



CITY SIDE

JANUARY 2021

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY RECOGNIZED FOR PEAK PERFORMANCE

The Ames Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) received the prestigious Platinum 30 Peak Performance Award recently from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA). The award recognizes the Ames WPCF for 30 consecutive years of perfect compliance with its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit.



Control Department Director John Dunn. “According to NACWA’s records, our facility holds the second-longest compliance record in the nation. This distinction places the Ames facility, and

more importantly, its past and present staff, among the very best of the best at what they do.”

The award was formally presented by NACWA’s Chief Executive Officer Adam Krantz. “Our public utility members are the backbone of the communities they serve, providing safe, reliable access to clean water services day-in and day-out,” he said. “These utilities represent the top performers in the whole country and go above and beyond in their mission to protect public health.”

“This award represents more than 70,000 individual numeric permit limits that have been met without a single violation,” said Water and Pollution

RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

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. 31. 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.

ARE YOU 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), or watch City of Ames social media! 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!

CITY NEWS TO USE

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Volunteer for a City Board
- Help Keep Fire Hydrants Clear
- Ice Skating Available
- Ames Electric Services Wins Award
- Carbon Monoxide Dangers
- Energy Q&A

CITY OFFICES CLOSED:

City Hall and most City of Ames departments will be closed on Friday, Jan. 1, 2021, for New Year’s Day.



VOLUNTEER FOR CITY BOARD OR COMMISSION

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. Despite the pandemic, City Boards and Commissions have continued to meet, although meetings have transitioned to a virtual format.

The following boards and commissions have vacancies occurring in the first part of 2021. 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/boardsandcommissions. Applications are also available in the City Clerk's Office. **Deadline to apply is 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 5, 2021.**

Commission/Board	Meeting Days/Times	Vacancies
ASSET	2nd Thurs./5 p.m.	2 (1)
Building Board of Appeals	As needed	2 (1)
Campus & Community Commission	4th Mon./6 p.m.	1
Commission On The Arts (COTA)	1st Mon./5 p.m.	2 (1)
Electric Utility Operations Review & Advisory Board (EUORAB)	As needed	3 (1)
Historic Preservation Commission	2nd Mon./6 p.m.	3 (1)
Human Relations Commission	4th Thurs./5:30 p.m.	2 (1)
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.	3
Planning and Zoning Commission	1st & 3rd Wed./7p.m.	3 (3)
Property Maintenance Appeals Board	As needed	3 (2)
Public Art Commission	1st Wed./Noon	3 (2)
Transit	2nd Thurs./4:15 p.m.	1

TOTAL 34

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 at 515.239.5109.



ICE SKATING OPPORTUNITIES

For those who like ice skating, there are options to get active this winter! In addition to year-round ice skating at the Ames/ISU Ice Arena, the Parks and Recreation Department plans 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.

With two rinks available, one will be reserved for hockey and the other for skating. Skaters need to bring their own equipment. The rinks will be open as long as weather permits.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

City Council meetings are held via Zoom. Details are available on the City's website.

Regular Meetings: 6 p.m. Jan. 12
6 p.m. Jan. 26

Capital Improvement Plan workshop:
5:15 p.m. on Jan. 19

Budget overview: 2 p.m. on Jan. 29

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG



ELECTRIC



ELECTRIC SERVICES NAMED SMART ENERGY PROVIDER

Ames Electric Services was recently notified it is one of 27 public power utilities that have earned a Smart Energy Provider (SEP) designation from the American Public Power Association.



The SEP designation is given to utilities that demonstrate commitment to and proficiency in energy efficiency, distributed generation, and environmental initiatives that support a goal of providing low-cost, quality, safe, and reliable electric service. The

Smart Energy Provider designations were presented recently during APPA's Customer Connections Virtual Conference.

This year's 27 utilities bring the total to 94 public power utilities nationwide that hold the Smart Energy Provider designation.

"We are honored to have received this designation because we are committed to the principles being recognized," said Donald Kom, Ames

Electric Services Director. "Ames has a long history of progressive programs and services, and we have continued those initiatives through our SunSmart Ames solar farm, our rebate programs, and our commitment to installing more electric vehicle charging stations.

The SEP designation, which lasts for two years (Dec.1, 2020 to Nov. 30, 2022) recognizes public power utilities for demonstrating leading practices in four key disciplines: smart energy program structure; energy efficiency and distributed energy programs; environmental and sustainability initiatives; and the customer experience. This is the second year APPA has offered the SEP designation.

Carbon Monoxide Danger

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 in your home or experience symptoms, call the Ames Fire Department at 515.239.5109.

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

City Side is a publication of the City of Ames, Iowa
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 Questions?
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ENERGY Q&A

Q: I'm going to be gone over the winter. I want to reduce my utility bills and conserve energy, but I don't want any unexpected surprises. Any advice?

A. Turning down your thermostat to save energy and money is a great idea, but never below 55 degrees. If you're heading off for the weekend, the week, or even longer, remember to take care of your plumbing. Frozen pipes are an issue whenever the temperature dips, and weather can turn cold without warning. Be prepared before you leave.

A safe bet would be to set your heat at 62° F before you leave for the winter, even if it is not very cold when you leave. Iowa is well-known for ever-changing weather.

Another suggestion is heat tape. According to the manufacturer's instructions, it should 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.

Q: How do I know if I'm buying an efficient appliance?

A: Appliances can be expensive. That's why it's important to do a little research before you buy. According to the National Association of Home Builders and Bank of America Home Equity, a new refrigerator will last about 13 years, a washing

machine about 10 years, and a dishwasher about nine years.

Before you make a purchase, look for the Energy Star label. Energy Star has done all the testing necessary to determine which appliances exceed federal standards for efficiency. Most Energy Star certified appliances are 30 to 50 percent more efficient than standard appliances.

However, the Energy Star is only half the story. It's also important to look for the yellow and black Energy Guide label. This handy at-a-glance guide will show you the estimated annual energy consumption and operating cost for each appliance so you can compare them yourself. The Energy Guide label is required to be placed on all appliances by the manufacturers. The label provides information about energy consumption and shows you how much energy an appliance uses compared with similar models. Keep in mind that the numbers are averages; actual costs will differ somewhat depending on how you use them.

It is important to note that the yellow Energy Guide doesn't mean the appliance is efficient. Only those with the Energy Star label in the lower right-hand corner are identified as exceeding federal standards for efficiency. The Energy Star certification is necessary to qualify for a rebate from Ames Electric Services' Smart Energy program.

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AT-A-GLANCE ENERGY NUMBERS

FOR OCTOBER 2020

2.95%	ELECTRICITY THIS MONTH WAS GENERATED BY REFUSE DERIVED FUEL (RDF) FROM THE RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT	73	LED STREETLIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF 5,315
75%	SUNSMART AMES POWER PACKS PLEDGED	234	KILOWATT HOURS OF VEHICLE CHARGING AT PUBLIC ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS

DEGREE DAY INFORMATION AVAILABLE
AT 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 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.

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!

Be careful and call Iowa One Call before you dig. Have your yard marked free of charge. Now it's even easier to call. You can call 800.292.8989 or just dial 811.

