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Albert Lea Public Library

211 E. Clark St., Albert Lea, MN

507-377-4350

No fee for programs



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.

Library programs for pre-schoolers

Storytime

Mondays and Tuesdays,

Sept. 8 to Nov. 25 at 10 a.m.

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

Nighttime storytime

Tuesdays, Sept. 9 to Nov. 25 at 6:30 p.m.

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

Music and movement

Thursdays, Sept. 11 to Nov. 20 at 10 a.m.

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



Library programs for grade-schoolers

Intro to Book Pals

Thursdays, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, and Dec. 11 at 3:45 p.m. Kids in grades 1 and 2 are invited to an introduction 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 required.

Book Pals: Grades 3 and 4

Tuesdays, Sept. 9 to Oct. 7 at 3:45 p.m.

Kids in grades 3 and 4 are invited to join the library for Book Pals, a book club just for kids. This fall kids will read "Flora & Ulysses" by Kate DiCamillo and participate in activities related to the story. Registration required.

Book Pals: Grades 5-7

Mondays, Sept. 8 to Oct. 6 at 3:45 p.m.

Kids in grades 5-7 are invited to join the library for Book Pals, a book club just for kids. This fall, kids will read "The Westing Game" by Ellen Raskin and participate in activities related to the story. Registration required.



Library special events

Read to a dog

Sundays, Sept. 14 and Nov. 9 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Read to a Dog provides a chance for children to read aloud to a therapy dog for 10 minutes. Research shows that reading to a dog can help build important literacy skills in kids, especially reluctant readers. Children may bring their own books to read or borrow a book from the library. Registration is preferred; drop-ins will be accommodated if schedule allows.

Family event: Tissue paper apples

Sunday, Sept. 14 at 2 p.m.

Bring the whole family and join us for a fun afternoon of crafting in the Children's Library. In September, attendees will make tissue paper apples.

Family event: Rock painting

Sunday, Oct. 12 at 2 p.m.

Bring the whole family and join us for a fun afternoon of crafting in the Children's Library. In October, attendees will paint rocks.

BINGO

Thursday, Oct. 16 at 2 p.m.

Join us during fall break for BINGO in the Children's Library.



Family event: Paper plate turkey

Sunday, Nov. 9 at 2 p.m.

Bring the whole family and join us for a fun afternoon of crafting in the Children's Library. In November, attendees will make a paper plate turkey.

Polar Express storytime

Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 6 p.m.

Children are invited to join us for stories and crafts at our Polar Express storytime in the Children's Library. Come in your pajamas and "all-aboard" for fun.

Library events for teens and tweens

Tween and teen hangout

Tuesdays, Sept. 9 and 23; Oct. 14 and 28; Nov. 25; and Dec. 9 from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Drop in to the library for Tween and Teen Hangout! A variety of activities will be available, including Nintendo Switches, tabletop games, and more. Snacks will be provided.

Tween and teen drop-in crafts

Second Wednesday of the month from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Stop by the Albert Lea Public Library after school for dropin crafts. There will be multiple crafts to choose from or you can create your own masterpiece. Supplies provided.

Teen Reads: YA book club for teens

First Thursday of the month at 3:45 p.m.

Teens are invited to join the library for a YA Book Club. Each month, participants will meet to discuss the book of the month and anything else they've been reading or listening to lately. Copies of the book for each month are available in the Fiction Library. Snacks will be provided.

Tween and teen game night

Third Tuesday of the month from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Join us at the Albert Lea Public Library for Game Night. A variety of tabletop games will be provided or attendees are welcome to bring their own games.



Library programs for adults

Needles, pins and more

First Thursday of the month from 10 a.m. to noon Bring your current small craft project and work on it with others in the community. All types of crafts are welcome.

Adult craft night

Second Tuesday of the month at 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. Please register for one session only, 4:30 or 6 p.m.

Sept. 9: Rolled pages monogram Oct. 14: Popsicle stick magnets

Nov. 4: Book pumpkin (date change due to holiday)

Dec. 9: Let it snow muffin tin

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.

Bring your own lunch and learn

Second Thursday of the month at noon

Bring your lunch and join us for an hour of learning in the City Council Chambers on the top floor of City Hall, 221 E. Clark St.

Sept. 11: Consumer Rights 101 with Southern MN Regional Legal Services

Oct. 9: Disaster Preparedness with Freeborn County Emergency Management Director

Adam Hamberg

Nov. 13: TBD

Dec. 11: ALPL Staff's Favorite Books from 2025

Choose your own book club

Third Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m.

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.

To register for a program, stop by the library, 211 E. Clark St., Albert Lea, register online at alplonline.org, or call 507-377-4350.
All programs are FREE OF CHARGE.





3D printing: Design class

Thursdays, Sept. 18 and Nov. 20 at 5 p.m.

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. Adults and teens are welcome to attend; tweens can attend with a caregiver. Registration required.

3D printing: Open lab

Thursdays, Oct. 16 and Dec. 18 at 5 p.m.

Access the library's 3D printing resources to make your designs come to life. Library computers, the 3D printer and PLA filament will be made available for prints. Participants should have prior experience with 3D printing. Staff will be available to answer questions and assist with troubleshooting. Adults and teens are welcome to attend; tweens can attend with a caregiver. Registration required.



Family Reads

Dec. 7 - Jan. 25

Families with children can 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 read. Sign up for the program starting on Monday, Dec. 1.

Library services

More than just books! The library has kits for your inner adventurer, athlete, scientist, and artist!

- Birdwatching for adults Disc golf
- Birdwatching for kids
- **Board games**
- **Card games**
- **Crochet for adults**
- **Crochet for kids**
- Croquet

- Fossils and rocks
- Ghost hunting
- Hiking for kids
- Horseshoes
- Knitting for adults
- · Knitting for kids

- Pickleball
- Preschool puzzles
- Science for kids
- Science kit
- Strategy games
- Telescope



More information is available on the library's website: alplonline.org/discovery-kits

Library offers printing services

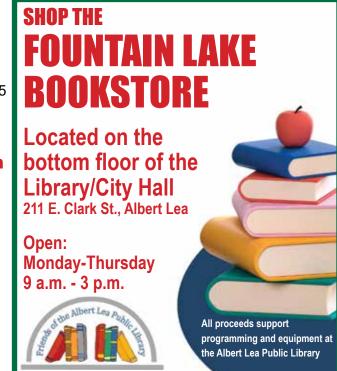
The Albert Lea Public Library offers printing services to the public for a small fee. Individuals can print from public computers or use the library's remote printing service to print directly from their own device. Printing costs 10 cents per page for black and white and 25 cents per page for color. For more information, visit: alplonline.org/online-services/technology.

Information available in English, Spanish and Karen

Beyond books, the Albert Lea Public Library offers computers for use, hotspots for checkout and many additional services. To learn more, watch the videos on the library's YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/user/AlbertLeaPubLib. The "Information about" video programs are available in English, Spanish and Karen.

This Fun Guide is also available online in English and Spanish: cityofalbertlea.org/recreation.

While information is available in other languages, programs and classes are offered in English unless otherwise noted.



Albert Lea Recreation

Permanent location: 701 Lake Chapeau Drive

Temporary location: 414 Commercial St.

Albert Lea, MN • 507-377-4370

Register online at: bit.ly/recreation-registration

Or at the Recreation Office, open 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. weekdays

Cash, checks and credit cards accepted



Pavilion rental information

Looking for a place for family reunions or birthday parties? The city rents facilities at Edgewater, Pioneer and Fountain Lake parks. Facilities must be rented for a minimum of 2 hours. Cancellations must be made 30 days prior to use to receive a refund. No refunds due to weather. Prices do not include sales tax. All parks and facilities are tobacco-free. Alcohol may only be served by a business with an on-sale liquor license who also holds a catering permit as an incidental part of food service.

For information on prices, contact the Recreation Department at 507-377-4370 or reserve online at bit.ly/recreation-registration. All pavilion rentals, except Edgewater Bay Pavilion, close for the season on Oct. 12.

Photo policy

The City of Albert Lea may photograph participants in programs and special events, or people in parks or on park property, and use these images in city promotions. The media may also use images in their coverage of Albert Lea events, programs and facilities. The photos are not made available for commercial/private sector marketing and advertising, endorsement, trade or sales.

Program cancellation

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

Inclusion support

The Parks and Recreation Department provides an atmosphere in which individuals with special needs can interact, play and socialize with their peers in an inclusive environment. Recreation staff will do their best to assist with modifications and volunteer support to help make each experience successful. Please let staff know at registration if any modifications or support is needed.

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 participation hazardous to your health or others.

Questions and volunteer opportunities

Consider giving your time and talents through volunteering with the Albert Lea Recreation Department. For more information, individuals, businesses and social groups should contact Recreation Coordinator Dani Bakken at dbakken@ci.albertlea.mn.us or 507-377-4368.

Where to find us?

The Recreation Department is at the City Garage, 414 Commercial St., during construction at the City Arena. Watch Recreation's Facebook page for moving updates.



SEASONAL JOBS

The Recreation Department will be hiring for part-time seasonal jobs for fall and winter!

OPEN POSITIONS:

- Learn to Skate instructor (minimum age is 18 years)
- Learn to Skate junior instructor (minimum age is 14 years)
- Zamboni driver/rink supervisor (minimum age is 18 years)
- Arena attendant (minimum age is 16 years)
- Warming house attendants (minimum age is 16 years)

Apply online! Check website for postings: governmentjobs.com/careers/albertlea



Recreation programs

507-377-4370 cityofalbertlea.org

Arena under construction

The City Arena is under construction for several upgrades, including a new refrigeration system for the ice rinks. Please follow "Albert Lea Recreation" on Facebook for updates on ice availability for public skate and other programs.

Safety Day 2025

Tuesday, Sept. 16 from 4 to 6 p.m. Morin Park, 222 St. Mary Ave.

Discover the services that keep the City of Albert Lea thriving. Join us for a fun event featuring live demos and interactive booths from the police, fire department and other local agencies. It's a fantastic opportunity to learn about these organizations' vital role in our community and connect with the people that make it all happen!

Weight training with Annie

Mondays and Wednesdays,

Oct. 13 to Dec. 3 from 5:20 to 6:10 p.m.

Albert Lea Senior Center, 1739 W. Main St.

Annie Olson is an experienced instructor who will be leading a weight training class that is suitable for people of varying fitness levels. Please bring an exercise mat, towel and one set of hand weights at desired weight. Schedule subject to change.

Cost: \$40 for city residents, \$45 for non-residents

Interested in weight training and Pilates? Sign up for both and save! \$70 for residents and non-residents

Pilates with Annie

Mondays and Wednesdays,

Oct. 13 to Dec. 3 from 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. Schedule subject to change.

Cost: \$40 for city residents, \$45 for non-residents

Check out the directory of parks, trails and fun spots!

Explore Albert Lea's parks, trails, and fun spots on the city's updated website: cityofalbertlea. org/departments/parks/parks-trails-fun-spots. Search by name, location, or amenities.



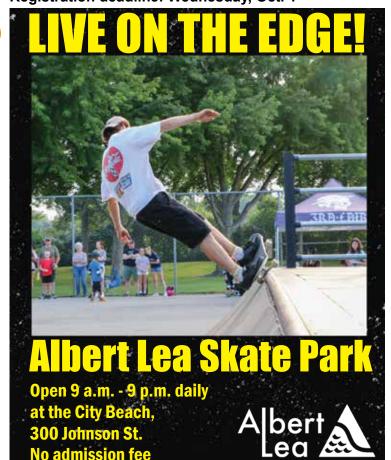


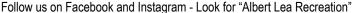
Young Athletes

Tuesdays, Oct. 7 to Nov. 11 from 6 to 7 p.m. United Methodist Church, 702 Highway 69 S.

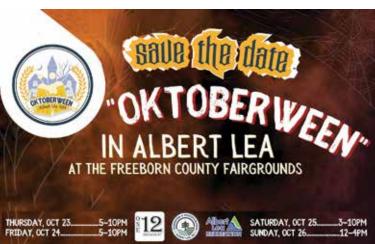
The Recreation Department is partnering with United Preschool to offer Young Athletes. This program is an extension of Special Olympics and is designed to introduce participants to basic sports skills. Young Athletes is an inclusion program, open to children of all abilities. The program is tailored to children between the ages of 4 and 6, providing them with a fun and engaging environment to develop their athletic abilities. Children of all skill levels are welcome to join this program.

Cost: \$20 for the 6-week session Registration deadline: Wednesday, Oct. 1











Brookside Education Center | 211 W Richway Dr | Albert Lea 507-379-5318 | AlbertLeaCommunityEd.org



Over 1,000 Participants, Ethnic Food & Crafts 300 Tipis, Lodges & Shelters & Stage Entertainment

Musical Entertainment

Tom Biasi • AnnMarie Rowland Wild Goose Chase Cloggers • Curtis & Loretta Roe Family Singers • Monroe Crossing, Saturday Only Randy Everson, Saturday Only

Voted one of the TOP 100 FESTIVALS in North America by the American Bus Association

Visit our Website for Tickets and Information www.bigislandfestivalandbbq.org or Call 1-507-373-3938

Santa's mailbox is coming to town!



Drop off your letter to Santa at these convenient locations starting Dec. 1:

- City Hall, 221 E. Clark St.
- City Arena: 701 Lake Chapeau Drive

Santa can't wait to hear from all the girls and boys in Albert Lea!

Be sure to include your return address so he can write back!

Albert Lea Senior Center

1739 W. Main St. **507-373-0704**

Open Monday - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday, 8:30 a.m. to noon

The Senior Center's mission 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.

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! Sponsored by Cargill

Art with Emelia

Sept. 24, Oct. 29, Nov. 19, Dec. 17 at 10 a.m.

Cost: \$7 members, \$10 non-members

Get your creative juices flowing with arts and crafts with Emelia. Details will be posted at the center. Registration due one week before class date.

Memory care cafe

First Monday of the month, 2 p.m. Third Wednesday 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. Mondays are music themed, Wednesday activities vary.

Coffee with a cop

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

Enjoy a cup of coffee with local law enforcement officers. This is your chance to ask questions and build relationships with officers in the community.

Defensive driving course

Sept. 19 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Nov. 14 from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Dec. 19 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Save 10 percent 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 888-234-1294 or visit mnsafetycenter.org.

A fall day to remember

Wednesday, Sept. 24 Register by Sept. 10

Join us for a fun-filled day trip! We'll begin with a meal at Cracker Barrel, then head to Ferguson's Orchard in Jordan for a guided tour and a brief overview of the orchard. Enjoy complimentary cider and a donut during the visit. After the orchard, we'll stop at Minnesota's Largest Candy Store before returning. Trip includes transportation and admission to the orchard. Cost: \$55 for members, \$65 for non-members.

Singing cowgirl

Wednesday, Oct. 8 at 11:30 a.m.

Register by Sept. 17

Experience the charm of the Wild West with a special performance by the talented Singing Cowgirl. The 45-minute show promises to entertain, and a yummy lunch will be served right after. Cost: \$10 for members, \$14 for non-members.

Treasure Island/Christmas show

Thursday, Nov. 6, bus leaves at 9:30 a.m. Register by Oct. 3

Get ready for a festive trip to Treasure Island Casino! You'll have plenty of time to try your luck on the casino floor and enjoy a delicious lunch. The highlight of the day? A Branson Country Christmas, a heartwarming holiday show featuring Branson's funniest comedian and a world-class fiddler. Trip includes transportation, lunch and admission to the show. Cost: \$100 for members, \$110 for non-members.

A Christmas Carol

Tuesday, Dec. 9 Register by Nov. 19

Experience a fresh, new musical rendition of Ebenezer Scrooge's ghostly Christmas Eve visits at Sidekick Theatre! This beloved holiday tale promises a memorable experience for all ages. Trip includes transportation, lunch and admission to the play. Cost: \$95 for members, \$105 for non-members.

Explore our city

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



Take the scenic route!

Albert Lea offers several routes to walk and bike for commuting, running errands and having fun:

- Blue Zones walkway around Fountain Lake, cityofalbertlea.org/blue-zones-walkway
- Sidewalk and trail along Main Street from Highway 13/69 to County Road 38
- Blazing Star State Trail from Frank Hall Park, 505 Frank Ave., to Myre-Big Island State Park, 19499 780th Ave

Albert Lea Community Theatre (ACT)

Check out ACT's upcoming lineup:

- Rachael Kilgour, Sept. 30 at 2 p.m. Cost: \$15.
- "On Golden Pond," Oct. 9-12 and 15-18 at 7:30 p.m. (Sundays at 2 p.m.): Norman and Ethel Thayer spend their summers at their lake house on Golden Pond. Their summer is disrupted by the arrival of their daughter and her fiancé, who are on their way to Europe. The play explores the strained relationship between Norman and Chelsea, the challenges of aging, and the complexities of family dynamics.
- The Vee Gees, a musical tribute to the BeeGees, Oct. 25 at 7:30 p.m. Cost: \$25.
- Albert Lea Community Band, Nov. 30 at 2 p.m. Cost: Free.
- Mitchell Hall and the Tennessee Trio, a tribute to Johnny Cash, Nov. 23 at 7:30 p.m. Cost: \$25.
- Antony Shores as Elvis Elvis Christmas Show, Dec. 14 at 2 p.m. Cost: \$25.

Visit actonbroadway.com or call toll-free 1-877-730-3144 for more information and tickets.

All events take place at the Marion Ross Performing Arts Center, 147 N. Broadway Ave.

Albert Lea Art Center

Located at 101 S. Broadway Ave., the Albert Lea Art Center offers exhibits by local artists and many unique items for sale in the gift shop, Art on Broadway, 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 Ave., offers bimonthly scheduled exhibits and programming. Visit this website for more information: www.fcai.us.

History Center of Freeborn County

Albert Lea is home to a few celebrities. Learn their stories at the History Center of Freeborn County, 1031 Bridge Ave. The center offers a variety of exhibits and programs, plus tours of its historic village every Thursday at 1 p.m. The Itasca Rock Garden, 2129 Itasca Road, is open at no charge through mid-September. Visit lovehistory.org for more information.

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 where families and individuals in Minnesota can 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.



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram - Look for "City of Albert Lea - City Hall"

Connect with your

CITY COUNCIL

- Attend meetings the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 7 p.m.,
 City Hall Council Chambers, 221 E. Clark St.
- Call or email your councilor with questions and ideas
- Watch meetings live and on demand
- Go to cityofalbertlea.org/government/city-council for contact info, agendas, minutes and ALTV link.

Shape the future of Albert Lea Apply for a spot on a city Board or Commission!

- Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
- Planning Commission
- Airport Advisory Board
- Heritage Preservation Commission
- Senior Center Advisory Board

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

Get active and get social with walking moais!

- Sunday stroll at 6:30 p.m. at United Preschool, 702 U.S. Highway 69, starting Sept. 14. Kids can hit the playground while their families walk laps in the parking lot.
- Thursday trails, starting Sept. 11, at the Blazing Star State Trail. Meet at Frank Hall Park, 505 Frank Ave., at 6 p.m.

Follow us online for more details:

Facebook: Blue Zones Project Albert Lea

Instagram: bluezonesalbertlea

Website: cityofalbertlea.org/blue-zones

Albert Lea, the first Blue Zones-certified community in the nation, is striving to help people live longer and better.





2020 Pioneer Trail, Albert Lea (off the East end of Hammer Road)

'Leaf' it out of storm drains!

Please help protect our lakes from nutrients that grow algae by keeping leaves and other debris out of storm drains. Learn more on the Shell Rock River Watershed District website: www.shellrock.org. For recycling electronics or disposing of other items that can't be recycled or reused,

take them to the Transfer Station

Fall Hours (Oct. 1 - Nov. 30)

Monday: noon - 6 p.m.

Tuesday: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Wednesday: noon - 6 p.m.

Thursday: noon - 6 p.m.

Friday: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Sunday: Closed



cityofalbertlea.org/transfer-station

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





Farmers Market twice a week

Through Oct. 30, North Broadway Lot

- Wednesdays: 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
- Saturdays: 9 a.m. to noon

Fresh produce, baked goods and more!

Viva la Independencia

Friday, Sept. 12 (time to be announced) Central Park, 300 W. Clark St.

Mexican Independence Day, Día de la Independencia, is celebrated every year on Sept. 16 to commemorate the country's freedom from centuries of Spanish rule. Enjoy the food vendors, kids activities and El Grito parade along with dancing and music.

Halloween Spooktacular

Thursday, Oct. 30 from 4 to 7 p.m.

Historic downtown Albert Lea

Bring the kids for trick-or-treating at participating businesses with free photos at the Convention and Visitors Bureau, 132 N. Broadway Ave.

Small Business Saturday

Saturday, Nov. 29

Shopping local is a meaningful way to show appreciation for the unique character and charm these businesses bring to our community. When you shop at a local boutique, dine at a neighborhood restaurant, or use a service from a local artist, you're making a direct contribution to the stability and growth of our local economy.

Annual Holiday Bazaar

Thursday, Dec. 11 from 4 to 6 p.m. Historic downtown Albert Lea

Bring the family for store specials, wagon rides, photos with Santa, hot chocolate and goodies, and the Santa Cruise on Broadway Avenue. After the fun, come to Central Park, 300 W. Clark St., for a tree lighting to kick off the Trail of Enchantment.



