

City Side

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Discounts Available

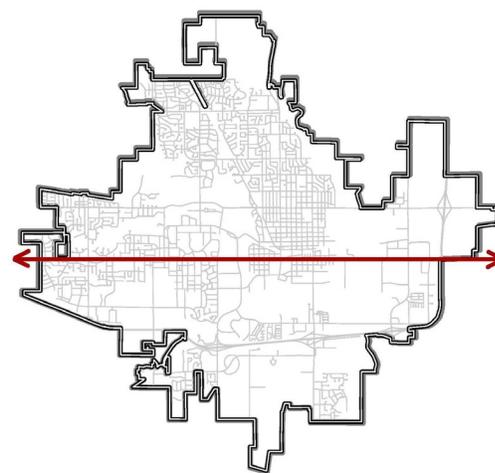
Discounted season passes are available to the Furman Aquatic Center. Purchase a new pass before May 1 and receive a 10% discount. Renew your 2015 season pass before May 1 and receive a 15% discount!



Lincoln Way Corridor Study Provides Opportunity for Input

Looking at a map of Ames, it's easy to see the importance of Lincoln Way. The street bisects the entire community and serves as the primary transportation route for east-west traffic. Vehicles traveling the entire length of Lincoln Way pass through industrial zones, business districts, Campustown, and residential neighborhoods.

The Ames City Council authorized a study of the Lincoln Way corridor to explore the potential for enhancement and reinvestment. Consultants from Houseal Lavigne Associates, of Chicago, are working with City of Ames Planning staff to develop the Lincoln Way Corridor Plan. The plan considers Lincoln Way as its own place with a distinctive identity that ties multiple areas of Ames together. Objectives for the Lincoln Way Corridor Plan include evaluating existing conditions and recognizing features that would improve its identity. Also, the project will explore the needs of pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders, as well as developing standards for revitalizing properties with uses that support the corridor.



Lincoln Way is the major east-west arterial in Ames.

Starting with a broad assessment of the west to east boundaries of Ames, the Lincoln Way Corridor Plan will focus on properties within one block of Lincoln Way, but will also consider strategic locations within three blocks. Five specific areas of the corridor will be identified for refined planning, including details about individual improvements or redevelopment options. These focus areas will be determined through an initial assessment including public input, outreach to stakeholders in the corridor, and technical analysis. Residents are encouraged to get involved!

In April, the City Council will choose the areas of focus. Consultants then will work on specifics for a draft plan and continue with public outreach. This multi-step process is anticipated to take 10 months with the goal of having the City Council adopt a final plan by the end of the year. Residents with ideas for improving the corridor should explore the City's Planning Division website, www.cityofames.org/planning, to access an interactive project website hosted by Houseal Lavigne. The site allows users to post ideas and comments, review project details, and find information on upcoming meetings or opportunities to be involved in the Lincoln Way Corridor Plan.

Calendar

City Council Meetings

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

6 p.m. March 8

6 p.m. March 22

A Council workshop is scheduled for 6 p.m. on March 15. For the most current information, go to: www.cityofames.org.

Block Party

Reservations

Beginning March 15, the Street 'N' Greet Block Party Trailer will be available to reserve.

The trailer is a great tool to build connections in your neighborhood. Reservation requests for the Block Party Trailer can be submitted online by going to www.cityofames.org/trailer.

The trailer makes having a block party convenient and easy. Inside the trailer you'll find tables, chairs, road barricades, games for children and adults, an audio system, and more.

Once the form is completed, someone from the City will follow up with you about your reservation. Those with questions about the form or who prefer to register via telephone should contact the Department of Planning and Housing [after March 15](#) at 515.239.5400.

Fire Hydrant Flushing Planned for Late March

The Ames Public Works Department will begin to flush rust from city water mains beginning at the end of March and continuing for approximately two weeks. The purpose of this annual program is to provide Ames residents with the safest and highest quality water possible. Flushing serves the following purposes:

- Dislodges and removes mineral deposits and sediments from the water mains.
- Verifies the proper operation of fire hydrants and valves.
- Helps identify weaknesses in the water system.
- Checks for closed valves and weak flows in the water system.

During the flushing process, Ames residents may experience rust in the water, even when crews are not working in the immediate area. To avoid rust, follow these tips:

- Turn on cold water first to check for rust to avoid drawing it into the hot water heater.
- If the water looks rusty, run the tap for one to two minutes until it clears.
- If rust discolors clothing in a washing machine, rust remover is available at the City Hall information desk, 515 Clark Ave., Ames fire stations, or by calling 515.239.5550.

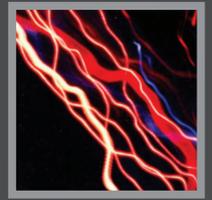
Specific information about the times, dates, and locations of the crews will be released to the local media prior to beginning the flushing, or you may check the City's website at www.cityofames.org.

Flood Insurance Offers Protection

Heavy rains that often accompany El Niño could result in severe flooding this season, that's why flood insurance can be a wise investment. The Federal Emergency Management Agency reminds property owners and renters that there is typically a 30-day waiting period before flood insurance takes effect. Because the City of Ames participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, flood insurance is available for all properties in Ames – you don't need to live in the flood plain to purchase insurance. See your insurance agent for rates and coverage.

You can take steps to minimize property damage to your home or business. These include:

- Make sure that downspouts are properly affixed to your building and extend away from exterior walls.
- Make sure that there is positive drainage away from your foundation.
- Elevate the furnace, water heater, and other utilities above the floor.
- Remove debris from any waterways (e.g., ditches, storm water swales, or flowage easements) on your property and make sure your neighbors are aware of obstructions on their property.
- Make sure that any storm water inlet in the street is flowing freely. (Contact Public Works at 515.239.5550 with concerns.)



Eco Fair 2016 Set for April 2; Fun and Educational for All Ages

The City of Ames is excited to once again host the annual Eco Fair. The purpose of the event is to encourage Ames residents to follow conservation practices and encourage residents to adopt practices that help achieve our goal of becoming a sustainable community. City departments and dozens of different vendors will provide information through booths and displays. The Eco Fair showcases energy saving products and services, water conservation, watershed protection, landscaping, and transportation efficiency.



Join us on Saturday, April 2, at the Community Center Gym from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This is a great opportunity to get useful information on products and services from area vendors, see interesting displays, register for door prizes, play games, and enjoy free refreshments.

New Windows Can Save Energy

According to the Department of Energy, losses through windows can account for as much as 25% of your heating and cooling bills. Installing new efficient windows will save you energy.

Here are three areas you should be looking at when purchasing new windows:

- **U-Factor** - This is a measure of the window's ability to insulate. The National Fenestration Rating Council (NFRC) lists U-factors for most windows. Low U-factors indicate high efficiency. In Iowa, a good U-factor is .40 or less. A .30 U-factor is required for a federal tax credit.
- **Transmittance** - This is the amount of visible light the window lets in. A high transmittance number indicates more light is allowed through the window. In Iowa, an efficient window should have a transmittance number of .50 or above.
- **Solar Heat Gain (SHGC)** - This is a measure of the amount of heat the window lets in. Depending on where you live you may want to allow more or less heat through your windows. In Iowa, a good heat gain coefficient is .40. To qualify for a federal tax credit windows must have a SHGC of .30.

Looking for Energy Star rated windows will ensure you're getting a high level of efficiency and can save you time. To apply for a tax credit you'll need IRS Tax Form 5695. For more information on Energy Star, visit www.energystar.gov.

Energy Tips

Lower your utility bills and reduce your carbon footprint through simple conservation efforts.

- Clean furnace filters are necessary for efficient furnace operation. Remember to check and change filters regularly.
- Adding insulation to your home can cut your heating costs up to 25%.
- Turn your thermostat down 5 degrees and save up to 15% of your heating energy.
- Seal ducts so more conditioned air gets where you want it to go.
- Keep your registers free of obstructions to allow your conditioned air to do its job.
- Open your blinds and drapes to allow in the heating rays of the sun.
- Have your furnace checked periodically by a professional service person.
- Participate in Smart Energy programs to save energy. Visit www.cityofames.org/smartenergy for more information.



Ask the Energy Guy

Q: How can I find out what it costs to operate my electric

A: Our residential electric rates in Ames are based on the kilowatt-hour (kWh) or the number of kilowatts (kW) used over a month. To calculate the cost of an electric device, you first determine the number of watts (W) it uses. Many devices have a name plate on the back that will tell you the wattage or amperage (amps). This is how much electricity the device needs to function. From this information we can arrive at the kW.

Amps multiplied by voltage equals watts. If you are given amps you would take this number times the voltage. In Ames, standard wall outlet voltage is assumed to be 120 volts. For instance, if the device is rated at 12.5 amps it would use 1,500 watts of electricity (12.5 amps x 120 volts = 1,500 watts). Dividing the wattage by 1,000 will give you the kilowatts, in this case 1.5 kW (1,500 watts / 1,000 watts per kW = 1.5 kW.)

To figure the cost it is necessary to multiply the kW times the cost per kW per hour (kWh). In Ames the cost for a kWh of electricity is 11.66 cents during the summer (June, July, August, September), and 9.66 cents during the other months. Taking the kW times the cost per kWh will tell you how much it costs to operate the device for one hour. From there it would be necessary to estimate how many hours the device operates in a given time frame. Let's consider the example of running an electric space heater. By using the name plate, we determine our heater uses 12.5 amps. From above we know that this results in the heater using 1,500 watts.

$$1,500 \text{ watts}/1000 = 1.5 \text{ kW}$$
$$1.5 \text{ kW} \times \$0.0966 \text{ (winter rate)} = \$0.145 \text{ per kWh}$$

In this example the space heater costs about 15 cents per hour to operate. If you can't determine the wattage, you can get wattage estimates of common appliances by going to the Energy Guy web page at www.cityofames.org/smartenergy and clicking on "The Energy Guy." You can also call me at 515.239.5177. I may be able to help you understand the cost of any electric device you're interested in. Also, I have appliance meters available for check out that plug into the device and monitor its kWh use and cost. Knowing what your electric devices cost to operate can help you understand your bill and save energy.

Steve Wilson
"The Energy Guy"
Energy Services Coordinator
515.239.5177

Prime Time Power
Even though it's winter, customers can still plan ahead for warm weather. Prime Time Power is available to homeowners and small businesses with central air conditioners. An important note: You do not need to reapply for Prime Time Power if you signed up in a previous year. The \$5 credit during each of the four summer months is automatically applied to your account. For more information, 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 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 December 2015
Wind purchased: 6,058,934 kWh
Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) Used: 27,710 tons

Heating Degree Days

December			Season to date		
2015	2014	33-year Average	14/15	13/14	33-year Average
969	1118	1238	2021	2657	2549

Cooling Degree Days

December			Season to date		
2015	2014	33-year Average	2015	2014	32-year Average
0	0	0	992	890	1043

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

