

City Side

Caring People Quality Programs Exceptional Service

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Holiday Closings

Most City of Ames offices will be closed Thursday, Dec. 24 and Friday, Dec. 25. Additionally, most City offices will be closed on Friday, Jan. 1, 2016 for New Year's Day.



Bridge Replacement Begins Soon; Sixth Street to Close to Vehicles

Big changes are coming to the Sixth Street Bridge over Squaw Creek just east of Brookside Park. Replacing the decades-old structure with a wider, multi-use bridge will improve transportation flow and safety. The new bridge will provide a physical barrier between vehicles and pedestrians, as well as include an on-street bike lane on the bridge deck. The project will begin in November, weather permitting. Replacement of the Sixth Street Bridge will require vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian detours for nearly a year.

The Sixth Street Bridge project involves removing the existing bridge structure and replacing it with a concrete beam bridge. The new bridge will include decorative texture along the concrete bridge rails, pedestrian path lighting, colored concrete sealer, and ornamental handrails.

In addition to the bridge replacement, the project includes reconstruction of the approach pavement from the west and east extending approximately 300 feet. The City of Ames worked with Iowa State University, Ames Parks and Recreation Department, and the nearby neighborhoods to minimize the disruption from the bridge reconstruction.

Vehicle traffic will be rerouted from Sixth Street to Lincoln Way for the duration of the project. Pedestrian and bicycle detours are planned through Brookside Park, across the pedestrian bridge and following asphalt paths. The pedestrian and bicycle detour will be maintained throughout the winter.

A tentative construction schedule includes demolition of the bridge followed by bridge substructure work through the winter and into 2016. The construction plan will allow the project to be completed and reopened to traffic before the fall semester of 2016. The combined overall project cost for replacing the bridge and street reconstruction is approximately \$3.3 million. The City of Ames received \$1 million in funding from the Iowa Department of Transportation City Highway Bridge Program.



The Sixth Street Bridge over Squaw Creek near Brookside Park will be removed and replaced starting this fall. Bicyclists, pedestrians, and vehicles will be detoured during the project.

Calendar

City Council Meetings

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

6 p.m. Dec. 8
6 p.m. Dec. 22

There will be no City Council workshop in December. For the most current information, go to: www.cityofames.org.

Last Free Day on December 5

This fall's Yard Waste Free Days extend longer into the season and avoid conflicts with Iowa State home football games. Remaining Saturdays are Nov. 7 (includes brush), Nov. 21, and Dec. 5 at Chamness Technology, 26107 530th Ave. Hours are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. To get to the site, travel south on University Boulevard through the construction zone and continue along the gravel road for almost two miles. The yard waste site is located on the west side of the road. (University Boulevard becomes 530th Avenue.) To leave the site, follow the detour signs back to Airport Road. For additional information or questions, call the yard waste site at 515.450.0450 and leave a message.

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When It's Snowing, Avoid Towing!

Do You Park on a Snow Route? Stay Informed this Winter!

Winter weather is just around the corner, and that means snow, snow plowing, and moving your vehicle if you live on a snow route and park in the street. How do you know when the snow ordinance is in effect? Pay attention to local media, check the City's website (www.cityofames.org), watch City Channel 12, and join the City of Ames on Facebook and Twitter! All of these sources will help you get updates and notifications.

The Ames snow removal policy was established by the City Council and states that plowing will begin after two inches of snow accumulates on the city's major streets (Grand Avenue, Lincoln Way, Duff Avenue, etc.). Reaching two inches on these streets also activates the snow ordinance. The best way to know if the snow ordinance will be in effect is to watch the weather! When the snow ordinance is in effect, drivers parked along snow routes – marked with red and white signs – need to move their vehicles to avoid ticketing and/or towing. Vehicles may return to the street when it has stopped snowing, no additional snow is forecasted, and the street has been plowed from curb to curb. Since this happens at different times throughout the city, there is no official notice that the parking ban is lifted.

For questions or concerns about snow removal on city streets, call the Snow Desk at 515.239.5543 or email the Public Works Department at snowstreets@city.ames.ia.us. For concerns about sidewalks that aren't cleared, call the Snow Walks hot line at 515.239.5468 or email snowwalks@city.ames.ia.us.



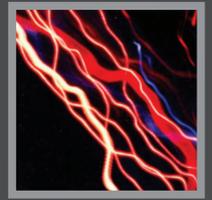
What Happens When You Dial 911

Dialing 911 is something no one ever wants to do, but when you need help, this is how a dispatcher will answer your call: "911. What is the address of your emergency?"

Your location is the single most important piece of information a dispatcher needs. In the past, when a 911 call came from a land line the dispatcher had access to an address. Today the majority of 911 calls come from cell phones, and cell phones don't provide a location. Although dispatchers have access to 911 information that provides a general location, it is not accurate enough to find a caller in a timely manner. Even if a call comes from a land line, dispatchers verify it. Why? Because errors in phone records can occur.

What if you make a 911 call and don't know the address? Dispatchers understand that happens. Callers inside are asked to find a piece of mail, or go outside to find a house number or neighbor. Callers outside may be asked if there is a business nearby, where they were traveling, or if a street sign is nearby. Dispatchers may be able to locate address information with the name of the homeowner or apartment renter, but this takes precious time.

Remember, the first question you'll be asked if you dial 911 is your address. Parents should teach children this information, and parents should know the address of any adult children. College students should know the address of any party they attend. If your memory isn't as good as it used to be, write down your address and keep it with you or close to your phone. When faced with an emergency, it's easy for anyone to forget the most basic information. Be thoughtful, be prepared, and be safe!



Help Those in Need Pay Bills Through Project Share

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. Project Share is a program developed by Ames Electric Services to assist low-income customers with the payment of their winter time utility bills. The program continues to be successful because of your compassion and generosity. Through your support, Ames Electric Services has been able to provide \$373,902 in assistance to 3,135 families since the program's inception in 1990. Last winter we were able to provide \$18,015 in assistance to 145 families.

The purpose of the Project Share program is to solicit and accept contributions to assist low-income customers. A committee appointed by the Ames City Council determines the permissible uses of the funds donated to Project Share.

Last winter, the Committee made a change so that every \$1 contributed to the program is used to assist low-income customers. Ames Electric Services helps ensure contributions go to those in need by providing staff and materials to reduce the cost of administering the program.

Last year, Ames Electric Services contributed \$3,788 toward the administration of the program. Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA) also assists in the administration of the program by determining the eligibility of households for Project Share funds.

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.

Holiday Lighting Safety Tips

It's the time of year when beautiful lighting displays adorn our homes and businesses. Use common sense and caution to ensure a safe and happy holiday season!

- Check all light strands and cords for worn insulation, bare wires, lights with broken or cracked sockets, or loose connections. Don't try to fix old or deteriorated decorations. Throw them away.
- If you must use an extension cord, make sure it's of adequate size and power capacity. Use a grounded cord that is rated #16 or greater.
- For outside lighting, only use lights and extension cords that are specifically listed for outdoor use by Underwriters Laboratories.
- If you are using a ladder to hang decorations or work on your roof, avoid contact with overhead lines.



Ask the Energy Guy

Q: Does using an electric space heater cost a lot of money?

A: Not necessarily. It depends on the heater, how you use it and what you do with your furnace. According to the Department of Energy, in some cases small space heaters may reduce overall heating costs when used to heat one room or supplement inadequate heating in one room. Although electric space heaters come in all shapes and sizes, there are really only two types: convection and radiant. Convection heaters provide warmth by moving air over a heated surface and can be either fan-assisted or fan-less. Radiant heaters use infrared radiation and direct heat at an object. Some basic heaters you may see are:

- Heater fans are convection heaters that use a standard metal-coil element with a fan to help distribute heat to a room.
- Ceramic heaters pass electricity through a ceramic, which heats it. The heat is then absorbed by a metal, usually aluminum, and a fan blows the hot air into the room.
- Oil-filled heaters look like an old fashioned radiator and are filled with a heat transfer liquid, such as oil, that is heated by the electric element. The oil provides some heat storage, allowing the heater to cycle less and to provide a more constant heat source.
- Radiant heaters emit infrared radiation that directly heats up objects, and people, that are directly in line with them. Infrared heater elements might be quartz tubes, lamps, and may incorporate ceramic.

Whether using the space heater saves you energy or not will depend on the unit, the number of hours it's used, and how high or low you set your thermostat. Regardless of the technology, all heating costs depend on wattage and hours of operation. For example, to run a 1,500-watt heater in Ames would cost about \$.14 per hour. Using it three hours a day would add about \$13 a month to your bill. If nothing else changes, you have just added to your overall winter heating costs. The key to saving on your utility bill is when using an electric space heater, set your thermostat back a few degrees. The savings on your furnace operating cost should offset the additional electric cost.

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 September 2015
 Wind purchased: 5,276,273 kWh
 Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) Used: 28,228 tons

Heating Degree Days

September			Season to date		
2015	2014	33-year Average	14/15	13/14	33-year Average
48	114	100	67	121	110

Cooling Degree Days

September			Season to date		
2015	2014	33-year Average	2015	2014	33-year Average
202	84	109	980	890	1028

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

Energy Tips

- Don't forget to insulate and weather-strip your attic access door.
- Save 1 to 2 percent on your energy bill by using foam gaskets under all exterior wall switch and outlet covers.
- Use bathroom and range hood fans sparingly. They exhaust conditioned air and create a suction that pulls in outdoor air.
- Insulate pipes and ducts in unheated areas to reduce heat loss.
- Tape all the joints in your furnace ductwork to reduce air leakage.

City Side is a publication of the City of Ames, Iowa

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