

City Side

Caring People Quality Programs Exceptional Service

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Fourth of July Closings

Most City of Ames departments and divisions will be closed Friday, July 4 in recognition of the Fourth of July. Offices will resume normal business hours on Monday, July 7.



Celebrate the Ames Sesquicentennial At 'Ames 150 on the Fourth'

Fireworks, the Ames Municipal Band, birthday cake, and barbecue will kick off the Ames 150 on the Fourth celebration on Thursday, July 3. The fun will continue through the weekend with the Mayor and City Council Annual Pancake Breakfast, Fourth of July parade, live music, and an expanded festival in Downtown Ames.



A variety of eclectic, internationally known live bands will perform free concerts on Friday, July 4 and Saturday, July 5 to mark the city's sesquicentennial. Robert Randolph and the Family Band, Buckwheat Zydeco, and Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars will perform on the Main Street stage. On July 4-5, a festival between Duff Avenue and Kellogg on Main Street will provide free, family friendly events including a climbing wall,

mechanical bull, cow milking, inflatable obstacle course and slide, old fashioned games and contests, spin art, and historical presentations.

On Saturday, July 5, the festival brings back a Chautauqua tent to Ames at Bandshell Park. Named after Chautauqua Lake, N.Y., where the first was held, Chautauqua assemblies expanded and spread throughout rural America until the mid-1920s. The Chautauqua brought entertainment and culture for the whole community, with speakers, teachers, musicians, entertainers, and preachers. A detailed listing of activities featured at Ames 150 on the Fourth is available at www.ames150.com.

Enjoy Fourth of July Pancakes!

Ames residents are invited to join members of the Ames City Council at this year's Fourth of July Community Pancake celebration. The event will be held from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Friday, July 4, just prior to the Fourth of July parade at 11 a.m. To celebrate the sesquicentennial, live music from the Second Chair Bass and the Jazzy Lads will be featured.

During the celebration, free pancakes, sausage, and coffee will be served at the front entrance of City Hall, 515 Clark Ave. Participants are encouraged to stay Downtown after the parade and enjoy the festival. Children are invited to bring their bikes, decorate them at the breakfast, and join the parade. Celebrate the Ames sesquicentennial and our nation at the annual Fourth of July Community Pancake Breakfast. Breakfast will be served rain or shine!



Calendar

City Council Meetings

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

7 p.m. July 8
7 p.m. July 22

A Council workshop will be held at 7 p.m. July 15. For the most current information, go to: www.cityofames.org.

Reduce Runoff; Get a Rebate!

The Smart Watershed Program promotes practices landowners can use to reduce runoff leaving their properties. Starting July 1, the program is offering Ames landowners up to \$350 to improve lawn soil quality through aeration followed by topdressing the lawn. A limited number rebates are available through June 30, 2015. Also, landowners can convert an area of yard to a Patch-of-Prairie, add native prairie or woodland plants to a new flower garden, or use native plant turf with the Native Landscaping rebate. There are a limited number of rebates of \$350 available. An application is required for both rebates. Contact Jake Moore at 515.239.5287 for more details.

Sewer Rates Increase To Fund Needed Infrastructure Projects

To keep public utility infrastructure properly maintained and to prepare for a growing community, a sanitary sewer rate increase will go into effect on July 1, 2014. Although no one likes his or her monthly bill to go up, the rate increase is necessary to fund on-going operations and maintenance of the sanitary sewer system, as well as fund anticipated capital improvement projects.

The 8 percent sewer rate increase will affect both the minimum bill component and the 'per cubic foot' component. All city utilities are facing significant expenses in the coming years. In addition to increasing costs to maintain and grow infrastructure, utilities including electricity, water, and sanitary sewer face the need to respond to new and anticipated regulatory requirements.

"We have a long history in Ames of operating safe, dependable, environmentally sensitive utilities," said John Dunn, Water and Pollution Control Director. "To ensure our facilities continue to function reliably and efficiently, we must make regularly invest in our infrastructure to allow us to best serve our customers."

The City of Ames has provided wastewater treatment since 1904, The process of removing harmful materials through wastewater treatment was handled by a plant on South Duff Avenue. Ames began treating wastewater more than 70 years before cities were required to do so by the Clean Water Act. The current Water Pollution Control Plant became fully operational in 1989. It is an advanced secondary treatment facility and provides wastewater treatment for residents, commercial and industrial customers in Ames and for Iowa State University.

Sanitary Sewer Rate Increase

Be Safe with Pets in the Summer

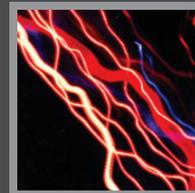
Warm weather is here to stay, and Ames Animal Control Officers are responding to dogs locked in vehicles. Please keep your pets safe and leave them at home when you are running errands. Even just a short stop into the grocery store can be dangerous when temperatures climb.

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) emphasizes that pets should never be left in parked vehicles on hot days. The temperature inside a car can rise to 120 degrees within a matter of minutes. Pets can suffer irreversible organ damage and death. Whenever pets are outside they require shade and cool water. Protection from the heat is a must, according to the Humane Society. While a dog house provides shelter from some elements, it does not provide relief from the heat.

If you believe an animal is in distress, call the non-emergency police dispatch number at 515.239.5133 to report your concerns.



The Humane Society recommends limiting exercise on very hot days to early morning or evening hours. Owners should be particularly careful with pets with white-colored ears, that are more susceptible to skin cancer, and short-nosed pets that may have difficulty breathing. Walking dogs on grass is also suggested, since asphalt can become very hot and can burn a dog's paws.



When the Temperatures Climb, Take Action to Save Energy

Summers in Iowa are hot and humid, which is a combination that drives utility bills higher. The good news is there are things to do that will help reduce those costs. Any reduction in the amount of electricity you consume on hot summer days benefits the utility system, helps keep our rate low, improves our environment, and lowers your bills. Here are some tips:

- For each degree Fahrenheit you raise your thermostat, you can reduce your air conditioner's energy usage by 3 to 5 percent.
- Setting your thermostat lower will not cause your air conditioner to cool faster, it will just run longer and waste energy.
- Clean and/or replace furnace filters. Dirty filters cause your system to work harder when circulating air and leads to higher energy bills and a shortened life span.
- Try running your air conditioner for 20 minutes during early morning hours. This can clear humidity, reduce air conditioner run time, and make your home more comfortable for the day.
- Clean and clear debris away from your outdoor compressor unit. The cleaner and freer of debris, the more efficient the air conditioner system will operate.
- It's always a good idea to set your thermostat up while you are gone. The energy saved while the building warms is offset by the energy used to re-cool it. You save during the time the thermostat is at the higher temperature.

For a free copy of the Iowa Energy Center's "Home Cooling" booklet, contact Steve Wilson at 515.239.5177.

Power Out? Here's What To Do

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 if your power goes off. First, check if the power is off in the whole house or just part of it. This includes checking 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.

If you can't identify the problem, call the 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.

Conservation Tips At Solar Challenge

Businesses and individuals can learn more about decreasing their carbon footprint as part of the American Solar Challenge on Saturday, July 26. The American Solar Challenge is a competition where teams design, build, and drive solar-powered cars in a cross-country time/distance rally event. The course is 1,200-1,800 miles long between multiple cities across the country, and Ames will serve as a checkpoint. Ames residents are welcome to watch the cars pass through from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Hilton Coliseum parking lot. Booths, displays, and interactive activities will provide information about renewable energy and sustainability at Iowa State and the City of Ames. Businesses should look for information on saving energy by getting involved in the Smart 150 Challenge!

Call Before You Dig!

Always call Iowa One Call at 811 or 1-800-292-8989 before beginning any landscaping project. By calling in advance, your yard will be marked for utilities free of charge.



Ask the Energy Guy

Q: How much will a new air conditioner save me?

A: Like just about every other energy question out there, the answer is it depends. Your savings will be affected by the outdoor temperature and humidity, the size and efficiency of your old and new air conditioners, and your thermostat setting. But assuming no major lifestyle changes and average weather, you should be able to get a rough idea of savings.

First, figure out how much you spend on air conditioning. Subtract your April electric bill from each of your July, August, September, and October electric bills, total them, and add 8 percent. This will give you a rough idea of your cooling costs.



Next, estimate your old and new air conditioner efficiencies. Cooling equipment is tested by the Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI) and given a seasonal energy efficiency rating (SEER) representing the cooling energy output per watt of electricity input. The higher the

SEER, the more efficient the air conditioner. Your new air conditioner will have the SEER identified on the unit. If not, ask your installer. Estimating the SEER of the old unit depends on its age. For an air conditioner older than 20 years, the SEER would be about 6. A 10- to 20-year-old air conditioner will have a SEER of around 8. Air conditioners newer than 10 years would typically have a SEER of around 10.

Let's say you are replacing a 20-year-old air conditioner, and you estimate the old unit SEER to be 8. You made sure the new system has a SEER of 14 in order to qualify for a Smart Energy rebate. The new air conditioner will save you 43 percent. $(8/14 = .57, 100\% - 57\% = 43\%$ savings).

From your bill analysis you found that you spent about \$392 a summer for air conditioning. Taking this times .43 will give you an estimate of savings: \$168. The new unit will cost about \$224 a season to operate.

Steve Wilson
"The Energy Guy"
Energy Services Coordinator
515.239.5177

Ceiling Fans Save Electricity

Ceiling fans can reduce energy costs by making a room feel cooler. But ceiling fan direction is crucial for comfort. The rule to follow is fairly simple, "counter-clockwise" or "forward" is used to blow air down on occupants during summer. Reversing the direction to "clockwise" pushes heat off the ceiling and circulates it into the room during winter.

Comfort's a good thing, but how does this save energy? The idea is to use the fan in cooperation with setting the thermostat higher a few degrees. Fans do nothing to the temperature of a room, but because of wind-chill effects, the moving air provided by a fan allows one to tolerate higher temperatures and not forfeit comfort.

**City Side is a
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Editor
Susan Gwiasda
Public Relations Officer

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 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 April 2014**
Wind purchased: 6,612,738 kWh
Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) Used: 27,555 tons

Heating Degree Days

April			Season to date		
2014	2013	32-year Average	13/14	12/13	Average
496	560	447	7249	6414	6326

Cooling Degree Days

March			Season to date		
2014	2013	32-year Average	2014	2013	Average
11	7	13	11	7	14

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

