

City Side

Caring People Quality Programs Exceptional Service

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City Offices Closed

City Hall and most City of Ames departments will be closed on Monday, Feb. 20, in recognition of Presidents' Day. For more information about the City of Ames, go to www.cityofames.org.



New Water Treatment Plant Slated to Open in 2017

If you haven't traveled along East 13th Street recently, you may be surprised at the tremendous activity taking place at the future home of the Ames Water Treatment Plant. At the end of 2014, the City entered into a construction contract with Knutson Construction of Minneapolis, Minn., to build the \$55.5 million treatment facility, the largest component of the \$71-million total project.



One of three solids contact units at the new Water Treatment Plant.

Heading into 2017, the facility is entering the final stages of construction. The entire building is enclosed, and the process equipment is being installed. Pumps and motors, electrical gear, chemical feed systems, and heating and ventilation components are all being set.

In the administrative offices, drywall is starting to be hung – a sure sign that carpet and ceilings can't be too far away. The project is on schedule for a May 2017 start-up when the facility will undergo a rigorous optimization process.

The new plant will be capable of producing 15 million gallons of water per day with the ability to expand for future growth. With all these changes, however, Ames tap water consumers won't notice anything different in their water's taste or safety. The source water for the new facility will be the same wells that have supplied Ames for decades. And while the treatment process will utilize modern equipment that will provide increased efficiency, it will use the same treatment methods that the current facility has been using since 1932. Be assured, our great tasting water will remain exactly the same!

BIKE SUMMIT 2017

Are you interested in learning more about healthy transportation options in Ames? The Ames Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, Mason City Blue Zones representatives, and local experts will share their experiences at Bike Summit 2017 from noon to 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 17, at the Ames Public Library Auditorium, 515 Douglas Ave. The event is sponsored by the Ames Bicycle Coalition and Healthiest Ames.

Residents are welcome to attend Bike Summit 2017 to learn more about Ames transportation planning, the shared-use path system, and bike safety, as well as hear from others about healthy transportation alternatives.

Calendar

City Council Meetings

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

5:15 p.m. Feb. 14

5:30 p.m. Feb. 28

A Council workshop will be held at 6 p.m. on Feb. 21. (Budget hearings listed below right.) For the most current information, go to: www.cityofames.org.

Keep Hydrants Clear from Snow

As snow piles up along the curb, it does more than hamper visibility for drivers. Mounds of snow can obscure locations of fire hydrants. Ames firefighters ask residents to check fire hydrants located near their homes or



businesses to ensure they are visible. If the fire hydrant is covered, we need your help! Please

clear a three-foot wide area around the hydrant to ensure firefighters can locate it. During a fire emergency, every second counts. If you need assistance clearing the hydrant, call Fire Station No. 1 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 515.239.5109.

Save the Date: Eco Fair Planned for March 25!

The 17th annual City of Ames Eco Fair will be held at the Community Center Gym, 515 Clark Ave., on Saturday, March 25, 2017. The Eco Fair will open earlier this year, with new hours from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Perfect for all ages, the Eco Fair offers interesting displays and booths focusing on sustainability and energy reduction. Participants are encouraged to register for door prizes and enjoy refreshments. The Eco Fair features City of Ames departments, as well as community organizations and vendors who offer energy-efficient products, programs, or services.

“All City of Ames departments approach sustainability from a different perspective,” said Municipal Engineer Tracy Warner. “The Eco Fair provides residents the opportunity to learn how the City of Ames is putting sustainability into practice like our rain barrel rebate program or rain garden workshops that promote watershed protection.”



Fellows Elementary School students painted a rain barrel given away at the 2016 Eco Fair.

In addition to showcasing electric conservation, the Eco Fair includes water conservation and watershed protection, landscaping, and transportation efficiency. You won't want to miss this free, fun, educational event.

Public Meetings Scheduled For Next Fiscal Year's Budget

The City of Ames began preparing for the Fiscal Year 2017-18 budget last fall with a series of internal staff meetings. Work continues throughout the winter months as each department's budget is reviewed internally prior to presentation to the Ames City Council. There are still plenty of opportunities to get involved in the budget process. A budget overview will be presented to the City Council at 2 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 3.

Three additional meetings will follow in which representatives of each of the City's departments present an in-depth review of their proposed budgets. All budget meetings will be held in the City Council Chambers, Ames City Hall, 515 Clark Ave.:

5:15 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7

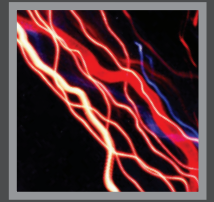
5:15 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8

5:15 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9



A wrap-up of the budget will be held at 5:15 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 14. The final budget hearing is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 7, and will include an opportunity for public comments. This is also a regularly scheduled City Council meeting. Like all Iowa communities, the City of Ames must submit its budget to the State of Iowa for certification by March 15. Budget documents for the current fiscal

year are posted on the City's website, and draft documents for 2017-18 will be posted by early February. For more information, go to www.CityOfAmes.org.



Keep Energy Bills Low by Sealing Leaks and Adding Insulation

Cold weather is here to stay, and those winter utility bill costs can add up quickly. What can you do to help save energy this winter? One of the most important changes is to seal your home against air leaks and add insulation if you're lacking. Air leakage can amount to from 30 to 40 percent of your heating bill. Your home should be sealed first, and then insulated. Here are some things to consider:

- The largest sources of air leakage in a home are the rim joist area at the top of the foundation and holes into the attic. Only 15 percent of air leakage is through windows and doors.
- Caulking the interior of the home around woodwork, moldings, baseboards, rim joists, and penetrations into the attic is the only sure way to significantly reduce air leakage. Caulking outside is more for shedding moisture.
- Fiberglass is a good insulator, but it doesn't stop air infiltration. To stop air, use caulking or rigid board insulation.
- Heat is gained or lost in relation to the level of insulation, not direction. The attic usually gets the most attention, but don't forget the walls and basement.
- A non-insulated basement can account for one-third of your heating bill even if you don't heat it. Basement walls above ground have the same insulating value as a double window.
- New siding has very little insulation value by itself. Rigid board insulation added to the exterior or cellulose insulation blown into wall spaces can significantly help reduce heating costs.

Space Heater Safety Tips

Electric space heaters are not intended for the whole house or for continuous operation, but they are a great way to take the chill off. Most heaters use around 1,500 watts of electricity, which costs approximately 15 cents an hour. When operating a space heater, users must be careful. Here are some safety tips:

- Operate the heater in a stable, upright position with 3 feet of clear space around the unit.
- Never operate the heater in a closed area, such as beneath furniture, or behind curtains or drapes. It should not be hung from a wall or ceiling.
- Do not use a heater with a damaged cord or plug.
- Do not run the cord under rugs or carpeting.
- Never locate a heater in a wet area like the bathroom, kitchen, or laundry room.
- Always unplug a heater when not in use or when cleaning it.
- Make sure the heater has been tested by a lab such as Underwriters Laboratories.
- If an extension cord is needed, use one that is rated to handle the wattage of the heater.

Carbon Monoxide Dangers

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas produced when fuel burns. If a fuel-burning device such as a furnace or kerosene heater is installed, operated, or vented incorrectly, the carbon monoxide it gives off can build up in the air. Should the concentration of carbon monoxide get high enough, you will develop the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Symptoms may be hard to recognize because at first they are much like symptoms of the flu: headache, weakness, dizziness, and nausea. Other symptoms can include shortness of breath, chest pain, confusion, loss of consciousness, and heart arrhythmias. If you suspect carbon monoxide may be a problem in your home or experience symptoms, call the Ames Fire Department at 515.239.5109.



Ask the Energy Guy

Q: What can you tell me about LED lights?

A: Light emitting diode (LED) lights are a form of electro luminescence in which a material emits light in response to an electric current being passed through it. Electro luminescence was discovered in 1907 by H. J. Round at Marconi Labs. The first LED was developed by Nick Holonyak Jr. while working at General Electric in 1962.

Considered the father of the light emitting diode, Holonyak's LED was red and it wasn't until 1972 that another color, yellow, was developed. The Monsanto Company was the first to mass produce LEDs. In 1968, the company began to supply Hewlett Packard with lights to use as indicators in hand-held calculators.

Today there are many different LED applications, and replacements for standard incandescent bulbs are becoming more common. It's easy to see why. Light emitting diodes produce more light per watt than incandescent bulbs. Their small size allows them to be used on circuit boards, but they can also be grouped together for applications like household lighting, traffic signals, and street lights.

LEDs light up very quickly and will achieve full brightness in milliseconds. They are ideal for applications that require quick on and off cycles and are not adversely affected by frequent switching. LEDs are dimmable and radiate very little heat. Most fail by growing dimmer over time, rather than burning out abruptly. They contain no mercury, are relatively shock resistant, and can last up to 50,000 hours making them ideal for hard to reach applications. Some LEDs produced in the 1970s are still in service today.

Although there are many advantages to using LEDs, they are more expensive than alternatives. Fortunately, prices are decreasing, and due to their extremely low power requirements, an LED bulb can save money over its life span. For instance, an LED replacement for a 60-watt incandescent may only use 9 watts of electricity and can cost \$5. An LED replacement for a 100-watt incandescent may use 12 watts and can cost \$7. In Ames, an LED will pay for itself in energy savings in about six months.

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 November 2016

14.1% of electricity used this month was generated from wind.

2.6% of electricity this month was generated by refuse derived fuel (RDF) from the Resource Recovery Plant.

75 Ames customers have invested in solar voltaic systems.

60 LED street lights installed for a total of **667**.

Degree Day information available at 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, 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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