



# NEWSLETTER

## Tourism boosts rural economic development



**NEW MUSEUM OPENS IN ALGONA:** The Iowa Hall of Fame and Racing Museum held a grand opening in early April in its new Algona location next to the Kossuth County Ag and Motorsports Museum at the fairgrounds.

What comes to mind when you hear the term Hall of Fame? Excellence, achievement, excitement, honor? Perhaps all of these and more! We are pleased to share that Algona is the new home of the Iowa Hall of Fame and Racing Museum. It debuted this spring with a grand opening in April.

Previously this non-profit organization was housed in Otho, Iowa. Its new home is a spacious 60 x 100 foot facility next to the Kossuth County Ag and Motorsports Museum at the fairgrounds. The two floors are brimming with memorabilia and vehicles of dedicated racers and Hall of Fame inductees throughout the decades. Congratulations to all who helped bring this piece of Iowa's rich racing history to our community.

Places of interest, like the Hall of Fame, Ag and Motorsports Museum and other local attractions, have a positive impact on our community. When visitors come to the Algona area, they have a smorgasbord of options to consider, such as the Camp Algona POW Museum, Nativity Scene, Louis Sullivan Building (Chamber office), Kossuth Historical Museum, and the Grotto of the Redemption in nearby West Bend.

When people travel here to see these attractions, everybody wins - especially our local businesses. Gas and convenience stores, eating and drinking establishments, hotels and retail businesses and all may benefit. Guests may also spend time in our libraries, parks, or enjoy a local art event.

According to the 2023 Economic Impact of Tourism report, Kossuth County saw \$14.2 million in direct visitor spending. These funds, generated by visitors and tourism, support our local economy and contribute to the financial well-being of our community.

We can be proud of the tourism opportunities that showcase our community and local culture. By sharing these treasures with others we are, in fact, bringing life to and preserving our rich heritage for decades to come.

*Mayor Rick Murphy*

**-Mayor Rick Murphy**

## ALGONA SPRING CLEANUP DAY

Saturday, May 10 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Dumpster site at the Algona Aquatic Center



For Spring Cleanup Day, a dumpster will be available in the Algona Aquatic Center parking lot. The Kossuth County Transfer Station will be open from 8 a.m. to noon. Read more details about fees and items accepted on page 5.

# CAPITAL PROJECTS

## Peck land demo to begin

On April 7 the Algona City Council awarded a contract to Reding's Gravel & Excavating for the demolition, site clearing, restoration of most of the existing structures, fencing and other debris removal at the former Peck Auction House property, located south of the Algona Aquatic Center.

Demolition and clean-up work is expected to begin in early May, with substantial completion no later than June 15.

In 2024, the Donald R. Tietz Charitable Foundation donated this site to the City of Algona to be developed as a public park. The 51-acre site includes open space, wooded areas and access to the East Fork of the Des Moines River.

As directed by the Algona Parks and Recreation Commission the city council will approve a master planning service this spring and begin the planning process this summer. A final plan will likely be completed by the end of the year.

"Public input is an important part of the master planning process. There will be a series of public engagement opportunities designed to help shape future plans and amenities for the park, both in the short and long term," said Jacob Tjaden, City Administrator. "At this point, no commitments have been made regarding the future use of the Peck property. The city will continue to move forward with its plan to develop the site as a public park, while remaining open to hearing ideas as part of the broader planning process."

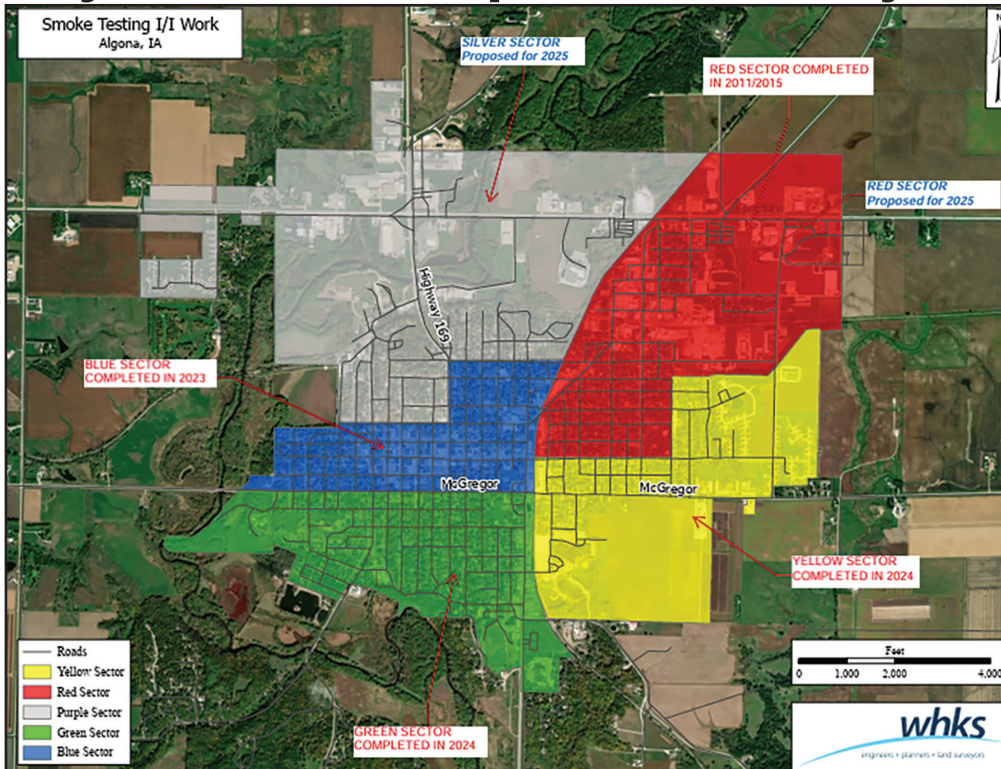


Removal of old buildings and debris will begin at the site of the former Peck Auction House site in May.

## Airport Project Update

The next phase of the runway extension project at the airport will begin in August. At that time, the hard surface runway will close for two months, or until the project is completed. The grass runway will close mid-way through the project for one to two weeks.

## City continues to pursue sanitary sewer improvements



The above map shows where smoke testing has and will be performed to learn more about in flow and infiltration (I&I) related to the sanitary sewer system.

The Algona City Council approved a professional services agreement with WHKS for a 2025 project focused on sanitary sewer lining and manhole repairs.

WHKS will provide design and construction phase engineering services for inflow and infiltration (I&I) repairs to the sanitary sewer collection system, based on the 2023 and 2024 I&I inspection results from the Blue, Green, and Yellow Sectors (see map to the left).

While the final locations, quantities, and repair methods are expected to change slightly during design, the anticipated scope of work will include 90 manhole repairs, 3,100 linear feet of sewer lining, and two sewer repairs.

The sewer lining work will also include the lining of the sanitary sewer main underneath the alley between Thorington Street and Dodge Street north of the downtown parking lot being reconstructed this year.

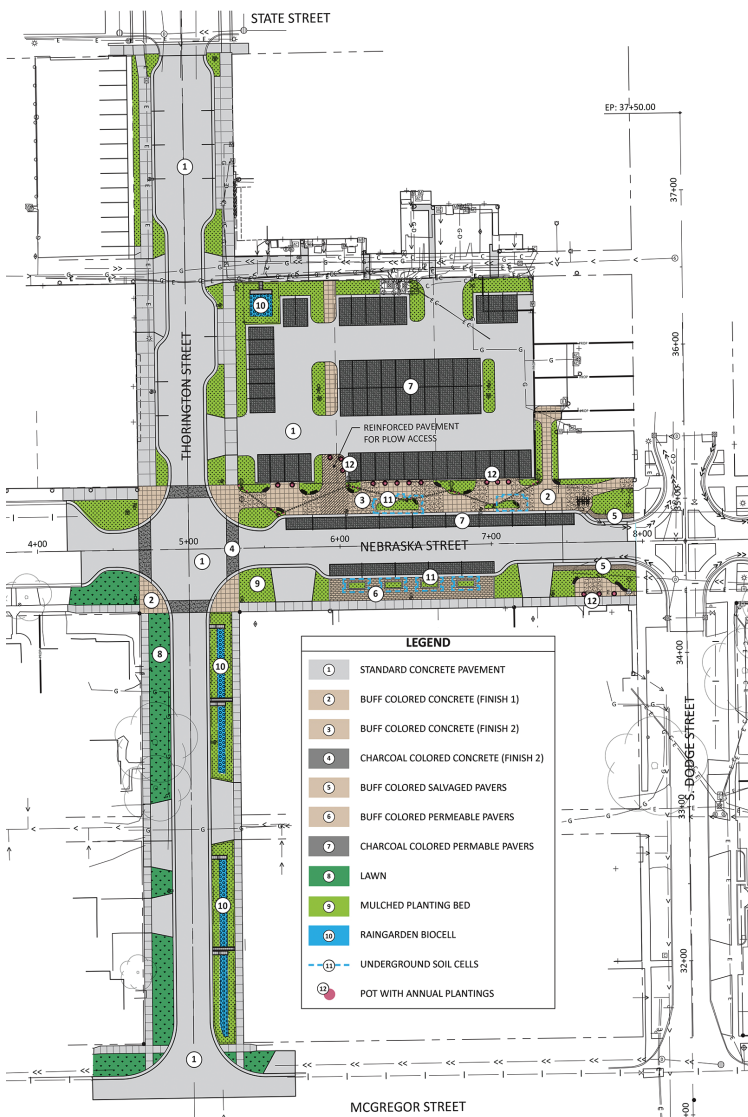


Progress at the wastewater treatment facility has continued through the winter. The construction of a new tank (above) and the expanded oxidation ditch (right) are still underway.



## Work to begin on Nebraska Street Corridor

*\$275,000 grant awarded to project for storm water management*



The Nebraska Street parking lot, and sections of Nebraska Street and Thorington Street will close this summer and fall for reconstruction work. The closed areas will include the gray areas on the map above.

On April 7 the Algona City Council awarded the construction contract for the 2025 Nebraska Street, Thorington Street and parking lot reconstruction project to Castor Construction of Fort Dodge. The project includes full reconstruction of two blocks of Thorington Street, from State Street to McGregor Street, one block of Nebraska Street, from Thorington Street to Dodge Street, and reconstruction of the adjacent city parking lot. The scope of work includes:

- Replacement or improvements to underground utilities (storm water, water, and sanitary sewer)
- New street subdrains and installation of sump pump collector lines
- New street and parking lot lighting
- Fire hydrant improvements
- Replacement of existing and construction of new sidewalk
- Installation of bike racks and benches
- Storm water management improvements, including permeable pavers and underground storage, along with several bio-cell and tree trench systems, landscaped planting areas and more than 40 trees.
- Other related improvements

A portion of the project will be supported through a \$275,000 cost-share grant from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. Grant funds may be utilized for elements such as bio-retention cells and tree trenches, permeable pavers and education signs about stormwater management.

Inspiration for the project was drawn from a downtown assessment conducted by the Iowa Economic Development Authority, feedback from the Community Visioning sessions held in 2022, and the 2024 Cultural Corridor master plan.

The construction phasing plan is being finalized. Construction on this phase of the project is expected to begin mid-May and be completed by mid-November.

# CITY BUDGET



## Council adopts Fiscal Year 2026 budget

The Algona City Council adopted the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 budget on April 21, 2025, marking a continued commitment by the city to enhance services for residents and support overall community infrastructure.

The FY 2026 budget will begin on July 1, 2025. The total FY 2026 budget is \$35,473,998 with the largest expense being \$13.56 million for the second year of a three-year construction project at the wastewater treatment plant.

Other major capital projects in the budget include \$1.56 million for the final phase of the airport runway displacement/extension project (90% federally funded) and \$2.55 million for the 2025 Nebraska/Thorington Street Project which includes full reconstruction of three city blocks, parking lot, and underground utilities.

City property tax revenue will be increasing by \$68,850 (1.5%) to \$4,456,972 in FY 2026. The median homeowner in Algona can expect the city property tax bill to go up by 3%. This is necessary to achieve a modest 1.5% growth to offset recently expanded property tax exemptions for commercial properties as well as residential properties owned by senior citizens and veterans.

Additional funding comes from grants, local option sales tax, the road use tax and other sources. Historically, the city's tax levy has represented approximately 48% of the total property tax bill paid by a property owner.

Other notable projects in this year's budget include:

- Replacement of Police Department vehicle
- Replacement of Street Department dump truck
- New airport snow removal equipment
- Exterior improvements to the library
- Improvements to Veterans' Park ball diamond #1

To learn more, contact City Hall at 515-295-2411.

## City Budget Fiscal Year 2026

*July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026*

### GENERAL FUND EXPENSES

Police	\$1,303,610.00
Fire	\$236,419.00
Rural fire	\$79,354.00
Dispatch, Law Enf. Community Liaison	\$391,039.00
Animal Control	\$34,585.00
Street Lighting	\$69,000.00
Airport	\$795,940.00
Library	\$496,622.00
Parks	\$464,177.00
Recreation	\$108,816.00
Aquatic Center	\$284,772.00
Cemetery	\$144,912.00
TV System	\$49,520.00
Public Transit	\$107,634.00
Community Beautification	\$2,000.00
Economic Development	\$315,185.00
Welcome Center/Plantings/Events	\$64,139.00
Code Enforcement	\$128,670.00
Legislative	\$32,755.00
Administration	\$605,333.00
Other General Government	\$50,200.00
Transfers	\$1,514,375.00

### OTHER FUNDS EXPENSES

Road Use Tax	\$1,144,028.00
Employee Benefits	\$1,280,158.00
LOST (Local Option Sales Tax)	\$595,248.00
TIF (Tax Increment Financing)	\$195,791.00
Debt Service	\$1,685,835.00
Capital Projects	\$7,012,700.00
Sewer	\$15,999,732.00
Algona Housing	\$40,083.00
Storm Water	\$135,866.00
Urban Forest Utility	\$105,500.00

## City employees celebrate milestone years of service

Several City of Algona employees will recognize milestone years of service in 2025. Employees recognized for five years of service include Library Director Lori Walton, Equipment Operator Matt Samp and Deputy City Administrator Barb Smith. Tamara Kelly, Librarian, and Lee Simpson, Assistant Street Superintendent, noted 10 years of service with the City of Algona. Individuals that celebrated 15 years of service include Street Superintendent Dave Miller and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Kyle Campe. "We are thankful for our dedicated teams of employees in all departments and recognize the essential role that each individual plays in the operation of our community," said Mayor Rick Murphy.



# PUBLIC WORKS

## ALGONA SPRING CLEANUP DAY

Saturday, May 10 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Dumpster site at the Algona Aquatic Center

No unauthorized dumping outside of set hours for this event.  
Thanks to Rotary for assisting with this event!



## Working on a project? Find city permits online

When working on a construction project, either at home or at a commercial business, keep these general tips in mind.

First, use the right permit, complete all the information and submit it to City Hall before work begins. Allow enough time for processing – not every project can be reviewed immediately. The amount of time needed depends on the scope of the project. Inspections must be scheduled at a minimum of 48 hours in advance. If an inspection is needed in less than a 24-hour period or on the weekend, this is considered an emergency inspection, and the contractor will be billed \$100.

Lastly, when an inspection fails twice a reinspection fee of \$100 per reinspection will be charged to the contractor for the third inspection, and any following inspection, of a property for the same inspection issue.

A full list of permits, forms and applications is available on the City of Algona's website at [www.algonaiowa.gov/permits](http://www.algonaiowa.gov/permits). Printed copies are also at City Hall, which is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### Common Building Permits

- Commercial Building Permit
- Residential New Construction Permit
- Residential Remodel Permit
- Demolition Permit
- Fence Permit
- House Moving Permit
- Sign Permit
- Temporary Use Permit
- Right of Way Permit
- Building Inspection Process (Construction Checklist)
- Building Permit Fee Schedule



Scan for list and links to permits

If you have questions about permits, fees or the process for submitting a permit, contact Devere Adams, Building Inspections and Code Enforcement, at 515-295-2411.

[www.algonaiowa.gov/permits](http://www.algonaiowa.gov/permits)

### FEES FOR LOADS

- \$25 per load, car
- \$40 per load, small trailers, pickups, SUVs, vans, and station wagons
- \$75 per load, large trailers

### NEED ASSISTANCE?

Call City Hall at 515-295-2411 by noon on Friday, May 9 to schedule a time for Rotary volunteers to pick up items on Saturday .

### ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED

- No household garbage
- No tires, auto parts
- No liquids
- No machinery
- No yard waste (Veterans Park brush pile)

### COUNTY TRANSFER STATION

The Kossuth County Transfer Station will be open Saturday, May 10 from 8 a.m. to noon. The following items are accepted:

### ELECTRONICS & APPLIANCES

No appointment is required for:

- TVs, computers, monitors, or appliances

### APPOINTMENT REQUIRED FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE

Call 515-924-3739 before bringing items that are accepted by appointment only:

- Oil, paint or chemicals
- Batteries, toxic or hazardous materials
- Fluorescent light bulbs, ballasts

## Spring cemetery reminders

Artificial flowers may be placed on graves from May 15 to June 15. Decorations will be removed after that date by cemetery staff. If placing a decoration that you intend to keep, please be sure to remove it before June 15.

Artificial flowers will be allowed year around in both Riverview and East Lawn Cemeteries when securely fastened in a vase, which is a permanent part of the marker or monument. If artificial flowers are left in the vases all year round and the vases

are not inverted by October 15 of each year, the city will not be held responsible for any damage to the flowers or vases. Glass containers are not allowed in the cemeteries. Flowers may not be planted in the ground. All trees and shrubs to be planted or removed must be approved by the Cemetery Board.

Find the city cemetery guidelines online at [www.algonaiowa.gov](http://www.algonaiowa.gov).



# PUBLIC WORKS



## Emerald Ash Borer mitigation

The Algona City Council will continue mitigation efforts for the Emerald Ash Borer, with the removal of 137 ash trees this spring. The council awarded a contract for the tree removal work to D & J Tree Service for an estimated cost of \$61,223.93.

The trees identified for removal are in public right of ways throughout the city. Trees to be removed will be marked with an "X." The city is in the midst of a multi-year mitigation response to Emerald Ash Borer. At the time the Emerald Ash Borer was first discovered in Kossuth County, the city had 800 ash trees on public property. According to Deputy City Administrator Barb Smith, the city will be nearly halfway done with the tree removals after this round of work is completed.

**The City will remove additional ash trees this spring as part of its plan to mitigate the Emerald Ash Borer.**

The (EAB) Emerald Ash Borer treatment program reimburses property owners for treating trees that are located in the right of way. Residents may apply for funds for half the cost of treatment, up to \$150 per tree, for up to two trees per property.

Applicants must be approved **before treatment begins** to receive funding. The following guidelines apply:

- Funding is only for trees located in the right of way.
- The tree must be confirmed by city staff to be healthy and a viable candidate for treatment.
- Treatment must be performed by a licensed applicator.
- To be eligible for reimbursement, submit the application for city approval before treatment begins.
- Applications are at [www.algonaiowa.gov](http://www.algonaiowa.gov) and at City Hall.

## Funds to help plant trees

The City's Residential Tree Program offers reimbursement funds to property owners (within city limits) for up to two new trees per year, with a maximum payment of \$150 per tree. Funding is provided for this program by the City of Algona and Algona Municipal Utilities and may be used for trees planted in the right of way or on private property. To receive reimbursement funds, please follow these steps:

- **Contact Iowa One Call** at 1-800-292-8989 or online at [www.iowaonecall.com](http://www.iowaonecall.com) to determine utility location before submitting the application.
- **Submit a tree permit application** for approval. Visit [www.algonaiowa.gov](http://www.algonaiowa.gov) or pick up an application at City Hall.
- **Once approved, purchase trees.** Make sure the type of tree is on the approved tree list and that it came from an approved vendor. The list of approved trees and vendors is online at [www.algonaiowa.gov](http://www.algonaiowa.gov) and in the Residential Tree Program brochure available from City Hall.
- **Keep the receipt** from your tree purchase.
- **To request reimbursement**, submit the approved tree permit with the receipt from the tree purchase.
- **For more information**, pick up a tree permit application at City Hall or visit [www.algonaiowa.gov/permits](http://www.algonaiowa.gov/permits).

## Lawns and mowing ordinance

The City of Algona has an ordinance about the allowed height for grass and weeds (Chapter 8.12 - Nuisances). Lawn length depends on how the property is zoned.

- **8 inches**, for residential homes, central business district or highway business district properties.
- **12 inches**, for heavy or light manufacturing properties.
- **18 inches** for conservation or agriculture properties.

Property owners who are not in compliance with the mowing ordinance will receive a nuisance notice that allows five days to respond. If mowing does not occur by that time, the City will do so at the property owner's expense.

**Mowing Reminder:** Please do not mow grass into the street. Grass clippings and other yard debris can clog stormwater drains and contribute to flooding during heavy rain events.

**Bring yard waste, leaves, garden waste and grass clippings to the brush pile at Veterans Park. No plastic bags, rocks, garbage or other items that may damage equipment. Compost is available by the bucket free of charge. To purchase compost in large amounts, contact Algona City Hall at 515-295-2411.**

*Public tree maintenance, Emerald Ash Borer mitigation and operation of the Veterans Park brush and compost pile are supported by the City's Forest Utility Fee.*

# PUBLIC SAFETY

## Gatton to serve as School Resource Officer this fall



**Officer Ben Gatton**

The City Council authorized the hiring of an additional certified law enforcement officer to serve in the role of School Resource Officer at Algona Community Schools. This is a new role that will begin with the 2025-26 school year.

Costs associated with hiring the additional officer will be shared between the school and the city. Algona Community School District will be covering 75% of the costs and the City of Algona will be covering 25%. The School Resource Officer will be at the school while classes are in session and serve as a patrol officer with the Algona Police Department during the summer. To learn more about the Algona Police Department, call 515-295-3515.



The Algona Fire Department demonstrated the Jaws of Life at the 2024 Public Safety Night Out event last fall. Mark your calendar for this year's Public Safety Night Out event, set for September 11, 2025 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the Kossuth County Fairgrounds.

## New patrol officer joins staff



**Officer Leah Johnson**

The Algona Police welcomed patrol officer Leah Johnson in November. She recently served with the Mason City Police Department, and brings experience to her role as a patrol officer, jailer and volunteer EMT. Originally from Garner, Johnson earned her degree in Criminal Justice from Iowa Central Community College. Welcome, Leah!

## Purple Heart award presented to family of Officer Cram



Members of the Iowa State Police Association (ISPA) board presented a Purple Heart award to the family of Officer Kevin Cram. Present were, back row (l. to r.): Officer Drew Strom, Assistant Police Chief Marc Bacha, Police Chief Bo Miller, Officer Grant Smith, Officer Leah Johnson, Officer Craig Barslou, Officer Ben Gatton, ISPA Secretary/Treasurer David McFarland, ISPA First Vice-President Jason Feaker, and ISPA Second Vice-President Shawn Morgan. First row (l. to r.): ISPA Past President Judy Kellen, Lara Cram and ISPA President Fred Lepley.

Officers from the Iowa State Police Association board came to Algona on March 30 to present a Purple Heart award to the family of Officer Kevin Cram. The presentation was led by Fred Lepley of Davenport, IA, current President of the Iowa State Police Association and Judy Kellen of Sioux City, Past President of the Association. The award was accepted by Officer Cram's wife, Lara Cram, with many members of the Algona Police Department in attendance.

The Iowa State Police Association Purple Heart award was developed in 2013 for the purpose of honoring law enforcement officers who have been seriously wounded or killed in the line of duty as a result of a combat incident. Officer Cram was fatally shot as he prepared to serve an active arrest warrant in Algona on September 13, 2023.

# PARKS AND REC

## Full season of splashing planned for Central Park

The Central Park Splash Pad will be available for the full season this summer. The opening date for the splash pad will likely be mid-May, depending on the weather. Watch local and social media for the date of opening day. Once it is open for the season, hours of operation for the splash pad are 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. To start the water flowing, push the activator button located on the floor of the splash pad.

### Splash Pad rules and reminders

- No lifeguard on duty.
- No facility supervision. All children must be under adult supervision.
- Do not drink the water in the splash pad. The water is treated and recirculated.
- Individuals who are not toilet-trained must wear a swim diaper.
- Shower before entering the splash pad. Restrooms and showers are in the shelter house.
- During inclement weather, the splash pad will be closed.

### In the Splash Pad area

- No food, drink, gum or glass containers.
- No pets or animals.
- No alcohol, smoking, tobacco products, or drugs.
- No running or rough play on or around the splash pad.
- No bikes, in-line skates, skateboards or other recreational equipment.
- Individuals in violation of these rules will be asked to leave.
- Facility management may adopt other rules if deemed necessary.



**The Central Park Splash Pad will open in mid-May. Hours will be 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. The splash pad is free and open for all to enjoy.**



### Youth Tennis Lessons *South Park Tennis Courts*

Beginner and intermediate players, ages 10 to 14 years old. Learn hitting, serving and rules of the game. Participants must bring their own tennis racket. Cost is \$35.

**Dates:** June 2 to June 13, Monday through Friday, from 10 to 11 a.m.



### Youth Golf Lessons *River Road Golf Club*

Beginner and intermediate golfers, ages 9 to 14 years old. Chipping, putting, driving and golf etiquette. Please bring your own clubs. Cost is \$35.

**Dates:** June 16 to June 27, Monday through Friday, from 9 to 10 a.m.



### Adult Co-Ed Sand Volleyball *Veterans Park sand volleyball courts*

Players must be age 18 or older. Play on Wednesday nights and finish with a league tournament in mid-August. Cost is \$40 per team. Register by May 19.

**Dates:** May 28 to August 13 at 6:30, 7:15, and 8 p.m.



## Register for the Summer Rec Discovery Program

Register by May 15 to take part in activities with the Summer Rec Discovery Program. This six-week program provides outdoor adventures for youth and adults with disabilities. The cost of the program is \$20, which includes all activities and a T-shirt. All activities are held on Monday nights beginning the first week in June and going through early July. Register online at [www.algonaiowa.gov](http://www.algonaiowa.gov) or at City Hall. Please indicate which events you plan to attend. Stay informed of announcements and updates by signing up for alerts with the Summer Rec Remind here: <https://www.remind.com/join/algonasu>.

### 2025 Activities

- June 2, Public Safety Night
- June 9, Ranger Rides and S'Mores
- June 16, Fun on the Farm
- June 23, Fishing at Smith Lake
- June 30, Car Cruise
- July 7, Mini Golf and Grill Out

For more information, contact Program Coordinator Michelle Penning at 515-341-3353.

## Main Street pickleball will close for the season May 16

The Main Street Pickleball Court will close for the season on May 16, 2025. This temporary, indoor recreational space is located in the west building addition of 1107 N Main Street (former Motor Inn building). The facility has been open for play for individuals ages 18 years and older since November. For more information about pickleball and other activities, contact Algona Recreation Manager Nick Diers at 515-295-9251 or email [ndiers@algonaiowa.gov](mailto:ndiers@algonaiowa.gov).

Get Algona Recreation Department notifications sent directly to your phone with the **Remind app**. Find the class names and class codes below. To sign up visit [www.remind.com](http://www.remind.com) and search for the class code, or go to the links listed below.

### Algona Swim Team

<https://www.remind.com/join/algonas>

Class code: @algonas

### Algona Swimming Lessons

Class name: AAC Swim Lessons

<https://www.remind.com/join/3bdg3hb>

Class code: @3bdg3hb

### Algona Summer Rec (Discovery Program)

<https://www.remind.com/join/algonasu>.

Class code: @algonasu

### Algona Rec Baseball and Softball

<https://www.remind.com/join/recbbsb>

Class code: @recbbsb

### Spring Soccer (three different groups)

3/4 Spring Soccer: <https://www.remind.com/join/ea4eba>

Class name: Colby Creighton's 3rd and 4th Grade Soccer

Class code: @ea4eba

5/6 Spring Soccer: <https://www.remind.com/join/ghbgf7>

Class name: Crystal Bronson's 5/6 Spring Soccer

Class Code: @ghbgf7

7/8 Spring Soccer: <https://www.remind.com/join/@hb6fhc4>

Class name: Crystal Bronson's 7/8 Spring Soccer

Class code: @hb6fhc4



## ALGONA AQUATIC CENTER

**Opening Day of the Aquatic Center**  
Monday, May 26 from noon until 8 p.m.

**Open Swim Hours: 1 to 8 p.m. daily**  
The Aquatic Center will close at 4 p.m. for home swim team meets on June 25 and July 9

### 2025 Season Passes and Admission (all prices include 7% sales tax)

- **Family Season Pass**, \$130
- **Nanny/Caregiver Pass**, \$40 (Only sold as an add-on to a Family Pass)
- **Single Season Pass**, \$65
- **10 Day Punch Pass**, \$45
- **Daily Admission**, \$5 (ages 3 and under free)
- **Non-Swimming Observer**, \$2.50 (with paid child)

Season passes are available at the pool and online at [www.algonaiowa.gov](http://www.algonaiowa.gov).

### Adult Lap Swim and Water Walking

Daily from noon to 1 p.m. for individuals 18 years and older. The cost is \$2 per day or free with a season pass.

### Water Aerobics

- Sunday and Tuesday evenings from 8 to 8:45 p.m.
- Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 7 to 7:45 a.m.
- \$3 per class or buy a \$30 punch pass for 11 classes.
- No registration required, just drop in.
- Class instruction provided by certified water aerobics instructor, Becky Tietz.

### Pool Reminders

- Children age 8 years and under must be accompanied by supervisor who is at least 14 years old.
- To use the diving board, children who are age 12 years and under must pass a swim test and wear a green wristband to use diving boards. The first wristband is free, to replace it the cost is \$1.
- Swim diaper or tight-fitting plastic pants are required for all non-toilet trained children

### Aquatic Center Special Events

- Thursday Pack the Pool nights: Pay half price (\$2.50) after 5 p.m. every Thursday night!
- Father's Day: Dads swim for free all day long!
- Founders Day Free Swim! Saturday, July 12 during Founders Day weekend in Algona

**HOST YOUR PARTY AT THE**  
*Algona Aquatic Center*  
CALL 515-295-9103 TO RESERVE YOUR DATE  
Birthday parties and private parties

### Birthday Parties

When you host a birthday party during regular pool hours, the private party room may be rented \$25 for up to two hours. Groups of 10 or more swim all day for \$4.75 each. Bring your cake and party decorations. No glass is allowed.

### Private Parties

The pool may be rented for private parties up to 90 minutes from 8 to 9:30 p.m. and on Saturday mornings from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Rental rates are based on the number of people attending. Each person above the reserved number of people for the rental shall pay \$4 per hour.

Number of People	Entire Pool	Shallow end only
1-50	\$170	\$80
51-100	\$210	\$110
101 & up	\$240	NA

## Join Algona's Swim Team

The summer swim team works with youth ages 6 to 18 years old. The swim team is a member of the AHEELA conference and coached by Calvin Brandt. For more details, go to [www.algonaswimteam.com](http://www.algonaswimteam.com) or sign up for Algona Swim Team Remind notifications at <https://www.remind.com/join/algonas>. Class code is @algonas.

Upcoming dates to note include:

- **May 12, 2025:** City Hall from 4 to 7 p.m. - Candy bar money due, apparel and swim cap orders due.
- **June 2, 2025:** Swim practice begins. Students ages 11 and older practice from 8 to 9 a.m. and students ages 10 and under practice from 9 to 10 a.m.
- **Swim Meets:** Meets will be held on Wednesdays, beginning June 11. Algona will host home swim meets on June 25 and July 9. On home meet days the Algona Aquatic Center will close at 4 p.m. for set up. The swim meets will begin at 5:30 p.m.

# SWIMMING LESSONS



## American Red Cross Learn to Swim Program

- Classes are \$25, unless otherwise noted.
- Regularly scheduled lessons are held four days a week, Monday through Thursday, with Friday as a make-up day.
- 8 lessons per session, 45 minutes each.
- If classes are cancelled, it will be announced on KLG (92.7) radio and via the Remind app.
- Register for classes on Saturday, May 24 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Algona Aquatic Center. No advance sign ups or phone calls. Parents may contact the Aquatic Center after sign up day to see if class space is still available.

## American Red Cross Class Levels

- **Level 1: Water Exploration.** Must be six years old by the first day of class. Learn submerging, floating, kicking, rolling over, combined arm and leg actions, and safety skills.
- **Level 2: Primary Skills.** Floating and kicking on front and back. Learn rhythmic breathing, turning over back to front and familiarity with rescue breathing.
- **Level 3: Stroke readiness.** Fundamentals of elementary backstroke, diving, treading water, and self-rescue skills.
- **Level 4: Stroke Development.** Deep water bobbing, breaststroke, and sidestroke. Turns at wall, diving, stride and standing positions. Familiarity with CPR.
- **Level 5: Stroke Refinement.** Alternate breathing, swimming underwater, butterfly stroke, open turns on front and back. Diving safely.
- **Level 6, Fitness Swimmer:** Refine strokes so participants swim with greater ease, efficiency, power and smoothness over long distances. Turns and various training techniques.
- **Level 6, Fundamentals of Diving:** Fundamental springboard diving skills, body alignment and control. Diving from poolside, boards and takeoff from deck, tuck and pike positions, and rules of safe diving.

## 2025 Swimming Lesson Dates

**Session 1 Dates: June 16-27**, Monday through Thursday

- 10 a.m. class includes Levels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and Level 6, Fitness Swimmer
- 11 a.m. class includes Levels 1, 2, 3, 4 and Level 6, Fundamentals of Diving

**Session 2 Dates: July 7-18**, Monday through Thursday

- 10 a.m. class includes Levels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and Level 6, Fitness Swimmer
- 11 a.m. class includes Levels 1, 2, 3, 4 and Level 6, Fundamentals of Diving

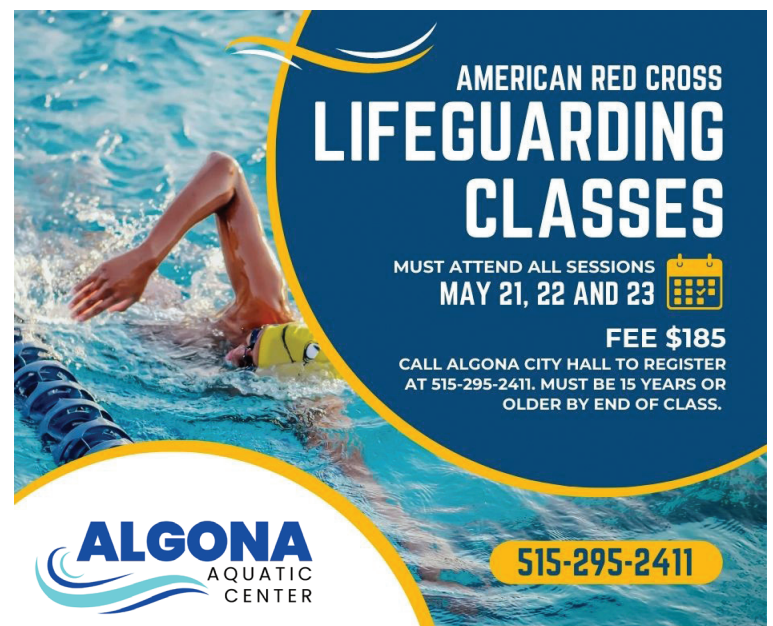
**Tadpoles, 4 to 5 years old** (child only, non-parent)

- Dates: July 21 – August 1, Monday through Thursday
- Time: 10 to 10:30 a.m.

## Parent-Child Classes

For children ages 6 months to 3 years, with parents in the pool.

- Dates: July 21 – August 1, Monday through Thursday
- Times: 10:45 to 11:15 a.m. for children 18 months to 3 years
- and 11:30 a.m. to Noon for children six to 18 months

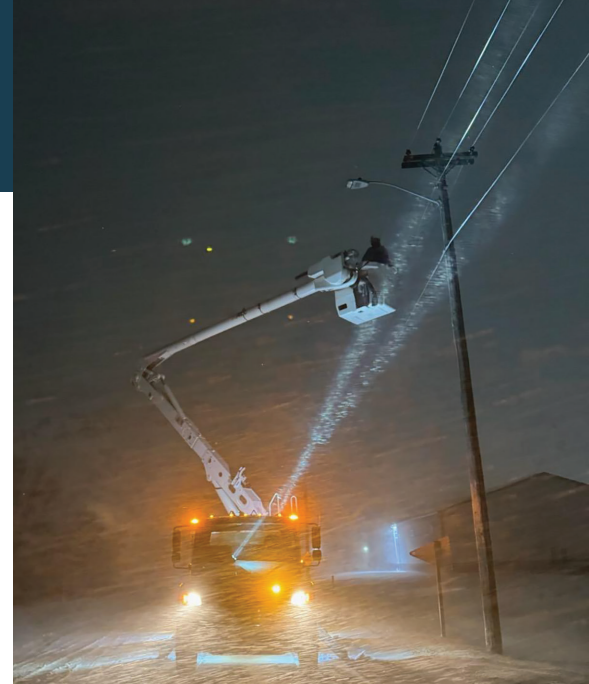


# ALGONA MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

## AMU powers through blizzards

March blizzards illustrated the effectiveness of AMU's electric power to the community. On March 5, AMU linemen braved winter conditions to restore power to customers north of Algona. Even with the high winds, only a small number of customers experienced outages. While snow covered roads and white-out conditions made it difficult to reach the area, once the line crews arrived at the site they were able to restore power within a few minutes. During the March 19 blizzard, no AMU customer was without power for more than a few seconds. According to Rod Vizthum, AMU Electric Line Manager, the system operated correctly.

"The distribution system prevents major outages by enabling lines to clear obstructions or manage high winds without extended interruptions," said Vizthum. "AMU always works to maintain its distribution system to avoid excessive line movement."



## Power Plant remains a vital source of electric generation



**AMU's Power Plant, shown above and below, has generated electricity since it opened in 1942.**



The Algona Municipal Utilities power plant located on North Hall Street has generated electricity since it opened in 1942. Today the plant continues to play an important role in providing power to Algona and communities well beyond our area.

The AMU plant provides power to the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), which runs from North Dakota south into the panhandle of Texas and northeast New Mexico.

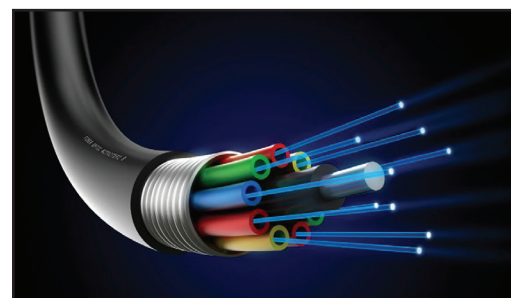
According to Eric Degen, AMU Power Plant Manager, four engines can be brought online when the SPP determines additional generation is needed. They include two Cooper-Bessemer LSU 16-cylinder engines that have a generating capacity of 7.3 Megawatts (MW), and two Caterpillar 3616 engines that have a generating capacity of 4.4 Megawatts (MW) each.

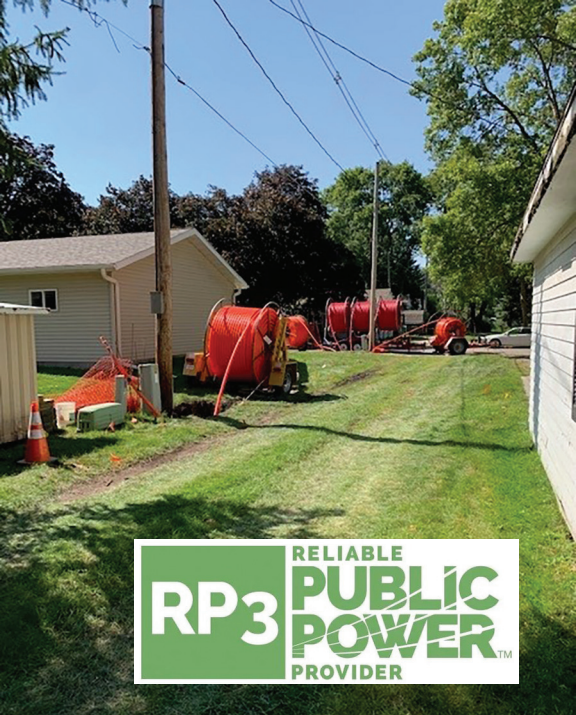
Degen said that in February of 2021, the engines generated power for six days in a row to supplement the power grid in the state of Texas during an unprecedented polar vortex. The Southwest Power Pool has requested the Algona power plant generate electricity as many as 10 to 12 times during the summer when the SPP need important short-term generation, said Degen. The plant also ran a couple of times this winter when other generation in the SPP was not online.

Currently, AMU has five employees working at the plant and is currently seeking an additional Power Plant Operator.

## AMU Dynamic video streaming now available for fiber customers

AMU Dynamic TV is now available via video streaming to AMU Fiber customers. AMU Dynamic Video Streaming customers will no longer need an AMU set-top box to watch their favorite shows. Instead, customers will need a streaming device, such as Roku or the Amazon Fire Stick, to receive Dynamic TV's Basic, Expanded Basic, and Ultimate service. AMU Dynamic Video Streaming customers can also upgrade their service to include Whole-Home DVR. AMU Internet customers must be in the AMU Fiber service area to receive AMU Dynamic Video Streaming. Contact AMU for more information.





# ALGONA MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

## AMU underground conversion work to improve system efficiency and reliability

Spring is here and AMU electric line crews will soon be in the field working on 2025 construction projects. Rod Vizthum, AMU Electric Line Manager said linemen will be focusing on converting distribution lines within the city limits from overhead to underground. The conversion work will start at the AKB substation on Finn Drive and move to Oak, Commercial and Roan streets, following a similar path to the existing overhead lines. Linemen will also convert overhead distribution lines to underground lines in the residential areas south of Kennedy and Grove Streets, extending east of Dodge Street to Minnesota and Phillips Streets. AMU electric customers will be notified by letter when linemen will be in their area to do the work. The conversion from overhead to underground increases the efficiency and reliability of the electric distribution system while reducing exposure to natural hazards.

## AMU recognized for exceptional electric service



Algona Municipal Utilities was nationally recognized for exceptional electric reliability in 2024 by the American Public Power Association (APPA), a trade group representing over 2,000 not-for-profit, community-owned electric utilities.

APPA helps electric utilities track power outages and restoration data through its subscription-based eReliability Tracker service. Once per year, APPA's Reliability Team compares this data to national statistics tracked by the U.S. Energy Information Administration for all types of electric utilities.

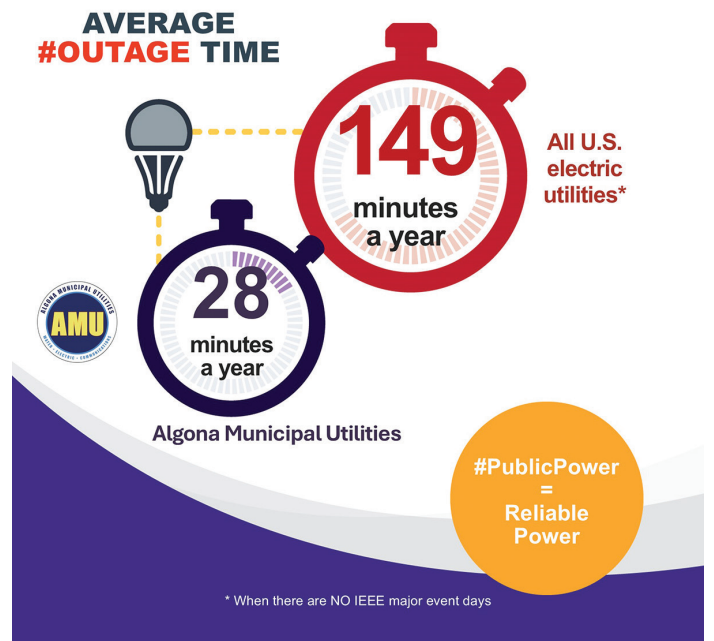
"Year after year, data consistently demonstrate public power utilities provide highly reliable service," said APPA Director of Research and Development Paul Zummo. "The utilities recognized here are truly elite when it comes to keeping the lights on. Their communities should be proud of their local power providers' hard work and dedication, like AMU, as they earn this truly deserved recognition."

Public power customers experience outages with less than half the duration compared to other utility customers nationwide.

"We are proud to receive this recognition. It is a testament to the hard work of all our staff to ensure that we keep Algona powered," said John Bilsten, AMU General Manager.

The Department of Energy – Energy Information Administration tracks outage indices for all electric utilities across the United States. Outage data from 2023 shows that AMU has a System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI) of 28.3 with and without major weather events like tornados compared to the national average of 376.90. SAIDI is the average duration in minutes of an interruption per customer served by the utility during a specific time frame. For the same period, AMU has a System Average Interruption Frequency Index (SAIFI) of 0.57 with and without major weather events compared to the national average of 1.71. SAIFI is the average instance a customer on the utility system will experience a sustained interruption during a specific time frame.

Julie Murphy, chair of the AMU Board of Trustees, said, "AMU has experienced fewer outages compared to the national average for several years. AMU's investment in electric distribution, transmission, and generation, along with a committed and well-trained staff, have resulted in outstanding customer reliability and resilience."



## Planned water system improvements



AMU will replace the aging water main infrastructure on Thorington Street from State to McGregor and Nebraska Street from Thorington to Dodge in 2025 as part of the City of Algona's Nebraska Street Corridor project. These vital upgrades will ensure the continued delivery of clean and safe drinking water to the residents and businesses in these areas. A new backwash detention pond will be constructed on AMU land along north Ridgley Street in 2025.

"This project is designed to provide natural filtration of backwash water, reducing the flows to the City of Algona Waste Water Treatment Plant. By installing the backwash ponds, operational costs to the Water Utility will be significantly reduced," said Jarrod Sturtz, AMU Water Plant Operations Manager.

The introduction of the backwash detention ponds not only serves an environmental purpose by reducing waste water flows but also offers a financial advantage. The payback period for this project is projected to be less than eight years, making it a wise investment for future sustainability and cost-efficiency of the water utility system.

## New look for AMU's website at [www.netamu.com](http://www.netamu.com)

Algona Municipal Utilities has redesigned its website, at [www.netamu.com](http://www.netamu.com). The digital update offers a more user-friendly experience for users to find needed information. On the main page you will find:

- AMU services are front and center. Click the links to find more about the information you want.
- AMU webmail and SmartHub links are at the top of the main page.
- Upcoming events are on the main page, such as AMU meetings and news.

The AMU Broadband labels are located on the Internet page. The labels provide information about the speeds and fees for AMU High Speed Internet.

To learn more about AMU'S website update, contact AMU at 515-295-3584.

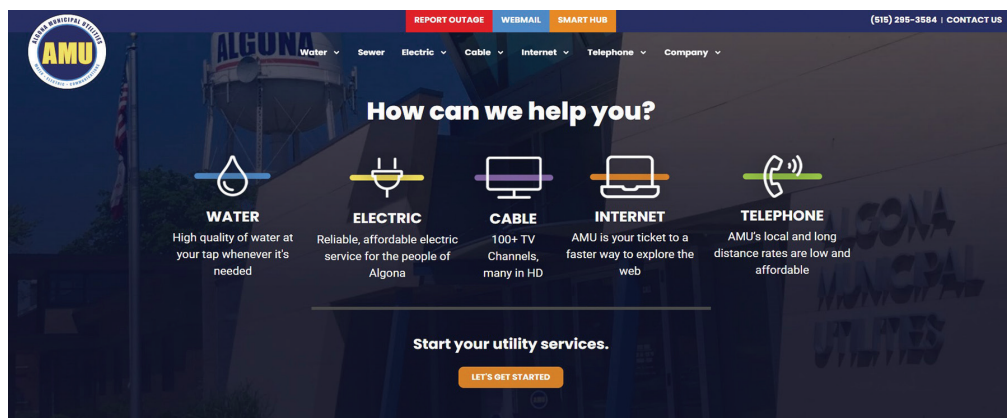


## Founders' Day is set for July 10-13

Algona's 26th annual Founders' Day Celebration is set for July 10 through 13 with a full schedule of activities.

Thursday night kicks off with "Voices from the Past," at Riverview Cemetery. Friday will feature a car show, parade and street dance. Saturday events include Art in the Park on the Carnegie Lawn, the Kids Bash at Central Park, plus a bags tournament and more activities on Saturday night.

Find the full schedule of events at the Algona Area Chamber of Commerce office or visit [www.algona.org](http://www.algona.org).





# PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Library Summer Reading Program to begin June 2

Join the Algona Public Library for its annual summer reading program "Level Up at Your Library." This summer is all about fun and games for all ages! The program begins on June 2, but you can register anytime with the QR code below.

The library will celebrate the kick-off on Monday, June 2 with The Dealt Hand out of Des Moines from 5 to 8 p.m. The Dealt Hand brings hundreds of games, both old and new, for you to choose from to play! Make it a fun night and visit the library to pick up your reading log, play some games, and enjoy some refreshments. That's just the beginning of summer fun that will include lots of opportunities for story times, crafts, games, movies, and more! Check the Algona Public Library Facebook page or visit [www.algonalibrary.org](http://www.algonalibrary.org) for updates.



Scan the QR code to register for the Summer Reading Program online.



### January 1 - December 31, 2024

41,871 (+2,369) Visits to Library	3,238 (+778) Computer Sessions
477 (+122) New Cardholders	210 myLIBRO App Users
2,201 New Items Added	290 Newsletter Subscribers
41,107 (+4,741) Library Checkouts	
11,379 (+899) Online Checkouts	

Increases from 2023 in parentheses



**STATS:**



[algonalibrary.org](http://algonalibrary.org)

210 North Phillips St  
Algona, IA 50511  
515-295-5476



### SERVICES:

- Curbside Service
- Home Delivery
- Outreach
- Interlibrary Loans
- Personalized Reading Recommendations

### PROGRAMMING:

Total Programs  
566  
Total Attendance  
9,109

Summer Reading:  
Programs  
63  
Attendance  
1,835

Business & Organization  
Donors  
46

STEAM Kits Distributed  
1,163

### 2024 HIGHLIGHTS:

New collaboration display board  
Exterior glass graphics applied  
Library of Things expanded (cake pans)  
Themed "Busy Bags" added to the collection  
Comfy floor chairs donated by the Friends  
2 Outdoor Story Strolls  
Interior work completed in unrenovated area  
- painting, ceiling tiles, lighting  
Received a \$5,000 grant for computers  
Received a \$10,000 grant towards accessibility  
Received a \$19,500 for meeting The Achievery goals



### APL MOST POPULAR ADULT BOOKS:

1. The Women (Hannah)
2. The Four Winds (Hannah)
3. Too Late (Hoover)
4. Three-inch Teeth (Box)
5. Maybe Someday (Hoover)
6. The Ball at Versailles (Steel)
7. The Housemaid (McFadden)
8. Toxic Prey (Sandford)
9. First Lie Wins (Elston)
10. The Teacher (McFadden)

### APL MOST POPULAR CHILDREN'S BOOKS:

1. Cookie Countdown (Mitter)
2. Surf Princess (Eberly)
3. Trace Race to the Rescue (Fischer)
4. The Cat in the Hat (Seuss)
5. Little Cow (Caviezel)
6. A New Reindeer Friend (Julius)
7. Journey into the Mind (Lagonegro)
8. Chase's Space Case (Depken)
9. Should I Share My Ice Cream? (Willems)
10. Welcome to Headquarters (Jordan)

## Sign up for free Nature Camps at Smith Lake

Enjoy a nature day camp at the Water's Edge Nature Center this summer. Camps are free. Class size is limited, so register early! Sign up for one date only, please. To register, contact ISU Extension at 515-295-2469.

- **Camp Critters:** Second and third grade students (grade completed) on June 5 or July 10 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- **Nature Detectives:** Fourth through sixth grade students on June 12 or July 17 from 6 to 9 p.m.
- **Bugs and Butterflies:** Kindergarten and first grade students on June 19 or July 24 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

# CITY OF ALGONA

The City of Algona newsletter is distributed twice a year. Find more news and updates at [www.algonaiowa.gov](http://www.algonaiowa.gov).

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Permit No. 229

POSTAL CUSTOMER



## Think before you flush: avoid sewer clogs and backups

What can be safely flushed down the toilet? Human waste and toilet paper. Any other items, even things labeled as “flushable” can cause problems in your sewer pipes and the larger sanitary sewer system. When in doubt, throw items in the garbage, not down the toilet. Here are three reasons why it’s important:

### #1: Clogs and Plumbing Issues

Even small items, like Q-tips and dental floss can become a problem because they don’t easily break down. This may lead to pipe blockages in your home and sewer backups. Blockages can also create potential problems within the larger sewer system.

### #2: Protect the Environment

Never flush items such as medications, cleaning products or cigarette butts down the toilet. These items, and others, can contaminate the water supply.

### #3: Wastewater Treatment Disruptions

Even things that may be flushed, such as toilet paper, can become a problem if you use excessive amounts. Items like this may clog screens and overwhelm the wastewater treatment facility. This may lead to sewage backups, extensive cleaning or expensive repairs.

Learn more about wastewater systems at: [www.algonaiowa.gov/wastewater](http://www.algonaiowa.gov/wastewater).



## DO NOT FLUSH

Disposable items are not always safe to flush. Some items should NEVER be flushed down the toilet to keep the whole system running smoothly. When in doubt, put it in the garbage can —NOT the toilet.



### NEVER FLUSH:

- “Flushable” Wipes (facial/baby wipes)
- Excess Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels or Tissues
- Menstrual Products
- Hair
- Bandages, Cotton Balls, or Swabs
- Clothing or Diapers
- Garbage



### Contact the City of Algona

- Taxi Service, 515-295-2878
- Public Library, 515-295-5476
- Parks and Recreation, 515-295-9251
- Aquatic Center, 515-295-9103
- Police, 515-295-3515 (non-emergency)
- Fire Department, 515-295-3642 (non-emergency)

Algona City Hall  
112 W. Call Street, Algona, Iowa 50511  
Phone: 515-295-2411 Website: [www.algonaiowa.gov](http://www.algonaiowa.gov)