



CITYSIDE

DECEMBER 2025

CRISIS CANINE JOINS THE AMES POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Ames Police Department recently welcomed its newest member, Penny, a Crisis Response K9 to work alongside her handler, Sgt. Amber Christian. Penny's role is to provide comfort and emotional support in a variety of challenging situations.

Penny's duties include supporting first responders, assisting in victim interviews, responding to major traumatic events or disasters, and offering reassurance to patients in medical facilities. Penny has spent the past several months training at Anna Childs K9 Training, where she has learned obedience, public access skills, and ways to help ease anxiety and emotional distress.

"Penny has learned to instinctively approach individuals showing signs of distress," said Sgt. Christian. "She sits beside them or lies at their feet. That simple act can help people feel calm and grounded in moments of crisis."



outreach events and crisis calls.

After Penny and Sgt. Christian graduate from the academy, Penny will officially be badged as a member of the Ames Police Department. Once certified, Penny will be fully integrated into daily operations, serving as a bridge between law enforcement and the public. Residents will see her at

Outside of work, Penny lives with Sgt. Christian and her family. She loves squeaky toys, spending time outdoors, and relaxing in the grass. Financial support for Penny is being accepted through Ames Animal Shelter. Look for more information at www.CityOfAmes.org/CrisisCanine.

WHAT TO EXPECT WITH THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE REAPPRAISAL PROJECT

The Ames Assessor's Office continues on-site inspections of all residential properties for the 2027 reappraisal project.

Residents and property owners should receive a letter shortly before appraisers begin working in your neighborhood.



What to Expect

- Appraisers will measure exteriors of

homes, decks, garages, etc., and take updated exterior photos.

- Brief interior inspections conducted with permission. (Interior inspections help verify property condition and accuracy of records.)
- Visits typically occur during weekdays.
- If no one is home, a door tag to schedule an appointment or review your record with a data collector will be left on the front door.

Regular appraisals result in accurate

property data, which ensures:

- Fair market value assessments
- Equitable property taxes
- Reliable information for insurance, loans, estate planning and more

All data collectors carry City of Ames photo IDs. For staff photos, project updates, current property information, and a map of project progress, visit www.CityOfAmes.org/Assessor.

For questions or concerns, contact the Assessor's Office at 515.239.5370 or cityassessorinfo@cityofames.org.

CITY NEWS TO USE

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Project Share Seeks Donations
- Are You on a Snow Route?
- Parks & Recreation Notes
- Energy Q&A

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:

Most City of Ames offices will be closed Thursday, Dec. 25 and Friday, Dec. 26. Additionally, most City offices will be closed on Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026, for New Year's Day 2026.



DONATIONS ALLOW PROJECT SHARE TO HELP NEIGHBORS PAY UTILITY BILLS

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.

Project Share is a program developed by Ames Electric Services to

assist low-income customers with winter utility bills. A committee appointed by the Ames City Council determines the permissible uses of the funds donated to Project Share. The guidelines established by this committee ensure that 100 % of every contribution is used to assist low-income customers. Last year, Ames Electric Services contributed \$4,259 in staff time and materials toward the

cost of administering this program. Mid-Iowa Community Action

(MICA) shares in the administration of the program by determining the eligibility of households for Project Share funds.



Project Share's success is the result of our customers' compassion and generosity. Through your support, Project Share has provided \$568,758 in assistance to 4,635 households since the program's inception in 1990. Last winter alone, Project Share provided \$19,275 in assistance to 164 households. With your continued generosity, more Ames households will stay safe and warm this winter.

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.

ARE YOU ON A SNOW ROUTE?

When the snow falls, it's important to move your vehicle if you park on a street that's part of a snow route. Snow routes are marked with red and white signs. All vehicles must be removed from snow routes when the snow ordinance goes into effect.



One easy way to know if the snow ordinance is in effect is to sign up for e-notification on the City's website. Look for the "E-Notifications" button toward the bottom of www.CityOfAmes.org and check the "Snow Ordinance" box to receive an email. Also, pay attention to local media, look for a red banner at the top of the City's website, or check City of Ames and Ames Police social media. The snow ordinance goes into effect when snow accumulations are 2 inches or more, but the best way to know if the snow ordinance will be in effect is to watch the weather!

For questions or concerns about snow removal on public streets, call the Snow Desk at 515.239.5543 or email the Public Works Department at snowstreets@cityofames.org.

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.

6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9

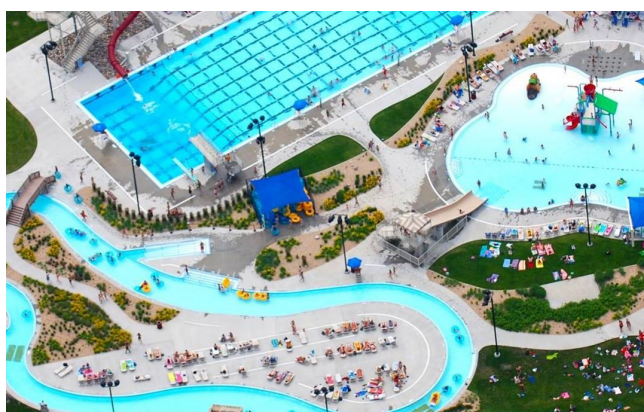
6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG

AQUATICS HIRING! FITCH FAMILY INDOOR AQUATIC CENTER AND 2026 FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER:

Applications for the NEW Fitch Family Indoor Aquatic Center and the 2026 Furman Aquatics Center season are open. Apply to be a swim instructor, water safety instructor, lifeguard, shift lead, and more!

Apply online at www.CityOfAmes.org/Jobs. Early applications will help ensure certifications can be obtained prior to the grand opening of Fitch Family Indoor Aquatic Center and/or the start of the Furman summer season! Questions about Parks and Recreation aquatic positions? Contact LeAnn Hawk, Aquatics Manager, leann.hawk@cityofames.org.



UPCOMING CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES

ADULT INDOOR VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE (MEN'S, WOMEN'S, CO-ED): Season starts the week of Jan. 19 with an end of season tournament in April. Register by Jan. 5.

HOLIDAY "UGLY SWEATER" SKATE: Kick-off the holiday season at the Ames/ISU Ice Arena, Dec. 20, 2-4 p.m. All ages welcome. Regular rates apply.

HOMEWOOD FOR THE HOLIDAYS: Santa is coming to town, Dec. 6, 9-11 a.m. Crafts, photo opportunities, and donuts and juice provided. Pre-registration is preferred. Ages 3+ are \$5, children 2 and under are free.

HOLIDAY THEMED PAINTING WITH A

TWIST: Instructor led, canvas painting event, Dec. 6, 7-9 p.m. Individual registration at \$42, and all materials provided. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages are available for purchase. Register in advance at www.paintingwithatwist.com to secure your spot.



FIRST AID/CPR/AED CERTIFICATION CLASS (AGES 10+): In-class portion, Dec. 20, 8:30-11 a.m. Online portion must be completed prior to Dec. 20.

BABYSITTER'S COURSE (AGES 11-15): Two-day class on Dec. 12, 4-8:30 p.m. and Dec. 13, 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Class includes CPR, First Aid, AED, and babysitting certification.

SWIM LESSONS: Registration is open for Parks and Recreation swim lessons offered at ISU State Pool, Jan. 18-March 8. Group, private, youth, and adult classes are available. Register soon as spots fill quickly!

FREE FITNESS CLASSES: Free fitness classes to be offered at the Community Center and Sixty Forward Center, Dec. 26-Jan. 4.

PERSONAL TRAINING: Purchase packages of five, 10, or 15 sessions and receive a FREE InBody Scan consultation. Contact Nancy Shaw, 515.239.5353, to begin!

INBODY SCAN: Measure your body composition with InBody Scan. Measurements include muscle mass, body fat, basal metabolic rate and more! Cost is \$30 and includes a consultation. Contact Nancy Shaw at 515.239.5353 to set up an appointment.

HOMEWOOD CLUBHOUSE RENTALS

Looking for a place to host your holiday party, social event, or meeting? Contact Nate Pietz for more information at 515.239.5363 or nate.pietz@cityofames.org.



REGISTER TODAY!

TO REGISTER FOR PROGRAMS OR TO GET MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE COMMUNITY CENTER AT 515.239.5350 OR VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.AMESPARKREC.ORG

ENERGY Q&A

Q: The 30% tax credit for installing rooftop solar panels is going away on December 31, 2025. What options are there for me to invest in solar without this tax credit?

There are many reasons to invest in a home solar system. Ames Electric Services has updated its solar panel rebate and now provides \$500 per kilowatt installed on new solar systems. To speak in terms of an average roof, households typically install solar panel systems that are between 4 and 7 kilowatts. That's \$2,000 to \$3,500 back to you! If your array generates excess electricity, Ames Electric Services will purchase it from you at a set rate per kilowatt. This rate is determined every January. Also, solar panels are exempt from sales tax, which saves you an additional 7% on the total.

Curious how much energy your home would generate with solar panels? Use Project Sunroof, software powered by Google, to calculate potential energy production, savings, and financing scenarios tailored specifically to your address. (Project Sunroof: <https://sunroof.withgoogle.com>)

If installing solar panels on your home isn't an option, consider purchasing a share of the Ames' community solar farm through our SunSmart Program! Each share, or "Power Pack," represents 175W of generation capacity. After Dec. 10, Power Packs are \$210 each.

Residents who own a Power Pack will receive a small monthly credit on their utility bill. It should be noted that people typically do not purchase a Power Pack to generate money, but to support green and renewable energy production.



Fun Fact about SunSmart: The Ames solar farm partners with Sheep On the Go, a program that provides sheep to graze under and around the solar panels! Additionally, Iowa State University collaborates with Ames Electric Services to advance agrivoltaics – the dual use of land for solar production and agriculture – at the Airport Road solar farm. ISU has planted native plants, is monitoring bees, and has produced honey! To learn more about the community solar farm, Power Packs, installing your own solar panels, or rebates for new solar systems, visit www.CityOfAmes.org/Solar.

As always, feel free to contact Energy Services Coordinator Layne Fober at 515.239.5177 with any questions.

Layne Fober, Energy Services Coordinator
515.239.5177 | Layne.Fober@cityofames.org

AT-A-GLANCE ENERGY NUMBERS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

32 LED STREETLIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF **6,741**

37,435 MILES OF VEHICLE CHARGING AT PUBLIC ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS

280,217 KILOWATT HOURS OF ENERGY PRODUCED BY SUNSMART AMES SOLAR FARM

RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT

• REFUSE-DERIVED FUEL: **2,625 TONS**

RECYCLING:

- GLASS: **19 TONS**
- METALS: **106 TONS**
- FOOD WASTE DIVERSION: **3.25 TONS**
- PLASTIC: **2 TONS**
- CARDBOARD: **8 TONS**
- MIXED PAPER: **6 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
Stormwater Concern	515.239.5160
Rusty Water.....	515.239.5551

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