

# City Side

Caring People Quality Programs Exceptional Service

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### Tree Planting Program in May

City of Ames Smart Energy and Smart Watersheds programs, in partnership with Ames Trees Forever, will again be offering a tree-planting program for Ames residents and businesses. The program will be held on Saturday, May 2. Mark the date on your calendar and look for more information in the next issue of City Side!



## Story County Iowa Alerts Provide Emergency Notification for Ames

In an emergency, every second counts. That's why receiving key information as soon as possible can make all the difference. Story County Iowa Alerts is the new mass notification system for Ames that is capable of alerting all Story County citizens and emergency personnel of emergency situations. Story County Iowa Alerts is being implemented across Iowa and replaces the former emergency notification system called CodeRED.

"Because the State of Iowa solicited proposals for a statewide option, we are implementing a service with better pricing and more features," said Doug Houghton, Support Services Manager with the Ames Police Department. "In addition to Ames and Story County, there will be more users in Iowa, which provides consistency across the state."

Story County Iowa Alerts notification system for mass public safety alerts is a free opt-in service for Ames residents. During an emergency, the system delivers mass voice, text, and email messages to registered phones and email addresses. The system allows dispatchers and emergency managers to notify the entire county or specific geographic areas of an evacuation, flood, lost or missing person, or other type of public safety threat.

Only landline phone numbers published in the current white pages are automatically included in the new notification system. Residents who have changed landline numbers recently, have unlisted phone numbers, want to include a cell phone number, or want to use an email address must register with Story County Iowa Alerts. Those who provided information other than a public landline number to CodeRED **must re-register** with Story County Iowa Alerts at [www.cityofames.org/alerts](http://www.cityofames.org/alerts).

## Delegates Sought for Japan Trip

The Ames International Partner Cities Association (AIPCA) will be sending an adult delegation to Koshu, Japan, in mid June and is seeking interested Ames residents to join the trip. The City of Ames and Koshu, Japan, celebrated the 20th anniversary of their partnership arrangement in 2013. In addition to an exchange of adult delegates, Ames Middle School delegates have enjoyed participating in the exchange for many years.

As part of the June adult delegation, participants are required to pay their own airfare and hotel expenses in Tokyo. The cost is typically around \$2,000. Adult delegates stay with a Japanese family and all expenses in Koshu are paid by the City of Koshu and the host family. Japanese hosts have plenty of translators, and they make certain delegates are comfortable. "Being part of the delegation offers a truly authentic Japanese experience, and it is likely the most economical way that you will ever visit Japan and see Tokyo and Mt. Fuji," said AIPCA chairwoman Dianne Brotherson.

For more information, contact AIPCA treasurer Bill Diesslin at [diesslin@mchsi.com](mailto:diesslin@mchsi.com).

# Calendar

## City Council Meetings

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

7 p.m. April 14

7 p.m. April 28

A Council workshop will be held at 7 p.m. April 21.

## Watch for Hydrant Flushing Near You

The City's annual fire hydrant flushing program begins the first week in April 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 hydrant symbols change from red to green as the program progresses through Ames. Look for more information at [www.cityofames.org](http://www.cityofames.org).

## Yard Waste Day Set for April 11!

# Spring Yard Waste Free Day Scheduled for April 11

Residents who are busy working in their yards will be able to get rid of yard waste at no charge during the spring Yard Waste Free Day on Saturday, April 11. 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.

## Stash the Trash is Back!

The Resource Recovery Plant is partnering again this year with "Stash the Trash," a volunteer effort to help clean up the Ames community. The event will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 18. Participants should sign up on line and report to Reiman Gardens for check-in. Gloves and trash bags will be provided.

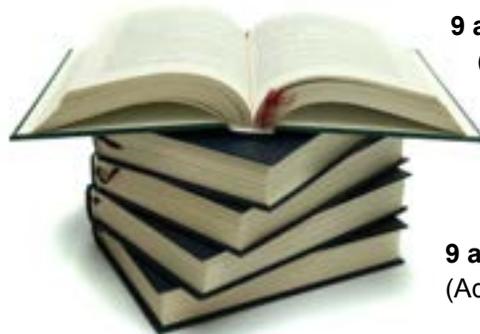
For more information, go to <http://www.vcstory.org>, and look under "Volunteer Opportunities." Volunteers can choose to work alone, with a group of people, or with an organization.

# 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 book sale will take place in the Farwell T. Brown Auditorium, Ames Public Library, 515 Douglas Ave. Proceeds are used to enhance Ames Public Library's collections, programs, and services.

### 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, April 17

(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 18

(Free admission)

### 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, April 19

(Free admission, and everything is half price!)

### 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, April 20

(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. From last heating season through January 31, 2015, Project Share has provided \$12,790 in assistance to 102 households. 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 new guidelines which guarantee 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

## Call Before You Dig!

Spring planting season will soon be here. 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

## Eco Fair 2015 Set for April 4

Plan to attend the fifth annual City of Ames Eco Fair. This year's event will be held at the Community Center Gym, 515 Clark Ave., from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 4. Bring your kids and play games, see many interesting displays, register for door prizes, and join us for refreshments. There's family fun for everyone. Most importantly you'll get answers to your energy questions and find information on where to purchase the products and services that can give you, and Ames, a more sustainable future. Mark your calendar and join us for our annual Eco Fair. Hope to see you there!

## Prime Time Power Reminder

Receive a \$5 credit during each of the 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, call Steve Wilson, The Energy Guy, at 515.239.5177.



# Ask the Energy Guy

## Q: What are Degree Days and what do you do with them?

A: A heating or cooling degree day actually represents the number of degrees Fahrenheit (°F) we are away from being comfortable.

Early in the 20th century, engineers developed the concept of

heating degree days as a useful index of heating fuel requirements. They found that when the daily mean temperature (high + low divided by 2) 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” because heat would be required to raise the lower temperature mean back up to 65° F. Likewise, it was determined that each degree of mean temperature above 65°F is counted as “one cooling degree day” because cooling would be required to get back to 65°F.

Here’s a couple of examples that might help. The high temperature for a particular summer 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  $(78 - 65 = 13)$ .

The high temperature for a particular winter 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. The degree day has become the standard by which we attempt to understand the impact of temperature (e.g. the impact on your bill because it was warmer or colder). Agricultural and energy market analysts, equipment design engineers, architects, Energy Guys, and utility customers find value in looking at degree days. With nearly half of our total energy consumption used to heat and cool our homes, it’s important we have a way to account for weather. While the term “degree day” is a bit misleading, it offers us a way to make weather-related comparisons a bit easier.

Degree days have been recorded by Ames Electric Services for more than 30 years and are available at [www.cityofames.org/EnergyGuy](http://www.cityofames.org/EnergyGuy).

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

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## 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 2015

Wind purchased: 7,705,994 kWh

Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) Used: 29,317 tons

## Heating Degree Days

January			Season to date		
2015	2014	33-year Average	14/15	13/14	33-year Average
1279	1553	1359	3936	4378	3923

## Cooling Degree Days

January			Season to date		
2015	2014	33-year Average	2015	2014	33-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)

