

City Side

Caring People Quality Programs Exceptional Service

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Online Statistics Provide History of Animals at Ames Animal Shelter

What happens to the animals brought to the Ames Animal Shelter? It's easy to find out by accessing the ten most recent years of Shelter statistical data now available online. These statistics cover every single animal in Shelter care and explain each animal's outcome. Not only are cats and dogs covered in the statistical data, information is also available for exotic pets and wildlife captured by Animal Control Officers.

This move toward open, transparent data is being recognized nationally, along with the Shelter's focus on increasing adoptions and owner reclaims and reducing euthanasia. The animal advocacy group, "Out the Front Door," commended the Ames Animal Shelter on social media for this easy-to-access, online animal data. Additionally, the organization praised Shelter Director Ron Edwards for his past two years of leadership in achieving live release rates for cats and dogs at more than 95 percent. The Shelter keeps its release rate high by implementing innovative campaigns such as the Working Cats Program, collaborating with rescue groups, and providing assistance to owners to help keep animals in their homes. Additionally, the Shelter credits community support and donors for their continued success. In addition to posting animal data online, the Shelter is submitting its records to the Shelter Animals Count project, a program designed to create and share a national database of sheltered animal statistics. The goal of the Shelter Animals Count project is to enable data-driven decisions to promote saving companion animals' lives and preventing homelessness, which is a goal the Ames Animal Shelter shares.



To view animal data, go to the Shelter's website at www.AmesAnimalShelter.org and click on the "Animal Shelter Statistics" tab to view the data. Those without internet access can visit the Ames Animal Shelter to view a paper copy. Questions? Call the Shelter at 515.239.5530.

New Playground at Duff Park



If you haven't visited Duff Park (Duff Avenue and 14th Street) recently, be prepared for some exciting changes! New playground equipment has been added featuring slides, climbing areas, platforms, and bridges. The bright colors are hard to miss. The park also features a basketball pad and green space for running and playing.



Calendar

City Council Meetings

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

- 6 p.m. June 14
- 6 p.m. June 28

A Council workshop will be held at 6 p.m. June 21. For the most current information, go to: www.cityofames.org.

Summer Activities @Your Library

Sign up for Ames Public Library's summer reading programs for adults, teens, children, and babies starting June 1. This year's theme is "On Your Mark, Get Set... Read." There will be plenty of opportunities to do that this summer at Ames Public Library! Also, watch for special events in the next few months including a visit from Newbery Award winning author Matt de la Peña, a Harry Potter trivia battle, and more! Finally, the Ames Public Library's Fiction Book Sale is scheduled for June 4-5! Visit www.amespubliclibrary.org for details.



Creating Visual Appeal

Public Input Sought on Landscaping Requirements

Communities often look for ways to create identity and character that make their city visually appealing. Residents consider buildings, streets, and even the appearance and types of landscaping when thinking about their community and its features. With that in mind, the Ames City Council has initiated a process to explore how enhanced landscaping and sustainability features could improve parking lot design.

New landscaping standards could include allowing for more plant diversity, using grasses in lieu of shrubs, encouraging creative designs through clustering of plants, and using colors and variety to enhance visual appeal. New standards also could promote more surface stormwater treatment options to meet city requirements, such as bioswales and bioretention areas. Another concept could include incorporating open spaces and plazas to meet the needs of commercial customers and residents of apartment communities.

"We have minimal screening requirements in our zoning standards that typically are not delivering interesting or quality landscape environments," said Planning and Housing Department Director Kelly Diekmann. "It's easy to look back at missed opportunities and to compare ourselves to the quality of landscaping you see in other communities."

Reaching consensus regarding changes to landscaping and how new requirements would fit business needs, small and large sites, and other city development requirements may be challenging. To assist in the process, Confluence, a planning and landscape architectural firm, will advise staff on comparable planting requirements and sustainability issues as an ordinance is drafted.

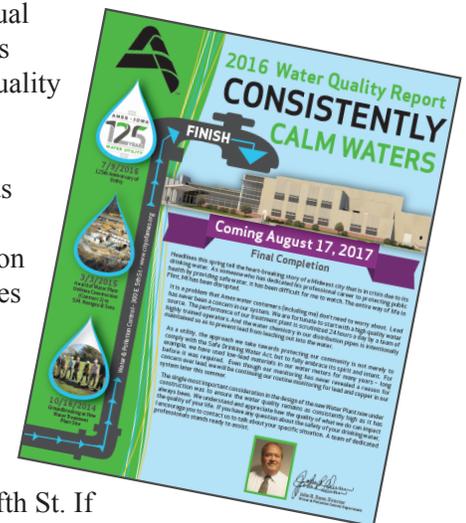
Residents with comments or questions should contact the project planner, Justin Moore, at jmoore@cityofames.org. You can also follow the project updates and review documents at www.cityofames.org/planning under "What's New."

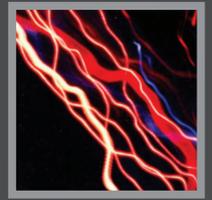
Water Quality Report Is Available!

The Consumer Confidence Report, the City's annual water quality report, is now available to view. This report contains important information about the quality of your drinking water.

At one time, the Consumer Confidence Report was included in your utility bill, but now the report is available to read online. This method of distribution helps promote our sustainability efforts and reduces costs. However, printed copies of the Consumer Confidence Report are still available.

Pick up a copy of the report at City Hall, 515 Clark Ave., Ames Public Library, 515 Douglas Ave., or the Ames Water Plant, 300 E. Fifth St. If you would prefer to have a paper copy of the Consumer Confidence Report mailed to your home, call the Ames Water Plant at 515.239.5150. The water quality report can be viewed online at www.cityofames.org/waterreport.





Hot Weather Can Increase Energy Use, Utilities Bills

When temperatures rise, people often increase their energy use. During hot Iowa summers, more energy consumption can drive utility bills higher. The good news is there are things consumers can do that may help decrease energy consumption. Any reduction in the amount of electricity consumed on hot summer days benefits the utility system, helps keep rates low, improves the environment, and lowers bills.

- For each degree 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.
- 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.
- Clean debris away from your outdoor compressor unit. The cleaner and more free of debris, the more efficient the air conditioner system will operate.
- It's always a good idea to set your thermostat up while you are gone. The energy saved while the building warms is offset by the energy used to re-cool it. You save during the time the thermostat is at the higher temperature.

Prime Time Power!

Get Set for Summer with \$20 in Electric Credit

Prime Time Power is a Smart Energy program for air conditioner load management. Signing up for Prime Time Power is smart. It helps maintain a reliable electric system, keeps our rates low, and has a positive impact on the environment. When can you sign up?

Although summer is the time when Prime Time Power becomes important for Ames, you can sign up any time. In return for allowing City of Ames Electric Services to cycle your air conditioner off for 7½ minutes out of every half hour a few times each summer, you will receive a \$5 credit on your July, August, September, and October bills! If you have signed up in the past, there's no need to sign up again. You're all set!

For an application, or more information, go to www.cityofames.org/SmartEnergy and look for Prime Time Power, or call 515.239.5177. A Prime Time Power application is also available at the Utility Customer Service office, City Hall, 515 Clark Ave.

Power Lines and Tree Trimming

Power lines and tree limbs don't mix well. During storms or high winds, trees too close to electric lines can damage transmission lines and cause power outages. If you notice foliage clearance problems near power lines, contact City of Ames Electric Services at 515.239.5500, or visit the web at www.cityofames.org/electric.

Electric Services will follow up with residents about their tree clearance concerns and arrange for trimming, if necessary. Once trimmed, the homeowner has the option to keep or remove any burnable wood. If it is kept, it is cut into pieces 24" long with a diameter of 4" and more, and stacked. All of the trimming, cutting, stacking, and removal is done at no cost to the homeowner.

Call for Energy Conservation Kit

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.



Ask the Energy Guy

Q: Why is conserving energy important?

A: Procrastination is something many of us deal with every day. But there's one area where we all should be paying attention because it can be costly if we don't: energy conservation. Typically, we learn about the need for

conserving energy the hard way. This happens when we open our electric bill and are shocked by the amount. If you suspect your electric bill is too high, don't panic. Instead, get busy doing what you can to reduce the amount of energy you use. Not only will you be lowering your bill, you'll be helping your municipal electric utility keep rates lower for all customers.

There are two basic things consumers need to do to save electricity. First, you should conserve energy. Second, you should 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. For example, turning the lights off when you leave the room is one way of conserving energy. Energy efficiency is purchasing equipment that requires less energy to perform the same function. In this case, buying an LED light bulb that uses less energy than an incandescent bulb to produce the same amount of light is an example of energy efficiency.

There are many benefits to conserving energy. For most people, the big one is lowering utility bills, but there are other favorable effects. Using less electricity helps Ames Electric Services keep the peak electricity usage down. Keeping overall demand for electricity low contributes to a lower electric rate over time. The less electricity we use as a community, the lower the cost to provide it.

Likewise, when we use less energy we put fewer greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere. For every kilowatt of electricity saved, the amount of CO2 released to the atmosphere is reduced by 1.64 pounds. Switching from a 100-watt incandescent light bulb to a 12-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. Rather than procrastinate, take the time to look around your own home and make some small changes - the results can be some big energy savings and a less shocking electric bill!

Steve Wilson
"The Energy Guy"
Energy Services Coordinator
515.239.5177

Call 811 Before You Dig!

Calling Iowa One Call at 811 is all you need to do before digging. The one call puts you in contact with all utilities operating in your area. The utilities will come to your address and mark your yard at no cost. That ensures you stay safe and know where not to dig.

Smart Energy Rebates

Electric Services' Smart Energy program provides rebates on the purchase of energy efficient lighting, air conditioners, and appliances. Visit our website for information on programs to help you improve your efficiency, conserve energy, and reduce your bills at www.cityofames.org/smartenergy.

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

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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 March 2016
 Wind purchased: 5,267,167 kWh
 Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) Used: 24,054 tons

Heating Degree Days						
March			Season to date			
2016	2015	34-year Average	15/16	14/15	34-year Average	
395	762	833	4802	6105	5854	

Cooling Degree Days						
March			Season to date			
2016	2015	34-year Average	2016	2015	34-year Average	
8	0	1	8	0	1	

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

