

City of Alma

Volume 18, Issue 4

**October
2023**

City Office

Closings

October 9th

November 10th

November 23rd &
24th

December 25th



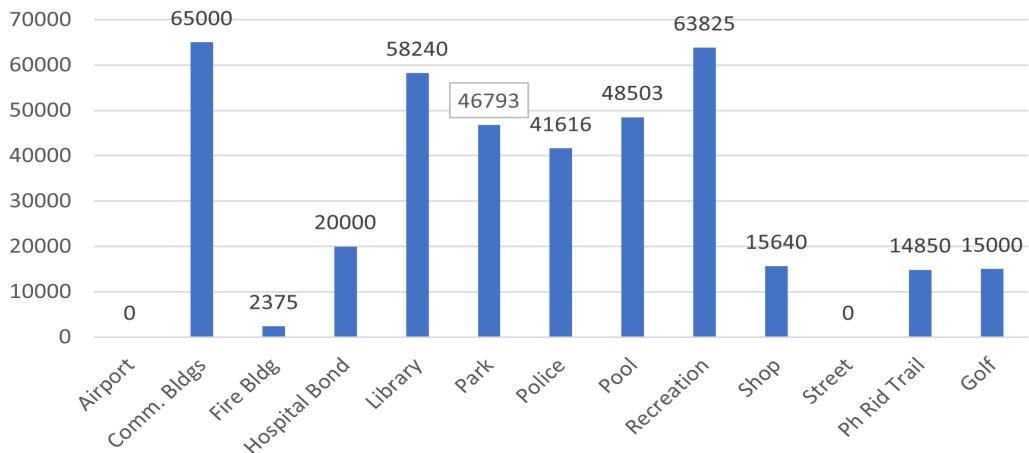
**Inside This
Issue**

- City Budget Reports
- Snow Removal
- Library News
- Code Red
- Compost Hours
- Budget Billing
- Fair Housing Act
- Gas Safety
- Cross Contamination

2023-2024 Budgeted Cash Summary

	Cash Balance 9/30/23	Budgeted Revenues	Transfers In	Budgeted Expend	Transfers Out	Cash Balance 9/30/24
Governmental Funds						
General	916,511	1,880,579	498,842	2,114,909	391,842	789,180
Street Fund	413,271	284,530	-	406,725	-	291,076
Airport Fund	79,135	129,531	-	153,925	-	54,741
CDBG Housing	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hospital Bond Fund	229,561	600	20,000	-	-	250,161
Total Governmental	1,638,477	2,295,239	518,842	2,675,559	391,842	1,385,157
Enterprise Funds						
Gas	771,774	1,652,000	25,000	1,734,749	-	714,025
Sanitation	103,122	202,800	-	200,874	-	105,048
Water	173,882	328,016	-	333,936	-	167,963
Golf	9,031	325,940	15,000	317,025	20,000	32,946
Wastewater	5,124	100,560	65,000	124,095	25,000	31,589
RV Park	202,371	64,125	-	48,508	-	217,988
Electric	6,458	188,453	-	7,184	187,000	728
Total Enterprise	1,301,762	2,861,893	105,000	2,766,370	232,000	1,270,285
Grand	2,940,240	5,157,133	623,842	5,441,930	623,842	2,655,443

2023-2024 Budgeted Transfers from General



City Council Meetings are the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm at City Hall. These meetings are open to the public and the public is encouraged to attend. Agendas are posted each Friday prior to the meeting at City Hall, Hogeland's Market, Alma Post Office, and Trustworthy Hardware. If there is an agenda item of particular interest to you, the Mayor, City Council and City Staff encourage you to attend the meeting.

City of Alma				
2023-2024 Tax Revenues				
		Property Tax		Sales Tax
		Budget		Budget
General Fund		\$ 250,551.00		\$ 225,000.00
Street Fund				\$ 35,000.00
Swimming		\$ 79,000.00		\$ 145,000.00
		\$ 329,551.00		\$ 405,000.00
County		\$ 3,295.51		
Total Tax		\$ 332,846.51		\$ 405,000.00
Valuation		\$ 94,535,566		
Levy		\$ 0.352086		

Snow Removal - It's inevitable! Snow will be falling in the next few months!!! Please note the following:

The City of Alma would like to express its appreciation for its citizens who understand the importance of keeping their sidewalks free of snow and ice. According to City Ordinance 96.20, it shall be unlawful for the occupant of any lot(s) or the owner of any vacant lot(s) within the corporate limits to allow snow, sleet, mud, ice or other substance to accumulate or remain on said sidewalks.

Residential sidewalks shall be cleaned within 24 hours after the snow storm. All sidewalks within the business district shall be cleaned within 5 hours after the cessation of the storm, unless the storm or fall of snow shall have taken place during the night, in which case the sidewalk shall be cleaned before 9:00 a.m. the following day.

Take special care and use common courtesy when clearing your driveway. Ask for your neighbor's permission before you pile your snow on their terrace (area between curb line and property line) or yard. Rocks and other debris can collect on your driveway and by piling your snow on your neighbor's property you are depositing those items in their yard to be mowed over in the spring.

EMERGENCY SNOW ROUTE - Typically when it snows the City employees have two trucks with plows running to clear the streets. The streets cleaned first are **Main, South, and Third** running east and west. Running north and south are **James, Division, Lincoln, Kennedy and Brown Avenue** - north of the highway. By cleaning these streets first, the majority of Alma citizens will have only one or two streets of snow to drive through to get to a cleared street.





HOESCH MEMORIAL LIBRARY

FRIENDS BOOK SALE COMING SOON!!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! The Friends of the Library will be holding their annual Book Sale from October 19-21 downtown at the City Auditorium. There will be a large number of books, DVDs, etc. that have been donated and weeded from the library available at the book sale! The public response to purchasing books, etc. at such reasonable prices has added to the Friends funds, so that they can help the library with improvements that are not in the library budget. The Friends have helped most recently by purchasing and paying for installation of a security system and cameras. There will be more improvements needed in the future.



If you have unwanted, clean books and DVDs in good shape, please consider donating them to the Friends Book Sale. If you can bring them to the auditorium on Wednesday, October 18th that would be great. If you have a couple boxes or less, call us to see if we still are taking books at the library.



RAFFLE

The Friends are changing their raffle this year to provide more people a chance to win! There will be 4 drawings for gift certificates purchased from 4 local businesses. Raffle tickets will be available at the library beginning September 19 and during the book sale. Prices for tickets are \$3.00 for one or two for \$5.00. Watch for posters at the library and

downtown.

BECOME A FRIEND OF THE LIBRARY

Yearly membership is only \$5 per person. Monthly meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of each month at 4:00 p.m. This is when plans for things to do are discussed, as well as how funds raised or donations made might be used. Help for raffles and the Book Sale are needed by more than those able to come to meetings, so get your name in as a Friend and volunteer as you can.



LIBBY APP AVAILABLE FOR PATRONS

Don't forget that every patron can access Libby for eBooks and audio books and magazines any time – there are also eBooks available for children and teenagers. The Libby app just needs to be downloaded on your phone or device. Ask for a Libby bookmark at the circulation desk if you need directions for this service. You will need a library card to access Libby, making it great for use when traveling or when you are unable to get out to get books at the library, or any other time you wish. Show your children, pre-teens and teens the books for their audience, and they can spend time reading when they need some relaxation. There are ebooks and audio books, including some of the children's books where they can read along while they are listening to the story.



If a water, sewer, or gas emergency occurs, Please remember to call 920-1047

COMPOST WINTER HOURS

Wednesday & Saturday

9:00 am to 3:30

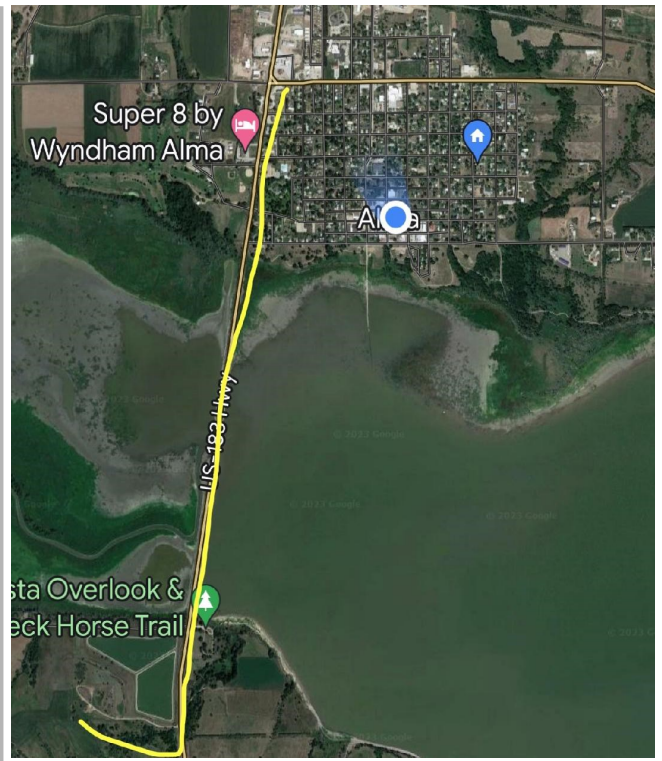
Compost winter hours go in to effect

October through March

**If you need services outside
of these hours, you can rent**



**a compost key for \$5.00 and
a \$20.00 deposit from
the city office.**



NEED A CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA?? PURCHASE A GOLF GIFT CERTIFICATE WHICH MAY BE USED TOWARDS A MEMBERSHIP, GREENS FEES, CART RENTAL, OR DRINKS/SNACKS AT THE CLUB HOUSE ~ OR ~ PURCHASE A SWIMMING POOL PASS TO BE USED NEXT SUMMER.



ALWAYS REVIEW EACH AND EVERY UTILITY BILL

It is a very good idea to review each bill and reference back to the previous bill. Is there a significant difference? We have had customers discover they have a water leak because their bill was huge. If they had only reviewed the prior bill, they may have avoided a huge water bill! Leaky toilets and broken water lines can be costly on your bill!



**KNOW WHAT'S BELOW. CALL
BEFORE
YOU DIG!
DIAL 811**



TRASH CONTAINERS & COLLECTION—All trash is to be bagged and tied. The trash toter is to be placed in the proper street facing direction for pick up. This is marked on the toter. Toters must be placed on the street curb the night before pickup or before 7:00 the morning of pickup. Grass clippings, tree branches and other yard waste is not allowed. There is a compost site south of town that may be taken. Please see our website for a listing of other unacceptable items—www.almacity.com,

PROTECTING OUR DRINKING WATER

Everybody enjoys a refreshing drink of cool water, but not everyone in the world has the ability to turn on the tap and get a glass of drinking water. We are very lucky in this country to have an abundant source of water for drinking, cooking, washing and watering our yards. Although the water from our City wells is safe to drink and meets all State and Federal standards, there is still a possibility that the water will not maintain the same high quality in the future.

It is easy to blame farming quality, but residential polluting this valuable the potential damage that of properly, fertilizers on filters that seep into the slowly over time.



and other industries for the degradation of water homeowners are just as guilty when it comes to resource. This is usually done without realizing could result—household chemicals not disposed lawns and gardens, used oil and saturated oil ground, old tires and other trash that decompose

The City Council has adopted a plan to protect our drinking water sources (our city wells) from sources of contamination with a Wellhead Protection Plan. The Wellhead Protection Area is the surface and subsurface surrounding our wells through which contaminants are likely to move toward and reach the wells. The Wellhead Protection Area has been delineated by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. The area is determined by several factors including location, number of wells in the system, amount of water pumped by the wells, and groundwater flow direction. The complete plan is kept at city hall and can be viewed by the public.

The old saying that “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure” is definitely true when it comes to our water.

LICENSE YOUR DOG IN DECEMBER

The City reminds you to license your dog this December by purchasing a 2024 tag. The cost is \$7.25 for a male or spayed female and \$12.50 for an unspayed female. Pursuant to City Code 90.20 to 90.22, any dog over the age of 6 months shall be licensed within 30 days of acquisition and annually by the 1st day of January of each year. Said tax is considered delinquent after March 10th. To license your dog, stop by the City Office and be sure to bring your certificate proving your dog has had their rabies shot effective for the licensing year.



**The City Office Wants to
hear from you!**

**Please keep your contact
information up to date
with the City Office.
We are noticing an increase
in phone numbers that
are no longer valid.**

Thank you!



The City of Alma has a **Fair Housing Ordinance** that is designed to prohibit discrimination in housing. It is the declared policy of the City of Alma that all persons shall have an equal opportunity for housing, regardless of sex, race, color, handicap, religion, national origin, sex or marital status of the person maintaining a household, lawful source of income, age or ancestry. The ordinance is deemed an exercise of the police powers of the City for the protection of the welfare, health, peace, dignity and human rights of the people of this City. For more information regarding Fair Housing, please visit https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/fair_housing_equal_opp/online-complaint.

Utility Payment Options

There are numerous ways to pay your Utility Bill. You may **write a check** and drop it in the **mail** or in the **slot at city hall**, **call or stop in** and pay with a **credit/debit card**, have your **payment deducted from your checking account** on the due date each month, or you may enroll via our website to view and/or **pay your bill online**.

Please see the options on our website www.almacity.com and click on the Payment Options icon in the quick links area.

CODE RED ALERTS—

The CodeRED notification system sends important alerts and time-sensitive message to our residents, but you must sign up for it. Residents can choose several different methods of notification—landline, cell phone, email, text, TTY, or a combination of them. Visit our website www.almacity.com and click on the CodeRED phone symbol to sign up.

Protect your Dog this Winter

Winter weather will be upon us. Just like we bundle up and take care of ourselves while we are out in the frigid cold, we also need to be thinking about our 4-legged friends.

Keep in mind the temperatures and the weather conditions when your animal is outside. Do not leave your pets outside for extended periods of time during cold or inclement weather conditions. Snow and wintry weather can pose a risks to your dog's which can cause them discomfort. Their sensitive paw pads can get dry, cracked or even frostbitten when they are out in the elements. Also, a buildup of snow and ice can irritate the sensitive skin between their toes.

Not only are the temperatures dangerous but add in the danger of ice melt products which can cause chemical burns to their paw pads or indigestion if your dog tries to lick it off.

Dog booties are an option if you are going to have your dog out for extended periods of time for wintertime play. There are various options for stylish sweaters and outerwear for your pooch as well at your nearest retailer or online to keep them warm.

DOGS RUNNING AT LARGE

Per City Code 90.26—Any dog found off the premise of the owner, and not under control of the owner or a responsible person, either by leash, cord, chain, wire, rope, cage or other suitable means of physical restraint may be taken up and impounded. If the police cannot reasonably do so, they may kill on sight any dog found to be running at large.

GAS PIPELINE SAFETY

As one of the thousands of people who live or work near pipelines, you can help keep it safe and reliable by doing the following:

- A) notify us with your intention to dig;
- B) identify our pipelines;
- C) recognize a leak;
- D) take appropriate steps if you notice a leak;
- E) immediately report a leak

The City of Alma cares about your safety. Our employees are thoroughly trained to operate and maintain the system safely. We want you to be aware of our pipelines. We ask for your help in preventing accidental damage to pipelines. The City of Alma supports the Nation's Homeland Security efforts and the City of Alma encourages you to immediately notify and report any suspicious persons and/or activities near the pipeline to your local law enforcement authorities by calling 911.

A) NOTIFY US WITH YOUR INTENTION TO DIG – CALL 811—“diggers hotline”

We need your help in preventing pipeline emergencies. The number one cause of pipeline leaks is damage from earth-moving and construction equipment and tools owned by parties other than the pipeline company. If you plan to dig or do any type of excavation or construction work, call **Diggers Hotline at 811**. Call at least 48 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) before you:

Excavate	Install drain tile	Repair or rebuild roads or driveways
Grade	Blast for clearing	Build homes or additions
Auger	Dig postholes	Install water lines, sewer lines
Bore	Cut or deepen ditches	septic systems, or drains
Tunnel	Install swimming pools	Install telephone, TV or power, cables
Dredge	Plant trees or shrubs	

B) IDENTIFY OUR PIPELINES -HOW TO IDENTIFY WHERE THE PIPELINE IS LOCATED

Since pipelines are buried underground, line markers are used to indicate the approximate - *not exact* - location of the pipeline. Line markers can be found where the pipeline intersects a street, highway, or railroad. However, they cannot be relied upon to indicate the exact position of the pipeline. The pipeline may not follow a straight course between markers, which provide no information on the depth or number of pipelines in the vicinity. Don't try to guess the pipeline's location or route by the marker's placement. Call Diggers Hotline at **811**.

C) RECOGNIZE A LEAK

HOW TO RECOGNIZE A PIPELINE LEAK WHEN NEAR A PIPELINE RIGHT OF WAY. **LOOK FOR:** Fire or explosion near pipeline, a white cloud or fog, dying plants amid healthy ones, unusual blowing of dirt or dust, persistent bubbles in water, or pool of liquids, possibly bubbling. **LISTEN FOR:** Hissing or roaring sound. **SMELL FOR:** A pungent odor, sometimes like rotten eggs.

Immediately leave the area - on foot - in an upwind direction.	Avoid making contact with escaping liquids or vapors.	Warn others to stay away from the area
DO NOT drive into an area in which you encounter a leak or vapor cloud	Abandon all equipment being used in the area.	DO NOT try to operate any pipeline valves yourself
DO NOT light a match, start an engine or automobile, use a telephone, or switch on/off an electric light or appliance.		

D) TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTIONS IF YOU NOTICE A LEAK— WHAT TO DO?

E) IMMEDIATELY REPORT A LEAK— WHO TO CALL?

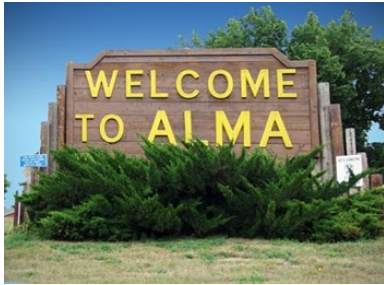
From a distant phone, call the City of Alma (308-928-2242) or the On-Call phone if after hours (308-920-1047) OR call 911 or your local fire, police or sheriff's office. **DO NOT** use a cell phone while near the suspected emergency area.

CITY OF ALMA

614 Main Street
PO Box 468
Alma, NE 68920



Phone: 308-928-2242
Fax: 308-928-2683
E-mail: cityclk@almacity.com
www.almacity.com



PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

Local
Postal Customer

Alma!
is for
YOU!

Visit us online at:

www.almacity.com

Utility Emergency
(after hours)
308.920.1047

City Hall
308.928.2242

City Hall Office Hours
Mon-Wed-Fri
9 am-4 pm
Tues & Thurs
9 am-3 pm

Golf Course
928.2341
Library
928.2600
Sheriff
928.2147
School
928.2131
Hospital
928.2151

Compost Site Hours
Wed & Sat
9 am to 3:30 pm

Library Hours
Tuesday -Friday
10 am-5 pm
Sat- 9 am—12 pm
Sun & Mon - Closed

City of Alma—Contact Information

COUNCIL

East Ward

*Dyann Collins 999-0070
Tom Moulton 920-1105*

West Ward

*Chris Tripe 920-1417
Larry Casper 512-484-4377*

Mayor

Hal Haeker 928-2900

CITY STAFF

Administrator

Treasurer
Tashia Butterfield

City Clerk
Dawn McNulty

**Utility and Gas
Superintendent**
Russ Pfeil

Water Superintendent
Scott Kuhl

**Waste Water and Street
Superintendent**
Travis Dunse

**Sanitation
Superintendent**
Bowde Johnson

Utility Floater
Kent Fleischmann

Library Director
Keri Anderson

Golf Superintendent
Jordy Slocum