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Reduce, Reuse and Recycle at New Rummage RAMPage!

This summer, the City of Ames is planning a new event to help Iowa State University students keep reusable items out of the landfill during move out and lease changeovers. The Rummage RAMPage will be held at the end of July at the Ames Intermodal Facility parking ramp at 129 Hayward Ave.

Based on a similar event held annually in Iowa City, the Rummage RAMPage targets students who are often faced with the dilemma of moving residences and discarding personal property. This can create a series of problems. Usable items are thrown in the trash or randomly discarded through dumping, and furniture ends up discarded, abandoned, damaged, and deposited in the landfill.

The Rummage RAMPage seeks to keep items out of the landfill by collecting donations of still-usable items, selling them at a giant sale - open to the public - in the parking ramp. Proceeds would be divided among local nonprofits helping at the event. The City of Ames is seeking non-profit environmental, human services, civic, and faith-based organizations with members able to transport items and assist at the rummage sale.

Are you part of a group interested in helping? Contact Bill Schmitt, Resource Recovery Plant, at bschmitt@city.ames.ia.us or Merry Rankin, Sustainability Coordinator, at mrankin@iastate.edu.

Enjoy Fourth of July Pancakes!

Ames residents are invited to join members of the Ames City Council at this year’s Fourth of July Community Pancake celebration. The event will be held from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Monday, July 4, just prior to the Fourth of July parade at 11 a.m.

Remember that fireworks will be held after dusk on Sunday, July 3.

During the celebration, free pancakes, sausage, and coffee will be served at the front entrance of City Hall, 515 Clark Ave. Children are invited to bring their bikes, decorate them at the breakfast, and join the parade. Breakfast will be served rain or shine!
City Council Meetings

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

- 6 p.m. July 12
- 6 p.m. July 26

A Council workshop will be held at 6 p.m. July 19. For the most current information, go to: www.cityofames.org.

Ames Water
Tested for Safety

Drinking water in Ames has been repeatedly tested for lead over a span of 25 years. Professionals with the City of Ames Water and Pollution Control Department travel to locations within the city specifically selected because they had the greatest potential for containing lead. The results have never violated the federal Action Limit, and are so low that they are routinely below the detection limit of the laboratory equipment used.

The City of Ames takes water safety seriously and wants customers to feel confident in municipal water. For information about lead, including simple tips to minimize any potential exposure, go to the City’s website at www.CityOfAmes.org/Lead.

New Storm Water Rates Go Into Effect on July 1

As Ames grows, so does the amount of impervious area. Impervious area includes hard surfaces such as rooftops, sidewalks, and driveways that convey water into storm sewers rather than absorb it. The storm water utility - a charge on your monthly utility bill - will feature a new rate structure beginning July 1. The new fees reflect the ongoing costs of managing storm water including addressing aging infrastructure, rehabilitation and maintenance work.

The storm water utility funds programs and projects that reduce overland flooding and maintain compliance with storm water runoff regulations. The current storm water utility system is based on four tiers of rates that consider the square-foot amount of impervious area on each piece of property. Residential homes are typically in Tier 1 category. Tier 1 properties currently pay $3.45, but will begin paying $4.70 each month beginning July 1.

Storm water utility fees cover costs of constructing, operating, repairing, and maintaining all kinds of conduits, drains, storm water detention devices, ponds, ditches, streams, erosion control devices, and other storm water control facilities. Capital Improvement Plan projects financed through the fee include storm sewer intake rehabilitation, low point drainage, and improvements to specific parts of the community. The fee also funds education, outreach, and other activities.

New Features for Greenbriar Park

Located off South 16th Street, northeast of the ISU College of Veterinary Medicine, Greenbriar Park has undergone some major changes in the last few years. Through a generous donation from Woodruff Construction, a new shelter and concrete paths will soon be included. To celebrate its 60th anniversary, Woodruff Construction is contributing labor and materials for park improvements.

Originally designed as a nine-acre passive park, Greenbriar Park featured native prairie plantings and a trailhead for the shared-use path. Over time, the increase in nearby housing created a need for more recreational options in the area. Recently, an asphalt parking lot was added and a play structure was installed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tier</th>
<th>Impervious Area (SF)</th>
<th>Charge</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>150 - 10,000</td>
<td>$4.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>10,000.01 - 30,000</td>
<td>$9.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>30,000.01 - 90,000</td>
<td>$14.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>90,000 and above</td>
<td>$42.25</td>
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</table>

Water detention was expanded and enhanced at Moore Memorial Park to protect nearby property.
Why It’s Important to Reduce Electric “Peak” Consumption

Why is it a good idea to reduce our summer peak? Quite simply, cost. During the summer, temperatures and humidity create a seasonal demand for more energy. Over time, the utility sets higher and higher summer “peaks.” In 1992, the demand for electricity was around 65 megawatts (MW). Over the past 24 years, the demand increased 200 percent with an averaged growth rate of 10 percent a year.

The current high demand for electricity is 130.6 MW. When the demand for electricity increases, there are three places City of Ames Electric Services can get needed power:

- Electricity can be purchased from other utilities or Ames Electric Services can use supplemental “peaking” generators. Power from these sources can be expensive.
- Ames Electric Services can install additional generators to supply more power. Again, this is a very expensive alternative.
- Customers can reduce electricity use. This costs less than buying or installing generation, and can have a huge impact on future costs.

With your help we can reduce our system’s peak demand, delay the need to add additional power generators, and keep rates as low as possible. During the summer, electricity usage is highest between the hours of 3 p.m. and 9 p.m. If you can shift electric usage from these hours to early morning or late evening hours, you can help reduce peak demand.

Power Out? Here’s What To Do

Although we can’t guarantee that your power will never go off, we always do our best to restore service as quickly as possible. In fact, one of our greatest strengths as your local, community-owned electric utility is our ability to respond quickly in case of a power outage.

There are several easy steps if your power goes off. First, check if the power is off in the whole house or just part of it. This includes checking your main electric panel to see if a breaker has tripped or a fuse has blown. If the problem is not in your panel, check to see if neighbors have been affected.

If you can’t identify the problem, call the outage reporting number at 515.239.5240. You will be asked to provide your name, address of the outage, and phone number at the outage address. Here’s another great resource:

You can keep up with any electric outage citywide by checking our real-time, online map at: www.CityOfAmes.org/ElectricOutage.

Are You Moving This Summer?

If a move is in your future, make a point to contact Utility Customer Services as soon as possible to request to have your utility service stopped or transferred.

You may submit your stop or transfer request at www.amesutilities.com or by contacting the Utility Customer Service office at 515.239.5120. The office is located in City Hall, 515 Clark Ave., and office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tree Planting

- Plant trees 30 feet from power poles, 10 feet from underground primary cable, and 5 feet from your home’s underground service cable.
- Plant trees and shrubs 10 feet from the front of a pad-mount transformer, and 3 feet from the sides.
- Always call before you dig. The Iowa One Call number is 811.

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Ask the Energy Guy

Q: How do I apply for a Smart Energy rebate?
A: Participating in Smart Energy rebate and audit programs provide an incentive to help make choices that are energy efficient and reduce the electricity usage. City of Ames Electric Services strives to make the Smart Energy rebate application process as easy as possible. However, it is necessary that anyone applying provide the utility with certain information in order to assist us in processing a claim for rebate.

What is the utility looking for in a rebate claim? This is pretty simple. Make sure you have the proper form, filled out, signed and returned to Ames Electric Services. Our rebates require proof of purchase. Depending on the program, the rebate may require proof that an old appliance was removed and proof of Energy Star rating. There is no need to send originals, copies are fine. Double check your form for completeness and accuracy. This will expedite your rebate check!

Rebates are available for efficient lighting, central and window air conditioners, programmable and Wi-Fi thermostats, air-to-air and geothermal heat pumps, Energy Star rated washing machines, electric clothes dryers, dishwashers, refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers, and Energy Star rated new homes. Typically, a rebate check is mailed to the customer in two to three weeks.

Claim forms can be found on the Smart Energy website at www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy. Forms can also be picked up at Customer Service at City Hall, 515 Clark Ave., or at Electric Administration, 502 Carroll Ave. If you want one mailed, call 515.239.5177.

Completed forms can be returned numerous ways. They can be scanned and emailed, sent via regular mail, faxed, placed in the outdoor drop box at City Hall, or brought to Electric Administration. The Smart Energy program is intended to be simple and user friendly. The goal is to reduce our community-wide demand for electricity, which will lead to improved system reliability, a cleaner environment, reduced utility operating costs, and lower bills. The Smart Energy program is good for the utility, good for Ames, and good for you.

### Heating Degree Days

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Degree Days</th>
<th>Season to date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>2016 2015 43 443</td>
<td>2016 2015 15/16 14/15 6297</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Cooling Degree Days

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Degree Days</th>
<th>Season to date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>2016 2015 6 13</td>
<td>2016 2015 19 3 14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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