

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



CONTACT: CINDY HICKS

515-233-3472 OR 316-871-0837

director@amesdowntown.org

John Haila named 4th of July Parade Grand Marshal

Community activist, local business owner and Ames Mayor John Haila is named Grand Marshal of the 2018 4th of July parade. Mayor Haila came to Ames in 1972 to attend ISU and moved to Boone in 1977 with his wife, Mary. But while he lived a little to the west, he spent a lot of time in Ames with the faith community and friends. He made the move back to Ames in 2011.

"My wife, family and I all love living in Ames," Haila said. "The people and opportunities here are endless,"

He founded *Haila Architecture Structure Planning* in 1986, in Boone, moved it to Ames in 2009, sold it to three key staff members in 2016. He now works part-time for them as a consultant and advisor.

"I thoroughly enjoy serving others and believe that my leadership skills and experience as a small business person, leading a firm for over 30 years, has equipped me to lead the community and council."

Haila was chosen by the 4th of July parade committee as Grand Marshal because of his dedicated service to the Ames community. Over the years he has helped revitalize Campustown Action Association where he served as President for two years. He also served on the Ames Chamber of Commerce Board for six years, the Ames Transit Board of Directors (CyRide) for four years, the Ames Foundation Board for two years, the Habitat for Humanity Board for two years and the Ames Main Street Downtown Revitalization housing study committee for about two years.

Haila was elected Mayor of Ames last year after long-time Mayor Anne Campbell decided to retire. He says he sees service to his community as his moral obligation.

"I believe all citizens need to give back to the community in which they live. So many people already do give back in a large variety of ways," Haila said. "Serving Ames as mayor is my way of giving back to the community."

Haila has two sons, two daughters-in-law, and eight grandchildren.

Below is a list of all of the events happening on the 4th of July in downtown Ames:

- **City Hall Pancake Breakfast - 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. - 515 Clark Ave.**
- **Bill Riley Talent Competition - 9 to 11 a.m. - Main Street & Burnett**

- **Dock Dog Competition - 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. - 500 Block of Burnett**
- **Parade - 11 a.m. start - Main Street, Douglas, and 5th Street in downtown Ames**

Ames Main Street was established on January 1, 2004 as the Main Street Cultural District. Its mission is to advance and promote downtown as the destination district in the heart of our community. To keep updated on Ames Main Street happenings, become a fan on Facebook, bookmark www.AmesDowntown.org, or contact our office at 515-233-3472. Ames Main Street is an affiliate organization of the Ames Chamber of Commerce.