Ames Municipal Cemetery
Improvements Planned

The Ames Municipal Cemetery, located along East 13th Street, will be undergoing several improvements that will enhance service to cemetery customers and make the property even more attractive. This spring, cemetery water service lines will be replaced and new spigots will be installed throughout the grounds to assist with care of grave decorations, plantings, and turf. Other improvements include resurfacing roads within the cemetery, waterproofing the cemetery office building basement, and adding new equipment to help improve the quality and efficiency of cemetery operations. Visitors will likely notice the expansion and enhancement to the cemetery columbarium area (the above ground niches for cremated remains). The columbarium project will include the addition of a second, larger columbarium unit to accommodate increased demand for columbarium interments. The existing columbarium unit will be moved - fully intact - a short distance to allow for an integrated site layout. In addition, the project will include paving and landscaping improvements, bench installations, and better options for decorations.

Finally, GIS mapping is helping users locate burial plots and gather information. Visit the cemetery website at www.cityofames.org/cemetery to search for burial locations, research burial records, and look for available spaces for purchase. Obituaries, photographs of grave markers and monuments, deeds, and other records are being added.

Designed in 1878, the cemetery was initially located a distance from residential and business districts. It remained outside the city limits (privately managed by the Ames Cemetery Association) until 1917 when the City of Ames purchased the property. Additional cemetery land was purchased over the years with the last purchase in 1929, bringing the total size of the cemetery to its current 54 acres.

Crews At Work!

To counter the wear and tear of winter, City of Ames traffic crews will begin re-striping streets; painting curbs, crosswalks, stop bars, and symbols; and refreshing parking lot lines on Monday, May 8.

This work typically begins when the weather warms and takes until the end of August to complete. Street and curb painting can have a temporary impact on traffic flow by requiring detours or brief closings. Drivers can help by being cautious and proceeding slowly when traveling in areas where crews are working.
City Council Meetings
The following meetings will be held in the Council Chambers, 515 Clark Avenue:

6 p.m. May 9
6 p.m. May 23

A Council workshop will be held at 6 p.m. May 16. For the most current information, go to: www.cityofames.org.

Get Your Neighbors Together For Fun
The Street ‘N’ Greet Block Party Trailer is a great way to build neighborhood connections and is available free of charge to Ames residents for use at neighborhood block parties. To reserve the trailer, check the reservation calendar, or submit a reservation request, go to www.cityofames.org/trailer. Once you have completed the online form, City staff will contact you regarding your requested date and event details. Contact Joe Newman, Parks and Recreation Department, at 515.239.5341 with questions.

The Block Party Trailer makes having a neighborhood gathering easy. The trailer holds tables, chairs, road barricades, games, a karaoke machine, and more. A block party event can bring neighbors together, build connections, and create great memories for everyone!

Did You Miss Some City News? Catch Up with Channel 12
It’s not possible to make it to every City meeting, but we know Ames residents want to stay informed. The good news is that Channel 12 makes it easy to keep up on City Council meetings, Board and Commission meetings, and general City of Ames news. Our City Channel 12 is available on television for Mediacom subscribers and online through our City website at www.CityOfAmes.org. (Look for the Channel 12 button on the front page!)

Not only is Channel 12 live streamed through our website, we have an impressive archive of past meetings. For example, if you miss a City Council meeting, you can check the archive the next day to stream the meeting on your computer. We make it easy to identify a certain part of the meeting by connecting the video to the agenda. By clicking on an agenda item, you are taken to the exact segment of the video!

Keeping residents informed about programs, services, projects, and changes is important. Channel 12 is a great tool to stay up-to-date on the City of Ames. We are always looking for ways to help residents stay connected. Try Channel 12 live video streaming and the video archive to get the latest news!

Spring Free Day Planned for May
The annual spring Yard Waste Free Day will be held on a Saturday in May this year, but the exact date has not yet been set. The vendor name, map, event location, and specific date will be listed on the City’s website at www.CityOfAmes.org.

Please remember that yard waste is not accepted at the Resource Recovery Plant and cannot be thrown into the garbage. Residents can contact their private garbage hauler for paid options for yard waste disposal. Also, there are yard waste disposal businesses in the area that will accept yard waste. Another option for disposing of yard waste is through composting.

The City of Ames hosts one Yard Waste Free Day in the spring and four events in fall. Yard Waste Free Days are set each year with a vendor after considering other potential conflicts such as sporting events, holidays and community celebrations.
Fighting Burrito Participates In the Smart Business Challenge

For Ames businesses, being green is good for the community, good for their patrons, and good for their bottom line. Since joining the Smart Business Challenge, many businesses have earned platinum, gold, silver, or bronze certification. Ames Electric Services will recognize Smart Business participants in future editions of City Side. How did these businesses achieve these energy-efficient milestones? Read on to learn more.

When Fighting Burrito, 117 Welch Ave., opened in Campustown in 2004, the restaurant made a promise to become an involved member of the community. Over the years, there are many examples of how this eatery proved its commitment. One of the more prominent has been the “Big Hearted Burrito Giveback Program,” which has helped collect funds in support of local causes. In 2016, the business received special recognition at the Governor’s Iowa Environmental Excellence Awards. The Burrito’s commitment to sustainability is evident in its product delivery. In addition to using electric vehicles, the Burrito delivers by foot and bicycle, too! This keeps its carbon footprint as small as possible and contributes to the Fighting Burrito’s platinum status as a Smart Business Challenge team member.

Be a part of creating a sustainable Ames by involving your business in the Smart Business Challenge. The challenge explores energy and water conservation, transportation, waste reduction, indoor and outdoor environmental quality, carbon footprint, and community engagement. Businesses can participate in rebate programs and implement a business energy plan that saves money while helping the environment. For more information, go to www.cityofames.org/SmartBusinessChallenge.

Tree Trimming Keeps Energy Flowing

Keeping tree limbs away from electric lines helps ensure your power remains dependable and reliable throughout the seasons. Ames Electric Services monitors transmission lines for tree interference, but your help is appreciated. If you notice any foliage clearance problems near power lines, call 515.239.5500.

If tree trimming is needed on your property, the homeowner has the option to keep or remove any burnable wood. If it is kept, the limbs are cut into pieces 24 inches long with a diameter of 4 inches and more, and stacked. All of the trimming, cutting, stacking, and removal is done at no cost to the homeowner. Help us help you keep the electricity flowing to your home!

Power Off? Start Here!

- Check if the power is off in the whole house or just part of it.
- Check your main electric panel to see if a breaker has tripped or fuse has blown.
- If the problem is not in your panel, check to see if neighbors have been affected.
- Call your 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.

Iowa One Call Phone Number

Always remember to call before you dig. The Iowa One Call number is easy to remember. Just dial 811!
Q: I’ve heard that Ames Electric Services is considering a public solar project. What information can you provide?
A: What a great question and a great opportunity to explain where we are in the process. Ames Electric Services is pursuing a Community Solar Project. We have hired a consultant to help us write our construction bid document, and we’ve picked out a primary and secondary site for the array. We hope to release the project to the public any day now.

We know not everyone interested in solar (photovoltaic systems) wants an individual system. That’s where community solar projects can help. Citizens will have the opportunity to invest directly in the project via the purchase of generation shares. Each share will represent a percentage of the total generation capacity of the array. The Community Solar Project will have a goal of generating 1.5 megawatts (MW) of electricity. We also know our customers will need some basic information to help them make educated decisions. One of those very important questions will be approximately how much will it cost to invest? We are doing what we can to make participation affordable. Our current timeline has the solar farm up and generating by the end of the year, but this could change depending on weather and reconciliation of some permitting issues.

Once we are ready, we will market the available solar energy to the community. The project will move forward when a percentage of the array is funded by citizen investment. Construction begins when 75 percent of the available kilowatt-hour generation has been purchased.

We anticipate the sign-up period will begin soon and continue until August or September. Watch for announcements in City Side, on the City’s web page (www.CityOfAmes.org), City of Ames Facebook and Twitter, local media, or you can contact me, the Energy Guy, at 515.239.5177 or swilson@city.ames.ia.us for updates.

**Numbers to Know**

- Power out ............... 515.239.5240
- Street light out .......... 515.239.5500
- Utility bills ............... 515.239.5120
- Energy questions .. 515.239.5177
- Tree growing too close to an electric line .......... 515.239.5500
- Going to be digging?
- Iowa One Call: ......................... 811
- Storm Water
- Concern ....................... 515.239.5160

**Renewable Energy**

**For February 2017**

- 13.5% of electricity used this month was generated from wind.
- 4% 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*