

THE HOMETOWN CONNECTION

IN THIS ISSUE

Rooted in Community

See how ALP stayed connected this summer through community events, local art projects and time spent with customers.

People Behind ALP

Meet three members of the ALP team and learn more about the people behind the service our customers rely on.

Progress With Purpose

Catch up on undergrounding, the new water tower and Discovery wells as several major infrastructure projects continue to move forward.

Service You Can Trust

Take a closer look at the everyday maintenance and behind-the-scenes work that helps keep Alexandria's utility systems cared for.

Power in Knowledge

Learn about Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule, who qualifies for protection and what customers need to do to apply.



A MESSAGE FROM TED

As we head into fall, there's a lot happening across ALP, and much of it comes back to one thing: preparing our systems and our community for what's ahead.

From the continued progress on the new water tower and Discovery wells to undergrounding work along North Nokomis, our teams are focused on making thoughtful investments that strengthen reliability and support Alexandria's growth.

At the same time, we've enjoyed getting out into the community this summer, whether at Community Night Out, the Douglas County Fair or simply visiting with customers along the way.

Those conversations are an important reminder that the work we do is about more than infrastructure, it's about the people who rely on it every day.

As always, thank you for your trust and support. We're proud to serve Alexandria and look forward to continuing the work ahead.

Sincerely,
Ted Cash
General Manager, ALP Utilities

ART AROUND ALEXANDRIA

A few more utility boxes around Alexandria have been transformed into works of art.

Near the Fillmore Street splash pad, local artist Becky Albright brought her fish-inspired work to life using gyotaku, a traditional Japanese printmaking technique that uses real fish to create one-of-a-kind prints.

At 34th Avenue and Pioneer Road, a floral design by Naomi Bjorklund adds another bright pop of

color, while the wraps near Voyager Elementary School feature artwork from the International Owl Center in Houston, Minnesota.

Near Alomere Health, fiber artwork by Barb Bend adds another completely different style to the collection.

These installations are part of an ongoing project by the City of Alexandria, with support from the Art Initiative of Douglas County and ALP Utilities.



COLD WEATHER PROTECTION: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Minnesota winters are tough, but you don't have to face them alone. The state's Cold Weather Rule is designed to help protect residential customers from having their heat shut off between October 1 and April 30 if it affects your primary heat source.

To learn more, apply or find local assistance providers, scan the QR code or call us at (320) 763-6501.



Cold Weather
Protection
For ALP Residential Customers



OUT AND ABOUT IN ALEXANDRIA

August gave us a couple of great opportunities to get out into the community and spend time with the people we serve across Alexandria.



We kicked off the month at Community Night Out in City Park, then headed to the Douglas County Fair for a day of conversations, questions and plenty of familiar faces.

Events like these give us a chance to step away from the day-to-day work, connect with customers and be part of the community in a different way.

Thanks to everyone who stopped by to say hello. We always enjoy the opportunity to see you out and about.



THE PEOPLE BEHIND ALP



Meet Muriah

Muriah has been part of the ALP team for nearly four years, and customer service turned out to be a better fit than she expected. She wasn't actively looking for a new job when the opening came up, but after some encouragement from her boyfriend, she applied, and is glad she did.

A big part of her day is helping customers start service, pay bills and find answers to questions.

For Muriah, the most rewarding part is knowing she can make a positive impact, even in a small way. Whether someone is moving into their first apartment or starting a new chapter, helping make the process easier and less stressful is what reminds her she's exactly where she's meant to be.

DISCOVERY WELLS NEARING COMPLETION



Progress continues at the new Discovery Middle School well site, with both our water and electric teams working to get everything ready to come online this fall.

Our electric crew has been on site finishing the power connections needed for the equipment inside the new well houses, while contractors finish the remaining work on the well houses.

Once complete, the two new wells will add important capacity to Alexandria's water system and help support reliable service as the community continues to grow.

It's another project that is quickly moving from construction to operation.

WATER TOWER REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

Alexandria's new water tower continues to take shape, with crews recently completing the 12th and final concrete pour for the stem.

The last ring took six truckloads, totaling 32 yards of concrete, which brought the stem to its full height.

Next, crews will begin placing 12 concrete dome sections at the top. These wedge-shaped pieces were poured alongside the stem rings and will form the base that supports the new one-million-gallon water tank.

With the stem complete, the project is moving into its next major phase as construction continues.



NORTH NOKOMIS UNDERGROUNDING MOVES FORWARD

Work continues along North Nokomis as crews make steady progress on this year's undergrounding project.

Our partners at Casterjon are now about halfway through the project, with sections of underground cable already installed and crews continuing to set transformers and switches. The next steps will include preparing to move customers from the existing overhead lines to the new underground system.

Moving power lines underground helps protect them from wind, storms and falling trees, reducing some of the most common causes of outages and helping improve long-term reliability.

The main part of the North Nokomis project will be completed by the end of the year with final work being finished into early spring.



THE PEOPLE BEHIND ALP



Meet Aaron

Aaron's path to becoming a journeyman lineman at ALP wasn't a straight one. He joined the utility 15 years ago in building and grounds maintenance,

with the hope of eventually making his way back into electrical work. Over the years, he moved into metering and substations before joining the line department, where he's spent the past four years.

These days, no two days look quite the same. Much of his work involves supporting undergrounding projects, setting equipment and making connections as overhead lines are moved underground.

For Aaron, the goal is simple: keep improving the system, limit outages and make sure the work gets done safely.

And after 15 years? *"I truly enjoy the guys I work with."*

KEEPING ALEXANDRIA'S HYDRANTS LOOKING THEIR BEST

If you noticed some of the hydrants around Alexandria looking a little brighter this summer, there's a reason.

Each year, our water crew inspects the city's more than 1,360 fire hydrants and identifies those that need a fresh coat of paint. Repainting helps protect the hydrants from the elements and is part of their regular upkeep.

This summer, 122 hydrants were repainted, with a little extra help from members of the Alexandria High School tennis team, who traded their rackets for paintbrushes for a day.

It's one of those small maintenance jobs that helps keep our hydrants protected, cared for and looking their best.



THE PEOPLE BEHIND ALP



Meet Jared

Jared may be one of the newest members of the ALP team, but he got a pretty quick introduction to the job, his first day included responding to a water leak.

Before joining ALP, Jared worked as a diesel mechanic and later in public works, where he gained experience with the kind of hands-on problem solving that comes with utility work. Through the industry, he'd heard good things about ALP and was interested in joining the team.

For Jared, the most rewarding part of the job is helping provide quality water to Alexandria. And one thing that surprised him? Some of the city's hydrants have been in service for more than 100 years.