

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 Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020, for New Year's Day.



Stay Active this Winter in Ames! Parks Offer Skating and Skiing

Winter doesn't have to be the time to hibernate. Get outside and enjoy the beautiful Ames parks system. In addition to year-round ice skating indoors at the Ames/ISU Ice Arena, the Parks and Recreation Department maintains two outdoor ice skating rinks at South River Valley Park, 1200 E. 13th St. Once the weather has settled into a pattern of below-freezing temperatures, both rinks will be flooded.

The rinks will be open as long as weather permits and the ice remains frozen. There is no fee to use the outdoor ice rinks, but skaters do need to bring their own equipment. The ice rinks are located in the green space north of diamond No. 5, and there is parking available.



Once enough snow falls, cross country skiing is offered at East River Valley Park on groomed trails. (You can view a map at www.amesparkrec.org.) Participants are asked to stay on the groomed trails between snowfalls to ensure the best skiing experience for all users. Spending time outdoors in the winter is a healthy, inexpensive, and enjoyable way to enjoy the season!

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), watch City Channel 12, or join the City of Ames or Ames Police on Facebook and Twitter! Another great way is to sign up for "Snow Ordinance" e-notification from the City's website or get text alerts from the Ames on the Go mobile app.

The snow ordinance goes into effect when snow accumulations are 2 inches or more, but the best way to know if the snow ordinance will be in effect is to watch the weather! For questions or concerns about snow removal on city streets, call the Snow Desk at 515.239.5543 or email

the Public Works Department at snowstreets@CityOfAmes.org. For concerns about sidewalks that aren't cleared, call the Snow Walks hotline at 515.239.5468 or email snowwalks@CityOfAmes.org.

City Council Meetings

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

6 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 14
6 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 28

There is a City Council CIP workshop scheduled for 5:15 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 21. For the most current information, go to: 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. 13th St. Trees can be deposited during daylight hours through Sunday, Jan. 26.



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.

Want to Get Involved? Volunteer!

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 2020. 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 (under Government, Boards & Commissions). Applications are also available in the City Clerk's Office.

Deadline to apply is 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 7.

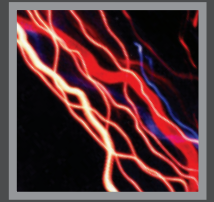
Commission/Board	Meeting Days/Times	Vacancies
ASSET	2nd Thurs./5 p.m.	1 (1)
Building Board of Appeals	As needed	2 (1)
Campus & Community Commission	4th Mon./6 p.m.	1 (1)
Civil Service	4th Thurs./8 a.m.	1 (1)
Commission On The Arts (COTA)	1st Mon./5 p.m.	2 (1)
Electric Utility Operations Review & Advisory Board (EUORAB)	As needed	2 (1)
Historic Preservation Commission	2nd Mon./6 p.m.	3 (2)
Human Relations Commission	4th Thurs./5:30 p.m.	2 (2)
Library Board of Trustees	3rd Thurs./7 p.m.	3 (2)
Parks and Recreation Commission	3rd Thurs./4 p.m.	3 (3)
Partner Cities Association	3rd Thurs./5 p.m.	1
Planning and Zoning Commission	1st & 3rd Wed./7p.m.	2
Property Maintenance Appeals Board	As needed	4 (1)
Public Art Commission	1st Wed./Noon	4 (3)
Zoning Board of Adjustment	2nd & 4th Wed. (Apr.-Oct.) 2nd Wed. (Nov.-March/6 p.m.)	1
TOTAL		32

SAVE THE DATE!

Black Arts and Music Festival
February 8 & 9, 2020

The Ames Public Library will host the Black Arts and Music Festival on February 8-9, 2020. This two-day, family-friendly event celebrates the artistic and cultural contributions of African and African American visual and performing artists in the community.

Visit www.AmesPublicLibrary.org for a full schedule of exhibits, performances, and workshops.



Earth Day and EcoFair Celebrate in 2020

Join the celebration of two big anniversaries coming up in April 2020! First, the 50th anniversary of worldwide Earth Day will be recognized on April 22.



www.CityOfAmes.org

Second, the 10-year anniversary of the City of Ames EcoFair will be celebrated on Saturday, April 25. Whether you have never attended an EcoFair or you attend every year, the 2020 EcoFair will be bigger and better than before.

The goal of the EcoFair is connecting Ames citizens with City staff and experts to provide information on energy, water, land, and resource conservation. Additionally, citizens can learn about environmentally minded projects and groups, and how to support a more sustainable future. As a celebration of these April milestone anniversaries, several activities,

challenges, and educational opportunities are being planned, including monthly EcoChats.

EcoChats will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a vendor and community organization open house. At 7 p.m., local experts and City staff will present high-energy, short lectures touching on four separate topics. After each session, participants can talk to presenters, as well as browse the open house and enjoy refreshments.



Tuesday, January 28, 2020 - ENERGY

1. It's Easy to Install Solar!
2. Geothermal? In My Yard?
3. New City Rebates for Electric Transportation
4. DIY Home Energy Audits

Wednesday, February 26, 2020 - WATER

1. Conserving Water One Drop at a Time
2. Flint, Michigan: Could it Happen in Ames?
3. How to Create a Healthy & Sustainable Lawn
4. Agricultural Watershed Conservation Practices

Monday, March 30, 2020 – REDUCE, REUSE & RECYCLE

1. Composting Pilot Program Update
2. Apartment & Backyard Composting
3. Zero Waste Lifestyle
4. How Do I Dispose of This?

SunSmart Ames: The Perfect Gift!

Groundbreaking on SunSmart Ames, a community solar project, is planned this spring, but it's not too late to get involved.

During the season of giving, why not consider a special



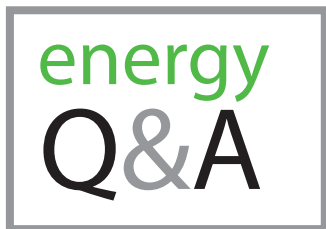
gift for that person who has everything? For Ames Electric Services customers, purchasing a solar energy "Power Pack" is a thoughtful, unique holiday gift that can be enjoyed for years to come!

SunSmart Ames works as a partnership between interested customers and a solar energy production company. Ames customers purchase "Power Packs" and subscribe to a portion of the energy output from the project. Each Power Pack represents 1 to 2 percent of an average home's energy and costs \$300. 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 at a pro-rated rate or you can transfer it to another customer.

Traveling? Tips for your home

Q: I'm planning to leave town for several weeks during the winter. Is there anything I should do to my home before I go?

A: Great question! If you're heading off for the weekend, the week, or even longer, remember to prepare your home so you don't return to any surprises. One of the biggest concerns during Iowa winters can be plumbing. Frozen pipes are a risk whenever the



temperature dips, and weather can turn cold without warning. Be prepared before you leave. Turning down your thermostat to save energy and money is a great idea, but never below 55 degrees. Internet-enabled thermostats allow you to nudge up the heat if the weather takes a turn when you're away and Smart Energy offers a rebate for "smart" thermostats.

Remember to keep your pipes warm. Heat tape, used according to the manufacturer's instructions, can be applied on pipes that are near exterior or uninsulated walls. Pipe insulation or jacketing, used in conjunction with heat tape, will lessen the chance of your pipes freezing. Open cupboard doors below sinks in the kitchen and bathrooms. If your indoor meter is in your basement, open the utility room door to let the heat in. Before leaving for an extended trip, unplug most electronics including small appliances like coffee makers, toasters, and toaster ovens, but also televisions, computers, and game systems. Make sure to clean out your refrigerator. Leave some lights plugged in and consider a timer so your home doesn't look vacant.

Ask a trusted friend, neighbor or relative to keep an eye on your home and be available in emergency situations. Give them access to your home so they can regularly monitor heating, electrical and water systems. If you're responsible for snow removal, don't forget to have someone clear your driveway and walks when you're away. Even though you won't be using them, property owners (or tenants depending on leases) are required to clear sidewalks. Also, an unplowed driveway makes your home look vacant.

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 October 2019

20.3% of electricity used this month was generated from wind.

1.1% of electricity this month was generated by refuse derived fuel (RDF) from the Resource Recovery Plant.

74% of Power Packs have been purchased for SunSmart Ames community solar farm.

89 LED street lights installed for a total of 3,242.

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

Kayley Barrios Lain

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 Kayley Barrios Lain at 515.239.5177.

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