

City Side

Caring People Quality Programs Exceptional Service

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Fire Hydrant Flushing Update

The City's annual spring fire hydrant flushing program will begin earlier this year. Look for message boards in your neighborhood alerting you to crews in the area. Hydrant flushing is necessary both to ensure high quality water and properly functioning fire hydrants. More information is available at www.cityofames.org.



Public Input Sought on Hazard Mitigation Planning

We all know the damage and injury that can be caused when disasters strike the community, but advance planning can help reduce those risks in the future. Story County is in the process of updating the community's Hazard Mitigation Plan, which identifies potential hazards to the community and strategies to eliminate or mitigate their effects. These include natural and man-made disasters. Having a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan is a requirement in order to receive many forms of federal assistance, including pre-disaster preparation funds and support to rebuild after a disaster. Updating the plan will take well over a year. Through this process, the county is asking residents to comment on potential hazards and provide input on the types of activities that should be considered to reduce future disaster losses or injury. The public will also be given the opportunity to comment on the final draft of the Hazard Mitigation Plan in August before it is sent to FEMA for adoption.

Take the Survey!

A brief survey on local hazards will be available to the public until March 31 at: www.surveymonkey.com/s/2J7YGBN. Additionally, paper copies are available in the City Manager's Office at City Hall.

Final Meeting Planned for Flood Study

The City of Ames will host the third and final public sessions in April, where the Flood Mitigation Study team will present final alternatives and strategies first to the public and then to the City Council. The City initiated the study to investigate methods for reducing the impact of future flooding in the greater Ames community.



The public is encouraged to participate by offering feedback and input at the public sessions, which will be held on Wednesday, April 10, at 1 or 6 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Ames Conference Center, 2609 University Blvd. Both open house sessions will begin with a presentation followed by opportunities for questions.

Following the meeting, the flood mitigation study team will present a report including public input and final recommendations to the City Council for review and approval. The study has progressed with final alternatives and strategies that were developed following two previous public sessions. The community provided input and ideas to reduce the impact of future flooding events in the Ames area. A combined total of 156 community residents, property and business owners attended the public sessions, which took place last October and November, and provided 162 comments to the study team.

Calendar

City Council Meetings

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

7 p.m. April 9

7 p.m. April 23

A Council workshop will be held at 7 p.m. April 16.

Rain Garden Workshop Offered

Registration is being accepted for the Smart Watersheds Rain Garden Training from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 13. Participants will learn the basics on planting a beautiful and environmentally friendly rain garden, as well as opportunities for City rain garden rebates. The training will be held in the Garden Room of Reiman Gardens. A rain garden is a shallow depression made in the landscape where water will percolate through the underlying soils. The bottom is designed to be level and is filled with soil and plants. Rainfall from the rooftops, lawns and impervious surfaces can be directed to the rain garden.

The deadline for Ames residents to register is Wednesday, April 10. Register on the City's website at www.cityofames.org or contact Jake Moore at 515.239.5287 or email at jmoore@city.ames.ia.us.

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Yard Waste Day Set for April 27!

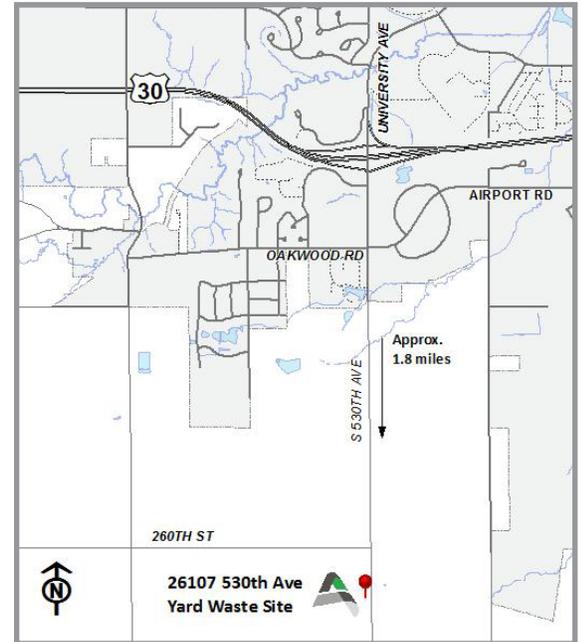
Spring Yard Waste Free Day to be Held at New Site

Residents who are busy working on yards will be able to get rid of yard waste at no charge during the spring Yard Waste Free Day on Saturday, April 27.

Participants may dispose of yard waste, lawn clippings, branches, shrubs or brush between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. at Chamness Technology, 26107 530th Ave. **Please note that this is a new site for yard waste disposal!**

To get to Chamness Technology, residents should head south on University Boulevard, and continue along the gravel road for less than two miles. The yard waste site will be located on the west side of the road. (University Boulevard becomes 530th Street.)

Participants must follow Chamness Technology's rules for proper yard waste disposal. For more information or questions, call Chad Borsheim at 515.325.6133.



Library Plans Spring Book Sale

The Ames Public Library may be at a temporary new home, but that doesn't stop the annual spring book sale. Enjoy this year's sale at a new location!

Find great deals on thousands of used items, including books, movies, music, and more! Sponsored by the Ames Public Library Friends Foundation, the annual used book sale will be held April 12 -15 at 809 East Lincoln Way. (Look for the building behind the Cenex gas pumps. The entrance is on the west side of the building next to the garage door.)

5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, April 12

(Admission \$2; Free admission and early entry starting at 5 p.m. for donors to the Ames Public Library Friends Foundation at the \$20 level and above)

9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, April 13 (Free admission)

1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, April 14

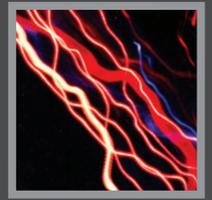
(Free admission, and everything is half price!)

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday, April 15

(Admission \$1, and everything is half price!)

Show your support for the Ames Public Library by attending the annual sale.





Project Share Helps Those In Need

The Ames Electric Services Project Share program continues to be a success because of the compassion and generosity of our customers. Through January 31, more than 110 households have received \$13,335 in assistance. A simple way to share the warmth with those in need is to make a monthly pledge or a one-time contribution to Project Share.

The purpose of the Ames Electric Services Project Share program is to solicit and accept contributions used to assist our low-income customers. A committee appointed by the Ames City Council determines permissible uses of funds donated to the program. The committee has established guidelines which guarantee at least 95¢ of every \$1 contributed is used to assist low-income customers. Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA) assists in the administration of the program by determining the eligibility of applicants.

Please Consider a Contribution to Project Share

I wish to make a monthly contribution to Project Share. I understand this amount will be listed on my monthly utility bill and that I can cancel my pledge at any time by contacting the City of Ames Utility Customer Service office.

\$1/month \$2/month \$5/month \$10/month other ____/month

I wish to make a one time contribution to Project Share rather than making a monthly pledge. I have enclosed a \$_____ donation to Project Share.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please return this form with your utility bill payment or mail to: Ames Electric Services, Attn: Project Share Committee, P.O. Box 811, Ames, IA 50010-0811

Be Green: Plant a Tree!

Vouchers Provided to Reduce Cost

City of Ames Electric Services and Ames Trees Forever are offering a tree-planting program for Ames residents and businesses on Saturday, May 4, at two local garden centers. Participants are asked to attend a brief program on proper tree selection and planting before receiving a \$50 tree voucher and a bag of mulch. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m., and the program will start at 10 a.m. at Lowe's, 120 Airport Road, and at Earl May Nursery and Garden Center, 1601 S. Kellogg Ave.



Participants may pick up an application in advance at the Ames Public Library, City Hall, Lowe's, or Earl May.

Vouchers will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. This program is made possible by a donation from Ames Electric Services. For more information, contact Dianne Brotherson of Ames Trees Forever at (515) 292-8613.

Energy Tips

- Save 1 to 2 percent on your energy bills by using foam gaskets under all exterior outlet and switch plates.
- Using water-saving showerheads, faucet aerators, pipe insulation, along with turning down your hot water heater can save up to 50 percent on water heating energy.
- Only use bathroom and range hood fans when necessary. Fans pull conditioned air from the home.

Prime Time Power Reminder

The Prime Time Power program is available to all homeowners and small businesses with central air conditioners. Receive a \$5 credit during each of four summer months for allowing Ames Electric Services to cycle off your air conditioner for brief periods during peak summer loads. The credit is automatically applied to your account. To sign up or receive additional information, call Utility Customer Service at 515.239.5120 or Steve Wilson at 515.239.5177.



Ask the Energy Guy

Q: What can you tell me about LED lights?

A: The acronym LED stands for light emitting diode. The light emitting diode represents a technology that has been around for a long time. However, wide-spread commercial use of LED lighting is relatively new. The LED is a form of electroluminescence in which a material emits light in response to an electric current being passed through it. Electroluminescence was discovered in 1907 by H. J. Round at Marconi Labs. The first LED was developed by Nick Holonyak Jr. while working at General Electric in 1962.

Holonyak was considered the father of the light emitting diode, although his first LED was red. It wasn't until 1972 that a second color, yellow, was developed. The Monsanto Company was the first to mass produce LEDs. In 1968, the company began to supply Hewlett Packard with the lights used as indicators in hand-held calculators.

Today there are many different LED applications, and using them as replacements for standard incandescent bulbs is becoming more common. It's easy to see why. Light emitting diodes produce more light per watt than incandescent bulbs. Their small size allows them to be used on circuit boards, but they can also be grouped together for applications like household lighting, traffic signals, and street lights.

LEDs light up very quickly and will achieve full brightness in milliseconds. They are ideal for applications that require quick on and off cycles and are not adversely affected by frequent switching. LEDs are dimmable and radiate very little heat. Most fail by growing dimmer over time, rather than burning out abruptly. They contain no mercury, are relatively shock resistant, and can last up to 100,000 hours, which makes them ideal for hard to reach applications. Some LEDs produced in the 1970s are still in service today.

Although there are many advantages to using LEDs, a huge drawback is the price. Due to their extremely low power requirements, LEDs ultimately save money over their life. However, they typically cost more than most other lighting technologies. For instance, an LED replacement for a 60-watt incandescent will only use 7 watts of electricity and can cost \$15. A 100-watt incandescent replacement will use 13 watts and can cost \$25. In Ames, an LED will pay for itself in energy savings in about a year. The good news is prices are coming down.

Steve Wilson
"The Energy Guy"
Energy Services Coordinator
515.239.5177

Smart Energy

Electric Services' Smart Energy program provides energy audits and rebates on the purchase of energy efficient lighting, air conditioners, and appliances. Visit our web site for information on programs and incentives available to help you improve your efficiency, conserve energy, and reduce your bills at, www.cityofames.org/smartenergy.

Free Conservation Packet Provided

Need to improve your home's efficiency? Call 515.239.5177 for a free energy conservation packet. In it you'll find booklets about insulation and home tightening from the Iowa Energy Center, a home self audit, energy saving tips, and energy conservation information.

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

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Questions?

515 Clark Ave.
Ames, IA 50010
Phone: 515.239.5204
www.cityofames.org

Numbers to Know

Power out515.239.5240
Street light out515.239.5500
Utility bills.....515.239.5120
Renting security lights.....515.239.5437
Energy questions..515.239.5177
Tree growing too close to an electric line515.239.5500

Going to be digging?
Iowa One Call: 811

Heating Degree Days

January			Season to date		
2013	2012	31-year Average	12/13	11/12	31-year Average
1291	1132	1359	3711	3392	3914

Cooling Degree Days

January			Season to date		
2013	2012	31-year Average	2012	2011	31-year Average
0	0	0	0	0	0

Degree Days are tabulated from hourly temperature data recorded at the Electric Services Power Plant. Monthly and seasonal degree days are averages since 1982. More degree day information is available on our Web site: www.cityofames.org

