

**2026**

**SUMMER**

**FUN**

**GUIDE**



**Albert Lea: Your destination for summer fun!**

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# Explore our city

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

## Blue Zones: Celebrating 10 years!

Albert Lea is celebrating 10 years as the first Blue Zones-certified community in the United States! The certification in 2016 followed a successful pilot project in 2009, led by world-explorer and best-selling author Dan Buettner, with Albert Lea making several changes to help people live longer and better.

Those changes included adding sidewalks and trails to make it easier for walking and other natural movement, including the Blue Zones Walkway around Fountain Lake. For a map that includes parking and restroom options, visit <https://tinyurl.com/bzwalkwaymap>.

How else can you "blue zone"? All activities and events in this Fun Guide support a healthy lifestyle so give them a try!

For more information about the project, visit [www.cityofalbertlea.org/services/blue-zones/](http://www.cityofalbertlea.org/services/blue-zones/).

For notices of special anniversary events, follow "Blue Zones Project Albert Lea" on Facebook.



### 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. For more information, call 507-373-5665.

### Albert Lea Community Theatre

**My Fair Lady, June 18-20 and June 25-26 at 7:30 p.m., June 21 and 27-28 at 2 p.m.:** \$22 adults, \$15 students  
"My Fair Lady" is a musical following Eliza Doolittle, a spirited flower seller. When the arrogant Professor Henry Higgins bets he can transform her into a high-society lady, both undergo an unexpected evolution. For information and tickets, visit [actonbroadway.com](http://actonbroadway.com) or call 1-877-730-3144.

### Theatre Kids Camp, July 6 to 10. Cost: \$100.

Children ages 8 to 13 learn to sharpen their acting skills, master clear enunciation, and build confidence through teamwork.

Camp hours are 9 to 11:30 a.m. or 12:30-3 p.m. with performances on July 10 and 11.

More information and how to register can be found at [actonbroadway.com](http://actonbroadway.com).

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

### Freeborn County Arts Initiative

The Freeborn County Arts Initiative, 224 S. Broadway Ave., offers bimonthly scheduled exhibits and programming. For more information, visit: [www.fc.ai.us](http://www.fc.ai.us).

### History Center of Freeborn County

The History Center of Freeborn County, 1031 Bridge Ave., welcomes visitors with presentations, educational programs, special events, and museum exhibits. People can explore the museum, village, and Itasca Rock Garden. The History Center and Kevin Savick Research Library are open all year, and the village and Itasca Rock Garden offer seasonal experiences. For more information, visit [fchmmn.org](http://fchmmn.org) or call 507-373-8003.

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

Minnesota United Way offers free, confidential health and human services info 24/7 in all languages. Call 2-1-1 or visit [211unitedway.org](http://211unitedway.org).

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



[cityofalbertlea.org/community-calendar](http://cityofalbertlea.org/community-calendar)

# Recreation

City Arena, 701 Lake Chapeau Drive  
507-377-4370

## Recreation Department

City Arena, 701 Lake Chapeau Drive

507-377-4370

Open 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays



Register online at [cityofalbertlea.org/recreation-registration](http://cityofalbertlea.org/recreation-registration) or in person at the City Arena.

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 that 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 [cityofalbertlea.org/recreation-registration](http://cityofalbertlea.org/recreation-registration).

### 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, 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.

### 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](mailto:dbakken@ci.albertlea.mn.us) or 507-377-4368.

### 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.

## Start your summer adventure!

# OPEN HOUSE

Explore summer fun and resources! Join the Albert Lea Public Library and Recreation Department for an open house at City Hall. Sign up for summer programs, register for a library card, and have all your questions answered by friendly staff from both departments.



**May 4 from 3 to 6 p.m.**  
**Albert Lea Public Library/City Hall,**  
**221 E. Clark St.**

• Crafts • Refreshments • Door prizes

# Recreation

City Arena, 701 Lake Chapeau Drive  
507-377-4370

## Summer Sand Volleyball

**Mondays and Wednesdays starting May 11**  
**Snyder Sand Volleyball Courts, 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 a championship prize awarded to the first-place team. All leagues are officiated by teams using the honor rule.

**Team registration open.** Register online at [cityofalbertlea.org/recreation-registration](http://cityofalbertlea.org/recreation-registration) and click on adult programming; call the Recreation Office at 507-377-4370; or stop at the City Arena, 701 Lake Chapeau Drive.

**May 4:** All team registration is due

**May 11:** League play begins

**Monday nights:** Co-ed A and B League

**Wednesday nights:** Women's A and B League

## Teen Takeover

For ages 12 - 18

**Thursdays, June 4 to July 30, from 6 to 8 p.m.**

**Southwest Park building**

Teens are invited to hang out with the City of Albert Lea Recreation Department! This supervised, drop-in program offers a safe space to relax, play games, listen to music, and spend time with friends.

No pressure, just a fun place to be yourself this summer!



## Skatepark Hours

**Open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.**  
**7 days a week**  
**at the City Beach**  
**300 Johnson St.**



## Archery Tag

**Tuesdays, June 16 to July 21, at 5:30 p.m.**

**Ages 8 and older**

**Cost: No fee**

**Eberhart Park, 1502 Eberhart St.**

Get ready for fast-paced, heart-pounding fun with Archery Tag this summer! No preregistration is required. Archery Tag is an exciting team-based game that combines the strategy of dodgeball with the thrill of archery using safe, foam-tipped arrows and protective gear. Players will dodge, aim, and work together to tag opponents and complete challenges in a fun, supervised environment. No experience is needed and all equipment is provided. Just drop in, gear up, and play! Perfect for teens and adults looking for a unique way to stay active, try something new, and enjoy friendly competition with friends. Closed-toe shoes required. Waivers required.

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



**See the full list online: [cityofalbertlea.org/parks](http://cityofalbertlea.org/parks)**

# Aquatic Center

Open June 5 to mid-August

321 James Ave., 507-373-3328

## Aquatic Center guidelines

- Admission requirements: All guests must pay daily admission or hold a season pass. Only cash and credit cards are accepted.
- Supervision for young swimmers: Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult at all times while in the facility.
- Life jacket rules: Only Coast Guard-approved life jackets are permitted, and they are allowed only in the feature pool (2, 3, and 4 feet areas). An adult must remain within arm's reach of children wearing a life jacket.
- Outside food and drink: No outside food or beverages are allowed in the facility.
- Mask/goggle policy: Only goggles that do not cover the nose are allowed.

## Weather and closures

The pool may close if the air temperature drops below 65 degrees or during inclement weather/unusual circumstances. Updates will be posted on the Albert Lea Recreation Facebook page.

## Special notes for deep water and slides

- Deep water testing for swimmers 14 years and younger:
  - Swim 34 yards using a recognizable stroke while maintaining a horizontal position (no doggie paddling).
  - Tread water for 30 seconds with your head above water.
  - Lifeguards/managers will administer tests and may retest swimmers if needed, regardless of age or prior tests.
- Water slide access: Must be at least 42 inches tall.

## Birthday party package

Birthday party package includes up to 10 guests plus 2 chaperones: \$40 additional guests: \$4 per person (at least 1 adult chaperone must be present with group).

Birthday party package includes:

- Admission
- An intercom birthday welcome to the birthday person
- Reserved space with 2 picnic tables for the birthday party group
- Option of bringing cake/cupcakes into the Aquatic Center (this is the only time outside food is allowed)

To register, contact Dani Bakken, dbakken@ci.albertlea.mn.us or call the Recreation Office, 507-377-4370.

## Lockers

Lockers are now available in the bathhouse on a first-come, first-served basis. Please bring your own lock. All locks must be removed by closing.

## Hours and admission:

### Daily admission:

#### Monday-Friday:

1-5 p.m.

#### Saturday and Sunday:

1-7 p.m.

**\$5:** 3 years and older

**\$3:** 55 years and older

**No charge:** 2 years and younger

### Nighttime admission:

#### Monday-Friday:

6:30-8 p.m.

**\$3:** 3 years and older

**No charge:** 2 years and younger

## Season passes

### Family pass:

**\$135 includes tax**

(4 family members living in the same household)

**\$25 includes tax**

(for each additional family member living in the same household)

### Individual pass:

**\$45 includes tax**

Ages 10-15

**\$75 includes tax**

Ages 16 and older

**\$45 includes tax**

Ages 3-9 (must be purchased with an adult pass)

### Caretaker pass:

**\$45 includes tax**

(must be babysitter/nanny/personal care attendant)

All passes must be purchased online or at the Recreation Office at the City Arena, 701 Lake Chapeau Drive.

**No cash refunds due to weather or other unforeseen closing. Cash and credit cards only accepted at the Aquatic Center.**



Children under the age of 10 years must be supervised by a paid adult swimmer and be within arm's reach at all times.

**The Aquatic Center will close at 5 p.m. on July 3 and be closed all day July 4 for the Independence Day holiday.**

# Aquatic Center

## Swimming lessons

Registration for lessons begins May 4 at 7:45 a.m.

### To register:

- Online at [cityofalbertlea.org/recreation-registration](http://cityofalbertlea.org/recreation-registration)
- Recreation Office, City Arena, 701 Lake Chapeau Drive, open 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays
- Cash, checks and credit cards accepted

You may register for ONE session and must finish the session before registering for additional sessions. See class descriptions at right.

**Aqua Tots 1: \$25/session**

**Aqua Tots 2 through level 4: \$45/session**

**Session 1: June 15 to 26**

**Session 2: July 6 to 17**

**Session 3: July 20 to 31**

### Aqua Tots 1 and 2, Levels 1, 2 and 3

9:50 to 10:20 a.m.

10:25 to 10:55 a.m.

11 to 11:30 a.m.

5:15 to 5:45 p.m.

5:50 to 6:20 p.m.

### Level 4

9:50 to 10:30 a.m.

10:35 to 11:15 a.m.

5:15 to 5:55 p.m.

Please register online at [cityofalbertlea.org/recreation-registration](http://cityofalbertlea.org/recreation-registration) or at the Recreation Office at the City Arena. You CANNOT register at the Aquatic Center.

## Class descriptions

**Aqua Tots 1: Children 6 months to 2 years old. A parent must be in the water with the child.**

Skills taught: adjusting to the water environment, showing comfort while maintaining a front or back position in the water and demonstrating breath control, including blowing bubbles or voluntarily submerging under water.

**Aqua Tots 2: Children 3 and 4 years old. A parent must be in the water with the child.**

Skills taught: Open eyes under water, blow bubbles out of nose, enter water while being caught, enter water without help, flutter kicks on the wall, flutter kicks away from the wall, back float, back float with kick, stomach float, stomach float with kick.

**Level 1: Children must be at least 5 years old at the start of the session.**

Skills taught: Open eyes under water, blow bubbles out of nose, 10 consecutive bobs, enter water without help, jellyfish float, stomach float, back float, back float with kick, stomach float, stomach float turn to back float, back float turn to stomach float, open eyes under water and pick up submerged object held at arms length, front crawl arm action, move 5 yards and exit water, use diving board with help, life jacket how-to and how to get help.

**Level 2: Children must complete Level 1 prior to enrollment in Level 2.**

Skills taught: Front flutter kick with board, back flutter kick with board, front frog kick with board, back float with flutter kick, stomach float with flutter kick, rhythmic breathing on the wall, front crawl with rhythmic breathing, back crawl, jump off diving board alone, retrieve object from bottom of 3-foot area, front glide, submerge head.

**Level 3: Children must complete Level 2 prior to enrollment in Level 3.**

Skills taught: Front flutter kick with board, front frog kick with board, back frog kick with board, frog kick under water, sidestroke, breast stroke, elementary back stroke, jump off diving board on own and return to side, retrieve object from bottom of 4-foot area, tread water, rhythmic breathing, glides.

**Level 4: Children must complete Level 3 prior to enrollment in Level 4.**

Skills taught: Dolphin kick, front crawl width of pool, back crawl width of pool, breaststroke width of pool, butterfly, elementary backstroke length of pool, sidestroke with scissor kick length of pool, tread water for 1 minute, retrieve item from 4 feet area, surface dive feet first, surface dive head first, survival float.

## Group rentals

Group rentals are available during Aquatic Center open hours. Discounted rates available for larger groups. Contact Dani Bakken at [dbakken@ci.albertlea.mn.us](mailto:dbakken@ci.albertlea.mn.us) or 507-377-4368 to schedule a group rental.



# Aquatic Center special events

## Grandparents Day every Monday

One free grandparent admission with one paid swimmer on Mondays throughout the summer.

## \$2 Tuesdays

Pay only \$2 to enter the Aquatic Center on Tuesdays; children age 2 and younger enter for free!

## Father's Day Special

**Sunday, June 21**

All dads get in for free with one paid admission.

## Mother's Day Special

**Sunday, July 12**

All moms get in for free with one paid admission.

## Teen Night

**Thursday, July 23 from 6-8 p.m.**

Ages 12-18 can enjoy swimming with music from a DJ and other activities. No fee, sponsored by Cargill.

## Veterans Swim Day

**Sunday, July 26**

All veterans get in for free with one paid admission.

## Fair Week Special

**Aug. 4 to 9**

During Freeborn County Fair week, it's only \$2 for daily admission! The Aquatic Center will be closed in the evenings.



## Water Aerobics

**June 7 to Aug. 9 (dates subject to change)**

**Monday, Wednesday, Thursday from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.**

**Tuesday and Sunday from 8 to 9 p.m.**

**\$40 residents, \$45 non-residents**

Ages 14 - adult

Dive into fitness with our aquatic class! Participants use noodles, aquatic gloves, and barbell floaters to build strength and stamina in a fun, low-impact environment. Individuals are welcome to attend any of the available time slots listed above.

## Water Walking

**Sundays, June 7 to Aug. 9 from 7 to 8 p.m.**

**\$2 admission per person**

Stay active with this low-impact self-guided workout held in the pool! Water walking is perfect for all fitness levels and helps improve strength, balance, and endurance while being easy on the joints. Participants walk laps and complete simple movements in the water for a refreshing way to exercise this summer.

## Lunchtime Lap Swim

**Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:45 a.m. to**

**12:45 p.m.; \$2 admission per person**

Make the most of your lunch break with a refreshing lap swim! Dive into the water, get your heart pumping, and return to the rest of your day feeling energized and accomplished. It's the perfect way to squeeze some fitness and fun into your midday routine!





# Neighborhood Parks

**June 1 to July 30**

- **Academy Park, 910 Frank Hall Drive**
- **Lakeview Park, 102 Willamor Road**
- **Sondergaard Park, 806 17th St.**
- **Valley Park, 611 Sheridan St.**

Celebrate summer by visiting your neighborhood park!

At every location, recreation leaders supervise activities and help kids create a memorable summer by playing games, making crafts, and building new friendships.

No preregistration required! Parents, please stop by to meet the park leaders and fill out a quick emergency contact form.

**Please note:** Neighborhood parks are subject to close due to inclement weather and extreme heat. Schedule and park locations are subject to change due to staffing.

See the calendar on pages 10 to 11 for daily activities. Follow the Recreation Department's Facebook page and website, [cityofalbertlea.org](http://cityofalbertlea.org), for an up-to-date calendar of special events.

## Freeborn County 4-H returns to neighborhood parks!

The 4-H team will lead hands-on team-building activities, STEM challenges, gardening and food demonstrations, and personal discovery projects. Youth participants can even showcase their projects at the Freeborn County Fair!

Follow us on Facebook @albertlearec for weekly updates on specific times, dates, and park locations.



**FREE supervised activities!**  
**For kids who have completed kindergarten through 5th grade**



# Recreation day trips



Take a trip with your neighborhood park leaders! You must pre-register for these trips online at [cityofalbertlea.org/recreation-registration](http://cityofalbertlea.org/recreation-registration) or at the Recreation Office at the City Arena, 701 Lake Chapeau Drive (Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.). Participants must have completed kindergarten through 5th grade.

## Albert Lea Aquatic Center

**Friday, June 12, no fee**

Buses will start picking up participants at times and locations listed below and will leave the Aquatic Center at 4 p.m. to return to the neighborhood parks.

<b>Sondergaard Park</b>	<b>noon</b>
<b>Valley Park</b>	<b>12:15 p.m.</b>
<b>Lakeview</b>	<b>12:30 p.m.</b>

Children **MUST** ride the bus to and from the Aquatic Center to participate in this activity. Please pack a lunch and beverage for your child to enjoy at Frank Hall Park before the Aquatic Center opens. Bring a suit, towel, and money for snacks.



## Canoeing and Kayaking

**Friday, July 10 from 9 to 11 a.m. (register by July 6)**  
**Fee: \$10**

Join your friends to canoe and kayak around Fountain Lake with the Community Education Boathouse.

Buses will start picking up participants at the following times and locations listed below:

<b>Sondergaard Park</b>	<b>8:15 a.m.</b>
<b>Valley Park</b>	<b>8:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Lakeview Park</b>	<b>8:45 a.m.</b>

## Freeborn County Historical Museum

**Friday, July 24 (register by July 20)**  
**Fee: \$10**

Let's go back in time and learn about Freeborn County's history! Please pack a lunch to enjoy at the museum.

Buses will start picking up participants at the following times and locations listed below:

<b>Sondergaard Park</b>	<b>10:15 a.m.</b>
<b>Valley Park</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Lakeview Park</b>	<b>10:45 a.m.</b>

# Recreation special events

## Movies in the Park

**Various dates at dusk**

**No fee or registration required**

Grab your blankets and lawn chairs and join us for Movies in the Park, a fun and family-friendly summer tradition! Enjoy a free outdoor movie under the stars at one of our local parks. This event is perfect for all ages and a great way to spend a summer evening with friends, family, and neighbors.

<b>June 26</b>	<b>"Goat" at Sondergaard Park</b>
<b>July 17</b>	<b>"Finding Dory" at the Aquatic Center parking lot</b>
<b>Aug. 14</b>	<b>"Zootopia 2" at the Edgewater Park Bandshell</b>

## Safety Day 2026

**Tuesday, Sept. 15 from 4 to 6 p.m.**

**Morin Park, 222 St. Mary Ave.**

**No fee or registration required**

Join Safety Day, a fun, hands-on event for the whole family! Explore emergency vehicles, meet local police officers, firefighters, and first responders, and learn important safety tips in an interactive and kid-friendly way. From fire safety and water safety to bike and pedestrian safety, there's something for everyone. Safety Day is a great opportunity to connect with community partners, ask questions, and help kids build confidence around everyday safety, all while having fun!

Date	Academy 910 Frank Hall Drive	Lakeview 102 Willamor Road	Valley 611 Sheridan St.	Sondergaard 806 17th St.
<b>Welcome to Summer</b>				
June 1	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
June 2	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
June 3	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
June 4	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
<b>Mermaids and Pirates</b>				
June 8	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
June 9	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
June 10	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
June 11	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
<b>June 12: Aquatic Center Day Trip, must pre-register at <a href="http://cityofalbertlea.org/recreation-registration">cityofalbertlea.org/recreation-registration</a> or call 507-377-4370</b>				
<b>STEM Week</b>				
June 15	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
June 16	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
June 17	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
June 18	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
<b>Around the World</b>				
June 22	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
June 23	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
June 24	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
June 25	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
<b>Mess Fest</b>				
June 29	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
June 30	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
July 1	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
July 2	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Date	Academy 910 Frank Hall Drive	Lakeview 102 Willamor Road	Valley 611 Sheridan St.	Sondergaard 806 17th St.
<b>Sports and Games Week</b>				
July 6	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
July 7	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
July 8	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
July 9	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
<b>July 10: Boathouse trip, must pre-register at <a href="http://cityofalbertlea.org/recreation-registration">cityofalbertlea.org/recreation-registration</a> or call 507-377-4370</b>				
<b>Creative Kids</b>				
July 13	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
July 14	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tie-dye*	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tie-dye*	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tie-dye*	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tie-dye*
July 15	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
July 16	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
<b>Explore Albert Lea</b>				
July 20	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
July 21	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
July 22	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
July 23	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
<b>July 24: History Museum trip, must pre-register at <a href="http://cityofalbertlea.org/recreation-registration">cityofalbertlea.org/recreation-registration</a> or call 507-377-4370</b>				
<b>Goodbye Summer</b>				
July 27	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
July 28	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Water activities**	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Water activities**	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Water activities**	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Water activities**
July 29	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
July 30	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**\*Tie-dye at your neighborhood park!**

Dye, rubber bands, and gloves will be provided. Please provide a white or light-colored T-shirt or other clothing item.

**\*\*Water activities for all!**

Let's get wet! Enjoy water activities so please wear appropriate clothing to get wet.



# Albert Lea Public Library

211 E. Clark St.  
507-377-4350

# UNEARTH A STORY™

Registration  
for summer programs  
opens May 4  
at 9 a.m.



## Summer Reading Program

**June 1 to Aug. 16**

Individuals of all ages are invited to join the Albert Lea Public Library for the 2026 Summer Reading Program, "Unearth a Story."

Read books and win prizes!

Stop by the library or visit [alplonline.org](http://alplonline.org) for more information.

## Library programs for pre-schoolers



### Storytime

**Mondays and Tuesdays,  
June 1 to July 14 at 10 a.m.**

#### Children's Library

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

### Music and Movement

**Thursdays, June 4 to July 16 at 10 a.m.**

#### Children's Library

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

# Library programs for grade-schoolers



## Pokémon Club

**Thursdays, May 21 at 3:30 p.m., June 18 and July 16 at noon, and Aug. 20 at 3:30 p.m.**

Elementary aged children are invited to join us for a Pokémon Club! Participate once a month to play the Pokémon Trading Card Game and talk all things Pokémon together. Bring your friends and get ready for fun.

## Science Blast

**Tuesdays, June 2 to July 14 at 2 p.m.**

### Children's Library

Come to Science Blast, a hands-on science program where kids will learn and have fun with different science experiments.

## Art Zone

**Wednesdays, June 3 to July 15 at 10 a.m.**

### Children's Library

Come to Art Zone, where kids will use their creativity to create works of art using different mediums each week.

## Writing Workshop with Author Nancy Loewen

**Tuesday, Aug. 11 at 3 p.m.**

An idiom is an expression that makes ZERO sense - and yet somehow we all know what it means! In this workshop, we'll be as busy as bees, exploring fun animal idioms in all sorts of ways. Will this session be a wild goose chase or the cat's meow? Join us and see what happens! **Registration is required.**

## Book Pals



### Intro to Book Pals: Grades 1 and 2

**Wednesdays, June 10 and July 8, at 10 and 11 a.m.**

Kids going into grades 1 and 2 are invited to join the library for introduction to Book Pals, a book club just for kids. Each month, they will read, discuss and participate in activities related to a different story.

**Registration is required.** Please register for one session only, 10 or 11 a.m.

### Book Pals: Grades 3 and 4

**Wednesdays, June 10 to July 8, at 2 and 3 p.m.**

Kids going into grades 3 and 4 are invited to join the library for Book Pals, a book club just for kids. This summer, kids will read "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" by Roald Dahl and participate in activities related to the story. **Registration is required.** Please register for one session only, 2 or 3 p.m.

### Book Pals: Grades 5, 6 and 7

**Mondays, June 8 to July 6, at 2 and 3 p.m.**

Kids going into grades 5, 6 and 7 are invited to join the library for Book Pals, a book club just for kids. This summer, they will read "The Lightning Thief" by Rick Riordan and participate in activities related to the story. **Registration is required.** Please register for one session only, 2 or 3 p.m.

# Special events



## The Magic of Isaiah

**Thursday, June 4 at 2 and 3 p.m.**

Be a part of the magic! This interactive show will amaze and entertain the whole family.

## Brodini's Comedy Magic Show

**Thursday, June 11 at 2 and 3 p.m.**

Laugh until you cry at Brodini's amazing magic tricks, where kids are a part of every show!

This program is made possible by the people of Minnesota through Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Library Legacy fund, in collaboration with our regional public library system, SELCO.

## Jim Jayes Magic

**Thursday, June 18 at 2 and 3 p.m.**

Experience a performance of magic, puppets and comedy by Jim Jayes.

## Reptile and Amphibian Show

**Thursday, June 25 at 2 and 3 p.m.**

Learn about reptiles and amphibians during this interactive program from the RAD Zoo.

## BINGO

**Thursday, July 2 at 2 p.m.**

Kids are invited to join us in the Children's Library for BINGO.

## Greg the Great

**Thursday, July 9 at 2 and 3 p.m.**

Come to the library for an entertaining and educational magic show by Greg the Great.

## ZooMan

**Thursday, July 16 at 2 and 3 p.m.**

Join the ZooMan and his menagerie of reptiles and amphibians for a fun-filled show.

## Stuffed Animal Storytime and Sleepover

**Tuesday, July 21 at 6 p.m.**

Come to the library in your pajamas and bring your favorite stuffed animal for a special Storytime, then leave them to spend the night! Pick up your stuffed animal the next day and find out what they did during the sleepover!

Can't attend the Storytime? Stuffed animals can be dropped off at any time on Tuesday, July 21 to participate in the sleepover.

## Dogman Party

**Sunday, Aug. 16 at 2 p.m.**

Join us as we celebrate 10 years of Dogman by author and illustrator Dav Pilkey! There will be crafts, games, and activities based on this series.

# Library programs for tweens and teens



## Teen Summer Reading Program

**June 1 - Aug. 16**

Teens are invited to join the Albert Lea Public Library for the 2026 Summer Reading Program, Unearth a Story. Read books and win prizes! Stop by the library starting June 1 to sign up.

## Tween and Teen Drop-in Crafts

**Wednesdays, May 13, June 17 and Aug. 19  
from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.**

Drop in to the library for 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, May 12, June 9, July 14 and Aug. 11  
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.

## Teen Reads: YA Book Club for Teens

**Thursdays, May 7, June 4, July 2 and Aug. 6 at 4 p.m.**

Teens are invited to join the Albert Lea Public 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.



## T(w)een Programming: Dino/Dragon Eye

**Thursday, June 25 at 4 p.m.**

Join us to create a dragon eye sculpture using air dry clay, paint, and your imagination!

## Folky Bird Art Class from Willomenia Art Studio

**Wednesday, July 15 at noon**

During this 90-minute guided class from Willomenia Art Studio, attendees will paint a bold Folk-Art inspired bird painting from a pre-sketched design. **Registration is required.**

This program is made possible by the people of Minnesota through Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Library Legacy fund, in collaboration with our regional public library system, SELCO.

## T(w)een Programming: Sticker Palooza

**Thursday, July 23 at 4 p.m.**

Do you love stickers? Join us for some sticker fun! Bring anything you'd like to decorate and the library will provide the stickers.

## T(w)een Programming: Switch Tournament

**Thursday, Aug. 27 at 4 p.m.**

### City Council Chambers

Bring your friends to compete on the big screen in a variety of games on the Nintendo Switch!

# Library programs for adults



## Unearth a Story: Summer Reading Program June 1 to Aug. 16

Adults are invited to participate in the 2026 summer reading program, "Unearth a Story." Read five books between June 1 and Aug. 16 to win a prize and an entry into the grand prize drawing. One prize per person, but readers can continue to enter the grand prize drawing for every five books read.

## Needles, Pins and More

Thursdays, May 7, June 4, July 2, and Aug. 6  
from 10 a.m. to noon

Bring a small craft project and work on it with others. All types of crafts welcome.

## Adult Craft Night

Tuesdays, June 9, July 14, and Aug. 11  
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.

**June** Flower pounded tea towel

**July** Beaded suncatcher

**Aug.** Diamond dot bookmarks

## Fountain Lake Readers

Thursdays, May 14, June 11, July 9, Aug. 13 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.



## Bring Your Own Lunch and Learn

Thursdays, May 14, June 11, July 9, and Aug. 13  
at noon, City Council Chambers

Bring your own lunch for an hour of learning.

**May** Author Talk: What is Ratliner?  
With Heidi Bacon\*

**June** Supernatural Lake Superior  
with Chad Lewis\*

**July** Historic buildings of Albert Lea with  
Brad Kirchner

**Aug.** Identity Theft and Scams with Southern MN  
Regional Legal Services

\*This program is made possible by the people of Minnesota through Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Library Legacy Fund, in cooperation with our regional library system, SELCO.

## Choose Your Own Book Club

Third Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m.

**May 19, June 16, July 21 and Aug. 18**

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.

# Library programs for adults



## 3D Printing: Design Class

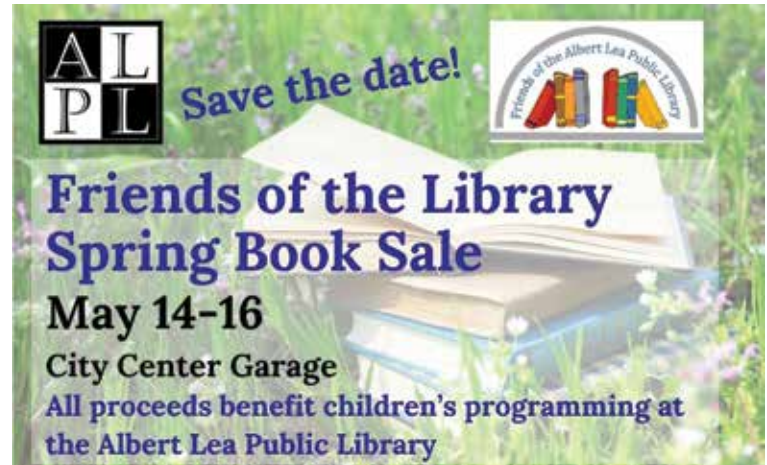
**Thursdays, May 21 and July 16 at 5 p.m.**

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, June 18 and Aug. 20 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 is required.**



## Writing Workshop with Nancy Loewen

**Tuesday, Aug. 11 at 6 p.m.**

Think of your favorite pieces of writing - those passages that stay with you and "ring true." Most likely, these works make use of metaphor. Funny or profound, simple or extended, a good metaphor conveys shared experiences and creates a bond between writer and reader. This workshop will look at examples of published writing, discuss how metaphor shapes meaning, and try several prompts to spark ideas. Everyone is welcome, whether dabbling for fun or looking for ways to deepen current writing projects. **Registration is required.**

## Book Tasting: Summer Reads

**Tuesday, Aug. 25 at 6 p.m. in City Council Chambers**

Sample a variety of books to find a satisfying read at this 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 exploration and conversation celebrating summer reads.

# Library events for all ages

## Casting Lead Free Pewter with Pedal to the Metal

**Wednesday, June 10, noon to 4 p.m.**

Cast your own small sculpture, pendant, keychain, pin, magnet or more with Pedal to the Metal, a traveling foundry! You will be able to make at least one small sculpture, finish the sculpture using basic metalworking hand tools and inks, and take it home with you. All ages are encouraged to participate. However, children under age 9 should plan to have an adult assistant.

This program is made possible by the people of Minnesota through Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Library Legacy fund, in collaboration with our regional public library system, SELCO.



## StoryWalk®

Enjoy walking and talking with family while reading a story together in a park near you! Head to the library's website, [alponline.org](http://alponline.org), to view a complete schedule later this spring.

# Albert Lea Senior Center

1739 W. Main St.  
507-373-0704

**Open Monday - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 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 seniors through educational, social and recreational activities.



## Membership

Membership is open to residents in Albert and surrounding area age 55 and older, and is \$30 per year. If a member of the YMCA, membership is free.

## Memory Care Cafe

**First Monday of the month at 2 p.m.**

**Third Wednesday of the month at 2 p.m.**

A safe place for people with memory loss and their caregivers to come and enjoy activities, share conversation, learn, and feel connected. Mondays are music-themed and Wednesdays' 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 and ask any questions you may have.

## Monthly birthday party

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

Join monthly birthday parties to celebrate members! Sponsored by Cargill.

## Puzzle exchange

**May 19 - all day**

Bring a puzzle, take a puzzle.



## Defensive Driving Course

**May 15 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**June 19 from 12:30-4:30 p.m.**

Save 10% on 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](http://mnsafetycenter.org) (no sign up at the Senior Center).

## Summer Kick off BBQ

**May 29 at 11 a.m.**

Menu: Burgers, potato salad, baked bean, chips, lemonade, and dessert.

Cost: \$12 for members, \$16 for non-members

## Catch "Nobody's Perfect" at Day Trippers Dinner Theatre

**June 26. Bus leaves at 10 a.m.**

The story follows a single dad who, desperate for extra cash, disguises himself to win a \$50,000 contest. Chaos ensues when he falls head over heels for the judge. Lunch is included.

Cost: \$100 for members, \$110 for non-members.

## Weekly programming:

### Monday

10:30 a.m. Building Bones  
1 p.m. BINGO

### Tuesday

9 a.m. SAIL/Aerobics  
10 a.m. Tech Tuesday  
10 a.m. Quilting  
Noon Mahjong  
Noon 500

### Wednesday

10 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

### Friday

9 a.m. SAIL/Aerobics  
Center closes at noon



**Find us  
on Facebook!  
Look for "Albert Lea  
Senior Center"**

# 2026 SUMMER WITH COMMUNITY ED

- **Brookside Boathouse opening June 2:** Check out kayaks, canoes and paddleboards
- **Brookside Rock Gym hours:** Tuesdays, Fridays & Saturdays from 6-9 pm
- **Daytime Trip:** A Second Helping: The Church Basement Ladies Sequel!
- **Youth Camps & Classes**
- **Adult Enrichment Classes**
- **Adult Education:** FREE GED TESTING & ENGLISH CLASSES

**Have a passion to share? Let's turn it into a class for the community! Contact us to find out how.**

**SUMMER BOOK COMING MID-MAY!**

211 W Richway Drive | Albert Lea, MN  
507-379-5318 | [AlbertLeaCommunityEd.org](http://AlbertLeaCommunityEd.org)

## Adopt a Storm Drain!

Keep your neighborhood clean and protect local waterways.

**Sweep up! Rake up! Pick up!**

Sign up to adopt a drain    Keep your drain clear    Track your impact

**ADOPT A STORM DRAIN**    **SRRWD**    Sign up today! [adopt-a-drain.org](http://adopt-a-drain.org)

## RECREATIONAL FIRE RULES:

- Must use a fire ring or pit
- Keep size under 3x3 feet
- Burn dry wood only; no trash
- Must stay 25 feet from buildings
- Must have water nearby
- Competent adult supervision required

A message from

## ALL PASSENGERS RIDE FREE!

To and from your medical appointments at **MAYO CLINIC HEALTH SYSTEM Albert Lea & Waseca**

Call our dispatch office for more information and to book your rides!

# SMART

Southern Minnesota Area Rural Transit

## 1-507-433-2379

[www.smartbusmn.org](http://www.smartbusmn.org)  
Like us on **facebook**

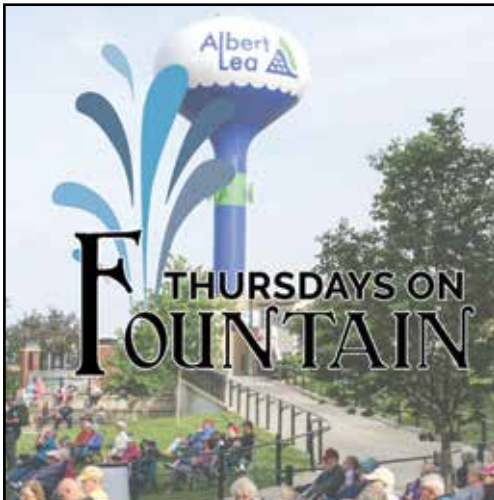
## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

## COLLECTIONS WEDNESDAYS 9 AM - 3 PM

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



221 E Clark Street  
 Albert Lea, MN 56007  
[cityofalbertlea.org](http://cityofalbertlea.org)



# F THURSDAYS ON FOUNTAIN

Free music every Thursday  
 from 5:30 - 7 p.m.  
 this summer starting May 28  
 Fountain Lake Park Gazebo  
 100 Fountain St.



## Walk or bike local trails

Visit: [cityofalbertlea.org/trails](http://cityofalbertlea.org/trails) for a list and more information.

## Independence Day Celebration



July 3 Parade, 6 p.m.  
 July 4 Fireworks at Dusk  
 Follow City of Albert Lea - City Hall  
 on Facebook for updates



explore

LAKE LAND FUN.

## ALBERT LEA, MN

SAVE THE DATE

**June**

5 ..... Relay for Life

10 ..... Wind Down Wednesday

12-14.. Eddie Cochran Weekend

19 ..... Juneteenth at Edgewater Bay Pavilion

20 ..... Pride Event at Central Park

**July**

3-5 ..... July Jamboree

5 ..... Boat Parade

8 ..... Wind Down Wednesday

**August**

4-9 ..... Freeborn County Fair

12 ..... Wind Down Wednesday

14 ..... Glow Ride

15 ..... Rock and Roll the Lakes



EXPLOREALBERTLEA.COM

## Top 10 Summer Safety Tips

from the Albert Lea Police Department

**Hydrate and cool:**  
 Drink water and take shade breaks to prevent heatstroke.

**Drive cautiously:**  
 Watch for increased pedestrian and cyclist activity.

**Grill safely:**  
 Keep grills away from structures and never leave them unattended.

**Look before you lock:**  
 Never leave children or pets in parked vehicles.

**Leave fireworks to pros:**  
 Avoid illegal fireworks to prevent fires and injury.

**Water safety:**  
 Supervise swimmers and always wear life jackets when boating.

**Battery care:**  
 Use approved chargers for e-bikes and avoid overcharging.

**Secure your property:**  
 Keep doors and vehicles locked, even in nice weather.



**Be neighborly:**  
 Keep noise levels respectful during late-night outdoor fun.

**Wear a helmet:**  
 Protect your head when riding bikes, scooters, or e-bikes.