



# CITY SIDE

NOVEMBER 2020

## NO CHARGE YARD WASTE DAYS PLANNED FOR FALL

Mark your calendar for fall Yard Waste Days. To help make disposal easier this season, participants have four Saturdays in late October and November to drop off yard waste at no charge at GreenRU, 400 Freel Drive. The time is 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Again this year, participants have the option of picking up a voucher at the Resource Recovery Plant, 110 Center Ave., that is good for a one-time leaf and brush disposal on a designated day.

Those participating in Yard Waste Days are asked to enter the site from South Dayton Avenue to Southeast Fifth Street. When exiting the site, turn north on Freel

Drive to Lincoln Way. For questions about the voucher or Yard Waste Days, contact the Resource Recovery Plant at 515.239.5137.



### No Charge Yard Waste Days

**Saturday, Oct. 31**  
(leaves only)

**Saturday, Nov. 7**  
(leaves and brush)

**Saturday, Nov. 21**  
(leaves only)

**Saturday, Nov. 28**  
(leaves only)

## AMES ANIMAL SHELTER RECOGNIZED FOR COMMITMENT TO PETS

The Ames Animal Shelter was recently honored by the No Kill Advocacy Center for the Shelter's lifesaving efforts for animals in Ames.

The No Kill Advocacy Center is a national non-profit organization focused on helping shelters maximize animal adoptions and promote the reporting of accurate, unfiltered and honest statistical data. The Ames Animal Shelter is one of only two agencies highlighted on the "Saving 90" website in Iowa ([www.saving90.org/iowa](http://www.saving90.org/iowa)) for saving more than 90 percent of domestic animals brought to the Ames Shelter.



Ron Edwards

statistics of the Ames Animal Shelter are posted to the No Kill Advocacy Center's Facebook page (@NoKillAdvocacyCenter). Very detailed annual statistics are also available on the Shelter's website at [www.AmesAnimalShelter.org](http://www.AmesAnimalShelter.org)

"We are so grateful to the community for its support in helping us achieve this recognition," said Ames Animal Shelter and Animal Control Supervisor Ron Edwards. "The Ames Animal Shelter is staffed by an amazing team whose hard work, dedication, and compassion for people and animals is an inspiration. We also are fortunate to enjoy tremendous support from the Ames Police Department and the Ames City Council."

Information acknowledging the favorable

## CITY NEWS TO USE

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- New Police Hybrids Everywhere a Sign
- Ada Hayden Stone Honors Klaas
- Preparing for Winter
- Energy Q&A

### HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

City Hall and most City of Ames offices will be closed on Wednesday, Nov. 11, for Veterans Day, and Thursday, Nov. 26, and Friday, Nov. 27, for Thanksgiving.



## POLICE HYBRID VEHICLES REDUCE FUEL USAGE

The Ames Police Department recently debuted the new Ford Police Interceptor Utility Hybrids. This is the second hybrid patrol vehicle in the Police Department fleet. Because the vehicle has proved efficient and reliable, the department plans to replace the remaining patrol vehicles with Ford Police Interceptor Utility Hybrids in the future.



Police vehicles operate long hours in difficult conditions.

With the utility hybrids, the reduction in engine run times has reduced overall fuel and maintenance costs. While a non-hybrid unit averages \$4,600 over a six-month period in fuel and maintenance, the new utility hybrids have averaged \$2,000 over the same time frame. In addition to vehicle cost, operating expenses, and maintenance, the City considers carbon reduction as part of the analysis when deciding on equipment and fleet purchases.



## KLAAS HONORED WITH ADA HAYDEN STONE

Ames Parks and Recreation Department and the Friends of Ada Hayden Heritage Park recently held a dedication ceremony for the addition of a heritage stone at Ada Hayden Heritage Park honoring Dr. Erwin Klaas.

Ada Hayden Heritage Park currently has nine heritage stones placed throughout the park recognizing individuals who have made significant contributions to the conservation of natural resources in Iowa. The Friends of Ada Hayden Heritage Park, a partner in the management of the park, proposed the addition of a 10th stone to honor Dr. Klaas because of his efforts in getting the park established and his continued effort in renovating the park to its native habitat.

Dr. Klaas's contributions to conservation in Iowa started in 1975 when he served as Professor of Animal Ecology and a leader of the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit at Iowa State University until his retirement in 1999. After retirement, he used his knowledge and connections with Iowa State and the Ames community to organize a sampling of the plants and animals at the abandoned rock quarry on the north side of Ames.

## SIGN, SIGN, EVERYWHERE A SIGN

Many Ames residents like to support a candidate, announce a yard sale, or cheer on the home team with a temporary yard sign. However, there are rules about sign placement.



When locating the right spot for your yard sign, please keep in mind:

Signs should be placed behind the property line and are

prohibited in the public right-of-way, which is the area between the curb and the sidewalk. For properties without sidewalks, the right-of-way width varies, but it is usually the first 14.5 feet behind the curb in residential neighborhoods. Some other considerations:

- Residents may not place signs on public property such as medians, near intersections, in parks, or on utility poles.
- Signs should never block the view of oncoming traffic or create a hazard. Signs that affect visibility are subject to removal.
- Temporary signs may not be displayed for more than 90 consecutive days without removal or replacement.

The sign ordinance is included in Chapter 21 of the City of Ames Municipal Code and available on the City's website at [www.CityOfAmes.org](http://www.CityOfAmes.org).

For questions, contact Building Official Sara Van Meeteren with the Inspection Division at [sara.vanmeeteren@cityofames.org](mailto:sara.vanmeeteren@cityofames.org) or 515.239.5255.

## CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

City Council meetings are held via Zoom teleconference.

6 p.m. November 10

6 p.m. November 17 (Workshop)

6 p.m. November 24

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT [WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG](http://WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG)





# ELECTRIC

## TIPS TO DECREASE ENERGY COSTS AS WEATHER CHANGES

Winter may still seem a long way off, but the temperature will cool down before you know it. While many of us are looking forward to hot chocolate, football, holidays, ugly sweaters, and warm fires, the change in seasons also means the beginning of home heating costs.

What can you do to keep your heating costs from getting out of hand? Here are some tips to keep you comfortable and save you money this winter:

- Consider setting your thermostat on the cooler side, and pull out your favorite winter sweaters and blankets from storage.
- Set your programmable thermostat to 58 degrees F when you're away for the day, and as low as 55 degrees F when you're out of town. If your thermostat is not programmable, consider upgrading; Ames Electric Services offers rebates on wifi-enabled thermostats!
- It's never a bad time to consider upgrades to your home's envelope (what separates the house from the outdoors). Did you know that leakiness can be responsible for up

to 30 percent of your heating bill? This is the time to add some caulk around windows, moldings, outlets, and more.

- If you feel overwhelmed or confused by the task of winterizing your home, take advantage of a free energy audit through Ames Electric Services. We offer a virtual audit to ensure physical distancing.
- If you are considering a new furnace in the near future, opt for a high-efficiency model, or even a geothermal system that also provides highly efficient air conditioning and water heating. A geothermal system is the most expensive of these options up-front, but Ames Electric Services offers rebates to help you with the investment, and you can save thousands of dollars a year on operating costs!
- If you have lightly used and hard to insulate rooms in your home – like sun rooms, storage rooms, or guest rooms – consider shutting the vents and closing any doors to those spaces to focus your heating energy in more regularly used parts of your home.

### Smart Energy Rebates

Smart Energy offers a suite of energy-efficiency rebate programs and educational information for customers of Ames Electric Services focused on:

- Improving comfort
- Reducing electric bills
- Keeping future rates low
- Improving the efficiency of our customers' energy use
- Encouraging efficient utilization of a reliable electric system
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions resulting from electric consumption

[www.CityOfAmes/SmartEnergy](http://www.CityOfAmes/SmartEnergy)

- Check your furnace filter! A dirty filter reduces the efficiency of your furnace. During the heating season, it's not a bad idea to check your filter every month or two.

## 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: Several months ago, I saw the article announcing the groundbreaking for the SunSmart Community Solar Project. What's the status of the project now?**

A: There are lots of changes happening at the site lately! The access road and fencing have been installed. Posts for the array of solar panels are being installed now, and shortly the 'racking' (structural beams from one post to another to which panels will be attached) will be installed. If the work continues as planned, you will begin to see solar panels appearing throughout October.

There are still lots of electrical pieces that have to come together before the farm can start delivering electricity to customers, but we're on-track for that to happen by the end of December! That would mean we'd see electricity delivered for the first time in the month of January 2021. But be patient with us! Keep in mind that your electric bill is always a month behind your actual usage. That will be the case for SunSmart credits as well. Customers should expect to see their first credits in February or March, depending on their individual billing cycle.

If you haven't signed up to be part of the SunSmart Ames Community Solar Project, you can find costs, forms, and other information at [www.CityOfAmes.org/Solar](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/Solar). As always, give me a call at 515.239.5177 if you have any trouble or questions.

Another aspect of the solar farm that we're excited about is the plant species planned for the site. The vegetation under the panels will be native species carefully chosen by numerous local experts to best support pollinators like bees and butterflies. The shrubs planted around the farm will also be native species intended to provide food and habitat for birds and other wildlife. A bioswale is also included in the plans to more responsibly manage stormwater runoff.



*Kayley Barrios Lain spent a recent afternoon on a tractor at the SunSmart Ames site on Airport Road. She focused on knocking down wild vegetation to prepare the property for the solar installation this fall.*

We're looking forward to all the pieces of this project coming together!

**Kayley Barrios Lain, Energy Services Coordinator**  
515.239.5177 | [Kayley.Lain@cityofames.org](mailto:Kayley.Lain@cityofames.org)

## AT-A-GLANCE ENERGY NUMBERS

FOR AUGUST 2020

|      |                                                                                                    |     |                                                                         |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2.8% | ELECTRICITY THIS MONTH WAS GENERATED BY REFUSE DERIVED FUEL (RDF) FROM THE RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT | 38  | LED STREETLIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF 5,169                         |
| 75%  | SUNSMART AMES POWER PACKS PLEDGED                                                                  | 642 | KILOWATT HOURS OF VEHICLE CHARGING AT PUBLIC ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS |

DEGREE DAY INFORMATION AVAILABLE  
AT [WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/ELECTRIC](http://WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/ELECTRIC)

## INFORMATION

### POWER OFF? START HERE!

Check if the power is off in the whole house or just part of it. Also, check your main electric panel to see if a breaker has tripped or a fuse has blown.

If the problem is not in your panel, check if your neighbors have been affected. Report your outage by calling the outage reporting system at 515.239.5240. You will be asked to provide your name, address of the outage, and phone number at the outage address.