

City Side

Caring People Quality Programs Exceptional Service

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City Offices Closed

City Hall and most City of Ames departments will be closed on Monday, Feb. 20, in recognition of Presidents' Day. For more information about the City of Ames, go to www.CityOfAmes.org.

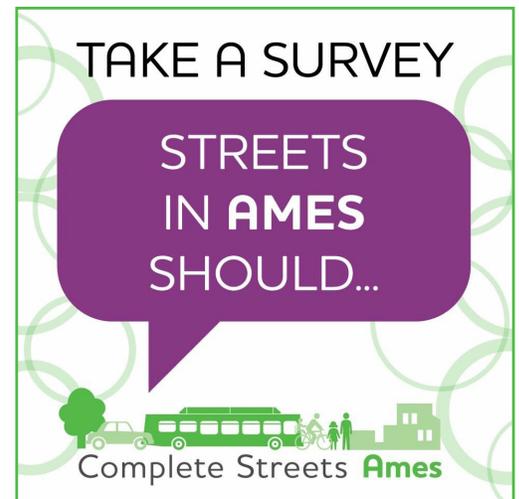
Complete Streets to Provide Direction for Transportation Projects

When the City of Ames embarks on future street projects, Complete Streets concepts will provide guidance in developing plans. Complete Streets is a planning and design process that considers all users including drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, mass transit, and others when implementing transportation improvement projects. What does that mean for Ames? Based on citizen input, the City of Ames Complete Streets plan will be customized for our community.

The Complete Streets philosophy places a high value on safety, connectivity, access, fiscal responsibility, and quality of life. In addition to promoting healthy lifestyles, Complete Streets seeks to enhance the environment, promote a sense of place, preserve historic resources, and improve the aesthetics of the community. The focus on Complete Streets has evolved out a national preference for choice when it comes to transportation options. Nearly three-quarters of Americans feel they have no choice but to drive as much as they do, and the majority want options to choose different types of transportation methods.

“Our effort in creating the Complete Streets Plan is to identify the needed design elements for people to safely and effectively travel around Ames,” said Ames Transportation Planner Tony Filippini. “We are interested in learning what types of features are preferred, and we want citizens to get involved.”

Gathering information about transportation insights, ideas, and concerns of residents is key to project success. Fill out the survey at www.CityOfAmes.org/CompleteStreets. Stay involved in the Complete Streets project by regularly checking for updates online or sign up for e-notification.



Share your thoughts on design and planning of future street projects in Ames. Take the survey at www.CityOfAmes.org/CompleteStreets.



Calendar

City Council Meetings

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

5:15 p.m. Feb. 13

5:30 p.m. Feb. 27

A Council workshop will be held at 6 p.m. on Feb. 20. (Budget hearings listed below right.) For the most current information, go to: www.CityOfAmes.org.

Keep Hydrants Clear from Snow

As snow piles up along the curb, it does more than hamper visibility for drivers. Mounds of snow can obscure locations of fire hydrants. Ames firefighters ask residents to check fire hydrants located near their



homes or businesses to ensure they are visible. If the fire hydrant is covered, we need your help! Please clear a three-foot wide

area around the hydrant to ensure firefighters can locate it. During a fire emergency, every second counts. If you need assistance clearing the hydrant, call Fire Station No. 1 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 515.239.5109.

Got Questions? Quick Tips Provides Information

Was that strange phone call from the IRS a scam? Are there ways to protect your home when you're away? Is it illegal to text and drive even at stop sign? Do police officers really enjoy donuts?

You can learn the answers to all these questions and more by watching "Quick Tips" from the Ames Police Department. These clever, fun, fast-paced videos feature Community Resource Officer Eric Snyder. Packed full of helpful information, Quick Tips is a regular feature on Ames Police social media including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. To see the entire series, there's a playlist on Ames Police Facebook. Quick Tips tackles timely, relevant law enforcement issues and provides you with information to protect yourself and your stuff.



Officer Snyder warns residents to avoid "porch pirates" in this Quick Tips episode.

While all the answers to the questions above are provided in our Quick Tips videos, here are some quick answers: Yes. Yes. Yes. Definitely yes.

Public Budget Meetings Scheduled

The City of Ames began preparing for the Fiscal Year 2018-19 budget last fall with a series of internal staff meetings. Work continues throughout the winter months as each department's budget is reviewed internally prior to presentation to the Ames City Council. There are still plenty of opportunities to get involved in the budget process. A budget overview will be presented to the City Council at 2 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 2.

Three additional meetings will follow in which representatives of each of the City's departments present an in-depth review of their proposed budgets. All budget meetings will be held in the City Council Chambers, Ames City Hall, 515 Clark Ave.:

5:15 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 6

5:15 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7

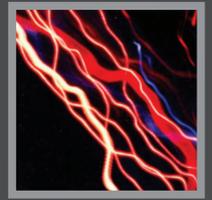
5:15 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8



A wrap-up of the budget will be held at 5:15 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 13. The final budget hearing is scheduled for 6 p.m.

on Tuesday, March 6, and will include an opportunity for public comments. This is also a regularly scheduled City Council meeting. Like all

Iowa communities, the City of Ames must submit its budget to the State of Iowa for certification by March 15. Budget documents for the current fiscal year are posted on the City's website, and draft documents for 2018-19 will be posted by early February. For more information, go to www.CityOfAmes.org.



SunSmart Ames Community Solar: There's Still Time to Get Involved!

Investing in solar energy is a step toward sustainable living. Through SunSmart Ames, Ames Electric Services wants to work with its customers to provide customers an affordable, flexible way to get involved.

SunSmart Ames is a partnership between the Ames Electric Services, our customers, and a solar energy production company. With customer support, the City of Ames will enter into a contract to purchase all the solar power produced by a solar farm built on public property located just north of the Ames Municipal Airport. Participation is open to both residential and commercial electric customers.

“This exciting project will be a very visible reminder of how dedicated the residents of Ames are to being green,” said Electric Services Director Donald Kom. “Individuals will be able to participate in the project, which makes it a community-wide effort.”



Ames Electric Services customers can purchase “Power Packs” and subscribe to a portion of the energy output from the project. Power Packs will cost less than \$350, and each Power Pack is expected to generate 3% of an average home’s annual electric usage. Customers will receive a monthly credit on their utility bill for the electricity generated by their share of the project.

Why Community Solar?

SunSmart Ames offers renewable energy at an affordable price. You choose your investment level. When you purchase community solar project Power Packs, you don’t have the large, up-front cost or burden of adding solar panels to your roof.

No Ongoing Maintenance Costs and No Rooftops Required!

Equipment and solar arrays are independently maintained. No worry or hassle for you. Great for customers whose rooftops are shaded by trees, and it allows renters to participate.

Easy to Move!

Power Packs move with you to another residence in Ames’ service territory and buyouts are available if you relocate outside our territory.

Interested customers should complete a fillable form on the city’s website at www.CityOfAmes.org/Solar indicating a commitment to purchase Power Packs. Or you can contact Steve Wilson, the Energy Guy, at 515.239.5177, or by email at swilson@city.ames.ia.us.

Carbon Monoxide Dangers

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas produced when fuel burns. If a fuel-burning device such as a furnace or kerosene heater is installed, operated, or vented incorrectly, the carbon monoxide it gives off can build up in the air. Should the concentration of carbon monoxide get high enough, you will develop the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Symptoms may be hard to recognize because at first they are much like symptoms of the flu: headache, weakness, dizziness, and nausea. Other symptoms can include shortness of breath, chest pain, confusion, loss of consciousness, and heart arrhythmias. If you suspect carbon monoxide may be a problem in your home or experience symptoms, call the Ames Fire Department at 515.239.5109.



Ask the Energy Guy

Q: Does using an electric space heater cost a lot of money?

A: Not necessarily. It depends on the heater, how you use it, and what you do with your furnace. According to the Department of Energy, in some cases, small space heaters may reduce overall heating costs when used to heat one room or supplement inadequate heating in one room

Although electric space heaters come in all shapes and sizes, there are really only two types: convection and radiant. Convection heaters provide warmth by moving air over a heated surface and can be either fan-assisted or fan-less. Radiant heaters use infrared radiation and direct heat at an object. Here are the difference between basic heaters:

- Heater fans are convection heaters that use a standard metal-coil element with a fan to help distribute heat to a room.
- Ceramic heaters pass electricity through a ceramic, heating it. The heat is then absorbed by a metal, usually aluminum, and a fan blows the hot air into your room.
- Oil-filled heaters look like an old fashioned radiator and are filled with a heat transfer liquid, such as oil, that is heated by the electric element. The oil provides some heat storage, allowing the heater to cycle less and to provide a more constant heat source.
- Radiant heaters emit infrared radiation that directly heats up objects, and people, that are directly in line with them. Infrared heater elements might be quartz tubes, lamps, and may incorporate ceramic.

Whether using the space heater saves you energy, or not, will depend on the unit, the number of hours it's on, and where you set your thermostat. Regardless of the technology cost depends on wattage and hours of operation. In Ames a 1,500-watt heater costs about 15 cents per hour to operate. Using it four hours a day would add about \$18.50 a month to your bill. If nothing else changes, you have just added to your winter heating costs. The key to saving heating energy when using an electric space heater is setting your thermostat back a few degrees thereby saving on your furnace operating cost which will offset the additional electric cost.

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 November 2017

x% of electricity used this month was generated from wind.

x% of electricity this month was generated by refuse derived fuel (RDF) from the Resource Recovery Plant.

X Ames customers have invested in solar voltaic systems.

X LED street lights installed for a total of **X**.

Degree Day information available at 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, 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

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