

City Side

Caring People Quality Programs Exceptional Service

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Police Department Remodeling

The Ames Police Department continues to undergo a major remodeling project. To access the Police Department, residents should use the main doors of City Hall, 515 Clark Ave. The project should be completed in October.



New Traffic Signal Technology Makes Crossing Safer for Pedestrians

As traffic signals are replaced at local intersections, it will be hard to miss the new style of pedestrian pushbutton used to activate the walk signal. While many pedestrians are familiar with a round button that chirps when you push it, new signals have even more features that make crossing intersections safer and easier. These new features are especially helpful to children and those with disabilities.

As part of the new traffic signals, an audible “locate tone” helps visually impaired pedestrians locate the pushbutton. Once the button is pressed, a voice directs the pedestrian to wait. By holding the button for two seconds, the voice explains what street is being crossed and at what intersection. Once the walk light comes on, pedestrians will hear a message that says, “Walk light is on to cross (street name).” At the same time a pedestrian hears this message, the button will begin to vibrate, which also provides an alert that the walk light is on.



Once the walk period is over, an audible countdown will begin in sync with the visible countdown timer on the signal pole letting the pedestrian know how much time is left to cross. In rare occurrences where emergency vehicles are approaching the intersection during the pedestrian crossing period, an audible message will announce, “Emergency vehicle approaching clear intersection immediately.” Also, the walk light and countdown timer will go dark.

National Night Out Celebrates Community

The Ames Police Department invites residents to celebrate our community’s efforts in crime prevention. National Night Out, a community-building campaign designed to strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 6 at Brookside Park.



Participants enjoy National Night Out last year at Brookside Park.

The evening will be filled with a number of activities for people of all ages, including games from the Street ‘N’ Greet Block Party Trailer, a bike rodeo, tours of a police car, fire truck, and ambulance, and much more. 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 and use the event as a way to mingle with your neighbors.

For more information, contact Ames Police Officer Ny Saadiq at 515.239.5432.

Calendar

City Council Meetings

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

7 p.m. August 13

7 p.m. August 27

A Council workshop will be held at 7 p.m. August 20. For the most current information, go to: www.cityofames.org.

Moving Soon?

Are you a City of Ames Utility customer who is moving this summer? Did you know you can take care of your utilities requests online at a time that's convenient for you?

Apply for new service (start), stop your current service (stop), or transfer your utility service from your current address to your new address (transfer) on our website at www.amesutilities.com.

The Utility Customer Service Division receives a large number of requests in the summer, so submit your application soon and avoid the rush. For more information, you can always contact Customer Service from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at 515.239.5120.

Rebates Help Improve Water Quality!

Lawn Improvement, Native Landscaping Rebates Offered

The Public Works Department's Smart Watershed program is providing rebates for lawn soil quality improvement and native landscaping. These new programs join the current offering of rain garden and rain barrel rebates already available. The Smart Watershed program promotes the use of practices that reduce the amount of rainfall runoff leaving properties and reduce the amount of pollutants that enter local rivers and streams.



The lawn soil quality improvement program provides Ames residents up to \$350 in rebates to improve their lawns. The rebate focuses on increasing soil quality through aeration of the lawn followed by topdressing with a thin layer of high quality yard waste compost and grass seed. The number of rebates is limited, and will be awarded on a first-come basis.

Converting part of the yard to a patch of prairie, adding native prairie or woodland plants to a new flower garden, or using native plant turf are included in the eligibility for the native landscaping rebate. A limited number of \$350 rebates are available for this program, and the rebates will be awarded on a first-come basis.

An application process is required for both rebates. Both of these practices will help yards soak up more rainfall with more recharge to groundwater resulting in less runoff and damage to our local streams. For more information, contact Jake Moore, Stormwater Specialist, at 515.239.5287.

New Outdoor Sculptures Installed

The Ames Public Art Commission announces the installation of five new sculptures for the 2013-14 Ames Annual Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition (formerly known as Art Around the Corner). Ames Annual Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition (AAOSE) is a signature program of the Ames Public Art Commission. Now in its 17th year, the program places sculptures created by artists from around the country on Main Street for a one-year loan period. Some of the sculptures are later purchased by the City for placement in Ames neighborhoods. Residents interested in having a sculpture permanently displayed in a public space may submit an application to the Public Art Commission by Dec. 13.

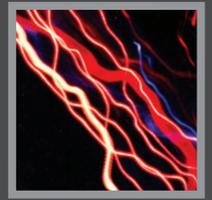


This year's Ames Annual Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition loaned selections are:

- Prayer Torso by V. Skip Willits of Camanche, Iowa
- Bunny by Jeff Brewer of Nacogdoches, Texas
- Immaterial by Chris Wubbena of Jackson, Mo.
- Transponder by Steve Elliott of Wayne, Neb.
- Horse by John Howard of Hinesville, Ga.

For more information or a map of the placements, contact the City Manager's office at 515.239.5101 or visit www.cityofames.org. The Ames Public Art Commission is

committed to creating a visual and aesthetic environment that incorporates art into the lives of all Ames citizens.



Controlling Summer Electric Peak Is Important for All Customers

Why is Ames Electric Services concerned about summer peak electric usage? Quite simply, cost. 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). By 2012, it had grown to a high of 130 MW. Over this 20-year span, the demand increased 92 percent and averaged a growth rate of around 6 percent 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. Again, this is a very expensive alternative.
- Reductions in electricity use by all Ames Electric Services customers.

The last option is the most cost-effective. The cost to buy or build additional electric capacity can be \$1,000 to \$3,000 per kilowatt (KW) depending on the source. Over the past six years, Electric Services has spent around \$500 per KW to save electricity through the Smart Energy program. With the help of Ames Electric Services customers, we can reduce our system’s peak demand, delay the need to build additional power plants, and keep rates as low as possible.

During the summer, electricity usage is highest between the hours of 3 to 9 p.m. Shifting electric usage from these hours to early morning or late evening hours helps reduce peak demand. Other steps to take include:

- Turn off any unnecessary electrical devices.
- Avoid cooking with the oven. Eat cold foods or use a microwave.
- Don’t water your yard or garden on very hot days.
- Set your thermostat up 5 degrees.
- Use compact fluorescent bulbs or LEDs instead of incandescent light bulbs.
- Have your cooling equipment checked and cleaned each year.
- If you need a new air conditioner, make sure it is sized correctly and is at least a 14 SEER.
- Caulk and weather strip your windows and doors.
- Shade your house on the east and west sides. Venetian blinds or drapes are helpful.
- Air conditioning can cost \$3 per day, while a fan can be 10 cents a day.
- Sign up for Prime Time Power.
- Visit www.cityofames.org/smartenergy for energy saving program information.
- Call Steve Wilson, “The Energy Guy” at 515.239.5177 with questions.

Tree Trimming

- Inform City of Ames Electric Services if you notice any foliage clearance problems near power lines. Call 515.239.5500, or visit the web at www.cityofames.org.
- Electric Services will follow up with residents about their tree clearance concerns.
- Once trimmed, the homeowner has the option to keep or remove any burnable wood. If it is kept, it is cut it into pieces 24-inches long with a diameter of 4 inches or more, and stacked.
- All of the trimming, cutting, stacking, and removal is done at no cost to the homeowner.

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 do I apply for a Smart Energy rebate?

A: Great question! City of Ames Electric Services strives to make the Smart Energy rebate application process as easy as possible.

However, anyone applying needs to provide the utility with certain specific information in order to process a claim for rebate.

What is the utility looking for with our rebates? Basically, we need the proper form filled out, signed, and delivered to Ames Electric Services Administrative Building, 502 Carroll Ave. The form may include a request for proof of purchase. Depending on the program, we may need proof of old refrigerator or freezer removal, and proof of Energy Star rating. There is no need to send originals - copies work fine. Remember, the more complete your claim form, the sooner you receive your check!



Rebates are available for efficient lighting, central and window air conditioners, programmable thermostats, air-to-air and geothermal heat pumps, Energy Star-rated washing machines, dishwashers, refrigerators, and freezers, and Energy Star-rated new homes. Typically, a rebate check is mailed to the customer in two to three weeks. How do you know your rebate is filled out correctly? The best advice I can give is to make sure to read the terms and conditions for the program, and call the number on the back of the form if you have questions.

Claim forms can be found on the Smart Energy website at www.cityofames.org/smartenergy. Also, forms can be picked up at Customer Service at City Hall, 515 Clark Ave., or at Electric Administration, 502 Carroll Ave. If you want a claim form mailed to your home, call 515.239.5177 and make a request. Completed forms can be returned numerous ways. They can be scanned and emailed, sent via regular mail, faxed, placed in the outdoor drop box at City Hall, or brought to Electric Services Administration.

The Smart Energy program is intended to be simple and user friendly. The goal is to reduce our community-wide demand for electricity which will lead to improved system reliability, a cleaner environment, reduced utility operating costs, and lower bills. The Smart Energy program is good for the utility, good for Ames, and good for you.

Numbers to Know

Power out515.239.5240

Street light out515.239.5500

Utility billing515.239.5120

Renting security lights515.239.5437

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					
May			Season to date		
2013	2012	31-year Average	12/13	11/12	31-year Average
214	66	150	6058	5184	6457

Cooling Degree Days					
May			Season to date		
2013	2012	31-year Average	2013	2012	31-year Average
85	131	69	92	168	82

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

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.

Call for a Free Energy Conservation Packet

Need to improve your home's energy efficiency? Call 515.239.5177 for a free energy conservation packet. You'll receive booklets from the Iowa Energy Center, a home self audit, and information on Smart Energy.

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

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