

In the dynamic world of public safety, a 911 Dispatcher must be ready for a wide array of scenarios. From vehicle accidents to medical emergencies, each day brings diverse challenges. We are the voice on the phone, guiding callers through difficult situations.

“It’s a demanding job, but when you can help someone by connecting them with the resources they need, you know you’ve made a difference,” said Sarah McClure, Emergency Communications

Supervisor. The Ames Police Department is recruiting for public safety dispatchers to fill several open positions.

“This work does take a special skill set, and yet I’ve seen dispatchers from so many different backgrounds be successful,” McClure added. “It can be a true calling for many people.”

Do you know someone who might be interested in a new career with the City of Ames? Get more information at www.CityOfAmes.org/Jobs.

Do you have what it takes to be a 911 Dispatcher?



WE ARE HIRING!
APPLY NOW!

- TEAMWORK
- COMPASSION
- EMOTIONAL CONTROL
- MULTI-TASKING
- ADAPTABILITY
- DIRECTIONAL SKILLS
- GOOD COMMUNICATION SKILLS



Apply at www.CityOfAmes.org/Jobs

PUBLIC BUDGET MEETINGS SCHEDULED

The City of Ames began preparing for the Fiscal Year 2024-25 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 live stream is also available at www.CityOfAmes.org/AmesTV.

- 5:15 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 6
- 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7
- 5:15 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8

A wrap-up of the budget will be held at 5:15 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 13.

Setting the maximum levy rate will take place at the Council meeting beginning at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 27, and the final budget hearing is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12. 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 2024-25 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. 13
6 p.m. Feb. 27

Budget hearings:
5:15 p.m. Feb. 6,7,8

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/CCMEETINGS

NOW HIRING!

PARKS AND RECREATION HIRING TAILGATE

Parks and Recreation is hiring! Learn about seasonal and part-time job opportunities. Food, prizes, and more!

*Saturday, Feb. 24, 9 a.m. to noon,
Homewood Golf Course & Clubhouse (401 E. 20th St).*

AVAILABLE CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES

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. Classes every Thursday, Feb. 29-April 11. 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. 24-April 13. Register by Feb. 17.

LITTLE TENNIS (AGES 3-5, PARENT/CHILD): Partner with your child to learn the basics of tennis! Every Tuesday, Feb. 13-March 5. Register by Feb. 6.

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. 3-March 2. Register by Jan 28.

ADULT TENNIS LESSONS (17+): Learn or improve your skills with help from the professionals at Ames Fitness Center. Classes are Saturday mornings, Feb. 3-March 2. Register by Jan. 28.

DESTINATION STORY TIME: Ames Public Library and Ames/ISU Ice Arena have partnered to offer Destination Story Time at the Ames/ISU Ice Arena. Join us at 10 a.m., Friday, Feb. 2 for free story time and the opportunity for skating and crafts afterward for only \$2.50. Story and activities are geared toward ages 2-5, although all ages are welcome!

VALENTINE'S DAY SKATE: Valentines Skate at the Ames/ISU Ice Arena, Wednesday, Feb. 14, 8:15 – 9:45 p.m. Admission and skates for couples, \$15.

BROOMBALL CLINIC, AMES/ISU ICE ARENA (AGES 10+): No skates or skating experience required! Instructions and demonstrations will be provided. Offered Friday, Feb. 16, 7-8 p.m. \$10 per player, includes equipment.

AMES/ISU BROOMBALL LEAGUE BROOMBALL LEAGUE: Coming soon! For more information, contact taylor.bassett@cityofames.org.

NEW SESSION! FITNESS, YOGA, AND SMALL GROUP TRAINING: Classes begin Feb. 12. View classes at www.AmesParkRec.org or contact Nancy Shaw, nancy.shaw@cityofames.org, 515.239.5353. In-person and virtual options are available!

TAI CHI: Beginner and Intermediate Tai Chi begins Sunday, Feb. 18. Classes are Sunday afternoons at the Community Center.

COMMUNITY CENTER WEIGHT/CARDIO ROOM is equipped with CYBEX weight equipment and free weights. The cardio room features Life Fitness Treadmills, Precor Ellipticals, Nustep, Upright and Recumbent Bikes, Rowing Machine, and Step Mill. Fees are per visit versus a monthly membership fee.

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, Public Wellness Manager, 515.239.5353 or nancy.shaw@cityofames.org.

IN-BODY SCAN: Measure your body composition with the In-body Scan! Measurements include body fat percentage, muscle mass, visceral fat, basal metabolic rate and more! Fee is \$30. Contact Nancy Shaw at 515.239.5353 to schedule a scan.

PILATE 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.



PAINT WITH A TWIST AT HOMEWOOD: Instructor led, canvas painting event, at the Homewood Clubhouse. This class is intended for two painters, where you and your partner will create two canvases that will become one. Individual registration is also offered, where you can create your own masterpiece. All materials provided. A variety of adult and non-alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase. Feb. 10, 7-9 p.m. Fee is \$42 per person. Register in advance to secure your spot!

AUDITORIUM CONCERTS: "Fifth and Clark Fridays" Concert Series continues at Ames City Auditorium, Feb. 2 and Feb. 9. Concerts begin at 7 p.m., admission is \$5. All students can receive 2-for-1 admission by presenting their student ID.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER VISIT
WWW.AMESPARKREC.ORG OR CALL 515.239.5350.**

FACILITY CALENDARS AVAILABLE AT WWW.AMESPARKREC.ORG/PRCALENDARS.

ENERGY Q&A

Q. I am giving a hard look at an air-source heat pump after hearing that my natural gas provider will be raising their rates. What should I consider when looking to reduce gas usage in my home?

You're on the right track considering a heat pump. Heating is the largest use of gas in your home and heat pumps can dramatically reduce (or eliminate!) gas needed for space heating.

Air source heat pumps look very similar to a conventional air conditioner, but they can heat and cool your home or business. If you are looking to upgrade your heating and cooling system, an air source heat pump is an excellent option. You'll want to consider whether to install a heat pump that works in conjunction with a gas furnace or if you want to install an all-electric heating system that relies solely on the heat pump.

A heat pump and a furnace is often called a "hybrid system" and uses the furnace only during the coldest parts of the year. This configuration can cut your gas heating needs by half or more compared to a system that uses a furnace and a cooling-only air conditioner.

Standalone air source heat pumps rely only on the heat pump for heating and cooling and come with an electric heater as back up. If you choose a standalone heat pump without a

furnace, you should choose a model that is Energy Star Cold Climate Certified. Cold Climate certified heat pumps stay efficient and maintain their heat output even at below-zero temperatures.

Geothermal heating and cooling systems are even more efficient than air source heat

pumps, but these systems require a more significant upfront investment. The good news is that Smart Energy rebates are available from Ames Electric to help defray some of the cost. You can get more information on Smart Energy rebates at www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy.

In addition to Smart Energy rebates, don't forget there are federal tax credits that can help pay for geothermal or air source heat pumps. Get more information at <https://www.rewiringamerica.org/app/ira-calculator> or contact me for assistance!

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



RENEWABLE ENERGY NUMBERS FOR NOVEMBER 2023

18 LED STREETLIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF **5,997**

42,051 MILES OF VEHICLE CHARGING AT PUBLIC ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS

210,212 KILOWATT HOURS OF ENERGY PRODUCED BY SUNSMART AMES SOLAR FARM

RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT

- REFUSE-DERIVED FUEL: **2,496 TONS**

RECYCLING:

- GLASS: **25.60 TONS**
- METALS: **102.18 TONS**
- FOOD WASTE DIVERSION: **11,000 POUNDS**

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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