

February 2016



The Albert Month-Lea



Encouraging Local Business Growth

Randy Kehr (left) and Ryan Nolander (center) meet with Nate Jansen, Vice President/Co-Owner of Albert Lea Select Foods.

People often ask what Albert Lea is doing to grow its tax base. This month, we're highlighting organizations with missions to do just that, the Albert Lea Economic Development Agency (ALEDA) and Albert Lea-Freeborn County Chamber of Commerce. The agencies use an all-of-the-above approach to create conditions for economic growth and improved quality of life.

Retaining and Expanding

Once a month, Ryan Nolander, Director of ALEDA, and Randy Kehr, Director of the Chamber of Commerce, visit multiple employers in town to discuss how we can keep our current employers in Albert Lea and develop strategies for them to grow.

Marketing the Region

Recognizing that Southeastern Minnesota is strongest when working together, Nolander works with his counterparts to market to industries with a regional focus in mind. The group is starting 2016 by having a round table with businesses in the region with a food and dairy background, hoping to develop a pitch to site selectors within that industry for future new business opportunities.

Encouraging Entrepreneurs

ALEDA created the Albert Lea Entrepreneur Advancement Program (ALEAP) that provides budding entrepreneurs with networking and educational opportunities, along with access to co-working space and the ability to obtain micro loans. They are also looking into a program similar to the TV show "Shark Tank," in which people with ideas pitch them to investors for funding.

These collaborative efforts of ALEDA, the Chamber and the City have helped in keeping the unemployment rate in Albert Lea low. It is consistently on par with the state's rate, and always beneath the national average. These three entities are always striving to make sure that business owners succeed and people can find jobs.

Albert Lea Parks and Recreation

Park n Rec Fun at The Big Freeze



Come out to Edgewater Park for a fun filled afternoon of face painting, games, and crafts! For more information contact the Parks & Recreation office @ 377-4370.

FREE to participate

When: Sat. February 6th

Time: 2:00-4:00 pm

Where: Edgewater Bay Pavilion

For more information on the Big Freeze check out www.bigfreeze.org

Parents Night Out

Ages 4-12 years

Mom and Dad, treat yourself and your kids! Bring the little rascals out to Troy-Hammer Warming House where we will entertain and feed them. Kids will enjoy games, arts and crafts, and a movie, while you enjoy the night off.



Pizza and drink provided. If the weather is nice we may enjoy some time outside as well, so dress the part!

When: Fri., February 12th

Time: Drop-off anytime 5:30 pm on; pick-up by 10 pm

Where: Troy-Hammer Warming House

Fee: \$8 for first child, \$4 for each additional child

Register by February 10th.



Albert Lea Public Library

(507) 377-4350, 211 E. Clark St., Albert Lea, MN

Visit us online 24/7 at www.alplonline.org.

Hours: Sun.: 1-5 p.m., Mon.-Thu.: 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Fri.: 1-6 p.m. Closed Sat.

DIGITAL MAGAZINES, EBOOKS & MORE!

Discover all of the free online services the library offers you!

- Zinio - downloadable magazines
- OverDrive - digital audiobooks and ebooks
- TumbleBooks - online interactive children's books

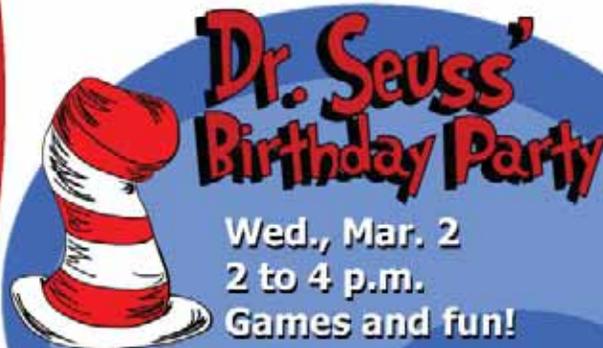
Connect to your library account online using the library's website—or with the Bookmyne app—available for android and Apple products. Search for books, request titles, see what you have out.

With all of these ways to connect to the library 24/7, you are always sure to find something great to listen to or read!

ADULT READING PROGRAM

Hot Reads, Cold Nights has begun! Stop by the circulation desk to pick up a reading journal. Just read, record your books and then enter to win prizes.

The program ends Feb. 26.



Wed., Mar. 2

2 to 4 p.m.

Games and fun!