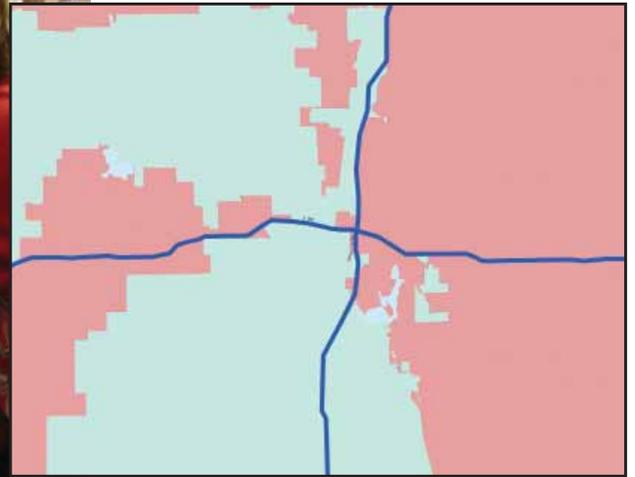


April 2016



Freeborn County Internet Access



Areas in red show locations where traditional high-speed internet access is not available.

## Check Out A Hotspot

*Meeting the needs of constituents at low costs requires creative thinking by local government*

The Albert Lea Public Library is a great example of creative thinking to meet the needs of constituents. Through the generous donation by the Albert Lea Public Library Foundation, the ALPL is one of the first libraries in Minnesota to make hotspots available for checkout by library patrons. "We recognize that location, financial resources and digital literacy are the three main components that restrict or limit patrons' abilities to use the internet," said Library Director, Peggy Havener.

Innovative

ALPL partnered with a local consultant who donated time and expertise to determine what would be required to provide internet access to the 21% of Albert Lea residents without access to broadband. The pilot project will assess to make sure it meets the needs of rural patrons as well. See the back of this newsletter for more details about the program.

Responsive

Internet access is vital to professional and personal lives. Whether you are applying for a job or staying connected to friends and family, digital literacy skills and access to the internet are the tools people want and need and the library is seeking to fill it. Their work is helping people become equipped for the challenges they face in their daily lives as well as those we face as a city.



# Albert Lea Parks and Recreation

New this year! Parks and Recreation's Summer Fun Guide will be in a shared publication with Community Ed. All your summer fun in one place!

## Albert Lea Public Library

(507) 377-4350

211 E. Clark St.

www.alplonline.org

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

### Children's Programs

#### Storytime

Monday and Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Songs, stories and a craft.

#### Music & Movement

Thursday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Dancing, music-making and a craft.

#### Night-time Storytime

Thursday evenings at 6 p.m. Songs, stories and a craft.

The last day of children's spring programs is April 14.

Children's summer programs begin June 6.



### Hotspot Pilot Program has begun!

Albert Lea Public Library staff and a local innovation consultant have been working hard to get the hotspot pilot program off the ground.

Pilot program participants for the first round have been selected. The first stages of the pilot program will include hotspot training and interviews.

What will the pilot program do?

It will:

- Identify common digital literacy weak points
- Help staff refine the process to provide the best user experience
- Collect information for grant applications
- Help us determine if the service will meet the needs of our patrons.

Hotspots will become available for checkout/request beginning May 2.

To check out a hotspot, you must:

- Be 18 or older and have an Albert Lea Public Library card
- Live in Freeborn County
- Have an Albert Lea Public Library account in good standing with a minimum of 6-month history

**What is a hotspot device?**



It is a palm-sized, mobile device that emits a wireless internet/Wi-Fi signal.



*Kids and families ...  
join us for  
**LEGO Time***

*Monday, April 4 at 3:45 p.m.*

*Tuesday, June 7 at 2:00 p.m.*

*Tuesday, July 5 at 2:00 p.m.*