Census 2020 is Coming Soon!

Once a decade, America comes together to count every resident in the United States. The decennial census was first taken in 1790, as mandated by the Constitution. The census population count provides the basis for reapportioning congressional seats, redistricting, and distributing more than $675 billion in federal funds. This money supports state, county and city programs including housing, education, transportation, and healthcare.

The next census is coming in 2020, and Census Day is April 1, 2020. There will be three ways to complete your census form: online, telephone, or hard copy. Making the census simple and easy to complete will help increase participation. As always, individual census data is protected and kept confidential. Ultimately, the success of the census depends on everyone’s participation. The Census Bureau depends on cross-sector collaborations with organizations and individuals to get people to participate. Learn more about the 2020 Census at www.Census.gov.

Open House on Oct. 12

The Ames Fire Department will host its seventh annual Fire Station Open House from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Oct. 12, at Fire Station No. 1, located at 1300 Burnett Ave. Participants can learn fire safety tips, experiment with fire fighting equipment, explore fire trucks up close, meet Ames firefighters, and tour the fire station. Also, Freddie the Fire Truck and Sparky the Fire Dog will be on hand. This free, fun, and informative event is great for all ages.

Fire Prevention Week will be held October 6 - 12. This year’s theme is “Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practice Your Escape!” During this week, firefighters work to educate the public about small but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe.

Great Pumpkin Disposal Returns!

The Great Pumpkin Disposal Program will start toward the end of October. Don’t throw your jack-o-lanterns, gourds, and squash in the garbage! Bring them to the north side of the Resource Recovery Plant, 110 Center Ave., and put them in the containers on the curb. Instead of creating scary garbage, we’ll make sure they get composted!
City Council Meetings
The following meetings will be held in the Council Chambers, 515 Clark Ave.:

6 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 8
6 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 22

A Council workshop will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 15. For the most current information, go to: www.CityOfAmes.org.

Yard Waste Free Days
Thinking ahead to cooler fall days? This is the time to mark your calendar for fall Yard Waste Free Days. NEW THIS YEAR will be a voucher pilot program that will allow participants to drop-off leaves and brush at no charge during the week of leaf and brush disposal! Watch for more information.

Saturday, Nov. 2
(leaves only)
Saturday, Nov. 9
(leaves and brush)
Saturday, Nov. 16
(leaves only)
Saturday, Nov. 30
(leaves only)

The Yard Waste Free Day site is located at 400 Freel Drive. Those participating in Yard

Healthiest State Walk Set for Oct. 2
Join us for the Healthiest State Annual Walk at noon on Wednesday, Oct. 2 in front of City Hall at 515 Clark Ave. This one-mile walk begins at City Hall, passes through Downtown Ames and ends at City Hall. Refreshing City of Ames water will be provided at the conclusion of this walk.

Since 2011, the Healthiest State Initiative has encouraged hundreds of thousands of Iowans across the state to walk. Being physically active is one of the most important steps that people of all ages and abilities can take to improve their health. Increasing physical activity significantly reduces risk of chronic disease and premature death and supports positive mental health and healthy aging.

The Healthiest State Initiative invites all Iowans to take this first step in building a healthier lifestyle and hopes that you will make walking 30 minutes a day part of your routine.

Town Budget Meeting on Oct. 29
The City of Ames budget process kicks off in the fall with the annual Town Budget Meeting. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 29, in the City Council Chambers, second floor, City Hall, 515 Clark Ave.

A brief overview of the City’s budget, including revenue and expenses, will be presented. This is followed by a time for citizens to give input and ask questions regarding the coming year’s budget. The meeting is broadcast live on City Channel 12 and streamed live at www.CityOfAmes.org/Channel12. Viewers may call in questions to 515.239.5214.

“This is an early opportunity for participants to get background on the budgeting process and the timeline, as well as share with City staff their ideas for consideration for the next fiscal year,” said Nancy Masteller, Budget Officer.

The Town Budget Meeting begins the months-long process of developing the City’s annual operating and capital improvements budget. The public is encouraged to attend. The City of Ames current and past financial documents are available on the City’s website at www.CityOfAmes.org/finance.
Rummage RAMPage Breaks Records With Waste Diversion and Proceeds!

The fourth annual Rummage RAMPage, a community rummage sale designed to keep reusable items out of the waste stream, surpassed previous years in landfill diversion totals and proceeds generated. The event, which grew to nine days, diverted 116,424 pounds of furniture and housewares from the landfill and raised $33,194 for local non-profit agencies. In its fourth year, Rummage RAMPage increased proceeds by almost $15,000 and diverted an additional seven tons of materials when compared to results from 2018.

The City of Ames, in partnership with the ISU Office of Sustainability and with assistance from the Volunteer Center of Story County, held the sale from July 26 to Aug. 3 at the Ames Intermodal Facility, 129 Hayward Ave. This year’s event spanned two weekends and was assisted by 22 non-profit groups who sent volunteers.

“This year’s event was truly exceptional in all aspects – donations, sales, and volunteers,” said Merry Rankin, ISU Sustainability Director and City of Ames Sustainability Coordinator. “The success or failure of Rummage RAMPage rests in the hands of the community, and once again, the response was overwhelming. This was a phenomenal show of support.”

Because many leases in Ames terminate at the end of July, relocating ISU students and community members often discard items that may still be usable. During these weeks, the City of Ames Resource Recovery Plant (RRP) often sees an influx of couches, wooden furniture, clothing, and more as renters attempt to meet their move-out requirements. At the same time, new students moving in are often in need of furniture and household essentials. Rummage RAMPage is an annual, collaborative effort designed to pair unwanted items with others seeking low-cost options for furnishing a home.

“Every year at this time we see working, usable items piling up near trash bins, on curbsides, or in front yards. At the same time, we know other people are looking for these items,” said Bill Schmitt, Resource Recovery Plant Superintendent. “We are working hard to make the community aware that Rummage RAMPage provides a location to donate unwanted items so others can purchase them. The proceeds raised are passed along to non-profit agencies who provide the labor and allow us to run this event for so many days.”

Residents could donate furniture and housewares to the event through the second-to-last day. The last day of the event was a half-price day. Volunteers representing 22 volunteer organizations staffed more than 400 shifts during the event and provided more than 1,200 hours of volunteer labor. The non-profits will share the proceeds based on the amount of hours of donated labor.

Food Waste Diversion Option Offered

Food Waste Diversion (FWD) is a pilot project to help keep food waste out of the landfill. For a $20 fee, FWD provides participants a four-gallon bucket with a lid, five compostable bucket liners, and a five-punch card to be punched when dropping off your food scraps. Refill kits are $10 for a five-punch card or just $2 per pail drop-off.

The drop sites are at the Resource Recovery Plant, 110 Center Ave., and Green RU, 400 Freel Drive, and operate during normal business hours. Because this is a pilot project, the program could be modified based on participation and demand.

For more information about FWD, go to www.CityOfAmes.org/FoodWaste.
How Do Heat Pumps Work?

Q: I’m looking into purchasing a new air conditioner, and I’ve heard that heat pumps are far more efficient than my central air conditioner. Why is that?

A: That’s a great question! You can think of efficiency as simply “what you get” divided by “what you pay for.” Fuel efficiency is how many miles you get divided by the gas you buy. Time efficiency, depending on your hobbies, might be how many quilts you make divided by the time it takes you to make them. Put simply, air conditioning efficiency is how much cold air your equipment provides divided by the electricity the equipment uses. For a central air conditioner, that’s cold air that it makes divided by electricity that it uses.

Heat pumps achieve higher efficiencies because they change the upper part of that equation. Instead of making the temperature difference in the upper part of the equation, heat pumps use electricity to move heat from a cool space to a warm space, making the cool space cooler and the warm space warmer. During the cooling season, heat pumps move heat from your cool house into the warm outdoors, and during the heating season, heat pumps move heat from the cool outdoors into your warm house.

According to the website Energy.gov, because heat pumps move heat rather than generate heat, they can provide equivalent space conditioning at as little as one quarter of the cost of operating conventional heating or cooling appliances. There are three types of heat pumps: air-to-air, water source, and geothermal. They collect heat from the air, water, or ground outside your home and concentrate it for use inside.

Through Ames Electric Services’ Smart Energy rebate program, customers may be eligible to receive an efficient air conditioner rebate for a heat pump installation. For program information and application, go to www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy.

Renewable Energy
For July 2019
9.85% of electricity used this month was generated from wind.
2.2% of electricity this month was generated by refuse derived fuel (RDF) from the Resource Recovery Plant
140 Ames customers have invested in solar voltaic systems.
42 LED streetlights installed for a total of 3,103

City Side is a publication of the City of Ames, Iowa

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