

# City Side

Caring People Quality Programs Exceptional Service

## Inside

- 2 Ames Named Tree City U.S.A.
- 2 Water Quality Report Available
- 2 Fee Increases Identified
- 3 Community Solar Project Needs You
- 3 Emergency Sirens Provide Warning
- 4 Reducing Summer Peak Reduces Costs

## Healthy Life Center Moves Forward! Informational Meetings in June

Ames residents have an unprecedented opportunity to join six partners in building a one-of-a-kind Healthy Life Center. The proposed complex would make healthy living accessible and achievable for all people regardless of age and socio-economic status. Learn more

about the proposed Healthy Life Center by attending one of five informational meetings scheduled in June. Each meeting will provide an overview of the project, including proposed plans, amenities and costs. This will be followed by a question and answer period.

### Healthy Life Center Informational Meetings

Monday, June 10  
6 pm, Edwards School,  
820 Miller Ave.

Wednesday, June 12  
4 pm, Ames Public Library  
515 Douglas Ave.

Thursday, June 13  
6 pm, Sawyer School  
4316 Ontario St.

Monday, June 17  
6 pm, Meeker School  
300 20th St.

Thursday, June 20  
Noon, Ames High School  
1921 Ames High Drive

The Healthy Life Center focuses on a holistic, intergenerational approach to wellness focusing around the idea of “Live Well. Be Well.” Areas of emphasis include health and nutrition education, physical activities, social networking, and learning and research opportunities. The facility would include a warm-water indoor aquatic center, indoor walking track and gymnasium, demonstration kitchen for cooking and nutrition classes, meeting rooms, and more.

The project’s partners are the City of Ames, Heartland Senior Services, Iowa State University, Mary Greeley Medical Center, Story County, and Des Moines Area Community College. Heartland would move its offices and adult daycare center to the facility. Mary Greeley would provide post-surgery and rehabilitation services

on site. Together with a bequest and other private gifts, these six entities have identified revenues that would cover more than 40% of the project cost. The balance would be funded through a bond referendum anticipated to be held on Tuesday, Aug. 6.

The Healthy Life Center would be located north of Ontario Street and west of Scholl Road. It would be on the green CyRide route.

Fees would be reasonable, and needs-based scholarships would be available. For more information, visit [www.CityOfAmes.org/HealthyLifeCenter](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/HealthyLifeCenter).



## City Council Meetings

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

6 p.m. June 11

6 p.m. June 25

A Council workshop will be held at 6 p.m. June 18. For the most current information: [www.CityOfAmes.org](http://www.CityOfAmes.org).

## Fee Increases Planned

With the completion of the new budget, the City has identified some necessary fee increases.

Water rates will increase 7% on July 1 after an analysis of ongoing expenses and future projects indicated the need for additional funding. Look for ways to mitigate that increase by conserving water. For ideas, go to [www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartWater](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartWater).

Ames Animal Shelter adoption fees will increase to \$40 for rabbits, \$60 for cats, and \$80 for dogs. These fees now include FeLV/FIV tests (cats), heartworm tests (dogs), microchips, and additional vaccinations. Spay/neutering services continue to be included in the adoption fee.

To cover increasing costs, greens fees for Homewood Golf Course and admission fees to Furman Aquatic Center have already increased, as well as fees for some recreational programs.

## Arbor Day Foundation Names Ames a 2018 Tree City U.S.A

The City of Ames was recently named a 2018 Tree City U.S.A in honor of the City's commitment to effective urban forest management. Ames received the recognition by meeting the program's four requirements: a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita, and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

In the past year, the City of Ames Parks and Recreation Department hired Paul Tauke in the new position of City Forester. Paul works to improve diversity of Ames' public trees, inspects trees for disease, insects, and hazards to public safety; coordinates volunteer work projects, and communicates with the public regarding tree management initiatives and tree policies. He is responsible for overseeing the City's Emerald Ash Borer Response Plan, and can be a resource for Ames residents.



From right, Ames Forester Paul Tauke and Pat Griffin, from Ames Parks & Recreation; Jan Thompson, Iowa State University; and Jessie Liebenguth, Reiman Gardens; accept the award from Bruce Trautman, Acting DNR Director; and Jeff Goerndt, State Forester.

The Tree City U.S.A. award is given by the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and National Association of State Foresters. Ames has received this recognition for more than 25 years.

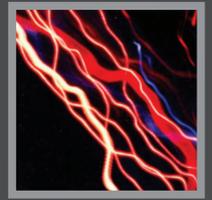
## Water Quality Report Available!

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 reduces 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](http://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 \$333. 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 63 percent. For updates, visit [www.CityOfAmes.org/solar](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/solar).

## Outdoor Warning Sirens

### What To Do During Severe Weather

Warm weather signals the arrival of storm season, and severe storms may produce tornadoes. 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 *every* month at 10 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.

# Reducing Peak Reduces Costs

Why is it important to control summer electricity use? Most energy users pay attention to their own costs and know the benefits of conservation, but there are many reasons why controlling summer peak electricity use is important. As Ames grows, there is a natural demand for more electricity. During the summer, temperatures and humidity create a seasonal demand for more energy. Over time, the utility sets higher and higher summer “peaks.”

In 1992, the high demand for electricity was 68 megawatts (MW). In 2012 it had grown to a high of 130.6 MW. Over this 20-year span, the demand increased 92% and averaged a growth rate of around 3% a year. When the demand for electricity increases, there are three places City of Ames Electric Services can get needed power:

- Sources such as other utilities, wind turbines, or our supplemental “peaking” generators. Power from these sources can be expensive.
- Installation of additional generators to supply more power, which provides an expensive alternative.
- Reductions in electricity use by our community as a whole. This is the best alternative. The cost to buy or build additional electric capacity can be \$1,000 per kilowatt (KW). Over the past years, Electric Services has spent around \$500 per KW to save electricity through Smart Energy programs.

With your help we can reduce our system’s peak demand, delay the need to build additional power plants, and keep your rates as low as possible. During the summer electricity usage is highest between the hours of 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. One of the easiest changes is to shift electric usage away from these hours to early morning or late evening in order to help reduce peak demand.

## 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 2019

22% of electricity used this  
month was generated from wind.

1.4% of electricity this month  
was generated by refuse  
derived fuel (RDF) from the  
Resource Recovery Plant.

58 LED street lights were  
installed around the community  
for a total of 3,367.

Degree Day information available at  
[www.CityOfAmes.org/Electric](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/Electric)

## 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.

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### Questions?

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