

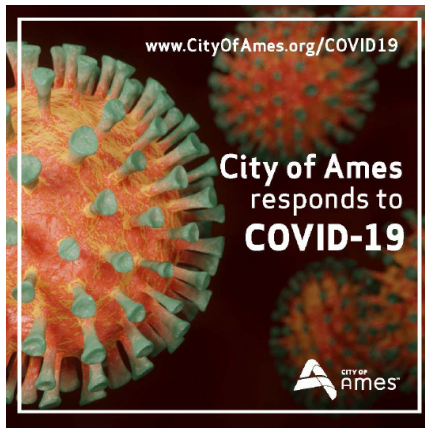


CITY SIDE

JULY 2020

COVID-19 PANDEMIC UPDATES ON EVENTS, SERVICES

With the health and safety of Ames residents as its top priority, the Ames City Council recently provided direction on reopening City facilities, holding events, and offering various City programs and services. The decisions reflect the Council's focus on reducing the spread of COVID-19 in Ames.



The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way the City of Ames conducts business, and it will likely take months for our community to establish a "new normal." The City continues to meet with community partners to identify challenges of the

virus and develop solutions. Meetings have been ongoing since February.

City Hall and City facilities will not reopen before Wednesday, July 1, 2020. To prepare to open, physical

barriers are being installed to protect the public and staff. Customers can conduct City business online or by contacting individual City departments directly. The Ames Public Library, 515 Douglas Ave., will not open before July 1, but will offer a curbside pick-up program for materials.

The City Council considered a list of events, celebrations, and parades planned on City property through August 31, 2020. In making these decisions, the Council cited state regulations, public health

guidance, and considerations such as the number of people involved, how densely crowded people will be, what type of protective supplies are available or provided, and whether social distancing is possible.

The list of cancelled events through Aug. 31, 2020, is extensive and includes the Fourth of July parade and pancake breakfast, Street 'N' Greet Block Party Trailer reservations, Ames Municipal Band concerts, and Rummage RAMPage.

For updates, go to www.CityOfAmes.org.

CITY EMPLOYEES SEW MASKS FOR FELLOW EMPLOYEES

In an effort to make work safer during the COVID-19 pandemic, 36 employees with the City of Ames spent two weeks cutting and sewing more than 700 masks for fellow City employees.

Due to difficulties purchasing masks, the City tapped employee volunteers from all different departments to create the

first round of protective masks. Since distributing handmade masks, the City has been able to acquire commercially made reusable masks for employees at work.

In addition to wearing masks, City employees continue to monitor their temperatures, limit meeting sizes, and practice safe, social distancing.



CITY NEWS TO USE

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Claim Ames in Census 2020
- Be a Responsible Pet Owner
- Fee Increases in July
- Rummage RAMPage Cancelled
- Energy Q&A

FOURTH OF JULY CLOSING:

Most City of Ames departments and divisions will be closed Friday, July 3, in recognition of Independence Day. Offices will resume normal business hours on Monday, July 6.



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO 'CLAIM AMES' IN CENSUS 2020

If you haven't completed your 2020 Census, it's not too late. The easiest way to respond is by going to the website at: www.2020Census.gov. Due to the turmoil surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Census Bureau will continue accepting census forms through Oct. 31, 2020.

The 2020 Census counts every person living in the United States. The census provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide daily services,

products, and support for you and our community.

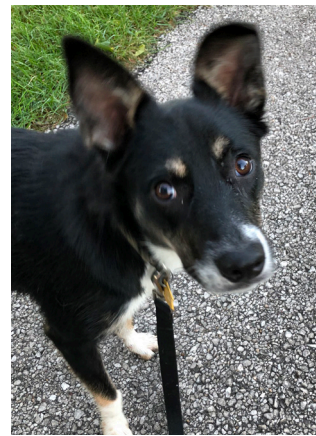
Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding is distributed based on census data. The results of the census also determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives and are used to draw congressional and state legislative districts.

Remember to "Claim Ames" and complete your census!



RULES FOR HAPPY PETS, OWNERS & NEIGHBORS

Now more than ever, people are spending more time with their pets. For some people, that means more time outside with their animals. It's easy to be a good neighbor and a good pet owner by remembering the Ames animal laws.



These rules are good for pets, people, and property.

First, all pets (including cats) must be kept solely on their owner's property, unless they are being

exercised on a lead, or engaging in active, controlled obedience training. (Yes, cats can be leash trained!) Dogs, cats, and other animals can also be

penned or loose on their own property in compliance with code.

Nuisance laws are designed to curb unreasonable barking and to promote sanitary pet-keeping. The Scoop Law requires immediate animal waste disposal from any property other than the owner's. Please remember that restraint and scoop laws also apply to public property and parks. Another rule is pets older than 3.5 months must be vaccinated for rabies, and any bites must be reported to the Ames Animal Shelter immediately.

Finally, roaming animals taken into protective custody by the Ames Animal Shelter may be reclaimed by the owner within the seven-day reclaim period for a modest fee. Owners found to repeatedly violate leash and restraint or other animal laws may be fined with citations. These are stressful times. Let's look out for each other and our animals!

FEE INCREASES TO BEGIN IN JULY

With the completion of the 2020-2021 fiscal year budget, the City has identified a small number of necessary utility fee increases.

Water rates will increase 2 percent on July 1 after an analysis of revenue, expenses, and future projects indicated the need for additional funding. Additionally, sanitary sewer rates will increase by 5 percent to keep up with increasing costs.

Residents can mitigate utility increases by looking for ways to conserve water. To learn more water conservation ideas, go to www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartWater.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

For the latest information on how to participate in a City Council meeting, go to the City website.

6 p.m. Tuesday, July 14

6 p.m. Tuesday, July 21 (workshop)

6 p.m. Tuesday, July 28

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG



ELECTRIC

RUMMAGE RAMPAGE CANCELLED FOR 2020

Rummage RAMPage 2020 has been cancelled as a safety precaution against COVID-19, but that doesn't mean usable items should be put in the trash. Decreasing the amount of garbage produced in Ames will go a long way in reducing our community's carbon footprint.

Since 2016, Rummage RAMPage has offered a terrific opportunity to donate unwanted furniture, housewares, decor, working electronics, and more to this community-wide event. For more than a week at the end of July, the Ames Intermodal Facility parking ramp, 129 Hayward Ave., has served as a venue for the sale. The sale is held during the time many renters experience lease turnovers, and new residents are moving to Ames.

Items donated are priced to sell at

bargain prices, and local non-profit organizations staff the event and split the proceeds. The event helps reduce furniture dumping and keeps usable items out of the landfill.

This year's cancellation doesn't mean there aren't other places to take donations. Residents who were planning to bring items to Rummage RAMPage should check social media swap sites, online marketplaces, or local thrift stores as new homes for your items. Thrift stores may have different criteria for what they will accept. The City of Ames also has a list of locations to take various items on its website at www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartTrash

Although Rummage RAMPage 2020 is cancelled, planning is underway for 2021!

Don't Trash Your Glass!

Throwing glass into your garbage creates problems for Ames' unique waste-to-energy power production, so residents are asked to bring glass to the yellow glass recycling bins at locations throughout Story County.

Glass Recycling Locations

- Ames Fareways
- Ames Hy-Vees (near gas stations)
- Ames Aldi (west side)
- Huxley City Hall
- Green Hills (north side)
- Nevada Fareway
- Wheatsfield Cooperative
- Story City Market
- Prairie Moon Winery
- Slater (northeast corner of 510th and R-38/Linn Street)
- Maxwell at BJ's behind Casey's
- Resource Recovery Plant (north side)

RENEWABLE ENERGY BY THE NUMBERS

- 22%** ELECTRICITY THIS MONTH GENERATED FROM WIND
- 22** LED STREET LIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF 5,016
- 4%** ELECTRICITY THIS MONTH GENERATED BY REFUSE DERIVED FUEL (RDF) FROM THE RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT
- 75%** SUNSMART AMES POWER PACKS PLEDGED FOR THE NEW SOLAR FARM

DEGREE DAY INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/ELECTRIC

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

- Power Out 515.239.5240
- Street Light Out..... 515.239.5500
- Utility Bills..... 515.239.5120
- Energy Questions 515.239.5177
- Tree Too Close to Electric Line? 515.239.5500
- Digging? Contact Iowa One Call..... 811
- Storm Water Concern..... 515.239.5160
- Rusty Water..... 515.239.5551

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ENERGY Q&A

Q. What are some easy ways to reduce my summer electric consumption?

A. Last month we learned about why it is better for our electric system to avoid any unnecessary electric usage during “peak periods.” Peak periods are summer afternoons on non-holiday weekdays between 3 and 7 p.m. Here are some tips to lower your usage during these times without disrupting your daily routine. It's recommended to focus on the ones that use the most energy: Cooling and appliances that use hot water (if you have an electric water heater).

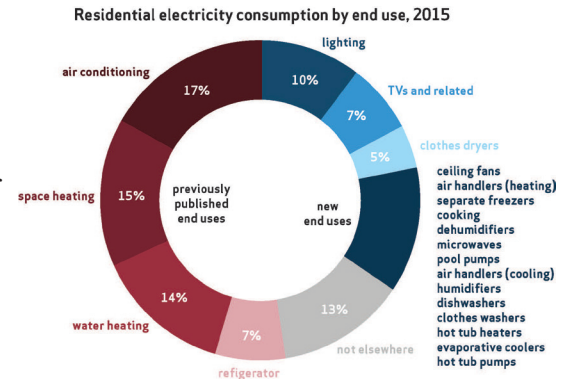
- Install a programmable thermostat. Cooling is usually a home's largest summer electric load. A programmable thermostat can save you money by reducing the energy used for cooling when nobody is home, especially the unoccupied hours in the peak period. If you sign up for Prime Time Power with Electric Services, your air conditioner will automatically be cycled off for 7.5 minutes of every 30 during “critical peak” events, which occur fewer than 10 times a year. As a reward, you'll get a \$5 credit on your utility bill every summer month.
- Delay appliance usage or increase efficiency of appliances used during peak times. Most dishwashers have a four- or eight-hour delay button. Using washers and dryers during non-peak hours can be harder to plan because you need to transfer clothes and fold them. If you can't change the timing of your laundry, make it more energy efficient by washing with cold water and drying outside.

- Make dinner on the grill. Cooking dinner on a hot summer evening is a double whammy if you have an electric stove or

oven. You're using the electricity to run the cooking appliance, which heats up the kitchen, which makes your air conditioner work harder to keep the cook cool. On hotter days, consider grilling out in a shady portion of your yard. (And if you don't have a good shade tree on your property, check out the Native Tree Rebate through Smart Watersheds!)

- Replace all light bulbs with LEDs. There's no longer a downside to LEDs! They're affordable, they come in various color temperatures, they will save you money on your electric bill, and they last longer. Using LEDs and nothing but LEDs in your home is no longer a “sacrifice” to make for energy efficiency. It's simply the best option available – economically and environmentally.

Kayley Barrios Lain, Energy Services Coordinator
515.239.5177 | KLain@cityofames.org



Moving this Summer? Call us Today to Update Your Utilities!

If a move is in your future, make a point to contact Utility Customer Services as soon as possible to request to have your utility service stopped or transferred.



You may submit your stop or transfer

request at www.amesutilities.com or by contacting the Utility Customer Service office at 515.239.5120. The office is located in City Hall, 515 Clark Ave. Office hours are Monday

through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

INFORMATION

SMART ENERGY REBATE CHANGES GO INTO EFFECT ON JULY 1

Smart Energy rebates offered by Ames Electric Services have recently been updated. New incentives have been developed to encourage customers to use electricity more efficiently. The new Electric Vehicle (EV) charger rebate provides an

incentive for a programmable EV car charger. Other changes include retiring the LED lighting rebate and increasing the efficiency rating required for an air conditioner rebate. To learn more about these changes and how to participate, go to www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy.