



# CITYSIDE

**JUNE 2024**

## **DOWNTOWN PLANNING DESIGNED TO BUILD SUCCESSFUL FUTURE**

Downtown Ames is the heart of our community for social and business needs of many residents. Ames City Council, in partnership with Ames Main Street, wants to evaluate and plan options for its continued success. That's why resident input to identify priorities for the evolving area is so important. The kickoff of a seven-month Downtown Plan process focused on the community interests for Downtown begins in May.



The Ames Main Street Association has selected the urban planning consultant team of Bolton and Menk to assist with gathering public input and evaluating the opportunities and project options for Downtown. The vision of Downtown as

the cultural, economic, and social center of the community relies on private and public investment to meet the needs and interests of the community. The new Downtown Plan is intended to address tangible near-term project ideas and long-term goals while considering additional

businesses, events, activities, and other investment opportunities that could enrich the character of Downtown and attract more community interest.

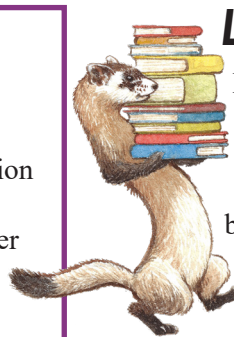
Downtown isn't just a front door into the community – it is community! We need everyone to help shape the plan and priorities for private and public investments. Look for public input opportunities such as online surveys, online meetings, as

well as in-person pop-up events through the end of June. Examples of projects and ideas will be developed during the summer for additional public comment this fall. To keep up on Downtown Plan events and information, visit: [www.amesdowntown.org](http://www.amesdowntown.org).

### **POWER OUT? TEXT US!**

Ames Electric Services customers experiencing a power outage may text to report their address! Text messaging saves time by allowing Ames Electric 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](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/Outage).

Remember, the number to report your power outage remains the same whether you call or text: **515.239.5240**.



### **LIBRARY SUMMER PROGRAMS**

Read your way to prizes in the Ames Public Library's Summer Reading Challenge for all ages! Pick up your reading challenge at the Library or Bookmobile, sign up online at [AmesPublicLibrary.beanstack.com](http://AmesPublicLibrary.beanstack.com) or download the Beanstack Tracker app. The challenge begins June 1.

Also, free summer lunches for children and teens ages 18 and under are back. Lunch will be offered weekdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. starting June 3.

## **CITY NEWS TO USE**

### **IN THIS ISSUE:**

- Fee Increases in July
- Stop, Start, or Transfer Utilities
- Rummage RAMPage is Coming!
- Parks & Recreation Notes
- Smart Energy Rebates

### **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 6, and City Council Night will be Thursday, June 20.

Watch for details at [www.CityOfAmes.org](http://www.CityOfAmes.org).



## SEWER RATE INCREASE TO BEGIN IN JULY

A 7 percent increase in sewer rates will go into effect for bills due on and after July 1, 2024. The rate adjustment is a reflection of increased operating costs as well as a planned improvement at the Water Pollution Control Facility to achieve higher nutrient removal rates in support of Iowa’s Nutrient Reduction Strategy.

To mitigate the increase, remember that when you reduce your water use, you not only save on the cost of water but on sewer as well. For most customers, your sewer bill is based on your water usage. Regularly inspect your property and repair any leaks quickly.

Water use outdoors can be a great place to save. 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](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartWatersheds).

## Moving Soon?

### Call us Today to Update Your Utilities!

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



request at [www.amesutilities.com](http://www.amesutilities.com) or by contacting the Utility Customer Service office

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

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.

You may submit your start, stop, or transfer

## RUMMAGE RAMPAGE 2024 IS COMING!

Mark your calendars for the seventh annual Rummage RAMPage, which begins with donations drop-off on Friday, July 26, and continues through Saturday, Aug. 3, 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.



“We started this event with a desire to repurpose items often left on the curb during the annual move out and lease changeovers. We wanted to reduce waste and keep usable items out of the landfill,” said Ames Sustainability Coordinator Merry Rankin. “Many people are moving at this time of year, and this event provides an alternative for residents who are not only looking to dispose of household goods, but also acquire still-usable items that might be thrown in the trash or randomly dumped otherwise.”

More information available at [www.CityOfAmes.org/RummageRampage](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/RummageRampage).

## 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 11  
6 p.m. June 18 (Workshop)  
6 p.m. June 25

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT [WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/CCMEETINGS](http://WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/CCMEETINGS)



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PROGRAMS,  
VIEW THE **SPRING/SUMMER GUIDE** ONLINE AT [WWW.AMESPARKREC.ORG](http://WWW.AMESPARKREC.ORG).

## LOOKING FOR A SUMMER JOB?

Join the Parks and Recreation team this summer!  
View all job opportunities at [www.CityOfAmes.org/Jobs](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/Jobs)

### HOMWOOD GOLF COURSE

**ADULT & YOUTH GOLF INSTRUCTORS NEEDED AT HOMEWOOD!** Interested candidates, please contact Nate Pietz, [nate.pietz@cityofames.org](mailto:nate.pietz@cityofames.org) or 515.239.5363.

**FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER OPENING DAY-SATURDAY, MAY 25!** Check out the summer schedule online at [www.amesparkrec.org](http://www.amesparkrec.org) or follow the Furman Aquatic Center on Facebook @FurmanAquaticCenter.

**Homewood Golf Course:** Homewood Golf Course is open! Book your tee time at [www.amesparkrec.org](http://www.amesparkrec.org).

**Youth Golf League (ages 8-18):** League is every Wed., 8 a.m., June 5 – July 31. Instructor led fundamentals and drills, and paired rounds.

**NEW Middle/High School Golf League (grades 6-12):** NEW drop-in league. Participants will report six, nine-hole scores, from Homewood between June and July. The best average of six scores will be the league winner.

**Father's Day Special at Homewood:** Sun., June 19. Fathers play for free with paying customer.

### YOUTH & ADULT ACTIVITIES

**Parent/Child Start Smart (ages 3-5):** Baseball and All Sport, June 4-July 18. Register by May 28.

**Youth Sand Volleyball (grades 3-6):** June 3-July 8. Register by May 28.

**T-Ball:** Blastball (ages 4-5), Little Sluggers (ages 5-6), Big Hitters (ages 6-8). Register by May 24, begins June 3.

**Little Tennis (ages 3-5), Youth Tennis (ages 6-16), Adult Tennis (17+):** Begins the week of June 3. Classes offered June-July.

**Kids Zumba (ages 7-14):** Fun & fitness, June 5-July 17. Register by June 3.

**Youth Dance (ages 2-7+):** Begins June 11. Register by June 3.

**Youth Tumbling & Gymnastics (ages 2-9+):** Begins June 11. Register by June 3.

**Youth Summer Camps:** Junior Campers (K-1), Camp Funshine (grades 2-3), Camp Explorers (grades 4-6). Six 1-week sessions, June through July. Register by June 1.

**Youth Lacrosse Camp (grades 2-8):** Intro to Lacrosse, Mon. & Thurs., June 10-27. Register by June 3.

### FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER

**\*NEW Adaptive Swim Lessons:** Fri. beginning June 14, 10-10:30 a.m., Furman Aquatic Center.

**\*Teen Swim Class (ages 13-16):** Non-swimmers or limited skills. Begins June 10.

**\*Adult, Private, and Group Swim Lessons:** Mon.-Thurs. beginning June 10.

**Superhero and Princess Pool Party:** Sat., June 15, 8:30-10 a.m., Furman Aquatic Center.

**NEW Lazy River Boat Race:** Build your own boat and enter the race on June 8, 8:30-10:30 a.m..

**NEW Recreational Inertube Water Polo (ages 14+):** Every Wed. beginning June 12.

**\*NEW Swim Camp for Junior Lifeguarding (ages 11-14):** June 17-June 21, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Early Bird Lap Swim:** Mon.-Fri., May 27-Aug. 2

**Twilight Swim:** June 10 & 24, 8:15-9:30 p.m.

**\*Water Polo (ages 16+):** Every Wednesday, beginning June 12.

**\*Water Safety Instructor Course (ages 16+):** June 3 – June 5, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

**\*Lifeguard Blended Learning Review Course:** June 7, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Must have current lifeguard certification.

**\*Lifeguard Blended Learning Course (ages 15+):** Fri. June 21, 5-9 p.m.; Sat. June 22, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; & Sun., June 23, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

*(\*) Deadline is one week prior to the start date.*



### FITNESS & WELLNESS

**New Fitness Class Session:** June 24-August 4

**Yoga Basics:** Sundays, June 2-23, 6-6:45 p.m.

**Beginner Line Dance:** Mondays, June 3-July 8, 4:30-5:15 p.m.

**FREE Yoga in the Park:** Saturdays, June 1-July 27, 9-10 a.m. at Bandshell Park.

**Tae Kwon Do (ages 5+):** New session begins June 18.

**AMES/ISU ICE ARENA:** The arena is closed May 1-31 for annual maintenance and will reopen June 1. View upcoming program and event times at [www.CityOfAmes.org/prcalendars](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/prcalendars).

**REGISTER NOW!! FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING SUMMER PROGRAMS AND TO REGISTER, VISIT [WWW.AMESPARKREC.ORG](http://WWW.AMESPARKREC.ORG). (\*) DEADLINE IS ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE START DATE.**

# SMART ENERGY REBATES

Through its Smart Energy programs, Ames Electric Services is here to help customers reduce their electric costs through the implementation of more energy efficient practices. The utility has offered rebates on energy-saving upgrades for its customers though the Smart Energy program since 2007. We regularly evaluate our Smart Energy rebate offerings to help better serve our customers.

Our goal is to provide incentives that encourage customers to invest upfront in more efficient products in order to realize future energy savings and reduced costs. We recently made some changes to simplify how rebates are calculated.

The solar rebate is now calculated by the system's installed size. Also, heat pump and air conditioner rebates have been compressed to two rebate tiers.

Smart Energy rebates help our customers save money, while helping to reduce the utility's peak energy needs, all while working towards the city's ambitious climate goals. In addition to Air Source Heat Pumps, A/Cs, and solar, there are also Smart Energy Rebates for Energy Star® appliances, induction stoves, battery electric lawn mowers, geothermal heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, and electric vehicle chargers.

Ames Electric Services continues to offer customers a free home energy audit. Understanding your home's energy

## Heating and Cooling Smart Energy Rebates 2024

Air Source Heat Pumps: 15.2 to 17.1 SEER2	\$500
17.2 SEER2 or better	\$1,000
Mini split systems	Max rebate: \$500
Air Conditioners: 15.2 to 17.1 SEER2	\$200
17.2 SEER2 or better	\$400
Heat Pump Water Heater – Energy Star® Rated	\$400
Solar PV	\$100 per kW installed

consumption is the first step to reducing it. We offer a online self home energy audit or we can schedule a free professional audit for those who fill out an request online or call to sign-up. After completing an energy audit, review the suggested improvements and make a list of your highest priorities. You may want to start with the low or no-cost projects. There may be many opportunities to increase energy efficiency in your home just by changing your habits or settings on your thermostat.

When you're ready to invest in some of the upgrades be sure that you take advantage of any perks for which your energy-efficient project is eligible!

Find out more and apply online at [cityofames.org/smartenergy](http://cityofames.org/smartenergy).

**Joel Zook, Energy Services Coordinator**  
**515.239.5177 | [Joel.Zook@cityofames.org](mailto:Joel.Zook@cityofames.org)**

## RENEWABLE ENERGY NUMBERS FOR MARCH 2024

**27** LED STREETLIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF **6,181**

**34,818** MILES OF VEHICLE CHARGING AT PUBLIC ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS

**281,354** KILOWATT HOURS OF ENERGY PRODUCED BY SUNSMART AMES SOLAR FARM

## RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT

• REFUSE-DERIVED FUEL: **1,626 TONS**

## RECYCLING:

- GLASS: **21 TONS**
- METALS: **88 TONS**
- FOOD WASTE DIVERSION: **1.5 TONS**
- CARDBOARD: **6 TONS**
- PLASTIC: **1 TON**

## 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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