

# City Side

Caring People Quality Programs Exceptional Service

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## Construction Updates

To get the latest information on street construction occurring throughout Ames, check our website. A summary of projects and a map is available at [www.CityOfAmes.org/construction](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/construction).



## CyRide Implements Final Changes

The second and final phase of CyRide 2.0 will begin on Monday, Aug. 13, with modifications to most routes and schedules. CyRide 2.0 is a public transit system reboot developed to help our rapidly growing bus system meet user demands both now and in the future. This is the first significant operational change to the transit system in its more than 40-year history.



For maps and schedules of each of these routes, see CyRide's website at: [www.Cyride.com/schedules/cyride-2-0/school-year-schedule-2018-2019](http://www.Cyride.com/schedules/cyride-2-0/school-year-schedule-2018-2019) or call CyRide at 515.292.1100. The public is encouraged to check out the route and service times for each bus trip prior to leaving for the bus to be prepared for any changes. Some of the CyRide service changes include:

- #1 Red** - Route changes/more frequent service
- #2 Green** - Two morning and afternoon trips deviate to the high school
- #3 Blue** - Route north of campus replaced with #14 Peach route/route extended to Target/Walmart with more frequent service
- #6 Brown** - Less frequent service due to #25 Gold route addition/operates on Knapp-Lynn streets/more service to Research Park/Sunday service added
- #7 Purple** - More frequent service and extended hours/route change
- #9 Plum** - Operates over ISU breaks
- #11 Cherry** - New weekday route from West Ames
- #12 Lilac** - New weekday route mornings and afternoons from West Ames
- #14 Peach** - New route from Vet Medicine College to North Grand Mall on weekdays
- #22 Gold** - Route eliminated and replaced by new #25 Gold route/#6 Brown route changes
- #23 Orange** - More trips displayed on schedule/Vet Medicine trips moved to #14 Peach
- #24 Silver** - Route eliminated
- #25 Gold** - New weekday route serving Schilleter Village, campus and Wallace/Wilson residence halls

## National Night Out Planned for Aug. 7

The Ames Police Department invites residents to celebrate community crime prevention efforts. National Night Out is a community-building campaign designed to strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. The event will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 7 at Bandshell Park, Sixth Street and Duff Avenue.



Games from the Street 'N' Greet Block Party Trailer, tours of a police car, fire truck, and ambulance, and much more will be featured. The event is a great place to share crime prevention success stories, discuss different ways of implementing safety programs in your neighborhood, or just join in the fun.

# Calendar

## City Council Meetings

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

6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 14

6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 28

A Council workshop will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 21. For the most current information, go to: [www.CityOfAmes.org](http://www.CityOfAmes.org).

## Rummage RAMPage Continues in August

For the third 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 offers donated items for sale at bargain prices. Any proceeds are distributed to non-profit groups who send volunteers.

### Rummage RAMPage schedule:

**DROP-OFF:** Friday, July 27

(noon to 6 pm)

**DROP-OFF/SALES:** Saturday, July 28

(8 am to 6 pm)

**DROP-OFF/SALES:** Sunday, July 29

(10 am to 6 pm)

**DROP-OFF/SALES:** Monday, July 30

(noon to 6 pm)

**DROP-OFF/SALES:** Tuesday, July 31

(noon to 6 pm)

**DROP-OFF/SALES:** Wednesday,

Aug. 1 (noon to 6 pm)

**HALF PRICE SALES (NO DROP-OFF):**

Thursday, Aug. 2 (noon to 4 pm)

## Are You Moving Soon? Don't Forget About Your Pets!

Graduating, moving, or leaving over a school break are all very exciting changes, but these events may pose some logistical questions. How are you going to move your aquarium? Who will watch your pet if you move?

Does your new apartment allow snakes? There are many decisions to be made, but this one is always wrong: never dump your tank into a waterway or release your pet into the wild.



Most pets released to the wild do not survive, and many suffer before they die. If they do manage to survive, they can wreak major havoc! Releasing non-native plants or animals into the natural areas can harm the environment and the economy. Many plants used in aquariums become invasive species if introduced into a natural system. Some of the most notorious invasive species in the United States were originally sold as pets or plants for water gardens and aquariums.

Prospective pet owners should make sure they will be able to accommodate all life stages of a pet before buying or adopting it. If your circumstances change, the responsible choice is to find your pet a new home. If you are not able to place your pet with another caring owner, contact the Ames Animal Shelter, a natural resource agency, or even a pet store near you. The knowledgeable personnel in these places can help you find the right place for your pet.

## Water Sales Tax Changes

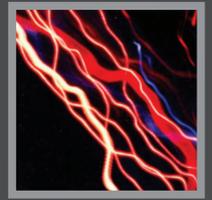
The Iowa legislature recently passed a new law which creates a Water Service Excise Tax (WET). Prior to this law, the sale of water was subject to the 6% state sales tax. The WET exempts water from state sales tax, but imposes a 6% excise tax.



This water service excise tax provides funding to the Iowa Finance Authority for the Wastewater and Drinking Water Financial Assistance Program and the Water Quality Financing Program, which fund projects to improve surface water and groundwater quality. A portion of the tax is distributed to the Division of

Soil Conservation and Water Quality in the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship for the Water Quality Urban Infrastructure Program. This program funds demonstration projects that decrease erosion, storm water discharge, and other related projects.

Beginning July 1, the City will separately collect and remit the 6% excise tax on water service sales. The Iowa Department of Revenue is responsible for administering the WET and is in the process of providing guidance to utilities. For most customers, there will be no financial impact because the state sales tax will be replaced by WET. Please watch billing statements for updates on this new tax.



## New All-Electric Vehicles, EV Charging Stations Added

The City of Ames continues to look for ways to be more sustainable as well as explore ways to help citizens go green. The City is replacing two vehicles in its fleet with all-electric Chevy Bolts. Don't be surprised to see the Bolts around the community this summer. With an estimated range of over 200 miles per charge, staff will use the electric cars for meetings and events in central Iowa.

To keep those electric car batteries full, the City is installing two electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in town. One station will be located near Bandshell Park, and the other in the west parking lot of City Hall. Each of these Level 2



chargers are designed to charge two vehicles at a time. While one space will be reserved for the City vehicle, the other space and charger will be available for EV owners. From an app downloaded onto a smart phone, find our charger locations, see if they are occupied, schedule a charge time, or receive a text when your vehicle is fully charged.

To park and "fill up" will cost \$1 per hour for Ames residents and \$2 per hour for non-residents. Whether you are enjoying an evening concert at the Bandshell, taking kids to the park, or doing business at or near City Hall, plug in your EV and top-off your tank.

## It's Not Too Late to Go Solar!

Ames Electric Services customers can still participate in SunSmart Ames, a community solar farm planned on a 10-acre site along Airport Road. With Ames City Council support, Ames Electric Services is moving forward with a plan to bring solar energy to Ames.

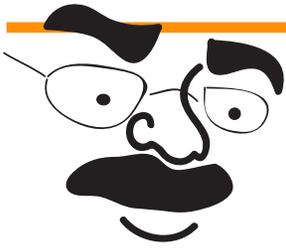
When fully operational, the SunSmart Ames solar farm will generate two megawatts (MW) of electricity. Ames Electric Services customers are able to invest in the project by buying generation units or "Power Packs." Each Power Pack represents a one-time investment and will entitle customers to assign a future bill credit to themselves, or someone 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 that 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 SunSmart Ames project will begin construction when 80 percent of the available Power Packs have been claimed. We currently stand at 54 percent. For updates, visit [www.CityOfAmes.org/Solar](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/Solar), call Steve "The Energy Guy" Wilson at 515.239.5177, or email [swilson@city.ames.ia.us](mailto:swilson@city.ames.ia.us).

## Weather Radios Give Warnings

Emergency notification of severe weather is important for our protection. Outdoor warning sirens are intended for those outside, so how do we stay informed of severe weather when inside buildings? Purchasing a weather radio can help. Radios are available at most electronics retailers for as little as \$30.

Weather radios are tied to the National Weather Service and coordinated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Once the owner activates the radio, he or she will be able to monitor emergency weather events. The system is tested every Wednesday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. For more information, visit the National Weather Service online at [www.crh.noaa.gov/dmx](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/dmx).



# Ask the Energy Guy

**Q: Should you replace your working air conditioner?**

**A:** We all want a new energy efficient air conditioner, right? We want to be comfortable and start saving on cooling costs. But does it make sense to replace a perfectly good running air conditioner?

A new system will likely save energy and dollars, but the amount you save may not be enough to entice you to make the purchase.

Our air conditioning equipment won't last forever, and most systems will fail at some point over time. The older your current equipment is, the easier the decision may be. It's a no-brainer once the old equipment fails, but estimating a payback can help you make the decision if your air conditioner is still running well.

To calculate your payback you must first estimate how much you spend on cooling. Subtract your April electric bill from each of your July, August, September, and October electric bills, total them and add 8%. This will give you a rough idea of your cooling costs. In this example, your old air conditioner has a seasonal energy efficiency ratio (SEER) of 9, and you are replacing it with a new 15 SEER model. This should save about 40% on your cooling bill. ( $9/15 = .60$ ;  $100\% - 60\% = 40\%$  savings).

After taking out your April base load and adding up your summer electric bills, you find that you spend \$500 on cooling. Applying the percent savings to this cost estimate suggests the new equipment will save \$200 a year ( $\$500 \times 40\%$ ). Your new air conditioner is eligible for a rebate of \$300 from the City of Ames. You're considering a new system that costs \$2,500. After subtracting the rebate the remainder is \$2,200 and your payback is about 11 years ( $\$2,200/\$200$ ). If your system is old and your payback is acceptable your decision may be to replace your equipment.



## 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 May 2018*

**13.8%** of electricity used this month was generated from wind.

**1.7%** of electricity this month

was generated by refuse derived fuel (RDF) from the Resource Recovery Plant.

**.01%** Ames customers have invested in solar voltaic systems.

**60** LED street lights were installed for a total of **2,439**.

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**

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**Questions?**

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