



# THE WIRE

March 2011



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## AMU/City of Algona Set for Downtown Alley Project

The City of Algona and AMU are set to start a 2011 project to improve utility infrastructure in Algona's downtown alleys.

The project includes sanitary sewer replacement or lining and storm sewer removal and replacement, installation of primary and secondary electrical and communications lines underground, and the abandonment of overhead lines and removal of most poles



in the alley. The project also includes reconstruction of about eight blocks of alley affected by excavation.

"This is the next step in a plan to help improve the infrastructure in downtown Algona," said John Bilsten, AMU General Manager. According to Bilsten, the electric, sanitary and storm sewer infrastructure is in need of upgrading, and inspections indicate that a majority of poles and electric infrastructure are in moderate or extensive decay. He said

placing utilities underground increases reliability and reduces expenses to AMU and our customers over time. Other reasons for the upgrade include the National Electric Safety Code requires meters to be accessible, the National and State Electric Codes require proper protection for electric circuits, City Ordinance requires sump pumps to be connected to the storm sewer, and alley safety will be increased by eliminating surface drainage from roof drains. The Downtown Alley Project is expected to start in May 2011 with completion set for July 2012.



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## Water Treatment Plant Project

In May 2011 work will begin on improvements to the Water Treatment Plant. The project includes installation of a backwash holding tank west of the Water Treatment Plant to allow discharge to the sanitary sewer at a controlled rate as required by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, replacement of the existing

aerator, replacement of the existing high service pumps and motors, installation of variable frequency drives for the high service pumps, interior piping work, and replacement of the existing asbestos roof. The contractor on the project will be Dean Snyder Construction from Clear Lake with a bid of \$445,912.20. The work will be completed by mid July 2011.



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**GET A  
REALITY  
CHECK  
AT I WIRELESS**

**MEGA**talk  
PAY IN ADVANCE

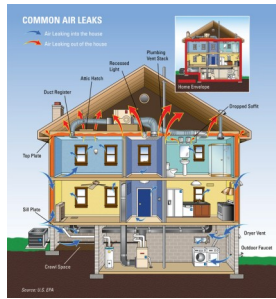
**STOP BY  
AMU  
TO GET  
DETAILS!**



## Air Seal and Insulate to Save Money

Improve energy efficiency and comfort by sealing and insulating the shell of your home—the outer walls, ceiling, windows, doors and floors. Energy Star estimates you could save up to 20% on heating and cooling costs by sealing and insulating.

Feel around windows and doors for air leaks and drafts. Check your basements, crawlspaces, and attics for leaks. Seal the leaks with caulk, spray foam, or weather stripping.



After the home sealing project, have a heating and cooling technician check to make sure that combustion appliances are venting properly.

Adding insulation keeps

your house warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer. When correctly installed, insulation can lower energy bills during the hottest and coldest times in the year. Add insulation to your attic for the biggest savings. If your insulation is level or below the attic floor joists, you need to add more insulation. The recommended insulation level for most attics is R-38. In cold climates, insulating up to R-39 is recommended.

## i wireless Advantages



- Individual and Family plans include more nationwide talktime minutes for less money
- Unlimited Nationwide Nights & Weekends start at 5 p.m.
- Fun & Useful features - including text & picture messaging, mobile web & email, Instant Messaging, ringtones, games, videos and more - provide added enjoyment and increased productivity.
- Complete selection of phones at discount prices in the latest styles and colors.
- AMU is a local authorized dealer with its Skylink partners.
- Locally based and operated to support Iowa's economic prosperity.

Stop by AMU to get details about i wireless Nationwide plans and MEGAtalk prepaid plans.

## Tips to Save on Earth Day

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) celebrates the 41st anniversary of the inception of Earth Day on April 22nd. The EPA encourages Americans to celebrate by becoming more energy efficient. Greater energy efficiency can help families lower their energy bills and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Here are tips to help you save some green by going green.



1. Change out your home's five most frequently used light fixtures or bulbs to

- compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs.
- 2. Unplug electronics such as cell phones and MP3 players once they are charged. Don't leave the adapters

plugged into the wall.

- 3. Enable the power management settings on your computer and monitor so they go to low power mode (sleep) when you're not working and wake up with just a key stroke.
- 4. Get a programmable thermostat for your furnace and air conditioner to save on energy costs.

By taking simple actions, Americans can save energy and money.

## Plan to Dig in Your Yard? Call Iowa One Call

Spring is here and with warmer temperatures, area residents are planning outdoor projects.

Iowa law requires that any person, homeowner, professional, public or private entity, planning to engage in any form of excavation within the state of Iowa must notify the Iowa One Call notification system 48 hours prior to excavating.

The Iowa One Call notification system is a free call and a free service. The required 48 hours advance notice does not include Saturdays

and Sundays or legal holidays.

Call 1-800-292-8989 or 811.

Iowa One Call is a non-profit organization committed to maintaining and operating a notification system efficient in relaying information and safeguarding underground facilities essential to all Iowans.

Iowa One Call is funded by owners and operators of underground facilities who are required by law to belong to the system.



*Community Owned For  
Community Benefit!  
That's Our  
Commitment to You,  
Our Customer and  
Owner!*