

# City of Alma

Volume 18, Issue 1

**June  
2023**

CLOSING

June 19

July 4

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



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## PELICANS APPEAR ON ALMA MAIN STREET

The City of Alma is the proud new owners of their very own pelican art piece just to the east of the City Auditorium on Main Street. These beautiful birds were crafted by Nate Hall from 3 Timber Studio out of Lincoln, Ne with his chainsaw. After seeing so many of these original artworks around the Lincoln area, previous Administrator Lorri Bantam, brought the idea to the City Council. It was approved on the April 19th Council meeting. Nate Hall worked on the piece only a few days and had it completed. The pelicans were chosen due to the return of the White pelicans to the area of Harlan County Lake each springtime. Maintenance is minimal to this piece and will be taken care of by the city employees. This one of a kind handcrafted art piece is a great photo opportunity and is sure to bring delight for years to come to the residents and visitors to Alma.



## **Lorri Bantam Retires as City Administrator**

Lorri has served the City of Alma as a dedicated employee for 12 years.

Lorri started her career with the City of Alma as the City Treasurer and eventually took over the role as the City Administrator back in 2021.

She spoke highly of her time working in the City Office and has enjoyed working with and for the citizens of Alma. She retired on May 19th and plans to spend more time with her new grandson.

City Council Meetings are the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 5:30pm at City Hall. These meetings are open to the public and the public are 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.

## **DONATION DRIVE**

**Goodwill Recycling trailer**

**Will be in town**

**Monday, June 19th until Thursday, June 29th.**







# HOESCH MEMORIAL LIBRARY

*LOCATED IN THE CITY PARK*

*The Library is open:*

*Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 10:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m.*

*Friday from 10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. &*

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

*All Together Now story times will begin at the library on Wednesdays from June 14 – July 5.*

*Pre-K sessions for 3-5 year olds – from 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.*

*K-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade sessions – from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.*

*If there are students 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade who would like to help at story times, let us know at the library.*

*Starting May 17 we have reading packets for Pre-K (18 months-5 year olds) and for those who were in Kindergarten-6<sup>th</sup> grade available, so those who read 15+ minutes/day can keep track of days they read, to earn coupons from local businesses for every five days of reading. Sign up by May 31 for the reading portion of Summer Reading. Those who complete 30 days of reading and turn in their reading logs by July 5 will get invited to a special party on July 12.*

## Do You Have a Lead Service Line?

Answer a few questions to protect your family's health and help your utility identify the drinking water service line materials in your community

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### Adverse Health Effects of Lead

Drinking water that contains lead can damage a developing brain. It is especially harmful for children 6 and under and in adults, lead can increase blood pressure. With your help, your utility can reduce elevated levels of lead in your community.

### Source of Lead

Your water system tests for lead levels regularly, but as you know, the source of lead in drinking water is often lead pipes and plumbing components in the distribution system that provides drinking water to your home.

### Service Lines

Drinking water for your home is delivered from the water main to your home by a service line. Service lines can contain lead. Identifying homes with lead service lines or lead components is crucial because corrosion of these materials over time can cause lead to accumulate in your drinking water.

### Take Action Now

Be a part of the solution.

This is a large project and your utility needs your help!



Please remember to return your lead survey to the city office by mail or in person.

# SEVERE WEATHER

The Harlan County Sheriff's Department would like to remind you we are entering the time period when we will start to see severe storm activity. The Sheriff's Office is notified by the Holdrege Police Department or the National Weather Service when severe weather is threatening our area. Upon notification, deputies and local fire departments then dispatch trained spotters to predetermined locations. The spotters receive yearly training from the National Weather Service and education on how to watch for developing storms and tornados. When a Severe Weather Warning or Tornado Warning is issued, the Sheriff's Office also notifies the school, nursing home, hospital, campgrounds, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers office, and various other public use facilities.



If the siren is activated it will be one long single blast lasting approximately 3 minutes. This siren means to take cover immediately. Do not get in your vehicle and drive around to look for a tornado as many do. Do not call the Sheriff's Office to inquire about the siren or the approaching weather. The staff is busy during this time with incoming and outgoing phone calls to local fire departments who are tracking the storm. Please do not let your curiosity inhibit law enforcement from protecting the public.

The Sheriff's Department tests the sirens the first Monday of each month (weather permitting). The school, hospital, nursing home, businesses, etc. are encouraged to perform a practice drill during these tests. Parents should take this time to educate their children about what to do and where to go in their home in the event of severe weather.

The public is encouraged to have an emergency kit stocked with first aid supplies, a portable radio, flashlights and batteries, bottled water, snack bars, and other non-perishable foods-enough to care for themselves for a minimum of 72 hours. Also include phone numbers of family members or those you would want to contact in the event of devastation, along with photocopies of insurance documents for both home and health. For more information on preparedness refer to <http://www.bereadynebraska.com/>

## **W**atch or Warning

A **Tornado Watch** is issued when conditions are favorable for them to develop. Be prepared to take action.

A **Tornado Warning** is issued when radar indicates a tornado, or if a funnel cloud has been sighted. Seek shelter immediately

## **Take Action**

Stay tuned to the media when the watches are sounded and be prepared to seek shelter if a Tornado Warning is issued in your area.

# Summer Compost Hours

Monday & Wednesday: 9 AM - Dark

Saturday: 9 AM - 3:30 PM

Starting April 1st

If these hours do not work for your schedule, you have another couple options. You may rent a key for the year (Jan 1 thru Dec 31) for \$100 or you can check out a key for 24 hours for \$5. Both require a \$20 security deposit check. Occasional closures can happen depending on the weather.



## Swimming Pool

1115 Second Street

928-2513

Hours : Everyday 1:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Adult Swim : Mon—Fri 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Family Pass - \$80.00

Individual Pass - \$50.00

Daily Pass - \$3.00

### Sanitation Guidelines

- **Bag and tie trash bags**
- **Place trash totter with lid opening facing the street**
- **Do not place totter in the street**
- **Please position totter close to the curb**
- **Place totter 3 feet away from any obstructions**
- **Never place hot coals or ashes in your totter**
- **Construction debris, paint and chemicals will not be accepted**
- **Place your totter the night before or by 7:00 am**
- **Trash may not be sticking outside the container**
- **If you need an extra pickup—call the city office**



**Please remember not to blow your grass clippings and yard waste in to the street. This is a hazard for our street sweeper and will also cause problems in the street drains.**





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).

#### **DOES ALMA HAVE AN ALERT SYSTEM?**

**"Red Alert" is an alert system that is used by Harlan County for weather alerts. The City's alert system is called "CodeRED" and is very similar. It is used for alerting city customers for reasons such as:**

- **Holiday falls on your trash pick up day**
- **City needs to turn off your water**
- **Gas survey by phone**
- **Snow Emergency Route is open**

**The City can contact customers either by phone, text or email or all 3 ways. The choice is up to the customer. You select the options when you sign up.**

**All you need to do in order to receive these notifications is go to the City's website: [www.almacity.com](http://www.almacity.com) and on the Home page click on the "CodeRED Notification System" with a picture of a phone in the middle of the page. Fill in the blanks and follow the instructions. You can also come back to this if you need to change your contact information or want to OPT Out of receiving the messages. Please contact the City Office if you need assistance with setting up your Code Red alert.**

#### ***Street Sweeping Schedule***

The City Crew plans to sweep the streets on a monthly basis throughout this spring and summer. Every Wednesday and Thursday, weather permitting, they will sweep Main Street and approximately one-quarter of the city. This schedule will allow them to sweep all of the streets in one month's time.

#### **HOW CAN I PROTECT MY FAMILY FROM CROSS CONTAMINATION?**

1. **Check your water softener or other in-home treatment device to insure that any drain lines have proper air gap prior to entering the sewer line. The floor drain is considered a sewer line and there should be an air gap if the drain line runs into the floor drain.**
2. **Check all faucets where a hose might be connected and install a hose bib vacuum breaker to protect these connections.**
3. **Install a Pressure Vacuum Breaker on your underground sprinklers and have it tested annually when the sprinklers are turned on for the season.**
4. **If you have a boiler for home heating, make sure to fill them so the water level is higher than the fill spout.**



## 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)



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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**  
Mon & Wed 9 am — Dark  
Sat 9 am to 3:30 pm

**Library Hours**  
Tues-Wed-Thurs  
10 am-8 pm  
Fri— 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*

**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*

### CITY STAFF

#### Administrator

**Treasurer**  
*Tashia Butterfield*

**City Clerk**  
*Dawn McNulty*