



CITYSIDE

SEPTEMBER 2024

'HEARTS OF THE COMMUNITY' INSTALLED IN HIRA PARK

Park users can now meet 15 new residents who have moved into Tahira and Labh Hira Park, 3622 Woodland St. "Hearts of the Community" was installed at the park in June. The sculpture, created by artist Kelly Tompkins, features five large and ten smaller figures in vibrant colors holding hands.



spaces between each figure forming the shape of a heart.

"This art piece can also be a counting game, counting the children by tens to 100, as an activity around the outer sidewalk," said Tompkins. "We hope the Hearts of the Community inspires togetherness, counting, and crafts and brings smiles to multiple generations who enjoy the park today and have treasured memories of the location's school days."

The design hints at the park's former use as the original site of Edwards Elementary School, with the larger figures representing a group of teachers. When viewed from above, the figures form the shape of a star, such as what a student might receive as a reward for an outstanding spelling test. The smaller figures connect like a paper chain from a school art project, with the

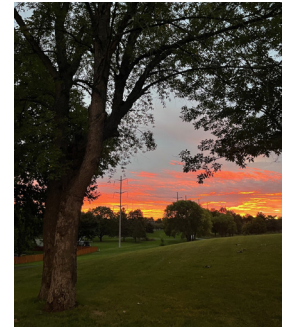
The Public Art Commission selected Tompkins' design through its Art in the Parks program. For more information about the Public Art Commission go to www.CityOfAmes.org/PAC.

MAJOR URBAN FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT GRANT RECEIVED

Ames Parks and Recreation Department was awarded a grant from the U.S. Forest Service for \$810,500 to be distributed over five years for urban forestry enhancement activities. The Ames City Council approved accepting the grant at recent meeting.

City Forester. "Additionally, we will work on tree trimming, invasive vegetation control, and plan our own nursery to develop young trees for planting in parks and public space."

and improved by planting additional trees, improving park woodlands, expediting removal of ash trees, and updating the tree inventory.



"This is a fantastic opportunity to continue our efforts combating Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), diversify our urban trees, and tackling projects in wooded areas," said Gabriele Edwards, Ames

The City has partnered with the Arbor Day Foundation to handle grant management and required reporting. In the past decade, City staff has developed and implemented plans to improve the urban forest on public property. The grant allows for work to be continued

These additional funds will allow staff to complete activities that are not planned in the current or future budgets.

CITY NEWS TO USE

IN THIS ISSUE:

- EcoFair - Save the Date!
- Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)
- Ames Animal Shelter Recognized
- Parks & Recreation Notes
- Energy Q&A

LABOR DAY:

City Hall and most City of Ames offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 2, for the Labor Day holiday. For more information about the City of Ames calendar or hours of operation, go to www.CityOfAmes.org.



SAVE THE DATE!

CITY OF AMES ECOFAIR



The sustainability-themed EcoFair will return to City Hall from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 28, in the west parking lot. Learn more about City rebates, programs, and services that encourage conservation and lower your carbon footprint.

Enjoy booths, vendors, activities, and displays, along with live music and food trucks. The goal of the EcoFair is to share a broad array of conservation information. The City of Ames will highlight its EcoSmart programs, which include electricity, water, watershed, and trash.

Activities are planned for all ages. Don't forget the Ames Repair Cafe volunteers will be available inside City Hall to fix your broken items at no charge. Mark your calendar to join us for this free, fun, educational event!



CONSIDERING AN ADU? TALK TO US!

Are you interested in adding an accessory dwelling unit (ADU) to your current residential property? The staff at the Department of Planning and Housing are here to help. ADUs, also called second units, granny flats, or mother-in-law units, are accessory living areas smaller than and detached from the primary single-family home. They typically have a bedroom, kitchen, and bathroom.

Contact Us!

Planning Division
515.239.5400
CityOfAmes.org/
AddHousing

In an effort to expand housing options, the Ames City Council approved an ordinance allowing for ADUs with a size limit of 900 square feet.

The property owner must reside in either the primary home or the ADU, which allows for one unit on the property to be rented if desired. There are several other considerations. Contact the Planning Division for details!

AMES ANIMAL SHELTER RECOGNIZED

The Ames Animal Shelter, 325 Billy Sunday Road, was again recognized by Best Friends Animal Society for reaching no-kill status in 2023. This designation is given to shelters that save 90% or more of dogs and cats entering the shelter during the past year.

“I am extremely proud of this achievement as well as the compassion and dedication of our team at the Ames Animal Shelter,” said Animal Control Supervisor Ron Edwards. “We strive every year to meet the needs of any animal arriving at our shelter. Our live release rate for all domestic animals in 2023 was 98.2%.”



A 90% save rate is the nationally recognized benchmark to be considered “no-kill.” The rate acknowledges approximately 10 percent of animals entering shelters have medical or behavioral circumstances that warrant humane euthanasia rather than killing for lack of space.

“Our shelter uses the most unfiltered, transparent formula available when calculating our live release rate,” Edwards said. “In the past year, the shelter experienced an outbreak of feline panleukopenia. Our mortality rate was far lower than the average for this virus. This award reflects the incredible dedication of this team.”

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, Sept. 10

6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 24

WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/CCMEETINGS

YOUTH & ADULT ACTIVITIES

Dance and Gymnastics (Ages 3-9+): Classes are held at the Community Center for all skill levels starting the week of Sept. 9.

Tennis Lessons (Youth & Adult): Taught by the professionals from the Ames Fitness Center. Open to all levels of tennis players. Lessons start the week of Sept. 7.

Start Smart Soccer (Ages 3-5): Instructor led drills and games to introduce the fundamentals of soccer, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Kids will partner with their parent/guardian for drills and activities in this program. Session begins Sept. 3.

Kiddie Kickers Soccer (Ages 5-6): Instructors lead volunteer coaches and teams through practices and drills. Participants will play games the second half of the season. First session starts Sept. 9.

Indoor Fall Volleyball League (Men's, Women's, Co-Ed): League games will start the week of Sept. 23 with an end of season tournament in December. Games are played at the Community Center gymnasium.



FITNESS & WELLNESS

West Coast Swing: The beginner class is an open style dance class; no experience or partner is necessary. Take it up a notch with the intermediate class and learn more complex styles and techniques. Classes are Monday evenings, Sept. 9 - Oct. 16.

Healthy Foot: This class can help you alleviate or prevent foot pain associated with bunions, hammer toe, plantar fasciitis. Class on Thursday mornings, Sept. 3 - 24.

Beginner Line Dance: Learn the basics starting with the favorite "Electric Slide". No partners required and no experience needed. Monday evenings, Sept. 9 - Oct. 14.

Yoga Basics: This workshop is designed to familiarize beginners with basic yoga postures and breathing techniques. Every Sunday evening, Sept. 8 - 29.



HOMWOOD GOLF COURSE

Homewood Golf Course & Clubhouse: Book your tee times at www.AmesParkRec.org, or host your next special event, meeting, group outing, and more at the year-round Homewood Clubhouse! Contact Nate Pietz, 515.239.5350, nate.pietz@cityofames.org for more information.

Painting with a Twist:

Join us on Saturday, Sept. 14, 7 p.m., at the Homewood Clubhouse to get ready for Fall by participating in an instructor led painting class. Adult beverages available for purchase.



AUDITORIUM/BANDSHELL

Free Movie Night: Mark your calendars for the Free Movie Night at Bandshell Park, Friday, Aug. 30. The showing of "Honey I Shrank the Kids" will begin approximately at 8:15 p.m. Bring a blanket or chair and enjoy a family-friendly movie to celebrate the end of summer!

Fifth and Clark Concert Series: Concert series to begin at City Auditorium in September! For upcoming concert dates, go online at www.AmeParkRec.org or follow Ames City Auditorium and Durham Bandshell on Facebook.



FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER

Scholarship Duck Derby: Come out to Furman Aquatic Center on Monday, Sept. 2 for the Second Annual Duck Derby to raise funds for the Parks and Recreation Scholarship Fund. Ducks are available to purchase at the Community Center and Furman Aquatic Center. Purchase a duck for your chance to win a prize from a local business.

ENERGY Q&A

Q. How can I save energy this summer and keep my house cool? What can I do to help us lower the utility's peak summer usage?

A. Ames Electric sees its electric demand peak in late afternoon and evening during the summer. Many expenses for the utility result from that high demand for power at our summer peak. You can help keep rates low by saving energy during these peak usage periods. Any electric consumption that you can easily defer to overnight is helpful to the system and helps keep rates low in the long-term. Here are some tips to help save energy and to lower Ames Electric's summer peak:

- Install a programmable thermostat. Cooling is usually a home's largest summer electric load. A programmable thermostat can save you money by reducing the energy used for cooling when nobody is home, especially the unoccupied hours that fall in the peak period.
- Delay appliance usage or increase efficiency of appliances used during peak. Most dishwashers have a 4- or 8-hour delay button allowing you to run during off-peak periods.
- Make dinner on the grill. Cooking dinner on a hot summer evening is a double whammy if you have an electric stove or oven. You're using the electricity to run the cooking appliance, which heats up the kitchen, which makes your air

conditioner work harder to keep the cook cool.

- Replace all light bulbs with LEDs. LEDs are a great, low cost way to save energy. They create far less heat than incandescent bulbs which adds far less heat to your home.
- Lower your "Always On" usage. Two common high standby users are entertainment systems and home offices. Plug all the devices in these locations into one power strip. When they're not in use, shut the equipment down and turn off the power strip.
- Running your air conditioner in the morning to pre-cool your home is a great way to clear humidity and can allow you to run the AC less in the peak period. Setting the thermostat a couple of degrees higher from 2 to 6 p.m. will use less energy in that peak period.
- Install a high efficiency cooling system. High efficiency air conditioners can save energy all summer long. Air-source heat pumps or geothermal systems can provide summer savings but also can heat your home during the winter.
- Check out www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy for rebates.

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

RENEWABLE ENERGY NUMBERS

FOR JUNE 2024

XX LED STREETLIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF **X,XXX**

37,986 MILES OF VEHICLE CHARGING AT PUBLIC ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS

326,870 KILOWATT HOURS OF ENERGY PRODUCED BY SUNSMART AMES SOLAR FARM

RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT RECYCLING:

- GLASS: **20.37 TONS**
- METALS: **110.67 TONS**
- FOOD WASTE DIVERSION: **2 TONS**
- REFUSE-DERIVED FUEL: **2,296 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

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

Editor: Susan Gwiasda
 Communications and Outreach
 515 Clark Ave. | Ames, IA 50010
 515.239.5204
www.CityOfAmes.org

