

# City Side

Caring People Quality Programs Exceptional Service

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## Holiday Closing in January

City Hall and most City of Ames departments will be closed on Monday, Jan. 2, 2017, for New Year's Day.

## Ames Receives Healthy Hometown Award for Health Improvements

Ames received the "Healthy Hometown" award at the Iowa Healthiest State Initiative Bringing it Home conference recently. The award recognized Ames community members for their dedication and accomplishments toward meaningful health improvement initiatives in their city.

"The Healthy Hometown Founder award celebrates the achievements made in Ames," said Jami Haberl, Iowa Healthiest State Initiative executive director. "Ames has been a model for other Iowa communities and is an encouraging example of what can be done when the citizens of a community join together to truly transform their environment."



Ames representatives are pictured with Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad and Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds.

Some noteworthy achievements in Ames include:

- Implementing an electronic cigarette policy.
- Developing a complete streets policy to present to the City Council.
- Earning a bronze level Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists.
- Creating summer gardening programs for underprivileged middle school students.
- Providing bicycle helmets for all third graders.

The Healthy Hometown program is available to all Iowa communities ready to take steps to make healthy choices easy choices and to improve the overall well-being of their communities. More information about the Healthy Hometown program is available at: [www.iowahealthieststate.com](http://www.iowahealthieststate.com).

## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

The holiday season can be a time of buying, wrapping, consuming, and producing a lot of garbage! The Resource Recovery Plant encourages all residents to consider a new approach to the holidays. Why not try to reduce your environmental footprint? Everything thrown away adds to our environmental footprint.



Fortunately, when you throw something away in Ames, the Resource Recovery Plant recycles 75 percent of the trash received. Glass should be thrown in the yellow glass recycling bins located at area grocery stores. Metals are removed and sold, and the burnable portion of the garbage processed becomes refuse derived fuel (RDF) for the Ames Power Plant. Now that's smart trash!



# Calendar

## City Council Meetings

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

6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 10

6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24

A Council workshop on capital improvements will be held at 5:15 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 17. For the most current information, go to: [www.cityofames.org](http://www.cityofames.org).

## Christmas Tree Recycling Offered

Don't let your Christmas tree end up in the landfill. The City of Ames provides free disposal of Christmas trees at the Parks & Recreation Maintenance Shop, 700 E. 13<sup>th</sup> St. Trees

can be deposited during daylight hours through Sunday,



Jan. 29. All trees will be recycled into wood chips, which will be used in Ames parks. The Parks & Recreation Maintenance driveway will be marked with a sign. Remember that the tree stand, tinsel, and all ornaments should be removed before leaving the tree for disposal.

# Volunteer for a Board or Commission

Volunteer in your community and make a difference by joining a City of Ames board or commission. Boards and commissions make recommendations to the Ames City Council and assist the Council in carrying out various functions of local government. The following boards and commissions have vacancies occurring in the first part of 2017. The number following the name of the board or commission indicates the number of pending vacancies. The number in parentheses denotes how many incumbents may be reappointed.

Apply online at [www.cityofames.org](http://www.cityofames.org) (under Government, Boards & Commissions). Applications are also available in the City Clerk's Office. **Deadline to apply is 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 17.**

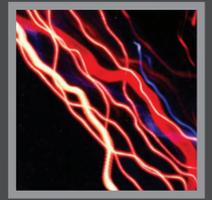
Commission/Board	Meeting Days/Times	Vacancies
ASSET	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs./5 p.m.	1
Building Board of Appeals	As needed	2 (1)
Civil Service Commission	4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs./8:15 a.m.	1 (1)
Commission On The Arts (COTA)	1 <sup>st</sup> Mon./5 p.m.	2 (2)
Electric Utility Operations Review & Advisory Board (EUORAB)	As needed	2 (1)
Historic Preservation Commission	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon./7 p.m.	2 (1)
Human Relations Commission	4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs./5:30 p.m.	2(2)
Human Relations Commission - Hearing Officers ( <b>must be educated in law</b> )	As needed	2
Human Relations Commission - Investigative & Conciliation Officers	As needed	5
Library Board of Trustees	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs./7 p.m.	3 (2)
Parks and Recreation Commission	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs./4 p.m.	2 (1)
Partner Cities Association	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs./5 p.m.	1 (1)
Planning and Zoning Commission	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed./7 p.m.	2 (2)
Property Maintenance Appeals Board	As needed	3(2)
Public Art Commission	1 <sup>st</sup> Wed./Noon	5 (5)
Transit Agency Board of Trustees	Monthly/dates & times vary	1 (1)
Zoning Board of Adjustment	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed. (April - Oct.) 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed. (Nov - March)/6 p.m.	1(1)
<b>Total</b>		<b>37</b>

## Are You Parked on a Snow Route?

When the snow falls, it's important to move your vehicle if you park on a street that's part of the snow route. Snow routes are marked with red and white signs. All vehicles must be removed from snow routes when the snow ordinance goes into effect.

How do you know when the snow ordinance is in effect? Pay attention to local media, check the City's website ([www.cityofames.org](http://www.cityofames.org)), watch City Channel 12, and join the City of Ames on Facebook and Twitter! Snow plowing begins 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!





## Has Your Business Joined the Smart Business Challenge?

With the celebration of the Ames sesquicentennial, the Smart Business Challenge began as an opportunity for local businesses to save energy and reduce utility bills. The program also encourages greener transportation, general waste reduction, and community engagement.

Joining the program is free and easy. Businesses that sign up are provided information about Ames Electric Services' Smart Energy rebate programs for commercial customers, as well as encouraged to implement a business energy plan that saves money while helping the environment. Many businesses have joined the challenge, and Ames Electric Services is continuing its efforts into 2017.



Ames has many examples of pioneering spirit when it comes to sustainability. The Smart Business Challenge is an opportunity to recognize that commitment to environmental stewardship in the business community. Participants have the opportunity to achieve bronze, silver, gold or platinum status. Additionally, participants are encouraged to reach the next level in energy reduction.

For more information about how to participate in the Smart Business Challenge, visit [www.cityofames.org/SmartBusinessChallenge](http://www.cityofames.org/SmartBusinessChallenge).

## Winter Worries?

### 10 Things That Lower Your Heating Bill

Saving energy doesn't have to be expensive or difficult. Here are 10 no-cost tips to save energy and still be comfortable this winter.

1. Turn off lights when leaving a room.
2. Set thermostat to 68°F in winter when you're home, and down to 55°F when you're away or go to bed. (Programmable thermostats do this automatically).
3. Don't block air registers and keep them clean.
4. Don't waste water, hot or cold, inside or outside your home.
5. Clean below and behind your refrigerator once a year.
6. Air-dry your clothes.
7. Close registers and doors in unused rooms.
8. Repair leaky faucets and toilets (Five percent of water "use" is leakage).
9. Close drapes after sunset in the winter.
10. Request a Smart Energy residential or commercial energy audit.

Questions about these or other energy-saving tips? Call Steve "The Energy Guy" Wilson at 515.239.5177 or email him at [swilson@city.ames.ia.us](mailto:swilson@city.ames.ia.us).

## Eco Fair 2016 Reminder

The City of Ames is excited to host the annual Eco Fair. In an effort to help Ames residents embrace energy conservation and sustainable practices, the Eco Fair will showcase booths, displays, and vendors featuring energy-saving products. Booths will include information on electric and water conservation, watershed protection, low-impact landscaping, and transportation efficiency.

Please join us on Saturday, March 25, 2017, at the Community Center Gymnasium, 515 Clark Ave. We have NEW EARLIER HOURS from 9 a.m. to 1p.m. The Eco Fair is fun and educational for all ages.

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

**A:** Not necessarily. It depends on the heater and how you use it.

According to the Department of Energy, small space heaters may reduce overall heating costs when used to heat a 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, heating it. Heat is then absorbed by a metal, usually aluminum, and a fan blows 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.

Using a space heater to save energy depends on the unit, the hours operated, and your thermostat setting. For example, a 1,500-watt heater would cost about \$.14 per hour to operate in Ames. 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 heating energy when using an electric space heater is setting your thermostat back a few degrees. This reduces your furnace operating cost, which will offset the additional electric cost.

## Numbers to Know

- Power out .....515.239.5240
- Street light out .....515.239.5500
- Utility bills .....515.239.5120
- Energy questions..515.239.5177
- Tree growing too close to an electric line .....515.239.5500
- Going to be digging?
- Iowa One Call: .....811
- Storm Water Concern.....515.239.5160

## Renewable Energy for October 2016

**15%** of electricity used this month was generated from wind.

**2.5%** of electricity this month was generated by refuse derived fuel (RDF) from the Resource Recovery Plant.

**60** Ames customers have invested in solar voltaic systems.

**58** LED street lights installed for a total of **665**.

Degree Day information available at [www.CityOfAmes.org/Electric](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/Electric)

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.

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

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## Questions?

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