



# The City of Albert Lea

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Summer, 2003

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

Dear Community,

The first "Home Town Pride" city-wide clean up project during the United Way's Week of Caring was a successful collaborative effort. The City of Albert Lea provided extra hours at the transfer station as well as additional help with the clean up effort at the city parking lot. Thanks to Thompson Sanitation and Waste Management who provided free dumpsters for the two weekends of the event. Anyone wanting to be part of the committee to organize next year's event, please call me at 373-9084.

Now that the legislative session is over, the Council and I have our work out for us - reducing our 2004 budget by \$1 million to match the reduction in Local Government Aid (LGA). This does however provide an opportunity to evaluate our city structures and look at more collaborative efforts and efficiencies. Thanks to our Representative Dan Dorman and Senator Dan Sparks, who worked hard to preserve LGA money for their rural communities.

Some of the projects the City Council is currently involved with include:

- ♦ Collaborative efforts with seven other counties are in the works for the I-90 Tax Free Zone, (JOBZ).
- ♦ Efforts to hire a consultant for the community strategic planning process are underway. Two firms have been interviewed by the Chamber's strategic planning partners.
- ♦ Celebrate Albert Lea, a new city festival, is coming soon with events planned for the whole family! Join us for a fun time on August 29 and 30th.

*Jean B. Eaton*

## Playparks

**June 16-August 8, 2003, 9a.m. - noon  
& 1-4 p.m. Ages 6-12 Cost: FREE!**

Academy	Monday & Wednesday
Hawthorne	Monday thru Wednesday
Hayek	Monday & Wednesday
Lakeview	Monday & Wednesday
Sondergaard	Tuesday & Thursday
Southwest	Tuesday & Thursday
Troy-Hammer	Monday thru Thursday
Valley	Tuesday & Thursday

Parents must register their children at the Parks and Recreation office in order to participate in the playpark program.

## Library Building Needs Assessment

"The Albert Lea Public Library is thriving and its circulation statistics are impressive – even when housed in much too small quarters," states Ala Garlinska, a graduate student at the College of St. Catherine, in her space needs assessment study.

Garlinska's instructor, Anders Dahlgren, had prepared the Space Needs Assessment in 1987 for the library. Professor Dahlgren is President of Library Planning Associates, Inc. and has worked as a librarian for over twenty years, including fifteen years as a consulting librarian. During this time he has worked with more than 125 libraries on building and planning issues.

When calculating how much space is needed for a library, there are many things that need to be taken into consideration - population size, collection size, reading space needed, meeting area(s), staff workroom, room to grow, and other factors.

After evaluating the current space and what is needed to serve a community of this size, Ms. Garlinska concluded that 33,414 sq. ft. versus the current size of approximately 14,000 sq. ft. is needed.

To read the full report please visit our website at [www.city.albertlea.org/library.htm](http://www.city.albertlea.org/library.htm)



**Open Daily 12:00 - 7:00 p.m.**

Daily Admission \$3.00 person (children 2 & under FREE)  
 Pass Package: \$75.00 (30 admissions at \$2.50 ea.)

## Summer Theater

### He Ain't Done Right By Nell

July 9-11, 7:30 p.m.

Freeborn County Historical Museum grounds.

### Brave New Workshop

Acting classes for ages 9-18, morning of July 25.

Presentations, 2 and 7:30 p.m.

Albert Lea Civic Theatre.

## Citizen's Academy

The 2003 Citizen's Academy was held in March. The eleven citizens that completed the program were Jerry Schaefer, Diane Stevens, Roger Swanson, Yuri Justin, Don Malinsky, David Sabinish, Brent Keller, Bonie Moeller, Donna Anderson, Tony Luna, Kurt Barickman.

The Citizen's Academy community police program offers information on the Albert Lea Police Department's operational policies and procedures. The mission of this program is to forge cooperation and trust between citizens and the Albert Lea Police Department.



**Watch for "Al" - our Children's Library mascot at the 3rd of July Parade and the Freeborn County Fair!**



## FILL THE BOOT

The Fire Department will be passing around a boot to collect money for Muscular Dystrophy at the July 3rd parade. Local MDA ambassador, Dillon Giesler of Owatonna will ride along with the firefighters.

## JOBZ

When the citizens of the community see this title they will be convinced that some people can no longer spell! However, we know how to spell jobs! JOBZ is an acronym for a program designed to help the community get new jobs.

This past session, the Minnesota Legislature created Job Opportunity Building Zones (JOBZ). Ten of these zones will be permitted within the state outside of the Metro area within coalitions of counties that have been affected by job and population loss. The City of Albert Lea and Freeborn County are working with several other counties along I-90 to develop a single application to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development for designation under one of the 10 potential zones.

If the I-90 corridor is approved, the City will designate certain areas that are ready for development as JOBZ sub-zones and companies establishing industries or expanding within these zones will receive certain tax breaks as an encouragement to development.

For additional information, you may contact the City Planner at 507-377-4316 or e-mail [bgraham@city.albertlea.org](mailto:bgraham@city.albertlea.org).

## City of Albert Lea Additional Contacts

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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](mailto:lbarkema@city.albertlea.org).

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Water Bill	377-4301
Building Permits	377-4340
City Garage	377-4377
Street Department	377-4378
Dog Catcher	377-5215
City Arena	377-4374
City Pool	373-3328
Civic Theater	377-4371
Senior Center	373-0704
Adult Library	377-4350
Children's Library	377-4356