

# CITYSIDE

September 2026



## STRONG LAUNCH FOR RECYCLING!

The City of Ames' new residential curbside recycling program is off to a great start! Since launching in July, residents have been filling their blue carts and helping divert recyclable materials from the waste stream.



Remember to place only accepted items in your blue cart: paper, cardboard, metal cans, glass containers, and No. 1 and No. 2 plastic bottles and containers. Plastic bags are not accepted. If you have questions or need to confirm your collection day, visit [www.CityOfAmes.org/recycling](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/recycling).

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS



**CITY HALL AND MOST CITY OF AMES OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, SEPT. 7 FOR THE LABOR DAY HOLIDAY.**



## SCHAINKER PLAZA, FITCH AQUATIC CENTER TO FEATURE ROOFTOP SOLAR PANELS

Two of Ames' newest community gathering spaces are about to get even greener. The Fitch Family Indoor Aquatic Center and Steven L. Schainker Plaza are going solar!

A total of 527 solar panels will be installed on the roof tops of the two facilities, creating a combined 231-kilowatt renewable energy system. Over the next 25 years, the solar arrays are expected to save the City nearly \$500,000 in utility costs while significantly reducing environmental impacts.

The project will cut greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 158 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent each year. That is the equivalent of taking approximately 37 gasoline-powered vehicles off the road annually.

Installation at the Aquatic Center is expected to be completed by the end of 2026. Installation on the

restroom facility at Schainker Plaza is scheduled for spring 2027.



### COME PLAY AT THE PLAZA!

Cool off and have fun at the splash pad at Schainker Plaza, east of City Hall, 515 Clark Ave. Water jets and playful sprays create the perfect spot for kids to play. Water features are available from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. through Labor Day, and possibly longer depending on weather. No cost.

## ROOSEVELT PARK HOSTS FINAL 'ROAD TRIP'

The City of Ames is bringing community fun directly to local neighborhoods this summer with the last of four "Neighborhood Connections Road Trip Stops" planned across the community. The final stop is from 4 to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 23 at Roosevelt Park, 905 Ninth St.

Residents of all ages are invited to stop by, meet neighbors, connect with City staff and elected officials, and enjoy a relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere filled with activities, equipment displays, snacks, and more. The event is designed to help residents learn more about City services while having fun close to home.

# CITY NEWS

## JAPANESE YOUTH DELEGATION TO VISIT

For more than 30 years, Ames and Koshu City have enjoyed a partner city relationship built on friendship, cultural exchange, and a shared commitment to learning from one another. The connection is facilitated by the Ames



International Partner Cities Association (AIPCA). While AIPCA is not an official City board, four delegates are appointed by the Mayor and the organization receives City funding.

During the summer, Ames Middle School students traveled to Japan, and a delegation of students from Koshu City will visit Ames from Sept. 17 - 22.

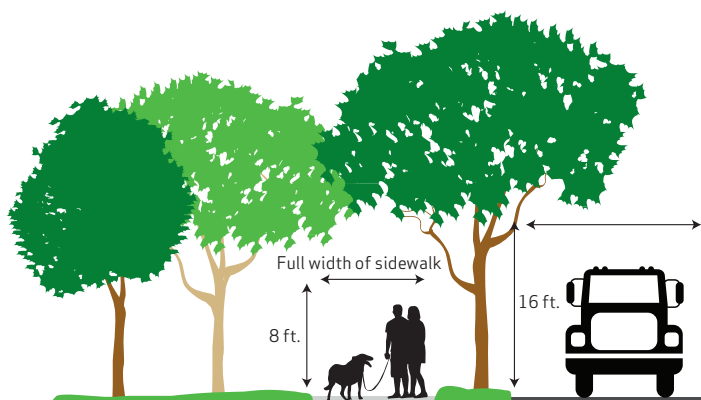
Through student exchanges and community connections, residents of both cities have had opportunities to experience each other's traditions, education systems, and daily life, fostering relationships that span generations and continents.

During the Japanese youth delegation visit, guests are paired with Ames families. The students will learn more about the community by visiting local schools, City Hall, and exploring Ames and central Iowa attractions.

## REMEMBER TO KEEP VEGETATION TRIMMED

Alleys, streets, and sidewalks get a lot of use, and they serve as vital transportation routes. While these areas are owned by the City of Ames, the adjacent property owners have some responsibility for maintenance. During the warmer months, vegetation control is a particular concern.

To help keep alleys, streets, and sidewalks safe and accessible, property owners should remember their maintenance responsibilities. Trees, shrubs, vines, and other vegetation must be trimmed so they do not extend into the sidewalk, street, or alley. If vegetation extends into a street or alley, it must provide



at least 16 feet of clearance above the surface. Trees in the area between the curb and sidewalk will be trimmed by the City, but trees from private property must be maintained by property owners.

If you have questions about maintenance responsibilities, please contact the City of Ames Inspection Division at 515.239.5153 or email [inspections@cityofames.org](mailto:inspections@cityofames.org).

## COUNCIL MEETINGS

City Council meetings are held in City Hall City Council Chambers, 515 Clark Ave., and streamed via City of Ames Facebook, and YouTube.

### Meetings:

- 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 8
- 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 22

## SAVE THE DATE: ECOFAIR IS COMING!

For Ames residents interested in learning more about sustainability, energy and water conservation, improving water quality, creating pollinator habitat, and reducing your carbon footprint, the EcoFair has the answers.



CITY OF AMES  
**ECOFAIR**

On Saturday, Oct. 17, the west parking lot of City Hall, 515 Clark Ave., will be filled with booths, vendors, activities, and displays focusing on these topics and more! The event will run from 9 a.m. to noon.



The EcoFair will provide a broad array of conservation information featuring displays about the City of Ames' EcoSmart programs, which include electricity, water, watersheds, and trash. New vendors and organizations from around the community will be participating in the event.

There will be activities specifically targeted at younger participants, a display of City vehicles, and an electric car display. This sustainability-focused event is free and educational.

# PARKS & RECREATION

## YOUTH AND ADULT ACTIVITIES

**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 1.

**Start Smart Soccer (Parent/Child):** Instructor led drills and games to introduce the fundamentals of soccer, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Session begins Sept 1.

**Kiddie Kickers Soccer:** Instructors lead volunteer coaches and teams through practices and drills. Participants will play games in the second half of the season. Session starts Aug. 31.

**Indoor Fall Volleyball League (Men's, Women's, Co-Ed):** League games will start the week of Sept. 21 with an end of season tournament in December. Games are played at the Community Center Gymnasium.

**Dance & Gymnastics (Ages 3-9+):** All skill levels starting the week of Sept. 8.

**Become a Youth Dance and Gymnastics Instructor!** Share skills, build confidence, turn your passion into purpose! Apply at [www.CityOfAmes.org/Jobs](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/Jobs).

## BANDSHELL

**Free Movie Night:** Mark your calendars for the Free Movie Night at Bandshell Park, Friday, Sept. 4. The movie will begin at 8:15 p.m. Bring a blanket or chair and enjoy a family-friendly movie to celebrate the end of summer!

## AQUATICS

**Fitch Family Indoor Aquatic Center:** Open swim and other programming beginning Sept. 8. View the schedule online at [www.AmesParkRec.org](http://www.AmesParkRec.org).

**Swim Lessons:** All levels, 6 months to adult at Fitch Family Indoor Aquatic Center. Classes on Tues./Th. start Sept. 15 and classes on Saturdays begin Oct. 3.

**Babysitting Class (ages 11-15):** Takes place at Fitch Family Indoor Aquatic Center, Fri., Sept. 25 4 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 26 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required at least one week prior to the start of the class.

**Adult and Pediatric First Aid and CPR Class:** Takes place at Fitch Family Indoor Aquatic Center Saturday, Sept. 26, 8:30 - 11 a.m. There is an online portion to complete prior to the in-person skills class. Pre-registration is required at least one week prior to the start of the class.

**Lifeguard Certification Class:** Class times are 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Fri., Sept. 18; 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sat., Sept. 19; and 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sun., Sept. 20. There is an online portion to complete prior to the first day of class. Pre-registration is required at least one week prior to the start of the class.

## AMES/ISU ICE ARENA

**Ames/ISU Ice Arena:** Public Skate, Private Rentals, Birthday Parties, and more! Check out the schedule at [www.AmesParkRec.org](http://www.AmesParkRec.org)!

## HIRING:

Fitch Family Indoor Aquatic Center is hiring for lifeguards, swim instructors, and shift leads. Flexible schedules morning, daytime, and evening. Apply at [www.CityOfAmes.org/Jobs](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/Jobs).

## HOMEWOOD GOLF COURSE

**Painting with a Twist:** Join us on Saturday, Sept. 26, 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.



## FITNESS & WELLNESS

**West Coast Swing:** Open style dance class; no experience or partner is necessary. Beginner and Intermediate classes offered, Monday evenings, Sept. 14 - Oct. 19.

**Healthy Foot:** This class can help you alleviate or prevent foot pain associated with bunions, hammer toe, plantar fasciitis. Open to all ages! Class on Thursday mornings, Sept. 10 - Oct. 1.

**Dynamic Aging:** This class teaches participants how to regain their balance, increase mobility, maintain their ability to drive, and reduce pain throughout their bodies. Class on Tuesdays, Oct. 6 - Nov. 24.

**Beginner Line Dance:** Learn the basics starting with the favorite "Electric Slide". No partners required and no experience needed. Monday evenings, Sept. 14 - Oct. 19.

# ENERGY Q & A

**Q: What does a new power plant mean for the City of Ames?**



A. Ames Electric services has started the planning process for the new Ames Municipal Energy Center (AMEC), a major infrastructure investment expected to be completed in 2031. In replacing the current power plant with a new power generating facility, the City maintains three key priorities:

**Affordability:** The power plant will house three reciprocating internal combustion engines (RICE units). These units have the capability of ramping up to full capacity in less than five minutes, allowing the utility to hedge against high grid prices and ensuring generating costs remain as low as possible. In addition, the RICE units, which will also be fueled by natural gas, are expected to operate 30% more efficiently than our current generation process, reducing the plant's fuel costs.

**Sustainability:** With the efficiency of our new units alone, excluding future renewable projects, it is estimated to reduce the carbon footprint of the City's electricity generation by 20.5%. This is a substantial achievement for the department and a step forward for the Climate Action Plan.

**Reliability:** The new generating facility improves reliability to Ames' customers during storms and other emergencies. RICE units can start up within a matter of minutes, as opposed to the current turbines that take upwards of 12 hours. This short response time means they can quickly provide critical backup during outages, peak demand hours, and other potential power disruptions. The technology behind the RICE units is less complex, which helps reduce equipment downtime.

The department has contracted Sargent & Lundy to assist with the project design and procurement. The power plant will be built on the former coal yard site, southeast of the existing power plant. Once complete, AMEC will be a monumental step for local energy generation that will serve the Ames community for decades. For details, go to [www.CityOfAmes.org/AMEC](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/AMEC).

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## RENEWABLE ENERGY NUMBERS JUNE 2026

**AMES ELECTRIC:**  
21 LED streetlights installed for a total of 6,916

**36,546 Miles of vehicle charging at public electric charging stations**

**301,271 Kilowatt Hours of energy produced by SunSmart Ames solar farm**

**RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT:**  
Refuse-Derived Fuel:  
**833 Tons**

**RECYCLING**  
Glass: **12.4 Tons**  
Metals: **44.5 Tons**  
Cardboard: **10.1 Tons**  
Mixed Paper: **7.8 Tons**  
Plastics: **2.13 Tons**  
Food Waste Diversion: **5.25 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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