

City Side

Caring People Quality Programs Exceptional Service

Inside

- 2 Outdoor Sirens Provide Warnings
- 2 Discounted Swim Passes Offered
- 2 Homewood Set to Open In April
- 3 Project Share Helps Others
- 4 The Energy Guy

New Hangar, Fixed Base Operator At Ames Municipal Airport

A multi-phased improvement plan is underway at the Ames Municipal Airport, and it's hard to miss the big changes happening. In addition to a recently completed new airport hangar, a new terminal is under construction. Additionally, a new Fixed Base Operator (FBO) will begin managing the day-to-day operations in April. These improvements were made possible through a private-public partnership that includes investments by the City of Ames, Story County, Iowa State University, the Ames Economic Development Commission, and the Ames business community.



The interior of the new airport hangar offers 11,400 square feet of protected space for aircraft.

The original Ames Municipal Airport was constructed in 1943 after citizens of Ames voted 1,225 to 257 to establish a municipal airport. In the beginning, two turf runways pioneered the development of the Ames Municipal Airport. Since then, two paved runways, numerous hangars, and a terminal were constructed. The modernized Ames Municipal Airport will serve as a gateway to the community as it welcomes travelers and showcases Ames as a modern, thriving, and progressive city.

The new airport hangar, privately funded through an effort spearheaded by the Ames Economic Development Commission, offers 11,400 square feet of protected space for visiting aircraft. Now that the private construction project has been completed, the hangar has been dedicated to the City of Ames.

North Iowa Air Service, which manages facilities in Charles City and Mason City, Iowa, has been contracted to handle FBO duties at the Ames Municipal Airport. North Iowa Air Service was formed in 1957 as Charles City Aeronautics, Inc., to provide airport management services and aeronautical services to the North Iowa region. Since that time, the company has evolved into a full-service, FBO offering aircraft sales, service, charter, fueling, storage, management, and flight training.

Another exciting improvement is the new terminal building. The nearly 7,000-square foot facility will feature a bright, modern, open design with amenities for travelers including restrooms, vending, and seating areas. The terminal will include space dedicated to pilots and flight planning, meeting and training space, as well as the FBO area. The terminal is anticipated to open in the summer.

Calendar

City Council Meetings

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

6 p.m. April 11

6 p.m. April 25

A Council workshop will be held at 6 p.m. April 18.

Homewood Golf Course

It won't be long before the weather warms, and you'll be looking forward to getting

out the golf clubs. Don't forget that Homewood



Golf Course, 401 E. 20th St., opens for the season in early April (weather permitting). To find out the specific opening day, check the Parks and Recreation Facebook page or the City's website at www.cityofames.org. Golfers interested in purchasing a season pass or punch card before opening day can do so at the Community Center, 515 Clark Ave., or by calling 515.239.5350. Online and mobile tee times can be booked at www.amesparkrec.org.

Outdoor Warning Sirens Alert Residents to Storms

Spring weather is always changing, and the next few months can be unpredictable. Thunderstorms, wind, hail, tornadoes, and flooding are always a risk. There are many things Ames residents can do to ensure their safety in dangerous weather situations, including paying attention to the outdoor warning sirens. The outdoor emergency sirens in Story County will be activated in certain conditions.



In addition to sounding the sirens when tornadoes are spotted in the area, the outdoor warning system sirens may be sounded for severe thunderstorms if:

- Winds are occurring/forecast to be 70 miles per hour or greater
- Hail 1.75 inches (golf ball) or greater is occurring/forecast

The outdoor siren warning system includes 17 sirens located around Ames, and five sirens on Iowa State University campus. The outdoor warning system was designed to warn people who are outside of approaching tornadoes or storm systems. To stay safe indoors and be sure dangerous weather has passed, every home or business should have a weather radio. Please do not call 911 to inquire about weather conditions unless you are experiencing an emergency.

When the sirens are activated, they will sound for five minutes. If necessary, they will be reactivated after five minutes. There is no "all clear" signal from the sirens. Residents are encouraged to listen to their radios or televisions for all clear information.

Remember that the outdoor emergency sirens are tested the first Wednesday of every month, weather permitting. If testing is postponed, it will be held the second Wednesday of the month.

Discounted Swim Passes Offered

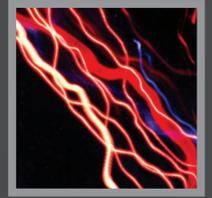
Summer season pool passes for Furman Aquatic Center are now available. Purchase a new summer season pass by May 1 and receive a 10 percent discount. Renew your 2016 summer pass and receive a 15 percent discount.



Purchase passes at the Community Center, 515 Clark Ave, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, and from 1 to 7 p.m. on Sunday. Purchase or renew your pass over the phone with a MasterCard, Visa or Discover credit card by calling the Parks and Recreation

office at 515.239.5350. Unfortunately, pass renewal is not available online.

Passes are valid from May 27 through September 4 at both the Furman Aquatic Center and Municipal Pool.



Your Contributions Assist Project Share Help Those In Need

A simple way to share the warmth with those in need is to make a monthly pledge or a one-time contribution to Project Share. Project Share is a program developed by Ames Electric Services to assist low-income customers with the payment of their winter time utility bills. The program's success is the result of your compassion and generosity. Through your support, Ames Electric Services has been able to provide \$390,982 in assistance to 3,271 households since the program's inception in 1990. Last winter, we were able to provide \$17,080 in assistance to 136 households.

The purpose of the Project Share program is to solicit and accept contributions to assist low-income customers. A committee appointed by the Ames City Council determines the permissible uses of the funds donated to Project Share. The Committee has established guidelines to ensure that every dollar contributed to the program is used to assist low-income customers.

Ames Electric Services ensures contributions go to those in need by providing the staff and materials needed to administer the program. Last year, Ames Electric Services contributed \$4,330 toward the cost of administering the program. Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA) also assists in the administration of the program by determining the eligibility of households for Project Share funds.

Please Consider a Contribution to Project Share

I wish to make a monthly contribution to Project Share. I understand this amount will be listed on my monthly utility bill and that I can cancel my pledge at any time by contacting the City of Ames Utility Customer Service office.

\$1/month \$2/month \$5/month \$10/month other ___/month

I wish to make a one time contribution to Project Share rather than making a monthly pledge. I have enclosed a \$_____ donation to Project Share.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please return this form with your utility bill payment or mail to:
 Ames Electric Services, Attn: Project Share Committee, P.O. Box
 811, Ames, IA 50010-0811

Thermostat Dilemma

How should you control your furnace? Set it and forget it, or turn it down overnight and while you're at work to save energy? If you turn it down, doesn't it cost more to reheat the house? It's a common misconception that after a thermostat is turned down, a furnace works harder than normal to warm the space back to a comfortable temperature.

According to the Department of Energy (DOE), the extra fuel you use warming the home back up is offset by the fuel you save getting down to the new lower temperature. You save all the time your system is at the lower setting. The longer your house remains at the changed temperature, the more energy (and dollars) you save. A rough estimate would be a 1% savings for every 1° F of temperature change per eight-hour period consistently through the season.



Ask the Energy Guy

Q: My bills seem pretty high. I try to conserve, but my energy costs keep going up. Is there anything I can do?

A: There is nothing more frustrating than working hard to save energy only to have your bills go up. So, is there anything that can be done? Short answer, yes. Sign up for a free Smart Energy audit. While there are many things that can help bring high bills down, it all starts with knowing what is using the energy. A Smart Energy Residential Energy Audit is free and is performed by a professional who is trained in the use of specialized equipment and knowledgeable in efficient construction practices.



SMARTENERGY
USING RESOURCES RESOURCEFULLY

More than simply identifying the sources of energy use, the audit seeks to prioritize opportunities from the greatest to least cost effective for energy

savings. An energy audit looks at the building's envelope including the walls, ceilings, floors, doors, and windows. It will look at insulation levels and the general condition of the home. It will also look at the lighting, appliances, water heater, thermostat, and furnace and air conditioner.

According to the Department of Energy, air leaks in homes can drive up heating and cooling costs by 20 percent or more. The Smart Energy audit includes a blower door test for homes built in 2000 or earlier. The test pulls air from the home to slightly change the indoor air pressure, which forces outside air through unsealed areas. This test will tell you how leaky your home is and identify the main causes.

The audit includes a comprehensive written report outlining the home's performance and making recommendations to improve efficiency, comfort, and ongoing sustainability. According to the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, an energy audit can save the average homeowner about \$600 a year by addressing the recommendations. How do you get a free audit? Call 515.239.5177 or visit www.cityofames.org/smartenergy.

Numbers to Know

- Power out515.239.5240
- Street light out515.239.5500
- Utility bills515.239.5120
- Energy questions..515.239.5177
- Tree growing too close to an electric line515.239.5500
- Going to be digging?
- Iowa One Call:811
- Storm Water
- Concern.....515.239.5160

Renewable Energy

For January 2017

- 6.9%** of electricity used this month was generated from wind.
- 10%** of electricity this month was generated by refuse derived fuel (RDF) from the Resource Recovery Plant.
- 61** Ames customers have invested in solar voltaic systems.
- 57** LED street lights installed for a total of **738**.

Degree Day information available at www.CityOfAmes.org/Electric

Steve Wilson

"The Energy Guy"

Energy Services Coordinator
515.239.5177

Prime Time Power Reminder

Receive a \$5 credit during each of the four summer months for allowing Ames Electric Services to cycle off your air conditioner for brief periods during peak summer loads. The credit is automatically applied to your account. To sign up, call Steve Wilson, The Energy Guy, at 515.239.5177.

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

Editor

Susan Gwiasda
Public Relations Officer

Questions?

515 Clark Ave.
Ames, IA 50010
Phone: 515.239.5204