



# The City of Albert Lea

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Spring, 2004

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## Notes from the Mayor, Jean Eaton...

- Our new City Manager, Victoria Simonsen, begins work on Monday, April 5th. Victoria and her family are moving from Fort Morgan, Colorado where she was the City Superintendent for the town of 12,000. Please stop in and welcome her to Albert Lea!
- Paul Sparks, our new Economic Development Executive Director will begin his full time position on April 5th. He will relocate and join Pam Bishop, Executive Vice President (Marketing), at the Business Development Center. The newly formed Albert Lea Port Authority/Greater JOBS Inc. Board of Directors will hold their first organizational retreat on March 30th.
- Four companies will be submitting JOBZ applications to the state for approval. The tax free zone is an initiative by Governor Pawlenty that offers new or relocating companies up to twelve years of tax free status in ten zones throughout the state. The goal is job creation in Greater MN and we look forward to having more companies seek JOBZ status in Freeborn County.
- Congratulations to our Waste Water Treatment Plant for their recent award from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for their excellence in performance and water quality.
- The community can look forward to new road construction along Lakeview Blvd to the Hatch Bridge this summer. The bridge will also be replaced and enlarged with the help of state road aid funding. In addition, Garden Road to Richway Drive will be under construction later this summer.

*Jean Eaton*

### Albert Lea Area Listens

The people of the community listened to each other during October, November, and December through 59 facilitated small groups involving 603 people. Their comments regarding community assets, liabilities, and vision were recorded and are now being reviewed by the management firm Virchow, Kraus, and Company. All of the comments will be placed into a matrix and ultimately a vision will evolve for the community to work toward for the next five years. Some projects will be accomplished privately and others jointly with city government. The consultant will publish preliminary information and this will be available in May, at which time the public will have an opportunity to review and comment on the draft.

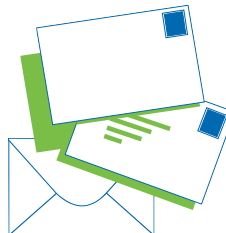
This project has garnered statewide interest. City Planner Bob Graham recently presented the concept to graduate planning students at Minnesota State University in March.

### Celebrate Albert Lea

Mark your calendar for August 27th and 28th for our second annual "Celebrate Albert Lea". Contact co-chairs Heather Earl, (St. John's) or Holly Kuhse (Hy-Vee) to volunteer. These events are to celebrate Albert Lea's 150th anniversary in 2006.

### Letters From Home

"Letters From Home" is a new program created to provide letters to all of our service personnel serving in Kosovo and Afghanistan. Letters will be sent by District #241's Halverson, Hawthorne, and Southwest Jr. High Schools and the Alden School district. If you or your group are interested in sending letters please contact Mayor Jean Eaton at 377-4330.



### Albert Lea Remembers

Have you heard about Albert Lea Remembers? This is a community wide effort to collect stories about Albert Lea for a book to be published in honor of the city's Sesquicentennial.

Albert Lea Remembers is sponsored by the Friends of the Albert Lea Public Library in partnership with the Albert Lea Public Library, Albert Lea Area Schools Community Education, the Freeborn County Historical Society, The Constant Reader, and Joan Claire Graham, local author of the Minnesota Memories series.

Joan Graham will be holding two writing workshops at the Albert Lea Public Library in the Multipurpose Room on Tuesday, April 6 at 4:00pm and on Tuesday, April 13 at 4:00pm. You do not need to attend a workshop to submit a story.

If you have any questions, please call the Library at 377-4350.

## Albert Lea Port Authority (Greater Jobs) Bulletin Board

- ❑ The Albert Lea Port Authority recommends approval to the City Council of JOBZ (Job Opportunity Building Zone) status for Larson Manufacturing, MF Technologies and Trails Travel Center. The Albert Lea City Council will conduct a hearing on the grant of JOBZ Business Subsidies on March 22. Larson Manufacturing announced they will lease 226,000 s.f. in the Jobs Industrial Park and create up to 35 new jobs. MF Technologies will operate from a new facility on the ALAMCO property and create up to 20 new jobs. Finally Trails Travel Center plans an expansion which will create 20 to 30 new jobs.
- ❑ Seven businesses have submitted business plans for consideration of up to \$45,000 in loan money through the Business Plan Competition, sponsored by the Albert Lea Business Development Center. The review team will begin their work of analyzing the plans this week.
- ❑ Daylily Enterprises began operations in the Albert Lea Business Development Center on March 1. Nancy Jensen, CEO, began her calendar planning publishing business in her home four years ago. Congratulations Nancy!



The Albert Lea Public Library welcomes our new Junior Friends Board!

This board is made up of seven young people from our community. Each of these members is a library user and represents the concerns and issues of their age group.

The mission of this board is to provide a forum for listening to issues that are important to our young library users and to

implement their ideas into services that attract other young library users.

Jr. Friends Projects include assisting with L.A.F (Library After school Fun) Programs, Summer Reading Programs, July 3rd Parade, and the Freeborn County Fair Booth.

The Jr. Friends are Jeff Bodensteiner, Erin Brick, Kate Buringa, Matt Dorman, Max King, Logan Tufte, and Lilia Walther.

The Junior Friends meet the second Tuesday of every month.

### 2004 Construction Season Major Construction Projects

The City of Albert Lea's proposed major projects scheduled for 2004 include:

**Hatch Bridge and Lakeview Blvd Concrete Roadway Replacement.** Replacing the arch culvert between Edgewater Bay and Fountain Lake on Lakeview Blvd and replacing the concrete road from Wedge Street to 200 feet north of The Fairway. July – Oct. 2004.

**East Main Street Sanitary Sewer and Watermain.** Extension of sewer and watermain east of Interstate 35 near Trails, including the Government Acres Subdivision. Extends east along East Main Street past CSAH 38 to the former drive-in theater. The watermain will also be looped south along CSAH38 and west along SE Marshall and connected to the existing watermain in this area. July – Oct. 2004.

**Richway Drive Street Project.** Replacing the bituminous roadway from Lakewood Ave. to Country Club Rd. The road will also be widened and curb and gutter added from Garden Rd to Country Club Rd. This project is part of a larger Freeborn Co. Engineering Department project. July – Oct. 2004.

**Other 2004 projects include:** completion of Blake Ave.; St. Joseph Ave. from 5th Street to 7th Street; and the Brookside boat landing.

All construction dates are tentative. If you have any questions, please contact the Engineering Department at (507) 377-4325.

### Zoo Man at the Library

On Saturday, April 10, the Zoo Man, from the Prairie Winds Zoo in Adrian, MN will be holding two shows at 1:00 and 2:00 in the multi-purpose room in the City Center. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

### Softball Season Begins

Spring is upon us and that means another summer of Softball. The Albert Lea Parks and Recreation Dept. is taking team registrations for the 2004 Summer season. If you are planning on having a team this season you MUST contact the office prior to the meeting date.

Fee: \$275 Thursday Nights

Call to reserve your spot 377-4370.

**Mandatory** manager's meeting is set for Tuesday, April 6th at 6 p.m. at the City Arena.

## *City of Albert Lea Departmental Contacts*

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**Parks and Recreation Director, Jay Hutchison**  
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**Library Director, Lori Barkema**  
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<b>Water Bill</b>	<b>377-4301</b>
<b>Building Permits</b>	<b>377-4340</b>
<b>City Garage</b>	<b>377-4377</b>
<b>Street Department</b>	<b>377-4378</b>
<b>Dog Catcher</b>	<b>377-5215</b>
<b>City Arena</b>	<b>377-4374</b>
<b>City Pool</b>	<b>373-3328</b>
<b>Civic Theater</b>	<b>377-4371</b>
<b>Senior Center</b>	<b>373-0704</b>
<b>Adult Library</b>	<b>377-4350</b>
<b>Children's Library</b>	<b>377-4356</b>

The City of Albert Lea newsletter is published quarterly by the City of Albert Lea to keep citizens informed about services, programs and issues in the community. Comments or suggestions are welcome and should be sent to the Albert Lea Public Library, 211 E. Clark St., Albert Lea, MN 56007 or email us at lbarkema@city.albertlea.org.