



CITYSIDE

AUGUST 2025

NEW WAYFINDING SIGNS HELP DIRECT CYCLISTS, PEDESTRIANS

Those traveling streets and shared-use paths in Ames might have noticed some new signs providing directions to destinations across the community. The new signs are part of a larger plan to create a safer, more sustainable, convenient, and enjoyable transportation network for pedestrians, cyclists, and others.

The wayfinding signage system was developed last fall alongside “Walk Bike Roll,” the City’s bike and pedestrian master plan. The master plan identifies current and future needs and helps build out the community’s



multimodal transportation network. The wayfinding signs work with the master plan to promote safety by directing users to appropriate routes. Additionally, the signs improve efficiency by making it easier and more enjoyable to navigate the city for those walking, biking, and rolling.

“The master plan and wayfinding projects were designed to work together to enhance our transportation infrastructure and promote active transportation,” said Civil Engineer Mark Gansen. “Both projects are designed to be scalable and grow as our community grows to encourage different ways to travel around Ames.”

The signs are being installed in phases with the first signs focusing on getting people to the most popular destinations using safe and efficient routes.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT SET FOR AUG. 5 AT AMES MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Ames Police Department will once again host National Night Out on Tuesday, Aug. 5., with fun, food, information, and support for residents. The event will be held from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Ames Middle School, 3915 Mortensen Road.

National Night Out encourages residents to celebrate community crime prevention efforts, strengthen community connections, and build neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. The event will have activities for people of all ages, tours of emergency vehicles, and much more.



This year, the Ames Police Department will be working to distribute 1,000 pairs

of new shoes and socks. This initiative aims to support Ames families to ensure students have the necessary footwear for school. In addition, Blast Back to School will have a booth at National Night Out so families can register for a backpack and school supplies to pick up later.

“We are all stronger when we work together to solve complex problems in our community,” said Ames Police Community Resource Officer Nate Rivera. “National Night Out provides an opportunity to get to know your neighbors and the officers who protect our community.”

CITY NEWS TO USE

IN THIS ISSUE:

- City Hall Celebrates 35 Years
- Water Report Available
- Animal Shelter Capital Campaign
- Parks and Recreation Notes
- Energy Q&A

RUMMAGE RAMPAGE

Rummage RAMPage, a community garage sale designed to keep reusable items out of the waste stream, begins Friday, July 25 (drop-off only) through Saturday, Aug. 2. Learn more at www.CityOfAmes.org/RummageRAMPage.



We need your help DONATE TODAY!

The City of Ames has purchased property at 2715 Dayton Ave. as the site for a new Ames Animal Shelter. Your donations are needed to make this new facility a reality.

Please help us help the animals of Ames by contributing to the Ames Animal Shelter's capital fundraising campaign.

The Ames Animal Shelter proudly finds homes for more than 98% of the animals in its care. Help us continue this legacy.



www.AmesAnimalShelter.com

WATER REPORT AVAILABLE

The Consumer Confidence Report, the City's annual water quality report, is now available. This report contains important information about the quality of your drinking water.

At one time, the Consumer Confidence Report was included in your utility bill, but now the report is available to read online. This method of distribution helps promote our sustainability efforts and reduces costs. However, printed copies of the Consumer Confidence Report are still available.



If you would prefer to have a paper copy of the report mailed to your home, call the Ames Water Plant at 515.239.5150. The water quality report can be viewed online at www.CityOfAmes.org/WaterReport.

CITY HALL CELEBRATES 35 YEARS ON CLARK AVENUE

Although Ames City Hall officially marked its 35th anniversary at 515 Clark Ave. in April, the celebration was postponed as walls were painted and new carpeting installed. The work is nearly complete, and it's time to celebrate! The public is welcome to join us from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 28 for cake in the City Hall lobby. Self-guided tours throughout the building will showcase the upgrades. It's a great chance to see how the space has changed while still holding on to its past as a school.

City Hall was originally constructed in 1937 as Ames High School. From 1961 to 1986, it served as Central Junior High School. The building sat empty for several years until Ames residents approved a \$6.85-million bond



referendum in 1988 to transform it into City Hall. The goal was to bring multiple City departments under one roof and give the historic building new life. Ames City Hall officially opened its doors with a two-day community celebration on April 28-29, 1990. Those visiting the building may spot original features that honor the building's past: hallway lockers, vintage light fixtures, and built-in bookshelves in the City Council Chambers that was once the school library!

At our 25th anniversary in 2015, a brass plaque was unveiled to honor the building's unique history and is visible outside the front entrance. Help celebrate this anniversary milestone on Thursday, Aug. 28, at City Hall. Enjoy some cake, explore the building, and meet City staff.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

City Council meetings are in City Hall City Council Chambers, 515 Clark Ave., and streamed via the City website, Facebook, and YouTube.

6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 12

6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 26

ADULT FALL SOFTBALL (MEN'S & CO-ED LEAGUES):

Season begins Aug. 24. Registration deadline is Aug. 3.

CO-ED ADULT SAND VOLLEYBALL (6v6 & 4v4):

Variety of leagues based on skill level Mondays to Thursdays. Season begins Aug. 12. Registration deadline is July 27.



FALL PICKLEBALL LEAGUE (ADULT): Competitive, recreational, and senior leagues available. Season begins Aug. 26. Registration deadline is Aug. 10.

YOUTH SOCCER (GRADES 1-6): Season begins Sept. 2. Register by Aug. 10, skills assessment is Aug. 13. Volunteer coaches needed!

CHALLENGER SPORTS: SOCCER CAMP (AGES 3-16):

Week-long soccer camp, Aug. 4-8, for kids of all abilities. Sessions are led by international professional staff. Register by July 28 at www.challengersports.com.

KIDDIE KICKERS (AGES 5-6): Instructor-led skills and drills to prepare kids for game play. Begins Sept. 8. Register by Aug. 25. Volunteer coaches needed!

PARENT/CHILD START SMART SOCCER (AGES 3-5):

Fun games and drills every Tuesday, Sept. 2 – Oct. 7. Register by Aug. 25.

YOUTH VOLLEYBALL (GRADES 3-6): Teams participate in the Central Iowa Recreation League, Aug. 19 – Oct. 9. Register by Aug. 1.

DANCE & GYMNASTICS (AGES 2-7+): Participants can register for a variety of dance and gymnastics classes, mid September to October. Register by Sept. 1.

GROUP FITNESS CLASSES: New session begins Aug. 25. View the schedule and 60+ classes at www.AmesParkRec.org.

SIXTY FORWARD GROUP FITNESS CLASSES: A new session of group fitness classes geared to those age 60 and over begin Monday, Aug. 25.

YOUTH GOLF DAY: Golfers 17 and under play free if accompanied by a paid adult, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 3. Book your tee time today, 515.239.5363 or www.amesparkrec.org.

TAE KWON DO (AGES 5+): Fall session begins Aug. 19. Beginner, intermediate, and advanced classes offered, T/W/Th/Sun. evenings.

TENNIS LESSONS: Instructor-led classes for youth and adults. Session begins Sept 2. Register by Aug. 25.



FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER



SCHOLARSHIP DUCK DERBY: Adopt rubber ducks for a chance to win fun prizes. Event begins at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 2, at Furman Aquatic Center.

FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER END OF SEASON PASSES:

Valid Aug. 1 – Sept. 1. Purchase during your visit or by calling 515.239.5350. View the facility schedule at www.CityOfAmes.org/prcalendars.

BANDSHELL

FREE MOVIE NIGHT AT BANDSHELL PARK:

The movie will begin approximately at 8 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 29. Bring your own chairs and blankets. Movie selection to be announced soon!

MIRACLE LEAGUE

MIRACLE LEAGUE: Baseball league that removes barriers for children and adults with mental and physical disabilities. Games played at Inis Grove Park Miracle League Field. Register by Aug. 3.



ENERGY Q&A

Q: Why is it important to control summer peak electric use?

A: Quite simply, cost. As Ames grows there is a natural demand for more electricity. During the summer, temperatures and humidity create a seasonal demand for more energy. Over time, the utility sets higher and higher summer “peaks.” In 1992, the high demand for electricity was 68 megawatts (MW). In 2010, it had grown to a high of 126 MW. In 2023, usage hit a new record peak of 138 MW. Over this 30-plus-year span, the demand more than doubled.

When the demand for electricity grows, there are three ways Ames Electric Services gets needed power:

- Purchase energy from other utilities, including wind energy, or operate our supplemental “peaking” generators. This peaking power is very expensive.
- Install additional generators to supply more power. This is an expensive, long-term solution and must be planned several years in advance.
- Reduce electric consumption by customers and shift usage to off peak periods.

During the summer, electricity usage is highest between the hours of 3 to 9 p.m. Reducing and shifting electric use away from peak hours to early morning or late evening is the easiest, immediately implementable alternative. The cost to buy or build additional electric capacity can be \$1,000 to \$3,000 per kilowatt (KW) depending on the source. Over the past 18 years, Electric Services has incentivized efforts to save electricity including high-efficiency air conditioners and energy-efficient appliance rebates, rebates for installing solar energy, and free energy audits to help reduce energy use.

Another tool utilities use is Time-Of-Use (TOU) rates. This is an effort to shift electric use to off-peak times of the day. Customers under TOU rates are incentivized to use electricity later at night and in the morning with reduced rates. By strategically shifting electric usage, it’s possible for a customer’s bills to decrease. Currently a pilot project with TOU rates is underway. As updated electric metering infrastructure is installed, there will be more opportunities for customers who want to explore this new rate structure to get involved in the program.

With the help of Ames Electric Services customers, we can reduce our system’s peak demand, delay the need to build additional power plants, and keep your rates as low as possible.

RENEWABLE ENERGY NUMBERS

FOR MAY 2025

69 LED STREETLIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A
TOTAL OF **6,654**

48,300 MILES OF VEHICLE CHARGING AT PUBLIC
ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS

320,990 KILOWATT HOURS OF ENERGY PRODUCED
BY SUNSMART AMES SOLAR FARM

RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT

- REFUSE-DERIVED FUEL: **2,445 TONS**

RECYCLING:

- GLASS: **18.42 TONS**
- METALS: **122.17 TONS**
- CARDBOARD: **12 TONS**
- MIXED PAPER: **7.41 TONS**
- PLASTICS: **1.45 TONS**

DEGREE DAY INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/ELECTRIC

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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