

Hall, Renee

From: Lisa Kuehl <lkuehl@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 28, 2024 8:35 AM
To: City Council and Mayor
Subject: Thank you for progressive programs in Ames

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Haila and the City Council:

I want to congratulate the City of Ames for all of their amazing programs in place that are making Ames a cleaner, greener and more pedestrian-friendly community. Coming to mind are the Smart Watersheds rebate program, the Rummage Rampage, the new Ames Wayfinding Project, the Ames Climate Change Plan and the recently-introduced Ames Pollinator-Friendly 10-year Plan. City of Ames leaders and citizens both should be VERY proud of these progressive efforts!

My home is in the west Ames "poet district," located in the general area of Daley Park. Last year I joined the community task force of the Pollinator-Friendly effort as a volunteer on the Education Committee. During my many walks and bike rides, I have been more attentive to viewing and appreciating what Ames residents are doing, or not doing, to adopt more green principles into their homes and lives. I have three ideas to share with you that I feel would aid in strengthening participation and success in the above-mentioned programs. Please feel free to share my thoughts with any interested departments.

1. I ask that the City and Ames and ISU Police Departments take all possible measures to curb speeding and noisy, reckless driving. My residential area has a posted 25 mph maximum speed limit on most streets. Many of these streets have on-street parking, no painted centerlines and many driveways that require traffic to back out of them. Additionally, this section of Ames is pedestrian-heavy, with Daley Park and the Daley Park Pathway, Edwards Elementary School and at least one day care located here. A recent incident earlier this month involving both speeding and reckless driving occurred on Wilder Boulevard and according to the Ames PD, the perpetrator was arrested. This 6 pm situation involved a large white pickup truck traveling at an extreme rate of speed north to south that ran BOTH 4-way stop signs on Wilder Boulevard. Witnessing this was truly alarming and thankfully no one was hurt or killed as a result. Speeding traffic creates dangerous situations for pedestrians as well as creating excessive road noise - both of which diminish the pedestrian experience that the City is trying to enhance. Please find funding to install more permanent traffic calming measures and please ask the police departments to have a regular presence in all of west Ames.
2. I ask that the City consider banning the use of lawn chemicals on the right-of-way areas between streets and sidewalks. These green spaces are often treated along with the rest of the yard, even though they are owned by the City and used by pedestrians for walking pets, by walkers and runners and by children playing. Perhaps a new anti-chemical incentive could be added to the SmartWatersheds program and the City Code could be adjusted to only allow mowing in these public areas. Less lawn chemicals fits into the SmartWatershed, pollinator and pedestrian-friendly programs the City is promoting.
3. I ask that the City reviews its residential and business trash policies. Every July, Ames transforms into a giant garage heap as apartment leases come due. West Ames is apartment-heavy, with residents creating massive mountains of (often reusable) trash that are incredible eyesores. I so appreciate the Rummage Rampage, but word is still not getting out about the many alternatives available for donating usable items to. I also ask that NO loose trash be allowed to be stored outside of a properly sized and closable receptacle. Ames is a very windy city and trash blowing around and overspilling containers is very problematic. Landlords need to be required to provide as many proper trash receptacles as needed year-round.

Thank you all for considering my requests. Ames is such a great community with many awesome programs to help Ames be even greater. Encouraging participation in them is key to success. Please let me know how else I, as a proud Ames citizen, can become more involved in making these programs as successful as possible.

Lisa K. Kuehl

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"You can find excuses...or, you can find a way."