

City Side

Caring People Quality Programs Exceptional Service

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RRP Celebrates 40 years!

The Arnold O. Chantland Resource Recovery Plant, 110 Center Ave., will celebrate 40 years of landfill diversion on Saturday, September 19! Join us 10 a.m. to noon for tours, videos, and cookies!



Low Head Dam Design Improvements Increase Safety; Enhance Access

Changes are on the horizon for the low-head dam in North River Valley Park. Plans are moving forward to redesign the dam with the goal of increasing safety, improving fish passage and fishing access, and enhancing recreational opportunities for the Ames community, all while maintaining the integrity and intended purpose of the dam.

In 1984, the City constructed the dam to create a pool of water in the primary recharge location for the City's downtown well field during drought conditions. While the dam has successfully resupplied the wells, dams can create dangers for recreational users. In 2009, City staff secured \$75,000 in funding from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to improve safety at the dam.



The original dam redesign included placing a small number of large boulders on the downstream apron of the dam to mitigate the recirculation effect that low head dams can create. Recent new designs have even greater benefits for both recreational water users and the environment. A revised concept recently approved by the Ames City Council includes a rock arch rapids design that has been successful in other locations. This design will withstand high water events better, and also functions as a "fish ladder," allowing fish and other aquatic life to migrate upstream past the dam. The additional features help improve bank access, increase shoreline fishing access, and provide a possible whitewater feature. As the project moves forward, look for opportunities to learn more and provide input.

Ash Tree Plan Includes Fall Replanting

Stump removals and treatment of ash trees in the public right of right way continues throughout the city. Select ash trees were cut down last winter as part of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Response Plan, a multi-year program to phase the removal and replanting of City-owned ash trees throughout the community. The City of Ames is implementing its EAB Response Plan to circumvent infestation of ash trees with EAB larvae. Millions of ash trees around the country have been killed by EAB.

Stumps are being removed in anticipation of replanting scheduled for fall. Although certain ash trees are being treated, all public ash trees will be removed at some point during the 20-year plan. Through proactive removal of ash trees and a one-to-one replacement schedule, diversified varieties of trees will begin growing. By selectively removing, treating, and replanting trees over a period of 20 years, the City will retain as much of its urban canopy as possible, while remaining fiscally responsible.

Calendar

City Council Meetings

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

6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 11

6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 25

A Council workshop will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 18. For the most current information, go to: 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.

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 Help Avoid Becoming A Victim of Scammers

It's been a busy year for scams, and Ames residents must remain vigilant to avoid being victims. Because scammers have gotten increasingly sophisticated with their tactics, the Ames Police Department provides this list of helpful tips to stay safe.

If you are contacted by a known company and asked to provide any form of payment or personal information discontinue the contact and call the company yourself.

- Look the number up; do not use the information they provide.
- With Internet phone services it is difficult to tell where a call is coming from just by looking at caller ID. Be aware that some scammers will mimic the phone numbers of legitimate companies such as banks, the Internal Revenue Service, and even the Ames Police Department.
- It is always a good idea to do an online search for the company name, website, and phone number.
- Do not give out personal information unless you initiated the call.

Reloadable cards (such as GreenDot, PayPal Cash, MoneyGram) are increasingly popular form of payment for scammers. While these are legitimate companies, they are often used by scammers because it is nearly impossible to reverse the transaction or trace the money. Be wary of payment required by using these cards.

Don't wire money to strangers, to sellers who insist on wire transfers for payment, or to anyone who claims to be a relative or friend in an emergency and wants to keep the request a secret.

Some scams will involve an email or text message from a bank or other institution. Never click on links. Call the institution directly.

If someone offers to send you a check for more than they owe you with the request that you send a portion to someone else, it is probably a scam. In this common scam, the check you receive is forged or stolen. It may pass through your bank, but after you send money to someone else, the original check will be found to be fraudulent. Then you are out the money you sent.

Follow the Ames Police Department on Facebook and Twitter for updates on scams that are being attempted in the area. Also, for more information and tips on avoiding scams, go to www.cityofames.org/Police.

National Night Out Planned for Aug. 4

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. 4 at Bandshell Park.

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.



Energy Conservation Helps Reduce High Summer Utility Bills

Energy can be expensive, and summers in Iowa are hot. This combination can drive utility bills higher. The good news is we can do some things that may help. 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. What can we do?



- 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.

• Check your air ducts for leaks. Most air leaks occur in a central air conditioning system's return air ducts. When these leaks occur, warm air is pulled into the system causing it to work harder and longer.

• Use ceiling fans. If you use the fan to supplement or circulate air conditioning, you should be able to raise the thermostat setting up to 4 degrees above your normal setting and still be comfortable. A fan uses much less energy than your air conditioner.

• 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.

Weather Radios Provide Warnings

Emergency notification of severe weather is important for our protection. Outdoor warning sirens are intended for those outside, so how do we stay informed of severe weather when inside buildings? Purchasing a weather radio can help. Radios are available at most electronics retailers and start around \$30. Weather radios are tied to the National Weather Service and coordinated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Once the owner activates the radio, he or she will be able to monitor emergency weather events. The system is tested every Wednesday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. For more information, visit the National Weather Service on-line at www.crh.noaa.gov/dmx.

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.
- 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 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: Why is conserving energy important?

A: If you're like most people, you think about energy conservation once a month when you open your utility bill. Let me suggest that if you wait until your holding a high energy in your hand before thinking about conserving energy, you've waited too long. Even if you've procrastinated, the key decision is taking action. Whatever has motivated you, this is a good time to make some changes.

There are two basic things we need to do to lower those bills: conserve energy and improve energy efficiency. Many people think these terms mean the same thing, but they're different. Energy conservation is any behavior that results in the use of less energy. Let me give you an example. Making the decision to turn the lights off when you leave the room is conserving energy. Energy efficiency is the use of equipment that requires less energy to perform the same function. Buying a high efficiency LED bulb that uses far less energy than an incandescent bulb to produce the same amount of light is an example of energy efficiency. There are numerous important benefits for conserving energy. For many people it's lowering an energy bill that provides the motivation. But you should be happy to know some other effects that are also very positive. Using less electricity actually contributes to a lower electric rate over time and it helps clean the environment.



The less electricity we use as a community the lower the cost to provide it. Ames Electric Services is a municipally owned utility and only charges customers enough to cover operating costs. Lowering the amount of electricity needed consistently over time will keep operating costs down and contribute to a lower rate. Likewise, when we use less energy we put fewer greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere. For every kilowatt of electricity saved, the amount of carbon released into the atmosphere is reduced by 1.64 pounds. Switching from a 100-watt incandescent light bulb to a 12.5 watt LED would save about 130 kWh of electricity a year which would reduce your bill by about \$13 and remove about 213 pounds of CO2 from the atmosphere. That's a bright idea!

Numbers to Know

- Power out515.239.5240
- Street light out515.239.5500
- Utility bills515.239.5120
- Renting
- Security lights515.239.5437
- Energy questions..515.239.5177
- Tree growing too close to an electric line515.239.5500
- Going to be digging?
- Iowa One Call:811

Power Plant Renewable Energy Use For May 2015
Wind purchased: 5,789,085 kWh
Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) Used: 29,014 tons

Heating Degree Days					
May			Season to date		
2015	2014	34-year Average	14/15	13/14	34-year Average
158	164	151	6120	7463	6480

Cooling Degree Days					
May			Season to date		
2015	2014	34-year Average	2015	2014	34-year Average
35	98	69	38	109	83

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

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 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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