

City Side

Caring People Quality Programs Exceptional Service

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Holiday Closing in January

City Hall and most City of Ames departments will be closed on Thursday, Jan. 1, 2015, for New Year's Day.



Ames Resident Survey Results Show Overall Satisfaction

The 32nd annual Resident Satisfaction Survey reveals a vast majority of Ames residents are pleased with the quality of City of Ames services. In the 2014 report, 98 percent of those surveyed ranked overall City of Ames service quality as "good" or "very good." This year, 40 percent of respondents provided a "very good" rating, compared to 42 percent in 2013. The number of respondents rating the City of Ames as "good" was 58 percent, up from 56 percent in 2013.

Surveys were mailed to 1,350 randomly selected City of Ames utility users and emailed to 1,250 randomly selected Iowa State University students last spring. There were 530 returned surveys for a response rate of 20 percent, a 4 percent decrease from 2013. The Resident Satisfaction Survey gathers feedback on priorities for ongoing services and capital improvements, as well as satisfaction with law enforcement, safety, city utilities, and transportation. The survey also provides an opportunity for comments. Along with dozens of benchmarking questions, the survey includes a section on current initiatives or issues. This year's survey featured questions on flood plain development and building an indoor aquatic facility.

The survey included several open-ended questions. Those comments, along with the entire Resident Satisfaction Survey, are available on the City's website: <http://www.cityofames.org/rss2014>. The survey can also be found on the website at www.cityofames.org under Our Government, Departments, City Manager's Office.

Emerald Ash Borer Response Plan Begins



Steps are underway to combat the arrival of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). The City's EAB Response Plan charts a course of action to proactively remove ashes and replant with a tree variety that will diversify our urban forest. EAB, an invasive beetle which has been confirmed in nearby communities, kills all species of ash trees and has been spreading throughout the country. Since it was first discovered in 2002, EAB has killed millions of ash trees.

The City of Ames has inventoried all trees in the public rights-of-way (along streets, commonly the area between the sidewalk and the curb), in the maintained areas of City parks, and at City-owned facilities. More than 2,300 ash trees were identified on City property. The EAB Response plan begins with the removal of ash trees followed by replanting of replacement trees.

Trees targeted for removal will be posted with a sign, and residents in neighborhoods where tree removal is underway will be notified with door hangers. The EAB Response Plan addresses concerns with ash trees on public property. For more information on EAB and options for trees on private property, go to www.cityofames.org/trees.

Calendar

City Council Meetings

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

7 p.m. January 13

7 p.m. January 27

A Council workshop on capital improvements will be held at 5:15 p.m. January 20. For the most current information, go to: www.cityofames.org.

Christmas Tree Recycling Offered

The City of Ames will provide free disposal of Christmas trees at the Parks & Recreation Maintenance Shop, 700 E. 13th Street. The designated drop-off days are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Friday,
Jan. 2, and
Saturday,
Jan. 3,
2015. On



these days the wood chipper will be running. The Christmas trees will be recycled into chips, which will be used in City of Ames parks. Trees can be dropped off at the Parks & Recreation Maintenance Shop at other times and dates throughout the winter. Specific information will be posted on our website. The driveway will be marked with a sign. The tree stand, tinsel, and all ornaments should be removed from the tree.

Ames Mobility 2040: Get Involved!

The Ames Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (Ames Area MPO) is updating the metropolitan area's Long Range Transportation Plan, Ames Mobility 2040. Ames Mobility 2040 is a collaborative effort among public, state and local transportation officials with the goal of understanding the Ames area transportation priorities, current and future transportation needs, and how to best address those needs with available transportation funding. The plan covers areas in and around Ames that are expected to be urbanized within the next 25 years.

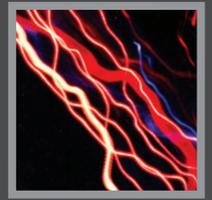


“Whether you drive, bike, use public transit, or walk, we want to hear from you about ways we can improve the Ames area transportation network,” said Tony Filippini, Ames Area MPO transportation planner. “This is your opportunity to get involved in the process and suggest changes for the future.” To engage the community in the Ames Mobility 2040 effort, the Ames Area MPO is hosting a project website, AmesMobility2040.com, dedicated to the Ames Mobility 2040 plan. The website is designed to keep the public informed about planning efforts and upcoming events.

Volunteer for a Board or Commission

Here's one way to volunteer in your community and make a difference. Join a City of Ames board or commission. Boards and commissions make recommendations to the Ames City Council and assist the Council in carrying out various functions of local government. The following boards and commissions have vacancies occurring in the first part of 2015. The number following the name of the board or commission indicates the number of pending vacancies. The number in parentheses denotes how many incumbents may be reappointed. Apply online at www.cityofames.org (under Our Government, Boards & Commissions). Applications are also available in the City Clerk's Office. **Deadline to apply is 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 6.**

Commission/Board	Meeting Days/Times	Vacancies
ASSET	2 nd Thurs./5 p.m.	2
Building Board of Appeals	As needed	2 (2)
Commission On The Arts (COTA)	1 st Mon./5 p.m.	1 (1)
Electric Utility Operations Review & Advisory Board (EUORAB)	As needed	2 (2)
Historic Preservation Commission	2 nd Mon./7 p.m.	3 (3)
Human Relations Commission	4 th Thurs./5:30 p.m.	3 (2)
Human Relations Commission - Hearing Officers (must be educated in law)	As needed	4 (1)
Human Relations Commission - Investigative & Conciliation Officers	As needed	4
Library Board of Trustees	3 rd Thurs./7 p.m.	3 (3)
Parks and Recreation Commission	3 rd Thurs./4 p.m.	3 (1)
Partner Cities Association	3 rd Thurs./5 p.m.	1 (1)
Planning and Zoning Commission	1 st & 3 rd Wed./7 p.m.	3 (3)
Property Maintenance Appeals Board	As needed	3 (3)
Public Art Commission	1 st Wed./Noon	4 (4)
Zoning Board of Adjustment	2 nd & 4 th Wed. (Apr.-Oct.) 2 nd Wed. (Nov.-Mar.)/7p.m.	1
Total		39



‘Smart 150 Challenge’ for Businesses Continues Beyond Sesquicentennial

Our sesquicentennial year may have come to an end, but the emphasis on saving energy continues. For the past 150 years, Ames businesses have continued to make smart choices when it comes to sustainability efforts. Throughout the past year, the City of Ames has challenged the business community to heighten its sustainability efforts through the “Smart 150 Challenge.” Many businesses have joined the challenge, and Ames Electric Services is continuing its efforts into 2015.

The Smart 150 Challenge engages businesses by offering them free energy audits, followed by no-cost and low-cost options to save energy and reduce water consumption. Businesses can participate in rebate programs and implement a business energy plan that saves money while helping the environment. Ames has many examples of our pioneering spirit when it comes to sustainability. The Smart 150 Challenge is an opportunity to recognize that commitment to environmental stewardship in the business community.



CityOfAmes.org/Smart150Challenge

Five years ago, with support from the Ames City Council, Mayor Ann Campbell joined mayors from across the country in signing the U.S. Mayors’ Climate Protection Agreement. In the time that has passed, the City of Ames has continued to encourage residential and business sustainability efforts. For more information about how to participate in the Smart 150 Challenge, a program developed to celebrate the Ames Sesquicentennial (1854 -2014). Celebration by going to the City’s website at www.cityofames.org/Smart150Challenge.

The Thermostat Dilemma: Tips for Lowering Your Heating Bill

How should you control your furnace, set it and forget it, or turn it down overnight and while you’re at work to save energy? If you turn it down, doesn’t it cost more to reheat the house? It’s a common misconception that once a thermostat is turned down, a furnace works harder than normal to warm the space back to a comfortable temperature.

According to the Department of Energy (DOE), the extra fuel you use warming the home back up equals the fuel you save getting to the new lower temperature. You save all the time your system is at the lower setting. The longer your house remains at the changed temperature, the more energy (and dollars) you save. A rough estimate would be a 1-percent savings for every one degree of temperature change per eight-hour period consistently through the season.

Eco Fair 2015 Reminder

The City of Ames is excited to once again host the annual Eco Fair. In an effort to help Ames residents embrace energy conservation and sustainable practices, the Eco Fair will showcase booths, displays, and vendors featuring energy-saving products. Booths will include information on electric and water conservation, watershed protection, low-impact landscaping, and transportation efficiency.

Please join us on Saturday, April 4, 2015, at the Community Center Gym, 515 Clark Ave., from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Eco Fair is fun and educational for all ages.

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

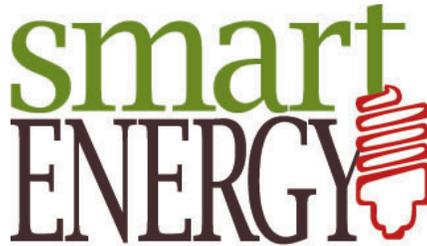
Q: What can you tell me about LED lights?

A: Glad you asked! Light emitting diode (LED) lights are a form of electroluminescence in which a material emits light in response to an electric current being passed through it. Electroluminescence

was discovered in 1907 by H. J. Round at Marconi Labs. The first LED was developed by Nick Holonyak Jr. while working at General Electric in 1962. Considered the father of the light emitting diode, Holonyak's LED was red, and it wasn't until 1972 that another color, yellow, was developed. The Monsanto Company was the first to mass produce LEDs. In 1968, the company began to supply Hewlett Packard with the lights used as indicators in hand held calculators.

Today there are many different LED applications, and replacements for standard incandescent bulbs are becoming more common. It's easy to see why. Light emitting diodes produce more light per watt than incandescent bulbs. Their small size allows them to be used on circuit boards, but they can also be grouped together for applications like household lighting, traffic signals, and street lights. LEDs light up very quickly and will achieve full brightness in milliseconds. They are ideal for applications that require quick on and off cycles and are not adversely affected by frequent switching. LEDs are dimmable and radiate very little heat. Most fail by growing dimmer over time, rather than burning out abruptly. They contain no mercury, are relatively shock resistant, and can last up to 100,000 hours. This makes them ideal for hard to reach applications. Some LEDs produced in the 1970s are still in service today.

Although there are many advantages to using LEDs, a drawback is their price. Due to their extremely low power requirements, LEDs ultimately save money over their life. However, they typically cost more than most other lighting technologies. For instance, an LED replacement for a 60-watt incandescent will only use 7 watts of electricity but can cost \$20. A 100-watt incandescent replacement will use 13 watts and can cost \$30. In Ames, an LED is eligible for a Smart Energy rebate and will pay for itself in energy savings in about a year.



Do you want to be rewarded for purchasing more energy-efficient residential lighting including LEDs? Get more information about Smart Energy lighting rebates at cityofames.org/SmartEnergy.

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?

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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 October 2014
Wind purchased: 6,778,101 kWh
Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) Used: 27,994 tons

Heating Degree Days

October			Season to date		
2014	2013	32-year Average	13/14	12/13	32-year Average
378	414	394	499	464	505

Cooling Degree Days

October			Season to date		
2014	2013	32-year Average	2014	2013	32-year Average
0	24	14	890	1196	1044

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

