



## Don't Be Afraid to Ask!

Crooks and other ne're-do-wells have claimed to be utility workers or contractors working for a utility to gain entry to a home. Annually, thieves steal hundreds of thousands of dollars from homes or by credit card numbers given by customers over the phone. The bad folks may claim an appliance or wiring needs immediate repair,

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## Check Out a "Kill A Watt" Monitor and Save

Last year, as part of October's Public Power Week and Energy Awareness Month activities, AMP donated 10 Kill-a-Watt power usage monitors to the Alameda Main Library. Demand has grown so strong that AMP recently doubled the number of monitors available!

These easy-to-use monitors help calculate the energy costs for appliances, and you can borrow a Kill-a-Watt monitor much like you borrow a book. In addition to the monitor, you'll get worksheets and instruc-



tions to determine the energy costs for each device you test. You'll have the power to identify areas in your home where you can save electricity—and money! You also can check power quality by monitoring the voltage and line frequency.

Twenty Kill-a-Watt meters are now in circulation at the Library, and another 15 are available for loan at the AMP Service Center. For more information about this program, please call AMP at 748-3900.

## Mark Your Calendars!

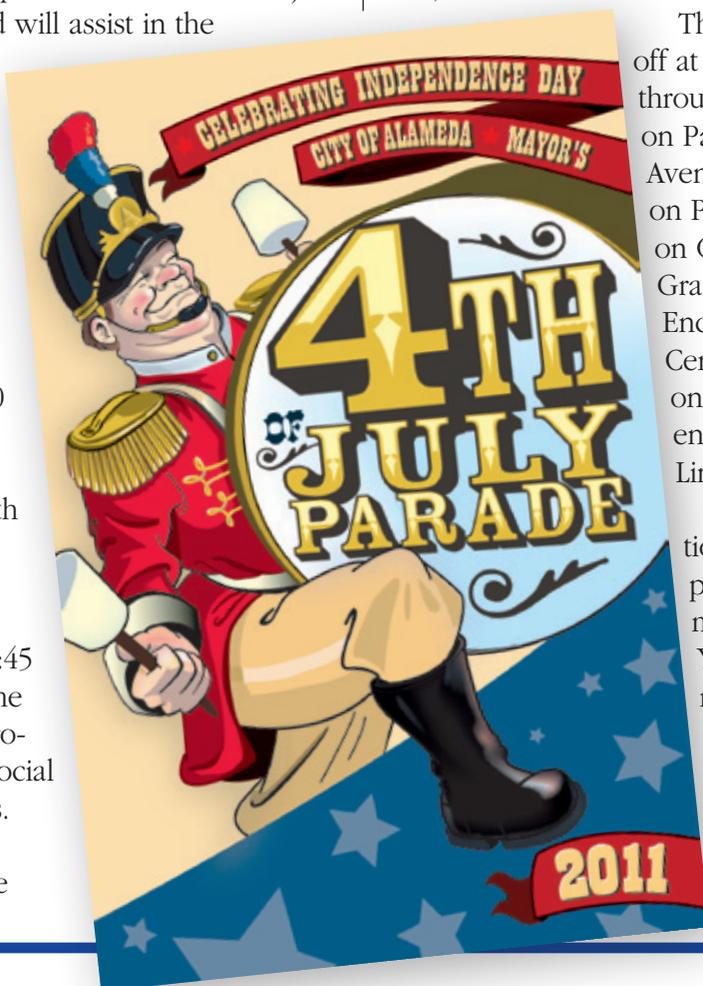
The first Monday in July is Independence Day, and of course, you won't want to miss Alameda's premier annual event, the Mayor's Fourth of July Parade.

Again this year, the Public Utilities Board and Alameda Municipal Power will be a major part of the event and will assist in the production of the festivities.

Alameda can boast that it has the second longest parade route in the United States covered by an average of 170 entries to entertain over 20,000 spectators.

The fun begins earlier in the day with the running of the 3rd Annual Ralph Appezato Charity Event (R.A.C.E.) at 9:45 a.m. Runners trace the Parade route, and proceeds benefit local social service organizations. After the Parade, be sure to check out the

Alameda Recreation and Park Department's "Jumpin' & Jivin' Jubilee" to be held at Rittler Park (Otis Drive and Grand Street) from noon to 4:00 p.m. It's an afternoon of "old fashion family fun," food, games, crafts, music, activities, and more.



The Parade itself kicks off at 10:00 a.m. and winds through the City, starting on Park Street at Lincoln Avenue, continuing south on Park Street, then west on Otis Drive, north on Grand Street, west on Encinal Avenue, west on Central Avenue, north on Webster Street, and ends on Webster Street at Lincoln Avenue.

For more information on the Parade, please log on to [www.myalamedaparade.com](http://www.myalamedaparade.com). You'll find links to more information on the Alameda R.A.C.E. and Jumpin' & Jivin' Jubilee.

We'll see you there!



# Energy Star® Refrigerator Rebate and Recycle Program

## FREE \$100 REBATE!

### MAKE A SMART INVESTMENT—REPLACE YOUR OLD REFRIGERATOR WITH A NEW MORE EFFICIENT ONE



Save Money, Save Energy, and Save the World!  
Purchase an Efficient, Energy Star Refrigerator and Recycle that Old One!

Your family's refrigerator may be the biggest hog in your household's energy use. If it's one of the older, less efficient models, it may cost you up to \$480 a year for electricity to keep this appliance humming. Purchase an Energy Star® labeled refrigerator (at least 14 cubic feet capacity) and recycle your old refrigerator to get a \$100 rebate.

Energy Star® refrigerators use at least 20% less energy than required by the federal standards and 40% less energy than earlier conventional models. The more energy-efficient your refrigerator, the less it will contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and global warming.

AMP is committed to both the efficient use of energy and assuring that Alameda stays The Greenest Little Utility in America. That's why we have energy efficiency programs to help you make choices that help the planet and save money on your electric bill.

For more information, program rules, and an application, please log on to [www.alamedamp.com](http://www.alamedamp.com) or call toll free (866) 964-7346.

**Alameda Municipal Power. The Greenest Little Utility in America.**

## Remember, Balloons, Kites, and Power Lines Don't Mix

Summer is here, and kids of all ages are spending more time outdoors. But there's something we all need to remember; kites, balloons, and power lines are a dangerous combination!

In the past, balloons have caused thousands of dollars of damage when they have contacted power lines. When balloons contact power lines, they short out conductors, causing power outages, voltage fluctuations, and electrical fires. Burning lines can fall and cause death or injury. Kites and power lines have long been a dangerous combination. Kites should be made only with dry string, paper, and wood. Don't use any metal! Also, they should be flown in dry weather only. Metal and wet string are



excellent paths for electricity, and their contact with power lines can be fatal.

Whether deliberate or not, interfering with an electric system is dangerous and expensive. Our policy is to prosecute those responsible for recklessness or vandalism

and to recover damages. But the price of a power outage is secondary to the far greater potential for severe injury or death resulting from electric shock.

Please help us safeguard all children by cautioning that balloons, kites, and power lines never mix.

The best advice on balloons and kites is the same: keep them away from power lines. If a balloon or kite becomes entangled in a line, immediately call Alameda Municipal Power at 748-3902; never try to free it yourself.

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or they may threaten to shut off service unless you make an immediate payment.

At particular risk are seniors, the disabled, and those for whom English is a second language. For many reasons, it's a crime to impersonate a utility worker.

Don't be fooled!

Alameda Municipal Power Meter Reader/Collectors, Meter Service Workers, members of our Line Crew, and our contractors are in the field every day in their work. Occasionally, they may even need access to your back yard or basement. However,

customers request most utility visits, so be suspicious if someone shows up without an appointment. Have the worker wait outside a locked door while you call Alameda Municipal Power (748-3900) to check on the individual and their task. No honest service person objects to being checked, and crooks probably won't stick around. All Alameda Municipal Power employees carry photo identification cards. Please always ask to see our identification when we come to see you.

If you get a call demanding immediate payment on your account, be suspicious. AMP only provides courtesy calls to

accounts that already are delinquent. If you have any doubts, don't give out any information. Please hang up, and call our Customer Service Representatives at 748-3900.

After all, we're here to serve you!

### CLIP and KEEP!

Important AMP contact numbers:  
Customer Service..... 748-3900  
After Hours/Emergency ..... 748-3902  
TDD (hearing impaired)..... 522-7538  
E-mail..... [info@alamedamp.com](mailto:info@alamedamp.com)  
Internet ..... [www.alamedamp.com](http://www.alamedamp.com)

The FLASH is published as a service to the customer-owners of Alameda Municipal Power. Readers are invited to submit ideas, suggestions, comments, or questions by writing to the editor at Alameda Municipal Power, P.O. Box H Alameda, CA, 94501-0263 or by email to [mccabe@alamedamp.com](mailto:mccabe@alamedamp.com).

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