

# City Side

Caring People Quality Programs Exceptional Service

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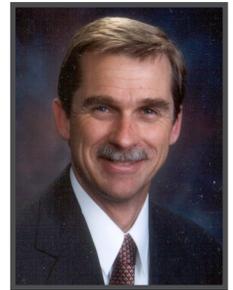
## Ames 150 Continues

The celebration of the Ames sesquicentennial, which recognizes 150 years since the platting of the city's first 12 blocks, continues throughout 2014. Get more news and information at: [www.ames150.com](http://www.ames150.com).



## At Your Service: City Employees Recognized for Excellence

City of Ames Chief of Police Chuck Cychosz and CyRide bus driver Nathan Shimanek were both recently recognized for the excellent service they provide as city employees. Police Chief Cychosz was named "Law Enforcement Executive of the Year" by the Iowa Police Chiefs Association (IPCA). The Law Enforcement Executive of the Year Award recognizes outstanding and extraordinary professional service to the criminal justice system, the law enforcement profession, and the Iowa Police Chiefs Association.



Police Chief  
Chuck Cychosz

"From the beginning, Chief Cychosz has brought unique skills to his role in leading the Ames Police Department. He is a champion of innovative thinking, relationship building, public outreach, and continuous improvement," said City Manager Steve Schainker.



CyRide Driver  
Nathan Shimanek

Nathan Shimanek, who started with CyRide in 1999, participated in the Community Transportation Association of America's 25th Annual National Bus Rodeo held recently in St. Paul, Minn. Shimanek represented both CyRide and the state of Iowa as the overall state rodeo winner last summer. The National Bus Rodeo requires operators to maneuver buses through simulated on-street obstacles such as 90 degree-right and left-hand turns, reverse movements, and in close proximity to the curb, as well as completing a written test and pre-trip bus inspection to identify bus defects and safety hazards.

Out of a total of 1,000 possible points, Shimanek received 881. For his outstanding efforts, he was named First Place and received "Rookie of the Year" recognition as a first-time participant in the national rodeo.

## National Night Out Planned for Aug. 5

The Ames Police Department invites residents to celebrate community crime prevention efforts. National Night Out is a community-building campaign designed to strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. The event will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 5 at Bandshell Park (a new location!).

Games from the Street 'N' Greet Block Party Trailer, a bike rodeo, tours of a police car, fire truck, and ambulance, and much more will be featured. 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. 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. on Tuesday, Aug. 12  
7 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 26

A Council workshop will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 19. For the most current information, go to:  
[www.cityofames.org](http://www.cityofames.org).

## Moving?

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](http://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.

## Tips to Conserve Water in the Summer

# Saving Water Saves Electricity

The City of Ames Water Department asks customers to conserve water, especially during peak water and electric usage times. But did you know that conserving water also reduces electricity consumption? Water and electricity have a symbiotic relationship. Treating water consumes a lot of electricity and producing electricity consumes a lot of water. At the Ames Water Plant, electric-powered motors operate equipment like mixers and pumps. However, the largest electricity consumption comes from pumping water to and from the plant.



Because Electric and Water's peak usage hours sometimes coincide, it is important for the water plant to conserve energy during peak times, which are generally from 3 to 8 p.m. during the summer months. We do this by running only our most efficient wells, pumping as much treated water to the distribution system as feasible during non-peak times, and shifting other electrical demands within the treatment process to late night or early morning hours.

As Ames residents, you can do your part during the summer to help conserve water and energy by:

- Watering your lawn and garden only as needed and during the early morning hours (remember, over-watering can be just as bad as under-watering).
- Installing a hose timer for watering your lawn.
- Using a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway.
- Not leaving the water on while washing your car.
- Not using water toys that require water to constantly run.

## Change Ahead: Library Plans Return!

Ames Public Library will soon move back to 515 Douglas Ave.! For over a year and a half, Ames Public Library has been operating at a temporary location at 620 Lincoln Way. Meanwhile, the building at 515 Douglas Ave., built in 1904 and added onto in 1907, 1940, and 1984, has been expanded and completely renovated. It's almost time for Ames Public Library to move back to the renovated and expanded building. The excitement begins in August:

### Book Brigade: Sunday, Aug. 17

Meet at 4 p.m. at the temporary library (620 Lincoln Way) and celebrate the return by helping pass 14 specially selected books along a human chain from the temporary location to the renewed library in a ceremonial book brigade. Maybe we'll set a Guinness World Record! Afterwards, the celebration will continue at Bandshell Park with entertainment and fun for all ages.

### Library Closed: Aug. 18 - Sept. 13

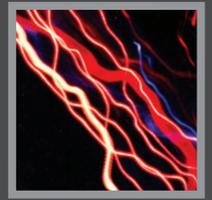
Ames Public Library and the Bookmobile will be closed to prepare the renewed library for opening day.

### Ames Public Library Friends Foundation Fundraising Gala: Friday, Sept. 5.

From 7 to 10 p.m. enjoy a sneak peak at the renovations at 515 Douglas Ave. \$75 per person.

### Grand REopening: Sunday, Sept. 14

For more information about the return to 515 Douglas Ave. and special events, visit [www.amespubliclibrary.org](http://www.amespubliclibrary.org).



## Smart Energy Free Audits Increase Your Electric Savings

City of Ames Electric Services offers, as part of the Smart Energy program, an energy audit. Those signing up for the free audit receive an evaluation of their home's energy use and a report offering suggestions on what can be done to save energy. The Energy Group has contracted with Ames Electric Services to perform the audits.



The audit looks at windows, doors, heating and air conditioning equipment, the thermostat and settings, the water heater, kitchen appliances, insulation levels, and lighting. For those owning a home built in 2000 or before, there is also a free blower door test to check for air infiltration leaks.

Signing up for the audit is easy. Simply fill out a request form and return it to Electric Administration, or call the Energy Guy at 515.239.5177. Forms and more information can be found by visiting, [www.cityofames.org/SmartEnergy](http://www.cityofames.org/SmartEnergy).

Until an energy audit is scheduled, here are some tips that anyone can implement to save money on utility bills and reduce energy consumption:

- Monitor Power Watch for information or call the Power Watch Hotline at 515.239.5180.
- Avoid cooking with the oven. Eat cold foods or use a microwave.
- Don't water your yard or garden more than necessary, or consider letting your grass go dormant.
- Set your thermostat up 5 degrees. It can save up to 20 percent of your cooling energy.
- Use CFL or LED bulbs. These bulbs save 70 to 90 percent of the electricity of a traditional bulb, give the same light, and use the same socket.
- Clean furnace filters improve equipment operation. Replace or clean filters every month during hot weather.
- 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. You can save up to 15 percent of your energy use on air conditioning costs with a well-sealed home.
- Shade your house on the east and west sides. Venetian blinds or drapes are helpful.
- Using ceiling or floor fans is less expensive than using air conditioning. Air conditioning can cost \$3 per day, while a fan would cost only about 10 cents per day.
- Sign Up for Prime Time Power. Get a \$20 credit on your summer bill.
- Participate in Smart Energy by getting a Smart Energy home energy audit.
- 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](http://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: What is a peak alert?

A: A peak alert is a mechanism whereby the electric utility makes the community aware of considerably higher demand for electricity. When the demand for electricity is expected to be appreciably

higher than the summer-time norm, the utility will call a "peak alert." The alert informs customers about the exceptionally high demand for electricity and asks for their help in reducing it.

City of Ames Electric Services is a summer-peaking utility. This means more electricity is required by customers during the summer than any other time of year. An example of a winter peaking utility is East Grand Forks, Minn. Besides being located in northwest Minnesota and having to deal with harsh winters, East Grand Fork's largest commercial customer is American Crystal Sugar, the largest beet sugar producer in the United States. Because of the timing of sugar production, the demand for electricity by American Crystal Sugar is higher during winter, which makes East Grand Forks a winter-peaking utility.



In Ames, the summers can be hot and humid. This type of weather causes air conditioning, dehumidification, and refrigeration equipment to work very hard. When the demand for electricity increases significantly during this time of year, a number of things happen. An extremely high demand for electricity taxes our distribution system and may affect reliability. This directly affects customers through an increase the utility's operating costs. Because Ames is a growing community, it is more common to see the utility having to purchase electricity from other utilities during the summer, which can come with a premium price tag.

Calling a peak alert is an important tool to aid the utility in reducing the demand for electricity. Allowing the community the opportunity to help itself control rising costs and negative environmental impacts is part of the responsibility our citizen owners accept by supporting local ownership via a municipal utility. This relationship has worked well for more than 100 years.

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 May 2014

Wind purchased: 5,296,209 kWh

Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) Used: 27,442 tons

### Heating Degree Days

May			Season to date		
2014	2013	32-year Average	13/14	12/13	32-year Average
164	214	150	6999	6628	6476

### Cooling Degree Days

May			Season to date		
2014	2013	32-year Average	2014	2013	32-year Average
98	85	70	109	92	84

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)

