



CITYSIDE

AUGUST 2024

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT SET FOR AUG. 6 AT AMES MIDDLE SCHOOL

The annual National Night Out returns on Tuesday, Aug. 6., with a new location and even more fun, food, information, and support for residents. National Night Out will be held from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Ames Middle School, 2400 Mortensen Road.

National Night Out encourages residents to celebrate community crime prevention efforts, strengthen community connections, and build neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. The event will have activities for people of all ages, tours of emergency vehicles, and much more.

This year, the Ames Police Department



will be working to distribute 1,000 pairs of new shoes and socks. This initiative aims to support Ames families to ensure students have the necessary footwear for school. In addition, Blast Back to School will have a booth at National Night Out

so families can register for a backpack and school supplies.

“We are all stronger when we work together to solve complex problems in our community,” said Ames Police Community Resource Officer Nate Rivera. “National Night Out provides an opportunity to get to know your neighbors and the officers who protect our community.”

More community news is at www.CityOfAmes.org and on the City of Ames and Ames Police Facebook, Instagram, and X pages. For questions, contact Ames Police Community Resource Officer Nate Rivera at 515.239.4532.

NUTRIENT REDUCTION PROJECT TO BEGIN AT POLLUTION CONTROL PLANT

Protecting public health and the environment is the primary mission of the Ames Water Pollution Control Facility. This award-winning facility is underway with a major treatment upgrade that will contribute to water quality improvements in the South Skunk River by reducing the levels of nitrogen and phosphorus; nutrients that can contribute to algae growth, toxins, and ultimately

to the “dead zone” in the Gulf of Mexico.

The project began in 2018 with a feasibility study that laid out a schedule to upgrade the facility in stages to match the useful life of various treatment components. Over 20 years, the facility will be incrementally improved to achieve the lofty goals of the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Along with the



improvements “inside the fence” at the treatment plant, the facility also implements multiple watershed-based

nutrient reduction projects every year. Examples include the construction of wetlands, restored native prairie areas, saturated buffers, and nitrifying bioreactors.

Construction of the first phase of the plant modifications will start in the fall of 2024. For more information and to track the progress of the project, go to www.CityofAmes.org/Nutrients.

CITY NEWS TO USE

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Rain Barrel Rebates
- Consumer Confidence Report
- Moving? Don't Forget Your Pets
- Parks and Recreation Notes
- Energy Q&A

RUMMAGE RAMPAGE

Rummage RAMPage, a community garage sale designed to keep reusable items out of the waste stream, is set from July 26 (drop-off only) to Aug. 3. Learn more at www.CityOfAmes.org/RummageRAMPage



RAIN BARRELS SAVE WATER; REBATES SAVE MONEY

In the past, buildings were designed to capture and utilize rainfall for reuse. Modern design discharges rainwater directly into the landscape and storm sewer and prevents reuse or reduction of runoff volume. Why let such a valuable resource go down the drain? Rainwater harvesting is the process of collecting rainwater and storing it for later use for watering the landscape. The simplest way to start rainwater harvesting is to install a rain barrel next to a structure that has downspouts collecting roof water.

Rainwater Harvesting Tips



- A full 50-gallon rain barrel can weigh more than 400 pounds. Install rain barrels on a level and sturdy foundation.
- Rainwater harvesting systems can be installed adjacent to rain gardens to provide maximum water filtering capabilities by overflowing into the rain garden once the usable storage is full.
- It only takes 80-square-feet of rooftop to fill a 50-gallon rain barrel from a one-inch rain.

Install a rain barrel and apply for a City of Ames rebate. The rebate is up to \$100 per rain barrel for up to two rain barrels. Barrels must be a minimum capacity of 50 gallons, and City of Ames utility customers are eligible to apply. Since this program started in 2009, more than 620 property owners have received this rebate. For more information on this and other landscape rebates, go to www.CityofAmes.org/SmartWatersheds.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT AVAILABLE

The Consumer Confidence Report, the City's annual water quality report, is now available. This report contains important information about the quality of your drinking water.

At one time, the Consumer Confidence Report was included in your utility bill, but now the report is available to read online. This method of distribution helps promote our sustainability efforts and reduces costs. However, printed copies of the Consumer Confidence Report are still available.

If you would prefer to have a paper copy of the Consumer Confidence Report mailed to your home, call the Ames Water Plant at 515.239.5150. The water quality report can be viewed online at www.CityOfAmes.org/WaterReport.



MOVING SOON? DON'T FORGET PLANTS AND PETS

Graduating, moving, or leaving over a school break are all very exciting changes, but these events may pose some logistical questions. How are you going to move your aquarium? Who will watch your pet if you move? Does your new apartment



allow snakes?

There are many decisions to be made, but this

one is always wrong: never dump your tank into a waterway or release your pet into the wild. Most pets released to the wild do not survive, and many suffer before they die. If they do survive, they can wreak major havoc! Releasing non-native plants or animals into natural areas can harm the environment and the economy.

Many plants used in aquariums become invasive if introduced into a natural system. Some of the most notorious invasive species in the United States were originally sold as pets or plants for water gardens and aquariums. Prospective pet owners should think through all life stages of a pet before buying or adopting it. If circumstances change, the responsible choice is to find your pet a new home.

If you are not able to place your pet with another caring owner, contact the Ames Animal Shelter (515.239.5530), a natural resource agency, or even a pet store near you.

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, Aug. 13

6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 27

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

- **Adult Fall Softball (Men's & Co-Ed Leagues):** Coed and Men's leagues available. Season is end of Aug.- Oct. Register by Aug. 4.
- **Co-Ed Adult Sand Volleyball (6v6 & 4v4):** Variety of leagues based on skill level Mondays-Thursdays. Season is Aug. 13 to mid-Sept. Register by July 31.
- **Fall Pickleball League:** Competitive, recreational, or 60+ leagues available. Season is end of Aug. to Sept. Register by Aug. 15.
- **Youth Soccer (Grades 1-6):** Register by Aug. 12, skills assessment Aug. 14. Volunteer coaches needed!
- **Challenger Sports Soccer Camp (Ages 3-16):** Week-long soccer camp, Aug. 5-9, for kids of all abilities. Sessions are led by international professional staff. Register by July 27 at www.challengersports.com.
- **Kiddie Kickers (Ages 5-6):** Instructor led skills and drills to prepare kids for games. Begins Sept. 9 - Oct. 16. Register by Aug. 30. Volunteer coaches needed!
- **Parent/Child Start Smart Soccer (Ages 3-5):** Fun games and drills every Tuesday, Sept. 3-Oct. 8 Register by Aug. 28.
- **Extreme Outdoor Bootcamp:** Workout outdoors every Thurs. beginning Aug. 22, 5:30-6:15 PM.
- **Youth Volleyball (Grades 3rd-6th):** Teams participate in the Central Iowa Recreation League, Aug. 20 through Oct. 3. Register by Aug. 13.
- **Dance & Gymnastics (Ages 2-7+):** Participants can register for a variety of dance and gymnastics classes, mid Sept.- Oct. Register by Sept. 2.
- **Tennis Lessons:** Instructor led classes for youth and adults. Session begins Sept. 7. Register by Sept. 1.
- **Miracle League:** Baseball league that removes barriers for children and adults with mental and physical disabilities. Games played at Inis Grove Park Miracle League Field. Register by Aug. 1.
- **Group Fitness Classes:** New session begins Aug. 19. View the schedule and 60+ classes at www.AmesParkRec.org.
- **Youth Golf Day (Sunday, Aug. 4):** Golfers 17 and under play FREE if accompanied by a paid adult, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Book your tee time today, 515.239.5363 or www.AmesParkRec.org.
- **Tae Kwon Do (Ages 5+):** Fall session begins Aug. 22. Beginner, intermediate, and advanced classes offered, T/W/Th/Sun. evenings.



FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER



- **Wrangle The River (Aug. 3):** Complete one mile (8 laps) against the current in the Lazy River at Furman Aquatic Center. Heats available from 6:55-11 a.m.
- **Build Your Own Boat Race (Aug. 24):** Design and build your own boat out of card board and duct tape to race in the 50-meter pool at Furman. Heats by age from 6:15-8 p.m.
- **Furman Aquatic Center End of Season Passes:** Valid Aug. 1 - Sept. 2. Purchase during your visit or by calling 515.239.5350. View the facility schedule at www.CityofAmes.org/prcalendars.

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



ENERGY Q&A

Q: I heard there are sheep at the SunSmart solar farm. How long will they be out there? Can I get more pictures of those very cute lambs?

A: You heard right! In May, Ames Electric’s SunSmart Community Solar Project welcomed approximately 50 sheep to the solar farm along Airport Road across from the James Herman Banning Municipal Airport. The sheep will maintain vegetation on the site in place of mowing. Additionally, honeybee hives maintained by ISU were placed in June. The mix of grass and clover planted in and around the solar panels make excellent forage for both the sheep and honeybees.

We’re excited about this opportunity to demonstrate grazing in partnership with solar production. The grass at the solar farm needs to be managed and this arrangement does so with less fossil fuel use. Adding honey production to the site was one way to sweeten the deal. It’s a win-win-win!

Sheep were selected because they thrive on grass, while cattle and goats need additional nutrients that only grass would not provide, according to Chad Steenhoek, the owner of Sheep on the Go Ames. “With targeted grazing by sheep, we’re able to eat the vegetation in a manner that stores more carbon in the ground. By storing more carbon, we improve soil life in the soil. As the soil improves, that creates a better environment for grass. It’s a good cycle,” Steenhoek explained.

City of Ames will continue to provide regular reports on the animals throughout their stay at the solar farm. Look for posts on City social media including Facebook, Instagram, X, and Threads.



The SunSmart community solar farm has been operational since December 2020. Ames Electric Services financed the solar farm through a power purchase agreement with Forefront Power. A power purchase agreement is a long-term agreement to purchase power at a set price. Forefront Power owns and maintains the solar panels and sells the energy produced to Ames Electric.

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 175W of generating capacity. Owners of Power Packs will receive monthly credits on their utility bill. Bill credits are based on the actual production of the solar farm. Power Packs are still available for purchase at www.CityOfAmes.org/solar.

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

RENEWABLE ENERGY NUMBERS

FOR MAY 2024

25 LED STREETLIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF **6,206**

40,101 MILES OF VEHICLE CHARGING AT PUBLIC ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS

335,970 KILOWATT HOURS OF ENERGY PRODUCED BY SUNSMART AMES SOLAR FARM

RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT RECYCLING:

- GLASS: **27.36 TONS**
- METALS: **179.14 TONS**
- FOOD WASTE DIVERSION: **2.25 TONS**
- REFUSE-DERIVED FUEL: **3,104 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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