



CITYSIDE

DECEMBER 2023

NEW PROPERTY MAINTENANCE STANDARDS FOR OWNER-OCCUPIED HOMES

To balance expectations of all property owners, the Ames City Council recently adopted minimum property maintenance standards for private property. These will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2024. Standards for rental property were implemented more than a decade ago. Prior to passing the ordinance, the Council spent two years seeking resident input, held workshops, and discussed concerns with staff before approving the new policy.

Some of the new standards include:

- Refuse, garbage and junk cannot be stored outdoors for more than 72 hours.
- Yard waste cannot be stored outdoors for more than 7 days unless it is in an approved yard waste container.
- No debris on sidewalk including snow, ice, mud, grass clippings, etc.



- No pushing ice or snow into the traveled portion of the street.
- Turf grass cannot exceed 12 inches in height.
- Noxious weeds are prohibited.
- No indoor furniture kept outside.
- Graffiti must be removed within 7 days of notification.

Once a complaint is received, the Inspection Division will determine if a violation exists, notify the property owner of the violation, and establish a time frame for compliance. Failure to comply with the compliance requirements may result in a \$50 citation.

For more information on the new standards, visit www.CityOfAmes.org/PropertyMaintenanceCode. Contact the Inspections at inspections@cityofames.org, at 515.239.5153, or at City Hall, 515 Clark Ave. Open house events are being planned to give citizens an opportunity to speak with staff about the new ordinance. Check the website for updates.



ARE YOU ON A SNOW ROUTE? THINGS TO KNOW WHEN IT SNOWS!

Winter weather is just around the corner and that means snow is not far behind. If you park on a snow route, you will want to know when the snow ordinance is in effect. Snow plowing

begins after two inches of snow accumulates on the major streets in Ames, and two inches of snowfall also activates the City's snow ordinance.

When the snow ordinance is in effect, drivers parked along snow routes – marked with red and white signs – need to move their vehicles to avoid ticketing and/or towing. Vehicles may return to the street when it has stopped snowing, no additional snow is forecast, and the

street has been plowed from curb to curb. Because this happens at different times throughout the city, there is no official announcement that the ordinance is over.

Notification about the snow ordinance will be shared with local media, the City's website (www.CityOfAmes.org), and Ames TV. Also check @CityofAmes, @AmesPublicWorks, and @AmesPolice on social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, and X (Twitter).

CITY

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HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:

Most City of Ames offices will be closed Monday, Dec. 25 and Tuesday, Dec. 26. Additionally, most City offices will be closed on Monday, Jan. 1, 2024, for New Year's Day 2023.



PROJECT SHARE PROVIDES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR UTILITIES

A simple way to share the warmth with those in need is to make a monthly pledge or a one-time contribution to Project Share.

Project Share is a program developed by Ames Electric Services to assist low-income customers with winter utility bills. A committee appointed by the Ames City Council determines the permissible uses of the funds donated to Project Share. The guidelines established by this committee ensure that 100 percent of every contribution is used to assist low-income customers. Last year, Ames Electric Services contributed \$4,369 in staff time



and materials toward the cost of administering this program. Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA) shares in the administration of the program

by determining the eligibility of households for Project Share funds.

Project Share's success is the result of our customers' compassion and generosity. Through

your support, Project Share has provided \$527,527 in assistance to 4,298 households since the program's inception in 1990. Last winter alone, Project Share provided \$21,684 in assistance to 161 households. With your continued generosity, more Ames households will stay safe and warm this winter.

Contribution to Project Share

I wish to make a monthly contribution to Project Share. I understand this amount will be listed on my monthly utility bill and that I can cancel my pledge at any time by contacting the City of Ames Utility Customer Service office.

\$1/month \$2/month \$5/month \$10/month other \$___/month

I wish to make a one-time contribution to Project Share rather than making a monthly pledge. I have enclosed a \$_____ donation to Project Share.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please return this form with your utility bill payment or mail to: Ames Electric Services, Attn: Project Share Committee, P.O. Box 811, Ames, IA 50010-0811.

FIRE SAFETY TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The holidays are a wonderful time to celebrate with friends and family. Protect the ones you love by following these fire safety rules. Cooking, candles, and holiday decor can all increase the chance of a fire. Remembering these basic fire safety tips can make a difference. Cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries.



- Stand by your pan! If you leave the kitchen, turn off stove burners.
- Keep a pan lid or baking sheet nearby to cover a pan if it catches fire. This will extinguish the flame.
- Turn pot handles to the back of the stove so no one bumps them or pulls them over.
- Keep candles at least 12 inches from anything that burns. Make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be knocked down. Better yet, consider battery-operated flameless candles that can mimic the real thing.
- Inspect holiday lights each year before decorating with them. Throw away any lights that look frayed or damaged.

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, Dec. 12
6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG

UPCOMING CLASSES & ACTIVITIES

WINTER BREAK TENNIS CAMP (GRADES 1-6):

One-hour lessons per day, Dec. 26-29.

Register by Dec. 19.

ADULT INDOOR VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE: Women's, Men's, and Co-Ed Leagues. Jan. 22-April, with end of season tournament. Register by Jan. 7.

PERSONAL TRAINING: Packages of five, 10 or 15 sessions, and receive a free InBody Scan consultation. Contact Nancy Shaw, 515.239.5353 to begin!

COMMUNITY CENTER WEIGHT ROOM: Costs are per visit versus a monthly membership fee. To schedule an orientation or receive more information, contact Nancy Shaw at 515.239.5353.

INBODY SCAN: Measure your body composition with InBody Scan. Measurements include muscle mass, body fat, basal metabolic rate and more! Cost is \$30 and includes a consultation. Contact Nancy Shaw at 515.239.5353 to set up an appointment.

AMES/ISU ICE ARENA ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS!

AMES/ISU ICE ARENA COMMUNITY HOLIDAY PARTY

Kick off the holiday season, Dec. 20, 7-8:30 p.m. with a candy cane hunt, crafts, and skating. Flat rate of \$10 for admission, includes rental skates.

AMES/ISU ICE ARENA WINTER BREAK CAMP (GRADES 3-8)

Participants will learn different ice sports and activities.

No skating experience is required. Dec. 20-22, 8 a.m. - noon, sign up for one day or all three! \$35 per day.

NEW YEAR'S EVE SKATE

Skate into the New Year at the Ames/ISU Ice Arena, Dec. 31, 9 p.m. - midnight. Fun games, music, and a New Year's Countdown. All ages welcome. Regular rates apply.

HOMEWOOD CLUBHOUSE

HOMEWOOD CLUBHOUSE RENTALS

Looking for a place to host your next meeting, social event, or next spring golf outing? Contact Nate Pietz at 515.239.5363.

HOMEWOOD FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Santa is coming to town, Dec. 2, 9-11 a.m. Crafts, photo opportunities, and refreshments provided. Pre-registration is preferred. Ages 2+ are \$5, children 1 and under are free.

HOLIDAY THEMED PAINTING WITH A TWIST

Instructor led, canvas painting event, Dec. 9, 7-9 p.m. All materials provided. Adult and non-alcoholic beverages available for purchase. \$47 for individuals. Register in advance to secure your spot!



AUDITORIUM

SATURDAY, DEC. 9: Holiday Kinetic Circus, Time TBD, \$5

SUNDAY, DEC. 10: Satin Doll Felicity Holiday Concert, 6 p.m., \$10-\$15

For tickets or more information, contact Craig Kaufman, Manager, 515.239.5365, craig.kaufman@cityofames.org.

FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER

NOW HIRING FOR THE 2024 SUMMER SEASON! INTERESTED LIFEGUARDS, SWIM LESSON INSTRUCTORS, AND SHIFT LEADERS CAN VIEW JOB DESCRIPTIONS AND APPLY ONLINE AT WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/JOBS.

LIFEGUARD CERTIFICATION (AGES 15+): Online learning portion required prior to attending the in-class portion. Class will be held Dec. 1 (5-8 p.m.), and Dec. 2-3 (8 a.m.-5 p.m.) Cost \$210 Resident/ \$225 Non-Resident.

LIFEGUARD RE-CERTIFICATION CLASS: For those that currently possess a lifeguard certificate. Dec. 9, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. \$100 Resident/\$115 Non-Resident.

ADULT AND PEDIATRIC FIRST AID/CPR/AED

CERTIFICATION CLASS (AGES 10+): In-class portion, Dec. 16, 9-11am. Online portion must be completed prior to Dec. 16. \$80 Resident/ \$95 Non-Resident

LIFEGUARD INSTRUCTOR (LGI): Become certified to teach Lifeguard Training, First Aid, and CPR/AED. Must be 17 by the end of the class and possess a current lifeguard certification. Class will be held Dec. 1 (5-8 p.m.), and Dec. 2-Dec. 3 (8 a.m.-5 p.m.). \$230 Resident/\$245 Non-Resident.

LIFEGUARD INSTRUCTOR REVIEW (LGI-R): For those that currently possess a LGI certificate. Dec. 9, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. \$135 Resident/\$150 Non-Resident.

BABYSITTER'S COURSE (AGES 11-15): Dec. 28, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. \$66 Resident/\$81 Non-Resident.

REGISTER TODAY! To REGISTER FOR PROGRAMS OR TO GET MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE COMMUNITY CENTER AT 515.239.5350 OR VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.AMESPARKREC.ORG

ENERGY Q&A

Q: How much energy is sold through the existing electric vehicle chargers? Are there plans to add more EV charging in town?

A: Ames Electric Services has ten electric vehicle (EV) charging locations in town. We've recently added Level-2 chargers at Inis Grove Park and city parking Lot Z in Campustown. Other Level-2 charging locations include:

- West parking lot of City Hall, 515 Clark Ave.
- West of Ames Electric Power Plant, 200 E. Fifth St.
- Ames Intermodal Facility parking ramp, 129 Hayward Ave.
- City Parking X, south of Wells Fargo Bank, 300 Clark Ave.
- City Parking Lot Q, near the public library, 603 Douglas Ave.
- Mary Greeley Medical Center 1114 Duff Ave.
- Hy-Vee West, 3800 Lincoln Way

Additionally, two Level-3 Fast Chargers are located near U.S. 30 at Kum and Go, 2108 Isaac Newton Drive.

Ames Electric Services provides public charging currently at a cost of 12.6 cents per kWh at the Level-2 charging locations and 17.6 cents per kWh at the Level-3 fast-charging station. The fees include a state fuel excise tax of 2.6 cents per kWh, designed to be equivalent to the state fuel tax vehicles pay

when purchasing petroleum fuels. Fueling electric vehicles with electricity at the city of Ames' Level-2 charging rate is comparable to paying \$1.15 per gallon of gas, in terms of the cost of fuel per mile.

The first two chargers were installed five years ago at City Hall and near the power plant. In that time, Electric Services has continued to add additional chargers. Over the past five years, we've provided enough energy from the chargers to electric vehicles to drive 510,000 miles. That is enough to circle the earth 20 times! We will continue to meet the need for additional public charging locations as well as work with our customers to support their vehicle charging installations

Additional public charging is offered throughout Ames by private businesses. To locate charging stations, go to www.plugshare.com. This website includes all brands and ownership, along with information on the charging cost and type of charger for each location.

For more information about EV chargers or rebates, contact Energy Services Coordinator Joel Zook at joel.zook@cityofames.org or 515.239.5177, or visit www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy.

Joel Zook, Energy Services Coordinator
515.239.5177 | Joel.Zook@cityofames.org

RENEWABLE ENERGY NUMBERS FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

17 LED STREETLIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A TOTAL OF **5,909**

29,598 MILES OF VEHICLE CHARGING AT PUBLIC ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS

XXX,XXX KILOWATT HOURS OF ENERGY PRODUCED BY SUNSMART AMES SOLAR FARM

RESOURCE RECOVERY PLANT

- REFUSE-DERIVED FUEL: **3,281 TONS**

RECYCLING:

- GLASS: **23.86 TONS**
- METALS: **162.8 TONS**
- FOOD WASTE DIVERSION: **3.25 TONS**

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

CitySide is a publication of the City of Ames, Iowa.
 Find past editions: www.CityOfAmes.org/CitySide

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