

City of Alma

Volume 19, Issue 1

**January
2024**

City Office

Closings

January 1

January 15

February 19



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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 1st through March 31st. 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>

**Merry
Christmas
& HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Dog Tags are Available Now

The City reminds you to license your dog by purchasing a 2024 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.



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 TO HOST AN EVENT? - CONSIDER THE JOHNSON CENTER OR THE CITY AUDITORIUM!!!

The facilities have enough tables and chairs in each building to fill the large room. Each facility has a large room along with a kitchen and separate bathrooms. For most events, the rental fee for the Auditorium is only \$35 a day and the Johnson Center is \$75 per day. A security deposit is required. It is so convenient to host family gatherings or special events at either facility. The City is also offering special deals!!! Pay for 2 days rental and get the third day free! Example: Nov 1, 2 and the 3rd is free. Also, if you host an event on a Tuesday or Wednesday, the rental fee is half price!

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.



HOESCH MEMORIAL LIBRARY

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM HOESCH MEMORIAL LIBRARY!!

WATCH FOR OUR UPCOMING PROGRAMS. . .

on posters in downtown Alma stores, as well as in our library window. Once in a while we promote upcoming events on the Johnson Center marque, through the Harlan County Journal, on our webpage and through social media (Hoesch Memorial Library Facebook page).

Like our Facebook page, and be sure and share our posts with your family and friends. We also have a webpage where we share upcoming events and other important things.

NEW BOOKS FOR YOUR READING PLEASURE...

Include "None of This is True" by Lisa Jewell, "Fourth Wing" by Rebecca Yarros, Michael Connelly's "Resurrection Walk", "Lion and Lamb" by James Patterson, "Dead Mountain" by Douglas Preston, and Lee Child's "The Secret". Other new books include "Judgment Prey" by John Sandford, "Second Act" by Danielle Steel, "The Last Exchange" by Charles Martin, "The Exchange" by John Grisham, and Vince Flynn's "Code Red". Come in and check out our books, both for you and your children/grandchildren.

We have a great selection of children's and young adult books! Books for Christmas/winter include, "How to Catch a Reindeer" by Alice Walstead, "How to Catch a Yeti" by Adam Wallace, "Christmas Cookie Day!" by Tara Knutson, Mary Pope Osborne's "Christmas in Camelot", "Pete the Cat Saves Christmas" by Eric Litwin, "The House Without a Christmas Tree" by Gail Rock, "The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey" by Susan Wojciechowski, and many, many more! And while you are here, be sure to check out DVDs for your entertainment. Even though we did not get a lot of new ones yet, those we have gotten include "1923", "Fast X", and "Avatar: the Way of Water".

If it is too cold to get out (or anytime) remember you can read/listen to books or check out magazines on OverDrive/Libby. If you haven't tried it yet, call as you need all fourteen digits of your library card to get on.



HAPPY 2024 – MAKE IT THE BEST BY VISITING YOUR LIBRARY
OFTEN!!

HOESCH MEMORIAL LIBRARY IS LOCATED IN THE CITY PARK
CALL 308-928-2600.

Email: almalibry@gmail.com

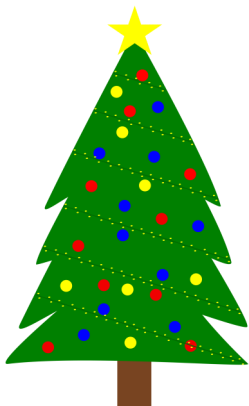
Webpage: libraries.ne.gov/alma

The Library is open:

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

Thursday from 12:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and

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



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.

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) Call and pay over the phone with a credit card 5) Go to the City's website almacity.com to register and pay on-line with a credit card or payport.

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!

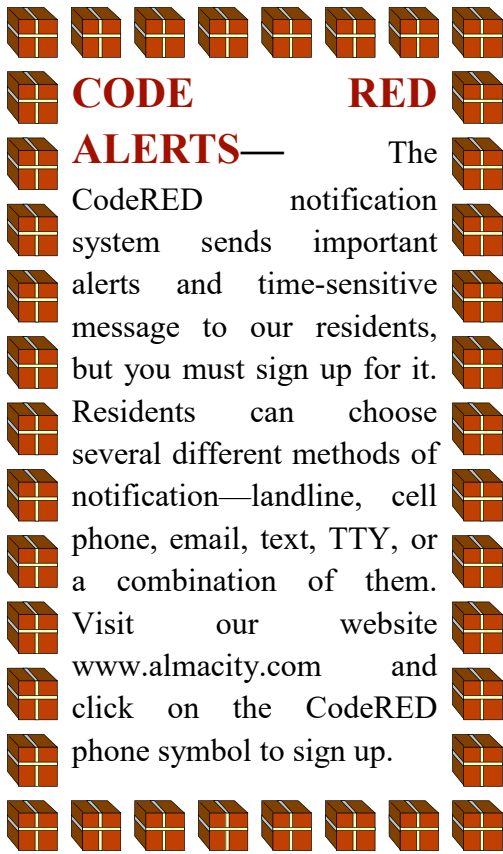
The City of Alma does have a website and just about any question you may have about the City can be answered on our website. If you cannot find the answer to your question, please do not hesitate to contact us at 308.928.2242. We are here to serve! The City provides many services and we want the citizens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

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 “**Peckleneck 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/peckleneckhorsetrail.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, Resident's tab, Sanitation/Solid Waste Department.

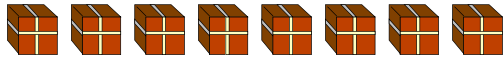
Compost Site—Hours of Operation changed on October 1st. It is open on Wednesday 9 am to 3:30 pm and Saturday, 9 am to 3:30 pm. If you need to use the compost site outside of these hours, you can rent a key from the city office for a \$5.00 fee and a \$20.00 deposit.



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.



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.

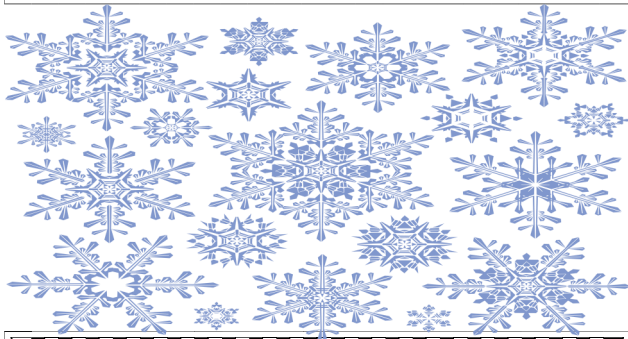
NEED A CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA??

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!



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**



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
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

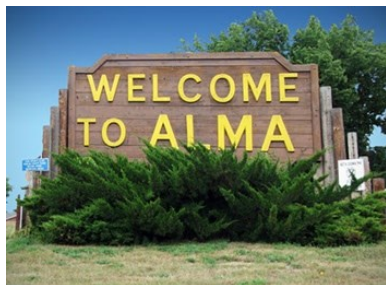


Phone: 308-928-2242

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