

City Side

Caring People Quality Programs Exceptional Service

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Trick Or Treat!

The official night for trick-or-treating in Ames is Monday, Oct. 31. The recommended hours are from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Federal Grant Helps Purchase New Articulated Buses for CyRide

Ames is growing and so is our public transit system. As CyRide ridership continues to climb, four new articulated buses will bolster capacity on the bus system's busiest routes. CyRide received unexpected funding through a nationally-competitive, federal bus program to purchase new "bendy buses." These new additions increase CyRide's articulated bus fleet to six, and the total to 97 buses, and help address the year-after-year record ridership. CyRide provided nearly seven million rides this past year.



Articulated buses accommodate up to 120 individuals seated and standing compared to standard CyRide buses of approximately 60 to 70 individuals. Increasing the number of riders allows fewer buses to accommodate more people, which makes CyRide more efficient and reduces environmental impacts. Each articulated bus comes with a price tag of nearly \$700,000, and the federal award covers 85% of the cost. CyRide is a community-wide bus system funded by the City of Ames, Iowa State University administration, and ISU Student Government. CyRide has been serving Ames residents for more than 40 years and continues to expand.

Open Streets Set for Oct. 2

Join the Ames Parks and Recreation Department at Open Streets, a program that promotes opportunities for physical activity, from 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 2 in the Main Street Cultural District. Open Streets is an initiative of Healthiest Ames. The event is free and open to all ages for some great family fun.

Open Streets will feature biking, walking, dancing, yoga, zumba, a rock wall, a dietitian, and much more. The event is modeled on the Open Streets movement that promotes the use of public streets for recreation and physical activity. Open Streets events have been held all over the world. U.S. cities that have hosted events include San Antonio, Salt Lake City, St. Louis, Portland, San Francisco, New York City, and Los Angeles.

"We want our events to motivate the Ames community to live a healthier lifestyle through physical activity, healthy food choices, chronic disease management, and community connectedness," said John Shierholz, Co-Chair of Healthiest Ames. Open Streets will provide a fun and safe environment for physical activity, while building a sense of community.



Calendar

City Council Meetings

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

6 p.m. Oct. 11
6 p.m. Oct. 25

A Council workshop will also be held at 6 p.m. on Oct. 18. For the most current information, go to: www.CityOfAmes.org.

Town Budget Meeting Set

The City of Ames budget process kicks off in the fall with the annual Town Budget Meeting. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 4, in the City Council Chambers, second floor, City Hall, 515 Clark Ave.



A brief overview of the City's budget, including revenue and expenses, will be presented. This is followed by a time for citizens to give input for the coming year's budget.

The Town Budget Meeting begins the months-long process of developing the City's annual operating and capital improvements budget. The public is encouraged to attend.

Rummage RAMPage Diverts Tons from Landfill, Raises Funds

The first ever Rummage RAMPage, a community sale designed to keep reusable items from being thrown away, far surpassed expectations by diverting 22 tons of furniture and housewares out of the landfill and raising more than \$5,000 for local non-profit agencies. The City of Ames, in partnership with the ISU Office of Sustainability and with assistance from the Volunteer Center of Story County, held the sale this summer at the Ames Intermodal Facility, 129 Hayward Ave.

"Because this event had never been held before, we didn't know what to expect. The results were amazing. The donations, the volunteers, and the number of shoppers were all far greater than we had anticipated," said Merry Rankin, ISU Sustainability Director and City of Ames Sustainability Coordinator.

Because many leases in Ames terminate at the end of July, renters often discard items that may still be usable. During these weeks, the City of Ames Resource Recovery Plant (RRP) often sees an influx of couches, wooden furniture, clothing, and more as renters attempt to meet their move out requirements, according to RRP Superintendent Bill Schmitt.

Rummage RAMPage was staffed by volunteers from local non-profits. Residents donated items to the sale, and the sale was open to the public. More than 18 local non-profit groups volunteered time to work the event. "We were able to keep more than 60 sofas from going to the landfill and re-purpose tons of other items that were still in good condition. This helps our recycling and processing of materials at the Resource Recovery facility," Schmitt said. Due to the success of this year's event, planning has started for Rummage RAMPage 2017.

Learn Fire Prevention Safety at Fire Station Open House

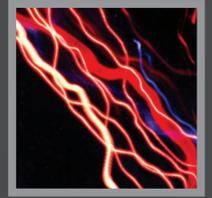
The Ames Fire Department will host its fourth annual Fire Station Open House from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Oct. 8, at Fire Station No. 1, 1300 Burnett Ave. Participants can learn fire safety tips, experiment with fire fighting equipment, explore fire trucks up close, meet Ames firefighters, and tour the fire station. Also, Freddie the Fire Truck and Sparky the Fire Dog will be on hand.

This free, fun, and informative event is great for all ages. Participants may enter their name into a drawing for a new dual sensor smoke/fire and carbon monoxide alarm, a new fire extinguisher or a window escape ladder.

Fire Prevention Week is October 9 - 15. This year's theme is, "Don't Wait - Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years" and focuses on

the idea that smoke detectors need to be replaced every 10 years in addition to being checked monthly and having batteries replaced once a year. According to National Fire Protection Association statistics, half of all U.S. home fire deaths occur at night between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., when people are most likely to be sleeping. Having a working smoke alarm in the home cuts the risk of dying in a fire in half.





Smart Business Challenge: Cafe Diem Shares Its Success!

For Ames businesses, being green is good for the community, good for their patrons, and good for their bottom line. Since joining the Smart Business Challenge, many businesses have earned platinum, gold, silver, or bronze certification, which designate milestones towards being more energy efficient. Ames Electric Services is recognizing Smart Business participants and sharing their stories. What are these businesses doing to decrease their carbon footprints? Read on to learn more.

Cafe Diem, 229 Main St., is a cozy coffee shop in the heart of the Main Street Cultural District that has made a commitment to conservation. From the energy-efficient espresso machine to a self-serve water dispenser to eco-friendly to-go cups, Cafe Diem employees look for ways to minimize their carbon footprint. Additionally, the business gives back to the community through its Super Saver program, which assists students seeking to go on mission trips. This is more than a coffee shop, it's also a place to view art! Cafe Diem supports local artists by allowing them to display and sell their work. Cafe Diem values sustainability and constantly looks for ways to use less and conserve more. For its efforts, the business has achieved silver certification.

Be a part of creating a sustainable Ames by involving your business in the Smart Business Challenge. The challenge explores energy and water conservation, transportation, waste reduction, indoor and outdoor environmental quality, carbon footprint, and community engagement. Businesses can participate in rebate programs and implement a business energy plan that saves money while helping the environment. For more information, go to www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartBusinessChallenge.



Jen Malone, of Cafe Diem, is shown with her Smart Business Challenge certifications.

Sign Up for a Free Energy Audit!

While the change of seasons typically signals moderate weather, it won't be long before the crisp days of autumn turn decidedly cooler. The perfect time to begin thinking about improving your home's winter energy efficiency is before the temperatures turn cold. One of the easiest ways to get started is by signing up for a free Smart Energy Residential Energy Audit.

Energy audits are free to Ames Electric Services customers. Sign up online by going to www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy.

Electric Information Available Online

Check out Electric Services' Smart Energy website for information on programs and incentives available to help you improve your efficiency, conserve energy, and reduce your bills. Smart Energy is good for the environment, good for Ames, and good for you!

For current program information, go to www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy, or call 515.239.5177.

Call for Free Energy Packet

Need to improve your home's efficiency? Call 515.239.5177 for a free energy conservation packet.

Call Before You Dig

Please be careful and call Iowa One Call at 811, or 1.800.292.8989 before you dig. Iowa One Call will arrange to have your yard marked free of charge.



Ask the Energy Guy

Q: Is there a rebate for installing LED lights?

A: Yes, there is. Light emitting diode (LED) lighting systems come in all shapes and sizes, but all share one thing in common. LEDs are more efficient than the equivalent incandescent light bulb - some as much as 90 percent more efficient! While LEDs can be expensive, the good news is the prices are falling rapidly. LEDs are such a good energy buy, we have focused our lighting rebates on LEDs. **In doing so, the Smart Energy program no longer offers rebates for compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs).**

In addition to the tremendous energy savings, there are other advantages to installing LED lighting. While an incandescent bulb might be expected to last 1,000 hours and a CFL might last 8,000 hours, an LED will last 50,000 hours. And while LEDs give off some heat, it's less than incandescent bulbs and CFLs. In addition, LEDs are very durable and can be dimmed. While it's true LEDs are more expensive than other types of bulbs, because of their long life they end up costing less and saving more than incandescent bulbs or CFLs. Also, LEDs do not require any special disposal methods. (Remember, CFLs should be separated from your trash and brought to the Resource Recovery Plant, 110 Center Ave., for proper disposal.)

City of Ames Electric Services wants to help residential customers reduce electrical consumption, resulting in increased electric system reliability, a cleaner environment, a lower electric rate, and reduced electric bills. The Smart Energy Residential Efficient Lighting Rebate program helps customers replace certain fixtures and/or bulbs with more efficient ones. The rebate is designed to cover a percentage of the initial cost of your purchase to help you upgrade to efficient lighting systems.

Currently, City of Ames Electric Services customers who purchase an LED are eligible for a rebate of 30 percent of the LED cost (not including tax). Fill out a rebate claim form, sign it, and return it to Smart Energy, 502 Carroll Ave., Ames, IA 50010. For a claim form or more information visit, www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy, or call 515.239.5177.



Numbers to Know

- Power out515.239.5240
- Street light out515.239.5500
- Utility bills515.239.5120
- Energy questions..515.239.5177
- Tree growing too close to an electric line515.239.5500
- Going to be digging?
- Iowa One Call:811
- Storm Water
- Concern.....515.239.5160

Renewable Energy

For July 2016

- 9% of electricity used this month was generated from wind.
- 4.4% of electricity this month was generated by refuse derived fuel (RDF) from the Resource Recovery Plant
- 24 Ames customers have invested in solar voltaic systems.

Degree Day information available at www.CityOfAmes.org/Electric



Steve Wilson

"The Energy Guy"

Energy Services Coordinator
515.239.5177

Energy Facts

- A 100-watt equivalent light bulb gives off 20% more light than two 60-watt equivalent bulbs.
- Dusty bulbs can emit 20% less light than clean bulbs.
- More than 2 billion people in the world do not have access to electricity.
- The average American home loses \$200 worth of energy per year through air leaks.
- The average home in Ames spends about \$6 per month on refrigeration.
- The average home in Ames spends about \$12 per month on kitchen appliances.

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

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Questions?

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