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Letter from the Mayor

As Mayor of the City of Algona I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Jeff Gilmore and I accepted my appointment as Mayor by the Algona City Council on June 2, 2008.

My roots run deep in Algona. My great-grandfather lived in Algona and was a land surveyor. My grandfather was born in Algona and made his home here. My father was born and raised here. Both my grandfather and father were bankers in Algona.

I was born in Maryland while my father served in the Army. We moved back to Algona when I was 6 months old. My wife Beth and I have two kids, both born and raised here. My daughter and her husband have one daughter who was born here. They currently own a home and a business in Algona.

After graduating from Algona High School in 1968, I attended college. I enlisted and served in the Army. After serving in the Army I returned to college, married and returned to Algona in 1974.

I began my career with the Algona Police Department in 1982. After serving 23 ½ years, I retired from the Police Department in 2005. Continuing to serve, I became a part-time deputy sheriff. I continue to serve in that capacity.

Keeping Algona "On the Right Track" is my goal as your Mayor. As a father and grandfather it is important for Algona to continue to be the prosperous, growing community it is for our young families and children in which to thrive. I find that particularly important as I watch my granddaughter - six generations after my great grandfather settled here - grow up.

Generally, I come to my City Hall office daily. Being a part of our city government is exciting and a new learning process for me. I am enthusiastic about this new adventure. I am proud to represent my home town, Algona.



Fire Department

AFD Hosts

Iowa Fire Chiefs 57th Annual Conference

The Algona Fire Department is proud to announce they will be hosting the 57th Annual Iowa Fire Chiefs Conference on Friday and Saturday, October 17 & 18. That Friday night an official welcome for the Fire Chiefs and their wives will be held at the Algona Fire Station. The meal will be provided by the Algona Firemen and their wives.



The Saturday itinerary for the wives include a morning tour of the Camp Algona POW museum, the nativity scene, and one of Algona's oldest residences, the Gerdis home located on East Call. Lunch will be served at the Kossuth County Nature Center followed by a tour of the facility. A fashion show presented by Vestio will be the final event of the afternoon for the ladies.

The Fire Chiefs will hear a number of speakers on Saturday at the Fire Station, including Iowa Fire Marshall, Jim Kenkel. The 2 day conference will end with a banquet at the Prime Time restaurant on Saturday evening.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

OCTOBER 5-11, 2008



The Algona Fire Department will once again be promoting fire safety during the week of October 5. The theme this year is "Prevent Home Fires".

With the record number of fatalities this year from home fires in the state of Iowa the department urges everyone to check their smoke alarms and replace the batteries. Check to make sure fire extinguishers are full and in working order. Make sure you have an escape plan and practice the escape plan regularly so you are prepared in case of a fire.

The department will be conducting tours of the Fire Station to preschoolers and kindergartners. We will also be conducting fire drills in all the schools.

Fire prevention material will be provided to students in preschool through 6th grade. The AFD would like to thank all of the individuals and local businesses for making this possible.

On Wednesday, October 8, the AFD will again participate in operation EDITH (Exit Drills in the Home). The sirens will blow at 6:30 PM and the firemen will be driving the fire trucks all over town. Take advantage of this time to practice exit routes in your home and meeting in a designated place outside.

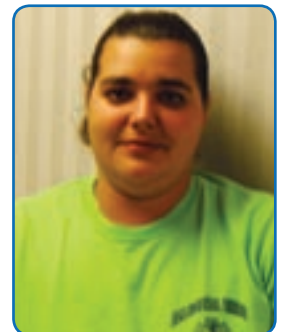
Algona EMS Grows in coverage and crew

The Algona EMS coverage has now grown to serve the cities of Algona, LuVerne, Burt and during the daytime Titonka. This has also meant a growth in the need for new members. We currently have 4 contract paramedics that cover weekends and situations requiring additional help. They are Don Pfaffenbach of Spencer, Gary Merrill of Emmetsburg, Heidi Lusson of Crystal Lake and Matt Shook of Nora Springs. We also have Deb Hansen of Algona (pictured below) as a Nurse exempt RN. Other new crew members that will be taking the EMT-B class this fall are Linda Studer of Algona and Melissa Householder of Fenton (pictured below).

We currently are running over 800 calls a year and continue to see that number increase every year. We also are available to help out with transfers for Palo Alto County Hospital in Emmetsburg and Trinity Regional Health Center in Fort Dodge.



Deb Hansen



Melissa Householder

Open Burning of yard waste is prohibited within the City of Algona. Violators may be fined up to \$100.

BURNING PROHIBITED

Recreational fires permitted provided the fire is contained in an approved fire pit or fire ring. Yard waste cannot be used as a recreational fire.

Yard waste includes: leaves, branches, and lawn clippings

CITY OF Algona IOWA

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

AIRPORT - CEMETERY - INSPECTIONS - PARKS - SEWERS - STREETS - TRAFFIC SAFETY - ZONING

HEATHER ROBERTS HIRED AS THE NEW DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS



The City of Algona would like to welcome Heather Roberts as the new Director of Public Works.

Heather comes from Marana, AZ, where she was the City's project manager. Prior to that she was with Castro Engineering for seven years as a project manager.

Until the age of 12, Heather lived in Burnsville, MN and still has family there. Being closer to family is

one of the reasons she was interested in Algona. She has also spent time in Hawaii from 1985-1993 before moving to Arizona to attend the University of Arizona.

Heather's husband Mike and their two sons, Keon and Cade, are anxious to get to Algona. The family enjoys the outdoors and spends time fishing, jet skiing, riding quads, baseball, football, softball and volleyball. They are also looking forward to enjoying some of that Iowa snow they have heard about.

Heather's first day with Algona will be October 13.

SNOW EMERGENCY REGULATIONS

- It is unlawful for any person to park any vehicle on the streets if a snow emergency has been declared, except for physicians on an emergency call or emergency vehicles. When a snow emergency is declared, it will be announced on KLG.A.
- Vehicles must remain off the streets once the snow emergency goes in effect and remain off the streets until the snow emergency is terminated.
- A vehicle in violation of this Ordinance is subject to a fine of \$25. The fine is payable at the office of the City Clerk at City Hall within 3 business days. If the fine is not paid within the 3 business days, a complaint will be filed as provided by the Code of Iowa.
- A vehicle in violation of the Ordinance may also be towed to a place as directed by the Chief of Police. The owner of a towed vehicle, in addition to the standard fine, will be required to pay the towing and storage costs.
- It is unlawful to push or blow snow onto or across public streets or alleys.
- Snow from sidewalks is to be removed within 24 hours of the end of a snowfall.



Shown above is work on the nearly completed storm sewer project on Harriet St., from Kennedy St. to South St. The old 10" line has been replaced with a 27" line. The road along the street has been completely reconstructed with some additional sanitary sewer work done. As a part of this project a 30" storm sewer line has been installed in back of the County Shed on S. Phillips St. to the south of the Algona High School baseball field. These projects should alleviate future flooding problems in that area of town. Funds from the Storm Water Utility Fee were used for these upgrades.



Pictured is the Street Department's new 544J John Deere loader which replaces our previous 16 year old John Deere loader. It is used daily, year round in all areas of town for many different jobs.

STREET AND CURB WORK IN PROGRESS OR COMPLETED:

- **Level and seal coat:**
 - N. Dodge – North to Lucas St.
 - E. Lucas – Harlan St. to Dodge St.
 - E. Oak – Diagonal St. to Main St.
- **Alley reconstruction;**
 - Alley north of Call St. between Colby St. and McPherson St. Reconstructed with 5" of blacktop surface
- **Curb and gutter:**
 - North side of Lucas St. to Putnam St.
 - Various areas on State St. in the downtown area
- **Tree trimming:**
 - City crews have trimmed trees in City parking's and will continue to do more as time allows before winter.
- **Pothole patching:**
 - City crews filled many potholes with blacktop all over town. Contact City Hall to report any potholes in your neighborhood.



OFFICER'S NOTEBOOK

sTEP Program



Once again the Algona Police Department will work with the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau in conducting the special Traffic Enforcement Program (sTEP) for the 2008/2009 fiscal year. sTEP is an enforcement/education effort to increase safety belt and child restraint use and reduce the incidence of impaired driving thereby reducing collisions, injuries and fatalities on Iowa's roadways.

The APD will participate in five enforcement/education events. These events or "waves" are scheduled for November 2008 and March, May, July and August 2009. Our agency must also conduct an observational safety belt survey before and after each wave and inform the local media of the effort.

This program means that during the scheduled events we will heighten traffic control enforcement throughout the community. As a result of participating in this program our department will receive up to \$4500 in funding from the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau. We in turn can utilize this money to purchase new equipment. We have already received 3 mobile radar devices and 2 preliminary breath test machines for testing impaired drivers from our participation in last years sTEP event.

VEGA (Violence Eduation and Gang Awareness)

Each fall we teach a program called VEGA to the 6th grade students at Seton and OB Laing Middle School. This program educates students about school violence, bullying and how to stay safe.

REMEMBER, SCHOOL IS BACK IN SESSION AND WE ASK THAT YOU DRIVE WITH ADDED CARE.

Ice Skating Rink to Get Permanent Home

Winter ice skating will soon have a permanent home in Algona. For many years city crews would pile snow on the outfield of the Central Park diamond and try to keep water inside the snow mounds until it froze. Of course as the ice melted and froze it became difficult to keep the ice in good shape.

Last year the rink was moved to the parking lot at Veterans Park. This was an improvement as water did not soak into the ground but the rink still required snow to be piled around some of the edge. Ice was still hard to make and keep.

This fall the City of Algona will be improving the basketball court at Veterans Park so that it can double as an ice rink. The center hoops will be removed, an extra couple of feet will be added on each side of the court, and curb will be placed around the court. This will provide a constant barrier and impermeable surface for the ice.

The City also hopes to place at least a light over the court before winter and will be looking to add a simple warming house, though the warming house may not be available until 2009.



Bartolo named Cemetery Superintendent



John Bartolo became the new Cemetery Superintendent this past May. He oversees the two City owned cemeteries, Eastlawn and Riverview. Prior to taking the cemetery position he was Assistant Street Superintendent for the City the past 4 years. He will continue to assist the Street Dept. with snow removal when not busy at the cemeteries.

Bartolo and his wife Sheila live in Algona and have 4 grown children and 3 grandchildren. When not at work you will find John umpiring baseball in the summer, officiating football and volleyball in the fall and refereeing basketball in the winter.

Bleich New Street Department Employee



Kevin Bleich became the newest member of the Street Department in June. He was born and raised in Algona and lives here with his wife Mary and their two children, Halie and Collin. In his free time Kevin enjoys spending time with his family and friends, helping out with his kid's activities and making salsa. He is also an avid Hawkeye fan.

A Year of Change

It has been a year of change at the City of Algona. Several long term employees chose to retire and others moved on to other things.

At City Hall, Karen Schissel and Nelle Halverson both retired this year. Karen had been the receptionist since 1986. She was going to take time to visit family. Nelle had been the billing clerk since 1974. She was affectionately called a die hard employee, as she showed up day after day like clock work. It's very hard to replace dedication like that.

When both Karen and Nelle retired the City decided to combine the receptionist and billing clerk positions. Mary Kuhlmann was hired for the new combined position.

In May, Public Works Director Chad Schaeffer announced that he would be leaving the City to become the City Engineer for Fort Dodge. After five years Chad had become a very valuable employee and has been missed at City Hall.

After an extensive search the City Council recently voted to hire Heather Roberts as the new Director of Public Works. Her start date is October 13.

City Hall was not the only place change occurred. At the Street Department, Assistant Superintendent John Bartolo was promoted to Cemetery Superintendent and Dan Buscherfeld was promoted into the Assistant position. This left an opening on the street crew and Kevin Bleich was hired to fill the position. Kevin most recently worked at UBC.

Over at the Library, Vickie Taylor, Youth Services Director, stepped down to spend more time with family. Her position will be filled by several people at the library.

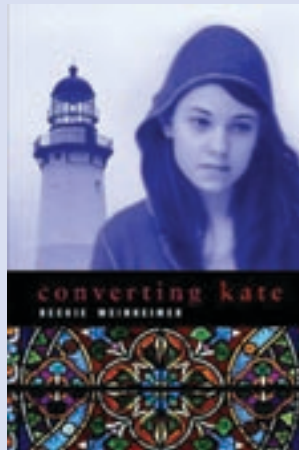
The biggest change this year was in the Mayor's office. After 11 years as Algona's Mayor, Lynn Kueck resigned. Lynn was first elected in 1997 and served the City faithfully with loads of energy.

The City Council appointed Jeff Gilmore to replace Lynn. Jeff formally was the Assistant Police Chief for Algona and currently works as a part time deputy for the Kossuth County Sheriff.

ALGONA PUBLIC LIBRARY Hosts Award Winning Author



Beckie Weinheimer, author of *Converting Kate* an American Library Association Best Book for Young Adults for 2008 will be coming to the Algona Public Library on Saturday, October 18 at 1:00 P.M. This trip serves a secondary purpose for Ms. Weinheimer as she will conduct research for her new book, in which a teen travels to Iowa on a bus in autumn. During her visit to Algona she will present an author talk and a writer's workshop in Room A of the library.



Ms Weinheimer's author talk begins with quizzes--an easy multiple choice quiz for participants who have not read her book. The winner receives a package of, her main character, Kate's favorite candy. A harder quiz is given to participants who have read the book, and the winner receives an autographed copy of *Converting Kate*.

Converting Kate is set in Maine because it is one of Weinheimer's favorite places on earth. She will tell how she spent time with lobstermen on their boats watching their process and interviewing them, using her real life favorite haunts and creating them into a fictional town, and how she discovered, that despite being a person who is in her own words, "horrible at spelling and grammar and misusing words", she wanted to be a writer. To conclude her talk she will open up the conversation to any questions the participants may have.

Following the author talk Ms. Weinheimer will direct a writer's workshop. She hopes each participant will come away from the workshop with a paragraph, a start to a short story, essay or poem that evokes a strong emotion, but shows that emotion rather than tells it. Writers will be encouraged to submit their work to her website where she has a Teen Writer Page and also posts a new writer tip each week. Weinheimer declares, "I began writing as a teenager, and then college, marriage, children, etc, made me put it on the back shelf in my brain. I'm sorry I left it there for so long, and now I love talking about writing with teens. To see them begin to understand how to unlock the creativity inside of themselves--that's like Heaven to me."

Go to the library's web site at www.algona.lib.ia.us and click on the news tab to read more about Weinheimer and *Converting Kate*. Stop by the library or call 515-295-5476 for more information about Ms. Weinheimer's visit. Space is limited for the writer's workshop.

DTV TRANSITION

– WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR AMU CABLE TV?

The deadline for local TV stations to convert their broadcast signals from analog to digital is February 17, 2009. What will this change mean when it comes to using your TV set? AMU Cable TV customers will still receive TV signals without any additional equipment. Our customers will not have to purchase a converter box to receive the broadcasts of local TV stations. AMU works hard to meet the needs of customers by providing reliable services and will continue to look for new ways to meet customers' demands as technology changes. Feel free to contact AMU if you have questions about the digital transition. You may also go online to www.dtv.gov for more information.



AMU WAIVES RECONNECT FEE FOR FORMER AMU COMMUNICATIONS CUSTOMERS

Former AMU Communications Customers in good standing with the utility can now take advantage of our communications services, as AMU is waiving the reconnection fee. The fee is normally \$32.10. "AMU is seeing former customers take another look at our communications services as we provide low, affordable rates. We want to help make it a smooth transition so we are waiving the fee for former customers who are in good standing with the utility," says John Bilsten, AMU General Manager. Bilsten invites you to stop at AMU to get more information about AMU Communications services.

AMU INTRODUCES NEW WEBSITE

Algona Municipal Utilities has launched a new website that will better meet customer needs. While the website is new, the address is not. The website can be found at www.netamu.com. The website continues to allow customers to pay their bills online and provide information about AMU and its services.

The new website allows customers to print applications for communications services, has a cable TV guide listing networks available on AMU Cable TV with a link to each network's own website, and provides information on wireless cell phone services. Another new feature is AMU's monthly online newsletter called "The Wire" which will provide the latest news from your community-owned utility.

Algona Municipal Utilities • 104 West Call Street • (515) 295-3584 • www.netamu.com

ALGONA JOINS NIMECA TO SHARE POWER RESOURCES

Algona Municipal Utilities and North Iowa Municipal Electric Cooperative Association (NIMECA) have signed an agreement to share power supply resources between Algona and the 12 member municipal electric utilities that makeup NIMECA.



"One of the largest benefits to joining NIMECA is an opportunity to mitigate our electric power supply risks by sharing resources in multiple generating units instead of one unit like we do today," says John Bilsten, General Manager for AMU. "By spreading the risks, we reduce our exposure to an ever changing electric energy market and help keep our costs as low as possible for our consumer owners of Algona," says Bilsten.

The Agreement also allows Algona to increase its share of renewable energy through wind by jointly purchasing wind energy with other NIMECA members. NIMECA members are also partners in the planned Sutherland Unit #4, a state of the art, clean coal technology power plant planned for the Marshalltown area.

PUBLIC POWER WEEK, OCTOBER 5-11

Algona Municipal Utilities, along with more than 2,000 other electric utilities across the U.S. will celebrate Public Power Week. Public Power Week is a chance for electric utilities to tell their stories how they collectively provide electricity on a not-for-profit basis to 45 million Americans.

"We are proud to be a hometown electric provider," says John Bilsten, General Manager of AMU. "As a community-owned electric system, our end goal isn't just to provide a service to customers, but to power our neighbors – our community."

Public Power Week is a national, annual event sponsored in conjunction with the American Public Power Association. AMU will celebrate the week by having Mayor Jeff Gilmore sign a Public Power proclamation. In addition, AMU will host the Algona Chamber of Commerce weekly coffee on October 10th.

Algona Recreation Department Winter Programs

Contact info: Peg Bell, Director • City Hall • 112 W. Call St. • Algona, IA 50511

Office phone: 515-295-9251 • Email: recdept@ci.algona.ia.us • Visit the Rec. Dept. website: www.ci.algona.ia.us/rec.html

MEN'S BASKETBALL LEAGUES

Games played on Wednesday nights. "A" & "B" league skill divisions. Open to men over 18 years old and out of high school.

LOCATION: Algona High School gym

SEASON: Wednesday nights. November 5, 2008-February 25, 2009

GAME TIMES: 6:45, 7:45 & 8:45 PM

REGISTRATION: Monday, October 20, 7:30 PM. City Hall Council Chambers.

ENTRY FEE: \$150 per team



WOMEN'S & COED VOLLEYBALL LEAGUES

Women play on Monday nights and Coed on Thursday nights. Both have "A" & "B" skill divisions.

LOCATION: Algona Middle School gym

SEASON: Women's league: November 10, 2008-February 23, 2009
Coed league: November 13, 2008-February 26, 2009

GAME TIMES: 6:45, 7:30 & 8:15 PM

REGISTRATION: Monday, October 20. City Hall Council Chambers
Women at 6:30 PM

Coed at 7:00 PM

ENTRY FEE: \$100 per team

BULLPUP WRESTLING 3RD, 4TH, 5TH & 6TH GRADES

Have fun with your friends while learning the fundamentals of wrestling. Algona High School coaching staff will direct the program. Registration forms will be distributed at the schools and are available online at www.ci.algona.ia.us/rec.html.

LOCATION: Algona High School

DATES : November 2008-February 2009

TIMES: 5th & 6th grades, 5:15-6:15 PM
3rd & 4th grades, 6:15-7:15 PM



BOY'S & GIRL'S BASKETBALL 5TH & 6TH GRADES

This program is designed to teach the basic fundamentals of basketball, team play and sportsmanship. Three weeks of practice will be followed by three weeks of practice oriented games. The Hoops for Heart fundraiser and fun day will be a part of this program. Registration forms will be distributed at the schools and online at www.ci.algona.ia.us/rec.html.

LOCATION: Bertha Godfrey Elementary gym

SEASON: February & March 2009

COST: \$12 per person



SPECIAL EVENTS

TRICK OR TREAT NIGHT

Friday, October 31

5:30-7:30 PM

Remember to turn your porch lights on for "Trick or Treaters."



VETERANS PARK ICE SKATING RINK – NEW SITE

The new Veterans Park ice skating rink will be open for the season from mid-December through February, weather permitting. More details to come as the season nears.

7TH ANNUAL AHS & BGHS ALUMNI BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 3, 4 & 5, 2009

Hoop it up with your old high school buddies at the 7th annual basketball reunion in Algona. This event brings back AHS & BGHS basketball players from decades ago as well as recent graduates for 3 days of competition and fun.

Men's and Women's divisions are split into age groups so there are lots of winners. Proceeds from this tournament benefit the athletic booster clubs of both high schools. To date over \$8,600 has been donated from this tournament!

For more information or to register your team, contact the Rec. Dept. office.



FAMILY SNOW SCULPTURE CONTEST

January & February 2009

You know it's going to snow so why not get out and enjoy it with your family! Build whatever you want then call the Rec. Dept. at 295-9251. We will come take a picture and you'll be eligible to win prizes provided by SUBWAY north and south of Algona. Open to all families in Kosuth County.



A CALL FROM SANTA

Santa Claus has made special arrangements with the Algona Recreation Department to call area children age 7 and under at home on Monday, December 8, beginning at 6:00 PM.

Forms to provide Santa with necessary information will be available at the Rec. Dept. or online at www.ci.algona.ia.us/rec.html in late November. Register early as the holiday season is a busy time at the North Pole and Santa wants to be able to talk to all the kids!



The Algona City newsletter is distributed twice a year as a public service by the Algona City Council.

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