

# City Side

Caring People Quality Programs Exceptional Service

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### Tree Planting Program in May

City of Ames Electric Services and Ames Trees Forever will again be offering a tree-planting program for Ames residents and businesses. The program will be held on Saturday, May 3. Mark the date on your calendar and look for more information in the next issue of City Side!



## Water Department to Host Spring Open House on April 26

Ames water is safe, clean, and great tasting, but have you ever wondered how water gets from underground aquifers to the tap in your home? Learn fun facts and interesting information about water sources, water distribution, and water treatment by attending this educational and entertaining event. The Water Plant Open House will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 26, at 30 E. Fifth St.



In addition to water exhibits, displays, activities for kids, and tours of the facility, the open house will include information on the plant's history. To help celebrate the Ames sesquicentennial, the open house will showcase more than 100 years of providing water to Ames residents. As the City of Ames prepares to break ground on a new water treatment plant, this open house may be the last one held at this location. Displays will share plans and details about the new water plant at 1800 13th St., which is scheduled to open in 2017. The Water Plant Open House will demonstrate how Ames water has been a smart choice since 1891!

## E-Notification Makes Bill Paying Easy!

For Ames utility customers looking to become more environmentally friendly, streamline bill paying, and declutter their mailbox, the City of Ames has the answer. E-notification provides the completely paperless option. By signing up for E-notification, customers receive a monthly billing summary via email. Detailed billing and usage information is available online through the "My Account" feature.

To sign up for E-notification, go to [www.amesutilities.com](http://www.amesutilities.com) and complete the registration form. You can sign up to have the monthly billing summaries sent to one or two email addresses. After your request has been processed, you will receive an email confirming E-notification has been set up. The first month, both an E-notification and a paper bill will be sent to you to ensure you are receiving your E-notifications.

For even more convenience, consider signing up for My Account and AutoPay. My Account provides you with online access to your detailed utility account information. AutoPay allows you to have your utility bill paid automatically from your bank account on the due date of your bill. You can learn more about My Account and AutoPay on our website, [www.amesutilities.com](http://www.amesutilities.com).

You don't have to miss all the great news and information in City Side. Current and past issues of City Side have always been available online via the City's website. To keep up-to-date on all the information, go to [www.cityofames.org/CitySide](http://www.cityofames.org/CitySide).

# Calendar

## City Council Meetings

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

7 p.m. April 8

7 p.m. April 22

A Council workshop will be held at 7 p.m. April 15.

## Watch for Hydrant Flushing Near You

The City's annual fire hydrant flushing program begins early in the spring based on weather conditions. Hydrant flushing is a process that ensures high quality tap water and properly functioning fire hydrants.

When hydrant flushing occurs in your neighborhood, watch for slick conditions near the fire hydrant and be aware that the process can temporarily stir up mineral deposits in your tap water. Clear your taps by running cold water for several minutes. Message boards will be used when possible to alert you to crews in the area.

To watch the progress of the hydrant flushing program, a map will be updated in real time showing hydrants symbols change from red to green as the program progresses through Ames. Look for more information [www.cityofames.org](http://www.cityofames.org).

# Spring Yard Waste Free Day Scheduled for April 19

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 19.

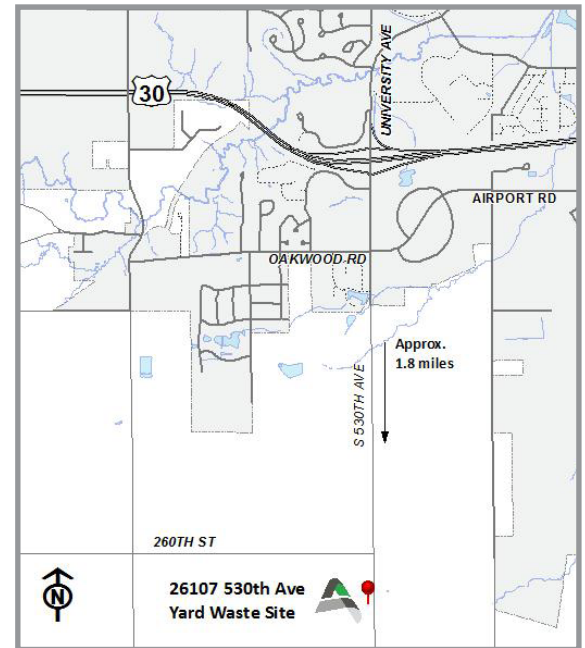
Participants may dispose of yard waste, lawn clippings, branches, shrubs or brush between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. at Chamness Technology, 26107 530th Ave.

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 Avenue.)

Participants must follow Chamness Technology's rules for proper yard waste disposal.

For more information or questions, call Chamness at 515.450.0450.

Remember that yard waste is not accepted at the Resource Recovery Plant.



Yard Waste Day Set for April 19!

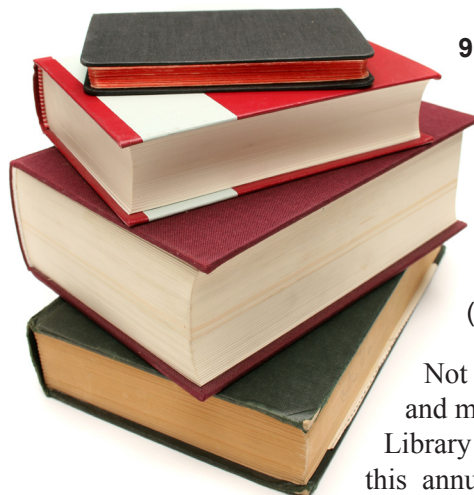
## Library Plans Spring Book Sale

The weather may be unpredictable, but one sure sign of spring is the annual spring book sale sponsored by the Ames Public Library Friends Foundation. Find great deals on thousands of used items, including books, movies, music, and more!

The annual used book sale will be held from April 25 to 28 at 809 East Lincoln Way. (Look for the building behind the Cenex gas pumps.)

**5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, April 25**

(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 26** (Free admission)

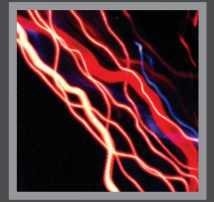
**1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, April 27**

(Free admission, and everything is half price!)

**9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday, April 28**

(Admission \$1, and everything is free!)

Not only can you get great deals on used books and materials, you support the Ames Public Library through your attendance and purchases at this 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 106 households have received \$13,195 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

## Remember to Call Before You Dig!

Spring planting season will soon be here. After a long winter, many gardeners are eager to get outdoors digging up the yard and planting shrubs, flowers, and trees. Ames Electric Services wants you to be safe. Remember there may be danger lurking underground! Call Iowa One Call at 811 before you dig. They will arrange to have your yard marked free of charge for underground utilities and cables. Colors of the flags or paint you'll see and corresponding underground services are:

- ◆ Red – Electric
- ◆ Yellow – Gas, oil, steam
- ◆ Orange – Communication, CATV
- ◆ Blue – Water
- ◆ Green – Sewer
- ◆ Pink – Temporary survey markings
- ◆ White – Proposed excavation

## 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 shower heads, 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: I find degree days confusing. Can you help me?**

**A:** I'll try. A heating or cooling degree day does not actually represent a day. Rather, it represents the number of degrees Fahrenheit (°F) we are away from being comfortable. Early in the twentieth century, engineers developed the concept of heating degree days as a useful index of heating fuel requirements. They found that when the daily mean (high + low divided by 2) temperature is lower than 65°F, most buildings require heat to maintain a comfortable internal temperature.

It was determined that each degree of mean temperature below 65° F would be counted as "one heating degree day." Likewise, it was determined that each degree of mean temperature above 65°F is counted as "one cooling degree day."

Example 1: The high temperature for a particular day was 90°F and the low temperature was 66°F. The temperature mean for that day was 78°F:  $(90 + 66) / 2 = 78$ . Because the result is above 65°F we must cool down 13 degrees to reach 65. Our result is 13 cooling degree days.  $78 - 65 = 13$ .

Example 2: The high temperature for a particular day was 33°F and the low temperature was 25°F. The temperature mean for that day was 29°F:  $(33 + 25) / 2 = 29$ . Because the result is below 65°F we must heat up 36 degrees to reach 65. Our result is 36 heating degree days.  $65 - 29 = 36$ .

Heating or cooling degree days are calculated for each day of a month, and a total is recorded. The monthly degree day totals are added for an annual total. For instance, in the month of May of 2007 there were 55 heating degree days, and 115 cooling degree days. This means that on some days the mean temperature was below 65°F, and we had to add heat (55 heating degree days). On other days the mean temperature was above 65°F, and we had to add cooling (115 cooling degree days).

The degree day has become the standard by which we attempt to understand the impact of temperature. Agricultural and energy market analysts, equipment design engineers, architects, and utility bill payers find value in looking at degree days. If my June electric bill is higher than expected, I can check published degree day information to see if it will help me identify a cause. If I see there were more cooling degree days than average, this helps me understand that my bill is higher because my air conditioner ran more.

**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](http://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**

**Editor**  
Susan Gwiasda  
Public Relations Officer

## Questions?

515 Clark Ave.  
Ames, IA 50010  
Phone: 515.239.5204  
[www.cityofames.org](http://www.cityofames.org)

### Numbers to Know

Power out .....515.239.5240  
Street light out ....515.239.5500  
Utility bill .....515.239.5120  
Energy questions..515.239.5177  
Tree growing too close to an electric line .....515.239.5500  
Going to be digging?  
Iowa One Call: ..... 811  
Stormwater  
Concern:.....515.239.5160

**Power Plant Renewable Energy Use For January 2014**  
Wind purchased: 6,654,819 kWh  
Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) Used: 28,317 tons

### Heating Degree Days

January			Season to date		
2014	2013	32-year Average	13/14	12/13	32-year Average
1553	1291	1361	4378	3711	3923

### Cooling Degree Days

January			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)