Ames Prepares to Welcome RAGBRAI Riders on July 24

On Tuesday, July 24, more than 20,000 bicyclists are expected to spend the night in Ames as part of the Register’s Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI) and experience a truly special Cyclone welcome! “Cycling Power” is our city’s theme and it celebrates our deep connection with Iowa State University. It’s been 10 years since Ames has served as a RAGBRAI overnight community, and there are lots of ways to get involved in this event. Volunteers are needed to welcome riders, host bicyclists, help at campsites, staff information areas, become a sponsor, and be a part of many more opportunities.

Bicyclists will ride into Ames from the west along Mortensen Road before heading north on Beach Avenue to South Fourth Street. Campsites will be located at Stuart Smith Park, the grass lots on South 16th Street, and Brookside Park, but expect to see cyclists all over town. Plan ahead and give yourself extra time if you need to get around town that day. Downtown Ames will serve as the hub for entertainment. Bicyclists will depart on Wednesday, July 25, and the exit route is east on Southeast 16th Street to Dayton Avenue.

More information is available at www.AmesRAGBRAI.com. For more information, contact the Ames Convention and Visitors Bureau at 515.232.4032 or at amesragbrai@amescvb.com.

Enjoy Fourth of July Pancakes!

Ames residents are invited to join members of the Ames City Council at this year’s Fourth of July Community Pancake celebration. The event will be held from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, July 4, just prior to the Fourth of July parade at 11 a.m. Remember that fireworks will be held after dusk on Tuesday, July 3. During the celebration, free pancakes, sausage, and coffee will be served at the front entrance of City Hall, 515 Clark Ave. Children are invited to bring their bikes, decorate them at the breakfast, and join the parade. Breakfast will be served rain or shine!
Calendar
The following Ames City Council meetings will be held in the City Council Chambers, 515 Clark Ave.:

- 6 p.m. July 10
- 6 p.m. July 31 (moved to accommodate RAGBRAI events)

A Council workshop will be held at 6 p.m. July 17. Meetings are listed: www.CityOfAmes.org.

Partner Cities Celebrates 25 Years!
Ames International Partner Cities Association (AIPCA) is celebrating 25 years of cultural connections.
To mark this milestone, AIPCA is hosting a dinner at 6 p.m. on Thursday, July 19, at City Church, 2400 Oakwood Road. This event will also serve as a welcome home for the youth delegates who traveled to Koshu, Japan, earlier in July. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to amesipca@gmail.com.

Over the past 25 years, many Ames citizens have traveled to or hosted guests from our designated partner city of Koshu, Japan. From that experience, participants have developed and continued international friendships. The mission of AIPCA is to promote cultural and educational exchanges between the people of the City of Ames and those of our partner cities.

Rummage RAMPAGE Returns!
For the third year, the City of Ames and the ISU Office of Sustainability are hosting Rummage RAMPage at the Ames Intermodal Facility, 129 Hayward Ave. This multi-day community garage sale uses volunteers to staff the event and offers donated items for sale at bargain prices. Any proceeds are distributed to non-profit groups who send volunteers. Rummage RAMPage provides an outlet for students who are often faced with the dilemma of moving residences and discarding personal property. The event provides an alternative to throwing usable items in the trash or random dumping.

Rummage RAMPage will begin accepting drop-offs from noon to 6 p.m. on Friday, July 27, and sales (along with continued drop-offs) will be held from Saturday, July 28 through Thursday, Aug. 2.

- ITEM DROP-OFF: Friday, July 27 (noon to 6 pm)
- ITEM DROP-OFF and SALES: Saturday, July 28 (8 am to 6 pm)
- ITEM DROP-OFF and SALES: Sunday, July 29 (10 am to 6 pm)
- ITEM DROP-OFF and SALES: Monday, July 30 (noon to 6 pm)
- ITEM DROP-OFF and SALES: Tuesday, July 31 (noon to 6 pm)
- ITEM DROP-OFF and SALES: Wednesday, Aug. 1 (noon to 6 pm)
- HALF PRICE SALES: Thursday, Aug. 2 (noon to 4 pm)

Items will be priced to sell, with most items from $1 to $20. All sales are cash only. For more information, contact Bill Schmitt, Resource Recovery Plant, at bschmitt@city.ames.ia.us, Merry Rankin, Sustainability Coordinator, at mrankin@iastate.edu, or Susan Gwiasda, Public Relations, at sgwiasda@city.ames.ia.us.

New Rates, Fee Structure To be Implemented on July 1
The City of Ames strives to provide exceptional programs and services at the best price, and City departments use innovation and creativity to discover new ways of working to be more efficient. Unfortunately, there are times when a rate increase is necessary. When that happens, we want residents to be aware.

Parking Meter Rates
Beginning July 1, parking meter rates will increase in Downtown and Campustown. The new hourly rates will be $1 per hour for two-hour parking, 75 cents per hour for four-hour parking, and 50 cents per hour for 10-hour parking. This is the first increase in more than 20 years. The additional revenue will cover operating costs and future capital improvement projects.

Metered parking is enforced daily with the exception of Sundays and City-observed holidays. The new parking fees also include an increase in the monthly rental rate to $50 for each reserved parking space.

Water & Sewer Rates
Beginning July 1, Ames Water customers will experience a water rate increase of 3.5 percent. The additional revenue will cover operating costs of the new Water Treatment Plant and capital improvement projects scheduled for the next five years. The sewer rate will increase by 3 percent and is necessary to cover ongoing operating costs as well as upcoming capital improvement projects. These rates were last increased in 2015.
Power Out? Here’s What To Do

Thunderstorms and severe weather can bring with them disruptions to your electricity. Although Ames Electric Services can’t guarantee that your power will never go off, we always do our best to restore service as quickly as possible. In fact, one of our greatest strengths as your local, community-owned electric utility is our ability to respond quickly in case of a power outage. We’ll do our part, but there are several steps we need you to do to restore power quickly and safely.

• Check if the power is off in the whole house, or just part of it.

• Check your main electric panel to see if a breaker has tripped or fuse has blown.

• If the problem is not in your panel, check if your neighbors have been affected. Even if your neighbors are calling in the outage, you should call in your address. Every piece of additional information helps pinpoint the problem.

• Call the outage reporting number at 515.239.5240. You will be asked to provide your name, address of the outage, and phone number at the outage address.

A crew will be dispatched to restore power safely and as quickly as possible. Your call to 515.239.5240 enters your location into the Outage Management System. This helps us restore your power more quickly by providing your address to our electric lineworkers. As the map populates, lineworkers can determine where the outage is, how many customers are without power, and the best way to restore service. The Outage Management System is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The system has the ability to take numerous calls at once, so you should be able to report your outage immediately even if others are attempting to call.

You can ensure your phone number and address are already in the Outage Management System by going online and filling out a form at www.CityOfAmes.org/Outage. This form allows you to associate up to two phone numbers (such as land phone and a cell phone or two cell phone numbers) with an address. When you call during a power outage, the system will recognize your number and automatically match it with an address.

You can keep up with any electric outage citywide by checking our real-time, online map at: www.CityOfAmes.org/ElectricOutage.

SunSmart Ames Needs You!

SunSmart Ames is a community solar project designed to generate 2 megawatts (MW) of green, renewable electricity by mid-2018 for purchase by Ames Electric Services. Ames Electric Services customers are able to invest in the project by buying generation units or “Power Packs.”

Each Power Pack represents a one-time investment and will entitle customers to a bill credit based on the amount of energy generated by the solar array and the market price of electricity. It is estimated that a Power Pack will cost less than $350. Our goal is to subscribe 80% of available Power Packs before construction of the solar farm begins. We currently stand at 54%.

Q: Why is conserving energy important?

A: If you’re like most of us, you think about energy conservation once a month when you open your utility bill. Unfortunately, if you wait until you have a high bill in your hand before thinking about conserving energy, you’ve waited too long. There are two basic things we need to do to reduce consumption: 1) conserve energy, and 2) improve energy efficiency. Many people think these terms mean the same thing, but they’re different. Energy conservation is any behavior that results in the use of less energy. For example, turning the lights off when you leave the room is a way of conserving energy.

Energy efficiency is the use of equipment that requires less energy to perform the same function. Buying an LED light bulb that uses less energy than an incandescent bulb to produce the same amount of light is an example of energy efficiency. There are numerous important benefits to conserving energy. The biggest benefit for most people is a lower electric bill. Did you know your efforts also contribute to a lower electric rate over time and help clean the environment?

The less electricity we use as a community, the lower the cost is to provide it. Ames Electric Services is a municipally owned utility and only charges customers enough to cover operating costs. Lowering the amount of electricity needed over time will keep operating costs down and contribute to a lower rate.

Likewise, when we use less energy, we put fewer greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere. For every kilowatt of electricity saved, the amount of CO2 released to the atmosphere is reduced by 1.64 pounds. Switching from a 100-watt incandescent light bulb to a 12-watt LED would save about 130 kWh of electricity a year. This would reduce your bill by about $14 and remove about 213 pounds of CO2 from the atmosphere.