

# City of Alma

Volume 20 Issue 1

**January  
2025**

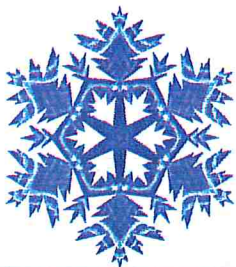
City Office

Closings

January 1

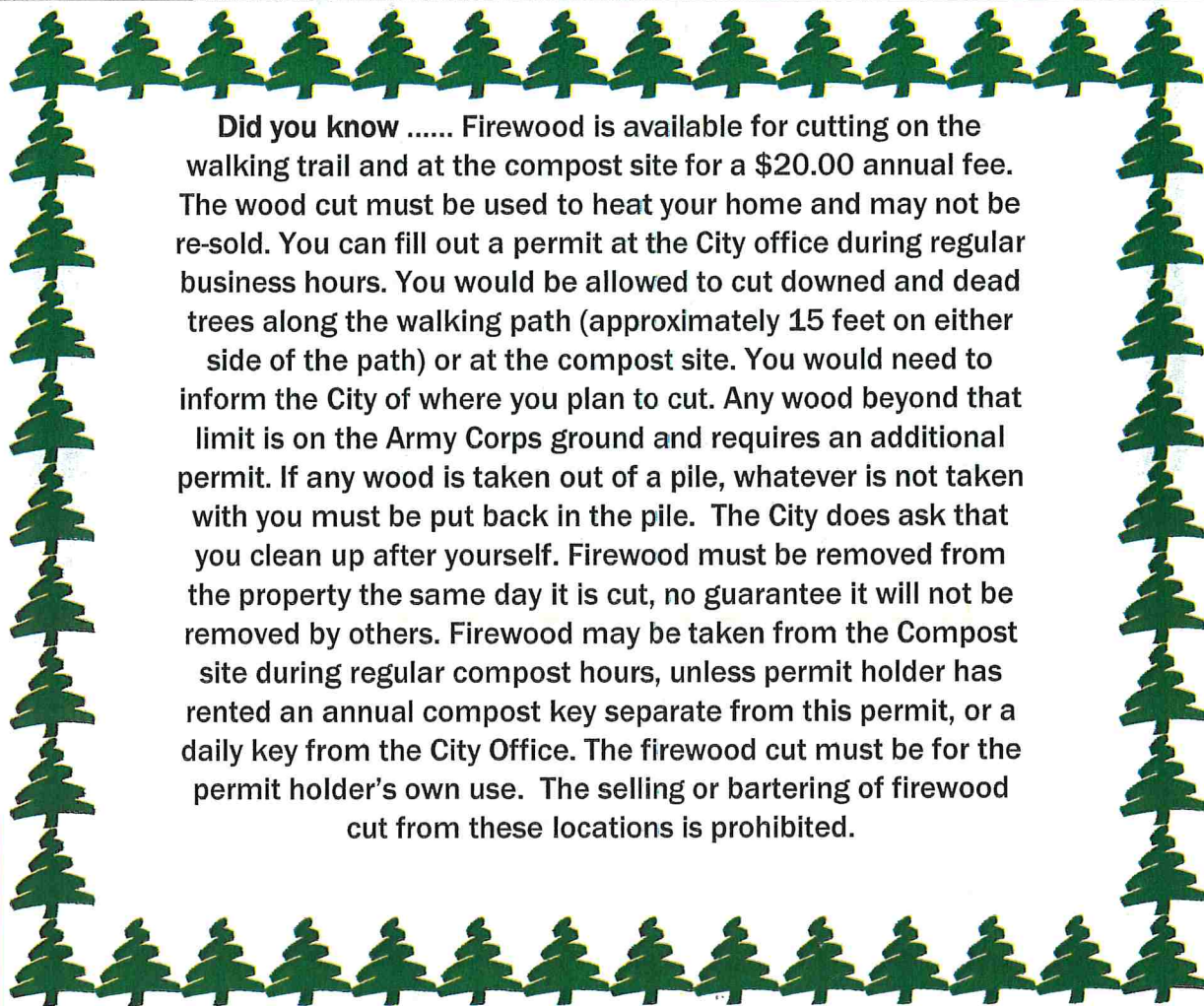
January 20

February 17



## Inside This Issue

- Firewood
- Low Income Heat Help
- Dog Tags
- Compost Hours
- Library News
- Snow Removal
- Gas Safety
- Fair Housing Act
- Utility Payment Options



Did you know ..... Firewood is available for cutting on the walking trail and at the compost site for a \$20.00 annual fee. The wood cut must be used to heat your home and may not be re-sold. You can fill out a permit at the City office during regular business hours. You would be allowed to cut downed and dead trees along the walking path (approximately 15 feet on either side of the path) or at the compost site. You would need to inform the City of where you plan to cut. Any wood beyond that limit is on the Army Corps ground and requires an additional permit. If any wood is taken out of a pile, whatever is not taken with you must be put back in the pile. The City does ask that you clean up after yourself. Firewood must be removed from the property the same day it is cut, no guarantee it will not be removed by others. Firewood may be taken from the Compost site during regular compost hours, unless permit holder has rented an annual compost key separate from this permit, or a daily key from the City Office. The firewood cut must be for the permit holder's own use. The selling or bartering of firewood cut from these locations is prohibited.

**LIHEAP– Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program can help those eligible individuals with heating charges this winter. The heating season is from October 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>. Payments are made one time per heating season to utility providers. The heating assistance payment reduces the amount a household must pay toward residential heating utilities. The household is responsible to pay for utilities not covered by the heating assistance payment. To qualify, a household must be LIHEAP-eligible. <https://dhhs.ne.gov/pages/energy-assistance.aspx>**

*Happy  
New Year*

## ***Dog Tags are Available Now***

The City reminds you to license your dog by purchasing a 2025 tag. The cost is \$7.25 for a male or spayed female and \$12.50 for an un-spayed 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.

### ***New hires in 2024 were***

#### ***City Administrator***

***Steve Ardiana***

#### ***City Clerk***

***Janet Dietz***

#### ***Hoesch Library Director***

***Jennifer Roethke***

#### ***Councilman***

***Joel Wheeler***

***WELCOME ABOARD!***

### ***WINTER SAFETY***

***CLEAN OUT CHIMNEYS/FIREPLACES.***

***CHECK SMOKE /CARBON MONOXIDE  
DETECTORS***

***USE SPACE HEATERS ACCORDINGLY***

***WEAR APPROPRIATE CLOTHING WHEN  
DOING OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES***

***DRIVE DEFENSIVELY***

***KEEP AN EMERGENCY KIT IN YOUR CAR***

***LET YOUR FAMILY KNOW WHEN YOU ARE  
TRAVELING***

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.

**Ways to Pay your City Utility bill** - (1) drop off check in the mail slot at the City Office (the most popular form) (2) Mail check to City Office (2nd most popular way) (3) Automatic Debit from Checking or Savings Account on the 15th of the Month (4) Pay in person with credit card. (5) Go to the City's website [almacity.com](http://almacity.com) to register and pay on-line with a credit card or pay port.

**Parrot Movie Theatre**—Show times are Saturday, Sunday and Monday at 7:30 PM with a matinee on Sunday at 4:30 PM. You can call to get the show information and they also have a website. <http://www.parrottheatre.webs.com/> Gift Certificates to the Movie Theatre are also available!! Great Valentine gift :-)

**Alma Municipal Country Club - Bar** is open 7 days a week—opening at 4 PM every day and is open to the public. You do NOT have to be a golfer to enjoy the Country Club bar!

The City of Alma does have a website and just about any question you may have about the City can be answered on our website. If you cannot find the answer to your question, please do not hesitate to contact us at 308.928.2242. We are here to serve! The City provides many services and we want the citizens of Alma to be informed. [www.almacity.com](http://www.almacity.com)

The City has 11 different boards or committees. All of the members are “volunteers”. Some committees meet monthly, some quarterly and others as needed. Some require Alma citizens as members and a couple may include those who live in the one mile jurisdiction. The one mile jurisdiction is one mile past the city limits.

Do you like to walk? Want to try a different path? Have you tried “**Peckerneck Trail**”? It was designed for horseback riders and hikers. It's 12 miles of trails. The trail starts at Alma Vista. Where is Alma Vista you might ask? It is about one mile south of Alma on the east side of Highway 183, just after you cross the bridge (it is a parking area). The first loop takes about one and a half hours to ride or hike and is well established. There is a second loop which will take about 2 more hours. The entire trail takes about 6 hours. For a map, please go to <http://www.almacity.com/assets/peckerneckhorsetrail.pdf>

**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 am the morning of pickup. Grass clippings, tree branches and other yard waste is not allowed. There is a compost site south of town where they may be taken. Please see our website for a listing of other unacceptable items—[www.almacity.com](http://www.almacity.com), Resident's tab, Sanitation/Solid Waste Department.

**Compost Site**—Check with the City Office , 928-2242 during regular business hours, Mon-Wed-Fri 9am-4pm and Tues & Thurs. 9am-3pm



## 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,**

**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.**

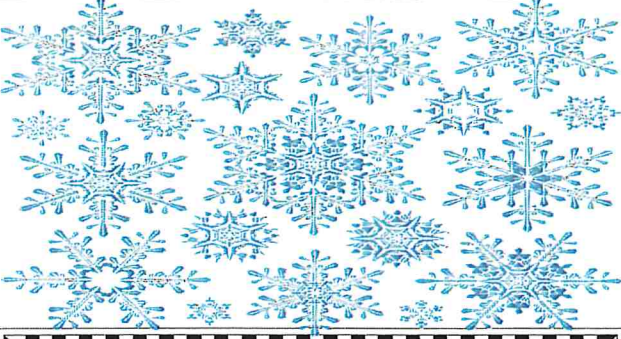
Please see the options on our website **www.almacity.com** and click on the Payment Options icon in the quick links area.

**NEED A 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 THIS 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!



### **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.

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





# PAGES FROM HOESCH MEMORIAL LIBRARY

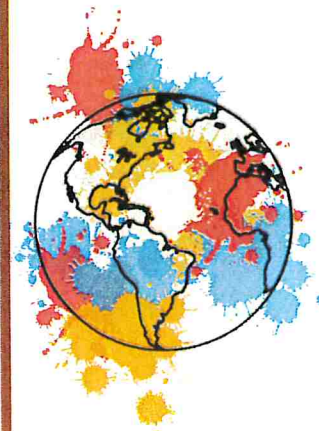
## Happy New Year!

This year at the library, look out for a fun new “take & make” craft each month, along with other exciting programming for all ages.

We’re also redesigning our conference and book sale room. All proceeds from the very successful annual book sale, hosted by the Friends of the Library, go toward supporting summer reading and other children’s literacy programs.

In the spring, we’ll hold an introductory session to highlight the key aspects of our summer reading program for each age group. This year's theme is "Color Our World," with exciting, colorful art activities planned! Additionally, we’ll introduce a new program and an art contest for 4th–6th graders.

Stay tuned for more details!



A fond farewell and heartfelt thanks to Keri Anderson and Don Jardon, two pillars of our library community. Don retires as President of the Board of Trustees & Treasurer of the Friends of the Library after years of dedicated service. Keri steps down as Director after 24 remarkable years—12 as Director and 12 as a part-time clerk.

We welcome Meghan Stoelting to the Board, with Bryan Lubeck becoming Board President. Jennifer Roethke, a three-year part-time clerk, has been selected as our new Director.

The library is currently open:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 a.m. -- 5:00 p.m.

Thursday from 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Saturday from 9:00 a.m. -- 12:00 noon

Phone: 308-928-2600

Email: [almalibry@gmail.com](mailto:almalibry@gmail.com)

Webpage: <https://libraries.ne.gov/alma>



**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.



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](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/fair_housing_equal_opp/online-complaint).

## 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
<b>DO NOT</b> drive into an area in which you encounter a leak or vapor cloud	Abandon all equipment being used in the area.	<b>DO NOT</b> try to operate any pipeline valves yourself
<b>DO NOT</b> 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](mailto:cityclk@almacity.com)  
[www.almacity.com](http://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](http://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

Joel Wheeler 920-3447  
Larry Casper 512-484-4377

#### Mayor

Hal Haeker 928-2900

**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**  
Jennifer Roethke

**Golf Superintendent**  
Jordy Slocum

### CITY STAFF

**Administrator**  
Steven Ardiana

**Treasurer**  
Tashia Butterfield

**City Clerk**  
Janet Dietz