

## Community effort to Beautify Ames



Support comes in many forms, but the support I'm thinking of comes from our community in the form of AWESOME volunteers. Country Landscape staff, Ames Foundation board members and community volunteers teamed up on May 23 to plant annuals in downtown pots and give new vitality to the street level beds. Regular watering by the city crews makes for a great looking downtown and a community we can be very proud of.

THANK YOU.

## Endow Iowa Tax Credits increase: 25% tax credit available for our donors

Governor Terry Branstad signed bill SF 302 into law on Thursday, May 12, which raises the base amount of the Endow Iowa Tax Credit program by \$800,000. The increase will provide approximately \$4.5 million in Endow Iowa Tax Credits annually. Through this program, your donors can be eligible for a 25% Endow Iowa Tax Credit in addition to normal federal charitable income tax deductions.

## Ames Foundation sponsors bench at Tom Evans Park

The benches in the Main Street Cultural District will begin to take on a new look beginning Friday, June 3 at the Art Walk.

The eleven year old benches which are made of teak are structurally sound, but were in need of a face lift. Inspired by an exhibit of bench art on display in the Chicago airport a year ago, the design committee in the MSCD decided to turn the renovation of the benches into a fundraising project to benefit the MSCD. Using Penofin, a biodeg-

radable solution, to loosen the years of dirt and sludge and applying some elbow grease the grit was lifted, leaving a beautifully restored wood. Businesses will sponsor a bench for \$1,000 and will be matched with a local artist to transform them into works of art.

The Ames Foundation has teamed up with local artist and former AF Board member, Jane Baty. Be sure to stop by the NW corner of Tom Evans Park to admire her craftsmanship and

explore the others that will surface on Main.

I think there's still time for you to sponsor one as well. For questions or more information contact Judy Gilger at 232-0678.



## Planned Giving Option Tips to Consider: *This month's tip*

- ◇ Life Insurance. Donation of a life insurance policy results in a current income tax deduction and converts an asset that may no longer be needed into a significant gift. The Ames Foundation can also be named as a partial or sole beneficiary of an insurance policy, or a policy can be written naming us as the beneficiary. In the latter case, we hold the policy and make annual premium payments with an annual gift from the donor. The donor gets a tax deduction for the amount of the annual premium.
- ◇ Gift with a Retained Income -This method provides for making a current gift to the Ames Foundation while retaining an income for the donor's life, and, if desired, for the additional life of the donor's spouse or other beneficiary. Some or all of the following benefits may obtain: retained income for life, the possibility of an increased rate of return on the gift assets, a charitable income tax deduction, avoidance of capital gains tax, removal of the gift property from the donor's taxable estate, reduced estate settlement costs

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Plants on Main  
Endow IA 25%  
Bench Art  
Planned Giving