



# CITYSIDE

**MARCH 2025**

## **'AMES IN FOCUS' PODCAST OFFERS NEW PLATFORM FOR INFORMATION**

To expand options for learning more about programs, services, and issues, the City of Ames invites listeners to explore the new podcast, "Ames in Focus." Every Tuesday, a new episode provides residents and listeners with updates on events, facilities, and programs of interest to those who live, work, or visit Ames.

"Podcasts are a popular and portable way to get educated about a range of local issues," said Bill Gebhart, with City of Ames Communication & Outreach Division and host of Ames in Focus. "We feature City of Ames employees from various departments with a range of expertise about everything from urban



forestry to recycling. We also include elected officials, volunteers, and partner agencies to share information about our community."

On the first episode, Mayor John Haila reflects on his past seven years as the community's leading elected official. Mayor Haila also discusses the successes of 2024 and the priorities for Ames City Council in 2025. Future issues will feature a variety of topics including updates on City programs and upcoming projects.

Episodes of Ames in Focus are available at [www.CityOfAmes.org/podcast](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/podcast) and on most podcast providers, including Spotify, Apple Podcasts, iHeartRadio, and more. Listeners are encouraged to subscribe to Ames in Focus on their favorite podcast platform.

## ***SPRING HYDRANT FLUSHING BEGINS IN MARCH***

Public Works crews will begin flushing rust from water mains beginning Wednesday, March 26, weather permitting, and continuing for approximately two weeks. Flushing typically takes place from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Each year, this program provides Ames residents with the safest and highest quality water possible. Flushing serves the following purposes:

- Dislodges and removes mineral deposits and sediments from the water mains
- Verifies the proper operation of fire hydrants and valves
- Helps identify weaknesses in the water system
- Checks for closed valves and weak flows in the water system

During the flushing process, Ames residents may experience rust in the water, even when crews are not working in the immediate area. To avoid rust, follow these tips:

- Turn on cold water first to check for rust. This avoids drawing it into your hot water heater.
- If the water looks rusty, run the tap for one to two minutes until it clears.

Specific information about the times, dates, and locations of the crews will be posted at [www.CityOfAmes.org](http://www.CityOfAmes.org).



## ***CITY NEWS TO USE***

### ***IN THIS ISSUE:***

- Project Share Helps Those in Need
- Ames Parks and Recreation Notes
- Energy Q&A

### ***AMES PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOK SALE***

Find great deals on thousands of used items, including books, movies, music, and more at the Ames Public Library Book Sale. The spring event will be held from Thursday, March 13, to Sunday, March 16. More details at [www.AmesPublicLibrary.org](http://www.AmesPublicLibrary.org).



## PROJECT SHARE DONATIONS HELP AMES RESIDENTS

The Ames Electric Services Project Share program continues to be a success because of the compassion and generosity of utility customers. This winter season, through December 31, 2024, the program has been able to provide \$5,010 in assistance to 34 households. 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.

The purpose of the Ames Electric Services Project Share program is



to solicit and accept contributions which are used to assist our low-income customers. A committee appointed by the Ames City Council

determines the permissible uses of the funds donated to the Project Share program. The committee has adopted guidelines to ensure that every dollar contributed is used to assist low-income customers.

All expenses incurred administering the program are covered by Ames Electric Services as a donation in-kind. Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA) assists the City of Ames in the administration of the program by determining eligibility of applicants for Project Share funds.

### Please Consider a 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

### 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. March 11**  
**6 p.m. March 20** (Special meeting,  
Property Tax Hearing)  
**6 p.m. March 25**

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

## YOUTH & ADULT SPORTS

**TENNIS LESSONS (GRADES 1-6 & ADULT):** Saturday mornings, March 29-April 26, at the Ames Fitness Center South Tennis Bubble. Register by March 22. Open to all skill levels.

**LITTLE TENNIS LESSONS (AGES 3-5):** Parent/child lessons are held on Tuesday evenings, March 25-April 22, at the Ames Fitness Center South Tennis Bubble. Register by March 18.

**SPRING BREAK TENNIS CAMP (GRADES 1-6):** Learn the game of tennis, March 17-20, at the Ames Fitness Center South Tennis Bubble. Register by March 10.

**KIDDIE KICKERS (AGES 5-6):** Monday & Wednesday, 5:30-6:30 p.m., March 31-May 7. Register by March 24.

**START SMART SOCCER (AGES 3-5):** This parent/child class is held Tuesday evenings, beginning April 1 at Emma McCarthy Lee Park. Register by March 25.

**YOUTH CO-ED SPRING SOCCER LEAGUE (GRADES 1-6):** Youth soccer offers three divisions: 1-2 Grade, 3-4 Grade, & 5-6 Grade. Practices begin March 24. Register by March 3.

**ADULT SUMMER SOFTBALL LEAGUES (MEN'S & CO-ED):** Season begins the week of April 21 with a tournament ending in July. Register by Sunday, April 6.

**YOUTH VOLLEYBALL CAMP:** Ames High volleyball team, coaches will lead camp on Sundays, March 30-May 11 at AHS Gym. Register by March 23.

**VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED! CONTACT BEN FLAHERTY, BEN.FLAHERTY@CITYOFAMES.ORG**  
**HIRING: SOCCER REFEREES & SOFTBALL UMPIRES. TO APPLY: WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/JOBS.**

## FITNESS & WELLNESS

**TAE KWON DO (AGES 5 & UP):** Eight-week session begins March 4.

**PERSONAL TRAINING/PILATES REFORMER TRAINING:** For more information, contact Nancy Shaw, 515.239.5353 or nancy.shaw@cityofames.org.

**YOGA BASICS:** Four-week session begins March 23, Sunday evenings at 6 p.m.

**WEST COAST SWING:** Open style dance class, no partner is necessary! Beginner and intermediate classes on Monday evenings, starting March 24.

**DYNAMIC AGING:** Geared to those 50+. Regain your balance, increase mobility and reduce pain. Class meets at Sixty Forward Center, Tuesday mornings beginning March 25.

## AMES CITY AUDITORIUM

**AMES CITY AUDITORIUM:** For upcoming shows and events, follow Ames City Auditorium and Durham Bandshell on Facebook, or contact Craig Kaufman, craig.kaufman@cityofames.org, 515.239.5365.

## HOMWOOD GOLF COURSE

**HOMWOOD SEASON PASSES & PUNCH CARDS:**

Contact the Clubhouse at 515.239.5363 or Community Center at 515.239.5350 to purchase.

**HOMWOOD GOLF COURSE OPENING DAY:** Tuesday, April 1 (weather permitting).

## AMES/ISU ICE ARENA

**SPRING BREAK CAMP:** This five-day camp runs from March 17-21. Select a few days or attend the whole week. Each day, camp will be from 8 a.m. to noon. Email abigail.nelson@cityofames.org for more information. Register at [www.AmesParkRec.org](http://www.AmesParkRec.org).

**EGG HUNT AT THE AMES/ISU ICE ARENA:** Hunt eggs on Saturday, April 19, 12:30-1:30 p.m., Public Skate immediately following! Ages 4-12 will be broken into groups to collect eggs on the ice. Register at [www.AmesParkRec.org](http://www.AmesParkRec.org).

## AQUATICS

**INDOOR SWIMMING LESSONS (AGES 6+):** Begins March 30. Register today!

**2025 FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER SEASON PASSES:** Purchase now through May 1. Passes purchased before May 1 receive a 10% discount.

**LIFEGUARD CERTIFICATION COURSE:** March 19-21, 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. at ISU State Gym.

**LIFEGUARD INSTRUCTOR CLASS (LGI):** March 19-21, 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. at ISU State Gym.

**LIFEGUARD INSTRUCTOR RECERTIFICATION CLASS:**

March 2 & March 9, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at ISU State Gym.

**ADULT AND PEDIATRIC CPR/AED/FIRST AID CLASS:**

Two classes available, March 8 & April 12, 8:30 a.m.-11 a.m. at Homewood Golf Course.

**BABYSITTING TRAINING COURSE (AGES 11-15):**

March 17 & April 5, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at Homewood Golf Course.

**FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER IS HIRING! APPLY TODAY AT [WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/JOBS](http://WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/JOBS)**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER VISIT [WWW.AMESPARKREC.ORG](http://WWW.AMESPARKREC.ORG) OR CALL 515.239.5350.**

# ENERGY Q&A

**Q: I've made several energy-efficient investments to my home this past year. Other than Smart Energy rebates, are there other incentives I should consider?**

**A:** That's a great question and especially timely. It's everyone's favorite time of the year again—tax season! If you made any energy-efficient upgrades to your home or vehicle in 2024, now is the time to check if they qualify for tax credits. The federal government provides tax credits for the following energy efficiency investments:

## **Vehicle:**

- New Electric Vehicle (EV) – Up to \$7,500
- Used Electric Vehicle (EV) – Up to \$4,000

## **Home:**

- Heat Pump Air Conditioner/Heater – Up to \$2,000
- Heat Pump Water Heater – Up to \$2,000
- Weatherization/Insulation – Up to \$1,200
- Geothermal Heating Installation – 30% of qualifying costs (no cap on geothermal tax credits)

## **Power:**

- Rooftop Solar Installation – 30% of qualifying costs
- Battery Storage Installation – 30% of qualifying costs
- Electrical Panel Upgrade – Up to \$600

If you are wondering about your eligibility for tax credits, requirements depend on the improvement made and generally include:

- Meeting specific energy efficiency standards.
- Providing proof of purchase and installation.
- Completing the upgrades between Jan. 1, 2024 and Dec. 31, 2024.
- Some tax credits are only for improvements to your primary residence.



For a full list of the requirements, visit the IRS Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit website or Rewiring America: [www.rewiringamerica.org/calculator](http://www.rewiringamerica.org/calculator). To claim these credits, fill out IRS Form 5695, "Residential Energy Credits" and/or Form 8936, "Clean Vehicle Credit" when you file your tax return.

If you're feeling unsure about how to file for these credits, a tax professional can help you understand what qualifies and guide you through the process. In the end, it's important to get the credit you deserve!

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

## RENEWABLE ENERGY NUMBERS FOR DECEMBER 2024

**52** LED STREETLIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF **6,439**

**43,827** MILES OF VEHICLE CHARGING AT PUBLIC ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS

**119,183** KILOWATT HOURS OF ENERGY PRODUCED BY SUNSMART AMES SOLAR FARM

## RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT

- REFUSE-DERIVED FUEL: **1,613 TONS**

## RECYCLING:

- GLASS: **17.09 TONS**
- METALS: **79.86 TONS**
- FOOD WASTE DIVERSION: **13 TONS**
- PLASTIC: **.64 TONS**
- CARDBOARD: **10.27 TONS**
- MIXED PAPER: **4.7 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

City Side is a publication of the City of Ames, Iowa  
 Editor: Susan Gwiasda, Communication and Outreach  
 515 Clark Ave. • Ames, IA 50010  
 Phone: 515.239.5204 • [www.CityOfAmes.org](http://www.CityOfAmes.org)

