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Allen Park

T O D A Y



Inside

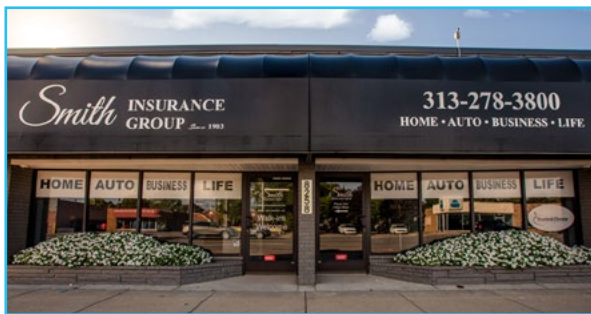
History
Eyes Future

Bingo vs. Hunger

New Leaf
Pickup Program

2026 - Third Quarter

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- Behavioral Intervention
- Money Management Guidance
- Socialization Skills
- Medication Instruction & Administration
- Health & Safety
- Transportation Assistance



We are proudly contracted with Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network to provide high-quality mental health services.

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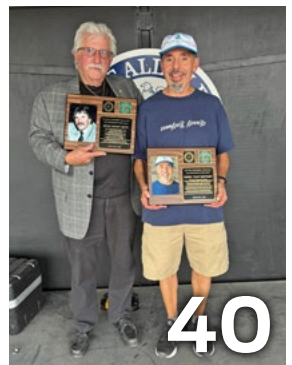
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From the MAYOR

Top of Mind: Back to School Safety; Ongoing Renovations; Upcoming Fall Events

As our students return to school, please be more alert, especially in school zones. Accidents can be avoided if we all are patient, courteous and obey traffic laws, especially stop signs.

Residents and visitors to Allen Park were once again provided with free entertainment and more, thanks to the DDA, which inaugurated their Block Party theme. Big thanks to the Parks and Recreation Department for also providing concerts and special activities in our parks during the summer. Of course, the Allen Park Farmer's Market continues to grow and is open every Friday through the end of October.

The 44th Allen Park Street Fair was held the first weekend in August and was, once again, a summer highlight due to the efforts of our Festivities Commission and their volunteers. Thank you and congratulations to all of you for another successful year.



The murals program, which began last year, has evolved into a week-long public art and mural festival, which occurred from August 16-23. A curated art fair also took place on August 22 and 23.

The major renovations to the Fire Station have been completed, and Rusty's Dog Park officially opened on June 30. Plans are being developed for the plaza at the old movie theater site and work should begin in the spring of 2027.

All the high schools our residents attend have been contacted about our Student Commissioner program. Any Allen Park resident who is a junior or senior is eligible to serve on the Beautification Commission, Downtown Development Authority, Historical Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission or Planning Commission. Application and consent forms are available through my office.

Coming events include Trunk or Treat on October 23, the Elk's Pumpkin Patch on October 31 and our annual Lighted Christmas Parade on November 20.

We look forward to seeing you.

Gail McLeod

Gail McLeod, Mayor

Elected Officials



GAIL McLEOD
Mayor



MICHAEL I. MIZZI
City Clerk



TIM ESTHEIMER
Treasurer



NANCY KNICK
Council Mayor Pro Tem



MATTHEW VALERIUS
City Council Member



GERALD BARR JR.
City Council Member



GARY SCHLACK
City Council Member



DAN LOYD
City Council Member



ED WURTZBACHER
City Council Member



Contact Information

Website: www.cityofallenpark.org

City Facebook: City of Allen Park – Government

Police Department Facebook: Allen Park Police Department

Fire Department Facebook: Allen Park Fire Department

Library Facebook: Allen Park Public Library

Recreation Facebook: Allen Park Parks & Recreation/
Community Center

DDA Facebook: Allen Park DDA

City Cable Channel: WOW – 10 & Comcast – 12

CodeRED: Text ALLENPARKALERTS to 99411

City Departments/Location

Police Department

Non-Emergency: (313) 386-7800

Fire Department

Non-Emergency: (313) 928-0024

City Hall

Main Number: (313) 928-1400

Parks & Recreation/Community Center

Main Number: (313) 928-0771

Allen Park Public Library

Main Number: (313) 381-2425

Department of Public Services (DPS)

Public Services: (313) 928-0550

Water & Sewer: (313) 928-3393

Priority Waste: (586) 228-1200

Allen Park Historical Museum

allenparkhistoricalmuseum@gmail.com

Trash/Recycling Holiday Pick Ups

Thanksgiving Day

(delayed to Friday and Saturday)

Christmas Day

(delayed to Saturday)

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BOOK BINGO

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MONDAYS 10/5, 11/2 & 12/7 | 2:00 P.M. | AGES 18 & UP

ROLL REVERSALS

Join our tabletop role-playing games group as we embark on a new adventure this autumn!
MONDAYS | 6:00 - 7:45 P.M. | AGES 10 - 18

UNDER 5 STORYTIME

Children ages five and under with their caregivers welcome to listen to stories and enjoy simple crafts!
WEDNESDAYS | 10:30 A.M. | ALL AGES

CHAOS CRAFTERNOON

Bring your own supplies or use what we provide to our themed drop-in makerspace!
SATURDAYS 10/3, 11/7 & 12/5 | 2:00 P.M. | AGES 8 & UP

FAMILY FUN STORYTIME

Join us for special themed stories and snacks for cozy family Saturday mornings!
SATURDAYS 10/10, 11/14 & 12/12 | 10:30 A.M. | ALL AGES

SILENT BOOK CLUB

Welcome back our beloved quiet reading time for adults! Bring a book or check one out, and enjoy a relaxing environment with light refreshments!
TUESDAYS 10/13, 11/10 & 12/8 | 6:00 P.M. | AGES 18 & UP

BOOKS WITH THERAPY DOG BROOKS

Read to and visit with our returning special guest! Five-minute timeslots available during the hour.
TUESDAYS 10/13 & 10/27 | 6:30 P.M. | ALL AGES
SATURDAYS 11/14 & 12/12 | 2:00 P.M. | ALL AGES

FAMILY FUN BINGO

Win free books while playing a classic game for the whole family to enjoy!
SATURDAYS 10/24, 11/21 & 12/19 | 2:00 P.M. | ALL AGES

SPECIAL EVENTS

TRINKETS & TREASURES: CROW PARTY

Attendees should bring two trinkets, two treats and two books to trade with the others, and arrive in their best black, feathers or bird-inspired outfits.
TUESDAY, 9/29 | 6:00 P.M. | AGES 18 & UP

CREATE "GIFT OF LIFE MICHIGAN" COMFORT BLANKETS

Spend your time creating comfort blankets for those grieving the loss of an organ-donating loved one.
SATURDAY, 10/10 | 2:00 P.M. | ALL AGES

DIA (DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS) PRESENTATION

Sit in for a discussion about art history and the impact of the DIA on Southeast Michigan.
SATURDAY, 10/17 | 2:00 P.M. | AGES 13 & UP

GHASTLY GHOSTLY CRAFTERNOON

Tweens and teens can create cute and spooky ghostly figures with materials provided!
SATURDAY, 10/24 | 12:00 P.M. | AGES 10 - 18

SUSTAINABLE LIVING SERVICES PRESENTATION

Join us for this educational discussion about ways to improve health and organization in your home!
TUESDAY, 10/27 | 6:00 P.M. | AGES 13 & UP

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Early Halloween Closure
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31 | AT 4:00 P.M.

Thanksgiving Closure
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26 - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Christmas Closure
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24 - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

New Year Closure
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS

BETWEEN THE COVERS



The Ex Hex
by Erin Sterling
TUESDAY, 10/6 | 7:00 - 7:45 P.M.



Funny Story
by Emily Henry
TUESDAY, 11/3 | 7:00 - 7:45 P.M.

VARIETY



Weyward
by Emilia Hart
TUESDAY, 10/20 | 7:00 - 7:45 P.M.



Where They Last Saw Her
by Marcie R. Rendon
TUESDAY, 11/17 | 7:00 - 7:45 P.M.

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ALLEN PARK

PLAN AHEAD: VOTE EARLY

ALLEN PARK RESIDENTS

The November General Election is coming up on Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026, and voters will have more than just one day to cast their ballot. Michigan's 9-day early in-person voting period gives residents the option to vote before Election Day at City Hall. Early voting is a convenient option for residents who may be busy on Election Day, prefer to avoid longer lines or simply want more flexible options to vote. The process is the same voting at the polls: voters receive a ballot, complete it privately and place it directly into a tabulator before leaving.



City Clerk, Michael I. Mizzi

EARLY VOTING SCHEDULE

Early Voting : Saturday, Oct. 24 through Sunday, Nov. 1.

Hours: Sat 10/24, Sun 10/25, Mon 10/26, Tues 10/27, Thrs 10/29,
Sat 10/31, Sun 11/01 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Wed 10/28 and Fri 10/30 11:00 am to 7:00 pm

Election Day: Tuesday, Nov. 3; polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Reminder: All Early Voting will Take place at Allen Park City Hall 15915 Southfield Rd. Election Day Voting will take place at your assigned precinct locations. Updated Precinct maps can be found online at www.cityofallenpark.org



WHAT RESIDENTS SHOULD KNOW

Any registered voter may vote early in person. No excuse or absentee ballot application is needed. Early voting offers the same privacy and security as voting on Election Day while giving residents added flexibility to choose a date that works best for their schedule. Residents are encouraged to check their voter registration, review their sample ballot and confirm their early voting location before heading out. All the information you need can be found at

MI.GOV/VOTE

Voting Precinct Map

City of Allen Park, Michigan



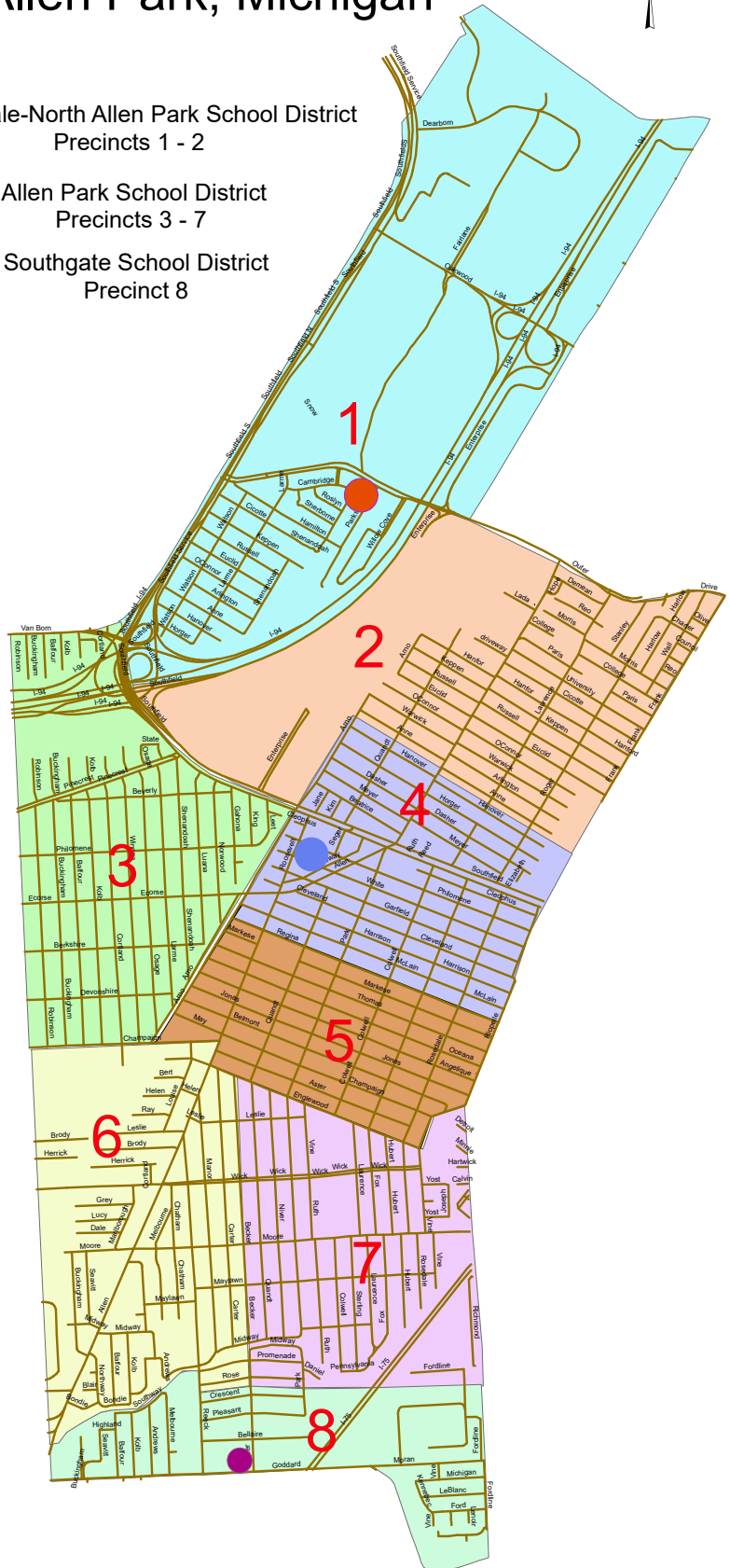
Melvindale-North Allen Park School District
Precincts 1 - 2

Allen Park School District
Precincts 3 - 7

Southgate School District
Precinct 8

Precincts

- 1 Allen Park Church of Christ
23610 W. Outer Drive ●
- 2 Allen Park Community Center
15800 White Street ●
- 3 Allen Park Community Center
15800 White Street ●
- 4 Allen Park Community Center
15800 White Street ●
- 5 Allen Park Community Center
15800 White Street ●
- 6 Allen Park Community Center
15800 White Street ●
- 7 Allen Park Community Center
15800 White Street ●
- 8 Church of the Nazarene
10944 Reeck ●



U.S. Congressional District 13 - All Precincts

State Senator District 2 - All Precincts

State Representative District 2 - All Precincts

County Commissioner District 13 Precincts 1, 2 and part of 4

County Commissioner District 15 Precincts 3, part of 4, 5 - 8

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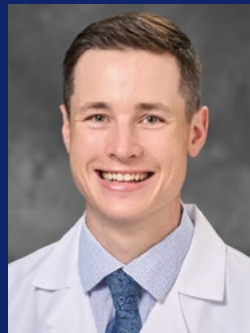
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Allen Park Public Schools 2026-27 Milestone Dates Calendar

Allen Park Public Schoolsan uncompromising commitment to excellence

September 1	Professional Development Day for Faculty (#1)
September 1	Elementary Meet the Teacher Night – 6:30 p.m.)
September 2	Professional Development Day for Faculty (#2)
September 3	Teacher Work Day (Optional)
September 8	1st Day of School – Full Day
September 16	High School – Back to School Night – 6:30 p.m.
September 17	Middle School – Meet the Teacher Night – 6:30 p.m.
October 30	½ Day for K-12/Professional Development for Faculty in PM
November 3	Election Day/Professional Development Day for Faculty (#3) – NO SCHOOL
November 6	End of 1st Quarter for Secondary
November 11	Elementary Parent Teacher Conferences – 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.
November 12	½ Day for K-5
November 12	Elementary Parent Teacher Conferences/ 12:45 - 3:15 p.m. & 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.
November 17 & 18	APMS Parent Teacher Conferences/5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
November 18 & 19	APHS Parent Teacher Conferences/5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
November 25, 26 & 27	Thanksgiving Break – NO SCHOOL
December 11	End of 1st Trimester for Elementary
December 19 - January 3	Winter Break – NO SCHOOL
January 4	Classes Resume
January 18	Professional Development Day for Faculty (#4) – NO SCHOOL
January 27	½ Day for 9-12 (Final Exams)
January 28	½ Day for 9-12 (Final Exams)
January 29	½ Day for 9-12 (Final Exams)
January 29	End of 1st Semester for Secondary
February 15	Professional Development Day for Faculty (#5) – NO SCHOOL
February 20 - 28	Mid-Winter Break – NO SCHOOL
March 1	Classes Resume
March 10	APHS Parent Teacher Conferences/4:00 – 8:00 p.m.
March 11	APMS Parent Teacher Conferences/4:00 – 8:00 p.m.
March 12	End of 2nd Trimester for Elementary
March 18	Elementary Parent Teacher Conferences 5:30-7:30 p.m.
March 19	Professional Development Day for Faculty (#6) – NO SCHOOL
March 26	NO SCHOOL
March 27-April 4	Spring Break – NO SCHOOL
April 5	Classes Resume
April 9	End of 3rd Quarter for Secondary
April 13, 14 & 15	TENTATIVE Special Spring Testing Schedule for APHS & APMS
May 7	½ Day for K-12/Professional Development for Faculty in PM
May 27	Last Day for Seniors
May 31	Memorial Day – NO SCHOOL
June 15	½ Day for K-11 (APHS Final Exams)
June 16	½ Day for K-11 (APHS Final Exams)
June 17	½ Day for K-11/ (APHS Final Exams) Last Day for Students

June 15, 16 & 17 – Special Education Scheduling Meetings in PM

**All dates for the AP Center for Early Childhood Education and its programs
will be released on a separate calendar.



Welcome New Members of 'Team AP'

ALLEN PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2026-27



Administration



Patrick Mies
Director of
Special Services



Rick Browning
Director of
Operations



Jake Barry
MS Assistant Principal
and Athletic Director

Center for Early Childhood Education



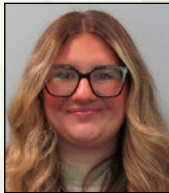
Avery Shelton
ECP Teacher



Arno Elementary



Rebecca Petee
1st Grade Teacher



Kailey Susewitz
5th Grade Teacher



Brookelynn Keleman
Kindergarten Teacher



Katelyn Magolan
5th Grade Teacher



Julie Petersen
Resource Room
Teacher



Kari Tackett
5th Grade Teacher



Kristi Trombka
4th Grade Teacher



Lindemann Elementary



Allen Park Middle School



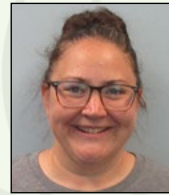
Tanness Headrick
Spanish Teacher



Roger Siders
Exploratory Teacher



Allen Park High School



Megan Guoin
Athletic Trainer



Kayleigh Huntington
ELA Teacher

Special Services



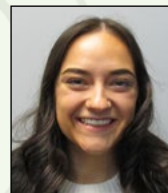
Danielle Bushaw
Psychologist



Jessica Guoin-Trupiano
HS Social Worker



Erika Herrera
Occupational
Therapist



Abigail Horne
Speech and Language
Pathologist



Stephanie Johnson
Bennie Social Worker



FALL VARSITY ATHLETIC SCHEDULE

CROSS COUNTRY

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Thursday 9-3-26	Meet @ Elizabeth Park	Away	3:00PM
Saturday 9-19-26	Meet @ Springfield Oaks	Away	7:20AM
Tuesday 9-22-26	Jamboree @ Lake Erie Metro	Away	4:00PM
Saturday 10-3-26	Invite @ DeWitt HS	Away	8:30AM
Tuesday 10-6-26	Jamboree @ Elizabeth Park	Away	4:00PM
Saturday 10-10-26	Wayne County @ Willow Metropark	Away	9:00AM
Saturday 10-17-26	Invite @ Lake Erie Metro	Away	9:00AM
Thursday 10-22-26	Jamboree @ Lake Erie Metro	Away	4:00PM
Saturday 10-31-26	Regionals @ Lake Erie Metro	Away	11:00AM
Saturday 11-7-26	Finals @ TBD	Away	TBD

SOCCER BOYS

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Wednesday 9-2-26	Taylor High School	Away	4:30/ 6:00PM
Tuesday 9-8-26	Inter-City Baptist School	Home	6:00PM
Friday 9-11-26	Fordson High School	Away	4:30/ 6:00PM
Monday 9-14-26	Anderson High School - Southgate	Home	6:00PM
Wednesday 9-16-26	Woodhaven High School	Away	4:30/ 6:00PM
Saturday 9-19-26	Monroe - Tournament	Away	TBD
Monday 9-21-26	Lincoln Park High School	Home	6:00PM
Wednesday 9-23-26	Wyandotte High School	Away	7:30PM
Thursday 9-24-26	Milan High School	Home	6:00PM
Friday 10-9-26	Divine Child High School	Home	4:30PM

TENNIS BOYS

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Tuesday 9-1-26	Ypsilanti High School	Away	4:00PM
Wednesday 9-2-26	Hamtramck High School	Home	4:00PM
Thursday 9-3-26	Lincoln Park High School	Away	4:00PM
Tuesday 9-8-26	Anderson High School - Southgate	Home	4:00PM
Wednesday 9-9-26	Garden City High School	Away	4:00PM
Thursday 9-10-26	Carlson High School	Home	4:00PM
Friday 9-11-26	Airport High School	Home	4:00PM
Monday 9-14-26	Belleville High School	Home	4:00PM
Tuesday 9-15-26	Trenton High School	Away	4:00PM
Thursday 9-17-26	Edsel Ford High School	Home	4:00PM
Monday 9-21-26	Fordson High School	Home	4:00PM
Tuesday 9-22-26	Woodhaven High School	Home	4:00PM
Thursday 9-24-26	Wyandotte High School	Away	8:30AM
Monday 9-28-26	DRL Meet - Trenton High School	Away	8:30AM
Wednesday 10-7-26	Regionals	Away	8:00AM

FOOTBALL and CHEER

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Thursday 9-3-26	Taylor High School	Away	7:00PM
Friday 9-11-26	Anderson High School - Southgate	Home	7:00PM
Friday 9-18-26	Woodhaven High School	Away	7:00PM
Friday 9-25-26	Lincoln Park High School	Home	7:00PM
Friday 10-2-26	Hamady High School	Home	7:00PM
Friday 10-9-26	Wyandotte High School	Away	7:00PM
Friday 10-16-26	Edsel Ford High School	Home	7:00PM
Friday 10-23-26	Carlson High School	Home	7:00PM

SWIM & DIVE GIRLS

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Thursday 9-3-26	Tri Meet - Dundee High School	Away	5:30PM
Thursday 9-10-26	Dearborn High School	Home	6:00PM
Thursday 9-17-26	Woodhaven High School	Away	6:00PM
Tuesday 9-22-26	Trenton High School	Away	6:00PM
Saturday 9-26-26	DRC	Away	TBD
Tuesday 9-29-26	Carlson High School	Home	6:00PM
Saturday 10-3-26	Wayne County	Away	TBD
Thursday 10-8-26	Lincoln Park High School	Home	6:00PM
Thursday 10-15-26	Anderson High School - Southgate	Home	6:00PM
Tuesday 10-20-26	Grosse Ile High School	Home	6:00PM
Thursday 10-22-26	Edsel Ford High School	Away	6:00PM
Tuesday 10-27-26	Wyandotte High School	Away	6:00PM
Thursday 11-5-26	DRL - Carlson High School	Away	6:00PM

GOLF GIRLS

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Wednesday 9-2-26	DRL Tournament @ Southwinds	Away	TBA
Thursday 9-10-26	Jamboree @ Carlson	Away	TBA
Monday 9-14-26	Jamboree @ Southwinds	Away	TBA
Thursday 9-17-26	DRL Tournament @ Sandry Creek	Away	TBA
Monday 9-21-26	Jamboree @ Riverview Highlands	Away	TBA
Thursday 9-24-26	Jamboree @ Southwinds	Away	TBA
Friday 9-25-26	Invite @ Lake Erie Metro	Away	8:30AM
Monday 9-28-26	Jamboree @ Riverview Highlands	Away	TBA
Thursday 10-1-26	DRL Tournament @ Fellows Creek	Away	8:30AM

VOLLEYBALL GIRLS

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Thursday 9-3-26	Green vs. White Scrimmage	Home	7:00PM
Tuesday 9-8-26	Anderson High School - Southgate	Away	6:00PM
Thursday 9-10-26	Trenton High School	Home	7:00PM
Saturday 9-12-26	Back2School Invite	Away	8:00AM
Tuesday 9-15-26	Carlson High School - Gibraltar	Away	7:00PM
Thursday 9-17-26	Taylor High School	Away	7:00PM
Tuesday 9-22-26	Wyandotte High School	Home	7:00PM
Thursday 9-24-26	Lincoln Park High School	Home	7:00PM
Thursday 10-1-26	Woodhaven High School	Away	7:00PM
Tuesday 10-6-26	Edsel Ford High School	Home	7:00PM
Saturday 10-10-26	Scream Team Tournament	Home	8:00AM
Saturday 10-24-26	News Herald Tournament - Lincoln Park High School	Home	TBA
Thursday 10-29-26	Halloween Scrimmage	Away	TBA

August dates omitted due to space

New Leader, Shared Commitment

District's new director of special services determined to help students prepare for meaningful lives beyond school By Terry Jacoby

PATRICK MIES, Ph.D., has spent his already extensive educational career working in different roles for a number of different school districts, so before he considered applying for an opening in the Allen Park School District, Dr. Mies did his homework.



"Before applying for the position, I watched several recorded meetings of the Allen Park Public Schools Board of Education on YouTube," Dr. Mies said. "Those meetings reflected a cohesive board engaged in thoughtful, student-centered discussions and guided by a shared commitment to serving students and families."

It was that commitment, along with Allen Park's "strong reputation, close-knit character and longstanding connection" with the community, that contributed to his interest in joining the Allen Park team. He was named the district's director of special services in May.

"Allen Park residents have supported their schools for generations, and that deep community connection is a tremendous asset," he said. "When a school district and its community work together on behalf of students and families, they are well positioned for success. Allen Park is an excellent example of that partnership, and I am proud to be part of it."

Dr. Mies, 46, said his primary responsibility as director of special services is to help ensure that every eligible student receives a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment. He will work closely with special education teachers, ancillary service providers, building administrators, paraprofessionals, and other central office administrators to help achieve this goal.

"I believe strongly in approaching every interaction in a way that preserves the dignity of students, families and staff members," he said. "I enjoy collaborating with educators to identify effective interventions and supports for students experiencing academic, behavioral, social, or emotional challenges."

Dr. Mies views himself as a strategic partner and resource while also helping to ensure that "those serving our students have the training, skills and support necessary to do their jobs effectively."

The transition has been a smooth one for everyone involved.

"The Allen Park Public Schools Board of Education approved my appointment in May, and during the spring, I had the opportunity

to work alongside Dr. Matt Sokol to support a smooth and thoughtful transition," he said. "I am very grateful to Superintendent Darga and Dr. Sokol for providing me with time to become familiar with the district, department and community."

Dr. Mies earned a Bachelor of Science in Special Education (cognitive impairments) and a master's degree in educational leadership from Eastern Michigan University. He also earned an education specialist degree in educational leadership and general supervision from Wayne State University and a Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Leadership from EMU.

Dr. Mies spent nine years with Livonia Public Schools as a special education teacher. For four years, he taught in an Act 18 work-skills program and also taught at Churchill High School, spending one year in the resource program and four years in center-based programs for students with mild cognitive impairments.

He then served the Dearborn Heights community for three-and-a-half years as an assistant principal at Crestwood High School. He then returned to Livonia Public Schools as principal of Garfield Skills Center, an Act 18 work-skills program serving students ages 18-26 from the western region of Wayne County.

Most recently, he served for nearly three-and-a-half years as director of special services for Romulus Community Schools. He also teaches evening courses at the University of Michigan during the winter and summer terms.

Dr. Mies is deeply committed to ensuring that students with disabilities continue to receive an education that helps them pursue their goals, build independence and prepare for meaningful lives beyond school.

"I believe strongly in the importance of well-designed transition plans," he said. "Thoughtful planning can position students to achieve their postsecondary goals in education and training, employment, recreation and leisure, and independent living."

Dr. Mies has been married to his wife, Shelby, for nearly 16 years, and they have three children.



'I'm Proud to Be Part of It'

New middle school assistant principal/athletic director sees dual role as advantage, not challenge By Terry Jacoby

FOR many students in Allen Park, Jake Barry is known as Coach Barry, one who has helped lead the Allen Park High School football program as both an assistant coach and, most recently, strength coach for the Jaguars. In May, Barry was named assistant principal/athletic director at Allen Park Middle School, where he plans to continue to help students get stronger in ways that extend far beyond the weight room or the playing field.

"I am excited about the opportunity to bring my experience and passion for learning to my new positions and to continue strengthening students, staff and systems at a larger scale," Barry said.

Barry, 37, is taking on a dual role at APMS, serving as both an assistant principal and athletic director. He sees wearing two hats as an advantage instead of a challenge with defined roles and goals for each job.

"As assistant principal, my primary responsibility is helping create a safe, supportive and positive environment where students can be successful," he said. "And that includes supporting students and staff, addressing discipline and attendance concerns, working with families, and helping with the day-to-day operations of the building.

"As athletic director, I oversee our middle school athletic programs, including scheduling, transportation, facilities, coaches, eligibility, and communication with families and other schools. Most importantly, I work to make sure athletics at APMS provide students with a positive experience where they can compete, grow and learn how to be good teammates and representatives of our school."

Barry, a native of Muskegon who attended Central Michigan University, spent the first four years of his teaching career in Rifle, Colorado, right along I-70 and just west of Glenwood Springs. He moved to Allen Park Community Schools in 2018, and then to APHS in 2022.

One of his core priorities as an English teacher has been building a culture of reading. In 2014, his sixth-grade classes read over 1,500 books through structured, goal-driven systems that emphasized both engagement and accountability. He brought that same approach to APHS, where he redesigned the novels course. In the 2024-2025 school year, students read over 1,000 books, and many



who previously identified as non-readers developed sustained reading habits.

Coaching has also been a central part of not only his schedule but in building his leadership pedigree.

"I have been a football coach for my entire tenure at Allen Park," he said. "I have taken on a significant role in building and sustaining our strength program and helped lead the design and development of our weight room, working with administration and vendors to create a space that supports all student-athletes."

Barry has already established goals for his new positions.

"In the short term, my goal is to get to know our students, staff, families, and coaches and become a positive, consistent presence in the building and our athletic programs," he said. "Long term, I want

to help strengthen a school culture built around high expectations, accountability and student growth. In athletics, I want to continue building programs that give students a positive experience while teaching teamwork, discipline, sportsmanship, and pride in representing Allen Park."

And speaking of pride, Barry is proud to be part of Allen Park's "amazing" school district.

"Allen Park has been home for me professionally for the past eight years, and what I appreciate most is the sense of community," he said. "Our staff genuinely cares about our students and takes pride in our schools. There is also a tremendous amount of support from families and the community, whether that is in the classroom, at an athletic event or anywhere else our students are involved. It is a community that cares about its schools, and I'm proud to be a part of it."



All About Family

District's new operations director brings experience, community love to role By Terry Jacoby

RICK Browning was named the new operations director for Allen Park Community Schools and started in his new position on September 1.

Browning, 45, is a native of Taylor who now lives in Allen Park. He earned a bachelor's degree in technology and applied sciences, associate degree in industrial maintenance, and an associate degree in climate control technology from Northern Michigan University.

His previous employment experience includes working at Fanuc America Corporation as a facilities maintenance manager and as a facilities tech specialist. He also was a maintenance technician and maintenance manager for SRG Global and director of operations at Taylor Sportsplex.

As operations director, Browning's duties include making sure that the district has the systems and resources in place so the schools can operate safely and effectively.



He believes a proactive rather than a reactive approach is important for the district.

"My short-term goal is to ensure that the concerns of the administration and superintendent are met," he said. "My long-term goal is to anticipate needs so our staff can focus on educating students."

Browning said he was interested in the position for several personal and professional reasons.

"What attracted me to this job was the ability to work closer to home, to be in the same school district as my family and to better support my community," he said. "I

really like the Allen Park School District. Our children have gone through the district and our family regularly attends Allen Park activities."

Rick's wife, Amanda, is a reading specialist at Lindemann. The couple has two daughters: Liliana (a freshman at Adrian College), and Lila (a student at Allen Park Middle School).

It's all about family for Browning.

"I am a very active father," he said. "I have regularly volunteered in the district as well as with my children at figure skating events throughout the year. Our family also enjoys spending time camping regularly across the state of Michigan."





Saddled Up for the Future

High school equestrian enjoying success as a team of one By Terry Jacoby

EVELYN Smith discovered a love for horses early in life, and that passion has taken her to places she couldn't imagine and provided her a ride very few get to enjoy. It also has helped shape the person she is today.

Smith is a senior at Allen Park High School and the only member of the Jaguars' equestrian team. She says her love of horses comes from her family.

"My grandpa got me a few lessons after I said that I loved horses and my mom spent some time riding horses when she was a kid with friends who lived on a farm," she said. "I first rode a horse when I was 5 years old, and I completely fell in love with it."

It may come as a surprise to some that Allen Park High School has an equestrian team – even if it is only one rider.

Allen Park and several other Downriver communities have high school teams every year, and because it's usually only one or two riders, the team is managed by whoever is on the team at the time.

"I have been the only member on our team since I started high school," Smith said. "I ride at least four times a week at the barn where my horses are in Belleville. I love being able to represent Allen Park in a unique way, and I am so thankful for the true Allen Park experience having the support of our athletic director and the entire community."

Smith has more than just represented Allen Park – she has made the school and community proud. During both her sophomore and junior seasons, she won districts, competed in regionals and qualified for the state championship.



"I am excited for a successful year," she said. "I am hopeful that I will advance and have a great senior year."

In high school equestrian, there are 17 classes per meet and points are awarded based on how riders place in their class. Each rider can bring two horses, as horses specialize in different events based on the requirements of the class.

"The tricky part of being a team of one is that I have to compete in all 17 classes if I want a chance to advance," she said. "I am often sprinting between events changing the clothes I'm wearing and changing tack (saddle, bridle) on my horse."

"This year I am showing Harley, who is a quarter horse and Boujee, who is a retired game/speed horse."

Kim Clapp is Smith's head coach, Katie Blount is an assistant and Josh Oliver is her groom.

"My parents and grandpa help with getting us there and volunteer duties along with many other tasks," she said.

Regionals are October 1-4 in Mason, and the state championships are October 14-18 in Midland.

Smith has already saddled up for the future and that includes more competitive riding. She will be attending Delaware State University on an athletic scholarship where she will be on their NCAA Division 1 equestrian team.

"There are only 12 D-1 programs across the country, and I couldn't be more excited to continue to do what I love while in college," she said.

Evelyn, 17, is the daughter of Aimee' and Brad Smith. She also plays varsity golf and varsity flag football for the Jags.

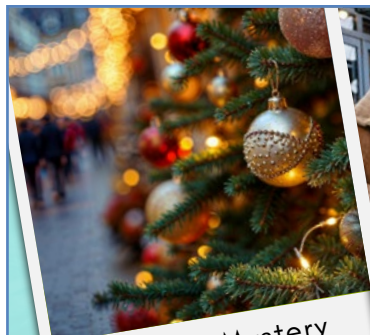
"The equestrian team has really pushed me out of my comfort zone as I have to ride in different events that I never would have, and compete against very talented riders and horses," she said. "I'm proud to have made it to states as a one-person team two years in a row."

The City of Allen Park
26th Lighted Christmas Parade
Friday, November 20, 2026

Parade Date: Friday, November 20, 2026
Time: 6:30 p.m. Parade starts to move down Park Avenue!
Parade Route: Park Avenue & Englewood to Philomene ending at the Allen Park Community Center!
Length of Parade: Less than 2 miles

Upon arrival at the Community Center, Santa and Mrs. Claus will receive the key to City! Please join us for pizza and water in Rooms D, E, F and G.

Proud sponsors:
The City of Allen Park
Allen Park Parks & Recreation Department



Holiday Mystery



TRAVEL



Cherry Blossoms

Cherry Blossoms
April 7-12, 2027

The National Cherry Blossom Festival transforms the city into a breathtaking sea of pink each spring, drawing visitors for a limited, once-a-year spectacle. Includes 11 meals, reserved parade seating, and all admissions, overnight accommodations, motorcoach transportation.

Holiday Mystery Tour
Dec 8-11, 2026

Everyday brings new surprises, hidden gems, festive experiences, and memorable moments planned just for you! Includes 9 meals and all admissions, luxury accommodations and motorcoach transportation.

Oct 3 Christmas in October
Oct 11 The Carpenter's Songbook
Oct 14 Michigan Cider Crawl
Oct 18 Crane Migration Festival
Oct 22 Corktown Murder Mystery
Oct 27 Autumn Mystery Tour
Oct 29 Historically Haunted Detroit
Nov 7 Late Nite Catechism
Nov 12 Made in Detroit
Nov 17 Holiday Mystery Tour
Nov 21 Holiday Lights & Traditions
Nov 29 Celtic Candlelight Christmas

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26th Annual

Lighted Christmas Parade

Friday, November 20, 2026

5:30 p.m. line-up/6:30 p.m. Parade starts

Unit application DUE: **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2026**

**ABSOLUTELY NO TOSSING OR DISPENSING OF CANDY OR
OTHER FOOD ITEMS!**

Please, no pets allowed

Name of organization, group, band or individual participating: _____

Type of unit (select one)

☐ Walking

☐ Float

☐ Marching Band

☐ Vehicle

☐ Color Guard

☐ Other _____

Number of persons in unit: _____

Contact person: _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____

Keep the Parade Moving

To keep the parade “moving” this year and in the years to come, we will gladly accept any donation from our businesses, organizational groups and community supporters to help with funding this tradition in Allen Park. Interested sponsors of the

Lighted Christmas Parade should contact Allen Park

Parks & Recreation at 313.928.0771.

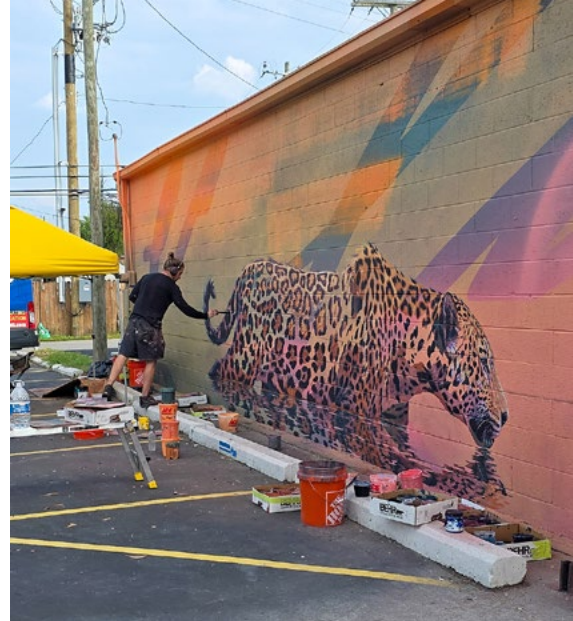
Return this application by: **Wednesday, November 4, 2026**

Attn: Lighted Christmas Parade

Allen Park Parks & Recreation, 15800 White Avenue

Allen Park, MI 48101 or email: **aprec@allenparkmi.gov**

Date Rec'd _____ Info Packet Sent _____ Line up # _____



Color, Community and Creativity

New murals transform Allen Park through Paint the Park

By Jamie Horn, Allen Park DDA

WHAT began as an event dedicated to public art became something much larger for Allen Park: a celebration of community, creativity and the power of art to bring people together.

This year's Paint the Park Mural and Art Festival added seven new murals across the city, further establishing Allen Park as a destination for public art and creating vibrant new landmarks for residents and visitors alike. An eighth mural, to be completed in September, was postponed after the participating international artist experienced travel delays.

While weather conditions created challenges throughout the weekend, the focus remained where it belonged – on the artists, the artwork and the community that gathered to witness something lasting take shape before their eyes. The result is a growing collection of public art that now includes 17 murals throughout the city, with the 18th soon to join them, continuing to tell Allen Park's story long after the paint has dried.



Art That Invites Exploration

Public art has a unique ability to transform familiar spaces. A blank wall becomes a conversation piece. An everyday street corner becomes a destination. A visit to downtown becomes an experience.

The murals completed during Paint the Park bring new energy, color and personality to locations throughout Allen Park. Each piece reflects the vision of its artist while collectively contributing to a larger sense of place and community identity.

Throughout the event, residents watched as sketches evolved into large-scale works of art. Families stopped to observe painting techniques, ask questions and connect directly with the artists. The process itself became part of the experience, allowing the public to witness creativity in action.

For many attendees, the opportunity to see murals being created in real time offered a new appreciation for the skill, planning and dedication behind public art.

Bringing Visitors Into Allen Park

One of the most meaningful outcomes of Paint the Park is its ability to draw people into Allen Park from across the Downriver area and beyond. Visitors who may have never spent significant time in the city found themselves walking local streets, discovering businesses and exploring neighborhoods while following the mural trail.

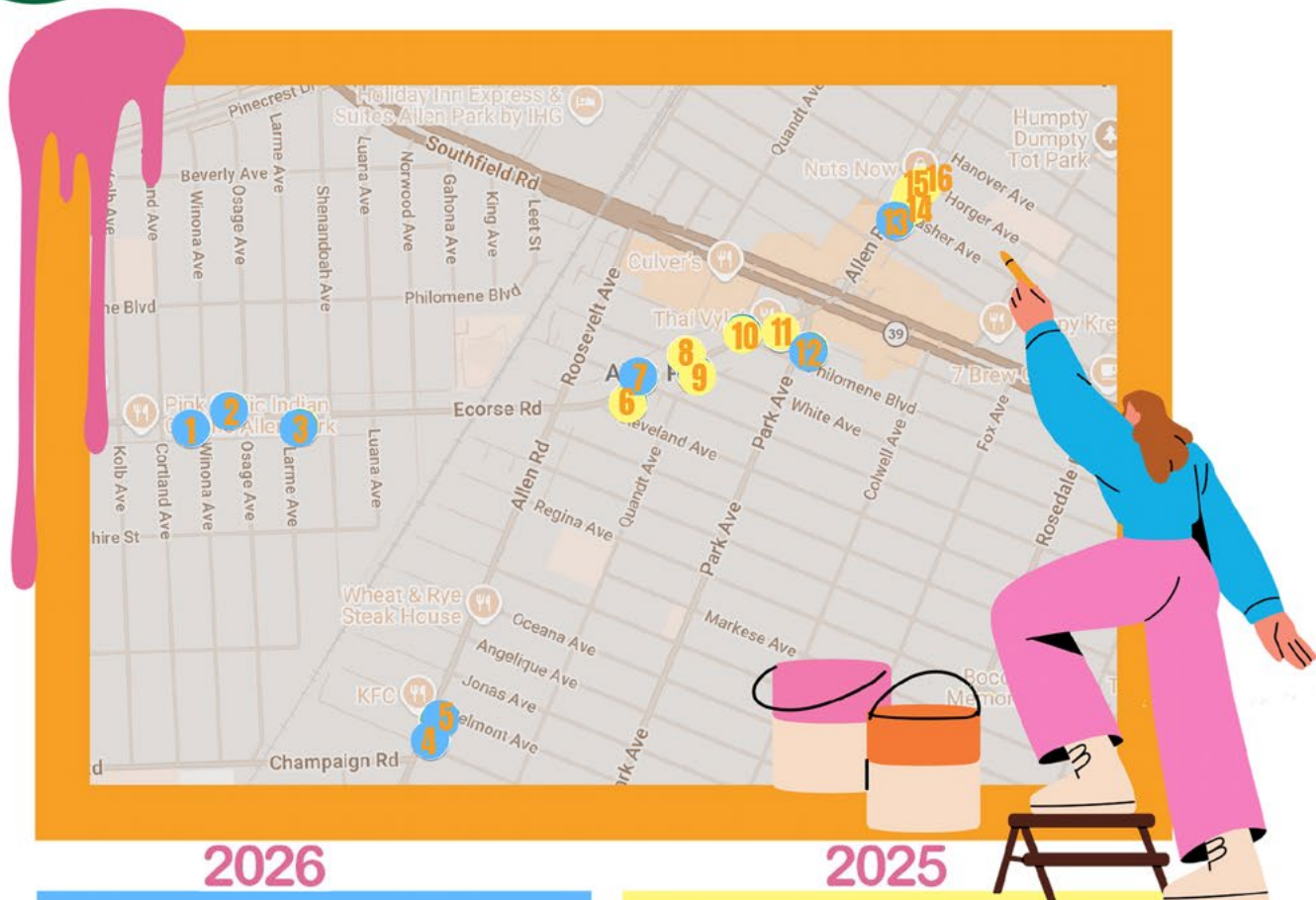
Public art has become an increasingly important tool for communities looking to create unique cultural



Murals continued on page 24



PAINT THE PARK



2026

2025

- 1 **FREDDY DIAZ**
Michigan Business & Personal
Tax Center, Andre Tirado
- 2 **KEVIN BURDICK**
Putzig Plumbing
- 3 **PAUL WATTY**
Deep Roots Massage
- 4 **DAMIEN MITCHELL**
Champaign Alley
- 5 **MARTINA SANROMAN**
Fabulous Nails
- 7 **KELLY GOLDEN**
Ted's Coney Island
- 12 **DOM LAPARTE**
Aesthetic Lab
- 13 **SONNY SUNDANCER**
5817 Allen Rd

- 6 **ZACH CURTIS**
NestGen Insurance
- 8 **KELLY GOLDEN**
Metropolitan Furniture
- 9 **RICK MALT**
Comix Oasis
- 10 **OUIZI**
Prestige Banquet Hall
- 11 **KITSUNE JOLENE**
Tuccini Orthodontic Lab
- 14 **KEVIN BURDICK**
Alexander's Dry Cleaning
- 15 **BEAU STANTON**
Haddix Electric
- 16 **NAOMI HAVERLAND**
Nuts Now



Murals continued from page 22

experiences. Murals encourage exploration and inspire people to interact with spaces in new ways. They provide destinations for photography, community events and everyday enjoyment.

For Allen Park, the addition of eight new murals strengthens a growing collection that showcases the city as a place that values creativity, culture and community investment.

Creating Connections Through Creativity

Paint the Park was about much more than paint on walls. It was about bringing people together.

Throughout the week, residents, artists, volunteers, business owners, and visitors shared conversations and experiences centered around the artwork taking shape around them. The event created opportunities for connection that extended beyond the murals themselves.

Art has a way of crossing generational and cultural boundaries. It invites discussion, sparks imagination and creates shared experiences. Whether someone stopped for a few minutes or spent the entire day exploring mural locations, they became part of a collective moment in Allen Park's continuing story.

These connections are often the most lasting outcome of public art projects. Long after an event ends, the artwork remains as a reminder of the people who gathered to create, support and celebrate it.



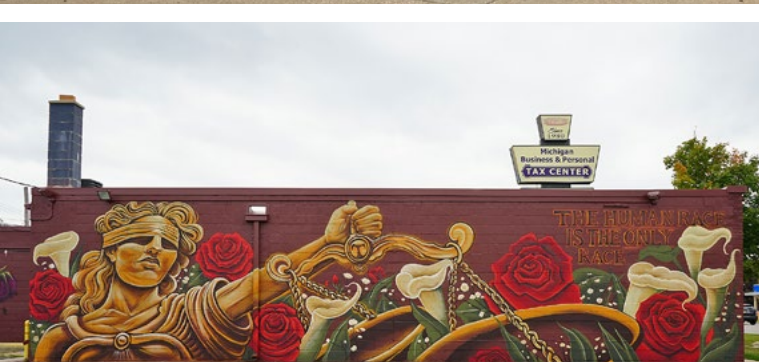
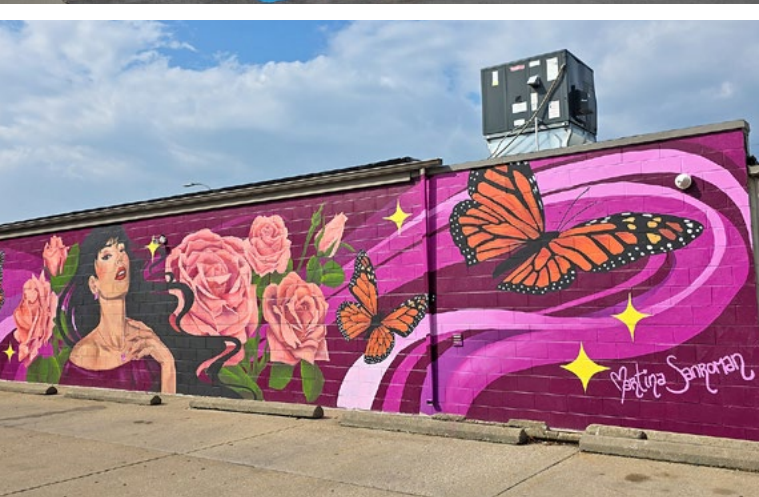
A Lasting Legacy

The true impact of Paint the Park will be measured not by a single weekend, but by the years ahead. These murals serve as a lasting public asset that residents can enjoy every day. They add beauty to the community, create opportunities for tourism and exploration, and contribute to a stronger sense of civic pride.

Most importantly, they reflect Allen Park's commitment to investing in experiences that bring people together and make the city a more vibrant place to live, work and visit.

As residents continue discovering and sharing these new works of art, the murals will remain colorful reminders that creativity has the power to transform not only walls, but entire communities. Together, the new installations strengthen Allen Park's growing reputation as a destination for public art and cultural experiences, inviting visitors to explore the city long after the event has concluded.

To learn more about the murals, the artists behind them and the ongoing Paint the Park initiative, visit www.paintthepark.com.



ALLEN PARK

YOUTH DANCE, CHEER & TUMBLING

TUESDAY

5:15-5:45 p.m., Ages 6-8 – Ballet
5:45-6:15 p.m., Ages 6-8 – Hip Hop
6:15-6:45 p.m., Ages 9 and up – Ballet
6:45-7:15 p.m., Ages 9 and up – Jazz/Hip Hop

WEDNESDAY

4:30-5:00 p.m., Ages 3-5 – Ballet
5:00-5:30 p.m., Ages 3-5 – Ballet
5:30-6:00 p.m., Ages 3-5 – Jazz/Hip Hop
6:00-6:30 p.m., Ages 6 and up – Cheer
6:30-7:00 p.m., Ages 6-8 – Tumbling*
7:00-7:30 p.m., Ages 9 and up – Tumbling*

Classes begin the week of September 28, 2026, and run through May 2027. The season concludes with an annual recital in May – dates TBA. All classes will perform in the recital except the tumbling classes.

Dance Class Fee: \$260/class for the dance year, September-May. Recital costume fee is separate and will be due at the end of November. Costumes on average are \$90/class.

*Tumbling

Classes will be done in two sessions – these classes do not perform in the annual recital.

Tumbling Class Fee: \$135/session

Session 1 – will run the week of September 28-the week of January 25.

Session 2 – will run the week of February 1-the week of May 3, 2027.

*Email Kelly Schock at
allenparkdance@gmail.com
with any questions*



ONLINE REGISTRATION
<https://apps.daysmartrecreation.com/dash/x/#/online/allenpark/programs>

<https://apps.daysmartrecreation.com/dash/x/#/online/allenpark/programs>



ALLEN PARK HISTORICAL MUSEUM

History, community and what comes next By Pamela MacIntyre

THE doors of the Allen Park Historical Museum are officially open, giving residents the opportunity to step inside and discover the people, places and moments that have shaped their community.

And what they will find is much more than a collection of artifacts from Allen Park's past.

They will find stories.

Stories of the families who farmed the land, the businesses that once lined local streets, schools generations of children attended and organizations that shaped the community. There are stories of police officers and firefighters, local entertainers, political figures and everyday residents whose lives became part of Allen Park history.

Historical Commission Chairperson Len "Lenny" Perotta and

Treasurer Karen Kerezi hope residents will not only discover those stories, but add their own.

The museum celebrated its grand reopening May 30, drawing more than 500 people after years of work by commissioners, volunteers, city employees and community supporters.



Located at 15504 Englewood Avenue, the museum itself is part of the history it preserves. The former Backhaus family farmhouse was built in 1888 and purchased by the City of Allen Park in 2001 to become home to the city's historical collection. Today, photographs displayed inside trace the house through the years, while original pieces connected to the property help preserve its own place in Allen Park history.

For Perotta, now in his third year as chairperson, creating a welcoming atmosphere is an important part of the museum's future.

His vision is for the museum to become a "jewel of the city" – a place where families can visit, children can explore and people can sit outside and enjoy the gardens. Perotta also sees opportunities for the museum and



grounds to host small gatherings, showers, weddings and photography sessions in the future.

Kerezi has an especially personal connection to the community's history. A commissioner since 2007, she grew up with Allen Park's farming history in her own family. Her mother was Alma Becker, and her parents had Becker

Farm. Kerezi, the commission's longest-serving current member, calls the museum her "second home."

Inside, the collection tells Allen Park's story from its earliest days to more recent decades. Displays explore the area's farming history and early families through maps, photographs, original documents and artifacts, including pieces connected to the 1888 farmhouse itself.

Allen Park's schools, businesses and community traditions are also represented, with memorabilia from local high schools, the old movie theater, the city's first Christmas parade in 1957 and longtime businesses. Police and fire history, the former Veterans Administration hospital and local organizations are also part of the collection.

Some pieces tell unexpected stories. Visitors can discover connections to musicians and entertainers who came through Allen Park, along with a 1980 visit from Ronald Reagan during his presidential campaign.

Even an approximately 80-year-old cactus has become part of the museum's personality – so beloved by those involved with the museum that it is regarded almost as a mascot.

Visitors will also have reasons to return. Perotta and Kerezi hope to change featured exhibits several times throughout the year, allowing different pieces of Allen Park history to be shared. Currently, one featured exhibit highlights the history of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in Allen Park.

But preserving what has already happened is only part of the commission's vision for the museum.

Plans include interactive monitors and recorded interviews with Allen Park residents, allowing future generations to not only read their stories but hear the voices of the people who lived them. The commission hopes to capture a variety of experiences and memories of life in Allen Park for generations to come.

Perotta wants the artifacts throughout the museum to tell stories, spark memories and encourage residents to

share their own experiences. Residents are being encouraged to share memories of growing up and living in Allen Park, helping document not only the city's distant past but the history being made today.

The commission also welcomes pieces of Allen Park history from the community. Members regularly reach out in search of artifacts and attend events such as the Allen Park Street Fair, where residents have brought items to share with the museum.

Community events are another part of that vision. The museum's Halloween traditions have drawn hundreds of children, with pumpkin carving, cider and doughnuts,



candy and decorations bringing families to the grounds. The museum has also decorated outside for Christmas in the past, and now Perotta is excited about the opportunity to bring holiday activities inside as well.

Residents can follow the Allen Park Historical Museum on Facebook for announcements about upcoming events, exhibits and activities.

Museum continued on page 28



Museum continued from page 27

Behind everything visitors see is a team that Perotta is quick to credit. The Historical Commission includes members with different talents and responsibilities, from events and community engagement to interviews, programming and preserving a collection that continues to grow.

Even after years of sorting, scanning and cataloging, there are still artifacts waiting to be explored – and

residents continue to bring in new treasures.

Perotta said the grand reopening was a “gigantic effort,” made possible by commissioners, volunteers, residents, city officials and employees. He emphasized that the museum's success isn't about any one person.

“I would like to thank the past commissioners for all their hard work paving the way for the current and future commissioners,” Perotta said. “We wouldn't be here without them.”

For Perotta and Kerezi, the work now continues – preserving Allen Park's history while finding new ways for residents to be part of it.

Whether someone comes through the doors with a story to share, an artifact to contribute or simply a curiosity about the community



they call home, Perotta hopes they leave with a greater connection to Allen Park and its history.

“We want residents to feel this is their home,” he said. “This is their museum.”



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A MESSAGE FROM ALLEN PARK DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES

City Institutes New Leaf Pickup Program, with some Caveats

STARTING this fall, the City of Allen Park will begin picking up leaves raked into the street. This is a free service provided by the city that will save residents the trouble of bagging their leaves.

This will be the first year the city will offer this service, so it's important that residents follow the rules to ensure that this service will continue:

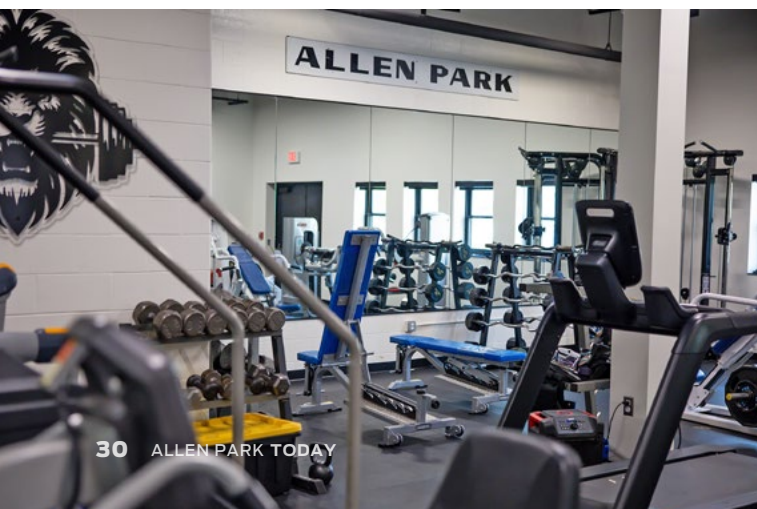
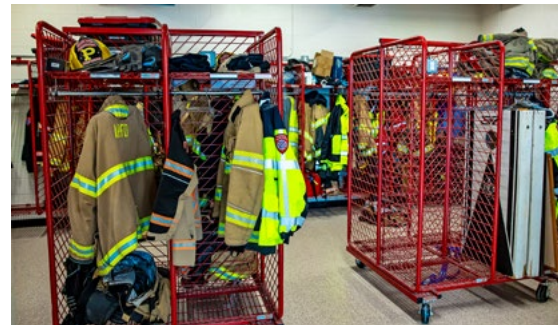
- Leaf pickup will be performed weekly on your trash pickup day. It is against city ordinance to park on the street on trash days – having your car off the street ensures that trash pickup, street sweeping and leaf pickup can be completed smoothly.
- The projected start date for leaf pickup will be the first Monday in October of each year. Raking your leaves into the street any more than **two days** ahead of your trash day could result in an ordinance violation.
- Leaf pickup will end on the last business day in November. Any leaves still needing pick up after this date will have to be bagged and disposed of with compost pickup, which ends in the second week of December.
- Residents who wish to continue bagging their leaves may do so – compost pickup will continue as normal.
- To help our crews work as efficiently as possible, please rake your leaves into the street weekly rather than waiting until the end of the season.
- Leaf pickup **will not** occur on the following holidays:
 - Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving Day, and the day after ThanksgivingThere will be no make-up days. Please do not rake your leaves into the street if your pickup day falls on any of the above holidays.

- You may rake leaves from your back and front yards into the street.
 - Leaf piles must be raked into the street, but please maintain a six-inch gap between the curb and beginning of leaf pile so as to allow for proper water drainage. Please do not cover catch basins for this same reason. Leaf piles may not extend into driving lanes.
- You must leave a clear space in front of your trash and recycling bins to allow for pickups.
- Leaves must be raked into the street to which your house is addressed – leaves **will not** be picked up from side lots.
- We are unable to perform leaf pickups on county roads. If you live on Pelham Road, Allen Road, Southfield Road, Outer Drive or Goddard Road, this service will not be available to you.
- **LEAVES ONLY.** Our leaf trucks only have the capability to pick up leaves. That means:
 - **NO** sticks/twigs
 - **NO** brush of any sort
 - **NO** pumpkins
 - **NO** landscaping bricks/stones

Failure to follow the above guidelines can result in damage to these trucks, possible injury to employees and/or cessation of program. We can only provide these services if everyone follows the rules.

We appreciate your cooperation with the guidelines and look forward to being able to provide this new service to you! Please contact DPS at (313) 928-0550 x2 if you have any additional questions or concerns.

PLEASE NOTE: If you use a contractor for fall cleanup, only the leaves collected from your property may be deposited into the street. Contractors caught dumping leaves from other locations will be cited and fined.



From the New Firehouse to Your House

Department settles into renovated digs, encourages fall safety for residents

By Fire Chief Jeff O'Riley

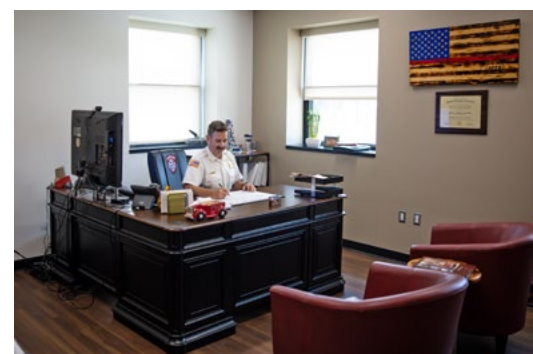
AFTER years of planning, construction and anticipation, we're finally settling into our new fire station. Like anyone moving into a new home, we've spent the last several months unpacking boxes, finding places for everything and making sure all the systems are ready for the seasons ahead.



The coffee maker has found its permanent home, the kitchen has quickly become the busiest room in the building and yes...the recliners have been carefully positioned for the best view of the TV. We may be firefighters but we're football fans too.

As exciting as a new station is, one thing hasn't changed. Firefighters spend a lot of time helping people after something has gone wrong. We'd much rather help prevent an emergency before it ever happens.

Getting our new firehouse ready for fall reminded me that this is the perfect time for everyone to do a little maintenance around the house. A few simple steps now can make a big difference later.



Start with your heating system

Before the temperatures really drop, have your furnace inspected and serviced by a qualified technician. If you have a wood-burning fireplace, schedule a chimney inspection and cleaning before lighting that first fire of the season. It's much better to discover a problem on a sunny September afternoon than during the first freezing night of winter.



Check the things that protect your family while you sleep

Test your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. Replace batteries if needed, and remember that smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years. Carbon monoxide detectors should be installed outside sleeping areas and on every level of your home. They provide an early warning of a danger you can't see, smell or taste.



Give space heaters their space

When the chill sets in, space heaters can help keep a room comfortable, but they need to be used safely. Plug them directly into a wall outlet, not an extension cord or power strip, and keep them at least three feet away from furniture,

blankets, curtains, and anything else that can burn. And just like the TV after a long Lions game, turn them off before you call it a night.



Clean up safely

Michigan fall means leaves...and lots of them. Bag them, compost them or dispose of them through Priority Waste, but don't burn leaves or yard waste. If you're enjoying a backyard fire pit on a cool evening, follow the City of Allen Park regulations, keep a hose or fire extinguisher nearby and never leave a fire unattended.



One of today's biggest fire risks isn't your fireplace

Rechargeable lithium-ion batteries power many of the devices we use every day, from phones and laptops to power tools, e-bikes, and scooters. Always use the charger designed for your device, avoid charging batteries on beds or upholstered furniture and don't leave them charging overnight or while you're away. If a battery becomes swollen, damaged, unusually hot, or gives off a strange odor, stop using it immediately.



Halloween should be spooky – not dangerous

Choose flame-resistant costumes whenever possible, use battery-operated candles instead of real candles in jack-o'-lanterns and keep porches and sidewalks well-lit and free of tripping hazards. If you're driving on Halloween, slow down and watch carefully for children crossing the street. They're excited, distracted and probably carrying more candy than they can see over.

October is also Fire Prevention Month, making it the perfect time to practice something we hope you'll never need – your family's home fire escape plan. Make sure everyone knows two ways out of every room and has a designated meeting place outside. A few minutes of practice today could make all the difference tomorrow.

We're incredibly proud of our new fire station, but what makes it special isn't the building, it's the people who work here and the community we're honored to serve.

Department Welcomes Incoming Police Chief and New Recruit

By Chief Eron Feltz

THE Allen Park Police Department is proud to announce the promotion of Jason Dobbertin to the rank of police chief, effective August 29. Upon taking the oath, Dobbertin will become the 14th police chief in Allen Park's 100-year history.

Chief Dobbertin's career with the Allen Park Police Department began in 2007, where he quickly earned a reputation as a natural leader among his peers. Over the past nearly two decades, he has served the community through progressive leadership roles across multiple divisions:

- **2017:** Named detective, investigating complex cases and serving the city's detective bureau.
- **2019:** Promoted to sergeant, serving as the detective bureau sergeant and assisting leadership in supervising investigative operations.



- **2023:** Promoted to lieutenant, initially commanding a midnight patrol platoon before stepping into the role of detective lieutenant.

As detective lieutenant, Dobbertin has been responsible for overseeing all incoming criminal investigations, managing department personnel within the bureau and supervising property room operations.

A product of Allen Park himself, Chief Dobbertin brings a deep personal connection to the community he serves. His proven dedication, extensive command experience and deep roots in the city make him exceptionally qualified to lead the Allen Park Police Department into its next chapter.

Welcoming Our Newest Recruit

In addition to celebrating leadership at the top, the department is excited to announce the hiring of its newest officer, Gavin Segrest. Gavin is currently attending the Wayne County Regional Police Training Academy and is scheduled to graduate in early November 2026 before officially joining the ranks on patrol.

We welcome Chief Dobbertin to his new position, as well as Gavin to the department!



ATTENTION RESIDENTS WHO HAVE WATER SERVICE LINES OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN

You may have received a letter from the city regarding your water service line. The city has mailed out letters to a small number of homes that have water service lines (the connection from the city's water main to your home) of unknown material.

It is very important that you reach out to the city to schedule an appointment for a city technician to come out and verify the material makeup of your service line. It is both a state and federal requirement that all service lines made of lead or galvanized steel be identified and replaced in a timely fashion.

There is no cost to the homeowner for any of this work performed. Please call the city water department at (313) 928-3393 to schedule an appointment at your earliest convenience.



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BOARD PROFILES

Alex ALEXANDER Chairperson

ALEX Alexander's connection to Allen Park is rooted in a family business that has served the community for generations.

As the owner of Alexander's Dry Cleaners, Alexander has made it his mission to carry on the business his father launched after returning from North Africa as an American soldier during World War II.

While deployed, Alexander Sr. found inspiration from a letter containing a \$100 bill sent to a comrade, revealing the "lucrative potential of the dry cleaning industry."

When he returned to Detroit, he launched his entrepreneurial journey with a pick-up and delivery laundry service, which has since expanded to the modern operation it is today, situated in the heart of Allen Park.

Today, Alexander's Dry Cleaners offers dry cleaning, laundry, alterations and repair services from its Allen Road location while maintaining a strong connection to the community, proudly serving local high school ROTCs, band and choir programs.

Alexander has brought his experience and years of service to the Allen Park Downtown Development Authority (DDA), where he has served on the board of directors for the past few years.

"I was happy to be appointed by Mayor McLeod," Alexander said, valuing the DDA as an organization made up of appointees who are involved in both local businesses and the community.

"The DDA helps give an outside organization some input into the city's activities," he explained.

Alexander sees the DDA as a connection between the city and its businesses, which in turn improves the lives of its residents and the community as a whole.



Dan SMITH Chairperson

DAN Smith, owner of Smith Insurance Group, believes that strong communities don't happen by accident, they are intentionally created. And he believes the Allen Park Downtown Development Association (DDA) plays a big role in strengthening the city.

"When local businesses succeed, everyone benefits," Smith said. "A vibrant downtown isn't just good for business owners, it's good for every family that calls Allen Park home."

Smith is a long-time Allen Park resident, proud graduate of Cabrini High School, raises his family and works in the city.

His city involvement doesn't stop at being a business owner or resident. He sees himself as a steward of the community. He supports local schools, volunteers for many local organizations, helps sponsor community events, serves on nonprofit boards and invests both his time and money back into Allen Park.

"I believe when you care about your community, you have a responsibility to help shape its future," Smith said.

Serving on the DDA board is an extension of Smith's commitment and he takes a practical approach rather than a political one.

"I ask simple questions like will this make Allen Park a better place to live? Will it help attract businesses? Will it encourage families to stay here? Will people be proud to call this city home? If the answer is yes, it's worth pursuing," he said.

In his second term as a DDA board member for Allen Park, Smith's goal is to give back to the community, build a strong and thriving downtown and support both businesses and residents.

Andre TIRADO

Chairperson

ANDRE Tirado believes serving on the Allen Park Downtown Development Authority (DDA) board has been about more than supporting local businesses. It's also been a way to become an active part of his community.

Tirado is the owner of Michigan Business & Personal Tax Center and has served on the DDA board on and off for nearly 12 years. He was first appointed to the board in 2009, shortly after moving his business to Allen Park.

His interest in the DDA began during the Ecorse Road streetscape project.

"I remember some business owners who were opposed to the project, but I was in favor because I thought, 'Hey, it would make the street look better,'" Tirado said.

He attended some city council and DDA board meetings to learn more about the project and eventually had the opportunity to become involved himself.

"When the opportunity came my way, I was just excited to be a part of something," Tirado said. "Allen Park is the first place where I feel like I'm really a part of the community, and that happened when I became a DDA board member."

Tirado believes the DDA plays an important role in representation for businesses by reinvesting business dollars back into businesses.

"The DDA collects tax dollars strictly from businesses, not residents or individuals," he said.

This investment in businesses in turn makes Allen Park a nicer place for residents to live. For example, the DDA's façade improvement program allows eligible businesses to be reimbursed for a portion of qualifying exterior improvements they make to their businesses to enhance their appearance in the city.



Peter ZINGAS

Chairperson

PETER Zingas' connection to Allen Park spans more than 50 years. Long before he became a board member of the city's Downtown Development Authority (DDA), his family built their roots in the community when his parents opened the former Mama Mia's restaurant on Southfield Road.

Zingas worked at his family's restaurant before becoming a Detroit-based attorney and continuing his family's real estate development throughout southeast Michigan.

Though not a resident of Allen Park, much of his professional life and his family's real estate investments and developments have remained within city limits and have kept him invested in the community on both a business and personal level.

Zingas' extensive experience working with different municipalities in the Metro Detroit area has given him a unique perspective on the role of a DDA, and he considers Allen Park's one of Downriver's most dynamic DDAs.

"The purpose of a DDA is to keep a connection with the business and real estate owners," he explained. "Whether it's trying to help current businesses owners redo their façade, help with marketing or bring new business to Allen Park, we have this body of volunteers that are able to do more than just a building department or economic development department would be able to do in a typical municipality."

Zingas believes that supporting local businesses ultimately benefits the entire community, making Allen Park a better place to live, work and visit.

A Full Measure of Passion

Allen Park couple have spent decades helping shape Michigan's craft beer culture

By Ryan M. Place

FOR Annette May and Mike Bardallis, a shared fascination with beer has grown into decades of brewing, teaching, judging, and shaping Michigan's craft beer community.

The Allen Park couple are among Michigan's most credentialed beer experts. Mike is a professional brewer, Certified Cicerone and nationally ranked beer judge, while Annette holds the elite Advanced Cicerone certification and is a longtime beer educator.

Annette moved from Melbourne, Australia, to Chicago in 1991 to work as a registered nurse. Before long, beer changed her trajectory. "I stopped nursing and got into bartending," she said.

By 1994, she was working at Chicago's famed Map Room, becoming manager and beer buyer within a year. She later spent five years as a supplier representative.

In 2003, Annette met Mike at the National Homebrewers Conference. They married the following year, and she moved to Michigan.

Mike's roots in Allen Park run much deeper.

"I grew up in Allen Park. I'm an Allen Park lifer," he said.

Brewing also ran in his family, but Mike's own fascination began in 1989 after receiving a basic homebrewing book.

"It got me hooked," he said.

Mike spent years brewing at home before leaving electrical engineering in 2012.

"I'm a recovering engineer," he joked.

That decision launched a professional brewing career working at several Michigan breweries, including Grizzly Peak, Batch Brewing, Drafting Table, and Kickstand.

Annette was building an equally impressive résumé. In 2008, she made beer history as the first woman to earn the Certified Cicerone credential. Today, she is a regional instructor for the Cicerone Certification Program, teaches beer styles, sensory evaluation, service and draft management and a saké class at Schoolcraft College, and teaches beer through the Wine & Spirit Education Trust. She also spent eight years on the board of Fermenta and served on the Brewers Association's draft quality committee.

Both have watched craft beer evolve dramatically.

"The beer scene now is more diverse, more ecumenical and more discerning," Annette said. "There are lots of adults who grew up drinking craft beer now."

After years of professional brewing, Mike partnered with Dr. Dennis Elmer Jr. to launch Full Measure Brewing Company in Detroit's Eastern Market in July 2025.

Its name pays tribute to Mike's Greek ancestry.

"My grandpa came to Detroit from Lesvos Island, Greece," Mike said. "Our last name, Bardallis, means 'guy who carries the full measure of grain.'"

Full Measure specializes in traditional beer styles. Its German-style pilsner is among its top sellers, along with its bitter and distinctive cask ales. Its scratch kitchen serves favorites including brisket



sandwiches, lamb burgers, house-cut fries, and vegetarian options such as Moroccan cauliflower.

For Mike, great brewing comes down to fundamentals.

"Each beer starts as an idea, a vision, often drawing from traditional beers, but tradition is a guide, not a jailer," he said. "It's attention to detail and knowing what details are most important to realize that vision."

Away from beer, the couple share a love of cooking and opera. Annette enjoys reading and international cinema, while New Orleans is their favorite getaway.

Closer to home, they enjoy Dunleavy's, the Allen Park Public Library and the Community Center gym.

After careers spent exploring, teaching and shaping the world of beer, the couple remain firmly rooted in the community where Mike's story began.

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Seen, Understood, Valued

Riverview Hospice provides peace, comfort during life's final chapters By Terry Jacoby

RIVerview Hospice Care is an organization based on providing compassionate, personalized and dignified in-home hospice care. Even the name, Riverview, symbolizes calm, reflection and the journey forward – a reminder that even in times of transition, there can be beauty, grace and connection.



Mary Reed

Founded on the belief that every person deserves to live with comfort, peace and respect during life's final chapters, Riverview Hospice was created to provide care that honors both the patient and their family. Their comprehensive services include skilled nursing care, home health aide support, social work, chaplaincy, and a team of compassionate volunteers – all working together to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of their patients and their families during life's final stages.

"What makes Riverview Hospice Care unique is our deeply inclusive approach to caregiving," said Clinical Director/CEO Mary Reed. "We have intentionally built a diverse team of healthcare professionals who directly reflect the communities we serve – many of whom are multilingual and represent a variety of cultural backgrounds and religious faiths."

Today, Riverview Hospice continues to grow, reaching more families across our community while staying true to its founding promise – to provide compassionate, personalized hospice care that celebrates life, honors legacy and embraces peace.

"Our goal is to encourage, educate and empower the community," Reed said.

Riverview Hospice Care, Inc., is located at 1100 Eureka Road in Wyandotte. For more information or a FREE expert consultation, visit riverviewhospicecare.com or call (734) 575-5505.



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A Legacy Built Through Sports

Hall of famer's commitment to mentoring young athletes leaves lasting impression By Pamela MacIntyre

The Allen Park Sports Hall of Fame welcomed two very deserving new members with the additions of Grant Keys and Dan Martinez. The Class of 2026 inductees were honored during the August 8 induction ceremony.

SOME people leave their mark by what they accomplish. Others leave it by what they give to the people around them. Dean "Grant" Keys has done both.

For more than six decades, Keys' love of sports has shaped his life, from his own years as an athlete to the many years he spent coaching and encouraging young athletes. On August 8, 2026, that lifetime of dedication was recognized with his induction into the Allen Park Sports Hall of Fame.

Born September 12, 1941, Keys graduated from Allen Park High School in 1960. He began playing baseball in center field before moving behind the plate as a catcher. Fastpitch softball soon became a defining part of his athletic career.

From 1963 to 1967, Keys played in the Allen Park Fastpitch Softball League. He later spent 13 seasons with the Northdurft Tool & Die and Burch Gage & Tool fastpitch programs, catching for pitcher Bonnie Jones and traveling with his teams throughout the United States and Canada.

Keys competed in six ASA National Tournaments, was named to the All Regional Team in 1976 and earned MVP honors in 1979. Keys has kept those memories close through a scrapbook filled with newspaper clippings chronicling his years in fastpitch softball.

As Keys began raising a family, his love of sports found a new purpose. He coached his sons through APAC baseball and the Allen Park Hockey Association, spending more than 10 seasons coaching and volunteering in Allen Park youth sports.

His son Daryl remembers the impact his father had beyond wins and losses.

"His commitment to teaching, mentoring and encouraging young athletes left a lasting impression not only on us, but on many families in the community," Daryl said.

Keys later formed and coached the Michigan Bridge Bulldogs girls fastpitch program, where his daughter Danielle played. The Allen Park-based team developed players who went on to play collegiate softball and won the USSSA Softball World Series in 2003.

Danielle remembers her



father as an even-tempered, knowledgeable coach who took the time to recognize each athlete's strengths and knew how to pass along his knowledge while keeping the game fun.

His reputation as a coach drew young athletes to his teams, with players wanting the opportunity to learn from him.

His coaching philosophy extended far beyond the playing field. Among his favorite sayings were, "Don't sweat the small stuff, and it's all small stuff," "Keep it simple," "Stay within yourself" and "Rise above it." Those words reflected not only the lessons he wanted young athletes to carry with them, but an approach that has guided him throughout his own life.

That same dedication carried into his working life. Keys worked as an ironworker for 50 years and eventually owned his own steel-working business. At 84, he still occasionally takes on jobs.

Following the 2006 death of his stepson Jeffrey Koniarz, Keys, his wife Patti and stepson Jamie helped establish a scholarship awarded to an Allen Park High School football player, continuing their support of young people in the community.

For a man whose career has been measured in games, championships, newspaper clippings and years of hard work, the Hall of Fame honor recognizes something that cannot be measured by numbers alone: the lasting impact Grant Keys has had on his family, his athletes and the Allen Park community.



Helping Others Cross the Finish Line

Hall of famer honored for lifetime of running, leadership and community

By Pamela MacIntyre

FOR Daniel “Dan” Martinez, running has never been only about crossing the finish line. For more than five decades, the lifelong Allen Park resident has turned his passion for running into a lifetime of leadership, mentorship and service to others.

An eternal optimist who believes in staying positive and projecting hope for others, Martinez has carried that outlook throughout his life. Whether through his career in social work or his longtime involvement in the running community, helping and encouraging others has remained at the heart of what he does.

In 2026, that dedication is being recognized with Martinez’s induction into the Allen Park Sports Hall of Fame.

A 1970 graduate of Allen Park High School, Martinez was a member of the school’s football team before running became his passion. Over the years, that passion has taken him across thousands of miles and some of the country’s most celebrated finish lines.

Martinez has completed 29 marathons, including two Boston Marathons, the New York City Marathon and numerous *Detroit Free Press* Marathons. He has also competed in marathons in California, Pennsylvania and Indiana, along with numerous half-marathons, 10Ks and 5Ks. His marathon personal best is 3 hours, 29 minutes.

As impressive as those accomplishments are, Martinez has found just as much meaning in helping others experience the sport he loves.

For more than 15 years, he has served as president of the Downriver Runners, one of Michigan’s premier running organizations, where runners of all ages and abilities can find competition, fellowship and encouragement. He has also served for approximately

15 years as race director of the Tony Mifsud Allen Park 5K. The event evolved from earlier 10K and 8K formats into today’s 5K while preserving a longstanding Allen Park tradition. In 2026, the race marked its 50th running, making it one of Michigan’s longest continuously conducted road races.

That commitment extends to young athletes as well. Through the Downriver Runners, Martinez administers and promotes the annual Tony Mifsud Scholarship Program,



which awards two \$1,000 scholarships each year to graduating Downriver high school seniors who participated in cross country or track and field. He has also served on the committee that reviews applications and selects recipients.

For more than two decades, Martinez organized and completed more than 25 Great Lakes Relay teams across northern Michigan. Along the way, he mentored younger runners and shared his experience as they learned to organize teams of their own.

Together, those decades of involvement tell a story that goes far beyond personal athletic achievement. Martinez has dedicated much of his life to giving others opportunities to participate, compete, grow and experience the sense of community that running has brought to his own life.

That same desire to help others shaped his professional path. Martinez earned a Bachelor of Science in Social Work from Eastern Michigan University and a Master of Social Work from Wayne State University. Before retiring, he worked as a counselor with Wayne County Community College.

At 73, Martinez is still an active runner and still giving back to the community he calls home. After more than 50 years of running, some of his greatest joy continues to come from helping others cross the finish line.

It is that genuine desire to see others succeed that has defined Martinez both as a runner and a leader.



A Meaningful Difference

Music bingo helps keep Allen Park Presbyterian Church food pantry stocked

By Kelsi Klein

ALLEN PARK Presbyterian Church is turning music, fellowship and friendly competition into an opportunity to help feed those in need through its new music bingo fundraisers.

The church has been giving out food for the past three decades, and in recent years the deacons have taken over management of the nonprofit pantry, known as Honeycomb Food Pantry, shifting its model from the traditional box distribution to a shopping-style pantry.

"Instead of walking out with a box of food that you might not even use, people are allowed to come shop in our pantry," said Kerri Van, communications director and moderator of the deacons.

The church's goal is to not just do good deeds, but to make a meaningful difference in people's lives, helping them in a way that truly matters.

The pantry offers non-perishable food items, ready-to-eat meals, soup, vegetables, bread, shelf-stable milk and more. Volunteers donate fresh produce in the summer in addition to extra treats on top of the staple foods each recipient is entitled to. Van said the pantry is hoping to start offering pet food as well in the near future.

"The food pantry has no formal budget so in order to keep it running efficiently, we have to count on donations and the generosity of the people in our community," Van said.

The latest fundraiser was organized with help from church congregants, Barry and Margo, who had the equipment and

technology to host the popular music bingo, bringing the community together for a good cause.

"We had our first music bingo, and it was a great success," Van said. "We had probably close to 50 people."

As a result of its initial success, the church plans to host a monthly music bingo fundraiser to benefit the food pantry.

These events aren't just for church members – they are open to the public and include food



from a local Allen Park business, drinks, entertainment and prizes.

Van explained that each music bingo event is free and donation-based only. Whether it's a food or monetary donation, anything helps.

"We are an open church that loves everybody, and all are welcome," she said.

For the church, events like music bingo are designed for both community care and showing God's love through fun and fellowship, core values of the Deacons Ministry.

Honeycomb Food Pantry is not just for Allen Park residents or members of the congregation and those seeking assistance can visit the pantry once a month with a photo identification. Visits are by appointment which can be made by calling (313) 383-0100.

For more information about the food pantry, music bingo or to donate or volunteer, visit www.allenparkpres.org or www.honeycombfoodpantry.org where additional local food assistance resources are also available.





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St. Frances Cabrini

Rooted in faith, growing for the future By Pamela MacIntyre

TUCKED into a peaceful Allen Park neighborhood, St. Frances Cabrini is a community where parish life and Catholic education come together on one campus. From preschool through high school, students grow in faith, academics, athletics and activities – with plenty happening as a new school year gets underway.

Among the newest faces is the Rev. John Herman, a Downriver native who arrived at St. Frances Cabrini Parish earlier this year. While Herman knew exciting things were happening at Cabrini before arriving, he has been especially impressed by the students, staff and families, and the strong connection they have to the parish and schools.

“There is a deep connection to this place, and people love it,” Herman said. “It is family. It is home.”

For Herman, education at Cabrini is about more than what happens in the classroom. His hope is to help young people become all that God calls them to be.



That mission was evident as the new school year began. Herman joined faculty, staff and administrators from Cabrini’s schools for a retreat centered on prayer and

reflection, to refocus on what is most important and the foundation of their work.

Faith remains central to the student experience. One example is Kairos, meaning “God’s time,” a four-day spiritual retreat for juniors led by selected seniors.

Senior Kassie Kozlo, who has attended Cabrini since kindergarten, described her Kairos experience simply: “I can’t even put into words how amazing it is.”

Fellow senior Vaughn Edwards also describes Cabrini as a family and a place where people genuinely enjoy being together.

“It is fun to come to school,” Edwards said.

Beyond the classroom, students have opportunities in athletics, theater, music, robotics, e-sports and activities, with many pursuing several interests. Herman sees athletics as another part of educating the whole student, helping develop character, teamwork and discipline. Cabrini also recently welcomed new Athletic Director Michael Kuzniar.

Academically, Cabrini is working to align curriculum from preschool through high school, creating a progression for students. Cabrini’s preschool is currently full with a waiting list.

Admissions Director Lisa Hughes sees the personal attention students receive as another strength.



"We understand more than our students' educational needs," Hughes said. "We know what is happening in their lives, what challenges they may be facing and what matters to them. That connection allows us to truly know our students, support them and look out for them."

Cabrini's alumni remain active, with many returning as teachers, coaches and staff members.

Director of Communications and head football coach RJ Chidester is among them. A 2004 Cabrini graduate, Chidester returned to work and coach at Cabrini, where his children now attend.

More opportunities are on the horizon as Cabrini continues its capital campaign, which includes plans for a new indoor athletic facility. The additional space would help alleviate practice and scheduling challenges while expanding training opportunities for students. Plans for the multi-use facility include a variety



of athletic and training spaces, including basketball courts, batting cages, turf space for field sports and golf simulators.

Fundraising for the project is ongoing, with support from alumni and the Cabrini community helping move the plans forward. For many alumni, it is a way to give back to a place that meant so much while creating opportunities for generations to follow.

For Herman, those plans are another way Cabrini can provide opportunities for students while remaining grounded in its Catholic mission.

From academics and faith formation to athletics, arts and expanding programs, Cabrini continues to build upon decades of education and service in Allen Park.

As Herman begins his chapter at Cabrini, he is excited to be part of a community where faith, education and opportunity come together – and where many students and families have found a place to call home.







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For more information, please call
734-718-0483 or visit www.STEPcentral.org



I can't see well enough to do my crossword puzzles – Can You Help?

Ask the Doctor

Q: My doctor said I have moderate macular degeneration and diabetic retina damage, which feels pretty severe to me. I'm writing because it is almost impossible for me to do my crosswords even though I use large print puzzles and a magnifying glass. Having to hold my magnifier with one hand and trying to write has me so frustrated! What can you do to help me return to doing my crosswords?

~Carl N., 78 years old

A: To begin, it is encouraging to at least hear that your retinal doctor believes you have moderate tissue condition. You need to understand there is a difference between the amount of tissue damage compared to the impact on your ability to see and function.

There are three key steps that are required when someone needs help to see and write at the same time:

- 1) Proper magnification
- 2) A comfortable distance to work that allows you to write (not as close as you are used to)
- 3) The free use of your hands

In order to provide you with the best vision and ability to function in this situation, I prescribe special telescopic glasses. It is also important that you have the right lighting.

Having helped thousands of others over the decades who have had vision loss similar to you tells me that there are other areas of your life that can also be helped by improving your ability to function. It is helpful if you can identify other areas of your daily life in which your vision limits your ability to function.

It would be best if you could schedule an evaluation and bring the materials that you would like to see better when you come for your appointment.

**Stop struggling with poor vision.
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*Based on Southeastern Michigan MLS closed residential sales in Allen Park, 1/1/2026–9/3/2026, ranked by units and volume among Real Estate One agents. Zach Schlacht, Associate Broker, Real Estate One, 1 Heritage Pl, Southgate, MI.

14TH ANNUAL

HALLOWEEN

Family Fun Day

Saturday, October 24, 2026

1:00 P.M. Fun Family Activities

2:00 P.M. Magic Carpet Theatre



Fun Includes:

- Costumed Characters
- Face Painting
- Halloween Safety Tips
- Campus Trick-or-Treating Following the Show
- On-stage Costume Parade for the Children

**Open to the
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For more information please call the box office at 734-374-3200
21000 Northline Road, Taylor, MI 48180



SWIM LESSONS

FALL/WINTER 1 SWIM LESSONS

October 9 - December 4 (8 weeks)
(No swim Friday, November 27)

Gator Tots (\$80)
Fridays, 5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Limit 3 per Coach

Gatorlings (\$85)
Fridays, 5:35 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.
Limit 4 per Coach

Mini Gators (\$90)
Fridays, 6:15 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Limit 5 per Coach

COMMUNITY SWIM

September 14 - December 18
Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
(\$5 Per Day)

*All swimmers must be able to swim one length of the pool without stopping.

For questions about Gators email Coach
Joyce Hollow at hollowj@sgate.k12.mi.us
or Elizabeth McNeese at mcneese@sgate.k12.mi.us

SWIM & DIVE CLUB

FALL COMPETITIVE SWIM CLUB

September 14 - November 7 (8 weeks)
(Swim meet schedule available at first practice)

Beginners (\$115)
Monday through Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

Intermediate (\$130)
Monday through Thursday, 5:45 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.

Advanced (\$145)
Monday through Thursday, 6:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.
Friday, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Masters (\$120)
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

WINTER 1 COMPETITIVE SWIM CLUB

November 9 - December 18 (6 weeks)
(Same days and times as Fall)

Beginners (\$90)
Intermediate (\$100)
Advanced (\$110)
Masters (\$90)

FALL DIVE CLUB

September 14 - November 7 (8 weeks)

Beginners (\$85)
Thursday, 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Proficient (\$100)
Thursday, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

WINTER 1 DIVE CLUB

November 9 - December 18 (6 weeks)
(Same days and times as Fall)

Beginners (\$65)
Proficient (\$75)

Must pass the Gators core skills swimming
and or deep water test to participate.

There is a 10% sibling discount and a
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Swim & Dive Club Placement Tests

September 1, 6:00 p.m.
September 8, 6:00 p.m.

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2026 WINTER YOUTH SPORTS

BASKETBALL & WRESTLING

BASKETBALL

Little Dunkers (Ages 4-5): \$40 per player

Grades 1-6 League: \$80 per player

Divisions: (Grades 1-2, 3-4 Coed) (Grades 5-6 Boys/Girls)

Grades 7-8 Skill Development: \$40 per player

Practices Begin: Week of Monday, October 26

First Games: Saturday, November 7

Season Ends: Saturday, December 19

Location: Games hosted at Southgate Anderson High School.

Program Details

Our goal is to help young athletes develop skills, confidence, teamwork, and a love for basketball in a positive and supportive environment.

Volunteer coaches needed.

Registration fees are waived if a parent/guardian volunteers to coach.

**REGISTER FOR
BASKETBALL
BY OCTOBER 16TH**



TITAN WRESTLING CLUB

Season: November 16, 2026 - April 11, 2027

Ages: 5-13 Years, Boys and Girls

Practices: Three practices per week

Location: Anderson High School

Registration: \$100 per wrestler

(does not include singlets or tournament fees)

Program Details

Titans Wrestling teaches fundamental techniques, builds strong habits, and gives young athletes opportunities to compete at tournaments through MYWAY Wrestling.



**REGISTER FOR
WRESTLING**



Questions about basketball: Contact Southgate Parks & Recreation at 734-258-3035, or southgaterec@southgatemi.gov or contact Stephen Draper with Southgate Community Schools at drapers@southgateschools.com

Questions about wrestling: Contact Ian Norscia at norsciai@southgateschools.com or Stephen Draper at drapers@southgateschools.com



AROUND Allen Park

October – November



The final days of the Allen Park Farmers Market are Fridays through October 23 from 3-7 p.m. at the corner of Park Avenue and Philomene Boulevard in Downtown Allen Park. For updates, visit the Allen Park Farmers Market Facebook page.



OCTOBER

October 15

Boos and BBQ Block Party

4-8 p.m.

Philomene Boulevard between Park Avenue and Allen Road
Don't miss the last block party of the year with vendors, food, activities and a live performance by Five Towns Down. Learn more at www.cityofallenpark.org.

October 23

Trunk-or-Treat

5-7:30 p.m.

Park Avenue between Harrison Avenue and White Street
This free, family-friendly event is co-sponsored by Allen Park Presbyterian Church and the Allen Park DDA. Come out and enjoy free Halloween bags at the welcome table (Harrison and Park), photo booths, a free beverage station, a DJ, and so much more. The Allen Park Police and Fire Departments will be there, along with an Allen Park school bus! For more information, visit <https://www.allenparkpres.org/trunk-or-treat.html>.

NOVEMBER

November 20

Annual Lighted Christmas Parade

6:30 p.m.

Come out and enjoy the city's annual lighted Christmas parade, featuring Santa and Mrs. Claus! After the parade, pizza and pop will be provided by Allen Park Parks and Recreation Department in rooms D, E, F and G, of the community center.

PLEASE NOTE: Event details may have changed. Please check event website or social pages for the most up-to-date information.

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