

City Side

Caring People Quality Programs Exceptional Service

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City Hall Parking Lot Recognized For Improving Water Quality

The new Ames City Hall parking lot was recognized recently at the Iowa Water Conference for outstanding efforts in protecting and improving the South Skunk River. The west parking lot project was designed to set an example in the community for implementing green stormwater infrastructure practices.

The project team focused on creating a demonstration site of practices to improve water quality, decrease the volume and rate of water run-off from downtown, and use green stormwater infrastructure practices. The new parking lot includes permeable pavement, bioretention cells, soil quality restoration, native landscaping and conversion of turf areas to native turf. Through a partnership effort with the City of Ames, Ames High School students grew and planted many of the native plants in the gardens surrounding the Community Center.



Funding for the project came from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Sponsored Projects Program, and Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Water Quality Initiative.

Get Ready for RAGBRAI!

Ames has been chosen as an overnight stop for the 46th Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI) this July. Thousands of bicyclists will enter Ames from Jefferson on Tuesday, July 24, and leave Wednesday, July 25, for Newton as they trek their way across Iowa.

Entertainment will be provided in the downtown area Tuesday evening, including concerts, food trucks, and a beverage garden. If you are interested in volunteering during RAGBRAI, hosting cyclists overnight, or sponsoring the activities, visit the Ames Convention and Visitors Bureau website at www.ThinkAmes.com.

Details regarding the route through Ames and entertainment will be featured in next month's City Side. Residents should plan for extra time to travel through the community during this event!



Calendar

City Council Meetings

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

6 p.m. June 12
6 p.m. June 26

A Council workshop will be held at 6 p.m. June 19. For the most current information, go to: www.CityOfAmes.org.

Don't Trash Your Fireworks!

Please add another item to the list of "Things You Don't Toss in the Garbage."

The Resource Recovery Plant (RRP) reminds residents not to throw fireworks in their trash.

If you have fireworks that you no longer want, please take them to the RRP, 110 Center Ave., and hand them to an employee.

Fireworks put in the garbage explode as they are processed and can easily catch fire. Help us keep everyone safe by properly disposing of unwanted fireworks. Remember, setting off fireworks is illegal in Ames.

Parking Changes Coming Soon

There are some changes planned for the parking system. Parking meters in Downtown and Campustown will see a rate increase beginning July 1. It has been more than 20 years since a rate change, and revenue generated no longer covers the cost of running the parking system.



To make parking easier for drivers who forget their coins, Ames will join a number of cities throughout the country using the Parkmobile App. The app provides pay-by-phone services for the collection of the parking meter fees. In addition, the Parkmobile app will map the City's parking stalls to show customers where parking is available in Campustown and

Downtown areas.

Once a customer selects a stall, the Parkmobile app will show users how much time is left on the meter and send notifications in advance of the time expiring, all remotely from their smart phone.

There are approximately 600 parking meters in Downtown and an additional 300 meters in Campustown. Depending on its location, each meter allows a different maximum parking time. The new hourly rates will be \$1 per hour for two-hour parking, 75 cents per hour for four-hour parking, and 50 cents per hour for 10-hour parking.

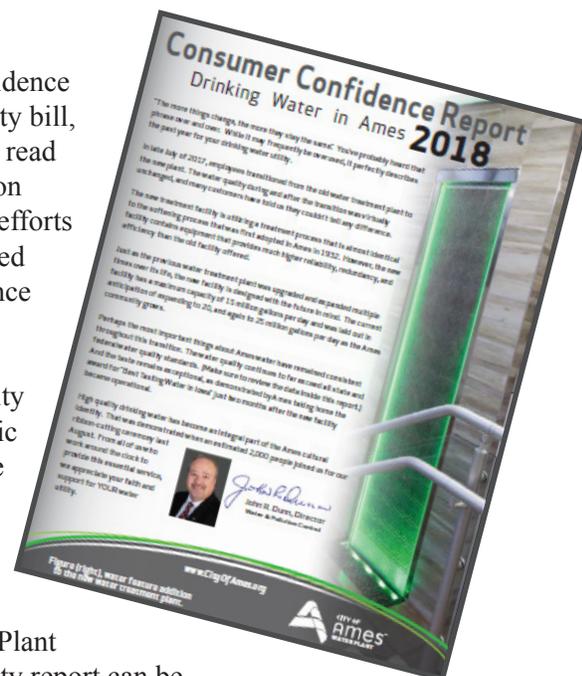
Metered parking is enforced daily with the exception of Sundays and holidays.

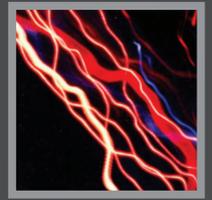
Water Quality Report Is Available!

The Consumer Confidence Report, the City's annual water quality report, is now available. This report contains important information about the quality of your drinking water.

At one time, the Consumer Confidence Report was included in your utility bill, but now the report is available to read online. This method of distribution helps promote our sustainability efforts and reduce costs. However, printed copies of the Consumer Confidence Report are still available.

Pick up a copy of the report at City Hall, 515 Clark Ave., Ames Public Library, 515 Douglas Ave., or the Ames Water Plant, 1800 E. 13th St. If you would prefer to have a paper copy of the Consumer Confidence Report mailed to your home, call the Ames Water Plant at 515.239.5150. The water quality report can be viewed online at www.CityOfAmes.org/WaterReport.





Get Your Electricity from the Sun!

It's not too late to get involved in SunSmart Ames, a community solar program offered by Ames Electric Services. This project allows Ames Electric Services customers the opportunity to purchase solar energy without adding equipment to their own home or business.

When fully operational, the SunSmart Ames solar farm will generate two megawatts (MW) of electricity. Ames Electric Services customers are able to invest in the project by buying generation units or "Power Packs." Each Power Pack represents a one-time investment and will entitle customers to assign a future bill credit to themselves, or anyone else within the City of Ames Electric service territory.



The credit will be based on the amount of energy generated by the solar array and the market price of electricity. It is estimated a Power Pack will cost less than \$350. Each Power Pack is expected to return a credit of \$1 - \$2 to the assignee's bill each month.

Establishing a community solar project is a priority of the Ames City Council and the Ames model is similar to a program offered by the Cedar Falls Utilities. The SunSmart Ames project will begin construction when 80 percent of the available Power Packs have been claimed. We currently stand at 51 percent. For updates, visit www.CityOfAmes.org/solar, call Steve "The Energy Guy" Wilson at 515.239.5177, or email swilson@city.ames.ia.us.

Outdoor Warning Sirens

Severe Weather Season is Here

Warm weather signals the arrival of storm season, and severe storms may produce a tornado. In Ames we are fortunate to have an outdoor emergency siren system to warn us of an approaching tornado. Did you know:

- There are 20 sirens located around Ames, 15 maintained by the City and five at Iowa State University. They are placed so they can be heard from any populated area.
- The sirens sound as warnings for people outdoors. They may or may not be heard from inside a building.
- Weather radios may be purchased to ensure warnings are heard inside buildings.
- Sirens are tested the first Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m.
- Sirens are tested weather permitting. If the weather is stormy, the sirens won't be tested until the following Wednesday.

Prepare for Cooling Season

- Clean or replace your furnace filter. Clean, free-flowing air is necessary for efficient operation.
- Clean your outdoor compressor unit each spring and make sure it is not blocked with debris.
- Seal ducts so more cool air gets where you want it to go.
- Keep your registers free of obstructions such as furniture, rugs, and drapes, so your cool air can do its job.
- Keep your cooling system well-tuned with periodic maintenance by a professional service person.
- Have your cooling equipment checked and cleaned each year.



Ask the Energy Guy

Q: How is Smart Energy doing?

A: Smart Energy assists residents and businesses in becoming more energy efficient and in making decisions that save energy. Ultimately, the goal focuses on creating a more sustainable Ames. The program provides education, rebates, and tools to reduce community-wide electric demand. Participation in Smart Energy helps produce a more reliable electric system, reduces operating costs, helps keep rates low, reduces our bills, and results in a cleaner environment. Reducing demand now will delay or avoid the cost of increasing our future power supply needs. In fact, saving energy now decreases the need for new electric generation, which can save millions of dollars.

Since its beginning 10 years ago, Smart Energy has provided either an audit or rebate 21,156 times. Add to this another 10,500 Prime Time Power air conditioner load control switches installed in Ames. Smart Energy has saved 34.1 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity and reduced overall demand by 22 megawatts (MW). These savings have resulted in lowering the future cost to the utility by \$23.7 million, and reduced carbon emissions by 27,922 tons. Rebates paid to date total \$11.3 million, which has resulted in a savings of \$514 per KW. It is estimated the cost to build a new electric generator is about \$1,000 per KW. This makes Smart Energy a smart use of utility dollars.

For electric customers of the City of Ames, Smart Energy provides free residential and commercial energy audits and rebates for the purchase and installation of efficient air conditioners and heat pumps, efficient LED lighting, and for certain Energy Star-rated appliances. The program also offers rebates for efficient new home construction and provides a custom rebate for commercial non-lighting related efficiency improvements. For more information call the Energy Guy at 515.239.5177, or visit www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy.

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 March 2018

22.8% of electricity used this month was generated from wind.

3.37% of electricity this month was generated by refuse derived fuel (RDF) from the Resource Recovery Plant.

0.046% of renewable energy was generated by solar energy.

135 Ames customers have invested in solar voltaic systems.

162 LED street lights were installed for a total of **2,296**.

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



Steve Wilson
"The Energy Guy"
Energy Services Coordinator
515.239.5177

Call 811 Before You Dig!

Planting season is here and that means we'll be outdoors digging up our yards to plant gardens, shrubs, flowers, and trees. At Ames Electric Services, we want you to be safe.

Remember, there are dangers lurking underground. Please be careful and call Iowa One Call at 811 or 1.800.292.8989 before you dig. Iowa One Call will arrange to have your yard marked free of charge.

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

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