

# City Side

Caring People Quality Programs Exceptional Service

## Inside

- 2 Are You Parked on a Snow Route?
- 2 Volunteer for a City Commission
- 2 Christmas Tree Recycling Offered
- 3 SunSmart Ames: The Perfect Gift
- 3 Eco Fair 2018 in April
- 4 The Energy Guy

## Holiday Closing in January

City Hall and most City of Ames departments will be closed on Monday, Jan. 1, 2018, for New Year's Day.



## Emerald Ash Borer Response Plan Continues Through Winter

Ames Public Works crews will continue to implement the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Response Plan through the winter, which includes removing ash trees from public areas. The 20-year plan is entering its fourth year to remove and replace ash trees. Diversifying Ames' urban forest during replanting is an important component of the plan.

EAB is a small green beetle as an adult insect. The EAB larvae bore into the inner bark of ash trees and prevent the uptake of water and nutrients, eventually causing the tree to die. Because EAB has been confirmed in nearby communities, the future for ash trees in Ames looks tenuous. The Ames EAB Response Plan balances public safety with a commitment to replanting trees on public land.

There are more than 2,300 public ash trees in City right-of-way, in maintained areas of City parks (including along paved trails), and at City-owned facilities. Ash trees represent 16 percent of all public trees in Ames, which is higher than the 10 percent recommended for optimum diversity. To learn more about EAB and the EAB Response Plan, go to [www.CityOfAmes.org/trees](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/trees).

## Fire Chief Awarded Scholarship

Ames Fire Chief Shawn Bayouth recently attended the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Responder Forum in Quincy, Mass., after receiving a three-year scholarship by the International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA). The Responder Forum brings together fire service leaders, up-and-coming first responders, and subject matter experts to tackle the emerging issues faced by the fire service.

Chief Bayouth joined nearly 100 attendees who met to advance the fire service. The three-day forum included panel discussions, presentations, and small-group meetings on topics including emerging technologies, research, and standards development. Responder Forum participants explored persistent fire concerns and emerging issues including data, smart technology, firefighter health and wellness, occupational exposure, energy storage systems, wood buildings, hostile events, civil unrest, natural disasters, and fire service cultural shifts. Participants engaged in breakout discussions, spoke on panels, and connected with fire service innovators from 35 states, Canada, and the United Kingdom.



Shawn Bayouth, Ames Fire Chief

This is the third year for NFPA's Responder Forum, established with the vision of bridging research to practice by highlighting emerging technologies that the fire service must understand. The forum also provides a venue for researchers to share their findings and a forum for discussions on how research can be incorporated into NFPA codes and standards.

# Calendar

## City Council Meetings

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

- 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9
- 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23

A Council workshop on capital improvements will be held at 5:15 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16. For the most current information, go to: [www.CityOfAmes.org](http://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. 13<sup>th</sup> St. Trees can be deposited during daylight hours through Sunday, Jan. 28.

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](http://www.CityOfAmes.org)), watch City Channel 12, and join the City of Ames on Facebook and Twitter! 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

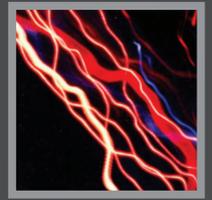
Volunteer in your community and make a difference by joining a City of Ames board or commission. Boards and commissions make recommendations to the Ames City Council and assist the Council in carrying out various functions of local government. The following boards and commissions have vacancies occurring in the first part of 2018. 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](http://www.CityOfAmes.org) (under Government, Boards & Commissions). Applications are also available in the City Clerk's Office. **Deadline to apply is 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 16.**

Commission/Board	Meeting Days/Times	Vacancies
ASSET	2nd Thurs./5 p.m	2 (2)
Building Board of Appeals	As needed	2 (1)
Civil Service Commission	4th Thurs./8:15 a.m.	1 (1)
Commission On The Arts (COTA)	1st Mon./5 p.m	1 (1)
Electric Utility Operations Review & Advisory Board (EUORAB)	As needed	2 (1)
Historic Preservation Commission	2nd Mon./6 p.m.	2 (1)
Human Relations Commission	4th Thurs./5:30 p.m.	3 (2)
Human Relations Commission - Hearing Officers (must be educated in law)	As needed	2 (2)
Human Relations Commission - Investigative & Conciliation Officers	As needed	6 (1)
Library Board of Trustees	3rd Thurs./7 p.m.	3 (3)
Parks and Recreation Commission	3rd Thurs./4 p.m.	3 (2)
Partner Cities Association	3rd Thurs./5 p.m.	1 (1)
Planning and Zoning Commission	1st & 3rd Wed./7p.m.	3
Property Maintenance Appeals Board	As needed	3
Public Art Commission	1st Wed./Noon	4 (2)
Zoning Board of Adjustment	2nd & 4th Wed. (Apr.-Oct.) 2nd Wed. (Nov.-March/6 p.m.)	1

**TOTAL**

**39**



## Power Packs Provide Perfect Present! Give the Gift that Keeps Giving

What's a special gift for that loved one who has everything? If that person is an Ames Electric Services customer, consider purchasing a solar energy "Power Pack" to brighten the holidays and enjoy for years to come!

SunSmart Ames, from City of Ames Electric Services, is a partnership between interested customers and a solar energy production company. In the proposed plan, the City of Ames will purchase all the solar power produced by a community solar farm to be built on public property just north of the Ames Municipal Airport. The farm is expected to generate 1.5 to 2 megawatts (MW). Purchasing energy produced by a community solar farm makes sense for customers who can't or don't want to install an individual solar system on their home or business. This exciting project gives Ames Electric Services customers an affordable and flexible way to include solar energy as part of their energy mix. Ames customers can purchase "Power Packs" and subscribe to a portion of the energy output from the project.



Some advantages of owning Power Packs include:

- No large up-front cost of adding solar panels to your roof. You can choose your level of commitment.
- No ongoing maintenance costs and no rooftop is required. Nothing to install or change at your home or business. (This is great for customers whose rooftops are shaded by trees or for those who rent!)
- Feel great about playing an active role in preserving the environment for future generations. The use of solar energy directly displaces the need for fossil fuels like coal and natural gas.

By purchasing a SunSmart Ames Power Pack, participants are able to support solar energy at a range of commitment levels. Each Power Pack represents about 3 percent of an average home's energy and will cost less than \$350. Participants will receive a small monthly credit back on their utility bill for the next 20 years. If you move within Ames, your Power Pack moves to your new address. If you leave Ames, the utility will buy your Power Pack back or you can transfer it to another customer.

Ames Electric Services customers can sign up for Power Packs now. When the project has enough customer support, construction on the community farm could start in early 2018. To learn more, go to [www.CityOfAmes.org/solar](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/solar).

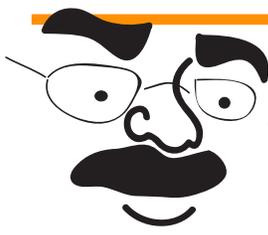
## Eco Fair 2018 Reminder

The City of Ames is excited to 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 21, 2018, at the Community Center Gymnasium, 515 Clark Ave. Hours are from 9 a.m. to 1 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: I try to save energy but my bill keeps going up. Any idea why?**

**A:** Every situation is different, yet studies suggest that as Americans are trying to conserve energy, they are also adding more energy-using devices to their homes. According to the Energy Information Administration (EIA), growth of electricity demand has slowed in each decade since the 1950s, from 9.8 percent per year from 1949 to 1959 to 0.7 percent per year since 2000. The EIA points out that electricity demand growth remains relatively low, as rising demand for electric services is offset by efficiency gains from new appliance standards and investments in energy-efficient equipment. However, the demand for electricity does still grow every year.

The average U.S. household is using more consumer electronics such as personal computers, televisions and related devices. In 1978, personal computers were expensive and not typically used by U.S. households. However, by 2014, 84 percent of U.S. homes had at least one computer, and half had multiple computers. To keep up with developing technology, many of us find ourselves owners of two or more of the same thing such as televisions, computers or gaming platforms. To keep up with the latest release, many gamers spend long hours in front of their consoles. Also, our mobile lifestyle finds us charging portable devices so we can take them with us when we have to leave our homes.

In Ames, the average home uses about 650 kWh of electricity each month. Of that, consumer electronics account for about 98 kWh. That means each year we will spend somewhere around \$120 to power our home electronics. Here are some things you can do to save energy:

- Standby power can be avoided by unplugging the device or using a power strip and using the switch on the power strip to cut all power to the device.
- Unplug battery chargers when the batteries are fully charged or the chargers are not in use.
- It is a common misconception that leaving electronic equipment on all the time makes it last longer. Turn off equipment when it is not in use.

## 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 October 2017

**25.2%** 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.

**132** Ames customers have invested in solar voltaic systems.

**126** LED street lights installed for a total of **1,735**.

Degree Day information available at [www.CityOfAmes.org/Electric](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/Electric)

## 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.

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

Editor  
Susan Gwiasda  
Public Relations Officer  
[sgwiasda@city.ames.ia.us](mailto:sgwiasda@city.ames.ia.us)

## Questions?

515 Clark Ave.  
Ames, IA 50010  
Phone: 515.239.5204  
[www.CityOfAmes.org](http://www.CityOfAmes.org)

