



The City of Albert Lea

Volume 3, Number 1

Winter, 2005

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Vern Rasmussen, Jr., 1st Ward Councilor
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Randy Erdman, 2nd Ward Councilor
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George G. Marin, 3rd Ward Councilor
1311 South 4th Avenue 377-9608

Jeff Fjelstad, 4th Ward Councilor
1335 Briarwood 373-2671

John Severtson, 5th Ward Councilor
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Al "Minnow" Brooks, 6th Ward Councilor
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Notes from the Mayor, Jean Eaton...

As the year comes to a close, I think of the numerous positive initiatives this Council has begun. I also think of the two Council members who will be moving on with their lives and leaving the public service life for now.

Mary Kron, representing Ward V, has been one of the longest serving council members in the history of Albert Lea government serving for 15 years. Mary served under three mayors and most recently was a member of the Human Rights Commission.

Warren Amundson, Ward I, has also served under three mayors and has been on the Council for 8 years. Last year Warren served on the Library Advisory Board and was the President of the newly formed Albert Lea Economic Development Agency as well as Mayor Pro Tem.

I want to thank them for their years of service and dedication to our community - they will be missed!

Our two new Council members are John Severtson and Vern Rasmussen Jr. This is John's second time on the City Council serving Ward V. He brings history and knowledge of the City to our Council team.

Vern Rasmussen Jr. is a first time Council member and will bring new ideas and enthusiasm. He will serve as Ward I councilor.

I also want to thank our Staff who work so hard as well as the many community members who have served on committees, commissions, and boards for the City. Without everyone working together great things could not happen here!

Wishing you a wonderful New Year!!

Jean B. Eaton

Land Between the Lakes Action Team

The Land Between the Lakes Action Team has organized a steering committee that will be coordinating efforts to implement many of the action activities recommended in the "Albert Lea Area Listens" final report and recommendations of the Minnesota Design Team. This Steering Committee is co-chaired by Nancy VanderWaerd and Randy Kehr.

Speakers on this topic are available for service clubs. Volunteers are also needed. Please call Nancy VanderWaerd 507-377-0227.

The Minnesota Design Team drawings are on display at City Hall. Come in and take a look or see them on our website: www.city.albertlea.org.

MN Design Team: Community "glue" is its spirit of invention

These principles will help guide the community toward a design that fundamentally "fits" Albert Lea.

PRINCIPLES:

- Albert Lea is the land between the lakes
- Embrace diversity (cultural, economic, bio, generational)
- Healthy lakes equal a healthy Albert Lea
- Evolution not revolution
- Albert Lea is best experienced by walking, biking or paddling
- Plan ahead and plan behind
- Restore and re-use your treasures
- Make change on your terms
- Keep edges close
- Enrich public life
- Ask your neighbor

Heritage Preservation Commission

Meetings: This Commission will meet monthly on the 3rd Thursday in the City Center. The Community is welcome!

Goals: Assist in the preservation of the community's physical and cultural heritage, promote the rehabilitation and conservation of historic properties, educate, inspire, and enrich the citizens and visitors of the City of Albert Lea.

Members: Owen Aasness, Doug Friend, Grace Haukoos, Bev Jackson, Don Johnson, Chris Shoff, John Sorlie, David Stewart and Karen Szymanowski.

Information: call the City Planning office at 507-377-4315. There will also be a quarterly newsletter and information on the city website: www.city.albertlea.org.

Snowplowing Procedures



Prior to potential storms, we spread major streets with anti-ice to keep snow from sticking to the road and forming ice. This anti-icing prior to a snowfall uses less salt, cuts plowing time, and saves money.

The first streets to be plowed are the major arterial streets: Main, Broadway, Bridge, S. Margaretha, Fountain, Front, S. Garfield, Lakeview Blvd., E. Clark, etc. Next is the business district, the most traveled streets, and then the least traveled streets, and finally residential alleys and parking lots.

Depending on the time of day and day of the week, large manufacturing plants, businesses, hospital, rest homes, schools and churches are taken into consideration when plowing. Time of day dictates when we start plowing; snow removal normally begins at 4:00 a.m. Once areas are plowed, snow piled in the middle of the streets is removed, usually about 1:00 to 2:00 a.m. After the snow has been removed from the business districts, the parking lots that did not get completely cleared of snow are finished. Snow is hauled from parking lots as equipment and time permit. Snow may have to be left in a pile for a day or so after the storm.

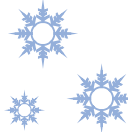
If a storm is forecast we ask that car owners do not park their cars on the streets so areas can be properly plowed. We also remind everyone that it is against City Ordinance to push snow from private property into the street.

DANGER - Thin Ice!

With the up and down temperatures we've been having, the Albert Lea Fire & Inspection Dept. would like to remind you that it is very important to remember that the ice on Fountain and Albert Lea lakes is not as safe as it may appear. 4" of new clear ice is the minimum thickness for travel on foot, 5" is minimum for snowmobiles and ATVs, & 8"- 12" for cars or small trucks. These thicknesses are merely guidelines for new, clear, solid ice. Many factors other than thickness can cause ice to be unsafe.

We have aerators out in both lakes, providing oxygen for the fish. These pumps create the open water in two areas of Fountain Lake and one area of Albert Lea Lake. Please use extra caution this year using the lakes for winter recreation.

City Arena Public Skating Schedule



Public Skating is open every Saturday and Sunday through February except Saturday, January 15. Saturday skate times are 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the Red Arena except for February 5 which will be in the Blue Arena. Sunday skate times are 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Blue Arena.

Rock on Ice - Fri. Jan. 7, 21 and Feb. 11 7:30-9:30 p.m. Blue Arena.

Fees:

Public Skate \$2 (weekends) Public Skate \$1 (weekdays)
Skate Rental \$1 - Rock on Ice \$3
Note: Blue Arena is the old arena, Red Arena is the new sheet of ice.



Police Defibrillators

Because of your generous donations, the Police Department and Sheriff's Office was able to purchase 12 cardiac defibrillators last year.

The Police Department upgraded their older outdated units and the Sheriff's Office was able to obtain defibrillators for the first time. We now have a defibrillator in every squad car on duty. We also have been able to lend our units to the school district during sporting events, the fairgrounds during the fair, and other trained individuals for use at large public gatherings. Our bicycle patrol officers even carried a unit with them during the July 4th celebration.

We are proud to report that several residents of Albert Lea owe their life to these defibrillators. These patients suffered a cardiac emergency and someone immediately called 911. The responding officers administered CPR and used the defibrillators. Several of these patients recovered from their cardiac incident and are now back home continuing to live their lives. This may not have been possible without successful early intervention and use of the defibrillators.

The defibrillators are the departments' single best tool at our disposal. They save lives. Thank you, again. We can't say it enough.

Outdoor Ice Rinks Warming House Schedule



Academy, Hawthorne, Lakeview, and Hayek Park buildings will be open for outdoor ice rinks. Outdoor ice season will begin when weather permits.

Monday - Friday 4:00-8:00 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday 1:00-8:00 p.m.

act Albert Lea Community Theatre
Presents

"Smokey Joe's Cafe"

Feb. 3-5, 6 (Matinee), & Feb. 9-12

City of Albert Lea Departmental Contacts

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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 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.