

2025-26

FUN GUIDE

WINTER/SPRING



Your winter/spring adventure is in Albert Lea!

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Albert Lea Public Library

211 E. Clark St.

alplonline.org

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,
Jan. 5 to April 14 at 10 a.m.**

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

Nighttime storytime

Tuesdays, Jan. 6 to April 14 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, Jan. 8 to April 16 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, Jan. 8, Feb. 12, March 12, and April 9 at 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

Mondays, Jan. 6 to Feb. 10 (no meeting Jan. 20) at 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 "The BFG" by Roald Dahl and participate in activities related to the story. Registration is required.

Book Pals: Grades 5 to 7

Mondays, Jan. 5 to Feb. 9 (no meeting Jan. 19) at 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 "Wonder" by R.J. Palacio and participate in activities related to the story. Registration is required.



NEW! Pokémon Club

Thursdays, Jan. 15, Feb. 19, March 19, April 16 and May 21 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Elementary aged children are invited to join us for our first ever Pokémon Club! We will meet once a month to play the Pokémon Trading Card Game and talk all things Pokémon together! Bring your friends and get ready for fun!

Library special events

Read to a dog

Sundays, Jan. 11 and April 12 from 2-3:30 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: Snowflakes

Sunday, Jan. 11 at 2 p.m.

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

Family event: Windup dinosaurs

Sunday, Feb. 8 at 2 p.m.

Bring the whole family and join us for a fun afternoon of crafting in the Children's Library. In February, attendees will create windup dinosaurs.

Family Event: Suncatchers

Sunday, April 12 at 2 p.m.

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

To register for a program, stop by the library, 211 E. Clark St., register online at alplonline.org, or call 507-377-4350. All programs are free of charge.

Family Reads

Dec. 7 to 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 beginning Dec. 1.



Dr. Seuss' birthday party

Sunday, March 8 at 2 p.m.

Children's Library

Let's celebrate the characters in Dr. Seuss books with a birthday party! Come for stories, games, activities and cake.



NEW! 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

The Albert Lea Public Library is starting 1,000 books before kindergarten in January 2026. The goal is to have read 1,000 books before your child starts kindergarten. Stop by the library for a reading log to get started. Prizes will be awarded for every 100 books read. Each year, the library will have a celebration for those who complete the program.

Library events for tweens and teens

Teen Reads: YA book club for teens

Thursdays, Feb. 5, March 5, April 2 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 drop-in crafts

Wednesdays, Jan. 14, Feb. 11, March 11, April 8 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

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

Tween and teen hangout

Tuesdays, Jan. 13, 27; Feb. 10, 24; March 10, 24; April 14, 28 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Drop in to the library for tween and teen hangout! A variety of activities will be available, including Nintendo Switch, tabletop games, crafts and more. Snacks will be provided.

Nailed it challenge

Thursday, Jan. 22 from 4 to 5 p.m.

Have you ever wanted to decorate a cake? We will try to recreate a professional cupcake design during the Nailed It Challenge. Bring your friends for a night that is sure to be full of laughs!

Bad art night

Thursday, Feb. 26 from 4 to 5 p.m.

Come to bad art night and try to create works of art as "badly" as possible! Bring your friends and your imagination for fun and laughs.

Taste test challenge

Thursday, March 26 from 4 to 5 p.m.

How well do you know your favorite snacks? Do you think you can tell the difference between store brands and name brand snacks? Bring your friends and put your taste buds to the test!

Book bedazzling

Thursday, April 23 from 4 to 5 p.m.

This isn't just any craft night: come transform your favorite book into a one of a kind treasure! We'll supply the gems, glue and tools, you bring the book and your imagination!



Hot Reads for Cold Nights

Adult Winter Reading Program

Jan. 5 to Feb. 27

Beat the winter blues by joining the Albert Lea Public Library for Hot Reads for Cold Nights, the adult winter reading program. Read five books between Jan. 5 and Feb. 27 to earn 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.



Library programs for adults

Needles, pins and more

Thursdays, Feb. 5, March 5, April 2
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 Tuesdays 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.

Jan. 13	Rememberlutions jar
Feb. 10	Winter hat banner
March 10	Stress relief coloring
April 14	Pipe cleaner daisy plant
May 12	Fabric covered flower pot

Fountain Lake Readers book club

Thursdays, Jan. 8, Feb. 12, March 12, April 9
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 always welcome.

Choose your own book club

Tuesdays, Jan. 20, Feb. 17, March 17, April 14 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.

3D printing: Design class

Thursdays, Jan. 15 and March 19 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 is required.

3D printing: Open lab

Thursdays, Feb. 19 and April 16 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; tweens can attend with a caregiver. Registration is required.

Bring your own lunch and learn

Second Thursdays at noon

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

Jan. 8	Seeds and Seed Catalogs with Master Gardener Don Smith
Feb. 12	Spring Migration Bird Watching with Bryce Gaudian
March 12	Maximizing Public Benefits in Retirement with Southern MN Regional Legal Services
April 9	The Ames Project: Iowa State University and the Manhattan Project with author Teresa Waldorf

Drop-in crafts for adults

Tuesday, March 31 from 4:30 to 8 p.m.

Come to the Albert Lea Public Library for an evening of drop-in adult crafting. A variety of craft projects will be available. All supplies provided.

Book tasting

Tuesday, April 28 at 6 p.m.

Sample a variety of books to find your next satisfying read at our book tasting event. Participants will peruse a menu of titles curated by library staff, all available to check out after the program. Join us for a relaxed evening of bookish exploration and conversation.



Library services

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: alponline.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.

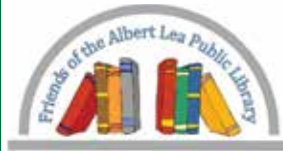
This Fun Guide is also available online in English and Spanish: cityofalbertlea.org/departments/recreation.

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

SHOP THE FOUNTAIN LAKE BOOKSTORE

Located on the
bottom floor of the
Library/City Hall
211 E. Clark St., Albert Lea

Staffed hours:
Monday-Thursday
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



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

Ancestry.com at the library!

Research your family history at the Albert Lea Public Library using Ancestry.com! Ancestry Library Edition is a genealogy research tool that provides access to billions of records in census data, vital records, directories, photos, and more. This service is available for in-library use only.



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

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| • Birdwatching for adults | • Disc golf | • Magic kit |
| • Birdwatching for kids | • Fossils and rocks | • Pickleball |
| • Board games | • Ghost hunting | • Preschool puzzles |
| • Card games | • Hiking for kids | • Science for kids |
| • Crochet for adults | • Horseshoes | • Science kit |
| • Crochet for kids | • Knitting for adults | • Strategy games |
| • Croquet | • Knitting for kids | • Telescope |



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

Albert Lea Recreation Programs



Scan to register
for recreation
programs

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

Hours: Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Info and registration online: bit.ly/alrecreation • Phone: 507-377-4370

Enjoy our parks this winter! Neighborhood parks are open with outdoor skating rinks at Academy, Hawthorne, Hayek and Lakeview parks. Roads are closed to vehicles at Bancroft Bay and Edgewater parks, but they're open to snowshoeing, walking and cross-country skiing. No snowmobiles!

The city removes snow from the Blue Zones Walkway around Fountain Lake and the Blazing Star State Trail from Frank Hall Park through the "figure 8" 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.

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 the Recreation Department at recreation@ci.albertlea.mn.us or call 507-377-4370.

Inclusion support

The Parks and Recreation Department provides an inclusive environment in which individuals with special needs can interact, play and socialize with their peers. 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.



Arena home to hockey and figure skating

The City Arena is home to the following hockey and figure skating programs. Check the links for more info and game schedules.

- Albert Lea Figure Skating Club: www.alfsc.org
- Albert Lea Hockey Association:
www.albertleahockey.org
- Albert Lea High School hockey:
albertleaathletics.com/
- Waldorf University hockey of Forest City, Iowa:
www.waldorfwarriors.com/sports/acha/index

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



See the full list online: cityofalbertlea.org/departments/parks/parks-trails-fun-spots

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. Check the "Public Skate Calendar" at bit.ly/rec-public-skate or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/albertlearec.

Cost: Monday - Friday: \$4 includes skate rental

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

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

Note: There will be limited public skate options through January 2026 due to continued construction at the City Arena.



Fitness classes

Weight training with Annie

Mondays and Wednesdays,

Jan. 26 to March 11 from 5:20 to 6:15 p.m.

United Methodist Church, 702 Highway 69 S.

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

Stretch and Strength with Pilates

Mondays and Wednesdays,

Jan. 26 to March 11 from 6:15 to 7 p.m.

United Methodist Church, 702 Highway 69 S.

A mat focused class that will work combine stretching, weights and Pilates exercises. Please bring an exercise mat, towel and one set of hand weights at desired weight

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!

Albert Lea Recreation and United Preschool present:



Special Olympics Young Athletes

Tuesdays, Jan. 20 - Feb. 24 from 6 to 7 p.m.

United Methodist Church, 702 Highway 69 S.

Basic sports skills:

- Running
- Kicking
- Throwing

\$20

6-week session

Scholarships are available through Special Olympics Minnesota. For more information please call the Recreation Office at 507-377-4370.

**Ages
4-6 years**



Registration deadline: Friday, Jan. 16, 2026
Schedule subject to change

Outdoor rinks and warming houses

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

Limited 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

Follow "Albert Lea Recreation" on Facebook for updates.



Have a great idea for park amenity or rec program?

The Albert Lea Parks and Recreation Board wants to hear from booster clubs, sports groups and other residents about enhancing local rec programs and park amenities.

If you are seeking to add an amenity or program, or funding for a project, please go to the city's website, cityofalbertlea.org, and search for "park amenity." Download, complete and submit the application for review.

As an advisory board to the city council, the Parks and Recreation 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.



The All Together Albert Lea Inclusive Playground in Edgewater Park is an example of an amenity that a volunteer group planned and funded.

Easter Bunny Deliveries



Friday, April 3
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.

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 4 at 9 a.m.

Jim Gustafson Field
1011 Hammer Road



The egg hunt will be divided up into age groups. Please bring your own basket or bag to collect the eggs.

Tap into Blue Zones' 9 powers

Blue Zones is a healthy living initiative that focus on 9 powers or habits shared by people in longevity hotspots. Here are a few ideas on how to tap into these powers this winter.



1. **Move naturally:** Bundle up and walk to do errands or visit people. At work, designate a path for walking during breaks.
2. **Know your purpose:** Check out a book from the Albert Lea Public Library on how to discover and develop your purpose.
3. **Down shift:** Shed stress a healthy way, like taking a nap or taking part in one of the many activities listed in this Fun Guide.
4. **80% rule:** Stop eating when 80% full.
5. **Plant slant:** Eat a plant-based diet. Think oatmeal with berries, vegetable soup and herbal tea.
6. **Friends at 5:** Meet up with family and friends at the day's end to share stories and offer support.
7. **Belong:** Be active in a church, service club or other group.
8. **Put family first:** Plan gatherings like game nights with your biological or chosen family this winter.
9. **Inner circle:** Choose social circles that support healthy behaviors and a positive outlook. Make new friends or strengthen friendships by taking part in some of the Fun Guide activities.

Learn more about Blue Zones Albert Lea at cityofalbertlea.org/services/blue-zones/.

Pavilion rentals

Starting Jan. 2, pavilion rentals can be reserved through Dec. 31, 2027. Pavilions are rented on a first-come first-served basis. Pavilions can be rented online at cityofalbertlea.org, over the phone by calling 507-377-4370, or by visiting the Recreation office, 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 Pavilions, and Pioneer Park are seasonal rentals from early May through mid-October.



Edgewater Bay Pavilion

1940 Edgewater Drive

Now includes wifi!

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

Fees:

\$60/hour - Albert Lea resident
\$65/hour - non-resident
\$850 - all day



Edgewater Park Cottage

1600 Edgewater Drive

- Capacity 48 people
- 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

1600 Edgewater Drive

- Capacity 100 people 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

100 Hawthorne St.

- Capacity 32 people
- 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



Save the date!

Summer Open House

**Monday, May 4
from 3-6 p.m.
at City Hall,
221 E. Clark St.**

Albert Lea
Recreation Department
bit.ly/alrecreation



Albert Lea
Public Library
alplonline.org

- Sign up for summer programs
- Register for a library card
- Crafts, refreshments and door prizes

Looking forward to summer:



Summer jobs

Albert Lea Recreation will be hiring for the summer! Watch the city website, cityofalbertlea.org/departments/human-resources, 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 Park Leaders: Must be at least 16 years old

For more information, please contact the Recreation Office at 507-377-4370.



Summer sand volleyball

Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays starting May 11, Snyder Fields, 2404 Bridge Ave.

Sand Volleyball is open to anyone age 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 4, 2026: All team registrations due. Register online: go to bit.ly/recreation-registration and click on "Adult Programming."

Summer league starts the week of May 11.
Monday nights: Co-ed league (men can spike).
Wednesday nights: Women's league.

Albert Lea Senior Center

Skyline Plaza, 1739 W. Main St. • 507-373-0704
Open Monday - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 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 Albert Lea Family Y, membership is free.

Senior Center weekly programming

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

Memory Care Cafe

Mondays, Jan. 5, Feb. 3, March 2, April 6 at 2 p.m.
Wednesdays, Jan. 21, Feb. 18, March 18, April 15 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. Mondays are music-themed, Wednesday activities vary.

Coffee with a Cop

Wednesdays, Jan. 7, Feb. 4, March 4, April 1 at 9:30 a.m.

Enjoy a cup of coffee with local law enforcement officers and ask them any questions you may have.

Monthly birthday party

Mondays, Jan. 12, Feb. 9, March 9, April 13 at 2:30 p.m. (after BINGO)

Join us for our monthly birthday parties where we celebrate you! Sponsored by Cargill.

Art with Emelia

Jan. 28, Feb. 25, March 25, April 29 at 10 a.m.

Get those creative juices flowing and join us for arts and crafts with Emelia! Details will be posted at the Senior Center. Must register one week before the class date.

Cost: \$7 for members and \$10 for non-members.

Treasure Island Casino trip

March 24, register by March 18

Join us for a fun-filled casino trip! Excitement and entertainment await you! Each guest will receive \$20 in slot play to try their luck on the machines and a \$5 food voucher to purchase a tasty snack or meal while you take a break from the action. Whether you're a seasoned player or just along for the ride, this trip promises great fun, good company, and plenty of chances to win!

Cost: \$60 for members and \$75 for non-members.

'Birthday Candles,' a comedy at Sidekick Theater

April 22, register by March 24

The ingredients for the cake are simple, eggs, butter, sugar, salt, but within them lies the essence of life. Each year, Ernestine bakes a birthday cake, a ritual that unfolds across 90 years as she grows from 17 to 107. "Birthday Candles" tenderly explores motherhood, family, love, loss, and the passage of time. This touching new play, recently on Broadway, is sure to warm the soul. The lunch menu is: Creamy chicken breast, served with roasted red potatoes, glazed carrots, coleslaw, dinner rolls, assorted dessert.

Cost: \$105 for members and \$115 for non-members.

Defensive driving course

4-hour refresher course for repeat students

Feb. 20 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

March 27 from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Senior Center, 1739 W. Main St.

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 mnsafetycenter.org.



The City of Albert Lea has openings on several boards and commissions starting Jan. 1

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

Serving on a city board or commission offers several benefits, including the opportunity to directly influence local decisions, gain valuable experience and skills, and contribute to the betterment of the community.

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

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: cityofalbertlea.org/departments/public-works/street/

WINTER

Emergency preparedness

Be ready before the cold hits:

- Keep an emergency car kit - blanket, flashlight, shovel, jumper cables, and sand or kitty litter for traction.
- Check tires, wipers, and fluids; keep at least half a tank of gas.
- Service your furnace and test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Stock food, water, and flashlights for at least three days.
- Dress in layers and watch for frostbite during extreme cold.
- Use generators outdoors only - never indoors.
- Check on neighbors, especially the elderly or those living alone.



Albert Lea Police Department
cityofalbertlea.org/departments/police



Did you know?

In Minnesota in 2024, 10 percent of home fires were caused by heating devices.

Most home fires occur in the winter and peak in January.

Most Minnesota heating fires occur in fireplaces and chimneys.

HEATING SAFETY

- Keep portable heaters 3 feet from anything flammable.
- Turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to sleep.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have your home heating system and chimney cleaned and inspected annually.
- Make sure your wood stove is properly installed and ventilated.



Albert Lea Fire Rescue, 417 S. Newton Ave., Albert Lea • 507-377-4341
cityofalbertlea.org/departments/fire

Explore our city

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

Albert Lea Community Theatre (ACT)

Albert Lea Community Theatre (ACT) brings the stage to life this season at 147 N. Broadway! Its 60th year promises heartwarming classics and delightful musicals.

Laugh along when they present "Nunsense" in February, watch as Mr. Banks' life turns upside down in "Father of the Bride" in April, and follow the spirited journey of Eliza Doolittle in "My Fair Lady" in June.

Visit actonbroadway.com or call 1-877-730-3144 (toll-free) for details and to buy tickets.

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."

Sledding

Popular hills for sledding are at Lakeview School, 902 Abbott St., along Frank Hall Drive across from Academy Park, 910 Frank Hall Drive, and Wedgewood Park, 500 Wedgewood Road.



**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS
 WASTE COLLECTIONS**
WEDNESDAYS, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.



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

Albert Lea Art Center

The Albert Lea Art Center, 101 S. Broadway Ave., offers exhibits by local artists and many unique items for sale all year long. Open Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Thursday and 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.

History Center of Freeborn County

Dive into Freeborn County history! The History Center, 1031 Bridge Ave., includes a museum, an extensive research library and a historic village. For more info, call 507-373-8003 or visit the website: lovehistory.org.

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

United Way's call centers are staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. 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
 Southern Minnesota Area Rural Transit

**FREE RIDES
 FOR SENIORS**

AGE 55+ OLDER

**To Mayo campuses in
 Albert Lea, Austin & Shuttle Run**



**ALBERT LEA
 ROUTE BUS
 AND
 DEMAND
 RESPONSE
 BUSES**



**SHUTTLE RUN
 TO AND FROM
 MAYO CAMPUSES
 IN AUSTIN &
 ALBERT LEA**



**AUSTIN
 ROUTE BUSES
 AND
 DEMAND
 RESPONSE
 BUSES**

Call for more
 info at:
507-433-2379

FREE!

**Schedule
 Reservations
 now!**

Albert Lea

Holiday Bazaar

**Thursday, Dec. 11, from 4 to 7 p.m.,
downtown Albert Lea**

- Live reindeer
- Photos with Santa
- Store specials
- Carolers
- Pop-ups
- Horse drawn wagon rides
- 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. 14, various locations

- Chili cook off
- Pond hockey tournament
- Live music
- Pancake breakfast
- 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/departments/waste-disposal-and-recycling/

**507-373-5013 or
507-377-4325 (Engineering Department)**

WINTER WITH COMMUNITY ED

GATHER. DISCOVER. GROW.

- Adult & Youth Enrichment Classes Open for Registration
 - Daytime Trip registration opening December 22
 - Adult & kids size snowshoe checkout available
- OPEN ROCK GYM:** Tues., Fri. & Sat. 6-9pm - Sign up online!

ADULT EDUCATION

FREE GED Testing
FREE English Classes

**Call 507-379-4866 to register
or for more information.**

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Parenting classes & series
classes for ages 0-5 years.

**Call 507-379-4831
for information.**

BOOKS ARRIVING TO MAILBOXES SOON!

TIGER CUB CHILD CARE CENTER

4 Star Parent Aware • Drop-In Care Available
Call 507-379-5158 to learn more & enroll!

BROOKSIDE EDUCATION CENTER

211 W Richway Drive
Albert Lea, MN
507-379-5318

AlbertLeaCommunityEd.org





City of Albert Lea

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

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.

Fight salt pollution: Protect our lakes

Chloride, or salt, severely threatens Minnesota's freshwater ecosystems, particularly local lakes and their fish. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) emphasizes that even a small amount of salt permanently contaminates water: 1 teaspoon of salt pollutes 5 gallons of water.

Deicing salt drives salt pollution in lakes and streams. To reduce salt use and protect our waterways, the MPCA recommends these simple practices:

- **Shovel and scrape regularly.** Manually removing snow and ice cuts down the amount of salt you need for melting.
- **Use sand for traction when it's very cold.** Salt loses its melting power below 15 degrees. Instead, apply sand to improve traction on driveways and sidewalks.
- **Apply salt sparingly.** A small amount of salt works effectively. Use just 1 coffee cup of salt to treat a 20-foot driveway or 1,000 square feet of sidewalk.
- **Sweep up excess salt.** Once salt melts snow and ice, sweep up any visible, remaining salt on dry surfaces. This stops salt from running off into local lakes.



Protecting our fresh water is a shared responsibility, and every small action taken to reduce salt use adds up to a huge difference.

Stay up-to-date, sign up for our
Week-Lea e-newsletter:
Delivered free to your email every Friday
cityofalbertlea.org/about-us/news

