

City Side

Caring People Quality Programs Exceptional Service

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Holiday Closing in January

City Hall and most City of Ames departments will be closed on Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2019, for New Year's Day.



Ice Skating Rinks Available at South River Valley Park

For those who like ice skating, there are even more options to get active this winter! In addition to year-round ice skating at the Ames/ISU Ice Arena, the Parks and Recreation Department plans two outdoor ice skating rinks at South River Valley Park, 1200 E 13th St. Once the weather has settled into a pattern of below-freezing temperatures, both rinks will be flooded.



With two ice rinks at South River Valley, there will be no ice skating offered at Homewood Golf Course. The second ice rink was recently donated by the Iowa Wild and Wells Fargo. Both the cities of Ames and Indianola are recipients of materials for building an outdoor skating rink in an effort to encourage more ice skating and outdoor recreation. With two rinks available, one will be reserved for hockey and the other for skating. Skaters need to bring their own equipment. The rinks will be open as long as weather permits and the ice remains frozen, and there is no fee to use either ice rink. The ice rinks will be located in the green space north of diamond No. 5, and there is parking available.

Problem? Try Ames On The Go

What would you do if you noticed a large pothole in the street? A snow plow knocked over your mail box? A tree limb was covering a traffic sign? "Ames On The Go" is a mobile reporting system that allows users to report concerns or issues quickly and directly to the City of Ames. (Remember to call 911 to report emergency situations!)



The City partnered with mobile application developer See Click Fix to customize Ames On The Go. The mobile application focuses on Public Works issues and provides convenient reporting features with the opportunity to track the request and submit pictures. Future plans include expanding the reporting features to other City departments. Ames citizens can still call or email concerns, but Ames On The Go offers another communication tool.

The Ames On The Go app is available through the iTunes and Google Play stores, as well as accessible on the City of Ames website. Download it free today!

Calendar

City Council Meetings

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

- 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8
- 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22

A Council workshop on capital improvements will be held at 5:15 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 15

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. 13th St. Trees can be deposited during daylight hours through Sunday, Jan. 27.



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), watch City Channel 12, and join the City of Ames on Facebook and Twitter! The snow ordinance goes into effect when snow accumulations are 2 inches or more, but the best way to know if the snow ordinance will be in effect is to watch the weather! For questions or concerns about snow removal on city streets, call the Snow Desk at 515.239.5543 or email the Public Works Department at snowstreets@CityOfAmes.org.

For concerns about sidewalks that aren't cleared, call the Snow Walks hotline at 515.239.5468 or email snowwalks@CityOfAmes.org.

Want to Get Involved? Volunteer!

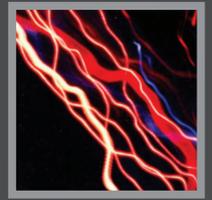
Volunteer in your community and make a difference by joining a City of Ames board or commission. Boards and commissions make recommendations to the Ames City Council and assist the Council in carrying out various functions of local government. The following boards and commissions have vacancies occurring in the first part of 2019. 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 (under Government, Boards & Commissions). Applications are also available in the City Clerk's Office. **Deadline to apply is 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 8.**

Commission/Board	Meeting Days/Times	Vacancies
ASSET	2nd Thurs./5 p.m	2 (2)
Building Board of Appeals	As needed	3
Campus & Community Commission	4th Mon./6 p.m.	1 (1)
Commission On The Arts (COTA)	1st Mon./5 p.m	2 (2)
Electric Utility Operations Review & Advisory Board (EUORAB)	As needed	1
Historic Preservation Commission	2nd Mon./6 p.m.	2 (1)
Human Relations Commission	4th Thurs./5:30 p.m.	2 (2)
Library Board of Trustees	3rd Thurs./7 p.m.	3 (3)
Parks and Recreation Commission	3rd Thurs./4 p.m.	4 (3)
Partner Cities Association	3rd Thurs./5 p.m.	1 (1)
Planning and Zoning Commission	1st & 3rd Wed./7p.m.	2 (2)
Property Maintenance Appeals Board	As needed	2 (1)
Public Art Commission	1st Wed./Noon	5 (4)
Transit Agency Board of Trustees	Monthly at Board's convenience	1 (1)
Zoning Board of Adjustment	2nd & 4th Wed. (Apr.-Oct.) 2nd Wed. (Nov.-March/6 p.m.)	2

TOTAL

33



SunSmart Ames Gets Close to Goal Power Packs Make Great Gifts!

SunSmart Ames, a community solar project, is getting closer to the goal of having 80 percent of the solar panels reserved. With some additional commitments, a ground breaking could happen this spring! This is a great time to get involved in renewable energy. During the season of giving, why not consider a special gift for that person who has everything? For Ames Electric Services customers, purchasing a solar energy “Power Pack” is a thoughtful unique holiday gift that can be enjoyed for years to come!

SunSmart Ames works as a partnership between interested customers and a solar energy production company. Ames Electric Services is contracted to purchase all the solar energy produced, and Ames customers purchase “Power Packs” and subscribe to a portion of the energy output from the project.



The solar farm will be built on public property just north of the Ames Municipal Airport and will generate 2 megawatts (MW) of electricity. 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. Some advantages of owning Power Packs include:

- No large up-front costs 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 \$333. 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 at a pro-rated rate or you can transfer it to another customer.

To learn more, go to www.CityOfAmes.org/solar.

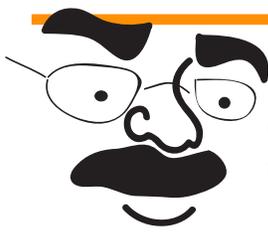
Eco Fair 2019 Reminder

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 20, 2019, 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: How does the City of Ames help businesses become more sustainable?

A: Great question! Ames Electric Services, in cooperation with the Office of Sustainability at Iowa State University, administers a program in Ames aimed at helping businesses become more aware of sustainability issues and formulate a plan to achieve improvement. Businesses are encouraged to become sustainability leaders through participation in the “Smart Business Challenge.”

The Smart Business Challenge began with the citywide sesquicentennial celebration in 2014 and has continued. Ames Electric Services continues to reach out to businesses to participate in this comprehensive program. The goal is to support sustainable practices in Ames through special opportunities including energy and water conservation, transportation efficiency, waste reduction, improved indoor and outdoor environmental quality, carbon footprint reduction, and community engagement.

Businesses involved with the Business Challenge are recognized for the work they are already doing and encouraged to attain greater levels of sustainability. The result is a better customer experience and the implementation of a business energy plan that saves money while helping the environment.

Business leaders may find it difficult to invest in conservation and sustainability when focusing on growing the business. Participating in the Smart Business Challenge is free and includes an energy audit and the assignment of a dedicated team to help the business through the process. Businesses in Ames are encouraged to join the Smart Business Challenge. Learn more about the program at the second annual Smart Business Challenge Luncheon and award presentation planned for Thursday, Jan. 24. For more information, visit www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartBusinessChallenge.



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.

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

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 October 2018

18% of electricity used this month was generated from wind.
0% of electricity this month was generated by refuse derived fuel (RDF) from the Resource Recovery Plant. (The Power Plant was out of service for maintenance.)
135 Ames customers have invested in solar voltaic systems.
90 LED street lights installed for a total of 2,959.

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

