

# Winter/Spring Fun Guide



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# Albert Lea Recreation Programs



Scan to register for recreation programs

Albert Lea Recreation Office, City Arena, 701 Lake Chapeau Drive

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Info and registration online: [bit.ly/al-recreation](https://bit.ly/al-recreation) • Phone: 507-377-4370

## Welcome

The City of Albert Lea Recreation Department and Public Library, along with our community partners, invite you to join us for entertainment, play and relaxation.

Enjoy our parks this winter! Neighborhood parks remain open with outdoor skating rinks at Academy, Hawthorne, Hayek and Lakeview parks. Although Bancroft and Edgewater parks are gated, they're open to snow-shoeing, cross country skiing and other winter fun. The city removes snow from the Blue Zones Walkway around Fountain Lake and the "figure 8" of the Blazing Star Trail off Garfield Avenue so they remain open for pedestrians.

## Back Into Fitness Class With Annie

**Mondays and Wednesdays, Jan. 18 - March 8  
5:20 - 6:15 p.m.**

**Albert Lea Senior Center, 1739 W. Main St.**

Annie is back teaching fitness classes! Annie will take the class through workouts that can be adaptable to most fitness levels. The class will start with meeting one day a week and then switch to two days a week. Please bring an exercise mat, towel and 1 set of hand weights at desired weight.

**Cost:** \$35 for Albert Lea residents, \$40 for non-residents.

*Valentine's Day*  
**SKATE**  
Sunday, Feb. 12 • 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

**\$5**  
includes  
skate rental

Music & refreshments

**City Arena, 701 Lake Chapeau Dr.**

**ROCK ON ICE**

**Friday, Feb. 24 • 7- 9 p.m.**  
**City Arena, 701 Lake Chapeau Dr.**  
**\$5 - includes skate rental**  
**Music & refreshments**

## Young Athletes

**Tuesdays, Jan. 31 - March 7, 6 - 7:15 p.m.**

**United Methodist Church, 702 Highway 69 S.**

The Recreation Department is partnering with United preschool to offer Young Athletes, a sport and play program for children with and without intellectual disabilities, ages 3-6. Young Athletes introduces basic sport skills like running, kicking and throwing. Scholarships are available through Special Olympics Minnesota. For more information please contact Dani Bakken at dbakken@ci.albertlea.mn.us or 507-377-4370.

**Cost:** \$20 for the 6-week session

**Registration deadline:** Monday, Jan. 23, 2023



## Candlelight Walk at State Park

**Saturday, Feb. 18, 6 - 9 p.m.**

Experience a winter evening by candlelight. Bring your snow boots, snowshoes, and/or skis and make your way through the woods on a candlelit path. Refreshments and a warm, cozy fire provided. This event is co-sponsored by Myre-Big Island State Park. Event parking is at the Big Island picnic grounds.

**Cost:** No charge - Free Park Day.

## Warming Houses

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 games like ping pong, foosball and box hockey! Stop by and get to know your warming house attendants. Warming houses are subject to close due to weather. Lights are on at all ice rinks until 9 p.m.

### Warming house hours:

Monday - Friday 5 - 8 p.m., Hayek, Lakeview and Hawthorne Parks

Saturday and Sunday 1 - 8 p.m., Hayek, Academy and Lakeview Parks

## Public Skate: Glide into fun!

### Various dates and times

Ice rinks at the Albert Lea City Arena, 701 Lake Chapeau Drive, are open for public skating at various times, usually weekdays from 1 - 3 p.m. and Sundays from 4:30 - 6 p.m. The schedule is subject to change so please check the Albert Lea Recreation Facebook page or calendar online.

**Cost:** \$4 if registering online, \$5 at the door. Additional \$2 for skate rental.

**Dates and times:** Be sure to check the "Public Skate Calendar" at [bit.ly/rec-public-skate](http://bit.ly/rec-public-skate) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/albertlearec](http://www.facebook.com/albertlearec).

**Register online:** Go to [bit.ly/recreation-registration](http://bit.ly/recreation-registration) and click on "Public Skate."



**LEARN TO SKATE USA**

**Sundays  
Jan. 8 -  
Feb. 12  
\$50**

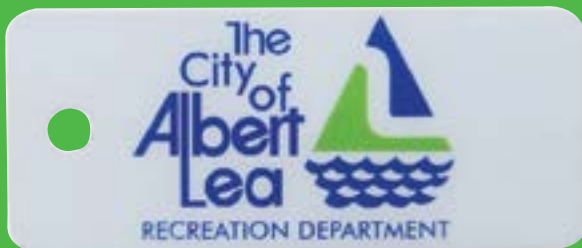
Learn to Skate is designed for beginning ice skaters ages 3 and up. Participants will be split into skill levels: Snowplow Sam 1-4 (ages 3-5) Basic Skills 1-6 (ages 6 and up). Ideal for beginner hockey players too!

- Sundays: 2 - 2:30, 2:40 - 3:10 or 3:20 - 3:50 p.m.
- Fee includes skate rental and 2 passes to public skate sessions
- Helmets are not required but recommended
- Includes Learn to Skate membership through U.S. Figure Skating

**Register online:** Go to [bit.ly/recreation-registration](http://bit.ly/recreation-registration).

## GET YOUR ARENA SKATE CARD!

20 admissions for \$60. The reloadable card can be used for open hockey, public skate and special events like Rock on Ice, skate rental not included.



# Easter Bunny Deliveries

Friday, April 7

9 - 11:30 a.m. or 1 - 3 p.m.

(sign up for one time slot)

Have the Easter bunny deliver baskets right to your doorstep. Register by March 31 at [bit.ly/recreation-registration](http://bit.ly/recreation-registration) or call 507-377-4370.



**\$10** Albert Lea resident

**\$15** non-resident  
(5-mile radius of Albert Lea)

# Pavilion Rentals

Starting Jan. 3, pavilion rentals can be reserved through Dec. 31, 2024. Pavilions are rented on a first-come first-serve basis. Pavilions can be rented online at [cityofalbertlea.org](http://cityofalbertlea.org), over the phone by calling 507-377-4370, or by visiting the Recreation office in the City Arena, 701 Lake Chapeau Drive. Payment is required at the time of reservation. Facilities must be rented for a minimum of 2 hours. There is a \$300 security deposit due at key pick-up for all rentals.



## Edgewater Bay Pavilion

- Capacity 144
- Hot and cold water
- Restrooms
- Fireplace
- Kitchen with refrigerator
- Stove/microwave
- Heat/air conditioning
- Chairs/tables

**Fees:**

\$55/hour - Albert Lea resident  
\$60/hour - non-resident  
\$800 - all day



## Edgewater Park Cottage

- Capacity 48
- Hot and cold water
- Restrooms nearby
- Fireplace
- Refrigerator
- Stove/microwave
- Chairs/tables
- Deck

**Fees:**

\$30/hour - Albert Lea resident  
\$35/hour - non-resident



## Edgewater Park North and South Pavilion

- Capacity 100 - 200
- Cold water
- Restrooms nearby
- Fireplace
- Picnic tables
- Electrical outlets
- Playground equipment

**Fees:**

\$25/hour - Albert Lea resident  
\$30/hour - non-resident



## Pioneer Park Pavilion

- Capacity 32
- Hot and cold water
- Restrooms
- Fireplace
- Kitchen with refrigerator
- Stove/microwave
- Picnic tables

**Fees:**

with kitchenette:  
\$20/hour - Albert Lea resident  
\$25/hour - non-resident  
without kitchenette:  
\$15/hour - Albert Lea resident  
\$20/hour - non-resident

### Check out the Community Calendar

Look for events, festivals and things to do on our community calendar, [cityofalbertlea.org/calendar](http://cityofalbertlea.org/calendar).

### Community Education: Climb a wall, take a class

Community Education offers classes for all ages, a rock gym, early childhood screening, day trips and so much more. There is NO FEE to use the rock gym for students in Albert Lea Area Schools! Check out their programs at [www.alschools.ce.eleyo.com](http://www.alschools.ce.eleyo.com).



### Take the Blazing Star State Trail

Walk or snowshoe the Blazing State Trail from Frank Hall Park, 505 Frank Ave., all the way to Myre-Big Island State Park and beyond. For more information, visit the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' website: [bit.ly/myre-state-park](http://bit.ly/myre-state-park) and [bit.ly/blazing-star-trail](http://bit.ly/blazing-star-trail).

*Looking forward to summer:*



### Summer Jobs

Albert Lea Recreation will be hiring for the summer! Watch the the city website, [cityofalbertlea.org/employment](http://cityofalbertlea.org/employment), for open jobs.

- Lifeguards - Must be at least 15 years old and have a current lifeguard certification
- Attendants - must be at least 16 years old
- Play Parks Leaders - must be at least 16 years old
- Recreation Assistants - must be at least 18 years old

For more information, please contact Dani Bakken at [dbakken@ci.albertlea.mn.us](mailto:dbakken@ci.albertlea.mn.us) or 507-377-4370.



### Summer Sand Volleyball

**Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday starting May 8, Snyder Fields**

Sand Volleyball is open to anyone 15 and older. A single elimination tournament is held at the end of the season with championship t-shirts awarded to the first-place team. All leagues are officiated by teams using the honor rule.

**May 1, 2023:** All team registrations due. Register online at: [bit.ly/recreation-registration](http://bit.ly/recreation-registration) and click on Adult Programming.

**May 8, 2023:** Summer league starts.

Monday nights: Co-Ed A league - men can spike  
Tuesday nights: Co-Ed B and C League - non-spiking  
Wednesday nights: Women's A, B and C Leagues



# Albert Lea Public Library Programs

211 E. Clark Street, Albert Lea • 507-377-4350 • [alplonline.org](http://alplonline.org)  
No charge for programs!



### Library Hours:

Monday: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Tuesday: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
Wednesday: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Thursday: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Friday: 1-5 p.m.  
Saturday: Closed  
Sunday: 1-5 p.m.

### Storytime

**Mondays and Tuesdays,  
Jan. 17 - April 11, 10 a.m.**

Join us for stories, songs, and movement to support literacy development and learning in young children.

### Nighttime Storytime

**Tuesdays, Jan. 17 - April 11,  
6:30 p.m.**

Come in your pajamas for stories, songs, and movement to support literacy development and learning in young children.

### Music & Movement

**Thursdays, Jan. 19 - April 13,  
10 a.m.**

Join us for music, dancing, singing, and stories to support literacy development and learning in young children.

# Youth Programs

## Intro to Book Pals

**Thursdays, Feb. 9, March 9, and April 13, 3:45 p.m.**

Students in grades 1 and 2 are invited to an introduction to Book Pals, a book club just for kids. Each month, students will read, discuss and participate in activities related to a different story. Registration required for each month.

## Book Pals - Grades 3 & 4

**Tuesdays, Jan. 24 - Feb. 21, 3:45 p.m.**

Students in grades 3 and 4 are invited to read *The BFG* by Roald Dahl. Students will read the required reading for each week and then come to Book Pals for discussion and an activity. Registration is required.

## Book Pals - Grades 5, 6, & 7

**Mondays, Jan. 23 - Feb. 27 (no meeting Feb. 20) 3:45 p.m.**

Students in grades 5, 6 and 7 are invited to read *The Sea of Monsters* by Rick Riordan. Students will read the required reading for each week and then come to Book Pals for discussion and an activity. Registration is required.

## Heart Paper Mache Craft

**Sunday, Feb. 5, 2 p.m.**

Join us in the Children's Library for a family event to create your own paper mache heart.

## Build Your Own Birdhouse

**Sunday, April 2, 2 p.m.**

Join us in the Children's Library for a family event to build and decorate a birdhouse.

## Discovery Kits available at library



Check out Discovery Kits for hiking, star-gazing and other activities at the Albert Lea Public Library: [alplonline.org/discovery-kits](http://alplonline.org/discovery-kits).

To register for a program, stop by the library, 211 E. Clark St., Albert Lea, register online at [alplonline.org](http://alplonline.org), or call 507-377-4350.

All programs are FREE OF CHARGE.



## Dr. Seuss Birthday Party

Thursday, March 2  
2-4 p.m.  
Children's Library

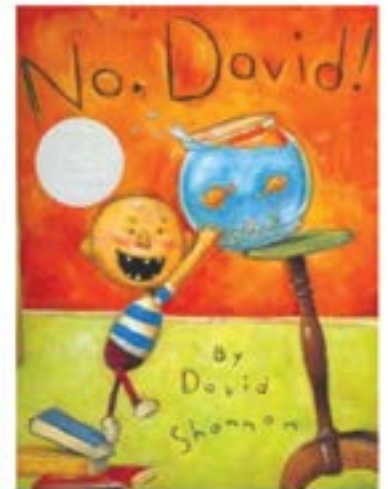
Join us for stories, games, activities, and cake to celebrate Dr. Seuss' Birthday!



## Celebrate Author David Shannon

Sunday, March 5  
2 p.m.  
Children's Library

Join us for crafts, games, and activities as we celebrate 25 years of the David Books by author David Shannon.



# Adult Programs

## Board Game Night

**First Tuesday of the month, 6 - 8 p.m.**

Join us on the first Tuesday of each month for Board Game Night in the Fiction Library on the top floor of the Library/City Hall. A variety of games will be provided but attendees are welcome to bring their own.

## Adult Craft Night

**Second Tuesday of the month, 4:30 & 6 p.m.**

Join the Albert Lea Public Library for Adult Craft Night on the second Tuesday of each month. Attendees will complete a different craft. All supplies are provided. Registration is required at [alponline.org](http://alponline.org).

Starting in January, there will be two sessions of craft night, one at 4:30 p.m. and one at 6 p.m. Please register for one session only at [alponline.org](http://alponline.org).

Jan. 10 - Sock Snowman  
 Feb. 14 - Puzzle Heart Wreath  
 Mar. 14 - Birdhouse  
 Apr. 11 - Bunny Flower Pot  
 May 9 - Pressed Flower Lantern

## Needles, Pins & More

**First Thursday of the month, 10-11:30 a.m.**

Bring your current small craft project and work on it with others in the community. All types of crafts are welcome, including knitting, crocheting, needlepoint, and more.

## Fountain Lake Readers Book Club

**Second Thursday of the month, 10 a.m.**

The Fountain Lake Readers Book Club meets monthly to discuss a broad range of fiction book titles. Copies of the book for each month are available at the library. New members are always welcome.

## Bring Your Own Lunch & Learn

**Thursdays, Feb. 9, March 9, April 13, noon  
 City Council Chambers**

Bring your lunch and join us for an hour of learning. Enjoy presentations from a variety of community partners. Visit the library's website, [alponline.org](http://alponline.org), or call the library for more information about topics and presenters.

**To register for a program, stop by the library, 211 E. Clark St., Albert Lea, register online at [alponline.org](http://alponline.org), or call 507-377-4350. All programs are FREE OF CHARGE.**



## Choose Your Own Book Club

**Third Tuesday of the month  
 6 p.m.  
 Computer Lab**

Connect with fellow readers and grow your reading list in this casual book discussion group. Join us to talk about the books you've read or are currently reading.

**AL  
PL**

**Memoir  
Writing  
Workshop**

Tuesday, April 25  
 Tuesday, May 9  
 Tuesday, May 23  
 6 p.m.  
 City Council Chambers

Everyone has a story to tell. Learn how to tell yours in this three-session workshop. Registration is required.





# Hot Reads for Cold Nights

Jan. 17 - Feb. 28

Beat the winter blues by participating in Hot Reads for Cold Nights, our adult and teen winter reading program! Read books, get prizes, and enter to win a grand prize!

## Need a library card?

### Freeborn County residents:

Anyone who lives in or owns property in Freeborn County, Minnesota is eligible for an Albert Lea Public Library card. Children 3-17 years old are eligible for a card with a completed application and proof of residence by a parent or guardian.

### Minnesota residents outside of Freeborn County:

If you live in Minnesota but outside of Freeborn County, you are eligible to have your home library card activated so that you may use all of our non-digital services. If your current library is a member of the SELCO system, you are already eligible to use our non-digital services.

### Non-Minnesota residents:

If you live outside of Minnesota, you can obtain a library card with an annual, non-refundable fee of \$40.

### What do I need to get a library card?

To get a library card or have your card activated for use at Albert Lea Public Library, bring in the following identification: Minnesota Driver's License or Photo ID with current address OR Photo ID and a lease, mortgage or bill with current address. Individuals that do not have a photo ID can provide two forms of address verification.

Library card applications are available in the library or on the library's website, [alplonline.org](http://alplonline.org).



## Tiny Art Show

Canvas pick-up  
Feb.1  
Art due Feb. 28

Art on display  
March 6 - March 19

Join the Albert Lea Public Library for a tiny art show! Pick up your 3"x3" canvas and use any materials to create a tiny masterpiece!



## Winter Writing Contest



### Submissions due Jan. 31

Unleash your creativity and take part in our writing contest! Submit your fiction short stories on the theme, "A little magic can go a long way." Judges from the community will rank the submissions and prizes will be awarded to the top three works in each age group:

- Grades 3-5
- Grades 6-8
- Grades 9-12
- Adults

Full details can be found on the library's website, [alplonline.org](http://alplonline.org).

# Albert Lea Senior Center

**Skyline Plaza, 1739 W. Main St. • 507-373-0704**

**Open Monday - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.,**

**Friday, 8:30 a.m. - noon**

The mission of the Senior Center is to coordinate and provide programs and services to enrich the lives and health of our seniors through educational, social and recreational activities.



## Membership

Cost for the membership is \$30 and is available to anyone 55 and older. If you are a member of the YMCA, membership is free.

## New! Mahjong

**Every other Monday, 12:30-3 p.m. starting Jan. 9**

Mahjong is a tile based strategy game that was developed in the 19th century in China but has become widely popular in other countries.

## Memory Care Cafe

**Second Monday of the month, 2 p.m.**

**Second Thursday of the month, 2 p.m.**

A safe place for people with memory loss and their caregivers to come and enjoy activities, share conversation, learn, and feel connected. Call 373-3938 for details.

## Monthly Birthday Party

**Second Monday of the month following BINGO (around 2:30 p.m.)**

Join us for our Monthly Birthday Parties where we celebrate you!

## New! Tech Tuesday

**First Tuesday of the month, 9:30 a.m.**

Representatives from various companies like Verizon, AT&T and T-Mobile will join us each month. They will be available to help with cell phone questions as well as

teach a few new tricks. Keep an eye out for details on each month's topic!

## Coffee with a Cop

**First Wednesday of the month, 9:30 a.m.**

## Monthly Service Projects

**Fourth Wednesday of the month, 10 a.m.**

Volunteer with United Way. Potential activities include sorting donations, preparing mailings or assembling hygiene kits.

## Treasure Island Casino Day Trip

**Feb. 15, register by Feb. 7**

**Participants must be 18 years and older to go on the Casino Trips.**

Minimum 25 participants to hold trip. Maximum 55. Cost per trip: \$30 for Senior Center members and \$35 for non-members. Bus departs at 8 a.m. Each participant will receive a \$3 food coupon and \$15 in Slot Play.

## Health and Wellness Expo

**March 27, 9-11 a.m.**

This 55+ Expo will include a wide variety of vendors offering information, products, and resources on health care, housing, finance, recreation, fitness, safety, and more; free refreshments; health screenings; and door prizes.

## Incident at Our Lady of Perpetual Help at the Sidekick Theater

**April 20, 9:30 a.m., register by April 4**

Take a trip back to 1973 with the Irish Catholic O'Shea family in this boisterous and moving new play. When Linda's mother instructs her to tell her sister about the birds and the bees, things quickly snowball into a potential crisis after the conversation is overheard by the parish priest. Secrets are unintentionally revealed, and a quick-witted group of women realize what really matters as they work to protect their family reputation and each other. This wild and tender comedy explores the foolishness of first love and ultimately, the power of family.

**Cost:** \$69 for Senior Center Members/ \$74 for non-members (cost includes bus, sit down lunch and the play)

## SAVE THE DATE!

More details to come - inquire at the Senior Center this spring!

**May 17: Wild Rose Casino Day Trip- \$30/\$35**

**May 22: Spring BBQ - \$6/\$10**

**More events! For information on additional events, visit the Senior Center!**

## Defensive Driving Course

Feb. 3, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

March 24, 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.

April 7, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

May 5, 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.

This course will save you 10% on your auto insurance for 3 years. There are NO written or behind the wheel tests! To register and pay for this class, please call 1-888-234-1294 or visit [www.mnsafetycenter.org](http://www.mnsafetycenter.org).



## Senior Center weekly programing

Monday	9 a.m. Cribbage & Coffee 10:30 a.m. Building Bones 1 p.m. BINGO 3 p.m. Skip-Bo
Tuesday	9 a.m. Aerobics 10 a.m. SAIL 11:15 a.m. Quilting 12:30 p.m. 500 1 p.m. Crafts 2:30 p.m. Pfeffer
Wednesday	9 a.m. Cribbage & Coffee 1 p.m. BINGO 3 p.m. Skip-Bo
Thursday	9 a.m. Aerobics 10:30 a.m. Building Bones 11:30 a.m. Bridge 12:30 p.m. 500 2 p.m. Knitting 2:30 p.m. Pfeffer
Friday	9 a.m. SAIL Center closes at noon

## RECHARGE ALBERT LEA: EV Expo & Test Drive

May 6, 2023  
10:00am – 2:00pm

Design Ready Controls  
Albert Lea Facility  
590 East 14th Street,  
Albert Lea, MN

**FREE & OPEN  
TO THE PUBLIC**

**RECHARGE|MN**

Take an EV out for a spin, get hands-on experience with charging, and get a feel for how EVs can fit into YOUR life.

RSVP HERE



Event Partners:



[recharge-minnesota.org](http://recharge-minnesota.org)

“Serving on a board gives the city council a few more ears or voices to assist with decisions.”

Colby Cunningham  
Board of Appeals member



## Board members needed!

Interested in serving on a city board or commission?  
Find out more here: [bit.ly/boards-commissions](http://bit.ly/boards-commissions)



## Albert Lea Recreation Albert Lea Public Library

221 E Clark Street  
Albert Lea, MN 56007  
cityofalbertlea.org

### Blue Zones: Step into the healthy zone

Blue Zones is a nationwide program to embed healthy choices into everyday living. Albert Lea was the first Blue Zones-certified community in the United States. You can start your journey to better health by taking the True Vitality Test at [apps.bluezones.com/en/vitality](https://apps.bluezones.com/en/vitality). This test consists of 12 questions and takes only 3-5 minutes to complete. The Blue Zones program will use your responses to provide you with individualized changes to make for a healthier lifestyle. You will need to register at the end of the test in order to have the results emailed to you. The test is also available in Spanish.



Look for “Blue Zones Project Albert Lea” on Facebook!

### Call 2-1-1 for health and human services help

Need help finding a resource? United Way’s 2-1-1 referral and information hotline is for families and individuals in Minnesota to call for free and confidential information on health and human services. 2-1-1 call centers are staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by trained Community Resource Specialists. All languages are available. In addition to general resources, the 2-1-1 team is a Minnesota based provider of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. For more information, visit [www.211unitedway.org](http://www.211unitedway.org).

### Catch the SMART bus

Need a ride? Catch the SMART bus! Check out their routes and fares at [www.smartbusmn.org](http://www.smartbusmn.org), or call 1-855-SMART-B1 to arrange a ride.

### Put our lakes on a salt-free diet

According to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), it only takes 1 teaspoon of salt to permanently pollute 5 gallons of water. One of the largest contributors is salt used in de-icing.

To cut down on salt, the MPCA recommends:

- Shovel and scrape. The more snow and ice removed, the less salt is needed to melt the ice.
- 15°F and below is too cold for salt. Most salts stop working when it’s this cold. Use sand to help with traction.
- Use the right amount. Only about a coffee cup full of salt is needed to treat a 20-foot driveway or 10 sidewalk squares (1,000 square feet).
- Sweep up visible salt on dry surfaces. Once salt has done its job, you can sweep it up and use it again later.



Check out the MPCA’s Smart Salting training website to learn more about Smart Salting training for property managers: [bit.ly/MPCA-salt-training](http://bit.ly/MPCA-salt-training).

### Get social with us!

Follow City of Albert Lea - City Hall on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube @cityofalbertlea

### Stay up-to-date, sign up for our Week-Lea e-newsletter:

[cityofalbertlea.org/i-want-to/sign-up-for-our-e-newsletter](http://cityofalbertlea.org/i-want-to/sign-up-for-our-e-newsletter)

### Watch city council meetings online and on-demand at:

[bit.ly/Albert-Lea-TV](http://bit.ly/Albert-Lea-TV)