



# Community NEWS



Albert Lea • Alden • Clarks Grove • Conger • Emmons • Freeborn • Geneva • Glenville • Hollandale • Hartland • Hayward • Manchester • Maple Island • Myrtle • Oakland • Twin Lakes

Volume 6, Number 1

“City, County, and Watershed News Direct From the Source”

January/February 2012

## 2012 City Improvements

It's January and City staff are gearing up for projects for the year.

The City Council chambers is getting a bit of an update. The fixed chairs and railing have been removed so that the room can serve as a multi-purpose room when it is not being used for City Council and Watershed Board meetings. A larger screen and projector will also be added to make training sessions easier. The 48 globe incandescent lights have been removed and have been replaced with more energy efficient dimmable fluorescent fixtures. New stackable chairs and tables have been ordered.

Wireless thermostats will be installed throughout City Center to help set heating and cooling zones. This will allow city staff to adjust temperatures more evenly and include setbacks at night and on weekends. New LED lights have been installed on the outside of the building and occupancy sensors and more energy efficient bulbs have been placed in the lobby area. These projects are eligible for rebates from Alliant Energy.

The City Center roof will be completely replaced this year. The City has been patching it for the last four years and it was determined that a total replacement was needed. A white membrane roof will be installed which will help reflect the sun's heat.

Public Works has a number of projects this year. The neighborhood improvement proj-

ect overlay will cover streets in neighborhoods near East Main Street and a number of State aid overlay projects will also be done.

Work continues at the Albert Lea Airport with the taxiway being paved this summer. Two new clarifiers will be installed at the Waste Water Treatment Plant.



**Downtown Albert Lea**

The Engineering Department will continue working on the Broadway Avenue Streetscape project. Requests for Proposals for engineering were sent out at the end of November. A firm will be selected in January. The City will be applying for state bonding funds after receiving a firm cost estimate on the project. It's hoped that preliminary design will be completed by May 1st and then the City will ask for public comment in May and June.

Construction on the project isn't expected to start until May of 2013.

The first phase includes all the work from Main Street to Fountain Street including the William Street plaza and improvements to Fountain Lake Park.

The next phase will be from Main Street to Front Street. The consultant chosen would complete the streetscape design work along with Phase 1, but the work would not be completed until 2015 to coincide with a mill and overlay project of Broadway Avenue by Mn/DOT in 2015.

The main reason for the project is that sewer and water utilities within the street are approximately 90 years old and in need of replacement. In addition, there are heat tunnels that run under the sidewalks and the tunnels are over 100 years old and deteriorating. The tunnels provided a conduit for steam pipes that were used to heat downtown buildings.

The projected cost of the streetscape project is \$5,313,614 and Fountain Lake Park improvements are estimated at \$328,900.

The City has received \$1 million in state bonding funds so far and is applying for other types of funding as well.

For more information about these projects, call 507-377-4330.

## Main Ice Arena Named for Long-Time Coach



Hockey Coach Roy Nystrom was honored in December when the City of Albert Lea renamed the main arena at the city facility the “Roy Nystrom Arena.”

Nystrom has been the head coach of the Albert Lea boys hockey team for 39 years. He has more wins in Minnesota than any other boy's hockey coach. His record is 633-416-19.

When asked how he felt about the arena being named for him Nystrom replied, “It's a humbling experience. I'm sure it's something my family will cherish.”

“I've been really lucky to work with great kids and great parents - I think that's why I've lasted so long.”

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The Community News is published bi-monthly by the City of Albert Lea, Freeborn County and the Shell Rock River Watershed District. Comments are welcome and should be directed to:

### City of Albert Lea:

tkauffmann@city.albertlea.org

### Freeborn County:

randy.tuchtenhagen@co.freeborn.mn.us

### Shell Rock River Watershed:

brett.behnke@co.freeborn.mn.us



## Sidewalk Snow Removal Regulations

Winter brings snow and with it such enjoyable activities as skiing, snowboarding and sledding. That same snow, however, can also be hazardous if left on certain areas, particularly sidewalks.

Therefore, the City of Albert Lea has an ordinance that seeks to ensure that snow and ice are removed from sidewalks in order to reduce the likelihood of injuries to pedestrians.



Since winter brings snow and ice to Albert Lea, an ordinance requires people in charge or control of any building(s) or lot(s) which fronts a paved sidewalk to remove any ice or snow from the sidewalk to form an open path of at least 42 inches in width.

In business districts, the snow and ice must be removed within twelve hours of when the snow or accumulation stops or by the beginning of business hours on the next day, whichever period is shorter.

In residential areas, snow and ice must be removed within twelve hours after the snow or accumulations ends. Subsequent drifting of snow on sidewalks must also be removed.

People who fail to comply with the ordinance will be notified by letter that they are not in compliance with the City's snow removal ordinance. If the snow/ice is not removed within the timeline allotted in the letter, the City may clear the snow/ice and the property owner will be charged for the work performed. The City will not send out letters for subsequent violations. They City will be far more aggressive this year in enforcing this ordinance.

Vacations, business trips, and other obligations that require you to be away from your home do not exempt you from sidewalk snow removal. To avoid being charged for snow removal by the City, owners should make arrangements to have their sidewalks cleared when away for more than a day or two.

If your sidewalk is adjacent to a primary snow route, please wait until the snow plows have cleared the streets before shoveling. Plows may need to push snow onto curbs and sidewalks to keep streets clear.

To report sidewalk snow removal violations, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 377-4370.

## The Annual Residential Contractors Building Seminar to be held February 16, 2012

The Albert Lea Inspection Department will be sponsoring the 18th Annual Residential Contractors Building Seminar for licensed residential builders, remodelers and roofers. The seminar will be held Thursday, February 16th, 2012 from 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Wedgewood Cove Golf Club in the Vineyard ballroom located in Albert Lea.

An application for approval will be made to the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry for 7 hours continuing education credits for residential contractors, remodeling,

and roofers license renewals. This program does include one hour of Energy Code Continuing Education. Topics covered will include; 10 Frequent Inspection Failures, Alternative Materials and Methods, Building Code Issues-What the Inspector Looks At, Understanding Fire and Life Safety Aspects.

The registration fee for this year's seminar will be \$70.00 per person, which will include coffee and rolls for morning break, lunch, and coffee or soda for afternoon break and handouts.

*Saturday, February 18, 2012*

# THE BIG FREEZE

AT THE NEW EDGEWATER BAY PAVILION  
FOUNTAIN LAKE, ALBERT LEA

### Medallion Hunt

Find the Chamber of Commerce Medallion AND WIN \$300 IN CHAMBER BUCKS!  
Monday, Feb 13<sup>th</sup> - Saturday, Feb 18<sup>th</sup>  
Get your clues in the Albert Lea Tribune.

### Take a Kid Ice Fishing

FREE EVENT! 9-12 P.M.  
Edgewater Park shoreline on Fountain Lake.  
First 150 kids receive a free jigging stick & bucket.  
Holes will be drilled and bait is provided.  
For more info contact, Lance:  
lance@fountainlakesportsmensclub.org  
or go online to FLSC website to register.

### Chili Cookoff

The Albert Lea Jaycees need contestants!  
Bring a nonperishable food item.  
\$10 to enter the contest please contact,  
Brady Gooden: (507) 383-7617  
Over \$100 in prizes for the winner!  
\$3 PER SPOON TO BE A JUDGE.  
12-3 p.m. at the new pavilion.

### Skydiving/Tandem Jump

Make a \$50 deposit to take the other type of polar plunge with Southern MN Skydiving, LLC.  
APPOINTMENTS FROM 10-5 P.M.  
Call Bryce to make an appt: (507) 383-9377

### Family Geocaching Event

Take part in this fun family geocaching event.  
Sign up at the new pavilion, 1-2 p.m.!

### Softball Tourney

9-5 p.m. the fields at Edgewater Park and on Fountain Lake. Three game guarantee.  
\$100 entry fee per team - 8 team max.  
WINNERS RECEIVE CASH PAYOUTS!  
Registration required by Feb 3rd.  
Registration forms available online at www.bigfreeze.org  
Rules/requirements also available online.

### Snowshoe Shuffle 5k

For beginners and experienced shufflers!  
11 A.M. START AT THE NEW PAVILION.  
Register online or 10 a.m. day of the race.  
Must bring a nonperishable food item.  
Racers will receive door prizes!

### Polar Plunge

Albert Lea Fire Dept. challenges you.  
Must bring a nonperishable food item.  
BEGINNING 2 P.M. UNTIL LAST JUMPER.  
Shoreline in front of the new pavilion.  
Jumpers receive a participation medal!

### Kids Winter Carnival

Albert Lea Park & Rec Kids Carnival at the NEW EDGEWATER PAVILION 1-4 P.M.  
Giant Jenga, snow golf, obstacle course & games!

### Snowmobile Radar Runs

12-3 P.M. FOUNTAIN LAKE \$5 PER RUN.  
Timed by the MN Snowmobile Club.

### Disc Golf Ice Bowl

1 p.m. tee-off at Edgewater Park.  
Must bring 5 nonperishable food item.  
\$250 in prizes 1st - 7th places donated by Nancy Vanderwaardt State Farm Insurance.  
COURSE WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

### Sleigh Rides

Bring a nonperishable food item.  
1-4p.m. starting at the new pavilion.

*Ice Party Saturday Night*  
Live performance Saturday night in main pavilion!

**LIMESTONES 5-7 P.M.**  
**BAD MONKEY 7-11 P.M.**

\* Beverage Services by Geneva Bar! \*

Presented By The Big Freeze Committee of Albert Lea, MN • www.bigfreeze.org • 507-373-2316



## Airport Zoning

Airport Zoning was originally adopted for the City of Albert Lea in 1982. The City is currently in the process of adopting an amended Airport Zoning Ordinance that will also be considered for adoption by Freeborn County. The reason the ordinance needs to be amended is because the north/south runway at the Albert Lea Municipal Airport has been moved westerly and extended to 5,000 feet. This runway is also being designated for precision instrument approaches to the airport and that changes the configuration of the various airport zones.

The purpose of airport zoning is to restrict buildings, towers, and other structures from penetrating the airspace and creating a hazard for transitioning, arriving, or departing aircraft.

In the City of Albert Lea there are safety zones that extend out from each runway for a distance equal to the length of the runway and to the north they extend into Freeborn County outside of the city. There are land use limitations within these safety zones. In addition there is a dish shaped zone located 150 feet above the runway, which covers a large portion of the City, and which may not be penetrated by structures. Therefore, in the City there is a building height limitation of 150 feet. This is approximately equal to the top of the steeple of First Lutheran Church.

The airport zoning maps are available in the Community Development Office and may be reviewed during City Center business hours. Bob Graham is available to explain the various zones.

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on the proposed amendment on December 6, 2011 after advertising the hearing three times in the non-legal sections of the Freeborn County Shopper and the Albert Lea Tribune. The Planning Commission recommended adoption of the ordinance amendment. The next step is another review by the Minnesota Commissioner of Transportation for consistency with state policies. Then the proposed amendment will be submitted to the City Council for review and action.

The new extended runway is open and operational. Taxiways are being constructed along the runway and will be completed in the summer of 2012.

# ALBERT LEA PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Storytime!

Our storytimes are a great event for families with small children. Learn new songs, make crafts...and hear great stories!

### Storytime

Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.

### Night-time Storytime

Thursdays at 6 p.m.

## Dr. Seuss' Birthday Party!



Join us Thurs.,  
Mar. 1 from  
2-4 p.m. for  
cake and  
fun!

## BOOK PALS

Starts Feb. 7 and goes  
through March 6.

Meets on  
Tuesdays  
from 3:45  
to 4:30 p.m.

New members  
welcome!  
Grades 3-5.



## Lego Time

Kids and families are invited to join us for LEGO Time at the library on the first *Monday of each month* starting February 2012. LEGO Time will meet from 3:45 to 5 p.m. on those days.



## Rochester House of Bounce Trip

Families welcome, children 6 and under need to be with an adult – parents not charged if not doing activities.

You've never seen so many bouncies! Challenge your friends to Laser Tag as well as the Monkey Bounce. Please bring extra money for lunch and snacks and your socks! No outside food allowed.

**Fee:** \$25 (parents need to sign waiver)

**When:** Fri. January 20th (no school)

**Time:** Bus leaves City Arena at 10:30 a.m. and returns approx. 4:30 p.m. (\*kids need to wear trip shirt)

**Where:** House of Bounce-Rochester, MN  
[www.rochesterhouseofbounce.com](http://www.rochesterhouseofbounce.com)  
 Register by January 13th

## Arty Party

Bring your friends! We'll have everything but the kitchen sink out for you to experiment with. There will be different stations for drawing, painting, crafting, mess-making, you name it. Let your creative juices flow!

**Fee:** \$5

**When:** Fri. February 10th (no school K-5th)

**Time:** 9:00-11:00 am-K-2nd grade  
 2:00-4:00 pm-3rd-5th grade

**Where:** City Arena  
 Register by February 6th

## Winter Carnival in Conjunction with "The Big Freeze"

Come out to Edgewater Park for a fun filled afternoon of face painting, games, crafts, snow volleyball, ice cube races and so much more!!! For more information contact the Parks and Recreation office at 377-4370.



FREE to participate  
**When:** Saturday, February 18th  
**Time:** 1-4 pm

**Where:** Edgewater Bay Pavilion-Edgewater Park (location change)



## Snow Tubing at Mount Kato

Open to all families; children 6 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Riders must be 42" tall.

Let's get ready to snow tube! Ride a moving sidewalk up a hill and then soar back down! After the action, warm your toes and grab some snacks at the lodge. We'll also have board games for some inside fun.

**Fee:** \$20 (bring \$ for concessions)

**When:** Mon. February 20th (no school)

**Time:** Bus leaves City Arena at 9:30 a.m. and returns approx. 3:30 p.m.

**Where:** Mount Kato-Mankato, MN  
 Register by February 13th

## Winter Warming Houses-Open to Everyone!

Looking for something fun to do this winter? Look no further than your own neighborhood Warming House. 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:**

Monday-Friday 4:00-9:00 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday 1:00-8:00 p.m.

**Where:** Academy, Hawthorne, Hayek & Lakeview

**Fee:** FREE!!!

\*Warming houses subject to close for inclement weather

## Rock on Ice at the City Arena

Friday, January 13th

Friday, February 3rd

7:30 pm-9:30 pm - \$5.00

## Pavilion Rental - No Standing in Line January 2nd!

Did you know? You may rent a pavilion for the following year after June 1st - 2012 reser-



vations being taken now! After June 1st 2012 - 2013 rentals will be available! Call 377-4370 with questions.

## Albert Lea Senior Citizen Center

**Membership Dues:** Annual membership fee is \$30.00 per year, our year runs from January 1 thru December 31.

**Hours:** Monday- 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon, Tuesday - Friday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. For more info call **373-0704**.

As a member of the Albert Lea Senior Center you will receive a monthly newsletter to keep you up to date on Center events.

**Participate in:** Aerobics, Yoga, Walking Club, Red Hat Society, Crafts and Card Recycling, Monthly Birthday Party, Play Ph-effer, 500 or Bridge, Blood Pressure Checks, Innovision Eye Care, Coping with Grief, Stress Management Class, Class on Macular Degeneration, AARP Driver Safety Class, Ping Pong and Special Events.

There's a Pool Room with 5 pool tables and the Lounge is open to use the computers, watch TV or put in a movie, work on puzzles or visit with friends.

Take a day trip to exciting destinations around Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin.

**You can now register for our programs and activities online!  
 Go to [www.cityofalbertlea.org](http://www.cityofalbertlea.org) and scroll down until you see "Parks & Rec Registration" click on this to create an account.**

377-5785

## Shell Rock River Watershed



## Fountain Lake Restoration Project

### Boosting Efforts to Improve Water Quality, Recreation, and Fish Habitat

The City of Albert Lea and the Shell Rock River Watershed District (SRRWD) are partnering to request \$7.5 million in state funding for the dredging of Fountain Lake in Albert Lea. By dredging the accumulated sediment, we seek to improve Fountain Lake's water quality, fishery, and recreational opportunities.

#### Background

Fountain Lake and its three bays—Bancroft, Danes, and Edgewater—are central to the City of Albert Lea's tourism industry and identity. The 555-acre lake, with its adjacent parks, is a popular summertime destination for boating, swimming, water skiing, fishing, canoeing, and kayaking.

Fountain Lake has a tributary watershed of approximately 63,000 acres, which consists primarily of agricultural land. Runoff from the upstream watershed includes sediment and pollutants such as phosphorous, which are conveyed to the lake through streams, ditches, and storm sewer pipes. Historically, large deposits of sediment and phosphorus in the lake have hampered the lake's water quality.

#### Water Quality Concerns in Fountain Lake

Over the past 10 years, the summer-average water clarity in Fountain Lake has been only 1.5 feet—well below the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA's) standard (see graphic at right). And in 2008, the lake was included on Minnesota's impaired waters list. As a result, the SRRWD has been partnering with the MPCA on a Total Maximum Daily Load study to determine pollution-reduction strategies necessary to help the lake meet state water quality standards.

The SRRWD and its partners have been proactive in their efforts to improve water quality in Fountain Lake. In addition to stabilizing upstream creeks, repairing failing septic systems, and managing populations of rough fish in upstream lakes, the partners have actively promoted agricultural practices that support conservation efforts. While these recent measures have helped, overall phosphorous levels remain high.

A significant source of phosphorous in the lake (about 40%) is inter-

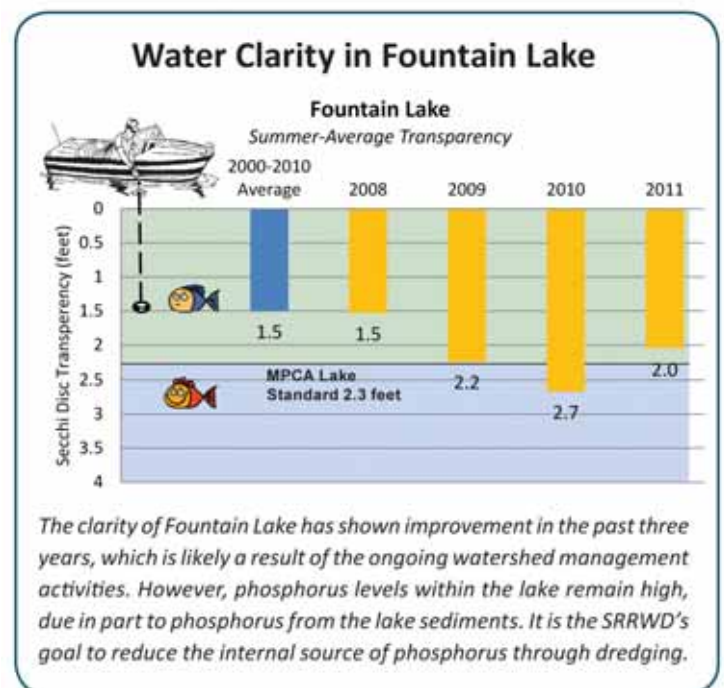
nal loading. This occurs when accumulated phosphorous is reintroduced into the lake water from the sediment and becomes available for uptake by plants and algae. Internal phosphorus loading can be a challenge to control; however, some success has been seen with hydraulic dredging.

#### How Dredging Works

Hydraulic dredging, which uses suction pumps and piping to move dredged material and water from the lake bottom directly to a storage or disposal site, is the best technique for sediment removal. The dredged material is typically disposed of at a permitted solid waste facility or off-site location. It can also be reused as fill, road sub-base, or in land applications.

#### Estimated Costs

Dredging, sludge storage, and disposal are estimated to cost between \$12 and \$18 for each cubic yard of sediment removed. With a total dredge-volume estimate of 1,000,000 cubic yards, the estimated project cost is \$15 million. The City of Albert Lea and the SRRWD will fund half of this cost through a local option sales tax.



**377-5186***Freeborn County Environmental Services***Comprehensive Efforts to Reduce Pollutants to Fountain Lake**

- 2003: The Shell Rock River Watershed District was formed.
- 2002-2011: Freeborn County initiated a water quality monitoring program for streams in 2002; the SRRWD now oversees this effort, which includes both streams and lakes in the area. Data gathered helps the community measure its progress in achieving better water quality.
- 2004-2007: The SRRWD hired a conservation technician to work with the agricultural community to implement best management practices such as filter strips, waterways, basins, and farmable wetlands.
- 2005: The SRRWD began their rock inlet program, encouraging land owners to convert upright intakes to rock inlets through a cost-share program. Rock inlets reduce the topsoil deposited in drainage ditches, streams, and lakes.
- 2005-2010: The SRRWD constructed rain gardens in partnership with local schools and government to treat stormwater and serve as educational demonstrations for the public.
- 2007: In partnership with Freeborn County, the SRRWD restored a stretch of County Ditch 11, including erosion control, rip rap installation, and stabilization of the outlet, to reduce erosion and loss of sediment to downstream Fountain Lake.
- 2007-2010: The SRRWD's Pollution Prevention Program, which requires septic system compliance inspections, completed nearly 600 inspections, with nearly 200 systems identified as imminent health threats. Fixing these systems will reduce the pollutants reaching Fountain Lake and eliminate serious health risks.
- 2008-2009: In 2008, an electric fish barrier was constructed at the outlet of Mud Lake to prevent rough fish from traveling from Fountain Lake to Mud and Pickerel Lakes for spawning and reproduction. Rough fish, especially carp, degrade water quality.
- 2009: The Mn DNR conducted a fish kill on Pickerel and Mud Lakes to control the population of rough fish, and restocked the lake with northern, bluegills, and perch. The clarity of Pickerel Lake has vastly improved following this reclamation.
- 2008-2009: The SRRWD completed a streambank restoration along a meandering portion of Wedge Creek to prevent further erosion and decrease the amount of sediment loss to downstream Fountain Lake.
- 2008-2009: A 30-acre landfill site located along the shoreline of Fountain Lake, in Edgewater Park, underwent an intensive cleanup. The project included removal of nearly 400,000 cubic yards of waste and debris to a lined disposal cell at the Albert Lea Landfill. The \$6 million project was funded by the state.
- 2009-2010: In 2009, the SRRWD received a grant from the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment to install fish barriers at Wedge Creek, the White Lake outlet, and the Fountain Lake outlet. The fish barriers will prevent migration of rough fish upstream of Fountain Lake for spawning, and prevent fish from entering Pickerel Lake from downstream.



**SRRWD staff collecting water quality data**



**Stabilization of Co. Ditch 11**



**Canoers enjoy improved water clarity of Pickerel Lake**



## Aeration Systems on Albert Lea Lake

Two aeration systems creating open water and thin ice will begin operation on Albert Lea Lake in Freeborn County, Albert Lea Township (102). The first is located at Range 21, Section 23. The second is located at Range 21, Section 16 (see map).

Weather conditions may cause the areas of thin ice and open water to fluctuate greatly through the winter months. Freeborn County and the Shell Rock River Watershed District ask you to please stay clear of the open water and thin ice signs on Albert Lea Lake!

## General Ice Thickness Guidelines

### For New, Clear Ice Only

2" or less - STAY OFF  
 4" - Ice fishing or other activities on foot  
 5" - Snowmobile or ATV  
 8" - 12" - Car or small pickup

12" - 15" - Medium truck

Remember that these thicknesses are merely guidelines for new, clear, solid ice. Many factors other than thickness can cause ice to be unsafe.

377-5186

## Freeborn County Environmental Services



## 2012 Recycling Calendar

Waste Management 1-800-222-6214

Recycling is picked up EVERY OTHER WEEK



YELLOW WEEK



GREEN WEEK

<u>Yellow Weeks</u>	January	February	March
Alden	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3
Emmons	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Hartland	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	11 12 13 14 15 16 17
Manchester	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	18 19 20 21 22 23 24
Twin Lakes	29 30 31	26 27 28 29	25 26 27 28 29 30 31
Conger			
Clarks Grove			
Freeborn			
<u>Green Weeks</u>	April	May	June
Geneva	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2
Hayward	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	3 4 5 6 7 8 9
Hollandale	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	10 11 12 13 14 15 16
Glenville	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	20 21 22 23 24 25 26	17 18 19 20 21 22 23
	29 30	27 28 29 30 31	24 25 26 27 28 29 30
<u>*REMEMBER*</u>	July	August	September
<b>NO PLASTIC BAGS - NO EXCEPTIONS!</b>	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1
<b>Please take them to Wal-Mart or a Grocery Store for recycling</b>	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	2 3 4 5 6 7 8
	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	9 10 11 12 13 14 15
	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	16 17 18 19 20 21 22
	29 30 31	26 27 28 29 30 31	23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
<u>HOLIDAY WEEKS</u>	October	November	December
If there is a holiday during the week, and your recycling day falls after that holiday, your recycling day will be one day late	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3	Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1
	7 8 9 10 11 12 13	4 5 6 7 8 9 10	2 3 4 5 6 7 8
	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	11 12 13 14 15 16 17	9 10 11 12 13 14 15
	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	18 19 20 21 22 23 24	16 17 18 19 20 21 22
	28 29 30 31	25 26 27 28 29 30	23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Recyclables may also be delivered directly to the Waste Management Facility which is two miles north of Albert Lea, off County Road 22 (Bridge AV), any time or day of the week. Recycling bins are located outside the fence of the main entrance.

**PERMANENT RURAL RECYCLING SITES FOR RURAL RESIDENTS TO DROP OFF RECYCLING:**

ALBERT LEA Transfer Station  
CONGER Highway 12 & 17  
GENEVA County Shop Building  
HAYWARD Across from Creamery  
NEWRY Township Hall

ALDEN Maintenance Shop  
EMMONS Waste Treatment Plant  
GLENVILLE City Garage Building  
HOLLANDALE City Hall  
MYRTLE County Shop Bldg.  
OAKLAND Township Hall

CLARKS GROVE Fire Station  
FREEBORN City Hall alley  
HARTLAND Township Bldg. on Co. Rd. 33  
MANCHESTER Township Maint. Bldg.  
NUNDA Township Hall

QUESTIONS? Visit our website at [www.co.freeborn.mn.us/environmental/recycling/default.aspx](http://www.co.freeborn.mn.us/environmental/recycling/default.aspx) or call 507-377-5186.

## Community News

c/o The City of Albert Lea  
221 E. Clark St.  
Albert Lea, Minnesota 56007

### Plastic Bags A Problem for Recycling Program



**Randy  
Tuchtenhagen**  
**Freeborn County  
Solid Waste  
Officer**

We continue our efforts to change the behavior of people to properly recycle plastic bags. Putting plastic bags into the recycling can means they must be sorted back out and go to a landfill as garbage. It is possible that if the bag was tied shut the contents also went to the landfill with it. No person or machine at the processing center opens plastic bags to remove the contents. Returning them to a local grocery store or Wal-Mart means they will be recycled. Plastic bags are a problem for our county recycling program. They are a nuisance.

We have placed labels on our rural collection boxes, printed "no plastic bags" numerous times on our Recycling Instruction Sheet and repeatedly advertised our desire to keep plastic bags out of the recycling. This past year we began a program to educate people

about keeping plastic bags out of the recycling. The recycling truck driver placed a red door hanger on curbside recycling cans throughout the county that stated "Freeborn County Recycling Program does not accept plastic bags". Two weeks later the driver found many red tags back inside the recycling cans, and in some instances they had been put inside a plastic bag. Although we do not want to discourage anyone from recycling, we are left with few alternatives but to start leaving recyclables that are tied in a plastic bag. We have not started leaving recyclables yet, but plastic bags are a program priority issue that affects quality and cost.

Collecting, handling (baling), and marketing plastic film is a different process than other recyclables. Because our system is automated, bags plug up conveyor belts and machinery and the system is not designed for tearing bags open to remove the contents. Grocery and large chain stores are better able to collect, bale and market the bags efficiently and cost effectively. Since everyone needs groceries, taking plastic bags to the store with us can be easier and more convenient than other recycling. If we use cloth shopping bags as a collection point, they automatically go with us to the store when shopping.

### **PUBLIC NOTICE: FOUNTAIN LAKE AERATION SYSTEM**

The City of Albert Lea will be operating aeration systems in Fountain Lake during the winter months.

**Warning to all users of Fountain Lake: Snowmobiles are not permitted to operate south of Richway Drive between sundown and sunrise; according to City Ordinance 8.40 subd.2.**

One system will be located approximately 500 ft. west of Pioneer Park. The second system will be located at Edgewater Bay approximately 500 ft. south of Edgewater park.

Weather conditions may cause areas of thin ice and open water to fluctuate greatly. The areas around each aeration system is signed Thin Ice.

**Stay clear of areas marked THIN ICE!**

For more information call the City of Albert Lea Parks and Recreation Department, 507-377-4370.