

Neighborhood News

Quarterly Neighborhood Update

WINTER 2018

BE INVOLVED: CITY BUDGET & CIP

Part of being a good neighbor is learning how city government works so you're aware of projects proposed for your neighborhood. If you've never heard of the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP), here's a primer.

The five-year Capital Improvement Program, often referred to as the CIP, is the primary tool used to coordinate major projects including street and sewer systems, parks, public facilities, and other infrastructure. A map of CIP projects is available on the website at www.CityOfAmes.org/gis. This map shows project locations and provides a description of selected projects. The CIP is adopted annually, along with the City's budget. The first year in the five-year CIP



CITY OF AMES, IOWA | **PROGRAM BUDGET | 2018/19**

also functions as the City's capital budget for that year.

Preparation of the fiscal year 2018-2019 budget began last fall. There are opportunities for the public to participate in the budget process in February (see Important Dates on back). The final budget will be adopted in March.

WINTER WEATHER: SIDEWALKS & STREETS

The Public Works Department reminds Ames property owners and tenants that sidewalks should be cleared of snow and ice within 10 daylight hours after it has stopped snowing. City Code also indicates that sidewalks need to be cleared to a four-foot wide surface. To report a snow or ice covered sidewalk, please email snowwalks@city.ames.ia.us, or leave a message on the City's dedicated Snow Walks hotline, 515.239.5468, with the address of the covered walk.

Don't forget Ames does have a snow ordinance! The snow ordinance is a municipal law that was designed to aid in snow removal. Plowing starts when two inches of snow have fallen on major streets such as Duff Avenue and Lincoln Way. Part of the snow ordinance requires that cars parked on designated snow routes be moved to another location. A red and white "Emergency Snow Route" sign is located on all streets that are snow routes.



NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Neighborhood Improvement Program is intended to revitalize the appearance of neighborhoods and promote a greater sense of community among residents. The City of Ames will award a maximum of \$5,000 per year per application. The City is offering matching funds to residents willing to put in their own time, talent, and treasure for the improvement of their neighborhood.

Learn more or apply for the grant by picking up an application at the City Clerk's Office, 515 Clark Ave., or online at www.CityOfAmes.org/NIP. The funding opportunity is ongoing, so there is no deadline to apply.

INVEST IN SOLAR ENERGY -- PURCHASE POWER PACKS



Ames Electric Services customers are invited to invest in SunSmart Ames, a community solar project. The City of Ames will purchase all the solar power produced by a solar production company on a community solar farm to be built on public property just north of the Ames Municipal Airport.

Purchasing energy produced by a community solar farm makes sense for customers who can't or don't want to install an individual solar system on their home or business.

Ames customers can purchase "Power Packs" and subscribe to a portion of the energy output from the project. Each Power Pack represents about 3 percent of an average home's energy and will cost less than \$350. Participants will receive a small monthly credit back on their utility bill for the next 20 years. If you move within Ames, your Power Pack moves to your new address. If you leave Ames, the utility will buy your Power Pack back or you can transfer it to another customer.

To learn more or to sign up for Power Packs, go to www.CityOfAmes.org/solar.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

For more information contact
the Public Relations Office

515.239.5204
sgwiasda@city.ames.ia.us



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IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, Feb. 2

Budget Overview, 2 p.m.
City Council Chambers

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 6, 7 and 8

Budget Meetings, 5:15 p.m.
City Council Chambers

Tuesday, Feb. 13

Budget Wrap-Up, 5:15 p.m.
City Council Chambers

Monday, Feb. 19

Presidents Day, City offices closed

Tuesday, March 6

Final Budget Hearing, 6 p.m.
City Council Chambers

Monday, March 12

Block Party Trailer Reservations
Open

For more events and meeting dates, visit
www.cityofames.org.