

# Welcome to Alma, Colorado!

As North America's highest incorporated Town, Alma offers a unique mountain lifestyle, breathtaking scenery, and a close-knit community. We are excited to have you join us. This welcome packet contains essential information to help you get settled and enjoy all that our town and the surrounding Rocky Mountains have to offer.

## 1. High-altitude living

At an elevation of 10,578 feet, life in Alma requires some adjustment, especially if you've moved from a lower elevation.

- **Acclimatization:** Higher altitude, thinner air, and the high alpine climate can increase the potential for altitude sickness. Thankfully there are easy ways to adapt to the environment. Symptoms may include headaches, dizziness, nausea, loss of appetite, restless sleep, fatigue, coughing and difficulty breathing. Staying hydrated by drinking plenty of water and avoiding caffeine, alcohol and sugary drinks is key. Also, try to avoid excessive exercise for the first couple of days. To help get a good night's rest, purchasing a humidifier to help moisten the air is recommended. Many stores, including our local Al-Mart, offer oxygen in a can for purchase that may also be helpful.
- **Weather preparation:** Weather conditions can change quickly and dramatically in the High Country. Always carry extra layers, and be prepared for severe winter conditions, including heavy snowfall and cold temperatures. In addition, the sun can be very intense at elevation. Protect your skin with sunscreen and your eyes with sunglasses or goggles.

## 2. Town government and services

The Town of Alma is governed by a dedicated Board of Trustees who hold regular meetings on the first and third Tuesday of every month. All are welcome to attend board meetings. Please visit <https://townofalma.com/> for additional information regarding specific town services.

- **Town Hall:** For all municipal services, visit the Town Hall at 59 Buckskin Street. You can also reach them at (719) 836-2712 or townofalma.com.
- **Alma Police:** The Fairplay Police Department provides law enforcement services to the Town of Alma. For non-emergency dispatch please call (719)-836-4121.

- **Online payments:** You can pay for utility bills and other town services securely online using the Xpress Bill Pay link: <https://townofalma.com/online-payments/>
- **Building department:** For building permits and inspections within town limits, contact the Town of Alma's building department: <https://townofalma.com/building-department/>
- **Trash Compactor:** For town residents' trash and recycling services are included in your water and sewer utility bill. Please obtain a trash sticker from the Town Hall Office and place this on the driver's side front window of your vehicle when disposing trash. We allow only one sticker per household, and 3 bags of household trash per week. The dumpster is open daily from 7am to 7pm. Recycling bins are labeled and located next to the dumpster. Wild animals are driven to search for food and can become a nuisance and cause damage when they get into trash. Please minimize the risk of dangerous and adverse interactions with wildlife by using wildlife- resistance trash containers and/or securely storing garbage containers in a closed shed or garage. Never leave trash or recyclables out overnight.
- **Town Facilities:** The North Room, Stone Church Community Building, and the Town Park are available for public rent for events such as meetings, parties, community gatherings, and festivals. Each facility has unique features and capacities suitable for various types of events. Please visit or call the Town Hall to make reservations.

### 3. Recreation:

- Alma offers a small, close-knit community with a variety of local businesses and stunning outdoor activities. Nestled in the heart of the Colorado Rockies, explore Alma's local historic sites, like the Paris Mill, or walk through the historic Buckskin Cemetery. Alma is also known for its stunning natural beauty that can be seen by visiting the Bristlecone Pine Scenic Area on Windy Ridge, and the Kite Lake Campground. This area is a hub for outdoor enthusiasts, providing access to several of Colorado's famed 14er's (peaks over 14,000 feet), cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice skating, camping, hiking, fishing, and our new 9-hole disc golf course! Everyone experiences and enjoys the outdoors in different ways. Please be mindful of your neighbors and our community by leaving no trace and packing out your trash so everyone can appreciate our shared spaces.

## 4. Community Events:

- **Alma Foundation:** A non-profit organization that is dedicated to promoting community engagement and preserving the unique history of Alma. The Alma Foundation supports the Alma community by organizing events and fundraisers to financially assist with town projects and provide scholarships for graduating seniors. Their monthly public meetings are always on the last Tuesday of every month in the North Room of the Town Hall Building. They host monthly Bingo every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month from September – May. They also host the annual Festival in the Clouds on the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in July. Learn more about their events and volunteering opportunities at: <https://www.almafoundation.com/>
- **MRHI/ Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative:** A non-profit working to “unite communities to steward natural areas, inspire learning and safeguard our shared mountain legacy”. MRHI offers numerous opportunities to get involved in our community to preserve cultural and historic resources with recreation and economic development. Learn how you can help at: <https://www.mrhi.org/>

## 5. Transportation, Parking, & Camping:

- **Transportation:** Travelling to and from Alma can be challenging if you do not have a personal vehicle, however there are options available.

**The Summit Stage/ Park County Commuter** is a free public transit service providing access throughout Fairplay, Alma, Blue River and Breckenridge. Bus stops are located at Main St. & 2<sup>nd</sup> -North and Main & Park Hill -South. Please refer to the Summit Stage website for routes and schedule: [https://www.summitcountyco.gov/services/transit\\_summit\\_stage/bus\\_schedule/index.php](https://www.summitcountyco.gov/services/transit_summit_stage/bus_schedule/index.php)

**Free On-Demand Shuttle Service:** The Town of Fairplay began providing a basic ADA accessible transit service for the local Fairplay and Alma areas. Current hours of operation are Monday – Saturday 7am – 5pm. When not on a specific call, the driver does drive a route to most major spots in Alma and Fairplay. You can call for a specified ride at (719)-839-6202. If you have questions about the service, please call the Town of Fairplay at (719)-836-2622 opt 5.

**Municipal Parking:** For purposes of ensuring safety and ease of access to the Town’s snowplow equipment, there is no parking on public roads between the

hours of 8am – 3pm October 1<sup>st</sup> – May 15<sup>th</sup>, immediately following a snowfall resulting in an accumulation of 4 inches or more. The Town has established a municipal parking lot for the purpose of supplying public parking during regular business time periods. All people who park vehicles in the municipal parking lot are required to obtain a free parking permit at the Town Hall Office. There is no camping or overnight parking in the municipal lot. In addition, because the town is located along State Highway 9, please be aware of parking restrictions along the highway and chain/traction laws during winter months. Visit COtrip.org for specific highway information.

**Camping:** To ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone, and to protect our beautiful, natural environment, all campers must adhere to the regulations stated in Article 5 of the Town's municipal code. Camping is permitted at the Alma Town Park with a permit obtained at the Town Hall from 10:00pm – 6:00am. Campfires are prohibited in the Town Park.

Camping is also permitted within designated Town campgrounds, located at Kite Lake Campground. No camping for more than 14 consecutive days within a 30-day period. Campfires are permitted only in designated fire pits constructed at each campsite.

Camping is only permitted on private property in Town for a period of 7 consecutive days or for more than 28 days in a 6-month period.

Please be aware and follow fire-ban and burn permit information provided by the Northwest Fire Protection district. Visit <https://www.nwfpd.org/> or call at (719)-836-3150 for more information.

**We hope you enjoy your new home in Alma!**

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Town Hall or your new neighbors.