

City Side

Caring People Quality Programs Exceptional Service

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Discounts Available

Discounted season passes are available to the Furman Aquatic Center. Purchase a new pass before May 15 and receive a 10% discount. Renew your 2013 season pass before May 15 and receive a 20% discount!



Emergency Operations Center Remodeling Project Complete!

The outside entrance to the Ames Police Department may look familiar, but visitors inside the building will notice some big changes. For the last year, the north hallway of City Hall



has undergone a major transformation including the construction of a new, larger Emergency Operations Center (EOC). An EOC provides space for representatives of multiple departments and agencies to coordinate a community emergency response. In total, improvements were made to 6,500 square feet of space on the first floor of City Hall, 515 Clark Ave.

The current City Hall building was constructed in 1938 as Ames High



Above: Sergeant Brad Baker stands in the new Emergency Operations Center. Lower left: Commander Geoff Huff seeks information in the new Police Records area. Lower right: The new booking area where arrestees are processed.

School and later became a junior high school before closing in the 1980s. The property remained unused until it was purchased by the City of Ames as the future home of City Hall. The new City Hall opened in 1991. At that time, the Ames Police Department, which comprised the north hall running parallel to Sixth Street, included four jail cells.

In 2005, the Ames Police Department entered into a long-term contract with Story County to transport arrestees to the facility in Nevada. That partnership eliminated the need for jail cells and opened up space in the department that was put to better use in the remodel.

From the exterior, the only sign of major changes inside the Police Department is the addition of one door in the north exterior wall. The other improvements include the relocation and upgrade of the dispatch area, police records, evidence processing and storage, and affiliated offices. The renovation cost just over \$1 million and was funded in part through a \$600,000 Homeland Security Grant.

The project isn't over yet. A second phase will address major improvements to meet the needs of the Police, Finance, and Public Works Departments. This includes preparing space to move Information Technology into the basement of City Hall from rented space off-site.

Calendar

City Council Meetings

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

7 p.m. March 11

7 p.m. March 26

For the most current information, go to: www.cityofames.org.

Stash the Trash Set for March

It's still cold outside, but spring cleaning is just around the corner. The City of Ames Resource Recovery Plant will again join community partners in participating in the annual "Stash The Trash" city clean-up day. The event will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 29.

Volunteers can sign up online ahead of time for a location to pick up trash. VEISHEA service day participants can sign up at www.veishea.iastate.edu/vsd. Ames community participants can sign up on the Volunteer Center website at www.vcstory.org.

As in previous years, Reiman Gardens will again act as the launch location, providing drinks for volunteers as they start out, and serving a light lunch upon return.

Fire Hydrant Flushing Planned for Late March

The Ames Public Works Department will begin to flush rust from city water mains beginning at the end of March and continuing for several weeks. The purpose of this annual program is to provide Ames residents with the safest and highest quality water possible. Flushing serves the following purposes:

- Dislodges and removes mineral deposits and sediments from the water mains.
- Verifies the proper operation of fire hydrants and valves.
- Helps identify weaknesses in the water system.
- Checks for closed valves and weak flows in the water system.

During the flushing process, Ames residents may experience rust in the water, even when crews are not working in the immediate area. To avoid rust, follow these tips:

- Turn on cold water first to check for rust to avoid drawing it into the hot water heater.
- If the water looks rusty, run the tap for one to two minutes until it clears.
- If rust discolors clothing in a washing machine, rust remover is available at the City Hall information desk, 515 Clark Ave., Ames fire stations, or by calling 515.239.5550.

Specific information about the times, dates, and locations of the crews will be released to the local media prior to beginning the flushing, or you may check the City's website at www.cityofames.org.

Edwards Joins Ames Animal Shelter

The Ames Animal Shelter welcomed new leadership recently when Ron Edwards took over as Animal Control Supervisor. A California native, Ron brings more than 25 years of animal shelter experience to his new role. Working under the direction of the Ames Police Department, the Ames Animal Shelter and Animal Control is a small division providing a surprising number of offerings to best serve Ames residents and our community's animals. Programs provided by the shelter include:

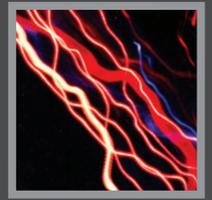


Ron Edwards

- ◆ Responsible adoptions
- ◆ Spay/neuter program
- ◆ Pets for Seniors
- ◆ Foster homes for pets
- ◆ Lost & Found
- ◆ Waiting to Adopt Services

The Ames Animal Shelter boasts a low incidence of animal illness, uses a variety of communication venues to share information about animals available for adoption, and provides compassionate animal rescue and investigative services. Animal Control Services include referrals, neighborhood mediation services, humane law enforcement, and basic wildlife services (such as promoting referrals to local experts).

Built in 1992, the Ames Animal Shelter is located at 325 Billy Sunday Road. This modest facility keeps animals clean, comfortable, and most importantly, healthy. You can keep up-to-date with the latest animal shelter news by "liking" Ames Animal Shelter on Facebook!



Eco Fair 2014 Set for March 29; Fun and Educational for All Ages

The City of Ames is excited to once again host the annual Eco Fair. The purpose of the event is to encourage Ames residents to follow conservation practices and promote the goal of becoming a sustainable community. City departments and dozens of different vendors will provide information through booths and displays. The Eco Fair showcases energy saving products and services, water conservation, watershed protection, landscaping, and transportation efficiency.



Join us on Saturday, March 29 at the Community Center Gym from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This is a great opportunity to get useful information on products and services from area vendors, see interesting displays, register for door prizes, play games, and enjoy free refreshments.



Want to Help the Environment?

Energy Conversation Has Positive Affect

Saving energy is always a good idea. It keeps rates low over time, helps to maintain a reliable electrical system, can reduce our bills, and contributes to a cleaner environment. When we use less energy, we burn less fossil fuel. This reduces the amount of carbon dioxide released from power plants. Here are a few ideas for reducing energy and carbon dioxide emissions:

- Don't run your dishwasher until it is full, and use the energy-saving setting to dry the dishes. Carbon dioxide savings: 200 pounds per year.
- Turn your thermostat five degrees up in summer and down in winter. Savings: about 1,200 pounds per year.
- Use energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulbs instead of incandescent bulbs in your most-used lights. Savings: about 500 pounds per year for each bulb you replace.
- Caulk and weather strip around doors and windows to seal leaks. Savings: up to 1,000 pounds each year.
- Insulate your walls and ceilings. Savings: up to 2,000 pounds per year.
- Install the best energy-saving windows when it is time to replace your current ones. Savings: up to 10,000 pounds annually.
- Plant trees next to your house and paint the walls of your home a light color if you live in a warm climate, a dark color in colder climates. Savings: about 5,000 pounds per year.

Visit Smart Energy on Web

Check out Electric Services' Smart Energy website for information on programs and incentives available to help you improve your efficiency, conserve energy, and reduce your bills. Smart Energy is good for the environment, good for Ames, and good for you! For current program information go to www.cityofames.org/smartenergy, or call 515.239.5177.

Carbon Monoxide Warning Signs

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas. It is produced when fuel burns such as in a furnace, gas water heater, kerosene space heater, or a car engine. If a fuel-burning device is installed, operated or vented incorrectly, the carbon monoxide it gives off can build up in the air. Without intervention, the results can be deadly. Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are like the flu: headache, weakness, dizziness, and nausea. Know the signs, and be cautious!



Ask the Energy Guy

Q: How can I find out what it costs to operate my electric devices?

A: There are a few things you can do that may help you understand what your electric devices are costing you. If all you need is a ballpark estimate you can get one from me, the Energy Guy. Start by going to my web page on the City's website: www.cityofames.org/EnergyGuy. There you will find a link to "appliances." On this page, you can find most common pieces of electrical equipment and an average cost of operation.

Another way to understand appliance cost is to estimate the cost by formula. In Ames, our residential electric rate is based on the kilowatt-hour (kWh) or the number of kilowatts (KW) used in one hour. To calculate the cost of an electric appliance you must first determine the number of watts (W) it uses.



Many appliances have a name plate on the back that will tell you the wattage. If you are given amps, you can calculate watts by multiplying the amps times the volts. Regular household voltage in Ames is 120. So, two amps equals 240 watts. Dividing the wattage by 1,000 will give you the kilowatts. Kilowatts multiplied by the cost per kilowatt-hour will give you the cost to operate the appliance for one hour. In Ames, the average cost for a kilowatt-hour of electricity is about 10.3 cents (\$.1166 summer, \$.0966 winter).

As an example: How much would it cost to run an electric space heater? From the name plate we determine our heater uses 1500 watts.

$$1500 \text{ watts}/1000 = 1.5 \text{ KW}$$

$$1.5 \text{ KW} \times \$.0966 \text{ (winter rate)} = \$.145 \text{ per hour}$$

In this example if the space heater ran four hours, it would cost about 58 cents to operate. If you need to have a specific cost, you can use an appliance meter. At the Electric Services Administration building, customers can take advantage of meters that will measure the electricity used by an appliance and provide operation costs. The meters are free for check out. For more information on how to figure out the cost to run electric devices, contact Steve Wilson, the Energy Guy, at 515.239.5177.

Steve Wilson

"The Energy Guy"

Energy Services Coordinator
515.239.5177

Prime Time Power

Even though it's winter, customers can still plan ahead for warm weather. Prime Time Power is available to homeowners and small businesses with central air conditioners. An important note: You do not need to reapply for Prime Time Power if you signed up in a previous year. The \$5 credit during each of the four summer months is automatically applied to your account. For more information, 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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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 bill515.239.5120

Energy questions..515.239.5177

Tree growing too close to an electric line515.239.5500

Going to be digging?

Iowa One Call: 811

Stormwater

Concern:.....515.239.5160

Power Plant Renewable Energy Use For December 2013

Wind purchased: 95,667,051 kWh
Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) Used: 30,448 tons

Heating Degree Days

December			Season to date		
2013	2012	31-year Average	12/13	11/12	31-year Average
1456	1146	1250	2825	2420	2555

Cooling Degree Days

December			Season to date		
2013	2012	31-year Average	2013	2012	31-year Average
0	0	0	1196	1341	1049

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

