



CITYSIDE

MARCH 2024

RECYCLING DROP-OFF PROVIDES NEW DISPOSAL OPTIONS

Expanded recycling options at the north side of the Resource Recovery Plant have experienced steady use since opening late last year. Various bins on the north side of the building, 420 E. Second St., now allow residents to dispose of cardboard, mixed paper, glass, metal, food waste, and plastics with twist-off tops.



items are accepted. Materials sorted into the recycling bins are taken to Des Moines to be consolidated with similar items before being shipped to a company that recycles them. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency waste hierarchy recommends individuals reduce the amount of waste they produce as the most important waste management action. The next preferred disposal method is recycling followed by energy production.

“We have been pleasantly surprised by the first wave of response,” said Resource Recovery Plant Superintendent Bill Schmitt. “Our customers have asked about providing this option for some time, so we’re excited that people are finding it and bringing their materials.”

“We have a long, successful history of turning waste into fuel, but that is a one-time use,” said Schmitt. “Cardboard can be burned one time or recycled five to seven times. We need to do everything possible to prevent waste from being landfilled.”

One way to help the new program be successful is to carefully sort recyclables. For example, plastic grocery bags and Styrofoam cannot be recycled and should be thrown in the trash. Additional signage is being developed to clarify what

The recycling drop-off bins are open 24/7 for easy, convenient year-round use.

SPRING HYDRANT FLUSHING BEGINS IN MARCH

Public Works crews will begin flushing rust from water mains beginning Wednesday, March 27, weather permitting, and continuing for approximately two weeks. Flushing typically takes place from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Each year, this program provides Ames residents with the safest and highest quality water possible.

Flushing serves the following purposes:

- Dislodges and removes mineral deposits and sediments from the water mains
- Verifies the proper operation of fire hydrants and valves
- Helps identify weaknesses in the water system
- Checks for closed valves and weak flows in the water system

water, even when crews are not working in the immediate area. To avoid rust, follow these tips:

- Turn on cold water first to check for rust. This avoids drawing it into your hot water heater.
- If the water looks rusty, run the tap for one to two minutes until it clears.

Specific information about the times, dates, and locations of the crews will be posted at www.CityOfAmes.org.



During the flushing process, Ames residents may experience rust in the

CITY NEWS TO USE

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Project Share Helps Those in Need
- Ames Parks and Recreation Notes
- Energy Q&A

AMES PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOK SALE

Find great deals on thousands of used items, including books, movies, music, and more at the Ames Public Library Book Sale. The spring event will be held from Thursday, March 7, to Sunday, March 10. More details at www.AmesPublicLibrary.org



PROJECT SHARE USES DONATIONS TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

The Ames Electric Services Project Share program continues to be a success because of the compassion and generosity of utility customers. This winter season, through December 31, 2023, the program has been able to provide \$4,208 in assistance to 34 households. A simple way to share the warmth with those in need is to make a monthly pledge or a one-time contribution to Project Share.

The purpose of the Ames Electric Services Project Share program is to solicit and accept contributions

which are used to assist our low-income customers. A committee



appointed by the Ames City Council determines the permissible uses of the funds donated to the Project Share program. The committee has adopted guidelines to ensure that every dollar contributed is used to assist low-income customers.

All expenses incurred administering the program are covered by Ames Electric Services as a donation in-kind. Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA) assists the City of Ames in the administration of the program by determining eligibility of applicants for Project Share funds.

Please Consider a Contribution to Project Share

I wish to make a monthly contribution to Project Share. I understand this amount will be listed on my monthly utility bill and that I can cancel my pledge at any time by contacting the City of Ames Utility Customer Service office.

\$1/month \$2/month \$5/month \$10/month other ___/month

I wish to make a one-time contribution to Project Share rather than making a monthly pledge. I have enclosed a \$_____ donation to Project Share.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please return this form with your utility bill payment or mail to:
Ames Electric Services, Attn: Project Share Committee,
P.O. Box 811, Ames, IA 50010-0811

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. March 12
6 p.m. March 19
6 p.m. March 26

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/CCMEETINGS

YOUTH & ADULT SPORTS

YOUTH CO-ED SPRING SOCCER LEAGUE (GRADES 1-6): Skills assessment for participants is March 6, and practices begin March 25. Register by March 3.

SPRING BREAK TENNIS CAMP (GRADES 1-6): Camp is Mon.-Thurs., March 11–14. Register by March 6.

LITTLE TENNIS PARENT/CHILD LESSONS (AGES 3-5): Offered Tues. evenings, beginning March 19. Register by March 13.

TENNIS LESSONS (GRADES 1-6 & ADULT): Lessons held Saturday mornings, beginning March 23. Register by March 17.

VOLUNTEER COACHES: To become a volunteer coach contact ben.flaherty@cityofames.org.

KIDDIE KICKERS (AGES 5-6): Instructor led program. Held on Mon./Wed., beginning April 1. Register by March 24.

START SMART SOCCER-PARENT/CHILD (AGES 3-5): Learn the basics! This six-week program is held on Tues. evenings beginning April 2. Register by March 25.

ADULT SUMMER SOFTBALL LEAGUES (MEN'S & CO-ED): Season begins the week of April 23 with a season ending tournament in July. Register by March 29.

BECOME A SPORTS OFFICIAL! Hiring Youth Soccer Referees & Adult Slow-Pitch Softball Umpires. View www.CityOfAmes.org/Jobs to apply.

FITNESS & WELLNESS

PERSONAL TRAINING & PILATES REFORMER TRAINING: For more information and to discuss your goals, contact Nancy Shaw, 515.239.5353, nancy.shaw@cityofames.org.

TAE KWON DO (AGES 5 & UP): New eight-week session begins March 5.

WARM WATER AQUA CLASSES: Eight-week sessions held at ISU Forker Pool. Offered at 7 a.m. (M,W,F) and 5:45 p.m. (M,W) beginning March 18.

ADULT DANCE CLASSES: West Coast Swing and Line Dance offered on Mon. evenings. Classes begin March 25.

AMES CITY AUDITORIUM

FIFTH & CLARK CONCERTS: The series continues Friday, March 1 & 22, 7 p.m. Admission is \$5, 2-for -1 discount for students.

TRIBUTE BAND AT ACA: “Southbound: A Tribute to the Allman Brothers”, Saturday, March 9, 7 p.m.
*For ticket information contact craig.kaufman@cityofames.org or 515.239.5365.

AQUATICS

FURMAN IS HIRING! Shift Leaders, Lifeguards, Swim Instructors, Water Safety Instructors, Admission/Concessions. No experience required. View www.CityOfAmes.org/Jobs to apply.

LIFEGUARD CERTIFICATION COURSE (MARCH 12-14): Three-day course, 8 a.m.- 6 p.m. each day at ISU State Gym Pool.

LIFEGUARD INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION COURSE (MARCH 15-17): Three-day course, 6-8 p.m. on March 15 and 8 a.m.-7 p.m. March 16-17. Held at ISU State Gym Pool.

FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER HIRING EVENT - SATURDAY, MARCH 10: ISU Forker Pool, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. Bring your suit to take the lifeguard pre-skills.

HOMWOOD GOLF COURSE

2024 SEASON: Opening Day is Monday, April 1 (weather permitting). Contact the Clubhouse (515.239.5363) to purchase your Season Pass & Punch Cards!

AMES/ISU ICE ARENA

AMES/ISU ICE ARENA SPRING BREAK CAMP (MARCH 11-15): Each day will offer different ice activities, no skating experience required. For more information, email taylor.bassett@cityofames.org.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY SKATE: March 17, 2-4 p.m. Wear green for \$1 off admission.

LEARN TO CURL (MARCH 9): Instruction and demonstrations provided, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Register by March 8.

CURLING LEAGUE (MARCH 9-APRIL 20): Open to ages 10+ and all skill levels.

EGG HUNT (AGES 4-12): March 30, 12:30-1:30 p.m., followed by open public skate. Register in advance!

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

ENERGY Q&A

Q: Since the Ames City Council accepted the community Climate Action Plan recently, is the City planning on any upgrades to public buildings to reduce energy consumption?

A: That is a great question and a timely one! The City of Ames was recently selected to join the national Clean Energy to Communities (C2C) Peer-Learning Cohorts program to prioritize municipal buildings for energy efficiency and decarbonization investment. The program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). C2C participants will convene regularly to exchange strategies and best practices in reducing energy use in public facilities, learn in a collaborative environment from each other and DOE’s national laboratory experts, and consider proposals focused on building efficiency. In fact, we just had our first meeting.

Our goal in participating in this program is to establish a budget and timeline, as well as prioritize investments in our public buildings. We want to make improvements that maximize energy savings and reduce our carbon footprint.

In addition to City Hall, which includes the auditorium and gymnasium, the City maintains many public building including the Ames Public Library, Homewood Golf Course Clubhouse, Furman Aquatic Center, and James H. Banning Ames Municipal Airport, and more. We are planning some major heating and cooling upgrades to the city auditorium this summer, which will improve occupant comfort and lower

energy costs.

The Ames City Council accepted the community’s first Climate Action Plan (CAP) this summer, which included a list of identified

priority areas for implementation. The CAP creates path for an aspirational 70% community-wide greenhouse gas reduction by 2030. That’s not too far away! Improving the energy efficiency of municipal buildings was identified on a list of seven focus areas for immediate attention.

For years, we have offered Ames Electric Services customers Smart Energy rebates to encourage energy consumption reduction. We want to use the same strategy for municipal buildings that tend to be larger, open and active for more hours, and frequented by many people. Retrofitting these buildings with energy-saving features could be a template for other commercial or industrial buildings.



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

RENEWABLE ENERGY NUMBERS FOR DECEMBER 2023

- 43** LED STREETLIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF **6,040**
- 42,306** MILES OF VEHICLE CHARGING AT PUBLIC ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS
- 106,973** KILOWATT HOURS OF ENERGY PRODUCED BY SUNSMART AMES SOLAR FARM

RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT

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

- ### RECYCLING:
- GLASS: **22.88 TONS**
 - METALS: **153.87 TONS**
 - FOOD WASTE DIVERSION: **7,000 POUNDS**
 - CARDBOARD FOR 2023: **15 TONS**

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

City Side is a publication of the City of Ames, Iowa
 Editor: Susan Gwiasda, Public Relations Officer
 515 Clark Ave. • Ames, IA 50010
 Phone: 515.239.5204 • www.CityOfAmes.org

