

# City Side

Caring People Quality Programs Exceptional Service

## Inside

- 2 Consider Purchasing Flood Insurance
- 2 Block Party Trailer Available
- 2 Improvements at the Library
- 3 What To Do If Power's Out
- 3 Tree Vouchers Available
- 4 The Energy Guy

### Discounts Available

Summer season pool passes for Furman Aquatic Center are now available. Purchase a new summer season pass and receive a 10 percent discount. Renew your 2013 summer pass and receive a 20 percent discount. Purchase at the Community Center, 515 Clark Ave, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday, or 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

## Sirens Warn of Severe Weather; Use Radios Indoors for Safety

As the weather warms, the next few months can be unpredictable. Thunderstorms, wind, hail, tornadoes, and flooding are always a risk, but the spring months typically experience the most active weather patterns. There are many things Ames residents can do to ensure their safety in dangerous weather situations including paying attention to the outdoor warning sirens.



All cities in Story County have adopted the same policy for the activation of outdoor weather sirens. In addition to tornadoes, the outdoor warning system sirens may be sounded for severe thunderstorms if:

- Winds are occurring/forecast to be 70 miles per hour or greater
- Hail 1.75 inches (golf ball) or greater is occurring/forecast

The outdoor siren warning system includes 15 sirens located around Ames, and five sirens on Iowa State University campus. The outdoor warning system was designed to warn people outside of approaching tornadoes or storm systems. ***To stay safe indoors, every home or business should have a weather radio.***

When the sirens are activated, they will sound for five minutes. If necessary, they will be reactivated after five minutes. There is no "all clear" signal from the sirens. Residents are encouraged to listen to their radios or televisions for all clear information.

## Watch for Spring Wildlife!

There is a vast variety of wildlife living in Ames, and animals often change with the season. It's not uncommon to find bats, rats, shrews, voles, mice, chipmunks, ground squirrels, rabbits, squirrels, owls, hawks, eagles, snakes, turtles, lizards, fish, fox, coyotes, beavers, raccoons, bobcats, skunks, opossums, deer, moles, gophers, mink, woodchucks, and more in our neighborhoods, parks, and open spaces.

Wild animals are well-equipped to share our urban environment. When humans and animals do cross paths, the best course of action is leave the animals alone.

However, there are a few occasions where human intervention is necessary. Ames Animal Control Officers are a resource for citizen concerns and conflicts when co-existing with wild animals. If wildlife is entering your home, is sick or exposed, injured or too approachable, call Ames Animal Control at 515.239.5530.



# Calendar

## City Council Meetings

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

7 p.m. May 13

7 p.m. May 27

A Council workshop will be held at 7 p.m. May 20. For the most current information, go to: [www.cityofames.org](http://www.cityofames.org).

## Reserve the Block Party Trailer

Strong neighborhoods build strong communities. The Street 'N' Greet Block Party Trailer is a great tool to build connections in your neighborhood. Reservations for the trailer are being accepted now. The trailer is available once a weekend through October. The trailer makes having a block party convenient and easy. Inside the trailer you'll find tables, chairs, road barricades, games for children and adults, an audio system, and more.

Weekends fill up quickly. Ames residents can reserve the trailer by calling the Planning and Housing Department at 515.239.5400.



## Be Prepared for Future Flooding

# Flood Insurance Protects Property and Belongings

Even with efforts to stop it, nothing can guarantee that every Ames residence or business will never flood. To minimize loss, consider obtaining flood insurance for your property and belongings. Because Ames participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), all property owners in the city are eligible to purchase flood insurance to cover structural damage and content loss. Renters may buy coverage for damage to contents.

Coverage is available for homes, condominiums, mobile homes, commercial buildings, and nearly any walled and roofed structure. You need not own property in a flood plain to be eligible for this insurance. Insurance is available from most agents that offer homeowners insurance. Please see one for further details.

The City's participation in the NFIP requires us to adopt ordinances governing development in the flood plain and to monitor flood plain activities through a Flood Plain Development Permit. Nearly all activities, such as grading, construction, excavation, or filling in the flood plain require a permit. The regulations are designed to reduce the potential for loss of life and personal injury and to minimize property damage in the event of a flood.

Please contact Charlie Kuester, Planning and Housing Department at 515.239.5400, for information on the location of the flood plain and to discuss any proposed activities.

## Flood Monitoring

If you own property or live in a flood prone area, a big storm can keep you up at night. The City of Ames, along with many other agencies, monitors river levels and watches for signs of rising water. However, nobody understands how flooding affects your property better than you do. Never let a prediction by an 'expert' talk you out of what your own common sense tells you.

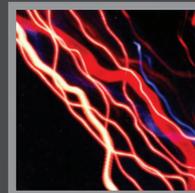
Ames Water and Pollution Control Department routinely checks gages on the Skunk River and Squaw Creek and checks flood modeling software to predict peak water flow. Yet, each weather event is unique. If you think your property may be impacted by flooding, it is never too early to begin making preparations. Above all, never put your safety in jeopardy to protect physical possessions!

# New Technology Helps Library Users

Finding your next book (or movie or CD) is about to get much easier! This May, Ames Public Library will switch to a new catalog and account management software. This exciting change will mean you can:

- Search smarter with sorting, filtering, and more.
- Manage your account online with a customized user name.
- Pay your fines online.
- Keep track of your checkout history.
- Save your searches and be automatically notified when the Library gets new items in.
- Text an item's call number from the catalog to your phone.
- Use the mobile catalog on the go.

As technology provides opportunities to improve service, Ames Public Library is changing, too. Watch for more exciting changes as we renew Ames Public Library!



# Storms Can Cause Electric Outages; Know What To Do if You Lose Power

With the spring weather, thunderstorms may cause an interruption of your electric service. Although we 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.

Here's what to do when your power 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 fuse has blown.
- If the problem is not in your panel, check to see if neighbors have been affected.
- Call your 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.

Your outage reporting service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A crew will be dispatched to restore power safely and as quickly as possible. With the ability to take numerous calls at once, you should be able to report your outage immediately. Your call is important to us because it indicates the number of customers affected and often helps pinpoint the cause allowing us to restore power sooner.

## Partnership Program for Trees

### Tree Planting Vouchers Offered

City of Ames Electric Services, City of Ames Public Works, and Ames Trees Forever are offering a tree-planting program for Ames residents and businesses on Saturday, May 3. Participating garden centers include Country Landscapes, 56985 Lincoln Highway and Earl May Nursery and Garden Center, 1601 S. Kellogg Ave. 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 Country Landscapes, 56985 Lincoln Highway and 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, Country Landscapes, 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 and the Smart Watersheds program. For more information, contact Dianne Brotherson of Ames Trees Forever at 515.292.8613.

## National Electric Safety Month

Electricity is a wonderful tool, allowing us to experience many exciting things, and perform useful work. However, along with its ability to better our lives, electricity can bring devastation and destruction if handled improperly.

- On average, in the United States, 509 people die from electrocution each year.
- Every year 200 deaths are caused by consumer products.
- Data suggests that 34 percent of consumer product electrocutions are related to large appliances in our homes.
- Misuse of electric cords and plugs causes more than 7,000 home fires each year and more than 100 deaths.
- If every household used ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), deaths from electrocution in and around the home could be reduced by 50 percent.



# Ask the Energy Guy

**Q: : How do I know the color of a light bulb before I buy it?**

**A:** The color of the light from any light bulb is measured in degrees kelvin (K). But before getting into that, let's first explore some physics. A black body is an object that absorbs all light that falls on it. When heated, the color of the thermal radiation emitted is the same as its surface temperature. By measuring the emitted radiation changes relative to surface temperature changes, a scale is created using degrees kelvin. Kelvin, in this case, is not a measure of temperature but color.

When we purchase a light bulb the package will provide a degree kelvin number representing its color. This becomes important when you consider your preferences, or how the light bulb will be used. You may prefer a more yellow color when reading, but need a whiter color when displaying product in a store. Kelvin temperatures below 3500 K appear yellow-red (warmer) whereas those above 6500 K appear white-blue (cooler).

The following are color examples:

K Temperature	Source
1850 K	Candle flame
2000 K	Sunrise or sunset
2700 K	Compact fluorescent (warm white)
2870 K	100 watt incandescent bulb
3400 K	Fluorescent tube lamp (cool white)
4100 K	Moonlight
5800 K	Mercury vapor lamp
6000 K	Bright sunlight
6400 K	Compact fluorescent (daylight)
7400 K	Bright overcast sky

**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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## Questions?

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

## Numbers to Know

Power out .....515.239.5240  
Street light out ....515.239.5500  
Utility bills.....515.239.5120  
Renting  
Security lights .....515.239.5437  
Energy questions ..515.239.5177  
Tree growing too close to an electric line .....515.239.5500  
Going to be digging?  
Iowa One Call: ..... 811

**Power Plant Renewable Energy Use**  
For February 2014  
Wind purchased: 5,008,132 kWh  
Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) Used: 28,222 tons

### Heating Degree Days

February			Season to date		
2014	2013	32-year Average	13/14	12/13	32-year Average
1396	1085	1107	5766	4796	5030

### Cooling Degree Days

February			Season to date		
2014	2013	32-year Average	2014	2013	32-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](http://www.cityofames.org)

