



2023-24 Winter/Spring



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Albert Lea Public Library Winter/Spring programs

211 E. Clark Street, Albert Lea • 507-377-4350 • 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. 16 to April 9 at 10 a.m.**

Children's Library

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

Nighttime storytime

**Tuesdays, Jan. 16 to April 9,
6:30 p.m., Children's Library**

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

Music and movement

**Thursdays, Jan. 18 to April 11,
10 a.m., Children's Library**

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

Youth programs and special events

Intro to Book Pals

Thursdays, Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 14, and April 11, 3:45 p.m.

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

Book Pals - Grades 3 and 4

Tuesdays, Jan. 23 to Feb. 27 (no meeting Feb. 20), 3:45 p.m.

Kids in grades 3 and 4 are invited to Book Pals, a book club just for kids. This winter, kids will read "Matilda" by Roald Dahl and participate in activities related to the story. Registration is required.

Book Pals - Grades 5 to 7

Mondays, Jan. 22 to Feb. 26 (no meeting Feb. 19), 3:45 p.m.

Kids in grades 5-7 are invited to Book Pals, a book club just for kids. This winter, kids will read "The Swiss Family Robinson" by Johann D. Wyss and participate in activities related to the story. Registration is required.

Introduction to cross stitch

Thursday, March 7 at 3:45 p.m., Children's Library
Learn the art of cross stitch! All supplies will be provided and no experience is necessary. This event is open to kids in grades 4 and 5. Registration is required.

Family Reads



Sunday, Dec. 10 to Sunday, Jan. 21

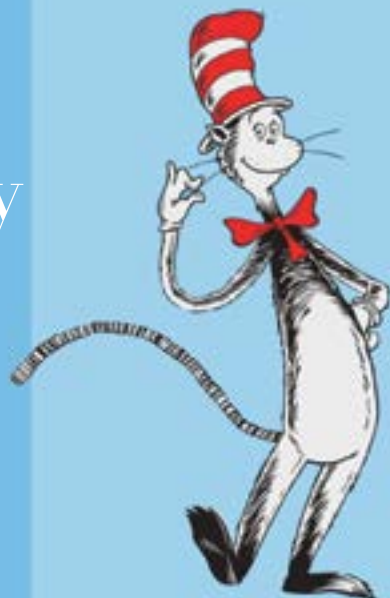
Families with children are invited to sign up as a team and record reading minutes. Teams have no limit, so get everyone involved in the fun! Teams earn raffle tickets for every 60 minutes of reading. Sign up for the program starting on Sunday, Dec. 3.



Dr. Seuss birthday party

**Sunday, March 3
2 to 3 p.m.
Children's Library**

Join us in the Children's Library for stories, games, activities and cake to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday!



Family events:



Dominoes

Sunday, Feb. 4 from 2 to 3 p.m.

Join us in the Children's Library for a family event where participants will build creations with dominoes.

Rock painting

Sunday, April 7 from 2 to 3 p.m.

Join us in the Children's Library for a family event to paint rocks.



Hot Reads for Cold Nights

Jan. 2 to Feb. 29

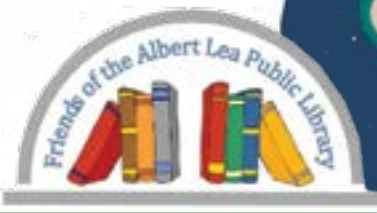
Beat the winter blues by joining the Albert Lea Public Library for Hot Reads for Cold Nights, the adult and teen winter reading program. Read five books between Jan. 2 and Feb. 29 to win a prize and an entry into the grand prize drawing. One prize per person, but readers can continue to enter the grand prize drawing for every five books read. Sign up for the program at the library starting Jan. 2.

SHOP THE FOUNTAIN LAKE BOOKSTORE

**Located on the
bottom floor of the
Library/City Hall**

221 E. Clark St., Albert Lea

**Open:
Monday-Thursday
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**



All proceeds support programming and equipment at the Albert Lea Public Library

Need a library card?

Freeborn County residents:

Anyone who lives in or owns property in Freeborn County 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.

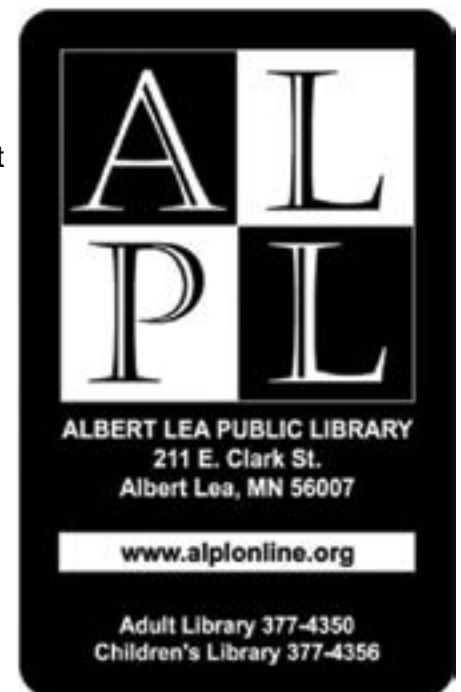
Non-Minnesota residents:

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.



Adult programs

Board game night

First Tuesday of the month, 6 to 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.

Needles, pins and more

First Thursday of the month, 10 to 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.

Bring your own lunch and learn

**Thursdays, Feb. 8, March 14, April 11 at noon
City Council Chambers**

Bring your lunch and join us for an hour of learning.

Feb. 8: Winter Seed Sowing with Master Gardener Don Smith

March 14: History of the Albert Lea Police Department

April 11: Murder at Minnesota Point with author Jeff Sauve

Adult craft night

Second Tuesday of the month, 4:30 and 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 each month. All supplies are provided.

Registration is required at alplonline.org. Please register for one session only, 4:30 or 6 p.m.

Jan. 9: Water Color Painting

Feb. 13: Book Page Flower

March 12: Painted Pavers

April 9: Tissue Paper Flower Wreath

May 14: Button Flower

Fountain Lake Readers book club

Second Thursday of the month at 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 welcome.



3D designing and printing

**Thursdays, Jan. 18 and March 21
5 p.m.
Computer Lab**

Learn about designing and printing in 3D. Participants will use Tinkercad to create and customize designs and print them with the library's 3D printer. Participants do not need to have 3D printing experience but should have basic computer skills. Registration is required.



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.

Albert Lea 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 • Phone: 507-377-4370



**Scan to register
for recreation
programs**

Enjoy our parks this winter! Neighborhood parks are open with outdoor skating rinks at Academy, Hawthorne, Hayek and Lakeview parks. Although Bancroft Bay 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.

Program cancellation

City of Albert Lea will issue a full refund when a class is canceled due to low enrollment. Class participants will be notified of a canceled program through email.

Participation waiver

Participation in any Albert Lea Recreation program, class or activity is voluntary. By enrolling in these programs, you indicate that you have no physical conditions, health history or illness that would make your participating hazardous to your health or others.

Please note: Due to unforeseen circumstances after printing, information in this guide is subject to change.



Outdoor rinks and warming houses

Outdoor rinks and warming houses will open this winter, when weather permits, at the following parks:

- Academy, 910 Frank Hall Drive
- Hawthorne, 915 Garfield Ave.
- Hayek, 1215 Clark St.
- Lakeview, 102 Willamor Road

Skates are available at Hayek and Lakeview parks. There is no fee to skate or borrow skates. Sizes are limited.

Warming house hours:

Monday - Friday from 5 to 8 p.m.:

Hawthorne, Hayek and Lakeview parks

Saturday and Sunday, from 1 to 8 p.m.:

Academy, Hayek 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 to 3 p.m. and Sundays from 4:30 to 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 or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/albertlearec.

Register online: Go to bit.ly/recreation-registration and click on "Public Skate."

Contact and registration info

Recreation Manager Bob Furland 507-377-4370

Recreation Coordinator Dani Bakken 507-377-4368

Recreation Office Manager Afton Wacholz 507-377-4370

Arena Foreman Josh Heilman..... 507-377-4374

To register:

- Online at: bit.ly/recreation-registration
- Recreation Office, 701 Lake Chapeau Drive,
open 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. weekdays
- Cash, checks and credit cards accepted



Winter volleyball

Mondays and Wednesdays, starting Jan. 8
National Guard Armory, 410 Prospect Ave.
First game starts at 6:30 p.m.

Winter volleyball leagues are open to players age 15 and older, with games at the Albert Lea National Guard Armory. Women's league games are on Monday nights and Co-ed league games are on Wednesday nights. The season ends with a single elimination tournament. All games are officiated by teams that follow the honor rule.

Cost: \$134.84 per team.



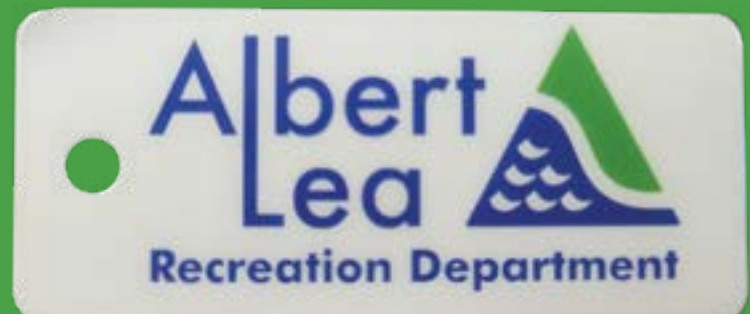
School break activities

December 27 and 28, registration begins Dec. 4
March 14 and 15, registration begins Feb. 12

The Recreation Department, Community Education and the Albert Lea Family YMCA offer a range of activities during winter break and spring break. These programs are designed to keep students engaged, active and learning during their time off. For the latest program announcements make sure to follow "Albert Lea Recreation" on Facebook.

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.



Fitness classes

Weight training with Annie

Option 1	Option 2
Mondays and Wednesdays Jan. 22 to March 4 5:20 to 6:15 p.m. Albert Lea Senior Center, 1739 W. Main St.	Tuesdays and Thursdays Jan. 23 to March 6, 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Upper level conference room, City Arena, 701 Lake Chapeau Drive

Get back into fitness with Annie Olson! Annie will take the class through workouts adaptable to most fitness levels. Please bring an exercise mat, towel and one set of hand weights at desired weight.

Cost: \$35 for city residents, \$40 for non-residents.

Pilates

Mondays and Wednesdays,
Jan. 22 to March 4,
6:15 to 7 p.m.

Albert Lea Senior Center, 1739 W. Main St.

Pilates can improve both strength and flexibility. It involves a series of movements that target specific muscles in the body, with a focus on developing core strength. Pilates can improve your posture, balance, and overall fitness level. Please bring an exercise mat, towel and one set of hand weights at desired weight.

Cost: \$35 for city residents, \$40 for non-residents.

Young Athletes

Tuesdays, Feb. 6 - March 4 from 6:15 to 7 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 sports 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: Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024



UGLY SWEATER SKATE

Sunday, Dec. 17, 4:30 - 6 p.m.
City Arena, 701 Lake Chapeau Drive
\$5, includes skate rental
Ugly sweater contest, music and prizes!

Find us on Facebook

Look for "Albert Lea Recreation"



LEARN TO SKATE USA

Jan. 7 - Feb. 11

Participate in Learn to Skate through the U.S. Figure Skating Association! This program is designed for beginner hockey players, figure skaters or any ice skaters ages 3 and up. Participants will be placed in groups based on skill level:

- Snowplow Sam: 1 - 4 (ages 3 - 5)
- Basic Skills: 1 - 6 (ages 6 and up)
- Participants are encouraged to provide their own helmets

Sundays, choice of: 2 to 2:30 p.m.
 2:40 to 3:10 p.m.
 3:20 to 3:50 p.m.

Fee includes a Learn to Skate membership, skate rentals (skate sizes are limited) and 2 passes to public skate at the City Arena.

Register online: bit.ly/recreation-registration

\$50

Rock on Ice New Year's Bash



Friday, Dec. 29 from 7 - 9 p.m.
City Arena
701 Lake Chapeau Drive
\$5, includes skate rental
Music and contests

Valentine's Day Rock on ice

Friday, Feb. 16, from 7 to 9 p.m.



Music & refreshments

\$5
includes
skate rental

City Arena, 701 Lake Chapeau Dr.

Easter Bunny Deliveries

Friday, March 29
9 to 11:30 a.m. or
1 to 3 p.m.

(sign up for one time slot)

Have the Easter Bunny deliver baskets right to your doorstep. Register by March 15 at bit.ly/recreation-registration or call 507-377-4370.



\$10 Albert Lea resident
\$15 non-resident
(5-mile radius of Albert Lea)

Easter egg hunt

Saturday, March 30
Central Park,
300 W. Clark St.



Join us at Central Park for an Easter egg hunt. The egg hunt will be broken up into age groups. Please bring your own basket or bag to collect the eggs. Please do not arrive more than 15 minutes before scheduled age group.

9 to 9:30 a.m.: Ages 4 and under
9:40 to 10:10 a.m.: Ages 5-7
10:20 to 10:50 a.m.: Ages 8-11

Take the winter walking challenge

The Blue Zones Albert Lea Leadership Team challenges everyone to keep walking this winter! How to stay active:

- Take the Blue Zones Walkway around Fountain Lake or the Blazing Star State Trail
- Snowshoe at a local park, with snowshoe rentals available at Albert Lea Community Education and Myre-Big Island State Park
- Sled downhill and then walk back up
- Cross-country ski at a park
- Skate indoors at the City Arena or outdoors at Academy, Hawthorne, Hayek or Lakeview parks
- Designate a path through worksites for walking during breaks
- Walk indoors at the Albert Lea Family Y, Northbridge Mall or Skyline Plaza

For addresses of these locations and other details, visit:
cityofalbertlea.org/stay-active.



Pavilion rentals

Starting Jan. 2, pavilion rentals can be reserved through Dec. 31, 2025. Pavilions are rented on a first-come first-serve basis. Pavilions can be rented online at 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. Rental times must include set up and clean up time. There is a \$300 security deposit due at key pick-up for rentals requiring a key to access. Edgewater Park Cottage, Edgewater North and South Pavilion and Pioneer Park are seasonal rentals and open early May through mid-October.



Edgewater Bay Pavilion

- Capacity 144
- Hot and cold water
- Restrooms
- 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 Large Pavilion Full, North or South Pavilion

- Capacity 100 per half
- 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
- 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

Great idea for park amenity or rec program?

The Albert Lea Parks and Rec Board wants to hear from booster clubs, sports groups and other residents about enhancing our rec programs or park amenities. If you are seeking to add an amenity or program, or funding for a project, please do the following:

- Review the process for review of project requests. You may want to print this process as a handy reference.
- Complete and submit the application.

For more information, process and application, visit the city's website: cityofalbertlea.org/parksproject.

As an advisory board to the City Council, the board decides whether to recommend a project to the council for approval and implementation. The council makes the final decision.

Projects must meet this mission: To provide quality recreational opportunities and to plan, acquire, develop and maintain quality, attractive parks and facilities that enhance the quality of life in the community of Albert Lea.



Looking forward to summer:



Summer jobs

Albert Lea Recreation will be hiring for the summer! Watch the city website, cityofalbertlea.org/employment, for open positions.

- Lifeguards: Must be at least 15 years old and have a current lifeguard certification
- Pool 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 or 507-377-4370.



Summer sand volleyball

Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays starting May 6, Snyder Fields, 2404 Bridge Ave.

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, 2024: All team registrations due. Register online at: bit.ly/recreation-registration and click on "Adult Programming."

May 6, 2024: 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 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 per year and is available to anyone 55 and older. If you are a member of the YMCA, membership is free.

Senior Center weekly programing

Monday	10:30 a.m. Building Bones 12:30 p.m. Mahjong 1 p.m. BINGO
Tuesday	9 a.m. Aerobics 10 a.m. SAIL 11:15 a.m. Quilting Noon 500 1 p.m. Crafts 2:30 p.m. Pfeffer
Wednesday	1 p.m. BINGO
Thursday	9 a.m. Aerobics 10:30 a.m. Building Bones 11:30 a.m. Bridge Noon 500 2 p.m. Knitting 2:30 p.m. Pfeffer
Friday	9 a.m. SAIL Senior Center closes at noon

Memory Care Cafe

Second Monday of the month at 2 p.m.
Second Thursday of the month at 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.

Tech Tuesday

First Tuesday of the month at 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 at 9:30 a.m.

You are invited to come and enjoy a cup of coffee with local law enforcement officers and ask any questions you may have.

Monthly birthday party

Second Monday of the month at 2:30 p.m.

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

Christmas party

Friday, Dec. 8 at 11:30 a.m. at Edgewater Bay Pavilion, 1940 Edgewater Drive

Join us for our third annual Christmas Party at the pavilion. There will be raffle items and delicious food overlooking the lake. **Cost:** \$7 for members and \$14 for non-members

Arts and crafts

Friday, Dec. 15 at 10 a.m.

Get those creative juices flowing and join us for arts and crafts! Classes will vary each month. Previous activities included acrylic painting, card making and a spring wood craft. More detailed is available at the Senior Center. Must register one week before the class date. **Cost:** \$7 Senior Center members, \$10 non-members.

Treasure Island Casino trip (weather permitting)

Tuesday, Jan. 23

Hop on the bus and we'll do the driving to Treasure Island Casino! Participants will receive \$20 Free Slot Play on a player's card AND a \$5 off food coupon. If the forecast one week prior looks poor, the trip will be postponed to February.

Cost: \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members.

Valentine's week special: Share the love!

All week from Feb. 12 to 16, bring a friend to the Senior Center for free!

Valentine's Day free coffee and treats

We love you! Come in on Valentine's Day for free coffee and treats!

For information on additional events, call or visit the Senior Center!

Winter safety tips

from Albert Lea Fire Rescue

Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents every year.



Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators or space heaters.



For more safety tips, follow "Albert Lea Fire Rescue" on Facebook

Stay safe on the roads over the holidays and every day:

- Prepare your car for winter and keep an emergency kit with you.
- Get a good night's sleep before departing and avoid driving drowsy.
- Leave early, planning ahead for heavy traffic.
- Make sure every person in the vehicle is properly buckled up no matter how long or short the distance traveled.
- Put that cell phone away; many distractions occur while driving, but cell phones are the main culprit.
- Practice defensive driving.
- Designate a sober driver to ensure guests make it home safely after a holiday party; alcohol or over-the-counter, prescription and illegal drugs can cause impairment.

Follow us on Facebook, look for "Albert Lea Police Department."



Snow removal: Keeping the community safe during winter weather

- City crews plow 120 miles of streets.
- Snow removal typically begins when there is 3 inches of snow accumulation or when drifting snow causes dangerous conditions that impact travel.
- The city prioritizes plowing arterial and collector streets, emergency vehicle locations, school streets and bus routes.
- Residential streets and city parking lots are plowed last.

Learn more about the how and when of snow removal: bit.ly/snow-removal-policy

The City of Albert Lea currently has openings on the Board of Appeals



"I tell new board members that they are voting to grant an exception to the rules that everyone else has to follow. This board serves an important role by ensuring that fair and objective standards are met in reviewing requests and granting variances."

— City Planner Megan Boeck

Applications are available in the mayor's office on the top floor of City Hall, 221 E. Clark St., or online at cityofalbertlea.org/boards-and-commissions.

Explore our city

221 E. Clark St.
507-377-4300
www.cityofalbertlea.org

Albert Lea Community Theatre (ACT)

Albert Lea Community Theatre, 147 N. Broadway, is in its 58th season. Watch for the production of "A Christmas Carol" in December and "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare" in March. For more information about ACT events, visit actonbroadway.com or call 1-877-730-3144 (toll-free).

Albert Lea Art Center

The Albert Lea Art Center, 101 S. Broadway Ave., offers exhibits by local artists and many unique items for sale including jewelry, paintings, cards, and pottery all year long. Open Wednesday - Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 507-373-5665 for more information.

Freeborn County Arts Initiative

The Freeborn County Arts Initiative, 224 S. Broadway, offers exhibits and programming. Visit this website for more information: www.fcai.us.



Take the Blazing Star State Trail

Snowshoe or ski the Blazing Star 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 DNR website at: www.dnr.state.mn.us and search for "Myre-Big Island State Park" and "Blazing Star Trail."

Visit Albert Lea parks for play, lake views and more!



See the full list online: cityofalbertlea.org/parks



Sledding

Popular hills for sledding are at Lakeview School, 902 Abbott St., and along Frank Hall Drive across from Academy Park, 910 Frank Hall Drive.

Freeborn County Historical Society

Visit the Freeborn County Historical Museum, Library, and Village, 1031 Bridge Ave. For more information, visit www.fchmmn.org or call 507-373-8003.

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

United Way's 2-1-1 referral and information hotline is an easy to remember three digit number that families and individuals in Minnesota can call to obtain 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 who quickly assess needs and refer callers to the help that they seek. 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.

SMART bus

Need a ride? Catch the SMART bus! Check out the routes and fares at www.smartbusmn.org, or call 1-855-SMART-B1 to arrange a ride.

Look for events, festivals and things to do on the Community calendar



cityofalbertlea.org/calendar

Albert Lea

-HOLIDAY BAZAAR-

**Thursday, Dec. 7, from 4 to 7 p.m.,
downtown Albert Lea**

- Horse drawn wagon rides
- Live reindeer
- Photos with Santa
- Store specials
- Carolers
- Pop-ups
- Hot chocolate and goodies
- Santa Cruise on Broadway at 6 p.m.
- Trail of Enchantment at Central Park with the tree lighting at 6:30 p.m.



THE BIG FREEZE

Saturday, Feb. 10, various locations

- Chili cookoff
- Pond hockey tournament
- Live music
- Pancake breakfast
- Visit with Elsa
- Ice fishing tournament

Follow "The Big Freeze - Albert Lea" on Facebook for event details.



For recycling electronics or disposing of other items that can't be recycled or reused,

take them to the Transfer Station

Winter Hours (Dec. 1 - March 31)

Monday:	Closed
Tuesday:	11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Wednesday:	Closed
Thursday:	Closed
Friday:	11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Saturday:	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Sunday:	Closed



**2506 W. Richway Dr.
Albert Lea**

cityofalbertlea.org/transfer-station

**507-373-5013 or
507-377-4325 (engineering dept.)**



Winter with Community Ed

**SENIORS / ADULT ENRICHMENT / YOUTH ENRICHMENT
ADULT BASIC EDUCATION / EARLY LEARNING**

- * Adult & kids size snowshoe checkout available
- * Rock Gym Hours: Tues, Fri, Sat from 6:00-9:00pm
- * K-5 winter break event registration opening Dec. 1st
- * Early Learning's winter classes starting in December
- * ABE's Citizenship class starting January 5th
- * Daytime trip registration open January 8th

**WINTER/SPRING REGISTRATION
OPENS ONLINE DECEMBER 11**

Albert Lea Community Ed
M, T, Th from 8:30-2:30pm
507-379-5318 (5317)
AlbertLeaCommunityEd.org





City of Albert Lea

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

No more late fines!

The Albert Lea Public Library is now fine-free, and old fines have been erased.

Patrons must still pay for lost or damaged items. They also lose check-out privileges until items are returned.

Visit the library for books, hot spots, use of computers, printing services and more:

- 211 E. Clark St.
- alplonline.org



Protect our lakes: Reduce salt pollution

Salt, particularly chloride, poses a significant threat to Minnesota's freshwater ecosystems, harming aquatic life and potentially impacting drinking water sources. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) emphasizes that even a small amount of salt can have detrimental effects. A teaspoon of salt can permanently contaminate five gallons of water.

De-icing salt is a major contributor to salt pollution in Minnesota's lakes and streams. To minimize the use of salt and protect our waterways, the MPCA recommends the following practices:

- Shovel and scrape. Removing snow and ice manually reduces the amount of salt needed for melting.
- Use sand for traction. When temperatures drop below 15°F, salt loses its effectiveness. Instead, use sand to improve traction on sidewalks and driveways.
- Apply salt sparingly. A small amount of salt goes a long way. A coffee cup full of salt is sufficient to treat a 20-foot driveway or 1,000 square feet of sidewalk.
- Sweep up excess salt. Once salt has melted snow and ice, sweep up any visible salt on dry surfaces. This prevents salt from running off into local lakes.



For more information on salt reduction practices, visit the MPCA's Smart Salting training website: bit.ly/MPCA-salt-training.

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