

Greater Albion Business News

March 2009

Volume 15, Issue 3

2009 Summer Trends = Staycations

With the economic crisis, high unemployment, and high gas prices, “staycations” are the trend of summer 2009, meaning staying home and visiting local attractions and festivals, rather than traveling for one’s vacation and spending up to \$10,000.

The Albion and Marshall Chambers of Commerce will be promoting “staycations” on the eastern side of Calhoun County this spring, summer and fall as “family fun in the sun on the sunrise side”. There is a lot to do here other than relaxing at home, undertaking home improvement projects—for us and for visitors within a 60 mile radius of our area. We hope that these visitors will come back and perhaps stay over at least one night.

When I first started with the Chamber, no one believed Albion had anything to offer to tourists, but actually we have enough to occupy a day or two and combined with Marshall, we have enough for a long weekend.

Albion attractions to enjoy include:

The Whitehouse Nature Center
The Riverwalk Trail
Our new disc golf course

Our 17 parks
Kids ‘N’ Stuff, interactive children’s museum
The local history room at the Albion District Library

Canoeing and kayaking on the Kalamazoo River

The Walking Tour of Albion
The Purple Gang Tour

Many eateries and unique shops and numerous special events:

High School/Middle School Zone Competitions—Held Equestrian Center—April 3-5

Albion College Combined Training Show—Held Equestrian Center—April 11-12

Chamber Disc Golf Tournament—Victory and Rieger Parks—May 2

Michigan Quarter Horse Association Show—Held Equestrian Center—May 29 -30

Community Band concerts at the Victory Park bandshell

June 14 June 28
July 12 July 26

Chamber Las Vegas Night at Duck Lake Country Club—June 20

La Fete de la Musique—”Think Music. Think Albion.”—Downtown Albion—June 21

United States Pony Club Mega-Rally—Held Equestrian Center - June 19-23

United States Equestrian Federation “A” Hunter/Jumper Show—Held Equestrian Center—July 1-5

Red, white and blue Cruise-In—Downtown Albion—July 2

Fireworks—Barnes Park—July 3

United States Equestrian Federation “A” Hunter/Jumper Show and community events—Held Equestrian Center-August 10-16

Chamber golf outing—Duck Lake Country Club—August 18

Festival of the Forks—September 18, 19, 20

AHS Class Reunions—Classes 1950-1980; Classes 1978-1988; Class of 1974—September 19

Member Happenings
Academy Awards of The Chamber
Computer Classes at Albion District Library

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attachment

A Top Hat Affair

Hats off to Elaine Rice (**Albion Insurance Agency**) and her committee: Ron Rice (**Albion Insurance Agency**), Bernie Konkle I (**Decker Manufacturing**), Katie Konkle, Randy and RoseMary Fisher (**Gordon Martin Builder**), Dave and LaVada Weeks, Jim Wolf (**Wolf's Auto Service**), Nidia Wolf (**DDA**) and Glen and Willie Culp for a very unique annual gala.

Unique in that there was no dinner involved—guests were encouraged to eat at our member restaurants; unique in its price—the committee was very mindful of your pocket book in these tough times; unique in its location—at Bellisima Bridal in the historic Masonic Temple building; and unique in its entertainment.

MC Colin McCaleb (**KCC-EAC**) started the show by introducing outgoing Chairman of the Board Randy Fisher (**Gordon Martin Builder**) who passed the gavel to the 2009 Chairman Lee Schultheiss (**Artisson, LLC**). Bernie (**Decker Manufacturing**) and Katie Konkle then presented the academy awards of the Chamber to the following recipients:

Culligan Water Conditioning - Retail Business of the Year

Chemical Bank—Service Business of the Year

Lee Schultheiss, Artisson LLC - Professional of the Year

Caster Concepts—Manufacturer of the Year



Tom Feldpausch prepares to present the Tom Feldpausch Community Loyalty Award to Bill Wheaton as the Mary Cram Women's Leadership Award recipient, Nancy Held, looks on.

Photo Courtesy of Lee Schultheiss

Nancy Held—Mary Cram Women's Leadership Award

Willie Culp—Marvin Ittner Good Sport Award

Tom Feldpausch himself was there to present **William Wheaton** with the Tom Feldpausch Community Loyalty Award.

Elizabeth Schultheiss, Executive Director of the **Albion Community Foundation**, presented the Foundation's non-profit of the year award to **Citizens To Beautify Albion**.

A special Centennial Business Award and proclamations from the State and the City were presented to **Jim Cascarelli** at Eggs & Issues on February 20.

After a brief intermission Robin Walters (**Bellisima Bridal**), assisted by Colin, narrated the unique fashion

show featuring top runway models:

<i>Glen Culp</i>	<i>Mike Olma</i>
<i>Dave Diemert</i>	<i>Al Pheley</i>
<i>Mike Herman</i>	<i>Ron Rice</i>
<i>David Huber</i>	<i>Randy Smith</i>
<i>Andrew Kercher</i>	<i>Jack Turner</i>
<i>Tom McClure</i>	<i>Ron Wright</i>

***Please pass along
The Greater Albion
Business News to
your colleagues and
friends and encour-
age them to partici-
pate in Chamber
events such as Eggs
& Issues and the
Disc Golf Tourna-
ment on May 2!***

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.

New Member

The Albion E-Company

Lee Schultheiss, Owner
P.O. Box 908
Albion, MI 49224
Service/Publishing
Tel: 517-629-2890
www.albionecompany.com

25 years

Albion Electric, Inc.

10 years

Albion Community Ambulance

1 year

Edward Jones

Other Renewals

Albion Community Foundation

Art Craft Press

Bilicke Olds Sales

Comtronics

Duck Lake Country Club

Gardner Casters & Wheels

Jack Weston

Rafaill & Associates

Shafer Redi-Mix

Triangle Plumbing, Inc.

Sam's Club is now accepting EBT (Electronic Benefit Transfers) Food Stamp Benefits.

March is Reading Month at the **Albion District Library**

Newbery and Caldecott Medal Winners available at **Albion Dis-**

trict Library

The American Library Association announced its 2009 children's book awards on January 26, including the biggest children's prizes of the year, the Newbery Medal for literature and the Caldecott Medal for illustration. This year's winners are:

Newbery Medal

"The Graveyard Book" by Neil Gaiman, illustrated by Dave McKean

Newbery Honor Books

"The Underneath" by Kathi Appelt, illustrated by David Small

"The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom" by Margarita Engle

"Savvy" by Ingrid Law

Caldecott Medal

"The House in the Night" illustrated by Beth Krommes and written by Susan Marie Swanson

Caldecott Honor Books

"A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever" by Marla Frazee

"How I Learned Geography" by Uri Shulevitz

"A River of Words: The Story of William Carlos Williams" illustrated by Melissa Sweet and written by Jen Bryant

All of these books are available in the Children's Room of the **Albion District Library**. The **Albion District Library** is at 501 S. Superior St. in downtown Albion. Call 517-629-3993 for information or visit www.albionlibrary.org

Tendercare of Albion is pleased to announce the appointment of Keith Fisher as the facility's Administrator. Fisher began his career as a public health inspector in Central Illinois where he worked for six years. He also has 11 years of experience as a licensed nursing home administrator in Illinois and Indiana. He and his family have recently moved to Michigan and he

looks forward to serving those in the Albion community.

Life Repair Clinic (Peggy Grigowski) is offering **Healthy Blended Families Group**. Peggy has a blended family herself and has learned from trial and error. During this six week group we will build on life building blocks to help families work on 'now' issues and what they can do to make it better. No subject is too hard or incorrect just come and let's find your comfort zone. If you are in a blended family or thinking of blending your family this group is for you. Trying to unite blended families is often hard and can be grueling at times. Come and join us in learning ways to blend and live in harmony rather than fighting and anger. This group will be held each Tuesday for six consecutive weeks beginning Tuesday May 12th from 7:00—8:30 PM. Registration is required two weeks before class starts. Space is limited so call now and reserve your seats! 517-629-6855

Thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the **Albion District Library**, the Children's Room was able to purchase the newest edition of the America the Beautiful series. The third series is bursting with fascinating facts, up-to-date statistics, glorious full-color photographs, and unusual lists guaranteed to elicit at least one WOW! with the turn of every page. America the Beautiful's dynamic new design and editorial approach to the geography, history, people, economy, and government of each state will continue to make this award-winning series

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Member Happenings (continued from page 3)

one that students turn to for researching school assignments. Visit the Library to view this series and many other wonderful resources for information and entertainment.

Know anyone who is getting married? or graduating? Come discover your taste @ **Davan's**. Coupons available for \$100 off anything over \$499 more more if booked in March and April. Feel free to contact **Davan** with any questions you might have: 517-474-1898.

Albion Elks Cash Drawing Saturday, March 14, 2009. \$40.00 per ticket admits one and includes meal, drinks and chance to win

\$1200.00. Call Mike Tymkew (**Murray-Tymkew & Associates**) or **Albion Elks** for tickets.

At a recent meeting of the **Rotary Club of Albion**, Rotarian and Librarian Colleen Verge spoke about What's New at the **Albion District Library**. She said that February 12 was the 90th anniversary of the Albion Library being in its present building. Verge then introduced Librarian Cindy Stanczak who is coordinator for the exhibit: *Pride & Passion: The African-American Experience* which will be at the Albion District Library March 20 through April 2009. The exhibit is about the trials, tribulations and successes of African-American baseball and will tour 25 libraries in

the United States between 2009 and 2012. Detroit will have the exhibit in 2011 and is the only other Michigan city to have the exhibit. There will be an opening reception for the exhibit at 7 p.m. at the library on March 20. Dr. William Anderson will speak on the Pride and Passion in the Negro Leagues.

Breaking News: The SOCC voted yesterday to recommend a 10% cut of the salaries of lawmakers, the governor, attorney general and secretary of state. If approved, that cut would not take effect until 2011.



Your Chamber Board of Directors has been holding its regular monthly meetings at different facilities. In February, the meeting was held at the Sheridan Township Hall where Marilyn Hennon, Director of Economic Development made a presentation on economic development and planning in the township. Present: (from left to right front row) Marilyn Hennon (Sheridan Township), unidentified (Sheridan Township), Peg Eckmyre (**The Chamber**), Sue Marcos (**The Chamber**), Kathy Payne (**Standard Printing and Office Supply**), Lee Schultheiss, Chairman of the Board (**Artisson, LLC**); Back Row left to right: Bernie Konkle I (**Decker Manufacturing**), Randy Fisher (**Gordon Martin Builder**), Ron Rice (**Albion Insurance**), Dave Seedorf (**Team 1 Plastics**), Mike Frandsen (**Albion College—Gerstacker Institute**), Mike Tymkew (**Murray, Tymkew & Associates**). Not pictured: Bill Dobbins (**Caster Concepts**), Wendy Coulling (**Culligan**), Teri Fogel (**Chemical Bank**), Mike Olma (**J. Kevin Tidd Funeral Home**), and **David Weeks**. If you would like to host a board meeting, give us a call. It doesn't cost you a thing and you can make a presentation about your business and give us a tour. All you need is a conference room which will hold 17 people!



Free Issues

March 2009

HEADLINE NEWS

TRY THE ALBION E-NEWS FREE FOR A WEEK IN MARCH!

The Albion E-News is an award-winning email news service, providing timely coverage of local Albion news, events, sports, and obituaries since 2002. Issues include stories, photos, classifieds and reminders, and are sent directly to subscribers email boxes approximately 4 times a week.

The E-News recently launched a new easy-to-read look, and we want everyone in Albion to see what we've done with it! To celebrate, we're offering a **FREE WEEK** of issues, March 23-29 2009.



An annual subscription to the Albion E-News is \$12 per year (\$6 for seniors and students). To have a week of no-cost, no-obligation email issues sent to you, fill out the simple form below, or use the online form at: www.albionenews.com

YES! Send me a FREE WEEK of the Albion E-News March 23-29 2009!

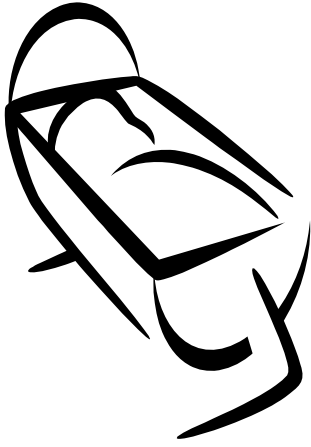
Your Name:	<input type="text"/>	Organization: (Optional)	<input type="text"/>
Your Address:	<input type="text"/>	Your Phone:	<input type="text"/>
City State Zip:	<input type="text"/>	Your Email:	<input type="text"/>

We do not ask for credit card information here and no bill will be automatically sent to you. We also will not give out or sell the information you provide, and will not use it for any other purpose than to send you the free email issues and exactly one email offer to continue as a paid subscriber.

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The Mending Cradle



There are no politically correct terms or no words that can adequately express the heartbreak that abortion causes. Here at **The Mending Cradle** we understand the traumatic affect that an abortion causes.

The Mending Cradle is for healing after abortion. We will be offering the program throughout the year please contact Peggy for more information at Peggy@TheMendingCradle.com or visit us online at www.TheMendingCradle.com

This program is an opportunity to examine your abortion experience, identify the ways that the loss has impacted you in your past and present, and help you to acknowledge any unresolved feelings that many individuals struggle with after abortion.



Our sessions for 2009

April 16th, 17th & 18th
August 13th, 14th & 15th
November 12th, 13th & 14th



This program is for men, women, couples, and Teens that have experienced abortion.

Don't continue living in despair
Come and learn to live again!

Peggy@TheMendingCradle.com
www.TheMendingCradle.com

Member Happenings

Is there a special event that has taken place or will be taking place in your business?

Have you reached a significant milestone or received a special recognition?

Have you added a new product or service, changed the name of your business, changed store hours, moved or opened another operation?

If so, we would like to share this information with other Chamber members by printing you "special News" in our monthly newsletter, the Greater Albion Business News.

Briefly give us the details by completing this form and mail or fax or e-mail the information to the Chamber office (please complete all information).

DATE:

COMPANY NAME:

ADDRESS: _____

CITY / STATE: _____

CONTACT NAME: _____ TELEPHONE _____

YOUR NEWS:

Mail or Fax to:
Greater Albion Chamber of Commerce
416 S. Superior St. / P.O. Box 238
Albion, MI 49224
Fax: 517-629-4284
E-Mail: sue@greateralbionchamber.org

PLEASE GET INFORMATION TO CHAMBER OFFICE BY THE 20TH OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH



**The Albion Chamber Ambassadors
invite you to an**

**Open House
&
Ribbon Cutting**

**Oaklawn Hospital
Physical Rehabilitation Center**

300 B Drive N - Albion

Thursday, March 26, 2009

**Open House: 5 - 7 P.M.
Ribbon Cutting: 5:30 P.M.**

COMPUTER CLASSES AT ALBION DISTRICT LIBRARY

The Forks Initiative is offering computer classes to the public beginning in March. These classes are for adults who are interested in learning more about computers and the popular software applications Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel. Basic classes on Computers and the Internet are also available as well as classes on Microsoft PowerPoint and more. Most classes are approximately 2 hours long and will offer some hands-on opportunities. Charges vary for each class. Anyone who lives or owns property in the Albion District Library service area is entitled to a free card. Those who live outside the service area may purchase a card for \$60. Non-card holders should call about class pricing. Fees must be paid prior to class start time.

Registration for the spring classes begins March 6, 2009, at the Albion District Library, or call 517 629 3993. Class size is limited to 10. All classes will be held in the Activity Room in the lower level of Albion District Library. The Library is located at 501 S Superior, Albion, MI. For more information please call 517 629 3993.

INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS

Learn the fundamental components of the computer, mouse skills, opening and closing an application, basic formatting, saving work to a floppy disc, and printing. Tuesday, March 24, 6:30 p.m.

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORLD WIDE WEB

Learn how to navigate the Internet as well as how to search the web. You must have mouse and computer experience to attend. Thursday, March 26, 6:30 p.m.

INTRODUCTION TO MICROSOFT WORD BASIC part 1 & part 2

Learn the basics of word processing with Microsoft Word including selecting and modifying text, formatting text and paragraphs, cut/copy/paste, using spell check, and Save versus Save As. Tuesdays, March 31, 6:30 p.m. & Tuesday, April 7, 6:30 p.m.

INTERMEDIATE MICROSOFT WORD part 1 & part 2

Learn additional skills with Microsoft Word such as setting tabs, creating tables, inserting headers and footers, pagination, sorting text and paragraphs, inserting objects, and find and replace. Tuesday, April 14, 6:30 p.m. & Tuesday, April 21, 6:30 p.m.

ADVANCED MICROSOFT WORD part 1 & 2

This class will pick up where the Intermediate class left off focusing on a number of "tips and tricks" for making full use of Microsoft Word. Tuesday, April 28, 6:30 p.m. & Tuesday, May 5, 6:30 p.m.

INTRODUCTION TO MICROSOFT EXCEL BASIC part 1 & part 2

Learn the basics of a worksheet and how spreadsheets can work for you. Learn how to format a cell and add data. Learn the difference between a worksheet and a workbook. You must have mouse and computer experience to attend. Thursday, April 2, 6:30 p.m. & Thursday, April 9, 6:30 p.m.

INTERMEDIATE MICROSOFT EXCEL part 1 & part 2

Dig deeper into working with multiple sheets, multiple workbooks, re-organizing the screen, protecting data, simple databases, filtering data, and charting. NOT FOR THE BEGINNER. Users should have experience with Excel. Thursdays, April 16 and 23, 6:30 p.m.

ADVANCED MICROSOFT EXCEL part 1& part 2

This class will pick up where the Intermediate class left off focusing on a number of “tip and tricks” for making full use of Microsoft Excel. Thursdays May 7 and 14, 6:30 p.m.

INTRODUCTION TO POWERPOINT part 1 & part 2

Learn the basics of creating a presentation using Microsoft PowerPoint including creating an outline of your topic, managing the slide layouts, adding graphics and other objects to your slides, using design templates to add colors to your slides, creating transitions and animations for your slide show, and how to manage and present your slide show. Tuesday, May 19, 6:30 p.m. & Thursday, May 21, 6:30 p.m.

INTERMEDIATE POWER POINT part 1 & part 2

This class will pick up where the Introduction class left off focusing on a number of “tips and tricks” for making full use of Microsoft PowerPoint. Tuesday, May 26, 6:30 p.m. & Thursday, May 28, 6:30 p.m.

OFFICE 2007 OVERVIEW

Microsoft Office 2007 has a completely new and different look. Learn how to easily manage this transition with a hands-on demonstration of the new “ribbon display” of commands Monday, May 4, 6:30 p.m.

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Eggs & Issues
Friday, March 20, 2009
7:30 A.M.

Cascarelli's of Albion

(Please use Conference Room door off back parking lot)

\$8.00 per person

(Remember – to keep cost down – R.S.V.P by March 19th at 4 p.m. – Please honor your reservation or you will be billed)

Invite a friend/co-worker to another great program!



Events for March 2009

Week of March 1-8:

5th – 7:30 A.M. – EDC Board of Directors Meeting

8th – Daylight Saving Time begins

Week of March 9 – 15:

10th – 11:45 A.M. – Chamber Board of Directors Meeting, Incubator Building

11th – 7:30 A.M. – DDA Board of Directors Meeting

Week of March 16 -22:

17th – Happy St. Patrick's Day

20th – 7:30 A.M – Eggs & Issues @ Cascarelli's of Albion

20th – First Day of spring

Week of March 23 – 31:

26th – 5 – 7 P.M. – Ribbon Cutting @ Oaklawn Rehabilitation Center @ 300 B Drive N.