

## Making Our Community Stronger

City staff took several steps to improve communication and welcome community engagement last year. Some of those actions were on the Internet. We began a weekly email newsletter. We increased our presence on Facebook. Some measures were more personal, as we've gone door-to-door in the 5th ward asking residents for input about the direction that the city is taking and addressing any concerns they may have.

This year, we're going to work even harder to communicate what we're doing and receive feedback from you. This newsletter is evidence of that. We are now going to include a newsletter in your water bill every month. We're also going to host satellite city halls - setting up shop outside places like the grocery store, so if you can't make it to a Council meeting, we can still hear what you think. We're also going to visit senior/retirement homes and large apart-



*Mayor Vern Rasmussen, Jr. speaks to residents at a neighborhood picnic.*

ment buildings, asking residents what they'd like to see us accomplish in 2016. The Mayor will be holding open office hours at City Hall. We'll finish canvassing the 5th ward and head south into the 6th ward, where we'll continue to go door-to-door to hear from you.

We are doing this to make our community stronger. We believe strong communities are places where people want to invest, raise children and grow old.

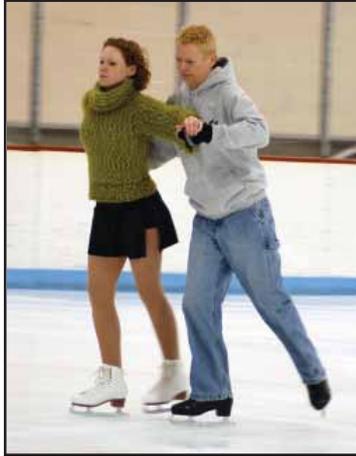
Happy New Year! We look forward to seeing you in 2016.

# Albert Lea Parks and Recreation

## Outdoor Rock on Ice

*Everyone is welcome to attend!*

Bring your friends and family out to Hayek Park for a special outdoor Rock on Ice! Bring your skates and we'll supply the ice! There will be music and games. Hot cocoa will be available to warm you up.



**Fee:** FREE

**When:** Friday, January 15th

**Time:** 7:00-9:00 pm

**Where:** Hayek Park Warming House

## Winter Warming Houses

*Open to Everyone!*

Bring your skates and practice your triple toe loop or play hockey with your friends. Take a break inside the warming house\* where you can play ping pong, foosball or even box hockey! Stop by and get to know your Warming House Attendants.

### Regular Hours

Mon.-Fri. 4:00-9:00 pm

Sat. & Sun. 1:00-8:00 pm

**Where:** Hayek Park

\*Academy, Hawthorne, and Lakeview will have ice, but warming houses only open on the weekends.

**Fee:** FREE!!!

\*Warming houses subject to close for inclement weather

# Albert Lea Public Library

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

Visit us online 24/7 at [www.alplonline.org](http://www.alplonline.org).

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

## Adult Programming

## Children's Programs & Events

HOT  
READS

-for-

COLD  
NIGHTS

Our adult winter reading program, Hot Reads for Cold Nights, begins January 19. To get started, just stop by the circulation desk to pick up a reading journal.

Then just read, record your books and then enter to win prizes.

The program ends Feb. 26.



Children's Winter Programming begins Monday, Jan. 11 and runs through Thursday, Apr. 14.

- Storytime: Mon. & Tue. at 10:30 a.m.
- Music & Movement: Thu. at 10:30 a.m.
- Night-time Storytime: Thu. at 6 p.m.

### Lego Time

The Mondays of Jan. 11 and Feb. 1 from 3:45 to 5 p.m.

### Teen Book Club - NEW!

The club will meet the 1st Sunday of the month at 2 p.m. beginning Feb. 7. Sign up at the Children's Desk.

Visit our website for complete info about these and other programs.

