



CITYSIDE

DECEMBER 2024

CITY ADDS MORE ELECTRIC VEHICLES TO REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS

Following the recommendations suggested in the community Climate Action Plan (CAP), several new all-electric vehicles have been added to the City's fleet. For years, the City has experimented with fuel-efficient compact and hybrid vehicles. Since accepting the CAP, the Ames City Council set a goal of purchasing zero emission vehicles, if possible, as fleet vehicles are retired and replaced.



profit entities like the City of Ames to qualify for a tax credit of up to \$7,500 on qualified EV purchases. The City expects fuel and maintenance savings from the new EVs. The new EVs bring the total number all-electric vehicles in the City's fleet to six. Also, the City Council recently approved the purchases of four additional Ford F150 Lightnings.

The new vehicles include two Subaru Solterras and two Ford F150 Lightnings. The vehicles have been distributed to Electric Engineering and Electric Technical Services with Ames Electric Services, Ames Water and Pollution Control, and Ames Public Works. One model of each was shown at the EcoFair in September.

The City's fleet already includes many hybrid and flex fuel vehicles. City snow plows have been using biodiesel fuel successfully for several years. CyRide has two all-electric buses with five on order and a goal of reaching 17 total.

Pricing and availability of electric vehicles (EVs) has greatly improved recently and changes in the tax code allow non-

To support EV drivers, the City manages 10 EV charging locations around Ames. The EVs added to the City fleet will primarily charge at department locations, but may sometimes use the public charging stations while in service.



ARE YOU ON A SNOW ROUTE? THINGS TO KNOW WHEN IT SNOWS!

Winter weather is just around the corner and that means snow is not far behind. If you park on a snow route, you should know when the snow ordinance is in effect. Snow plowing begins after

two inches of snow accumulates on the major streets in Ames, and two inches of snowfall also activates the City's snow ordinance.

When the snow ordinance is in effect, drivers parked along snow routes – marked with red and white signs – need to move their vehicles to avoid ticketing and/or towing. Vehicles may return to the street when it has stopped snowing, no additional snow is forecast, and the

street has been plowed from curb to curb. Because this happens at different times throughout the city, there is no official announcement that the ordinance is over.

Notification about the snow ordinance will be shared with local media, the City's website (www.CityOfAmes.org), and Ames TV. Also check @CityofAmes, @AmesPublicWorks, and @AmesPolice on social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, and X.

CITY NEWS TO USE

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Project Share Seeks Donations
- Water Pollution Control Ground-Breaking Ceremony
- Parks & Recreation Notes
- Energy Q&A

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:

Most City of Ames offices will be closed Tuesday, Dec. 24 and Wednesday, Dec. 25. Additionally, most City offices will be closed on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025, for New Year's Day 2025.



PROJECT SHARE PROVIDES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR UTILITIES

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.

Project Share is a program developed by Ames Electric Services to assist low-income customers with winter utility bills. A committee

appointed by the Ames City Council determines the permissible uses of the funds donated to Project Share. The guidelines established by this committee ensure that 100 percent of every contribution is used to assist low-income customers. Last year, Ames Electric Services contributed \$4,195 in staff time



and materials toward the cost of administering this program. Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA) shares in the administration of the program

by determining the eligibility of households for Project Share funds.

Project Share's success is the result of our customers' compassion and

generosity. Through your support, Project Share has provided \$549,483 in assistance to 4,471 households since the program's inception in 1990. Last winter alone, Project Share provided \$21,956 in assistance to 173 households. With your continued generosity, more Ames households will stay safe and warm this winter.

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.

FACILITY UPGRADES WILL IMPROVE WATER DISCHARGE

Work has started on the Nutrient Reduction Modifications project at the Water Pollution Control Facility, 56797 280th St. The \$62-million project enhances and upgrades the existing facility, which treats wastewater from Ames and discharges into the South Skunk River. The renovation project will meet discharge permit obligations adopted by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to reduce nutrients in Iowa waterways.

“Our Water Pollution Control Facility has been recognized for more than 34 years for perfect compliance with our National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit, and we remain committed to protecting public health and the environment,” said Water and Pollution Control Director John Dunn.

The project transitions the facility from an existing trickling filter/solids contact process to a biological nutrient process in two phases over the next 20 years to take advantage of the remaining useful life of the existing facilities.



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.

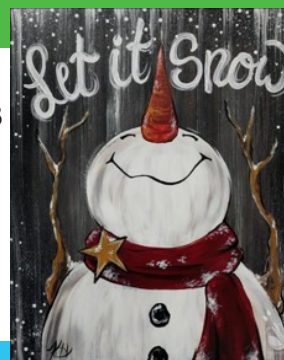
6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10
6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG

HOMWOOD GOLF COURSE

HOMWOOD FOR THE HOLIDAYS: Santa is coming to town, Dec. 7, 9-11 a.m. Crafts, photo opportunities, and donuts and juice provided. Pre-registration is preferred. Ages 3 and older are \$5, children 2 and under are free.

HOLIDAY THEMED PAINTING WITH A TWIST: Instructor led, canvas painting event at the Homewood Golf Course Clubhouse, Dec. 7, 7-9 p.m. Individual registration is \$42, all materials are provided. Adult and non-alcoholic beverages are available for purchase. Register in advance and secure your spot at www.paintingwithatwist.com.



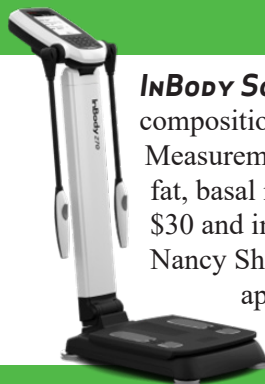
HOMWOOD CLUBHOUSE RENTALS

LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO HOST YOUR HOLIDAY PARTY, SOCIAL EVENT, OR MEETING?
CONTACT NATE PIETZ FOR MORE INFORMATION, 515.239.5363, NATE.PIETZ@CITYOFAMES.ORG.

FITNESS & WELLNESS

ADULT INDOOR VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE (MEN'S, WOMEN'S, CO-ED): Season starts the week of Jan. 20 with an end-of-season tournament in April. Register by Jan. 6.

PERSONAL TRAINING: Purchase packages of five, 10 or 15 sessions, and receive a FREE InBody Scan consultation. Contact Nancy Shaw, 515.239.5353 to begin!



INBODY SCAN: Measure your body composition with InBody Scan. Measurements include muscle mass, body fat, basal metabolic rate and more! Cost is \$30 and includes a consultation. Contact Nancy Shaw at 515.239.5353 to set up an appointment.

AMES/ISU ICE ARENA

HOLIDAY "UGLY SWEATER" SKATE: Kick-off the holiday season at the Ames/ISU Ice Arena, Dec. 18, 5:45-7:45 p.m. All ages welcome. Regular rates apply.

NEW YEAR'S EVE SKATE: Skate in the New Year at the Ames/ISU Ice Arena, Dec. 31, 9 p.m. - midnight. Fun, music, and a New Year's Countdown. All ages welcome. Regular rates apply.

AMES CITY AUDITORIUM

CIRCUS SHOW AT CITY AUDITORIUM: Two showings of Twas the Night Before Christmas: The Circus Holiday Show, Friday, Dec. 20, 6:30 p.m. and Sat. Dec. 21, 2 p.m. Tickets are only \$5 per person! For tickets or more information, contact Craig Kaufman, 515.239.5365, craig.kaufman@cityofames.org.



AQUATICS

SWIM LESSONS: Registration is open for Session 2 of lessons offered at ISU State Pool, Jan. 19 to March 9. Group, private, youth, and adult classes available. Register soon as spots fill quickly!

FIRST AID/CPR/AED CERTIFICATION CLASS (AGES 10+): In-class portion, Dec. 16, 9-11 a.m. Online portion must be completed prior to Dec. 14. \$80 Resident/ \$95 Non-Resident.

UPCOMING AQUATIC CERTIFICATION DATES: Lifeguard Certification, Jan. 3-5; Lifeguard Re-Certification, Jan. 19; Lifeguard Instructor (LGI), Jan. 10-12; Lifeguard Instructor Review (LGI-R), Jan. 18. Individuals must register a minimum one-week prior to the class start date.

BABYSITTER'S COURSE (AGES 11-15): Class held Dec. 28, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. \$65 R/\$80 NR.

HIRING! 2025 FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER STAFF

APPLICATIONS FOR 2025 FURMAN AQUATICS CENTER WILL OPEN ON DEC. 1, 2024, FOR SWIM INSTRUCTORS, WATER SAFETY INSTRUCTORS, LIFEGUARDS, CASHIERS, AND SHIFT LEADERS. APPLY ONLINE AT WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/JOBS.

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

ENERGY Q&A

Is Ames Electric Services ready for electric vehicles? How will you be able to handle all new power needs if all your customers purchase one (or even two) electric vehicles?

Ames Electric Services is excited about electric vehicles (EVs), but it's true that they are going to cause some changes to our business. An EV can use almost as much energy in a year as one of our typical residential customers. So EVs could result in a significant overall increase in the electricity Ames Electric needs to purchase or generate. However, it's very important *when* customers use energy, not just how much they use. I'll give a little background on how our utility currently manages its peak usage and then talk about how EVs could impact the utility.

Ames Electric is a utility that sees its peak energy usage during hot parts of the summer. This increased load is due primarily to the added cooling load, which is on top of all the other uses our customers have for electricity. On a hot summer day, the utility will typically see its peak usage sometime between 2 to 6 p.m. We encourage customers to conserve energy during these peak usage periods because our peak annual load drives a lot of the utility's expenses. Keeping the peak low can help us keep rates low for our customers.

With smart growth in electric use, we can increase the amount

of electricity sold, without increasing our annual peak needs. This will help keep rates low since it better utilizes the existing infrastructure that is sized to meet peak summer demand. On the other hand, if EVs and other new electric equipment creates a large growth in our peak load, the utility may need to make potentially expensive investments in larger wires and other equipment to deliver energy to our customers.



Helping all customers, especially EV owners, shift energy from the peak usage periods will be important for Ames Electric to manage growth in energy sales. Customers with EVs can help by delaying charging until later in the evening. This can be done by programming a car or charger to delay charging until after peak hours.

Are we ready for electric vehicles? Yes. We believe that through smart growth we can add a lot of new EV load to our utility without requiring major investments.

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

AT-A-GLANCE ENERGY NUMBERS FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

37 LED STREETLIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF **6,341**

39,939 MILES OF VEHICLE CHARGING AT PUBLIC ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS

323,886 KILOWATT HOURS OF ENERGY PRODUCED BY SUNSMART AMES SOLAR FARM

RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT

- REFUSE-DERIVED FUEL: **2,075 TONS**

RECYCLING:

- GLASS: **20.22 TONS**
- METALS: **134 TONS**
- FOOD WASTE DIVERSION: **3.5 TONS**
- PLASTIC: **0.96 TONS**
- CARDBOARD: **6.35 TONS**
- MIXED PAPER: **2.33 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
Stormwater Concern	515.239.5160
Rusty Water.....	515.239.5551

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