Game Day Parking Ordinance Doubles Fines for Illegal Parking

Home football games are exciting times for residents – gathering with friends, supporting the team, and enjoying the game. While the Ames community welcomes football fans, illegal game day parking creates significant public safety concerns. Over the years, neighborhoods closest to Jack Trice stadium have become filled with illegally parked vehicles to the extent that safe access to residential streets is compromised. Blocked driveways and intersections, limitations on emergency vehicle access, and pedestrian hazards all contribute to neighborhood concerns.

To combat the increasing number of vehicles parking illegally during home football games, the Ames City Council approved the Game Day Parking Ordinance, which goes into effect during this fall football season. This ordinance increases fines for illegal parking from $20 to $40 in designated neighborhoods from 6 a.m. to midnight on home football game days. More than 500 signs will be posted in the impacted neighborhoods.

Legal parking is available in the game day lots on Iowa State University campus, as well as in additional campus lots, and along certain residential streets as posted. Football fans are encouraged to walk, take CyRide, park remotely, and carpool as a way to reduce congestion near the stadium. For more information about neighborhoods included in the ordinance and legal parking options, go to www.CityOfAmes.org/GameDayParking.

National Night Out Planned for Aug. 6

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 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 6, 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.
City Council Meetings
The following meetings will be held in the Council Chambers, 515 Clark Ave.:

6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 13
6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 27

A Council workshop will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 20. For the most current information, go to: www.CityOfAmes.org.

Water Plant Is LEED Certified
In recognition of the many energy-efficient building practices incorporated into the new Water Treatment Plant, Director John Dunn recently presented the Ames City Council with the plaque signifying Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification. The LEED plaque will be permanently installed at the facility located at 1800 E. 13th St. Some of the elements that contributed to earning LEED certification include:

- The project protects and preserves more than 50% of the project site using native vegetation.
- Energy consumption of the facility is 19% below the LEED benchmark, and water use is 28% below.

Smart Watersheds Offers Rebates for Native Landscaping
Have you ever considered replacing some of your lawn with native landscaping? Maybe you have an area that is difficult to mow or it’s challenging to grow grass because it is shady or wet. Consider changing part of your landscape to native vegetation. The use of native plants in modern landscapes provides a connection to our prairie heritage. Once established, native plants are aesthetically pleasing and require little watering, fertilizing, and mowing. The reduced maintenance can lead to significant cost savings when compared to labor-intensive turf grass.

Native landscaping attracts songbirds, dragonflies, butterflies and other desirable species. It also helps restore soil quality over time and helps landscapes absorb more rainfall, reducing the amount of runoff from urban spaces. The City of Ames Smart Watersheds Program has a rebate for up to $350 for areas converted to native landscaping. City of Ames utility customers are eligible to apply.

The SmartWatersheds Program also provides incentives for other practices that reduce urban stormwater runoff, improve stormwater quality and increase groundwater recharge. They include restoration of soil quality, and the installation of native turf, rain gardens, composters and rain barrels. For more information and rebate forms, go to www.CityofAmes.org/SmartWatersheds.

Moving? Don’t Forget About 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.
Rummage RAMPAGE Continues; Reduces Items Going to Landfill

For the fourth year, the City of Ames and the ISU Office of Sustainability are hosting Rummage RAMPAGE at the Ames Intermodal Facility, 129 Hayward Ave. The event grew from the desire to repurpose items often left on the curb during the annual move out and lease changeovers, and to keep these items out of the landfill. Rummage RAMPAGE works by selling items that are donated. Non-profit agencies send volunteers to help run the sale and share in any profit. The event is open to anyone to donate or shop.

Item Drop-off ONLY
Friday, July 26, noon - 6 p.m.

Sales and Drop-off
Saturday, July 27, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday, July 28, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Monday, July 29, noon - 6 p.m.
Tuesday, July 30, noon - 6 p.m.
Wednesday, July 31, noon - 6 p.m.
Thursday, Aug. 1, noon - 6 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 2, noon - 6 p.m.

Half-Price Sales (no drop-off)
Saturday, Aug. 3, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Items will be priced to sell, with most items from $1 to $50. All sales are cash only. For more information, go to www.CityOfAmes.org/RummageRAMPAGE.

Energy Audits Help Conserve

Ames Electric Services offers, as part of the Smart Energy program, an energy audit. Those signing up for the free audit receive an evaluation of their home’s energy use and a report offering suggestions on what can be done to save energy. Ames Electric Services has contracted with The Energy Group to perform the audits.

The audit looks at windows, doors, heating and air conditioning equipment, thermostat and settings, water heater, kitchen appliances, insulation levels, and lighting. Signing up for the audit is easy. Customers may fill out a request form and return it to Electric Administration, or call 515.239.5177. Forms and more information can be found by visiting www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy.

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, $333 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. Each Power Pack is expected to return a credit of $1 - $2 to the assignee’s bill each month, and customers can purchase multiple Power Packs to suit their needs.

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 65 percent. For updates, visit www.CityOfAmes.org/Solar or call 515.239.5170.
Peak Alerts Are Calls to Conserve!
A peak alert is a mechanism where the electric utility makes the community aware of considerably higher demand for electricity. When the demand for electricity is expected to be appreciably higher than the summer-time norm, the utility will issue a “peak alert” through local media and our website. (Look for the Power Watch button in the lower left at www.CityOfAmes.org.) The alert informs customers about the high demand and asks for help in reducing it.

Ames Electric Services is a summer-peaking utility. This means more electricity is required by customers during the summer than any other time of the year. In Ames, the summers can be hot and humid. This type of weather causes air conditioning, dehumidification, and refrigeration equipment to work very hard. When the demand for electricity increases significantly during this time of year, a number of things happen.

An extremely high demand for electricity taxes our distribution system and may affect reliability. This directly affects customers through an increase in the utility’s operating costs. Because Ames is a growing community, it is more common to see the utility having to purchase electricity from other utilities during the summer, which can come with a premium price tag.

Calling a peak alert is an important tool to aid the utility in reducing the demand for electricity. The peak alert notice provides the opportunity for Ames Electric Services customers to help control rising costs and lessen environmental impacts. During the hottest summer days, run washing machines and dishwashers early in the day or late at night, turn up your thermostat a few degrees to decrease air conditioner use, close your drapes to keep out the sun, and avoid using the oven. Every little bit helps!

## Numbers to Know

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Power out</td>
<td>515.239.5240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street light out</td>
<td>515.239.5500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utility bills</td>
<td>515.239.5120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy questions</td>
<td>515.239.5177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree growing too close to an electric line</td>
<td>515.239.5500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Going to be digging?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iowa One Call</td>
<td>811</td>
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<tr>
<td>Storm Water Concern</td>
<td>515.239.5160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rusty Water?</td>
<td>515.239.5551</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Renewable Energy

### For May 2019

- **18.74%** of electricity used this month was generated from wind.
- **41%** of electricity this month was generated by refuse derived fuel (RDF) from the Resource Recovery Plant.
- 137 Ames customers have invested in solar voltaic systems.
- **40** LED street lights were installed for a total of **2,999**.

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