



CITYSIDE

MAY 2025

AMES ANIMAL SHELTER SEEKS FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR NEW FACILITY

Exciting progress is underway for the Ames Animal Shelter! The vision of a new facility is even closer to reality with the recent purchase of property at 2715 Dayton Ave., the former location of Eagle's Loft Early Learning Center. Community support will be essential to make this transformative project a success.

The cost of the project is estimated at \$8 million. The Ames City Council has allocated \$3 million, and private donors have contributed an additional \$3 million. The Shelter is seeking to close the funding gap through financial donations.

Ames Animal Shelter employees and volunteers have always provided compassionate care for lost, abandoned,

injured, and surrendered animals at the current facility at 325 Billy Sunday Road. However, its small size no longer meets growing demand for space and creates challenges for disease control and appropriate animal housing. The new building will significantly expand functional space through a thoughtfully designed shelter focused on enhancing animal welfare. It will feature a dedicated annex for dogs, improved medical areas, and specialized spaces to reduce stress and promote well-being for every animal in its care.

The Ames Animal Shelter remains steadfast in its commitment to operating



as a No Kill shelter. Staff dedication to progressive, responsible animal welfare has allowed the shelter to place over 98% of animals into loving homes or reunite them with owners. The team works diligently with rescue groups, provides resources to pet owners to prevent unnecessary surrenders, and offers 24/7 lost and found pet reporting.

Donate or learn more at:
www.AmesAnimalShelter.org.

JOIN THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL BIKE RIDE PLANNED FOR MAY 10

If warmer weather means getting out on your bicycle, you'll want to put these dates on your calendar. Ames Mayor John Haila and the Ames City Council are hosting two biking events suitable for all ages.

The annual Mayor and City Council Bike Ride will begin at Ames City Hall, 515 Clark Ave., at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 10. Bikers should gather in the west parking lot. Bicyclists of all ages and experience levels are welcome to join the ride. There is no pre-registration necessary



or cost to participate. Bike helmets are strongly encouraged. Watch the City of Ames website (www.CityOfAmes.org) for more information, a route map, and how to get involved!

"I look forward to this annual bike ride every year," said Mayor Haila. "It's a terrific way to celebrate the many benefits of bicycling and enjoy the sights of our city. We vary the route each year so we can explore different parts of Ames."

Additionally, Ames City Hall will serve as the kick-off location for the Bike To Work Week Breakfast as part of National Bike Month. Join the Ames City Council and City staff for a free light breakfast from 7 to 9 a.m. on Monday, May 12.

CITY NEWS TO USE

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Water, Sewer Rate Increase
- Rebates Available for Conservation Projects
- Parks & Recreation Notes
- Energy Q&A

MEMORIAL DAY ON MONDAY, MAY 26

A Memorial Day parade is planned at 10:15 a.m., followed by a presentation at the Ames Municipal Cemetery at 11 a.m. In case of rain, the parade will be canceled, and the program will move indoors. Also, City Hall and most City offices will be closed. Details will be posted at www.CityOfAmes.org.



CITY OF
Ames™

WATER, SEWER RATES TO INCREASE IN JULY

Utility rates are anticipated to increase this summer, but there are things to do to make the higher rates less noticeable. Customers can expect a 3.5% increase in



water rates and a 5.5% increase in sewer rates effective for bills due on and after July 1, 2025.

The water rate increase is a reflection of

on-going operating costs and planned improvements. Major tasks in the next fiscal year include:

- A series of projects that increase the resiliency of the Water Utility to natural disasters by providing redundant power and equipment
- A renovation of the decades-old Technical Services Complex that is home to the Water Meter and Laboratory Services Divisions
- The continuation of an ongoing project to replace old, undersized water mains

The sewer rate increase will help finance planned

necessary improvements for the sewer utility, including:

- The completion of a \$62-million upgrade of the Water Pollution Control Facility to increase its nutrient removal capabilities and provide additional capacity for future growth in Ames
- A project to expand the Water Pollution Control Facility's ability to accept hauled waste from sources such as septic tanks, restaurant grease traps, and industrial wastewater
- The routine rehabilitation of the sewer collection system throughout the city

To minimize the impact, customers are encouraged to use City rebates and practice conservation. Reducing water use not only saves on the cost of water but on sewer as well. That is because for most customers, your sewer bill is based on your water usage. Regularly inspect your property and repair any leaks quickly.

Water use outdoors can be a great place to save. Inspect irrigation systems for frozen or broken lines and make sure heads are only delivering water to plantings that need water. Consider investing in a rain barrel to help with your outdoor watering and converting traditional turf into low impact, native plantings that need less water. (Read more ideas below!)

REBATES HELP REDUCE WATER USAGE

Are you considering upgrading your landscape? The SmartWatersheds cost-share program reimburses for native trees, native landscaping, lawn quality restoration, rain gardens, rain barrels, and composters.

Besides enhancing your landscape, you will reduce stormwater runoff and improve water quality of our waterways. You will also create habitat and food sources for pollinators and wildlife. These rebates can save natural resources, but they can also save money by reducing water bills. Planting trees can provide shade that over time can reduce electric bills.

For more information and applications go to www.CityOfAmes.org/Smartwatersheds. For questions, contact Stormwater Analyst Liz Calhoun at liz.calhoun@cityofames.org or 515.239.5575.



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. May 13
6 p.m. May 27

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/CCMEETINGS

FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER

OPENING DAY IS MAY 24!

PURCHASE YOUR SEASON PASS AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER OR BY CALLING 515.239.5350.

FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER IS HIRING!!! Apply today at www.CityOfAmes.org/Jobs and join the team!

ADULT & PEDIATRIC CPR/FIRST AID/AED: May 7 (6-8:30 p.m.) at Homewood Golf Course.

LIFEGUARD RECERTIFICATION CLASS: May 18 & 25 (8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.).



HOMWOOD GOLF COURSE

HOMWOOD GOLF COURSE IS OPEN! BOOK TEE TIMES AT WWW.AMESPARKREC.ORG.



COUPLES/PAIRS GOLF LEAGUE: Tuesdays, April 29-July 29. Register by April 22.

MENS GOLF LEAGUE: Looking to join the sub-list for Mens League? Contact Nate Pietz. League runs Mondays at 6 p.m., April 21-Aug. 25.

MOTHER'S DAY OUTING AT HOMWOOD: May 11. Moms play FREE with a paid family member from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

RENTAL: Clubhouse rentals available for events, meetings, and outings. Contact Nate Pietz at nate.pietz@cityofames.org or 515.239.5363.

YOUTH & ADULT SPORTS

ADULT PICKLEBALL LEAGUE: Begins the week of May 6. Register by May 1. Leagues on Tuesday and Thursday evenings or Wednesday mornings.

TAE KWON DO (ALL AGES): New session starts May 13

FITNESS & WELLNESS

SUMMER FITNESS SESSIONS: May 19-June 29 & June 30-Aug. 10. Details at www.AmesParkRec.org.

EXTREME OUTDOOR BOOTCAMP: Tuesdays at various Ames parks, 5:30-6:15 p.m., starting May 20.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Parks & Rec offers scholarships for recreation programs and season swim passes. Call 515.239.5350 or visit www.AmesParkRec.org for details.

MIRACLE LEAGUE



MIRACLE LEAGUE (5+): A non-competitive baseball league for youth and adults with special needs. Starts May 10. Register at www.AmesParkRec.org or call 515.539.5350.

Parks & Recreation is seeking Miracle League Volunteer Buddies to assist players. Contact Alex Krook at 515.239.5358 or alex.krook@cityofames.org.

AMES/ISU ICE ARENA: CLOSED FOR ANNUAL MAINTENANCE APRIL 30 - MAY 31. CHECK WWW.AMESPARKREC.ORG/PRCALENDARS FOR UPDATES!

**REGISTRATION & INFORMATION: WWW.AMESPARKREC.ORG
PARKS & RECREATION: 515.239.5350 | COMMUNITY CENTER: 515 CLARK AVE.**

ENERGY Q&A

Q: I'm an Ames Electric Services customer. What are the different options for purchasing solar energy? Are there local Ames solar installers? If I'm unsure about purchasing my own system, what can I do to support renewable energy?

A: Ames Electric Services provides customers with numerous opportunities to learn about and install solar home systems. Solar panel technology has drastically evolved over the last 30 years, and that has made solar energy an increasingly important and accessible way for individuals to commit to sustainable energy. Ames Electric Services customers have several ways to pursue solar technology for their homes.

Resources are available on the City of Ames website to assist in planning a solar installation. Among these is a list of reliable solar installers in the Ames area, federal and state incentives, and rebates (\$100 per kW of the system size) for Ames Electric Services customers.

Residents looking for options in place of a home solar installation should consider purchasing energy shares or "Power Packs" from the SunSmart Ames Community Solar Project. Owners of Power Packs receive monthly credits on their utility bill. Bill credits are based on the actual solar energy production from the solar farm. Each Power Pack provides up to a \$3 credit per month.

The community solar farm is located just south of Highway 30, and is capable of producing up to two megawatts of energy. Power Packs are still available for purchase at www.CityOfAmes.org/solar.

Fun fact from SunSmart Ames Community Solar Project: After an amazingly successful summer of 2024, sheep will again return to the solar farm in the summer months

to graze. Through targeted grazing efforts, the City reduced fossil fuel use associated with mowing the area. Additionally, by collaborating with researchers at Iowa State University's Department of Entomology, the site hosted honey bees, which served as a pollinator habitat and provided ISU researchers with honey!

As more solar infrastructure is installed around Ames, residents will benefit from diverse programs and targeted incentives to increase renewable energy generation throughout Ames.



RENEWABLE ENERGY NUMBERS

FOR FEBRUARY 2025

52	LED STREETLIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF 6,515
41,505	MILES OF VEHICLE CHARGING AT PUBLIC ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS
175,163	KILOWATT HOURS OF ENERGY PRODUCED BY SUNSMART AMES SOLAR FARM

RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT

- REFUSE-DERIVED FUEL: **1,447 TONS**

RECYCLING:

- GLASS: **18.87 TONS**
- METALS: **80.4 TONS**
- FOOD WASTE DIVERSION: **6.25 TONS**
- CARDBOARD: **5.75 TONS**
- MIXED PAPER: **3.75 TONS**
- PLASTICS: **1.33 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
Storm Water Concern.....	515.239.5160
Rusty Water.....	515.239.5551

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