City of Alma
PO Box 468
Alma, NE 68920
Address Service Requested

PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM Retail

POSTAL PATRON
ALMA NE 68920

CITY OF ALMA

AT YOUR SERVICE

Volume 13, Issue 5

Nov thru Dec 2019

We will be CLOSED on the following dates:

November 11th–Veterans Day
November 28th&29th–Thanksgiving
December 24th–close at noon
December 25th–Christmas
December 31st–close at noon
January 1st–New Years Day

Inside This Issue

PAGE 1
- Councilman Christopher Tripe
- Compost Attendant Retires
- 2019–2020 Budget

PAGE 2
- Administrator Update
- US 2020 Census
- Compost Changes

PAGE 3
- Library News
- CDBG Program
- Fair Housing
- Bill Pay Options

PAGE 4
- City of Alma Contact Information
- City Council Meetings
- Board Vacancies
- Gas Pipeline Safety

City Council Meetings

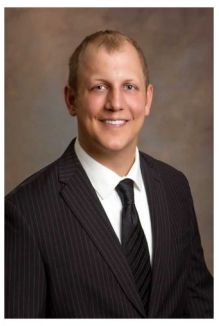
September thru April
1st & 3rd Wednesday

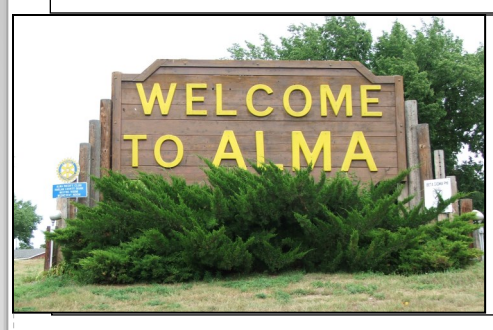
May thru August
1st & 3rd Monday

All meetings are held at
City Hall, 614 Main St
At 5:30pm

COUNCILMAN CHRISTOPHER TRIPE

Christopher Tripe joined the Council by signing his Oath on September 4th. He will complete the remainder of the elected term for the west ward councilman, vacated by Mike Clements. Chris has his own practice as a financial advisor here in Alma which is located in the Community Bank. He lives in town with his wife and 3 children. The Harlan county journal stated in the August 29th issue that Tripe is eager to learn the process of ordinances and code enforcement and is excited to bring his skills and experience to the table. We are excited to have Chris as a councilman and look forward to his views and opinions on how to continue improving our wonderful city and community.





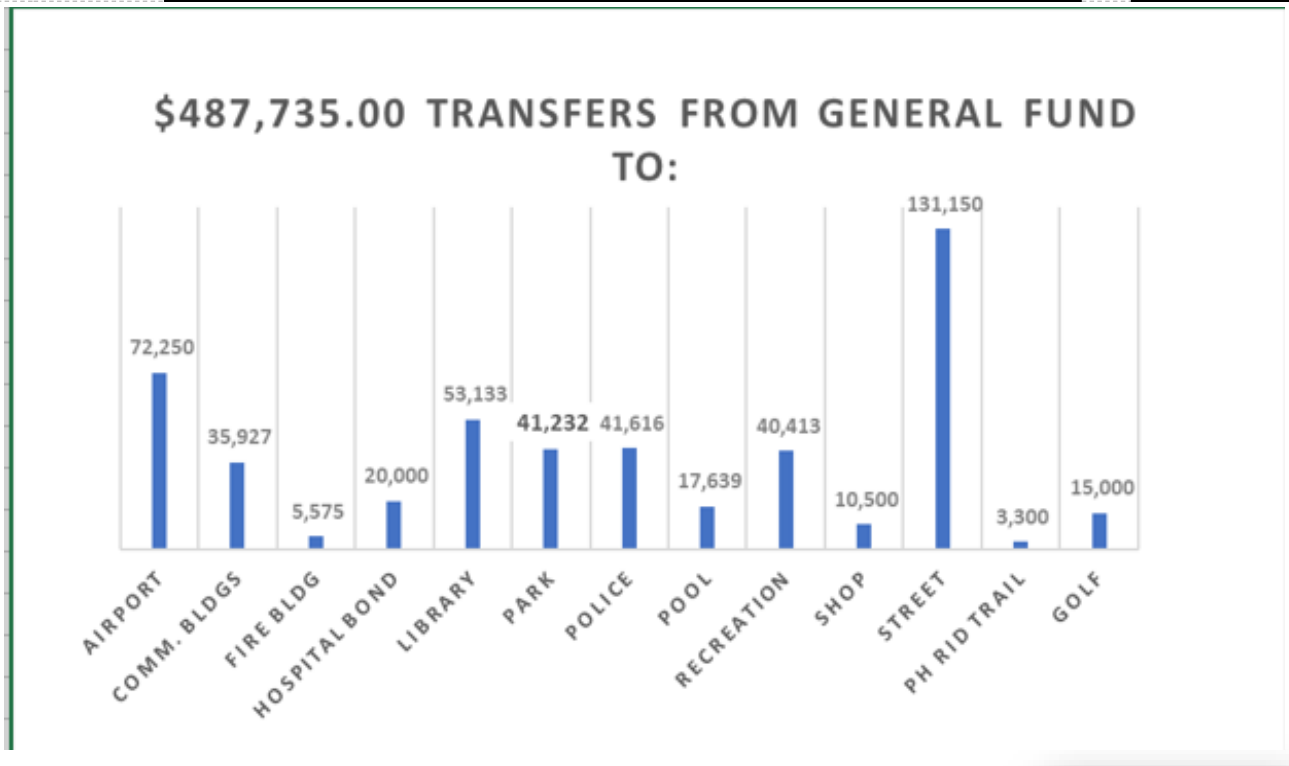
Dan Glines has retired from his position as attendant at the Alma City Compost Site. The City is going to take a different approach as to the operation of the compost site. Refer to the article on the bottom of page 2 for more information on our compost site or visit the Alma website: ALMACITY.COM

2019-2020 Budgeted Cash Summary

	Cash Balance 9/30/2019	Budgeted Revenues	Transfers In	Budgeted Expenses	Transfers Out	Cash Balance 9/30/2020	Recommended Cash Reserve
Governmental Funds							
General	348,077.46	2,698,872.68	466,335.00	2,691,721.40	487,735.00	333,828.74	
Street Fund	164,859.13	256,262.00	131,150.00	382,271.20	-	169,999.93	
Airport Fund	210,809.53	1,250,652.00	72,250.00	1,528,712.00	-	4,999.53	
CDBG Housing	727.00		2,897.00		2,897.00	727.00	
Hospital Bond Fund	145,970.32	600.00	20,000.00	-	-	166,570.32	
Total Gov-	870,443.44	4,206,386.68	692,632.00	4,602,704.60	490,632.00	676,125.52	790,000.00
Enterprise Funds							
Gas	536,379.55	582,650.00	-	510,771.51	-	608,258.04	
Sanitation	65,873.46	177,300.00	-	138,553.26	-	104,620.20	
Water	92,448.81	252,000.00	30,000.00	326,657.97	-	47,790.84	
Golf	0.28	302,254.00	15,000.00	291,387.08	17,000.00	8,867.20	
Wastewater	88,738.50	90,000.00	-	127,596.27	-	51,142.23	
RV Park	79,530.25	51,575.00	-	89,491.00	-	41,614.25	
Electric	89,874.85	188,000.00	-	21,443.00	230,000.00	26,431.85	
Total Enter-	952,845.70	1,643,779.00	45,000.00	1,505,900.10	247,000.00	888,724.60	850,000.00
Grand Total	1,823,289.14	5,850,165.68	737,632.00	6,108,604.70	737,632.00	1,564,850.12	1,640,000.00

City of Alma
2019-2020 Tax Revenue

	Property Tax 2019-2020 Budget	Sales Tax 2019-2020 Budget
General Fund	$ 223,150.00	$ 175,000.00
Street Fund	$ -	$ 35,000.00
Swimming Pool	$ 79,000.00	$ 125,000.00
	$ 302,150.00	
Treasurer commis-	$ 3,021.50	
Total tax budgeted	**$ 305,171.50**	**$ 335,000.00**
City Valuation	$ 61,648,880	
Levy	$ 0.495015	



A total of $398,185.00 in Property Tax and Sales Tax revenue has been budgeted in the General Fund for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. The remaining revenue for the General Fund will be from an Electric Fund transfer, state Municipal Equalization funds, and various leases, permits and fees. A total of $487,735.00 has been budgeted to be transferred out of the General Fund to other funds & departments as shown in the Transfers Chart.

The Airport and Street also receive Federal and State monies that require a percentage in matching funds. The Pool also receives Property Tax and Sales Tax. The Library receives a small sum from a Trust Fund. The remaining departments all receive their funding from the General Fund transfers.

CITY OF ALMA

AT YOUR SERVICE

UPDATE FROM CITY ADMINISTRATOR, DOUG WILSON

THE NEW ALMA CITY CLERK, Jessica Miller, started with the City full time on September 3rd. Jessica is catching on fast and doing a very good job. If you have not done so, please stop by the City Office and welcome Jessica.

HIGH LAKE LEVELS Have affected Alma in many ways over the past months.

As you know the Pheasant Ridge Trail was under water in several locations between the "y" intersection south of South street to Methodist Cove and going back west from the Alma boat dock.

The area west of the boat dock received wave action damage that cut the lake bank right up to the edge of the trail. This area is now dry, and the City crew has began working on the erosion issues, which will take time to get the ground to firm up and start growing ground cover again. Please be sure to stay on the trail in this area.

The trail is OPEN!! Finally the water has gone down and the trail is clear. It doesn't appear that the trail received damage, even though it was under approximately 3 1/2 feet of water. Again, please stay on the trail.

The United States 2020 Census

The census is conducted every 10 years to ensure equal representation in elected government at the federal, state, and local levels. Our community benefits the most when everyone is counted. Please be helpful and fill out a census form!! The census also has jobs available. Positions including clerks, recruiting assistants, office operations supervisors, census field supervisors, and census takers. If you are interested in a job with the census go to 2020census.gov/jobs or stop in at the City office and we will get you more information. Be on the look out in the January newsletter for more information about the 2020 Census. If you have any questions about the upcoming census please contact the City office 308-928-2242 or email at cityclk@almacity.com

As we all know winter is getting close. With winter comes the snow and the City crew clearing the streets. We have been sending out some reminders to residents concerning parking on the wrong side of the street. Please remember that you must park on the east side of all north/south streets and on the south side of all east/west streets. This makes traffic flow smoother and with the coming snow, snow removal easier. Please read the City Ordinance below.

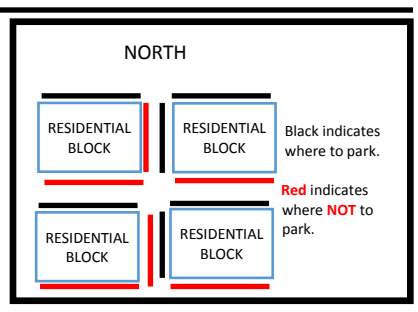
SCHEDULE III. RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT REGULATION.

No motor vehicle shall be parked or shall stand on any north-south street or avenue of the Residential District, except along, parallel to and within six inches of the east curb of such streets and avenues.

No motor vehicle shall be parked or stand on any east-west street except along, parallel to and within six inches of the south curb of such street.

No motor vehicle shall be parked or stand on any street within the city limits for longer than 48 hours continuously.

No unlicensed motor vehicle shall be parked or stand on any street or other public property within the city limits.



Compost changes

As stated on the front page, our compost attendant has retired. The City has decided to try and run the site without an attendant. We need your help as citizens of Alma to keep the compost site in good shape so we can keep it open while eliminating the cost of paying an employee to sit out at the site. We are changing our hours to make it both convenient to the citizens of Alma and make it cost effective. The new Winter hours for the compost site will be Wednesdays & Saturdays from 9am to 3:30pm. The Summer hours will be Monday & Saturday 9am to 3:30pm and Wednesdays from 9am to Dark.

In order to keep the compost site open we have to follow certain state regulations. If those regulations are not followed the state can force us to shut it down. The **COMPOST SITE** accepts **grass, trees, leaves, and garden waste**. The locations for dumping the material are clearly marked (grass clippings to the south and everything else to the north) please take care and do not inter-mingle material. Please do not leave your trash bags at the COMPOST SITE, take them back with you and toss in your trash toter. There will not be an attendant on site during operation hours, therefore, we need your help keeping it clean and up to state standards. We are going to try this on a trial bases and see how it works. Please let us know if there are items at the dump other than the accepted items highlighted above or if you see misuse of the compost site.

CITY OF ALMA

PAGES FROM HOESCH MEMORIAL LIBRARY

PAGES FROM YOUR LIBRARY —— Keri Anderson – Director

NEW AWE COMPUTER IN THE COMPUTER AREA

The new Early Literacy AWE Computer, which is designed for children age 2-8, is here! Not connected to the internet, it offers over 4,000 learning activities covering all seven curriculum areas: math, science & nature, social studies & geography, reading, art & music, writing & computer skills, and reference. Studies show that integrating blended learning into early childhood education can increase literacy, improve school readiness, and prepare young learners for curriculum based on STEM/STEAM.

Adults are encouraged to bring their children to the library to try out the new AWE computer, which is located near the public computers. Parents can even pull up a chair to help their child use the computer. Headphones need to be checked out, and returned at the end of their session.

HOESCH MEMORIAL LIBRARY AGAIN HAS A MICROFILM READER

thanks to a donation of one from the Genealogy Department at the Trails and Rails Museum in Kearney, made possible by a library board member. Now anyone will be able to look at microfilm we have in the library if there is a need. This machine does not make prints of what you are looking at, so bring your cell phone to take a picture of what you find, and then you will need to send it to your email. From there we should be able to pull it up at one of the public computers on your email and make a copy.

FRIENDS HAVE ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL BOOK SALE

Thanks to our Friends of the Library for the recent Book Sale, held from October 23-25. The large number of books, DVDs, etc. donated by people clearing out at home, and those weeded from the library to make room for new books prompted a 2nd book sale this year! The public response to purchase books, etc. at such reasonable prices has added to the Friend's funds, so that they can help the library with improvements that are not in the library budget. In the past, the Friends have helped by purchasing and paying for installation of additional lighting in the non-fiction corner, above public computers, as well as in the meeting room. The shades on the east and north windows were also paid for. And the biggest improvement was last year, when new carpeting was purchased and installed in the library, thanks to the Friends. There will be more improvements needed in the future.

BECOME A FRIEND OF THE LIBRARY - Yearly membership is only $5 per person. Monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 4:00 p.m. This is when things to plan and do are discussed. 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.

SUGGESTIONS AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you have a suggestion for a program or author visit, please let us know. Currently we have a monthly Book Club on the 3rd Monday evening eleven months each year – let us know if you would like to join this group.

A Writer's Group can be started up – our summer intern hosted a Writer's Group session at the end of summer, but we would like to get more sessions going if enough interest is expressed.

We are planning to get Legos and movies started again at the Library. If you would like to sponsor snacks for these activities, please visit with us. In fact, volunteer to host an activity! What about organizing a community game night? Or come and teach a session or two about something you are passionate about – cooking with an Insta-pot or crocheting/knitting. Help teach 4-H'ers and others how to sew or decorate cakes. If you have a skill to share, let's visit.

STEM EQUIPMENT IS COMING!

The library will be borrowing some STEM equipment in the near future from the Central Plains Library System Office. Keep an eye out for announcements on dates and times that we will have some new things to try. One of the items is a button maker that will be available for public use. We are also planning to get some other items to use for a month's time.

REMEMBER TO STOP IN AND BROWSE OUR SHELVES FOR BOOKS AND DVDs

during the chilly months to keep you warm and cozy. We always have a nice selection of new titles available. There are many heart-warming romances available as well as other genres such as westerns, non-fiction, mysteries and thrillers, and Christian fiction. We have a nice selection of large print, children's and teen books and family movies also. And we still have a bookcase full of audio books on CD – good for traveling during the holidays and other trips. Don't forget that every patron can access OverDrive for eBooks and audio books any time – there are also eBooks available for children and teenagers. Ask for a pamphlet at the circulation desk if you need directions for this service.

HOESCH MEMORIAL LIBRARY IS ON FACEBOOK!

Look for Hoesch Memorial Library on Facebook, and feel free to like it, and even follow us. Mostly it is used to post about upcoming or previous activities, accomplishments, updates to the library, etc.

HOESCH MEMORIAL LIBRARY IS LOCATED IN THE CITY PARK. The library is open Tuesday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

CDBG HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM

What a wonderful program! In 2017, we had 9 applications for the Community Development Block Grant program which provides annual grants on a formula basis to entitled cities and counties to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons. The program is authorized under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, Public Law 93-383, as amended; 42 U.S.C.-5301 et seq. Where are we now on these projects? Fast forward 2 years, four of those applicants either dropped out or were found infeasible, three of those homes have completed their work, one is almost finished and the last home is suppose to submit their final bid for approval this week! Most of these homes are on a low or no interest repayment. Be on the look out in future newsletters as we hope to offer this program again in the future.

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.

Too Cold to get out of the house to pay your city bill? We offer two convenient options. You can sign up for auto-withdraw by completing a form here at the office or you can go to our website ALMACITY.COM and pay your bill. (online payments take at least 24 hours to process) If you have any questions please feel free to stop in and ask Jessica or Lorri.

Newsletter

It is for you! If there is something the City has not covered or you think needs to be discussed again, please shoot us an email cityclk@almacity.com or give us a call 308.928.2242. Would love to hear from you!

City of Alma

Visit our website at:
www.almacity.com

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

Compost Site Hours
Fall/Winter
Wednesdays 2-4 PM
Saturdays 1-4 PM

Library Hours
Tues-Wed-Thurs
10am-8pm
Fri-Sat 10am-5pm

UTILITY EMERGENCY CELL
308.920.1047

City Hall
308.928.2242

Golf Course
928.2341

Library
928.2600

Sheriff
928.2147

School
928.2131

Hospital
928.2151

COUNCIL

EAST WARD
Jon Davis 928.2041
Tom Moulton 928.2637

WEST WARD
Chris Tripe 920.1417
Randy Stahlecker 920.0312

MAYOR
Hal Haeker 928.2900

CITY STAFF

Administrator
Doug Wilson
Treasurer
Lorri Bantam
Clerk
Jessica Miller

CITY STAFF

Utility Superintendent
Russ Pfeil
Water Superintendent
Jerry Dietz
Waste Water & Street Superintendent
Travis Dunse
Sanitation Superintendent
Warren Lingg
Utility Floater
Scott Kuhl
Library Director
Keri Anderson
Golf Course Super.
Jordy Slocum

Let your voice be heard- City Council meetings are held 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 a meeting at City Hall, the Post Office, Hogeland's Market, 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. If you are unable to attend a meeting of interest to you, please convey your opinions by speaking with your council member (East Ward—Tom Moulton, Jon Davis; West Ward—Christopher Tripe, Randy Stahlecker).

The City of Alma is looking for members of the community to serve on two of our many boards. This is a great opportunity for you to express your opinions and help in making Alma a great community to live in. We currently have some vacancies that we would like to fill. Our Board of Zoning has 1 Vacancy with a term of 3 years that meet when called upon. They are in charge of hearing and deciding appeals, map interpretations, and granting variances from the zoning regulations. Our Planning Commission Board also has 1 vacancy with a 4 year term that meets on an as needed basis. They carry out planning activities and serve in an "advisory" capacity to the council. Members on both of these boards are appointed by the council. If either of these boards are something that may interest you, please stop in the City office or email cityclk@almacity.com.

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

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) immediately report a leak. D) recognize a leak; E) take appropriate steps if you notice 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 do any of the following: Excavate, install drain tile, repair or rebuild roads or driveways, grade, blast for clearing, auger, dig postholes, install water lines, sewer lines, bore, cut or deepen ditches, septic systems, drains, tunnel, dredge, plant trees, install swimming pools, telephone, TV or power cables.

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: 1) 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. 2) LISTEN FOR: Hissing or roaring sound. 3) SMELL FOR: A pungent odor, sometimes like rotten eggs.

D) TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTIONS IF YOU NOTICE A LEAK— WHAT TO DO? 1) Immediately leave the area—on foot—in an upwind direction, 2) Avoid making contact with escaping liquids or vapors 3) Warn others to stay away from the area 4) Abandon all equipment being used in the area 5) DO NOT drive into an area in which you encounter a leak or vapor cloud 6) DO NOT try to operate an pipline valves yourself 7) DO NOT light a match, start an egine or automobile, use a telephone, or switch on & off an electric light or appliance.

E) IMMEDIATELY REPORT A LEAK— WHO TO CALL? From a distant phone, call the City of Alma (308-928-2242) or the Emergency phone if after hours (308-920-1047) OR call 911 or your local fire, police or sheriff's office 308-928-2147. DO NOT use a cell phone while near the suspected emergency area.

GAS CUSTOMER? - CUT OUT ABOVE INFORMATION AND SAVE (TAPE INSIDE CUPBOARD DOOR NEAR YOUR PHONE) OR TAKE A PICTURE WITH YOUR CELL AND SAVE FOR AN EMERGENCY