

City Side

Caring People Quality Programs Exceptional Service

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Yard Waste Free Day

Yard Waste Free Day will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 21 at Chamness Technology, 400 Freel Drive in east Ames. Residents may get rid of yard waste, including brush, at no charge during this event.

Welcome to CyRide 2.0! Bus Service Redesign Unveiled

After months of customer input and working with consultants, Ames' growing public transit system is undergoing a system redesign. This means new schedules and routes, as well as noticeable changes for regular riders. While CyRide has experienced a huge surge in ridership over the years, this is the first significant change to the transit system in its history.

"We've spent a significant amount of time analyzing city development patterns and encouraging community suggestions. Now CyRide is ready to implement a new structure that builds upon its past to enhance its future," said CyRide Director Sheri Kyras. "We are excited to unveil CyRide 2.0!"

An added bonus for CyRide customers is a "rollback" of its fares to 2011 levels, where the cash fare was \$1, as opposed to \$1.25 today. Additionally, all other fares are being reduced to previous levels. The fare change will occur in conjunction with the service changes on May 5.

"CyRide listened to what was important to its customers. We are pleased to provide a route structure that supports the community into the future and offers service at a cost that provides access to everyone in the community," Kyras added.

For specific questions about these changes, contact CyRide at 515.292.1100 or at CyRide@cyride.com. Also, to better understand how these changes will impact individuals, CyRide staff will be available to meet with groups over the spring and summer to provide an overview of the changes and answer specific questions.

The modified bus routes and effective dates are as follows:

May 5, 2018

#4/4A Gray
#5 Yellow
#9 Plum
#10 Pink
EASE Zone Service (NEW)

August 13, 2018

#2 Green
#3 Blue
#6 Brown
#7 Purple
#11 Cherry (NEW)
#1 Red
#12 Lilac (NEW)
#14 Peach (NEW)
#22 Gold (CURRENT ROUTE)
#23 Orange
#24 Silver
#25 Gold (NEW)



For specific changes on these routes and schedules, please visit CyRide's website at: www.cyride.com/CyRide2.0. This site provides the May 5 (summer) and August 13 (school year) time tables and maps, as well as policy changes that will be implemented to support these new services.

Calendar

City Council Meetings

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

6 p.m. April 10

6 p.m. April 24

A Council workshop will be held at 6 p.m. April 17.

Stash the Trash Set for April 7

The Resource Recovery Plant is partnering again with the Volunteer Center of Story County for the annual Stash the Trash program. Stash the Trash is a volunteer community clean-up. It will be held from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 7.

Registration and supply pickup begins at 8 a.m. at Reiman Gardens. Participants can register in advance to select a particular area for cleaning by going to the Volunteer Center of Story County website at: www.vcstory.org. Volunteers are invited to return to Reiman Gardens for an appreciation lunch from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Reducing Your Hydrologic Footprint Helps Improve Water Quality

You may have heard of your carbon footprint, but what does it mean to reduce your hydrologic footprint? Your hydrologic footprint focuses on the amount of rainfall running off your yard from your rooftop, driveway, sidewalks, and compacted lawn soils.

Hard surfaces (often called impervious areas) don't slow down, redirect, or absorb water. Instead, water - along with debris and contaminants - flow uncontrolled, often directly into storm sewers. All stormwater in Ames moves across surfaces and discharges to a low point in the landscape. For most of Ames, that low point is a local stream. The area drained is called a watershed. We all live in a watershed, and how we manage our yards and parking lots has an impact on our stream and lake water quality.



You can reduce stormwater run-off by installing a rain barrel or rain garden near a downspout, restoring the soil health beneath your lawn, or planting a native garden on the downslope side of your yard. The Smart Watersheds program has cost share funds to help you out. The Ames Public Works Department coordinates Smart Watersheds in cooperation with other City departments and local partners to improve water quality. For details on Smart Watersheds education and rebate opportunities, please visit: www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartWatersheds.

Parks & Recreation News

Furman Aquatic Center Passes

Summer season pool passes for the Furman Aquatic Center are now available. Purchase a new summer pass or renew your 2017 season pass by May 1 and receive a 10 percent discount.

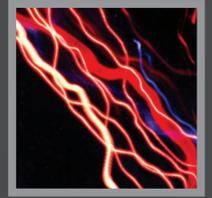
Purchase passes at the Community Center, 515 Clark Ave, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday; from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday; and from 1 to 7 p.m. on Sunday. Purchase or renew your pass over the phone with a MasterCard, Visa or Discover credit card by calling the Parks and Recreation office at 515.239.5350. Unfortunately, pass renewal is not available online.

Passes are valid from May 26 through September 3 at both the Furman Aquatic Center and Municipal Pool.

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.



Annual Eco Fair Showcases Easy Ways to Go Green!

Did you know there are rebates for planting rain gardens or purchasing a rain barrel? Rebates are also available for energy-efficient lights, appliances, and air conditioners. The annual City of Ames Eco Fair is a great opportunity to learn more about sustainability, energy conservation, and reducing your carbon footprint.

This year's event will be held at the Community Center Gym, 515 Clark Ave., on Saturday, April 21, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event is being moved into April to take advantage of warmer weather and to showcase the new City Hall parking lot (west side) featuring pervious pavement and bioretention cells.

City booths will provide information on energy conservation, efficiency, and reducing your energy bills. Product and service vendors will

be available to show you the latest in energy conservation and green energy technology. There will be interesting displays, giveaways, drawings for door prizes, free snacks, and games for the kids. Participants can expect plenty of information on where to purchase related products and services. Additionally, Ames Electric Services customers can sign up to participate in SunSmart Ames community solar or learn more about the project!



Young guests to the 2017 Eco Fair enjoy activities centered around conservation.

Tree Planting Program Set for April 28

City of Ames Electric Services, City of Ames Public Works, and Ames Trees Forever are offering a tree-planting program for Ames residents and businesses on Saturday, April 28.

Participating garden centers include Country Landscapes and Lowe's. Participants are asked to attend a brief program on proper tree selection, planting, and care before receiving a \$50 tree voucher and a bag of mulch. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m., and the program will start at 10 a.m. at both Country Landscapes & Nursery, 56985 Lincoln Highway; and Lowe's, 120 Airport Road.

Participants may pick up an informational brochure in advance at the Ames Eco Fair on April 21. Vouchers will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. This program is made possible by a donation from Ames Electric Services and the Smart Watersheds program. For more information, contact Dianne Brotherson of Ames Trees Forever at 515.292.8613.

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. While your system is at the lower temperature, you're saving fuel. The longer your house remains at the changed temperature, the more energy (and dollars) you save.



Ask the Energy Guy

Q: Is having an energy audit a good idea?

A: In a word, yes! According to the Department of Energy, many home owners have the potential to save 50 percent of their annual energy use. But where do you start? A free home energy audit can help identify how much energy your home consumes and what you can do make it more energy efficient. Now is the perfect time before summer heat.

Having an audit performed will provide you with information on your heating and cooling system, thermostat settings, water heater, windows and doors, insulation levels, leaks in the building's envelope, and the impact your daily habits may have on the amount of energy you use. It may also answer those pesky energy related questions you wonder about. Just ask the auditor; questions are encouraged.

Electric Services will send a certified energy professional to your home that will use a variety of techniques and equipment to determine your energy efficiency level. The auditor may also perform a blower door test to measure the extent of air leaks in the building envelope, or a thermographic analysis aimed at identifying where insulation may be lacking.

While the audit is free to all City of Ames Electric Services customers, a home must be built in or before 2000 to qualify for the blower door test. By code, newer homes are sealed more tightly and the incidence of air infiltration is greatly reduced.

For more information, visit, www.CityOfAmes.org/smartenergy or call 515.239.5177. To sign up for an audit, download a request form from the website, fill it out and return it to: City of Ames Electric Services' Smart Energy, 502 Carroll Ave., P.O. Box 811, Ames, IA 50010. If you have your account number handy you can fill out the online form. Keep in mind renters must have the permission of the property owner to participate.

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 2018

23.1% of electricity used this month was generated from wind.

2.2% 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.

93 LED street lights installed for a total of **2,044**.

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.

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Questions?

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