

CITYSIDE

October 2026



YARD WASTE DAYS PLANNED FOR FALL

The City of Ames will offer four

No-Charge
Yard Waste
Days this
fall. Final
dates are
still being
confirmed.



Please visit
www.CityOfAmes.org/YardWaste
for the latest information on
dates, hours, accepted materials,
and the drop-off location.

The schedule will include one
Saturday in October and three
Saturdays in November. Leaves
will be accepted on all four dates,
and one date will include brush.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**Due to an Iowa
State home
football game
on Halloween,
the official
night for trick-or-treating
in Ames will be Friday,
Oct. 30.**



**The recommended hours
are from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.**



CELEBRATE SUSTAINABILITY AT THE ECOFAIR ON SATURDAY, OCT. 17

The sustainability-themed EcoFair will return to City Hall, 515 Clark Ave., from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Oct. 17, in the west parking lot. Learn about City rebates, programs, and services that encourage conservation and lower your carbon footprint.



conservation programs including electricity, water, watershed, and trash. There will also be an electric car display. Participants can learn more about the residential curbside recycling program, and,

the self-service glass, cardboard, plastic, paper, and food disposal options that are still available at the Resource Recovery Plant.

Activities are planned for all ages. Please join us for this free, fun, educational event!

FIRE STATION OPEN HOUSE SET FOR OCT. 10

The Ames Fire Department's Annual Open House presents the perfect opportunity to learn how Ames firefighters keep our community safe, and residents can learn important fire safety skills. The event is planned for Saturday, Oct. 10, at Fire Station No. 1, 1300 Burnett Ave.



The event will begin with a Sensory Friendly Hour from 8 to 9 a.m. for a quieter, low stimulation experience. From 9 a.m. to noon, everyone is welcome to join the activities.

The Open House is a free, all-ages event packed with safety demonstrations, hands-on learning, and plenty of fun. In recognition of National Fire Prevention Week, this event provides knowledge and tools to prevent emergencies and respond confidently if one occurs.

Some of the activities planned include spraying a fire hose at a house prop, touring emergency vehicles, meeting a paramedic, trying out fire safety games, exploring the interactive Hazard House, learning "Stop, Drop, and Roll" and fire extinguisher basics, and discovering how 911 works with a real dispatcher.

CITY NEWS

PARKS & RECREATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND ASSISTS WITH REGISTRATION FEES

Ames Parks & Recreation is committed to making recreation opportunities accessible to all families through its Parks & Recreation Scholarship Fund. The program helps reduce financial barriers by assisting eligible residents with registration fees for a variety of youth programs and seasonal swimming passes.

"Every child deserves the chance to learn, play, and build confidence through recreation," said Courtney Kort, Recreation Superintendent. "These scholarships help ensure that cost isn't a barrier to participating in activities that promote health, friendships, and lifelong memories. We're grateful to everyone who supports this program and helps make those opportunities possible."

Scholarships are available for Ames residents whose household income meets eligibility guidelines established by Mid-Iowa Community

Action (MICA). Youth ages 4 to 13 may receive up to \$60 in scholarship assistance each calendar year, with families paying 50% of the registration fee and the scholarship covering the remaining 50%.

Eligible activities include basketball, dance, golf, gymnastics, soccer, group swim lessons, T-ball, tae kwon do, tennis, volleyball, and youth summer camp. Scholarships are also available for seasonal swimming passes for qualifying individuals and families.

To learn more about supporting the fund, contact Courtney Kort at courtney.kort@cityofames.org or call 515.239.5357.



CITY HALL INCLUDED IN HISTORY TOUR

The Ames Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), in partnership with Downtown Ames, The Ames Foundation, Ames History Museum, and the Old Town Neighborhood Association, will host the "A Glimpse Inside" history tour from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17. This free, self-guided tour features Ames City Hall and 10 other historic homes, businesses, and public buildings in and near Downtown Ames.



"Visitors can start at any location, pick up a map, and explore at their own pace," said Sharon Wirth, Glimpse Inside chairperson. "Each stop highlights how historic spaces have been thoughtfully adapted to meet today's needs while preserving their unique character."

The event is funded through the Historic Preservation Commission, local sponsors, and private donors, and organized by community volunteers. The list of tour locations will be posted at www.CityOfAmes.org.

R3C CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES

Progress is evident on Freel Drive as construction of the Resource Recovery and Recycling Campus (R3C) moves forward. The facility represents a major investment in waste management and recycling.

The new facility will replace the Resource Recovery Plant, which has served Ames for decades. Designed to improve efficiency, recover more recyclable materials, and provide a more sustainable approach to solid waste management, the R3C will help meet the community's needs for years to come.

Site grading, stormwater improvements, and utility installation have been completed. Crews are focusing on constructing the pre-engineered metal building, which will enclose the office and processing areas. As the exterior building begins to take shape, it will allow for a transition into interior work as the weather cools.



COUNCIL MEETINGS

City Council meetings are in City Hall City Council Chambers, 515 Clark Ave., and live on City of Ames Facebook, and YouTube.

6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13
6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27

PARKS & RECREATION

HIRING:

Parks & Rec is Hiring.
Search and apply at www.CityOfAmes.org/Jobs.

YOUTH AND ADULT ACTIVITIES

Mini Dribblers (Grades K-2):

Introductory program to introduce the basic skills of basketball. Offered Tuesday and Thursday nights, Oct. 13-Nov. 19.

Big Shooters (Grades K-2): This program prepares youth for the 3-4 grade basketball league. Offered Tuesday and Thursday nights, Oct. 13-Nov. 19.

3-4 Grade Basketball League:

Register by Oct. 12. Skills Assessment, Nov. 3. Practices begin the week of Nov. 16. Games begin Dec. 5.

5-6 Grade Basketball League:

Register by Oct. 5. Skills Assessment, Oct. 8. Practices begin the week of Oct. 19. Games begin Oct. 31.

Youth & Adult Tennis Lessons:

Classes are available for youth (grades 1-6) and adult (16+) participants of all skill levels on Monday and Saturday mornings Oct. 10-Nov. 9.

Little Tennis (Ages 3-5): Parent/Child program lead by tennis professionals. Learn the basics of tennis in a fun environment. Sessions are Tuesday evenings, Oct. 6-Nov. 3.

Youth Dance (Ages 2-7+): Varying levels of ballet, hip hop, and tap. Session begins Oct. 27-Dec. 12.

Youth Tumbling (Ages 2-5): Varying levels to develop skills and learn the fundamentals of tumbling. Session begins Oct. 27-Dec. 12.

Gymnastics I, II, III (Ages 5+):

Advance your skills through various levels. Session begins Oct. 26-Dec. 10.

Men's & Women's Adult Basketball Leagues (Ages 17+):

A, B, C levels offered. Registration and roster deadline Oct. 4. Season begins Oct. 26, games on Sunday and Wednesday evenings.

Tae Kwon Do (all levels): New session begins Oct. 18-Dec. 13 throughout the week.

AQUATICS

***All classes/programs below take place at Fitch Family Indoor Aquatic Center.**

Lifeguard Re-Certification Class:

Class on Oct. 7 & Oct. 8, 4:30-9:30 p.m. Register by Sept. 30.

Babysitting Class (Ages 11-16):

American Red Cross training course provides youth skills to babysit, with safety and CPR skills. Class is Oct. 23 (4:30-8:30 p.m.) and Oct. 24 (8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.)

Princess Party: Swim with your favorite princess or mermaid, Saturday, Oct. 10 No pre-registration required, \$30 for residents/\$35 non-residents.

American Red Cross CPR

Certification Class (ages 10+):

Course will focus on First Aid, Adult and Pediatric CPR. This class meets OSHA workplace, foster care, and childcare worker requirements. Online portion required prior to the class date, Saturday, Oct. 17 from 8-11 a.m.

FITNESS & WELLNESS

Fitness Classes: Upcoming sessions are Oct. 5-Nov. 15 and Nov. 16-Dec. 23. View the schedule of classes at www.AmesParkRec.org.

Fitness Classes at Sixty Forward

Center: Upcoming session dates, Oct. 5-Nov. 15 and Nov. 16-Dec. 23. Go to www.AmesParkRec.org to view the schedule!

Intro To Cycle: New class being offered Oct. 5-Nov 15. Learn the cycle class basics before joining one of our Cycle Strength or Cycle Interval classes.

Line Dance: Open style dance with no experience necessary. Every Monday, Nov. 2-Dec. 7.

West Coast Swing: Learn the basics or take the intermediate course! Every Monday, Nov. 2-Dec. 7.

Dynamic Aging: Class geared to those 60+ to regain balance, increase mobility, and more! Held at the Community Center, Oct. 5-Nov. 26. Registration required in advance.

HOMWOOD GOLF COURSE

Euchre & Cribbage Leagues: Euchre on Mondays, 6-7:30 p.m., and Cribbage on Wednesdays, 10-11:30 a.m. or 6-7:30 p.m. Begins the week of Nov. 2.

Homewood Golf Course: Final day of golf is October 31 (weather permitting).

ENERGY Q&A

Q: Why is October a great month to focus on energy efficiency?

A: The first reason is that October is National Energy Awareness Month! Throughout the month, Ames Electric Services will be promoting energy efficiency and encouraging actions to save energy at home. October is also a great month to consider home upgrades to reduce energy costs including attic insulation, weatherization, and appliance upgrades. Finally, this is an opportunity to consider one of the bigger energy users in your home. In many households, the water heater is the second largest energy consumer.

While the upfront cost can be higher, a heat pump water heater (HPWH) can use up to 70% less energy than traditional water heaters. Not only does this mean savings on your energy bill, but it also decreases your carbon footprint. Many HPWH systems today can be controlled remotely through an app, allowing you to turn down the temperature when you don't need it. This feature is especially beneficial for customers who are enrolled in the Time-of-Use electric rate structure.

Typically, the installation cost of an HPWH can be 2-3 times higher than a traditional gas water heater.

This is mainly due to potential electrical upgrades to your home, not necessarily for the unit itself. If your basement or utility closet already has a dedicated 240-volt circuit, you may be able to avoid these high installation costs. To reduce the financial burden of installing a high efficiency heat pump water heater in your home, the City of Ames Electric Services offers a \$500 rebate for Energy Star rated units. Check out our Smart Energy page for more details!



When it's all said and done, the heat pump water heaters' operational savings can far outweigh the additional installation costs. It is estimated that over 10 years, a traditional gas water heater would see \$4,500 in energy costs, compared to around \$1,200 in energy costs for a heat pump water heater.

If you have questions, please reach out to Ames Electric Services at 515.239.5177.

Layne Fober

Energy Services Coordinator
515.239.5177

Layne.Fober@cityofames.org

RENEWABLE ENERGY NUMBERS JULY 2026

15 LED streetlights
installed for a total of
6,931

30,663 Miles of vehicle
charging at public electric
charging stations

329,912 Kilowatt Hours
of energy produced by
SunSmart Ames solar farm

Resource Recovery Plant
Refuse-Derived Fuel:
1,853 Tons

RECYCLING

Curbside Recycling:
162.92 Tons

Glass: 13.6 Tons

Metals: 86.9 Tons

Food Waste Diversion:
4.25 Tons

Cardboard: 10.7 Tons

Mixed Paper: 3.6 Tons

Plastics: 1.2 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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