

August 2016



The Albert Month-Lea

City Council Sets Goals for the Community

1. Increase community tax base with defined action plan, collaboration with ALEDA and others, and promotion.

City staff is working with ALEDA and the Chamber of Commerce to identify businesses and industries to recruit to Albert Lea. Industry leaders tell city officials that they are suffering from a lack of skilled workers to fill job openings, so the City is outlining ways to develop workforce to meet this need. Initiatives are in the works to attract workers and build skills including apprenticeships for local students. Riverland has implemented classes that train workers for positions at local industries.



2. Increase Workforce Housing in Community through existing initiatives such as tax abatement and/or through new initiatives and partnership.

The City lobbied the state government to pass a workforce tax credit for developers to build more housing in Greater Minnesota. Staff will continue to press for this initiative next session.

An example of workforce housing in Albert Lea is the Wedgewood Cove town homes. The developer built 30 units and plans to add more in the future. Other developers have shown interest in building similar projects. If you would like more information on building housing in Albert Lea, please contact the City Manager's office, 507-377-4330.



3. Implement Facilities Master Plan projects per the present timeline, with priorities being the Airport project, Public Works Phase I project, and new Fire Station project.

The Fire Station and Public Works building are nearing the end of their life cycles. Larger and more modern spaces are needed. The city is considering locations for a new fire station and will complete an expansion of the Public Works building in two phases.

The Airport project has been delayed one year. Modifications will be made to the design and it will be re-bid this winter.



4. Continue recently implemented community communications, conversations, programming, and outreach along with some new approaches.

In addition to this printed newsletter, a weekly email newsletter is also sent. The city has increased its presence and use of social media.

City staff has been door knocking in the Fifth and Sixth wards and talking to residents one-on-one seeking input on their priorities. Mayor Rasmussen began "Mayor Mondays," the first Monday of every month to discuss items with residents.



5. Increase Nuisance Abatement Program and Code Enforcement.

The City is increasing enforcement of nuisances, such as junk vehicles, unkempt yards and properties. This includes compliance of zoning regulations for commercial properties such as screening of outside storage. If you have a complaint or questions about a property, call the police department's non-emergency number, 507-377-5210. Police do not disclose who provides information to them.



Albert Lea Parks and Recreation



Movies in the Park

Join us at Edgewater Park Bandshell for great family movies.

Friday, August 19

"Cinderella"

Friday, August 26

"Goosebumps"

8:30 pm

FREE!

Sponsored by First Presbyterian Church, Albert Lea Family YMCA and Park and Rec



Mud Fun Run

Ages 5-13 years

This event is for your adventurous kids, and the one time you'll be happy for them to get covered in mud!

This event is a fun-filled course of obstacles, hills, water and mud.

*We will have a little mud station for children 4 & under who would like to get muddy as well.

When: Saturday, August 13th

Time: 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Where: Edgewater Park-across from Edgewater Bay Pavilion

Fee: \$10 per child; sign up by Aug. 1st

*Includes t-shirt

**Waiver must be signed

Must pre-register at the City Arena or www.ci.albertlea.mn.us



10th Annual Doggie Dip

The Albert Lea Aquatic Center will be open for dogs and their "humans" to go swimming.

Dogs must have proof of current vaccinations.

*We will be collecting donations for the Humane Society of Freeborn County.

For a complete listing check out their website at www.hsffc.org

Time: 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Date: TBA Fee: \$4.00

(includes 2 human companions)

\$1.00 for each additional human

NO POOL PASSES

For more information contact Parks & Recreation at 507.377.4370

Albert Lea Public Library

(507) 377-4350

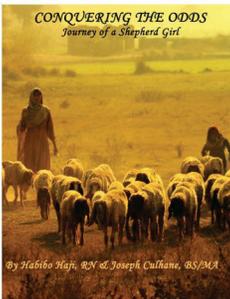
211 E. Clark St.

www.alplonline.org

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

Habibo Haji

Author of Conquering the Odds: Journey of a Shephard Girl



**Mon., Aug. 15
at 6:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers**

About the Author: Habibo Haji grew up in Somalia. Facing isolation, dangerous boys and men she was a shepherd from the age of five onwards. At 15 she found herself in a refugee camp because of the civil war.

Eventually she was selected by lottery to come to America. Once here she earned her RN degree and now works at Mayo as a nurse.



Sponsored by Albert Lea Public Library, Friends of the Albert Lea Public Library, Choose Civility of Freeborn County and Albert Lea Human Rights Commission.