



CITYSIDE

JANUARY 2022

How Can You Report a Power Outage? Text Us!

With the new year, Ames Electric Services customers will have a new way to contact the utility during a power outage. Beginning Jan. 1, 2022, texting your power outage will be an option! Before those thumbs get ready to text, make sure your cell phone and address are in our system.

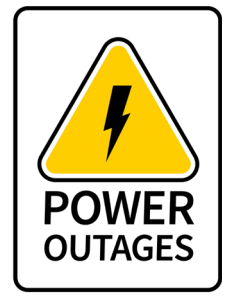
Customers who want to use the texting feature must update or register their mobile phone number to their account. Without this, the automated Outage Management System will have a difficult

time responding to your location. To update or register a phone number, go to www.CityOfAmes.org/Outage. You can also call the Utility Customer Services at 515.239.5120 to have your information updated.

The number to report your power outage remains the same whether you call or text: 515.239.5240.

To use the texting option, customers should send the word "Out" and follow the prompts to report the outage. Ames

Electric Services is excited to offer this new service as texting is a quick and reliable form of communication. Allowing customers to text an outage saves time for both the customer and the utility. Texting allows the utility to push out a text message to confirm dates and locations with greater accuracy and higher response rates.



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 Monday, 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 and Ames Police 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
- Parks and Recreation Notes
- Carbon Monoxide Dangers
- Energy Q&A

CITY OFFICES CLOSED:

City Hall and most City of Ames departments will be closed on Friday, December 31, 2021, for New Year's Day.



CITY OF Ames™

GIVE BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY: 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. Every board and commission has a different focus and purpose. Please consider getting involved in one that matches your background or interests.

The following boards and commissions have vacancies

occurring in the first part of 2022. 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. 4, 2022.**

Commission/Board	Meeting Days/Times	Vacancies
ASSET	2nd Thurs./5 p.m.	2 (2)
Board of Review	As needed	1
Building Board of Appeals	1st Mon./4 p.m.	3 (3)
Campus & Community	4th Mon./6 p.m.	1
Civil Service	4th Thurs./8:15 a.m.	1 (1)
Commission on the Arts	1st Mon./5 p.m.	2 (1)
Electric Utility Operations Review & Advisory Board (EUORAB)	As needed	1 (1)
Historic Preservation	2nd Mon./6 p.m.	1
Human Relations	4th Thurs./5:30 p.m.	3 (2)
Library Board of Trustees	3rd Thurs./7 p.m.	3 (1)
Parks and Recreation	3rd Thurs./4 p.m.	3 (2)
Partner Cities Association	3rd Thurs./5 p.m.	2 (1)
Planning and Zoning	1st and 3rd Wed./7 p.m.	2
Property Maintenance Appeals Board	As needed	1 (1)
Public Art	1st Wed./noon	6 (3)
Zoning Board of Adjustment	2nd & 4th Wed./6 p.m.	2
	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.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

City Council meetings are held in the City Hall Council Chambers, 515 Clark Ave., and streamed via the City website, Facebook and YouTube.

6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 11

6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 18 (workshop)

6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 25

YOUTH & ADULT PROGRAMMING

PLAY PALS

Your indoor playground is back at the Ames Community Center, 515 Clark Ave., with Play Pals! Offered five days a week (M-F) from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. for children ages 5 and under. Only \$2 per participating child. Offered now through the end of the school year!

K-2 BASKETBALL PROGRAMS (MINI DRIBBLERS, LITTLE DUNKERS, BIG SHOOTERS)

Learn the fundamentals of basketball through fun games, instructor-led drills, and scrimmages weekday evenings at Kate Mitchell Elementary School Gym beginning Jan. 17.

START SMART BASKETBALL - AGES 3-5

Instructor-led activities for parents and children to learn introductory basketball and motor skills every Saturday morning starting Jan. 22.

TENNIS LESSONS - GRADES 1-6

Learn the basics of tennis from the professionals inside the Ames Fitness Center South Tennis Bubble. Sessions begin Jan. 8.

TAE KWON DO - AGES 5 & UP

Focus the mind and strengthen the body with Tae Kwon Do beginning Jan. 11 at Ames Middle School.

ADULT VOLLEYBALL WINTER SEASON - MEN, WOMEN, AND COED LEAGUES

Register your team today. League games start the week of Jan. 24.

FITNESS FOR THE NEW YEAR!

More than 50 classes offered weekly, or custom plans created for you through Personal Training! Let Parks & Recreation assist you in reaching your new year goals!

AMES/ISU ICE ARENA

Grab your family and friends and join us at the Ames/ISU Ice Arena for **Public Skate**, **ISU Public Skate**, **Student Night**, **Figure Free**, and **Stick & Helmet**. Skate rentals available.

For more information, pricing, and details go to AmesParkRec.org, under Facility Calendars/Upcoming Events, or contact the Ames ISU Ice Arena at 515.239.6835.

HOMWOOD WINTER CARD LEAGUE

New card leagues coming to Homewood! Socialize, meet new people, and improve your card skills. Call 515.239.5363 or email nate.pietz@cityofames.org to get on the interest list or for more information!

AQUATIC CERTIFICATION

Limited spots, sign up early to secure your spot!

Lifeguard Training Course Options:

Jan. 12-23 & Feb. 16-27

Lifeguard Review Course Options:

Jan. 30 & Feb. 20

Water Safety Instructor (WSI) Course: Feb. 4-6

MUNICIPAL POOL OPEN SWIM

Take advantage of open swim hours scheduled 1-3 p.m. every Saturday/Sunday until the end of February 2022.

**Furman Aquatic Center's Summer
2022 Employee Recruitment!**
Apply now! www.CityOfAmes.org

RENTALS: Parks & Recreation has several facilities available to rent for your next meeting, social gathering & more!

Homewood Golf Course Clubhouse
Nate Pietz, 515.239.5363
nate.pietz@cityofames.org

Ames/ISU Ice Arena
Taylor Bassett, 515.239.6835
taylor.bassett@cityofames.org

Municipal Pool
Jill Burt, 515.232.4561
jill.burt@cityofames.org

City of Ames Auditorium
Craig Kaufman, 515.239.5360
craig.kaufman@cityofames.org

CONTACTS & INFORMATION

CONTACT:

Parks & Recreation Resources:

- Web: www.AmesParkRec.org
- Phone: 515.239.5350
- Address: 515 Clark Ave.
- Facebook: Ames Parks & Recreation

SIGN UP FOR THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER:

Get weekly updates and news from Parks & Recreation delivered directly to you! Go online to www.AmesParkRec.org and sign up. Your emails will not be shared, and you always have the option to unsubscribe.

Sign up today and stay in the know!

ENERGY Q&A

Q: Why is carbon monoxide such a concern during the winter months? What steps can I take to increase safety during this time of the year?

In the colder months, many of us are using more fossil fuels in our homes for heating. If you have any natural gas appliances in your home, you should be aware of how to protect your family from carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas produced when fuel burns. If a fuel-burning device such as a furnace, kerosene heater, or gas stove 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, it can cause 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.

How to protect your family from carbon monoxide poisoning:

- Leave installation and service of natural gas appliances to a professional.
- Install carbon monoxide detectors and be sure to keep the batteries fresh. Many people use the beginning and end of daylight saving time as a reminder to check carbon monoxide and smoke detectors.
- Install an exhaust fan over gas stoves. Turn it on any time you are using the stove.
- Consider high-efficiency electric appliances the next time you have to replace your furnace, water heater, or oven/stove. Check out www.CityofAmes.org/SmartEnergy for rebates on electric heat pump water heaters and space heaters.

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

AT-A-GLANCE ENERGY NUMBERS

FOR OCTOBER 2021

2.7% ELECTRICITY GENERATED BY REFUSE DERIVED FUEL (RDF) FROM RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT (1,304,329 kWh)

11.8% ELECTRICITY GENERATED BY WIND POWER (5,707,125 kWh)

0.4% ELECTRICITY GENERATED BY SOLAR POWER (183,103 kWh)

8,580 MILES DRIVEN BY ELECTRIC VEHICLES USING PUBLIC EV CHARGING STATIONS

4,973 POUNDS OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AVOIDED THROUGH ELECTRIC VEHICLES

16 STREETLIGHTS CONVERTED TO LED FOR A TOTAL OF 5,191

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

City Side is a publication of the City of Ames, Iowa
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 Questions?
 515 Clark Ave. • Ames, IA 50010
 Phone: 515.239.5204 • www.CityOfAmes.org

