

City Side

Caring People Quality Programs Exceptional Service

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Holiday Closing in January

City Hall and most City of Ames departments will be closed on Friday, Jan. 1, 2016, for New Year's Day.



Story County Alert System Provides Emergency Warnings

When a large water main break recently required the City of Ames to issue a “boil water advisory” for those living near the Ames Water Plant, one tool used to alert residents was Story County Iowa Alerts. This fast, automated system informed residents by phone, text, or email message to home phones, cell phones, or computers.

In an emergency, every second counts. That’s why receiving key information as soon as possible can make all the difference. Story County Iowa Alerts is capable of alerting all Story County citizens and emergency personnel of emergency situations. Story County Iowa Alerts can send an emergency message to Story County, Ames, or targeted areas of the city in case of an emergency situation that requires action. It then delivers a recorded message to a person or an answering machine, making three attempts to connect to any number.

Are you signed up for Story County Iowa Alerts? The system is populated with published landline telephone numbers that include a property address. Cell phone and other telephone numbers can be added to the system. You decide what numbers to register and even select notices from more than one city. Finally, you can identify special needs you may have to emergency responders. **To register for Story County Iowa Alerts, go to www.cityofames.org/alerts.**

Youth Delegation Japan Trip Planned

The Ames International Partner Cities Association (AIPCA) is making plans to send a delegation of middle school students to Koshu, Japan, in early June as part of a cultural exchange. The group is seeking interested Ames students to join the trip. The mission of the Ames International Partner Cities Association (AIPCA) is to promote cultural and educational exchanges between the people of Ames and Ames’ partner cities. AIPCA provides the opportunity to gain a greater knowledge of another country’s customs and way of life. AIPCA member activities have included visiting partner cities, providing housing for visiting delegations, developing lasting friendships, and learning about other languages, cultures, and customs.

As part of the June student delegation, participants would pay their own airfare and hotel expenses in Tokyo. The cost is typically around \$2,000. Student delegates stay with a Japanese family and all expenses in Koshu are paid by the City of Koshu and the host family. Japanese hosts have plenty of translators, and they make certain delegates are comfortable. “Being part of the delegation offers a truly authentic Japanese experience, and it is likely the most economical way that you will ever visit Japan and see Tokyo and Mt. Fuji,” said AIPCA chairwoman Dianne Brotherson. The trip is open to current seventh or eighth graders who are Ames residents. For more information, contact Brotherson at dkbroth@iastate.edu.

Calendar

City Council Meetings

The following meetings will be held in the Council Chambers, 515 Clark Avenue:

6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12
6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26

A Council workshop on capital improvements will be held at 5:15 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 19. For the most current information, go to: www.cityofames.org.

Christmas Tree Recycling Offered

Don't let your Christmas tree end up in the landfill. The City of Ames provides free disposal of Christmas trees at the Parks & Recreation Maintenance

Shop, 700 E. 13th St. Trees

can be deposited during daylight hours through Sunday,

Jan. 31. All trees will be recycled into wood chips, which will be used in Ames parks. The Parks & Recreation Maintenance driveway will be marked with a sign. Remember that the tree stand, tinsel, and all ornaments should be removed before leaving the tree for disposal.



Are You Parked on a Snow Route?

When the snow falls, it's important to move your vehicle if you park on a street that's part of the snow route. Snow routes are marked with red and white signs. All vehicles must be removed from snow routes when the snow ordinance goes into effect.

How do you know when the snow ordinance is in effect?

Pay attention to local media, check the City's website (www.cityofames.org), watch City Channel 12, and join the City of Ames on Facebook and Twitter! All of these sources will help you get updates and notifications. Snow plowing begins after two inches of snow accumulates on the city's major streets (Grand Avenue, Lincoln Way, Duff Avenue, etc.). Reaching two inches on these streets also activates the snow ordinance. The best way to know if the snow ordinance will be in effect is to watch the weather!

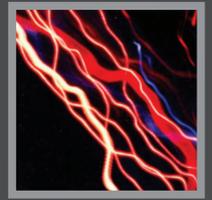


Volunteer for a Board or Commission

Here's one way to volunteer in your community and make a difference. Join a City of Ames board or commission. Boards and commissions make recommendations to the Ames City Council and assist the Council in carrying out various functions of local government. The following boards and commissions have vacancies occurring in the first part of 2016. The number following the name of the board or commission indicates the number of pending vacancies. The number in parentheses denotes how many incumbents may be reappointed.

Apply online at www.cityofames.org (under Our Government, Boards & Commissions). Applications are also available in the City Clerk's Office. **Deadline to apply is 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 12.**

Commission/Board	Meeting Days/Times	Vacancies
ASSET	2 nd Thurs./5 p.m.	2 (1)
Building Board of Appeals	As needed	3 (3)
Civil Service Commission	4 th Thurs./8:15 a.m.	1 (1)
Commission On The Arts (COTA)	1 st Mon./5 p.m.	2 (2)
Electric Utility Operations Review & Advisory Board (EUORAB)	As needed	1 (1)
Historic Preservation Commission	2 nd Mon./7 p.m.	2 (2)
Human Relations Commission	4 th Thurs./5:30 p.m.	2 (2)
Human Relations Commission - Hearing Officers (must be educated in law)	As needed	4 (1)
Human Relations Commission - Investigative & Conciliation Officers	As needed	5
Library Board of Trustees	3 rd Thurs./7 p.m.	3 (3)
Parks and Recreation Commission	3 rd Thurs./4 p.m.	4 (4)
Partner Cities Association	3 rd Thurs./5 p.m.	1 (1)
Planning and Zoning Commission	1 st & 3 rd Wed./7 p.m.	2 (2)
Property Maintenance Appeals Board	As needed	1 (1)
Public Art Commission	1 st Wed./Noon	5 (5)
Total		38



Smart Business Challenge Encourages Energy Reduction

The Smart Business Challenge began with the citywide sesquicentennial celebration in 2014 and has continued to gain momentum. The program encourages businesses to help create a more sustainable Ames through energy and water conservation, greener transportation, general waste reduction, indoor and outdoor environmental quality, carbon footprint reduction, and community engagement.

Participating businesses are provided information about Ames Electric Services' Smart Energy rebate programs for commercial customers, as well as encouraged to implement a business energy plan that saves money while helping the environment.

More than five years ago, with support from the Ames City Council, Mayor Ann Campbell joined mayors from across the country in signing the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement. In the time that has passed, the City of Ames has continued to encourage residential and business sustainability efforts. Many businesses have joined the challenge, and Ames Electric Services is continuing its efforts into 2016.



Ames has many examples of our pioneering spirit when it comes to sustainability. The Smart Business Challenge is an opportunity to recognize that commitment to environmental stewardship in the business community. Participants have the opportunity to achieve bronze, silver, gold and platinum status, and receive encouragement to reach the next level in energy reduction. For more information about how to participate in the Smart 150 Challenge, go to the City's website at www.cityofames.org/SmartBusinessChallenge.

Worried about Winter?

Free Things That Lower Your Heating Bill

Saving energy doesn't have to be expensive or difficult. Below are some no cost ways you can save energy and still be comfortable this winter.

- Turn off lights when leaving a room.
- Set thermostats to 68°F in winter when you're home, and down to 55°F when you go to bed or when you're away. (Programmable thermostats do this automatically).
- Don't block air registers, and keep them clean.
- Don't waste water, hot or cold, inside or outside your home.
- Clean below and behind your refrigerator once a year.
- Air-dry your clothes.
- Close registers and doors in unused rooms.
- Repair leaky faucets and toilets (Five percent of water "use" is leakage).
- Close drapes after sunset in the winter.
- Request a Smart Energy residential or commercial energy audit.

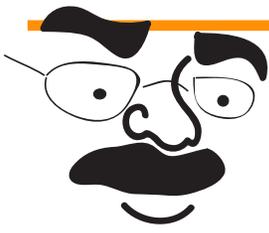
Eco Fair 2016 Reminder

The City of Ames is excited to once again host the annual Eco Fair. In an effort to help Ames residents embrace energy conservation and sustainable practices, the Eco Fair will showcase booths, displays, and vendors featuring energy-saving products. Booths will include information on electric and water conservation, watershed protection, low-impact landscaping, and transportation efficiency.

Please join us on Saturday, April 2, 2016, at the Community Center Gymnasium, 515 Clark Ave., from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Eco Fair is fun and educational for all ages.

Iowa One Call Phone Number

Always remember to call before you dig. The Iowa One Call number is even easier to remember. Just dial 811!



Ask the Energy Guy

Q: What is vampire power?

A: Although it sounds like something out of a 1950s horror flick, vampire power actually refers to appliances and electronic devices that continue to use electricity when they are turned off. They are sucking energy from appliances you think are dead.

Vampire electronic devices may take on various forms including your cell phone, HDTV, video game, computer, DVD player, microwave, stove, and maybe even your washing machine. Such appliances and electronic devices continue using energy when they're turned off to power features such as clock displays, remote controls, internal digital memory, instant on features, and battery chargers. According to the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy, 40 percent of the energy used by home electronics is consumed while they are in standby mode. Turning them off doesn't stop electricity use.

According to the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, a DVD player consumes about 11 watts of electricity when used. But even when it's turned off, it still uses about 6 watts of energy. Additionally, the average home computer can use 60 watts of electricity in standby mode. That wasted energy can cost around \$30 a year. When you consider the fact that in each U.S. home there may be 10 to 50 vampire devices, you can begin to see the potential for energy waste. Here are some tips to stop energy waste:

- When finished charging devices such as a cell phone, disconnect the device and unplug the charger. Even if a device isn't connected, energy continues to seep out through the charger itself.
- Unplug all major appliances when heading out on vacation. Even when devices such as the microwave, stove and washing machine aren't in use, their light-emitting diode (LED) panels may continue to use energy.
- Turn all computers and monitors off when not in use. Even though this equipment may convert to sleep mode, it keeps draining energy.
- Purchase a power strip that can turn several appliances off at the same time. This can be more convenient than plugging-in and unplugging appliances in hard-to-reach places around your home.

Numbers to Know

Power out515.239.5240
 Street light out515.239.5500
 Utility bill515.239.5120
 Energy questions..515.239.5177
 Tree growing too close to an
 electric line515.239.5500
 Going to be digging?
 Iowa One Call: 811
 Stormwater
 Concern:.....515.239.5160

Power Plant Renewable Energy Use

For October 2015

Wind purchased: 6,378,353 kWh

Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) Used: 27,964 tons

Heating Degree Days

October			Season to date		
2015	2014	33-year Average	14/15	13/14	33-year Average
341	378	393	408	499	502

Cooling Degree Days

October			Season to date		
2015	2014	33-year Average	2015	2014	33-year Average
11	0	14	991	890	1042

Degree Days are tabulated from hourly temperature data recorded at the Electric Services Power Plant. Monthly and seasonal degree days are averages since 1982. More degree day information is available on our Web site: www.cityofames.org

Steve Wilson

"The Energy Guy"

Energy Services Coordinator
515.239.5177

Prime Time Power

The Prime Time Power program is available to all homeowners and small businesses with central air conditioners. You do not need to reapply for Prime Time Power if you've signed up before. The \$5 credit during each of the four summer months is automatically applied to your account. To sign up or receive additional information about the program, call Utility Customer Service at 515.239.5120 or Steve Wilson at 515.239.5177.

Call for a Free Energy Conservation Packet

Need to improve your home's energy efficiency? Call 515.239.5177 for a free energy conservation packet. You'll receive booklets from the Iowa Energy Center, a home self audit, and information on Smart Energy.

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

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Questions?

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