



THE WIRE

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Scammers Target AMU Customers

Algona Municipal Utilities has alerted the public about phone scams that targeted AMU customers.

In early January, Algona Municipal Utilities was a target of a scam where Algona residents received phone calls from someone claiming to be a representative of AMU and attempting to schedule installations or upgrades of AMU services on a weekend. The caller spoofed AMU's Caller ID information making it appear as if the number was coming from Algona Municipal Utilities.

Algona Municipal Utilities does not install or upgrade services on weekends. AMU requires customers to complete applications at the AMU office during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, before any installation takes place.



In mid January, AMU received reports that Algona businesses were receiving calls from someone claiming to be an AMU representative wanting payment for disconnection of services.

Caller ID information made it appear that these calls were coming from a toll-free 800 number. In some cases, the caller left a voice mail with a phone number asking the business to return the call.

Algona Municipal Utilities does not outsource this type of work.

If you receive a call that you suspect is a scam, hang-up and immediately call the Algona Police Department at 295-3515 and

Algona Municipal Utilities at 295-3584.

Do not give out any information to the caller. Do not promise or give money to the individual.

If a person shows up at your home or business claiming to be a representative of Algona Municipal Utilities, make sure that person properly identifies him or herself with a "City ID", wearing an AMU logo approved shirt, and is driving an AMU vehicle.

If you doubt or suspect this person is not a representative of Algona Municipal Utilities, immediately call the Algona Police Department and Algona Municipal Utilities.

Under no circumstance should you let this person into your home or business.

Fox Mankato HD Now Available in AMU HD Tier

AMU Cable TV now offers Fox Mankato in HD.

The network is located in the HD Tier on channel 302. AMU customers with HD TVs that have a QAM tuner can find Fox Mankato HD at channel 114.2.

Paramount Network Makes its Debuts on AMU Cable TV Channel 75



Viacom debut its new network, **The Paramount Network**, on January 18th.

The Paramount Network, formerly Spike TV, features bold, original premium quality, scripted and

non-scripted series, specials and events.

The Paramount Network is in AMU's Expanded Basic Tier on channel 75.

AMU Linemen Trimming Trees

AMU Linemen have been busy trimming and removing trees near the transport lines north of Highway 18.

A tree, taken down by a beaver in late November, fell into the lines and caused power outages throughout the area.

Once the ground froze solid enough for trucks to drive across, AMU linemen began removing trees near the lines in an effort to prevent similar situations from occurring again.

Each winter, AMU

trims trees around overhead lines.

Over the next several weeks, AMU employees will be checking to see if tree branches are near or entangled or

with AMU service lines. AMU'S primary focus is on problem areas.

Cleanup is a priority of AMU, however, some trimmed branches may be too big to remove this winter. Cleanup that cannot be accomplished due to deep snow will be noted and completed when conditions permit.

AMU encourages electric customers to contact

our office if they have branches that appear to be in electric lines. AMU employees will then come and inspect the branches for you. AMU values trees and trains employees in

proper tree trimming techniques that utilize the National Arbor Day Foundation, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and ISU Extension tree trimming methods



Coverage of Winter Olympic Games on AMU Cable TV

NBC Universal will produce over 2,400 hours of coverage of the Winter Olympics from Pyeongchang on NBC Sports Network, CNBC, and USA Network, plus on the NBC Sports app via AMU'S Watch TV Everywhere.

NBC Sports Network, available on AMU Cable TV channel 28, will serve as the cable home of XXIII Olympic Winter games. The 10 days of coverage starts February 7th on the NBC Sports Network and will include the gold medal finals of hockey, snowboarding, short track, luge, and bobsled.

CNBC will present 46 hours of coverage, including curling telecasts. USA Network will air live curling and hockey as part of its 40.5 hours of live programming.

The NBC Sports app, via AMU'S Watch TV Everywhere, and NBC Olympics.com will provide authenticated live streaming of coverage from NBC Sports Network, CNBC, and USA Network.

NBC live primetime coverage will also be on local affiliate WHO TV, starting on February 8th.

AMU's Blast From the Past - Power Plant Crew 1970s

Here is the staff of the AMU Power Plant from the early 1970s

Front Row: Kenneth Schrauth, Jerry Puffer, Milo Kollasch, Walter Hauptert, William Ludwig, and Cecil Koepke.

Back Row: Roger Scott, James Hoffman, Paul Hantelman, Paul Newsome, and Jack Hernon.



Take Advantage of AMU's Be Lighting Bright Program

Save money with Algona Municipal Utilities and it's "Be Bright" lighting program. You can purchase Energy Star LEDs, the best LEDs available, at amazing low prices at the following stores: HyVee, Bomgaars, Hardware Hank (North Iowa Lumber), and Fareway.

Lighting accounts for 12% of the average home's electric bill. Energy

Save now. Save later. LEDs on sale now.

BENEFITS:

- ★ Last 25 times longer
- ★ Use up to 75 percent less energy
- ★ Great for task lighting

800.328.6800 | www.iowabright.com

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Star certified LEDs use over 75% less energy than traditional incandescent light bulbs.

Just one Energy Star LED bulb saves an average

of \$80 or more in electricity costs over its lifetime.

Look for the Be Bright logo the next time you're shopping at one of the participating stores to receive in-store discounts.

For more information on the Be Bright lighting program, go to www.iowabright.com.



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Community Benefit*