

Vacation or “Staycation”

My dictionary describes “vacation” as an “intermission of activity, employment or stated exercises as for recreation or rest, a holiday”; and “holiday” as a “day of rest, or of diversion, or of exemption from labor”.

It really makes no reference to travel or getting away from home. So, the “staycation” as coined by a major television network really doesn’t need to exist. However, in most of our minds “vacation” means traveling and going away.

So, as the price of gas hovers around \$4 a gallon, and we contemplate staying around home rather than doing a lot of traveling, but wonder how we are going to keep from being bored, we in the Albion area have lots of new options to choose from.

And, better yet, we have a lot of day-trip attractions to draw in area “tourists” (travelers for recreational purposes). Those “day-trippers” spend money in our community—and that money multiplies approximately 6 times!

So, we do want to be the friendliest small college town in Michigan. AND we don’t want



Think Music. Think Albion.

to tell ourselves or our visitors “there is nothing to do in Albion”. That, of course, means that we all know what there is to do here!

Let’s start with traditional golf—a great round at **Tomac Woods**—a beautiful, affordable public course.

And our brand-new public disc golf course in Victory and Rieger parks. Many visitors will be making some practice rounds there this summer in preparation for the International Professional and Amateur Championship tournament which will bring in around 1,000 players (and dozens of spectators) the week of August 11.

Kids ’N’ Stuff, the Albion Dis-

trict Library and the Whitehouse Nature Center will all be offering programs for kids and adults alike as will the **City of Albion Recreation Department, the Gardner House Museum, the Albion Community Foundation, and Albion College.**

The Chamber will be hosting a Chalk Art Camp featuring noted chalk artist Lee Jones at the end of June in preparation for the Festival of the Forks. **The Chamber** is also planning to do a couple of disc golf clinics and tournaments to familiarize our community with the game, and will be presenting “Swingin’ at the Shell”, a series of musical concerts, sponsored by **Caster Concepts**. **The Chamber** is also celebrating the arrival of summer by sponsoring “La Fete de La Musique” in downtown Albion on Saturday, June 21.

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“Staycation” Disc Golf—Facts and Trivia

Our wonderful fireworks will again take place on July 3 (raindate July 5).

At last our wonderful riverwalk trail is open and after a great walk or bike ride along the banks of the Kalamazoo River, **Cascarelli's, Charlie's, Davan's, Lopez Taco House or McDonald's** will be happy to serve you a beverage, snack or dinner.

Of course, one can canoe or kayak on the river, too, and put in at the launches at Stoffer Plaza or Barnes Park.

What have we forgotten...the Farmers' Market every Wednesday and Saturday at Stoffer Plaza...the community band concerts at the Victory Park bandshell in June and July... the softball games and picnics in our wonderful parks... and exploring our downtown to see all of the new offerings!

Let's take advantage of the economic situation to be tourists in our own home town! We save money by not going out of town and our fellow business colleagues earn a bit more.

Most of all, let's welcome guests to our community with welcome signs, coupons, etc. We will be contacting you soon with a hospitality plan to make the summer of 2008 the best ever!

Please pass along The Greater Albion Business News to your colleagues and friends and encourage them to participate in Chamber events !

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Since we will be hosting the International Professional and Amateur Disc Golf Championships, and disc golf is little known in our area, we believe that our members ought to know some things about the game which should attract thousands of visitors to our community in the next few months. So, we will be giving you a little information every month and also encouraging you to play our Victory Park course. The Chamber has discs available for purchase.

What is Disc Golf? Disc golf is played much like traditional golf. Instead of a ball and clubs, however, players use a flying disc, or Frisbee®. The sport was formalized in the 1970's, and shares with "ball golf" the object of completing each hole in the fewest number of strokes (or, in the case of disc golf, fewest number of throws). A golf disc is thrown from a tee area to a target which is the "hole". The hole can be one of a number of disc golf targets; the most common is called a Pole Hole® an elevated metal basket. As a player progresses down the fairway, he or she must make each consecutive shot from the spot where the previous throw has landed. The trees, shrubs, and terrain changes located in and around the fairways provide challenging obstacles for the golfer. Finally, the "putt" lands in the basket and the hole is completed. Disc golf shares the same joys and frustrations of traditional golf, whether it's sinking a long putt or hitting a tree halfway down the fairway. There are few differences, though. Disc golf rarely requires a greens fee, you

probably won't need to rent a cart, and you never get stuck with a bad "tee time." It is designed to be enjoyed by people of all ages, male and female, regardless of economic status.

Who Plays Disc Golf?

Disc golf can be played from school age to old age, making it the one of the greatest lifetime fitness sports available. Specially-abled and disabled participate, giving them the opportunity to take part in a mainstream activity. Because disc golf is so easy to learn, no one is excluded. Players merely match their pace to their capabilities, and proceed from there. The Professional Disc Golf Association, with over 16,000 members, is the governing body for the sport, and sanctions competitive [events](#) for men and women of every skill level from novice to professional. Permanent [disc golf courses](#) are found in countries worldwide, as well as throughout the United States.

Trivia:

1. Who founded Disc Golf?
2. When was it founded?
3. Where is it played?
4. Who is Nate Doss?
5. Name one women's disc golf professionals.
6. Where is the International Disc Golf Center located?

STAGES TO HOLES, CART, GREENS FEE

Member Happenings

The Greater Albion Chamber of Commerce encourages all members to do business with each other. The companies and individuals listed below have recently made an important investment in their business by joining or renewing their membership in the Chamber. We hope that you will consider doing business with them.

5 years

**Albion-Homer United Way
Family Health Center of Battle
Creek**

Other Renewals

**A-1 Electric, Inc.
The Andersons
Best Western Albion Inn
Georgia Pacific Corrugated, LLC
Irwin Avenue Animal Hospital
Ismon House
Rafail & Associates
Reaction Industries LLC
Rotary Club of Albion
Ultra Form
Waito Plumbing & Heating**

Connections Lawn service is a part of **Summit Pointe** and employs and supervises Albion residents that have a challenge finding steady work. They have worked hard developing a reputation of excellence in the Albion and Marshall areas. Services include all landscape needs. They also have certification in pesticides and fertilizer application.

This month the first person from The Anderson's to get caught reading the Greater Albion Business News and call the Chamber will receive \$10 in **AlbionMoney**.

Don't forget to send us your Member Happenings!

**1st Annual Gardner House Museum 18 hole Golf Outing
4 Person Scramble**

Where: **Tomac Woods Golf Course**

When: June 21st, 2008

Time: 8:30 am

Cost: \$50.00 per person

Lunch provided. Prizes, games, 50/50, and more. Put together your own team or we will put together a team for you. Come help us raise money for the **Gardner House Museum** roof fund.

For more information, please call Andy Zblewski at 517-629-9974. Reservations must be made by June 18th, 2008.

Albion Insurance of Albion has been awarded the Fremont Insurance Company 2008 5-Star Certificate of Achievement for attaining the company's highest standing. The 132-year-old insurance company, based in Fremont, MI, instituted the program nine years ago to recognize agencies maintaining the highest business standards. Fremont Insurance Company President and CEO Richard Dunning explains that the award reflects the agency's long-term success in operating a profitable and growing business, whose accomplishments directly impact its insurance partners, insurance clients and also its community. The agency's business expertise is a direct contributor to this award.

What is the largest village in Michigan? The first person to call with the correct answer will win \$10 in **AlbionMoney**>

Since July of last year, **Guardian** has recycled:

8,520 lbs of office paper

285 lbs of plastic non refundable bottles

1,060 lbs of magazines and

1,290 lbs of 5 gallon buckets
(**1,612** buckets!)

33,425 lbs of cardboard

Congratulations! **Guardian** prevented **44,580** lbs from going to landfill!



The Chamber would like to thank all of the wonderful Festival of the Forks sponsors who have already stepped up to the plate, despite these difficult economic times. While we may have to cut back a little, we guarantee that we will once again have an outstanding Festival. Apparently, a number of you did not receive the sponsorship packages we sent out early March. Therefore, we are including materials in a second mailing. The Festival is a very valuable economic development tool and we would be very grateful for any level of sponsorship!