

City Side

Caring People Quality Programs Exceptional Service

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Fourth of July Closings

Most City of Ames departments and divisions will be closed Thursday, July 4, in recognition of Independence Day. Offices will resume normal business hours on Friday, July 5.

New Food Composting Pilot Project Offers Pay-As-You-Throw Convenience!

Are you looking for more ways to be environmentally friendly? The City of Ames is offering a pilot project to help keep food waste out of the landfill. Not everyone has the space, time, or know-how to compost food, but many residents want an alternative to putting it in the trash. The Food Waste Diversion Project offers that alternative!

For a fee, the Food Waste Diversion Project provides a four-gallon bucket with a lid, five compostable bucket liners, and a five-punch card to be punched when dropping off your food scraps. The drop sites are at the Resource Recovery Plant, 110 Center Ave., and Green RU, 400 Freel Drive, and operate during normal business hours. This is a 12-month pilot project, and the program could be modified based on participation and demand.



“Reducing the amount of food we throw away is important. A tremendous amount of natural resources and energy are used to grow, process, package, and transport food. Wasting food is inefficient, expensive, and harmful to the environment,” said Bill Schmitt, Resource Recovery Plant Superintendent.

Food waste mixed with carbon materials in the right amounts breaks down within weeks into compost. Compost can be added to soil to create a nutrient-rich additive for gardens and landscaping. Food waste that goes to landfills generates methane, a deadly greenhouse gas. For more information about the Food Waste Diversion Project, go to: www.cityofames.org/foodwaste.

Enjoy July 4th with Pancakes at City Hall!

Ames residents are invited to join members of the Ames City Council at this year's Fourth of July Community Pancake celebration. The event will be held from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 4, just prior to the Fourth of July parade at 11 a.m.



During the celebration, free pancakes, sausage, and coffee will be served at the front entrance of City Hall, 515 Clark Ave. Children are invited to bring their bikes, decorate them at the breakfast, and join the parade. Breakfast will be served rain or shine!

Remember that fireworks will be held after dusk on Wednesday, July 3.

City Council Meetings

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

6 p.m. July 9
6 p.m. July 23

A Council workshop will be held at 6 p.m. July 16. For the most current information: 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 that are 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.

Rummage RAMPage 2019: It's Back with More Days!

The fourth year of Rummage RAMPage is bigger and will last longer than ever before! 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 provides an outlet for students who are often faced with the dilemma of moving residences and discarding personal property. The event provides an alternative to throwing usable items in the trash. The schedule is below:

**RUMMAGE
RAMPAGE
2019**

ITEM DROP-OFF: Friday, July 26 (noon to 6 pm)
ITEM DROP-OFF and SALES: Saturday, July 27 (8 am to 6 pm)
ITEM DROP-OFF and SALES: Sunday, July 28 (10 am to 6 pm)
ITEM DROP-OFF and SALES: Monday, July 29 (noon to 6 pm)
ITEM DROP-OFF and SALES: Tuesday, July 30 (noon to 6 pm)
ITEM DROP-OFF and SALES: Wednesday, July 31 (noon to 6 pm)
ITEM DROP-OFF and SALES: Thursday, Aug. 1 (noon to 6 pm)
ITEM DROP-OFF and SALES: Friday, Aug. 2 (noon to 6 pm)
HALF PRICE SALES: Saturday, Aug. 3 (8 am to 2 pm)

For more information, contact Bill Schmitt, Resource Recovery Plant, at bschmitt@cityofames.org or Merry Rankin, Sustainability Coordinator, at mrankin@iastate.edu. More information is available at www.CityofAmes.org/RummageRampage.

New Rates Set for July 1

With the completion of the 2019-2020 fiscal budget, the City has identified some necessary fee increases.

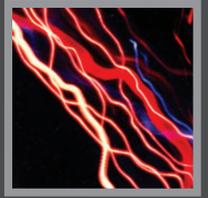
Beginning July 1, increases include a 7 percent hike on water. An analysis of ongoing expenses and future projects indicated the need for additional funding. Fees to adopt from the Ames Animal Shelter will increase to \$40 for rabbits, \$60 for cats, and \$80 for dogs. However, these fees now include FeLV/FIV tests (cats), heartworm tests (dogs), microchips, and additional vaccinations. Spay/neutering services continue to be included in the adoption fee. The Resource Recovery Plant will increase its charge per ton for dumping waste to \$58.75

Healthy Life Center

For all ages, the proposed Healthy Life Center, located on the corner of Ontario and Scholl Road, would provide an exciting, fun-filled indoor aquatic center, three regulation-sized gyms, indoor track, meeting rooms, cooking classes, healthy food and drink choices in the café, and much more!

Learn more at www.CityOfAmes.org/HealthyLifeCenter.





Power Out? Here's What To Do

Thunderstorms and severe weather can bring disruptions to your electricity. Although Ames Electric Services can't guarantee that your power will never go off, we always do our best to restore service as quickly as possible. In fact, one of our greatest strengths as your local, community-owned electric utility is our ability to respond quickly in case of a power outage. We'll do our part, but there are several steps we need you to do to restore power quickly and safely.

What to do when the electricity goes off:

- Check if the power is off in the whole house, or just part of it.
- Check your main electric panel to see if a breaker has tripped or a fuse has blown.
- If the problem is not in your panel, check if your neighbors have been affected. Even if your neighbors are calling in the outage, you should call in your address. Every piece of additional information helps pinpoint the problem.
- Call the outage reporting number at 515.239.5240. You will be asked to provide your name, address of the outage, and phone number at the outage address.

Once you've established the problem is not in your own home, call the outage reporting number at 515.239.5240. A crew will be dispatched to restore power safely and as quickly as possible. Your call enters your location into the Outage Management System. This helps us restore your power more quickly by providing your address to our electric lineworkers. As the map populates, lineworkers can determine where the outage is, how many customers are without power, and the best way to restore service.

The Outage Management System is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The system has the ability to take numerous calls at once, so you should be able to report your outage immediately even if others are attempting to call.

You can ensure your phone number and address are already in the Outage Management System by going online and filling out a form at www.CityOfAmes.org/Outage. This form allows you to associate up to two phone numbers (such as land phone and a cell phone or two cell phone numbers) with an address. When you call during a power outage, the system will recognize your number and automatically match it with an address.

You can keep up with any electric outage citywide by checking our real-time, online map at: www.CityOfAmes.org/ElectricOutage.

SunSmart Ames Needs You!

SunSmart Ames is a community solar project designed to generate two megawatts (MW) of green, renewable electricity for purchase by Ames Electric Services. 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 a bill credit based on the amount of energy generated by the solar array and the market price of electricity. Each Power Pack costs \$333. Our goal is to subscribe 80% of available Power Packs before construction of the solar farm begins. We currently stand at 65%. For more information visit, www.CityOfAmes.org/solar, or call Ames Electric Services at 515.239.5170.

Don't Trash Your Glass!

Throwing glass into your garbage creates problems for Ames' unique waste-to-energy power production, so residents are asked to bring glass to the yellow glass recycling bins at locations throughout Story County. While you may not think you have a lot of glass, many foods like jelly, salsa, and pickles are packaged in glass, as well as many beverage containers. Avoid placing your glass in the garbage and recycle it instead!

The Resource Recovery Plant, located at 110 Center Ave., is the collection site for all Story County garbage. The plant processes garbage and sends the burnable portion to the Power Plant as supplemental fuel to natural gas. Separating glass from garbage reduces the amount of glass – or pieces of glass – inadvertently injected into the furnace section of the Power Plant's boiler. Melted glass collects on the boiler tubes, reducing the efficiency of the boiler.

Separating glass reduces maintenance costs at the Ames Power Plant. Glass is collected from the yellow recycling bins regularly and recycled into new jars, bottles, or fiberglass insulation.



Glass Recycling Locations

- Ames Fareways
- Ames Hy-Vees (at or near the Gas Stations)
- Ames Aldi (west side)
- Huxley City Hall
- Green Hills (north side)
- Fareway in Nevada
- Wheatsfield Cooperative
- Story City Market
- Prairie Moon Winery
- Slater (northeast corner of 510th and R-38/Linn Street)
- Maxwell at BJ's behind Casey's
- Resource Recovery Plant (north side)

Are You Moving This Summer?

If a move is in your future, make a point to contact Utility Customer Services as soon as possible to request to have your utility service stopped or transferred.

You may submit your stop or transfer request at www.amesutilities.com or by contacting the Utility Customer Service office at 515.239.5120. The office is located in City Hall, 515 Clark Ave. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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 April 2019

26% of electricity used this month was generated from wind.

1.45% of electricity this month was generated by refuse derived fuel (RDF) from the Resource Recovery Plant.

104 LED street lights were installed for a total of 3,471.

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

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

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