



CITYSIDE

JULY 2024

RUMMAGE RAMPAGE RETURNS TO THE AMES INTERMODAL FACILITY

Excitement is building for the eighth annual Rummage RAMPage, a community garage sale designed to keep reusable items out of the waste stream. Held over nine days at the Ames Intermodal Parking Facility, 129 Hayward Ave., the event is staffed by volunteers who share in the proceeds based on hours worked.

Last year's event found homes for more

than 154,843 pounds of furniture and housewares and raised just over \$62,000 for 47 local non-profit agencies.

As the City of Ames looks for ways to promote the community Climate Action Plan, events like Rummage RAMPage provide options for residents to both donate materials that are still usable and shop for items needed rather than purchase something new. Reducing

waste is one way of keeping items out of landfills and reduces greenhouse gases.

Because donations are accepted through Friday, Aug. 2, inventory changes on a daily basis. Shoppers are encouraged to stop by frequently to find items ranging from housewares, furniture, sporting goods, unique finds, and antiques. For more information, go to www.CityOfAmes.org/RummageRampage.

RUMMAGE RAMPAGE SCHEDULE

Item Drop-off ONLY

Friday, July 26, noon - 6 p.m.

Sales and Drop-off

Saturday, July 27, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sunday, July 28, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sales and Drop-off

Monday, July 29, noon - 6 p.m.

Tuesday, July 30, noon - 6 p.m.

Wednesday, July 31, noon - 6 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 1, noon - 6 p.m.

Sales and Drop-off

Friday, Aug. 2, noon - 6 p.m.

Half-Price Sales (no drop-off)

Saturday, Aug. 3, 8 a.m. - noon

NEW PICKLEBALL COURTS READY FOR PLAY

Ames Parks and Recreation Department, in collaboration with the Ames Pickleball Club, recently hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the new pickleball courts at Emma McCarthy Lee Park, 3400 Ross Road. The event, which included pickleball demonstrations,



attracted more than 150 participants.

Two tennis courts were converted to six dedicated pickleball courts. The project included new fencing to separate the courts, as well as new nets and net posts. The remaining tennis courts were resurfaced with new boundary markings to be used as both tennis and pickleball courts. The Ames Pickleball Club is donating windscreens and a storage box for portable nets.

“We’re excited to offer these new courts



to our growing population of pickleball players,” said Keith Abraham, Director of Parks and Recreation. “Pickleball is a fun sport and we have seen more and more demand by community members for additional places to play. While all tennis courts at City parks are striped for pickleball, this project provides the first dedicated courts.”

CITY NEWS TO USE

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FOURTH OF JULY CLOSINGS:

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



AMES FIRE SHARES JULY 4TH SAFETY TIPS

As the Fourth of July approaches, the Ames Fire Department recommends caution around fireworks. Although the State of Iowa has made the sale of fireworks legal across Iowa, the City of Ames prohibits exploding fireworks within city limits including all parks. Sparklers and other non-exploding fireworks that require a flame can be dangerous, cause injuries and burns, and start fires. Please supervise children and pay attention to outdoor surroundings. Keep a water source nearby to extinguish any sparks or embers.

“Being responsible neighbors means respecting the peace and well-being of those around us. This is not only true with fire safety, but with the noise and debris when celebrating the holiday,” said Deputy Fire Chief Tom Hackett. For those using fireworks outside Ames city limits, please be considerate of the people and pets who may find noise traumatic.

Over the years, Ames parks have been severely damaged by fireworks. The Ames Fire Department encourages residents to leave the fireworks show to the professionals and celebrate responsibly.

ART CONTEST ENTRIES SOUGHT

Entries are being accepted for the Public Art Commission’s (PAC) Photography Contest. PAC is seeking amateur and professional photographers



of all ages who are Ames residents to submit digital photographs for use in PAC’s 2025 calendar. The theme for the calendar is “Public Art in Ames.” A \$50 honorarium will be awarded to the photographers of the 12 images selected for use in the calendar. More information about submission requirements is available at www.CityOfAmes.org/PAC.

“The Commission encourages photographers to present an interpretation of what public art means to them,” said PAC member Theresa Stromberg-Murphy. “This contest incentivizes residents to experience art in Ames and explore the City’s permanent art collection.”

FOURTH OF JULY EVENTS

Start your holiday off with the Independence Day fireworks at dusk on Wednesday, July 3. Fireworks typically begin around 10 p.m., and will be launched near Jack Trice Stadium.

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

AMES NAMED “TREE CITY USA”

The City of Ames was recently honored with the 2023 Tree City USA Award by the Arbor Day Foundation and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The award was accepted by City Forester Gabriele Edwards and Maintenance Worker Matt Rochford, both with Ames Parks and Recreation.

“The Tree City USA award represents a commitment to growing and diversifying our urban forest,” said Forester Gabriele Edwards. “For decades, Ames has led by example to other Iowa communities by enhancing our forest resources and demonstrating the value of trees now and into the future.”

Additionally, Ames was one of 21 Iowa communities to qualify for Tree City USA Growth Award, which recognizes Tree City USA communities that demonstrate even higher levels of tree care and community engagement during the year.

The Growth Award looks at five focus areas that include criteria such as community investment in a forestry team, tree inventory, tree plans, planting and maintaining trees, outreach, awareness, and education.

While the City of Ames has had Tree City USA status since 1983, this is the first year the City has qualified for the Growth Award.

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 9
6 p.m. July 23

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/CCMEETINGS

PROGRAMS & FACILITIES GUIDE
CHECK OUT ALL PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAMS AND CLASSES ONLINE AT WWW.AMESPARKREC.ORG.



NOW HIRING!

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

REGISTER TODAY!! THE PROGRAMS BELOW ARE CURRENTLY ACCEPTING REGISTRATION.

- **Summer Camp (grades K-6):** Sessions July 8-12, 15-19, and 22-26. Camp themes Camp Hollywood, Surf's Up, and Carnival!
- **Swim Lessons (Youth & Adult):** Session two begins July 8 at Furman Aquatics Center. Morning lessons are two weeks and evening lessons are four weeks.
- **Aqua Classes at Furman:** Deep Water Fitness and Total Aqua Conditioning offered at various times and days through the week. Next session begins on July 8!
- **Christmas in July at Furman Aquatic Center:** Event is Thursday, July 25, 6-9 p.m. Enjoy games, events, and prizes for all ages. Santa will make an off-season appearance, 7-8:30 p.m.
- **Recreation Innertube Water Polo (ages 14+):** NEW! Play water polo while on an innertube. Session is July 10-July 31. Team or individual registration.
- **Swim Camp (ages 11-14):** Become a Jr. Lifeguard, learn about pool operations, help others learn to swim, and have fun! Two camp sessions offered, July 8-12 and July 22-26. Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- **Twilight Swim:** Swim under the stars July 8 and 22, 8-9:30 p.m.
- **Adult Water Polo (ages 16+):** Open to experienced and novice players on Wednesday evenings, 8-9 p.m. at Furman Aquatic Center.
- **Little Tennis (ages 3-5):** Learn the basics of tennis in this parent/child class. One parent per child. Session begins July 9, Inis Grove Park.
- **Youth Tennis (ages 6-16):** The program will emphasize specific skills and games for each age level. Two sessions offered at Inis Grove Park, July 8-18, and July 22-August 1.
- **Adult Tennis (ages 17+):** Learn or improve your tennis skills with the help of the Ames Fitness Center Tennis Pros. Next session begins July 9, Inis Grove Park.
- **Stroller Power:** Fitness class for parents and their babies. A new four-week session begins July 10, 11-11:45 a.m. Meets every Wednesdays at various parks.
- **Belly Dance:** Mixed levels class every Thursday, July 11-August 15, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

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

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

FREE CONCERTS AT BANDSHELL: The Ames Municipal Band performs free concerts every Thursday, 8 p.m. Concerts continue through July 28!

FREE YOGA IN THE PARK CLASSES: Every Saturday through July 27 at Bandshell Park, 9-10 a.m. Classes are conducted by yoga instructors from various yoga studios in Ames. Wear comfortable clothing and bring your own mat or towel.



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 AmesParkRec.org. For group outings and rentals call 515.239.5363 or email nate.pietz@cityofames.org.

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

ENERGY Q&A

Q: *I've been thinking about getting solar panels for my home. Is that a good option to generate clean energy? What questions should I ask when selecting a solar installer for my home? What are some other options I should consider?*

A: Solar is a great way to generate clean electricity and there are several different ways that you can choose to go solar in Ames.

If you have adequate space on your roof that is shade-free for the middle of the day, your own solar system may be a good choice. A solar installer can help you assess whether your home would be a good fit and should provide you with an estimate of how much energy you could expect given the size of the system proposed, the orientation of your roof, and any shading that could affect your production.

You should ask installers if they are familiar with how Ames Electric rates address individual solar installations. They would need that information to provide you an estimate on the value or payback period of a proposed system. Ames Electric Services offers a rebate for customer-installed solar of \$100 per kW installed. Additionally, the federal tax credit can cover up to 30% of the overall cost of solar.

Ames Electric Services also offers the SunSmart community solar program to its customers. SunSmart is a 2MW solar

field located near the James Herman Banning Municipal Airport. The project makes clean, solar energy accessible



to customers with shaded roofs, those who live in apartments, rent their homes, or cannot install solar panels on their own property. It offers a turnkey solar program for any Ames Electric customer.

Customers of Ames Electric Services can buy shares in the solar farm, called "Power Packs." Each Power Pack is a one-time investment and represents 175 watts of generating capacity. As of January, the price of a Power Pack is \$240. Owners of Power Packs will receive monthly credits on their utility bill. Bill credits have averaged around \$1 per month and are based on the actual production of the solar farm.

To learn more about SunSmart or for more information on how to install your own solar system go to www.CityOfAmes.org/solar.

Joel Zook, Energy Services Coordinator
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RENEWABLE ENERGY NUMBERS

FOR APRIL 2024

42 LED STREETLIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF **6,223**

42,651 MILES OF VEHICLE CHARGING AT PUBLIC ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS

295,257 KILOWATT HOURS OF ENERGY PRODUCED BY SUNSMART AMES SOLAR FARM

RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT

• REFUSE-DERIVED FUEL: **2,775 TONS**

RECYCLING:

- GLASS: **13.48 TONS**
- METALS: **129.28 TONS**
- FOOD WASTE DIVERSION: **1.75 TONS**
- CARDBOARD: **7.22 TONS**
- PLASTIC: **1.16 TONS**
- MIXED PAPER: **3.25 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

CitySide is a publication of the City of Ames, Iowa.
Find past editions: www.CityOfAmes.org/CitySide

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