



The City of Albert Lea

Volume 1, Number 1

Winter, 2003

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Warren Amundson, 1st Ward Councilor 1831 Bayview Drive	377-1384	Jeff Fjelstad, 4th Ward Councilor 1335 Briarwood	373-2671	Paul Sparks, City Manager 221 E. Clark Street	377-4330
Randy Erdman, 2nd Ward Councilor 210 N. 2nd Avenue	373-9845	Mary Kron, 5th Ward Councilor 229 South Pearl	373-5754	ptsparks@city.albertlea.org	

A big thank you to outgoing Mayor Bob Haukoos and Councilors Ron Sorenson and Dave McPherson for all their years of service!

Notes from the Mayor, Jean Eaton... Happy New Year!

I'm so honored to be your 2003-2005 Mayor! Thank you for your support last November. Please know that I will do my very best to serve all of you!

Since the election I have been getting to know our City Council members, meeting with the new Convention & Visitors Bureau Director, and several Freeborn County officials. I've spent time with both the city and county "lake experts" learning more about lake issues and hopefully developing more partnerships with the county.

Austin's Mayor Reitz and I have met to discuss common community and state issues and of course...some "fun" challenges between our two communities.

I'm working on a "first ever" City Council retreat to focus on a common direction with established priorities. I hope this can become a yearly event for the council.

Another initiative I feel strongly about is continuous learning opportunities for our city employees. In progress is a customer service driven seminar specifically for government employees, and the "Work Place Spanish" course which would be coordinated and taught by our own Riverland Community College staff.

A community based Communication/Image task force is being developed. Carol Cerney, from the Southern MN Initiative Foundation, will facilitate the group.

You'll also be hearing more about the "Meet the Council" events that are being planned and much more.

I look forward to updating you in this newsletter! Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at 507-377-4330 or by email, mayor@city.albertlea.org.

ATTENTION RESIDENTIAL WATER AND SEWER CUSTOMERS

Beginning with the water and sewer bill that you just received in the mail, the City of Albert Lea Utilities department has begun to issue utility bills monthly rather than quarterly. For this current billing only, if your account number begins with a:

- 1 - this utility bill is for one month of usage
- 2 - this utility bill is for three months of usage
- 3 - this utility bill is for two months of usage

After this bill, all future bills will be for one month of usage. The Utilities department will continue to read your water meter once every three months; but now your utility bill will be evenly divided and billed over a three month time period rather than quarterly. All monthly utility bills will be due on the 20th of each month.

REMINDER:

Make your park reservations for 2003 now! Call the Parks and Recreation office at 377-4370

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER...

This newsletter will be coming to you 4 times a year. We welcome your comments and suggestions for subjects to be covered. Send them to the Albert Lea Public Library, 211 E. Clark Street, Albert Lea, MN 56007 or email us at lbarkema@city.albertlea.org or call us at 507-377-4350.



PUBLIC NOTICE



LAKE AERATION SYSTEM

The City of Albert Lea will be operating Lake Aeration systems in Fountain Lake during the 2002-2003 winter season.

Weather conditions may cause the areas of thin ice and open water to fluctuate greatly.



The area around each aeration system is signed thin ice.



One system is located approximately 500 ft. west of Pioneer Park.

The second system is located in Edgewater Bay approximately 500 ft. south of Edgewater park.

Warning to all users of Fountain Lake: Snowmobiles are not permitted to operate south of Richway Drive between sundown and sunrise; according to City Ordinance - Sec. 8.40 Subd. 2.



STAY CLEAR OF THE AREAS MARKED THIN ICE!



Library News

Magnifying the Printed Page

The Albert Lea Public Library has been awarded a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant of \$3,795 to purchase a text magnifier with an LCD terminal. This equipment will enlarge the printed text and/or image of an item so that it can be viewed on an LCD monitor. The Albert Lea Lions Club has donated a table to house the magnifier. We encourage anyone with low vision to come in and try it. Library staff will be happy to assist you.

Warming House Schedule

Mon.-Fri. 5-9 p.m.,
Sat. & Sun. 1-8 p.m.

Academy Park - 373-9930
Hockey & Pleasure Rink
Hawthorne Park - 373-9738
Hockey & Pleasure Rink
Hayek Park - 373-9742
Hockey & Pleasure Rink
Lakeview Park - 373-9743
Hockey & Pleasure Rink
Troy Hammer Park - 373-9708
Pleasure Rink Only

Fire Prevention Poster Contest Winners

The Albert Lea Fire Department had their Fire Prevention Poster Contest again this year for the area students in fifth grade. If the individual classes had 100 percent participation, they received a pizza party from the firefighters. We had a lot of parties this year! Numerous prizes were given to the winners and the first place winning poster will be entered in the state competition. The posters were judged and the winners were:

1st Place: Mikaela Pierson, Lakeview School
2nd Place: Jeff Bodensteiner, St.Theodore's School
3rd Place: Sara Wenum, Hawthorne School

Housing Assistance

The Albert Lea Housing and Redevelopment Authority provides rental housing assistance to low income families. The HRA owns 129 apartments in the Shady Oaks building located at 800 4th Avenue South and also owns 50 rental houses. In addition, the HRA provides rental assistance in privately owned apartments.

For more information you may contact the HRA at 377-4375 or e-mail alhra@smig.net. The HRA offices are now located at 800 4th Avenue South in the highrise building located Southeast of the Skyline Shopping Center.

City of Albert Lea Additional Contacts

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Library Director, Lori Barkema
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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

The City of Albert Lea newsletter is published monthly 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.