



# The Flash

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Providing Power and Information to the Alameda Community

SPECIAL EDITION

## Celebrating 125 Years of Community-owned Power in Alameda

The electric utility industry began around 1882 when Thomas Edison set up the first commercial power station in lower Manhattan. Just seven short years later, in 1887, the City of Alameda paid \$20,000 for the installation of 13 streetlights and a 90-kW generating station to power them. And with that, the oldest public electric utility west of the Mississippi was created—right here in Alameda!

For the first few years of operation, the City's new electric utility, then known as the Municipal Electric Light Plant, provided only street lighting. In 1902, it started selling electricity to homes and businesses and even opened a retail store on Park Street that sold electric appliances.

In the 1930s, Alamedans voted to establish an independent Public



Alamedans celebrate the new light plant in 1900

Utilities Board to ensure that their treasured utility, renamed the Bureau of Electricity, would remain under local control and generate a return to the community.

Today, 125 years after the construction of that first

generating plant, the City of Alameda is still in the power business and still a trendsetter. Now known



as Alameda Municipal Power (AMP), we have survived a century and a quarter of utility mergers that created utility behemoths in others places.

Decades before global warming became a household word, AMP was a leader in the promo-

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## AMP's Commemorative Ice Cream

Special thanks to everyone who participated in AMP's Name the Ice Cream Contest. We received over 650 entries! There were a lot of great entries but, alas, we could only choose one. The winner is "Marshmallow Megavolt," submitted by Alameda resident Benjamin Gleitzman. And we loved Benjamin's description of it: "Strong, memorable, and alliterative, Marshmallow Megavolt alludes to the velvety



## Now Has a Name

combination of smooth marshmallow crème and electric, perky bits of espresso. It's a flavor that would surely make Alessandro Volta proud and Alameda smile".

Marshmallow Megavolt is on sale at Tucker's Ice Cream, 1349 Park Street. Stop by and pick up a cone or a carton! ☀

## Be Aware of Utility Bill Scams

AMP is alerting customers to be aware of a scam that has impacted utility customers in other states. The scam claims, via flyers, social media and text messages, that President Obama will pay customers' utility bills. The scammers have asked for personal information, including Social Security numbers and credit card information, saying the information is needed to apply payments to customers' utility bills. While AMP has not received any reports of customers being contacted, we urge you to call AMP at 748-3900 to report anything suspicious. Tips for staying safe can be found on AMP's website at [www.alamedamp.com](http://www.alamedamp.com). ☀

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tion of clean, sustainable, and renewable power, making our city the lowest greenhouse-gas-emitting community in Alameda County and one of the lowest in the state.

What's more, AMP has provided safe, reliable power at lower rates without sacrificing service to power our community. In fact, AMP's lower rates preserve more than \$10 million per year in the local economy. We maintain local control so that we can re-invest in the island and provide value to enrich our lives, businesses and the community. Since 1887, AMP has contributed more than \$104 million to the City of Alameda's General Fund.

We've seen a lot of change in 125 years, but through it all there's been one constant: You, the residents and businesses of Alameda. We're as



Streetlight at the corner of Park St. and Santa Clara, 1928

## 125 Years of Fun Facts!

AMP is 125 years old! To celebrate this special milestone, we are sharing fun facts from our many years of service.

Did you know....? Although AMP was created in 1887, it did not start selling electricity to residents until 1902. Up until then, AMP was busy installing streetlights across Alameda. By 1916, over 9,000 streetlights had been installed—one every 75 feet on every block of the island. By 1921, Alameda's streetlights were so famous that the San Francisco Daily News proclaimed the town the "best lighted city in the Bay Area."

## CLIP and KEEP!

Important AMP contact numbers:

Customer Service .....	748-3900
After Hours/Emergency.....	748-3902
TDD (hearing impaired) .....	522-7538
E-mail .....	<a href="mailto:info@alamedamp.com">info@alamedamp.com</a>
Internet.....	<a href="http://www.alamedamp.com">www.alamedamp.com</a>

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Girish Balachandran, General Manager

committed today to delivering safe and reliable electricity to you as we were in 1887. We'll continue to invest in new and improved ways of doing business to manage costs, improve our service, and improve our community and the environment. Thanks to you, we're looking forward to the next 125 years. ☀