

CITYSIDE

August 2026



CYRIDE TURNS 50!

For 50 years, CyRide has been connecting the Ames community through safe, reliable, and innovative public transportation. The system traces its roots to 1976, when the City of Ames launched transit service to provide affordable transportation for residents and Iowa State University students.



Today, CyRide is Iowa's busiest public transit system and ranks among the nation's leaders in transit ridership per capita, providing millions of passenger trips each year. To celebrate its 50th anniversary, CyRide will host a public open house on Saturday, Aug. 15. Watch for more details to come!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



NEIGHBORHOOD ROAD TRIP FROM 4-6 P.M. WEDNESDAY, AUG. 19 AT TAHIRA AND LABH HIRA PARK



**CITY OF
Ames™**

CURBSIDE RECYCLING BEGINS

Now that the blue recycling carts have been distributed, it's time to get recycling! The every-other-week recycling program began July 1. Glass, paper, cardboard, certain plastics, and metal go loose into the cart. No bagging or separation is necessary. Here are some frequently asked questions (FAQs) about recycling.

Why do you say "screw-top plastics"?

Having a screw top typically indicates the product is a #1 or #2 plastic, but check the number at the bottom of the item. All #1 and #2 plastics are accepted.

What about lids and labels?

Lids and labels are fine. They can be tossed into the cart and do not have to be removed.

Do the items have to be washed out?

A quick rinse is all that is required to remove food or product residue. It is not necessary to scrub out recyclables or put them in a dishwasher.

For more information about the program, why it is being implemented, and more recycling FAQs, go to "Curbside Recycling" at www.CityOfAmes.org/Recycling.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT PLANNED FOR AUG. 4

The Ames Police Department will once again host National Night Out on Tuesday, Aug. 4, 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.

Again this year, the Ames Police Department will be working to distribute 1,000 pairs of new shoes. 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

CITY NEWS

TWO FINAL NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS

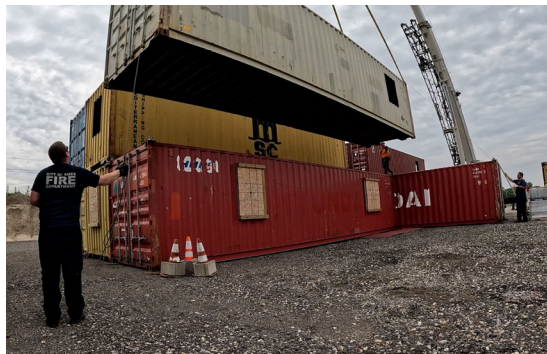
The City of Ames is bringing community fun directly to local neighborhoods this summer with two remaining “Neighborhood Connections Road Trip Stops” planned across the community. The next stops are from 4 to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 19 at Tahira and Labh Hira Park, 3622 Woodland St., and from 4 to 6 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. Each event is designed to help residents learn more about City services while having fun close to home.



NEW FIRE TRAINING STRUCTURE CREATED

A new training structure is taking shape at the City of Ames Training Site (COATS) on the east side of Ames. When complete, the site will provide expanded opportunities for the Ames Fire Department and other public safety agencies to prepare for real-world emergencies.



This spring, firefighters and a contracted crane crew stacked shipping containers to build a structure with a complete second story and the beginning of a third story. The repurposed shipping containers are being transformed with construction materials, interior carpentry, and fabrication to closely resemble apartment buildings.

“This project allows us to create a training environment that closely reflects the types of apartment buildings and multi-family residences our crews respond to throughout Ames,” said Ames Fire Department Training Officer AJ Plach. “The more realistic we can make the training experience, the better prepared firefighters will be when responding to emergencies in our community.”

The expanded training structure will support advanced firefighting operations, including second-floor live-fire training, longer hose deployments, and multi-company response scenarios. The facility also will provide opportunities for law enforcement training and help the department meet additional Insurance Services Office (ISO) training facility standards. The training facility is anticipated to be operational by the end of the year.

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. The report includes drinking water regulations, source water evaluation, and the water treatment process from the well to your home.



At one time, the Consumer Confidence Report was included with your utility bill, but now the report is available to read online. This method of distribution supports 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.

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, Aug. 11
6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 25

PARKS & RECREATION

YOUTH AND ADULT ACTIVITIES

Adult Fall Softball (Men's & Co-Ed Leagues): Season begins the week of Aug. 23. Registration and rosters due by Aug. 2.

Co-Ed Adult Sand Volleyball (6v6 & 4v4): Variety of leagues based on skill level Mondays -Thursdays. Season begins the week of Aug. 11. Registration and rosters due by July 26.

Fall Pickleball League: Competitive, recreational, or senior leagues available. Season begins Aug. 25. Registration deadline is Aug. 9.



Tennis Lessons: Instructor-led classes for youth and adults. Session begins Sept 1. Register by Aug. 24.

Youth Soccer (Grades 1-6): Season begins Aug. 31. Register by Aug. 3. Training Camp for league participants on Aug. 11 and Aug. 13. Volunteer coaches needed!

60 FORWARD

Duckpin Bowling League: Six-week league at the Sixty Forward Center. Games held Thursdays, 2 - 6 p.m. Begins Sept. 10, register by Sept. 3.

Sixty Forward Group Fitness classes: A new session of group fitness classes geared to those 60 and over begin Monday, Aug. 24.

Challenger Sports Soccer Camp (Ages 3-16): Week-long soccer camp, Aug. 3-7, 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 Aug. 31. Register by Aug. 21. Volunteer coaches needed!

Parent/Child Start Smart Soccer (Ages 3-5): Fun games and drills every Tuesday, Sept 1.- Oct 6. Register by Aug. 24.

Youth Volleyball (Grades 3rd-6th): Teams participate in the Central Iowa Recreation League, Aug 18. - Oct. 8. Register by Aug. 1.

Dance & Gymnastics (Ages 2-7+): Participants can register for a variety of dance and gymnastics classes, mid Sept.- Oct. Register by Sept 1.

Tae Kwon Do (Ages 5+): Fall session begins Aug. 16. Beginner, intermediate, and advanced classes offered, T/W/Th/Sun. evenings.

MIRACLE LEAGUE

Miracle League: Inclusive baseball for children and adults with disabilities. Games at Inis Grove Park. Register by Aug. 8. Season begins Aug. 15.

BANDSHELL

FREE Movie Night at Bandshell Park- Friday, August 29. The movie will begin approximately at 8 p.m. Bring your own chairs and blankets. Movie selection to be announced soon!

FACILITY CALENDARS:

Facility calendars for Furman Aquatic Center, Fitch Family Indoor Aquatic Center, Ames/ISU Ice Arena, Community Center Gymnasium/Weight & Cardio Room can be viewed at www.CityOfAmes.org/prcalendars.

FITNESS & WELLNESS

Group Fitness Classes: New session begins August 24. View the schedule and 60+ classes at www.AmesParkRec.org.

AQUATICS

Furman Aquatic Center End of Season Passes: Valid Aug. 1 - Sept. 7. Purchase during your visit or by calling 515.239.5350. View the facility schedule at www.CityofAmes.org/prcalendars.

Scholarship Duck Derby at Furman Aquatic Center! Adopt a duck for your chance to win a kayak, bike and other fun prizes. Derby begins at 6:45 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 12.

HOMWOOD GOLF COURSE

Youth Golf Day (Sunday, Aug. 2): Golfers 17 and under play FREE if accompanied by a paid adult, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Book your tee time today, 515.239.5363 or www.AmesParkRec.org.



ENERGY Q&A

Q: How can I stay safe when using electricity at home and outdoors?

A: Ames Electric Services encourages the safe use of electricity year-round. Electricity is such an integral part of daily life that most people give it little thought. Flip a switch and the light comes on. Push a button and your computer starts up. Often, it's only when something goes wrong that electricity becomes a focus. While electricity improves our everyday lives in countless ways, it can also be dangerous if not used safely.

There is good reason to exercise caution. The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) reports that thousands of people in the United States are seriously injured or electrocuted each year because of electrical fires and accidents in their homes. According to the National Fire Protection Association, an average of 46,700 home electrical fires occur annually, claiming nearly 400 lives, injuring more than 1,300 people, and causing more than \$1.5 billion in property damage.

Many electrical injuries, deaths, and home fires can be prevented by following basic electrical safety practices. Experts agree that the best way to protect your family and

home from electrical hazards is to hire a qualified, licensed electrician to perform electrical work.

When working around the home, follow these tips to stay safe:

- Avoid overloading electrical outlets. If you are unsure whether an outlet is overloaded, check that it remains cool to the touch.
- Keep ladders at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines. Contact with a power line can be fatal.
- Inspect power tools and appliances for frayed cords, broken plugs, and cracked housings. Repair or replace damaged items.
- Keep electrical appliances, equipment, and cords at least six feet away from water.



Layne Fober

Energy Services Coordinator
515.239.5177

Layne.Fober@cityofames.org

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

RENEWABLE ENERGY NUMBERS MAY 2026

15 LED streetlights
installed for a total of
6,895

37,191 Miles of vehicle
charging at public electric
charging stations

305,392 Kilowatt Hours
of energy produced by
SunSmart Ames solar farm

Resource Recovery Plant
Refuse-Derived Fuel:
1,766 Tons

RECYCLING

Glass: 19 Tons

Metals: 82 Tons

Food Waste Diversion:
5 Tons

Cardboard: 18 Tons

Mixed Paper: 5 Tons

Plastics: 4.7 Tons



Editor: Susan Gwiasda
Communications and Outreach
515 Clark Ave. | Ames, IA 50010
515.239.5204
www.CityOfAmes.org