



THE WIRE

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Algona Municipal Utilities

104 West Call St.

P.O. Box 10

Algona, Iowa 50511

(515) 295-3584

Fax: (515) 295-3364

www.netamu.com



AMU Rejects Bids on Downtown Alley Project

Algona Municipal Utilities accepted bids for the Downtown Alley Conversion Project on April 28, 2011.



One bid was received in the amount of \$2,077,700.80 by Dig America, Inc. from St. Cloud, Minnesota. The bid was substantially higher than the engineers estimate. As a result, the Board of Trustees made a decision on May 18, 2011 to reject the bid and postpone the project until 2012. Dig America, Inc. is a very reputable company and has done work for AMU in the past, but with only one bid it is very difficult to approve the higher

than expected bid.

“AMU and the City of Algona visited with contractors to determine why the bid was nearly \$800,000 over the engineers estimate. We found that a combination of timing, complexity, tight alley spaces, and the need for coordination among multiple utilities and property owners may have contributed to the lack of bidders and higher bid,” stated John Bilsten, AMU General Manager.

AMU and the City of Algona will review the project scope and specifications so that it can be re-bid in early 2012. AMU and the City of Algona encourage property owners to continue to make plans for electrical upgrades and other improvements re-

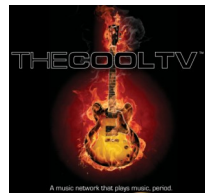
lated to this project. In some cases, AMU can make temporary electric connections so that property owners can make upgrades in advance of the project start date in 2012.

“We intend to make this project and necessary improvements a reality beginning in 2012,” according to Bilsten.

The scope of the project includes: sanitary sewer replacement or lining, storm sewer removal and replacement, and installation of primary and secondary electrical and communications lines underground. The project also included the abandonment of overhead lines and removal of most poles in the alley, and reconstruction of alleys in areas affected by excavation.

AMU To Add 3 New Channels To The Digital Basic Tier

AMU Cable TV is in the process of adding three channels to the Digital Basic tier.



“The Cool TV” network will be added to channel 238. The Cool TV is a multicast TV network that showcases music artist from the most popular music genres.

Antenna TV will be on

channel 239. It features classic TV programming with a slant to comedies. Classic programs to be featured include *Maudie*, *Good Times*, *Sanford and Son*, *All in the Family* and *Married with Children*, to name just a few of the familiar titles. The regular schedule is also heavy on *The 3 Stooges* and *Benny Hill* on Friday and Saturday



nights. Select Cubs and Whites Sox games will also be telecast. Antenna TV will be on channel 239.

KIMT-DT3 is a full-time 24-hour local weather channel. KIMT Weather will be on channel 245.

AMU Cable TV customers with Digital TV's but don't have digital box can auto scan the TV to pick up these additional channels.



Pull the Plug Rebate Program a Success

On May 2nd and 3rd, AMU employees picked up 37 old, working refrigerators and freezers from customers' homes to be recycled. Customers participating were limited to two working refrigerators and freezers. They received a \$25.00 rebate per working unit.

"AMU was very pleased with the response from our customers to help remove old energy efficient refrigerators and freezers from our electric system," said

John Bilsten, AMU General Manager. "We believe that each time we can get one of these old energy hogs off our electric system it is



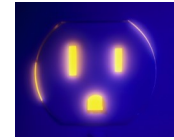
a win for AMU and our customer owners by freeing up our electric resources for more efficient appliances and/or reducing our need to purchase or produce more costly electric-

ity."

According to Energy Star, the average refrigerator is 10 years old or older and contains about 120 pounds of recyclable steel. The energy saved by recycling the refrigerator or freezer amounts to almost 290 kilowatt-hours

Inefficient refrigerators and freezers can cost \$70 to \$120 dollars more per year to run than energy efficiency models.

Reducing Phantom Power Loads Helps Lower Electric Bills:



A phantom power load can increase your consumption of electricity. Stand-by or phantom power loads come from electronic equipment that uses a small amount of electricity, even when they're turned off. The load can range from a few watts to as much as 100 watts for each appliance or device.

Reduce phantom loads by plugging all components of a computer or home entertainment system into a power strip. You can turn all the electronics off with a single switch.

Unplug appliances and chargers that you rarely use. Unplug appliances before leaving on vacation.

Purchase appliances with the Energy Star label. These appliances use less energy when they are plugged in.

Storm Season: Be Ready and Safe

With recent outbreaks of severe storms across the Midwest, now is a good time to review



safety procedures in the event that you may have to seek shelter.

Listen to KLGa or a NOAA weather radio to stay on top of storm conditions, watches, and warnings.

Keep an emergency preparedness kit. It should include flashlights, a battery powered radio, blankets, first aid

supplies, water bottles, and non-perishable food.

If a severe thunderstorm or tornado watch or warning is issued, take shelter in your home or another building, prefera-

bly in a basement or a room with no windows on the lowest level of your home.

A storm may cause extended power outages. Have candles and flashlights available. Never touch or drive over downed power lines, as they may be energized. Call AMU at 295-3584 or 911 if you see downed power lines.

THE VALUE OF H2O

AMU tap water remains one of the best bargains



around. At a fraction of a penny per gallon, tap water provides safety, convenience, and freedom.

Less than 1% of the average person's total personal income is spent on water. An 8 oz. glass of water can be refilled approximately 15, 000 times

for the same price as a six-pack of soda. Your water bill pays for more than simply water; your water is treated, tested, and monitored to make sure that the water at your tap is safe and plentiful.

AMU adds small amounts of fluoride to help prevent tooth decay.

Studies show that bottled water is no purer than tap water, yet bottled water costs 1,900% more.

GET A REALITY CHECK AT I WIRELESS

MEGA talk PAY IN ADVANCE

STOP BY AMU TO GET DETAILS!



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