

## Information for Parade Viewers

**Welcome to Albert Lea and the 2008 Festival of Bands.** Thousands of people attend the Albert Lea Festival of Bands parade each year. By providing the following information we hope to make your parade viewing experience more enjoyable.

**Parking:** Several parking lots can be found in close proximity to the parade route. However, they do fill up rapidly. Other parking can be found on the streets nearby. However, it may mean you will have to walk several blocks to the parade route. We suggest you arrive early if you wish to get a parking spot near the parade route. There is NO PARKING on the parade route itself.

**Viewing areas:** There are 4 areas where every band usually performs. The first area is about one block into the route in front of the Tiger City Sports store. This is where the bands prepare for the actual judging. The next area is in front of the judges. This area is from Main Street to College Street in front of the Wells Fargo and US Bank buildings. Most of the parade viewers can be found in these two areas along Broadway. The bands will then proceed to Washington Avenue where they usually perform twice, once in the area of Sanderson Motors and then in the area of the Eagles Building. Washington Avenue is the best place to watch the bands perform if you do not arrive early and find a good viewing area on Broadway.

**Food /Refreshments:** It is usually quite warm along the parade route and therefore we encourage you to bring a cooler with soft drinks and food. There are several food vendors along the route. They are usually located on William Street and Clark Street Cold drinks, water, and kettle corn etc. is also sold along the parade route. There is a Dairy Queen located on the corner of Broadway and Pearl Street which has proven to be very popular during and after the parade.

**Chairs:** Please feel free to bring along your blankets or lawn chairs to help you enjoy the parade. You don't have to sit on the curb or stand along the route as the parade usually lasts about two hours or more. We strongly suggest you arrive early and place your chairs in the area from which you wish to view the parade. People do arrive early and the prime viewing areas are quickly filled. The sun shines directly on much of the route and we recommend you bring along some sun screen. We would suggest that you may be more comfortable if you sit on the west side of the street as it does receive some shade as the day progresses. This should make your parade viewing more enjoyable.

**Programs:** Programs are handed out along the parade route and there is usually a supply of programs to be found on each corner along the route. The programs contain information about each of the bands and their performance. Be sure to bring a pen or pencil as there is a place for you to judge the bands. In case you aren't sure how to judge, we provide information as to what the judges look for. We hope this will make the parade more meaningful and fun for you.

**Awards Ceremony:** The awards ceremony is held in Central Park at the end of the parade. When the results have been determined, the Albert Lea drum line will lead a grand entrance parade up to the awards location. This parade and the awards presentation are very impressive and you will not want to miss them. As the awards are presented, you can compare your judging efforts to those of the professionals to see how well you did.

**We hope you will thoroughly enjoy your visit to the Albert Lea Festival of Bands and that you will plan to return next year for another exciting musical experience on June 15th, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.**