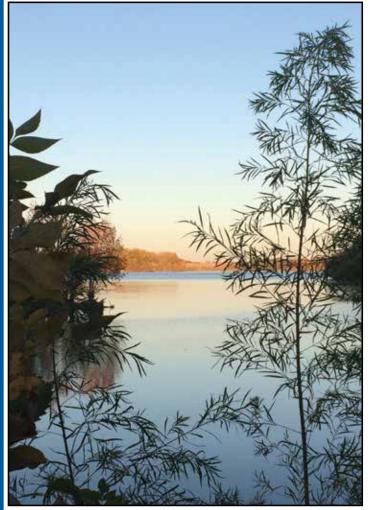


Steppin' Up





The City of Albert Lea is committed to supporting active lifestyles and enhancing the city's green infrastructure.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and partners designed a framework, the Green Step Cities program, to help municipalities achieve sustainability and quality-of-life goals. The program is designed around incorporating best practices from five categories: buildings and lighting, land use, transportation, environmental management and economic and community development. Since enrolling in the program a year ago, staff has worked with the Blue Zones Project and the Chamber of Commerce to enact measures that improve the quality of life in Albert Lea, create more awareness about environmental issues and save money by reducing energy consumption.

The MPCA tracks the progress cities make in implementing best practices by using steps. In just a year, Albert Lea ascended from a step 1 to a step 3. Staff will continue to work to be recognized as a step 5 city, the highest level.

As part of the celebration of this progress and in a collaboration with the City, the Albert Lea-Freeborn County Chamber of Commerce has created the Environmental Leader award. If you work in or know of a business that goes the extra mile to help our environment or reduce energy consumption, let the Chamber know. Call the office at (507) 373-3938 or visit albertlea.org to submit a nomination.

Parks and Recreation Summer Fun





Movies in the Park Friday, July 21 Mighty Morphin Power Rangers

> Saturday, July 22 Hulk Movie

Edgewater Park Bandshell 8:30 p.m. **FREE**

Summer Carnival

Carnival games, face painting, Wednesday, July 12 4-7 p.m.

Fountain Lake Park \$2.00 (includes all games) (children 2 & under Free)

Beach Luau

volleyball, sand bowling, Wednesday, July 26 6 pm-9 pm City Beach FREE



Albert Lea Public Library

211 E. Clark St. • www.alplonline.org • (507) 377-4350 Sun.: 1 to 5 p.m., Mon. - Thu.: 9 to 7 p.m. and Fri.: 1 to 6 p.m.



Writing Workshops for Kids & Adults!

Julie Seedorf & Friends Writer's Workshop Nancy Loewen Writing Workshop

Mon., July 17 at 2 p.m., City Council Chambers Join Julie Seedorf and Twin Cities Sisters in Crime to talk about their books, the writing process, and promotion of books using social media.



Julie will be joined by: Midge Bubany, Barbara Deese, Pat Dennis, Doug Dorow, Greg Gardner and Sherry Roberts.

Approx. 2 hrs long.



Mon., July 24, City Council Chambers

- 10:30 a.m. 3rd & 4th Graders
- 1 p.m. 5th, 6th & 7th Graders Stop by the children's library or call 377-4356 to register.

July's Thursday Special Events

- 6th BINGO: 2 p.m.
- 13th Jim Jayes' Puppet Show: 2 & 3 p.m.
- 20th Zoo Man: 2 & 3 p.m.



Reminder: The summer reading program ends July 20.