Reduce, Reuse and Recycle at Second Annual RAMPage!

For the second year, the City of Ames and the ISU Office of Sustainability are hosting Rummage RAMPage at the Ames Intermodal Facility, 129 Hayward Ave. This multi-day community garage sale uses volunteers to staff the event, and sells donated items at bargain prices. Any proceeds are distributed to non-profit groups who send volunteers. The Rummage RAMPage focuses on students who are often faced with the dilemma of moving residences and discarding personal property, which can create a problem with usable items thrown in the trash or randomly discarded through dumping.

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. The event will begin with drop-offs on Friday, July 28, and sales will be held from Saturday, July 29 through Wednesday, Aug. 2

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 Tuesday, July 4, just prior to the Fourth of July parade at 11 a.m.

Remember that fireworks will be held after dusk on Monday, 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 City Council Chambers, 515 Clark Ave.:

- 6 p.m. July 11
- 6 p.m. July 25

A Council workshop will be held at 6 p.m. July 18. Meetings are listed: www.cityofames.org.

Know the Law About Fireworks!

Before Ames residents start stockpiling bottle rockets and planning a fireworks extravaganza, they should be aware of local restrictions!

Although the State of Iowa has passed legislation legalizing fireworks, municipalities may opt out by creating local ordinances within city limits. It’s important to remember the City of Ames enacted an ordinance in 1987 banning the use of fireworks within city limits, which means local restrictions are already in place.

Those who are caught exploding fireworks within the city limits could face a simple misdemeanor charge with a minimum fine of $250. Knowing the law can help prevent your Fourth of July celebration from becoming a dud!

New Rates, Fee Structure To be Implemented on July 1

The City of Ames strives to provide exceptional programs and services at the best price. City departments use innovation and creativity to discover new ways of working to be more efficient, and City employees are encouraged to look for opportunities to continually improve to better serve citizens. Unfortunately, there are times when a rate increase is necessary. When that happens, we want residents to know.

Electric Rates

Beginning July 1, Ames Electric Services customers will experience an across-the-board rate increase of 4 percent. This is the first increase since 2009. The additional revenue will cover operating costs and capital improvement projects scheduled for the next five years. Ames Electric Services recently completed some major projects including converting the coal-fired Power Plant to natural gas, which cut greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent. Another project on the horizon is the development of a community solar project, which will be funded by those who opt in for sustainable energy.

Storm Water Rates

A second increase on July utility bills will affect the storm water utility fee. Storm water runoff from rooftops, sidewalks, driveways, and other impervious surfaces is conveyed directly into lakes, rivers, and streams through the storm sewer system. Storm water utility fees cover the cost of constructing, operating, repairing, and maintaining all kinds of storm water control infrastructure including conduits, drains, ponds, ditches, streams, and erosion control devices. This infrastructure is essential to the proper management, collection, drainage, and disposition of storm water.

The storm sewer system is experiencing stress due to several factors. The frequency and severity of rainfall events has increased. Also more rain water is being diverted to our storm water system as the City makes progress on repairing holes in our sanitary sewer distribution system.

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 the Tier 1 category. The increased fee is being used to take care of our aging infrastructure, fix erosion in river and streams, improve water quality through green infrastructure, and rehabilitate existing storm water management facilities in our community.

Resource Recovery Fees

Finally, an increase is planned for tipping fees at the Resource Recovery Plant. Rates for dropping off materials from car or truckloads will increase from $8 to $10 for a carload and from $22 to $25 for a truckload. Rates will also increase for commercial trash haulers. These rates have remained the same since 2002. These increases will help offset several sources of lost revenue including a declining market for scrap metal and loss of refuse derived fuel income while the Power Plant was being converted to natural gas.

### STORM WATER FEES - Effective July 1, 2017

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<tr>
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<td>150 - 10,000</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>$14.85</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
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Power Out? Here’s What To Do

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. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Smart Energy

Check out Electric Services' Smart Energy website for information on programs and incentives to help you improve your efficiency, conserve energy, and reduce bills. Visit www.cityofames.org/SmartEnergy.

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 has increased 200 percent with an average 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. You can keep up with any electric outage citywide by checking our real-time, online map at: www.CityOfAmes.org/ElectricOutage.
Ask the Energy Guy

Q: How much will a new air conditioner save me?
A: As with other energy questions out there, the answer is it depends. Savings will be affected by the outdoor temperature and humidity, the size and efficiency of your old and new air conditioners, and your thermostat setting. However, assuming no major lifestyle changes and average weather, one should be able to get a rough idea of savings. The first step is to figure out how much you currently spend on air conditioning. Subtract your April electric bill from each of your July, August, September, and October electric bills. Total those bills and add 8%; this will give you a rough idea of your cooling costs.

The next step is to estimate your old and new air conditioner efficiencies. Cooling equipment is tested by the Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI) and given a seasonal energy efficiency rating (SEER) representing the cooling energy output per watt of electricity input. The higher the SEER, the more efficient the air conditioner. Your new air conditioner will have the SEER identified on the unit. If not, ask your installer for the information. Estimating the SEER of the old unit depends on its age. For an air conditioner older than 20 years, the SEER would be about 6. A 10- to 20-year-old air conditioner will have a SEER of around 8. Air conditioners newer than 10 years would be around 10.

Let’s say you are replacing a 20-year-old air conditioner, and you estimate the old unit SEER to be 8. Make sure the new system has a SEER of 15 to qualify for a Smart Energy rebate. The new air conditioner will save you 43 percent (8/15 = .53; 100% - 53% = 47% savings).

From your bill analysis you found that you spent about $392 a summer for air conditioning. Taking this times .47 will give you savings estimate of $184. The new unit should cost about $208 a season to operate.

Renewable Energy
For April 2017
16.8% of electricity used this month was generated from wind.
1.5% of electricity this month was generated by refuse derived fuel (RDF) from the Resource Recovery Plant.
135 Ames customers have invested in solar voltaic systems.
94 LED street lights were installed for a total of 950.

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