

Allen Park T O D A Y



Inside

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Allen Park**

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- July 23** The Herb Experience
- July 28** Escape to Margaritaville
- July 31** To the Moon and Back
- Aug 5** Under the Dome
- Aug 11** Bonsai & Botanicals
- Aug 14** Brunch & Belle Isle
- Aug 20** Day in Amherstburg
- Aug 25** Colonial Tea
- Aug 27** Put-In-Bay
- Aug 29** Sunflower Festival

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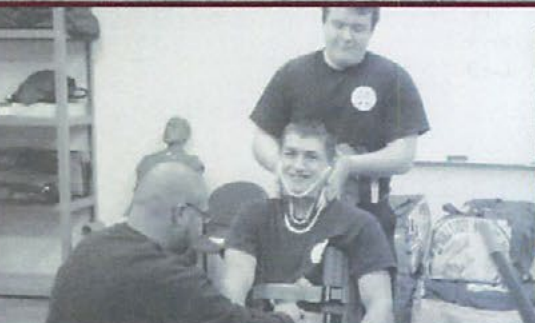


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STUDENTS have graduated, summer is on its way and the major renovation of our fire station is nearing completion. Plans are being developed for a public gathering place where the old movie theater stood, and, thanks to the efforts of our Parks and Recreation, DPS, Clerk's office, and several resident volunteers, the Rusty Dog Park has opened on Outer Drive.

The Beautification Commission has monthly cleanups on designated Saturdays throughout the summer. Join us for a few hours and enjoy the fresh air and meet some terrific people. The flower bed program is going strong, and homeowners and businesses are being recognized for their efforts to beautify our community.

To all of our high school graduates, we know you are well-prepared for whatever you choose to do. You have so many options available to you. Most importantly, choose

a future that will bring you fulfillment and happiness.

Summer activities and events have begun. The Farmers Market has more vendors and activities for the family. Music in the Streets is now part of the new Block Party theme, along with our regular events – the car show, Touch A Truck, and the street fair. There will also be parks and rec concerts. Make sure to check the city's website for events.

Baseball and softball leagues have started, and residents and families will be taking advantage of our parks and playgrounds, which continue to undergo improvements.

Allen Park home sales are still strong, and we continue to experience an influx of new homeowners. Get to know your neighbors – say hello and welcome. Give a stranger a smile. It's free, and chances are, you will get one in return.

Have a wonderful summer and take advantage of everything your city has to offer.



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Gail McLeod, Mayor

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Contact Information

Website: www.cityoffallenpark.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

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City Departments/Location

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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

Fourth of July (delayed until Monday)

Labor Day (delayed to Tuesday through Saturday)

Returns will not be made for items not placed
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Join us for National Thrift Store Day on Monday, August 17!

50% off all regular priced clothing and accessories



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For more information, please call
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FROM DRIVING THE ZAMBONI TO SPONSORING IT: A FULL CIRCLE ALLEN PARK STORY



If you've been around the Allen Park Ice Rink long enough, you might remember me from before the real estate signs. Long before I was helping people buy and sell homes, I was actually working here at the rink and driving the Zamboni. This season, things came full circle as I became the official sponsor of the freshly wrapped machine carrying the ZachSold branding and my favorite title, Allen Park's Number One Real Estate One Agent.

For me, partnering with the rink is more than marketing. This rink is where I grew up. It's where I played, where I worked, and where I learned responsibility. It's the place that made hockey a lifelong passion long before real estate became my career.

Over the years, I've coached the Allen Park High School hockey team, served as Vice President of the Allen Park Hockey Association, sponsored a locker room, and supported the rink with board ads. The Zamboni sponsorship is simply another way to give back to the place that shaped me and to the community that means everything to me.

The next time the Zamboni rolls out for a fresh sheet of ice, give it a wave. If you spot the QR code on the side, scan it. It will take you to more about my story and offer helpful information for anyone thinking about buying or selling in Allen Park or the Downriver area.

I'm not just your local agent. I'm part of this rink, this history, and this community, and I'm proud to continue supporting it.

Ready to sell?

Call **313.626.0598**, visit **ZachSold.com**, or scan the **QR code** to see what your Allen Park home could launch for today.



*Zach Schlacht — Associate Broker, Top Producer,
Allen Park Board of Review Member*

SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2026



UNEARTH A STORY



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SUMMER READING PROGRAM

June 13 - July 25

All ages are welcome to participate in Summer Reading!
Visit the Library during our Kickoff Party or any day
through July 24 for in-person registration.

KICKOFF PARTY



Saturday | June 13
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



FINALE EVENT



Saturday | July 25
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

START THE WEEKEND ON FRIDAY

FAMILY FUN BINGO

Friday, June 19 | 1:00 p.m.



DIGITAL CARICATURES with ANDREW SIGMAN

Friday, June 26 | 1:00 p.m.

ASL (SIGN LANGUAGE) CLASS for BEGINNERS

Friday, July 10 | 1:00 p.m.



KAM KOMICS WORKSHOP

Friday, July 17 | 1:00 p.m.



FRIENDS FOR ANIMALS ADOPTION EVENT

Friday, July 24 | 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

WEEKLY FUN FOR THE FAMILY

FAMILY CRAFT HOUR

Monday and Thursday | 1:00 p.m.

WATER SAFETY with THE RED CROSS

Every Tuesday | 1:00 p.m.

LISTEN & LUNCH STORYTIME

with *The Balloon Guy* (and snacks!)

Bring Your Own Lunch

Every Wednesday | 12:00 p.m.



BOOKS WITH THERAPY DOG BROOKS

Every Wednesday | 6:30 p.m.

JUST FOR THE GROWN-UPS

SILENT BOOK CLUB (AGES 13 & UP)

Every Friday | 6:00 p.m.



MUSICAL STYLINGS OF MELISSA & JAKE

Tuesday, June 23 | 6:00 p.m.

DINO WARS! with ANDREW KERCHER

Tuesday, June 30 | 6:30 p.m.

PHIL HALE JAZZ BAND

Tuesday, July 14 | 6:00 p.m.

VARIETY BOOK GROUP

Tuesdays, 6/16 & 7/21 | 7:00 p.m.



BETWEEN THE COVERS BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, July 7 | 7:00 p.m.

*There are no residency requirements to participate in or attend any of the Allen Park Public Library's programs.

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'Accepted and Cared For'

Success Virtual Learning Center offers flexible options for Downriver students

By Kelsi Klein

SUCCESS Virtual Learning Centers of Michigan's Downriver location in Taylor continues to provide an alternative path for high school students, offering flexible, personalized education options designed to meet a wide range of academic needs.

Open to all students

While the Downriver location is physically located in Taylor, enrollment is not limited to those within the Taylor School District boundary.

"We want families to know we're available to all Downriver students," said Lynne Nowicki, center director. "You don't have to go through an out-of-district process to attend."

Success Virtual Learning Center reviews expelled or long-term suspension students for acceptance and all students with an IEP or 504 plan. Their vision is to "be a place where every student, regardless of their past, feels 100 percent accepted and cared for."

How it works

Success Virtual Learning Centers of Michigan was designed to be a non-traditional education option for students ages 14-21 who may not thrive in a traditional classroom setting.

With 10 locations across the state, these centers have helped thousands of students stay on track academically and graduate at their own pace with individualized support.

The accredited, tuition-free public school provides students with a flexible way to complete high school courses, and is an 18-credit Michigan Merit Curriculum only program without elective requirements.

Each student receives a customized learning plan tailored to their goals, schedule and academic standing. Certified teachers are available for one-on-one assistance, both in person at the center and virtually, ensuring students have consistent guidance throughout their coursework.

Online learning extras

Opportunities for hands-on experiences through mentorships, field trips, clubs, career fairs and extracurricular activities are also provided to students who choose to be more involved.

Different levels of support are available to students as needed, including social work, counseling, social and emotional programming, intervention services, special

education services, career advisors and much more.

Beyond academics, Success Virtual Learning Center also provides incentives for student success. Those in good academic standing may be eligible for free driver's training, an additional benefit meant to help support students both in and out of the classroom.



SUCCESS
VIRTUAL LEARNING
Centers of Michigan



Credit recovery

In addition to standard school-year programming, Success Virtual Learning Centers of Michigan offers a free summer credit recovery program.

"We specialize in helping students who are behind in credits or potentially unable to graduate on time to graduate on time or as close to it as possible," Nowicki said. "We're a good fit for kids who just don't fit the mold of regular school."

Open to both enrolled students and those attending local districts with counselor approval, the six-week program provides an opportunity to catch up or get ahead without the financial burden of traditional summer school.

Families interested in enrolling can visit the Downriver center at 24680 Eureka Road in Taylor from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m., call (734) 992-6914 or visit www.successmichigan.org for more information.



Keeping Community Strong

Gas & Go provides friendly service in a clean environment By Terry Jacoby

WHILE on the outside it appears to be your typical gas station, the Southfield Gas & Go in Allen Park is anything but typical – just check out the first three reviews on Google.

"The store is super clean and the staff is extremely helpful."

"Great prices and friendly service!"

"Cheapest gas around in that area and it just keeps getting more expensive as you go."

Gas stations are typically not described as "super clean" with "friendly service." But, again, this isn't your typical gas station.

Located at 17001 Southfield Road in Allen Park, Southfield Gas & Go is co-founded by Sam Nassar, who takes great pride in providing that friendly service in a super clean environment.

"I come from a family business background and learned early on the importance of hard work, customer service and building relationships with the community," said Nassar, who purchased Gas & Go in 2011 and has built the business from the ground up. "We have grown into one of the well-known neighborhood gas stations in the Allen Park area."

Nassar is from the Metro Detroit area and has been closely connected to Allen Park and the surrounding communities for many years through business and community involvement. He graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Administration, which helped shape his leadership, operations and public relations experience.

Over the years, he has expanded into operating multiple fuel stations. Nassar is frequently featured in local

media discussing fuel prices, energy markets and consumer issues, and has long been focused on investing in Allen Park and contributing to the city's growth.

"Allen Park has a strong sense of community," he said.

"People support local businesses, and there's a welcoming, hardworking atmosphere here. We chose Allen Park because we saw long-term potential and wanted to invest in a city where relationships and reputation truly matter."

While big chains such as Sheetz and Speedway continue to add locations throughout the Detroit area, Nassar believes that the local stores offer a more personal service

and a "personal connection with customers."

"We're not just a corporate location – we're locally owned and community focused," he said.

"We work hard to keep the station clean, stocked, competitive on pricing, and available for the community



24/7. We also stay active in local events, media discussions and community engagement. Big chains may have bigger budgets, but we offer something more personal – real relationships with our customers and direct involvement in the community."

And the response from customers has been a gas, gas, gas.

"The feedback we hear most is about customer service, cleanliness and convenience," Nassar said. "Customers appreciate that we know many of them by name and try to create a friendly environment where people feel respected and welcomed. Our goal is not just to survive against big chains – it's to continue growing, improving and showing that independent businesses still play a major role in keeping communities strong."

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Vito's Pizzeria

DOWNRIVER'S FAVORITE FAMILY SPOT

By Terry Jacoby

WHY Vito's is special is a well-known local legend.

It seems like Vito's has been a slice of Downriver life forever. The local pizzeria has been a Lincoln Park staple for over 45 years and has been a popular spot for Railsplitters and visitors alike for decades. Owner Christie Kerr purchased the business in 2008 and then opened a second Vito's Pizzeria in Taylor in 2023 as the legend continues to spread and grow.

There isn't just one secret ingredient to their success, but a combination of quality food with impeccable service at a fair price are certainly all on the table when it comes to figuring out their popularity in the community.

"What makes Vito's special is that we treat our customers like family," Kerr said. "We try to accommodate to the best of our abilities whatever our customers need. My staff is one of the best around."

Kerr grew up working with her father and stepmom in their "mom and pop" pizzeria in Florida, and was taught at an early age what the words "hard work" meant. Her mother always taught her to be kind to people, be respectful and always count your blessings.

These have been among the building blocks to Kerr's success in the restaurant business.

Before taking on the role of owner, Kerr worked in every restaurant position, from making pizzas, washing dishes, to serving and bartending, so she understands how every facet of the operation works and knows the challenges and needs of every employee.

In 2008, she had a 5-year-old daughter and a baby on the way when she was offered the chance to purchase Vito's Pizzeria.

Kerr was determined to do the best she could for her and her family and has since proven just how much hard work pays off in the end. She used her knowledge and experience growing up in the pizza



At Vito's Pizzeria, every slice tells a story. Homemade flavors, warm hospitality and a legacy of hard work come together in every bite.



business and applied it to her new role as owner.

"I believe in having employees who enjoy coming to work and take pride in a great product," said Kerr, who has many impressive titles including mom, wife, aunt, sister, friend, teammate and boss. "We offer a warm and welcoming environment that families want to come to, and we get involved in helping our community in many different ways."

And that community has always been special to Kerr.

"The community in Lincoln Park and all the surrounding areas are just amazing," she said. "The people are loyal and wonderful, and we love to work with all the local schools and nonprofits and support them in any way we can."

Longtime popular and local favorites include the white pizza, Vito's meaty pizza, pepperoni pinwheels, steak bites, spaghetti and calzones – among many others.

"We are known for our pizza and goofy bread but don't sleep on our pastas, subs and one of the best burgers around," Kerr said.

Vito's Lincoln Park location (313-383-1960) is at 3962 Fort Street. The new Taylor location (313-768-5123) is at 20540 Ecorse Road (between Monroe and Pelham) and offers delivery to Taylor, Allen Park and Dearborn Heights. Visit vitostaylor.com/menu to see the Taylor menu and special deals/coupons.



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Allen Park Beautification Commission

Promoting awareness, recycling, city-wide cleanup projects By Kelsi Klein

FROM organizing city-wide cleanup projects to adopting flowerbeds and creating new gardens, the Allen Park Beautification Commission is working year-round to make the city cleaner, greener and more enjoyable for both residents and visitors.



Through the dedication of its volunteers, community support and collaboration with local partners, the Commission plays an important role in the city by providing recommendations to the mayor and city council on ways to restore, maintain and improve the city's appearance.

The Commission promotes environmental awareness, recycling, city-wide cleanup projects, landscape and hardscape improvements and the planting and maintenance of flowers, shrubs and trees.

By partnering with city officials, employees, businesses, schools, civic groups and residents, the Commission is actively involved in several initiatives aimed at improving the appearance and overall appeal of the city.

Butterfly garden

The Beautification Commission is currently working on a butterfly garden located at Community Park on Garfield Avenue.

"This is one of our biggest initiatives right now and it has been made possible through donations from Little Monsters Tree Service," said Gabrielle Bulgier, commissioner to the Beautification Commission.

Most recently, the Commission spread thick mulch over the garden's area, which will slowly break down over time, enriching the soil and smothering the grass. Planting the area is set for the spring of 2027.

Bulgier explained that no herbicides or pesticides will be used in the natural planting process and native species that attract butterflies and other pollinators will be planted in the garden.



Community cleanups

Several times throughout the year, the Beautification Commission organizes neighborhood cleanups where volunteers come together to clean up litter around the city, typically focusing on the downtown area and parks.

The Commission provides trash pickers, bags, gloves

and supplies needed and encourages everyone to help beautify their city.

Adopt-a-flowerbed

The Commission's popular "Adopt-a-flowerbed" program allows volunteers to maintain adoptable flowerbeds throughout the city.

Interested residents can fill out an application to adopt a flower bed in the city, that they are responsible for planting and maintaining between June and November.



Not only does this initiative beautify the city, but it gets the community involved, which is key for the Commission.

Beautification awards

Each year, the Beautification Commission gives out 10 residential and five commercial awards to beautiful properties throughout Allen Park.

These awards recognize those who take pride in maintaining attractive, well-kept properties that enhance the appearance of the city.

Residents are encouraged to submit nominations for homes or businesses they believe have outstanding landscaping, curb appeal or overall presentation.

Winners receive a certificate and a sign for their yards and are recognized at a City Council meeting.

"Our goal continues to be creating welcoming, vibrant spaces that residents can take pride in," Bulgier said.

To stay up to date or for volunteer opportunities, follow the City of Allen Park Beautification Commission Facebook page or visit www.cityoffallenpark.org.



GRAND OPENING



JUNE 30TH 4:00PM

24000 OUTER DRIVE

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT US AT
WWW.CITYOFFALLENPARK.ORG

REGISTRATION BEGINS JUNE 1ST

Summer Tax Season is Around the Corner

What Allen Park Residents Should Know

THE Treasurer's Office is preparing for the upcoming summer tax season. Below are some frequently asked questions regarding the summer tax bill, along with some general property tax questions.



Will I receive a paper copy of the tax statement?

That depends on whether there is an active escrow account for paying property taxes through a mortgage company. Mortgage companies will receive the property tax statement for all taxpayers that have an active escrow account. Any taxpayer set up in our system with NO mortgage holder will be mailed a paper copy of the summer property tax statement by July 1 and the winter statement by December 1. Please contact the Treasurer's Office to report when an escrow account is closed.

Important 2026 dates

- **July 1, 2026** – Tax bills received
- **August 17, 2026** – Summer taxes due
- **September 1, 2026** – Summer taxes late penalty of 1 percent on unpaid balances begins, and continues the first of each month thereafter
- **December 1, 2026** – Winter tax season opens for payments
- **February 16, 2027** – 2026 winter due date
- **February 17, 2027** – 2026 winter one-time late penalty of 3 percent added
- **March 1, 2027** – Last day to pay all 2026 summer and winter property taxes at City of Allen Park
- **March 2, 2027** – All unpaid real property taxes are required by law to be transferred to Wayne County Treasurer's Office.

What is a summer deferment?

Certain eligible taxpayers may qualify for a deferral of the due date to February 14. They can file an Application for Deferment of Summer Taxes each year, available from the City Treasurer, by September 15.

Why Are Summer Taxes Higher?

A common question each year is: "Why is my summer tax bill higher than my winter bill?"

The primary reason is school operating taxes, which make up the largest portion of the summer bill. These funds, which we collect on behalf of the schools, support the daily operations of our public schools, including teachers, classroom resources, transportation, and student programs.

What is a Principal Residence Exemption (PRE), and how does it affect taxes?

The Principal Residence Exemption, also called Homestead, gives the property owner an exemption from school operating tax of up to 18 mills. The PRE reduces the summer tax bill for qualified properties* by 28 percent to 34 percent, depending on the school district.

*To obtain Principal Residence status, the property must be a residential property that is owner occupied. Michigan allows one Principal Residence exemption on the primary residence. The deadline to file is June 1 for the summer tax levy. Allen Park school operating taxes are collected on the summer tax levy only.

Non-homestead properties, such as rentals and commercial properties, are subject to the full school operating millage.

What is meant by taxable value?

Taxable value is the value used to calculate property taxes for a property. In general, the taxable value multiplied by the appropriate millage rate yields the property taxes for a property.

What is meant by "taxable value uncapping"?

In Michigan, annual increases to the taxable value of a property are "capped" at the rate of inflation or 5 percent, whichever is lower. However, when a transfer of property ownership occurs, such as a sale, the cap on the taxable value of the property is removed, and the state equalized value (SEV) of the property becomes the new taxable value in the following tax year. If you double the SEV, the result is the estimated true cash value of the property.

If a property's taxes have been capped for several years, the disparity between the taxable value and the SEV could be quite large, and the property tax bills after "uncapping" would be significantly higher.

We're Here to Help

The Treasurer's Office is committed to providing clear, accurate information and exceptional service. If you have questions about your tax bill, payment options or your property's taxable value, please don't hesitate to reach out. The Treasurer's Office is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., and can be reached at (313) 928-1400 ext. 2.

Treasurer Tim Estheimer
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Stamping Out Hunger

Allen Park letter carriers collect food for residents in need

By Dave Gorgon

KRIS Shaw has been a letter carrier for the Allen Park Post Office for nearly 31 years. Every May, Shaw and his co-workers gather food from local patrons who donate non-perishable items for the needy in the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive.

For Shaw, the kindness of Allen Park residents has a special meaning. Long before he became a member of the National Association of Letter Carriers, he remembers being part of a family struggling to make ends meet that used food stamps to put food on his parents' table in Dearborn.

"My family grew up poor," Shaw said. "I'm well aware of what it's like to be poor and hungry. It's nice to help anybody you can when they have a downturn. I've never lost sight of that."

The annual May food drive has been going on for decades. The idea is for mail carriers to deliver postcards to their customers announcing the collection date, and to return on that date to collect donated food.

For the first time, all food collected in Allen Park was presented to the Fish & Loaves Community Food Pantry, which is based in Taylor and provides for the hungry in Allen Park, Taylor, Southgate, Dearborn Heights, Brownstown Township, Woodhaven and Romulus.



Members of Allen Park High School Robotics Team 815 (above) volunteered on the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive at the Dearborn Heights Post Office Annex. Boy Scouts (right) Jacob Mizzi, Mathias Gladman and Lucas Burns (left to right) volunteered to assist Allen Park letter carriers in the food drive.



Volunteers help out at the post offices, taking the food items from the carriers and putting them in large bins.

This year, Allen Park Boy Scout Troop 1061 and leaders helped at the Allen Park Post Office. Members of Allen Park High School Robotics Team 815 helped at the Dearborn Heights Annex alongside Fish & Loaves volunteers. Palletco provided a truck to transport the food from both locations to Fish & Loaves, located on Northline Road in Taylor.

Allen Park resident Bob Cooper of Fish & Loaves said that residents donated more than 4,200 pounds of food to Allen Park carriers. Fish & Loaves received more than 42,000 pounds in all, including donations from postal patrons in Taylor, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights and Lincoln Park.

Fish & Loaves is the largest client-choice pantry in the state, spending \$250,000 in 2025 to serve 300 to 400 families a week. A Fresh Market food



distribution serves about 800 families each Saturday it is operational outside the pantry.

"This is our largest food drive of the year – by far," said Fish & Loaves CEO Stephanie McNees. "It helps lower our food costs and creates a big influx and variety of food, and helps keep our shelves stocked."

Carriers Mark Owen and Armando Barraza coordinated the food drive at the Allen Park Post Office.

"The food drive gives us the ability to give back to the people in our communities that need it," said Owen, the union steward. "To be able to be part of that is something that makes us feel good about our job, actually. It's a sense of pride."

Owen added that the collection is "physically demanding" on the carriers, who are delivering mail at the same time, but the cause is worth it.

"We're just happy to help out the community," Barraza said. "I moved here last year. I'm real happy to give back to the community. They've taken care of me."



Mark Owen and Armando Barraza were co-chairs of the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive at the Allen Park Post Office.

Barraza said they are grateful to Papa Romano's and Papa's Pizza for donating pizza, beverages and paper products to serve to carriers and volunteers on collection day.

Customer service supervisor Alex Suave said his 12 years of Catholic schooling at St. Mary Magdallen and St. Frances Cabrini instilled the importance of helping people in need. He and past supervisor Danielle Barrett partnered to create a video promoting the food drive.

"This is one of the longest-running food drives in the country," McNees said. "It's amazing how hard the carriers work on this. It truly takes a village."

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A Community Tradition

Allen Park Street Fair returns with more than 200 vendors, food trucks, free kid zone

By Kelsi Klein

THE Allen Park Street Fair will return to Downtown Allen Park this summer, transforming Allen Road into a festival full of live entertainment, more than 200 artist and craft vendors, food, family activities and fun for all.

In its 44th year, the highly anticipated community tradition is expected to draw over 75,000 residents and local visitors over the course of the two-day event.

The well-known festival took second place for “Best Local Event” last year in the News Herald’s Best of the Best.

“The street fair is very important to our community and is the city’s biggest signature event,” said festival chairperson Kyle Waligora.

The fair will run from 10 a.m.-9 p.m. on August 7-8, with live entertainment running until 11 p.m.

Local live bands are a hallmark of the festival. This year, headliners include The Family Tradition Band on Friday and Sunset Boulevard on Saturday, who will both take the Lee Family Dental stage from 8-11 p.m.

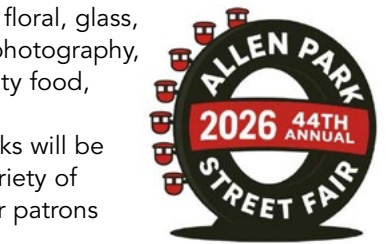
Vendors from across the United States travel to Allen Park to participate in one of Michigan’s largest street fairs and are selected through a jury process to maintain the fair’s longstanding reputation for high-quality goods.

The jury process includes a panel comprised of three people, including working artists and community members, with diverse backgrounds and skillsets. Vendors and crafters are selected based on quality and original handmade items including candles, ceramics, clothing,

digital art, drawing, fiber, floral, glass, jewelry, metal, painting, photography, pottery, sculpture, specialty food, wood and more.

More than 20 food trucks will be onsite, offering a wide variety of food, drinks and treats for patrons to enjoy during the fair.

This year, the Allen Park Street Fair is celebrating 60 years of the iconic Uniroyal tire, a historical landmark that has welcomed drivers along I-94 and has represented the city since 1966.



The tire was originally a Ferris wheel created for the 1964 New York World Fair and was later transported to Allen Park and displayed outside of U.S. Rubber’s Midwest corporate headquarters, becoming a landmark to those who call Metro Detroit home.

Tradition and community are major themes of the Allen Park Street Fair, with the festival

going strong for more than four decades and continuing to grow each year.

“It truly is a homecoming for our community,” Waligora said. “A lot of people who have moved out of the city always come back for it because they want to see their old friends and the city they grew up in.”

Last year, the Allen Park Street Fair introduced a completely free Kid Zone, which will return for 2026. Located in the middle of the fair near the old dollar show movie theater, the children’s area will feature inflatables,



arts and crafts and activities for kids completely free of charge.

Waligora explained that more than just putting on a great event, giving back to the community is a major goal of the street fair.

Each year, the Allen Park Festivities Commission raises money to support the city's charities and departments.

"We raise a lot of money to support our departments when they need just a little bit of extra funding on wish-list items," Waligora said

The Commission has funded exterior vests for the police department, noise-canceling headphones for the fire department's runs, new dugout



benches and picnic shelters for the parks and recreation department, new barricades for the department of public services and more.

"We take pride in keeping the street fair grassroots and family friendly but also making sure that we raise as much money as possible for our charities and events," Waligora said.

The Allen Park Street Fair would not be possible without the volunteer planning team who puts the event together each year.

For more information or to become an event sponsor, visit www.allenparkstreetfair.org.



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A World of Flavor IN ALLEN PARK

City offers tastes that will satisfy every palate

By Jamie Horn, Program and Event Coordinator, Allen Park DDA

A LLEN PARK may be known for its close knit community and hometown pride, but did you know one of its most delicious qualities is how far you can travel without ever leaving the city? From comforting classics to bold global flavors, Allen Park's international food scene reflects the diversity, curiosity and creativity of the people who call it home.



Local menus offer a passport's worth of options. You'll find richly spiced dishes that draw from Middle Eastern traditions, vibrant Mexican fare built on family recipes and Asian inspired plates that balance heat, sweetness and depth. Italian favorites and other European influences add to the mix, creating a dining landscape that feels both worldly and welcoming.

What makes these spots special isn't just the variety – it's the care behind the food. Many kitchens are rooted in generations of cooking, where techniques and flavors have been passed down, refined and proudly shared with the community. Others bring fresh perspectives, blending cultures and putting modern twists on traditional dishes. Whether you are ordering a familiar favorite or trying something entirely new, there's an unmistakable sense of intention in every plate.

Just as important as the flavors is the experience. These restaurants are gathering places – where families celebrate milestones, coworkers meet for lunch and neighbors become regulars. They invite conversation, connection and the joy of discovering new tastes together.

Allen Park's international food scene proves that you don't need a big city to eat well and explore the world. All you need is an open mind, a curious palate and a willingness to explore what's right here. One meal at a time, Allen Park brings the world to your table.

The Taco Stand Taqueria – 5038 Allen Road

The Taco Stand Taqueria is a family owned taco shop proudly rooted in the traditions of Jalisco, Mexico, bringing authentic, street inspired Mexican flavors to Allen Park. With a vision to become the



best and quickest spot for true Mexican street food, they've already won over the community, especially with favorites like the California Burrito and carne asada fries. This location also features outdoor counter seating, making it a great spot for a casual lunch date on a nice day while enjoying some of the most flavorful Mexican dishes in town.

Manuel's Taco Hut – 16806 Ecorse Road

Manuel's Taco Hut has been serving authentic Mexican food at reasonable prices since 1987, becoming a longtime favorite in the Allen Park community. One of the most popular choices is the combination



plate, which lets guests sample classics like tacos, enchiladas, tostadas, burritos, or tamales – a perfect way to explore the wide range of menu offerings. The restaurant is also known for going all out during Halloween and Christmas, when every inch of the space is transformed with festive, over the top holiday décor, adding even more charm to this beloved local spot.

El Jalapeño Mexican Restaurant – 4939 Allen Road

El Jalapeño brings the vibrant flavors of Mexico City right into the heart of Allen Park. Known for its authentic Mexican cuisine, the restaurant has earned a loyal following for dishes that highlight traditional recipes and bold, fresh ingredients. Diners especially appreciate the affordable



lunch menu, which makes it easy to enjoy a satisfying, flavorful meal any day of the week.

What truly sets El Jalapeño apart is its warm, welcoming atmosphere. The staff is known for their friendly, attentive service, creating the kind of neighborhood spot where guests feel like regulars from the moment they walk in.

Hungarian Strudel Shop – 6816 Park Avenue

The Hungarian Strudel Shop has been a neighborhood treasure for more than 40 years. Every batch is made from scratch, from the hand pulled dough to the fruit filled centers, with classic flavors like cherry, apple, cheese, blueberry, walnut, and apricot. Their strudels make wonderful gifts (one to share and one to keep for yourself!) and they remain extremely affordable despite their handcrafted quality.

The shop closes early, so be sure to check the hours before stopping by, and remember it's cash only to keep this old world tradition alive.



Liberati Italian Deli & Bakery – 7607 Allen Road

A longtime staple in Allen Park, Liberati Italian Deli & Bakery has been family owned and operated for more than 20 years, serving the community with the kind of warmth and tradition that defines classic Italian cooking. The deli offers a rotating lineup of hot, ready to go specials each day – comforting, hearty dishes that make it

easy to bring home a satisfying meal without sacrificing quality.

Their take and bake favorites, especially the lasagna and pizza, have earned a loyal following. Made with fresh ingredients and old world techniques, these dishes let customers enjoy the flavors



of a true Italian kitchen right at home. Liberati stands out for its blend of tradition, convenience and family driven hospitality.



Pink Garlic – 18625 Ecorse Road

Pink Garlic has quickly become one of Allen Park's standout destinations for authentic Indian cuisine. Since opening in March 2024, the restaurant has built its

reputation on a from scratch philosophy: every dish is crafted with high quality ingredients, and the team grinds and blends their own spices to create the deep, aromatic flavors that define traditional Indian cooking.

Among their most popular offerings is the butter chicken, a rich, velvety dish that showcases the kitchen's commitment to balance and technique. The sauce – slow simmered, fragrant and layered with freshly ground spices – has already earned a loyal following.



Pekin Tokyo – 15170 Southfield Road

Pekin Tokyo brings an Asian fusion flair to Allen Park with a menu that blends Chinese, Japanese and Thai favorites, including hibachi entrées, bento boxes and rolled

to order sushi made with fresh, high quality ingredients. Guests can dine in or take their meals to go, choosing from popular picks like the Dragon & Phoenix lunch special or the Triple Delight, for those who can't decide on just one flavor. It's a versatile spot with something to satisfy every kind of craving.



Yugen Asian Cuisine – 18736 Ecorse Road

Yugen Asian Cuisine is the newest addition to Allen Park's growing international food lineup, having opened its doors in March 2026. Specializing in halal Chinese

Flavor continued on page 24

Flavor continued from page 23



dishes, this fresh arrival is already earning a reputation for serving some of the best egg rolls around. Each dish is made fresh to order. With lunch specials and a menu built on high quality ingredients, careful

preparation and real attention to detail, Yugen is quickly becoming a must try spot for anyone exploring global flavors in the city.



Z Shawarma King – 15548 Southfield Road

Z Shawarma King brings bold Mediterranean flavor to Allen Park with its mouthwatering menu. The chicken and beef shawarma platters are fan favorites, carved fresh from the spit for maximum authenticity. They're known for their amazing sauces and generous portions, offering both dine in and take out options. With rich, traditional seasonings and a commitment to real, authentic taste, it's become a go to spot for shawarma lovers across the community.

Thai Vylai – 6555 Allen Road

Thai Vylai has been serving authentic Thai cuisine since opening in 2013, earning a reputation for offering one of the best and most diverse selections of Thai dishes in the greater Detroit area. Guests can customize their spice level to match their comfort, and the menu spans delicious appetizers, fragrant soups and flavorful entrées featuring duck, chicken and seafood. With its depth of flavor and commitment to true Thai cooking, Thai Vylai continues to be a standout destination for international cuisine lovers.



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A Heart for Service

Allen Park's Sherry Girard connects people to the care they need

By Ryan M. Place

FOR Sherry Girard, helping people isn't just a job. It's a calling shaped by decades of experience, compassion and a deep understanding of how complex life can become for seniors, people with disabilities and their families.

As a quality and compliance specialist at The Information Center in Taylor, Girard plays a key role behind the scenes, ensuring that some of Michigan's most vulnerable residents receive the support they need.

"We help people navigate systems that can feel overwhelming," she said. "Sometimes they just need a good listener who can also show them what options are out there."

The Information Center serves as a vital hub, connecting individuals to healthcare, housing, transportation, and Medicaid programs. It also operates Michigan Works! One Call, a single-entry phone line that connects residents to job training and employment services.

Girard's work focuses on ensuring compliance with state guidelines for Michigan's waiver programs.

"We have to follow very specific rules," she explained. "I review participant data to make sure people continue receiving essential services."

Born and raised in Eastpointe, Girard's path into healthcare started early. She earned an occupational therapy degree from Wayne County Community College in 2006.

"I remain licensed and certified," she said. "Then I pursued my bachelor's degree in healthcare administration from Baker College, and for years I worked in OT at Oakwood Skilled Nursing Center."

In June 2022, she joined The Information Center, where she's also created and hosts quarterly Consumer Advisory Council (CAC) meetings, giving participants a voice in how services are delivered.

"Our goal is to become part of Michigan's Quality Management Collaborative (QMC)," she said. "It's about making sure the people we serve are heard."

The Information Center has about 40 employees, including nurses and support coordinators.

"But it's much more than that," she said. "We're constantly finding ways to help, whether it's transitions services, food drives, or just guiding someone through a tough situation. And we're always looking to hire good RNs and LMSW social workers."

Outside of work, Girard has built a life rooted in Allen Park, where she's lived since 2000.

"We chose Allen Park because it felt like the perfect fit," she said. "It has that small-town feel but everything is close by. The neighborhoods are great and it's not overcrowded."

Their son Blake currently attends Cabrini and is active in the Cabrini Monarch Theatre Troupe (CMTT).

"That's been really special for us," she said. "Watching him perform and grow."

Girard enjoys simple pleasures close to home, from visits to Fairlane Green to dinners at Dunleavy's and The Streatory.



"We really value what this city offers," she said. "Including the library and the community center."

When not working, Girard and her family love heading Up North to their camper in Wellston.

"We also loved our Caribbean cruise to Barbados, where I swam with the dolphins," she said. "That was unforgettable."

Through every chapter of her life, Girard remains focused on helping others find stability, support and independence.

"Just knowing that options exist can change everything for someone," she said. "If I can help even a little, that means a lot."

In Allen Park and beyond, Sherry Girard continues making a difference every day.

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- Top 25 Scholar
- National Honor Society
- Principal's All Academic
- Principal's Scholar
- President's Academic Award for Excellence
- Advanced Placement Scholar with Honor

Hannah BOOHER



- Summa Cum Laude
- Top 25 Scholar
- Principal's All Academic
- Principal's Scholar
- President's Academic Award for Excellence
- Advanced Placement Scholar with Honor
- Department Award Recipient

April CARDINAL



- Summa Cum Laude
- Top 25 Scholar
- National Honor Society
- Principal's All Academic
- Principal's Scholar
- President's Academic Award for Excellence
- Community Award Recipient

Jordan BAKER



- Summa Cum Laude
- Top 25 Scholar
- Principal's All Academic
- Principal's Scholar
- President's Academic Award for Excellence
- Department Award Recipient

Connor BRAYMAN



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- Top 25 Scholar
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- Principal's Scholar
- President's Academic Award for Excellence
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- National Honor Society
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- Department Award Recipient

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- Principal's All Academic
- Principal's Scholar
- President's Academic Award for Excellence

Marcus BUCHANAN



- Summa Cum Laude
- Top 25 Scholar
- National Honor Society
- Principal's All Academic
- Principal's Scholar
- President's Academic Award for Excellence
- Community Award Recipient

Dylan DiCICCO



- Summa Cum Laude
- Top 25 Scholar
- National Honor Society
- Principal's All Academic
- Principal's Scholar
- President's Academic Award for Excellence
- Advanced Placement Scholar with Honor
- Community Award Recipient
- Department Award Recipient

Luke BIROSCAK



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- Top 25 Scholar
- Principal's All Academic
- Principal's Scholar
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Kayleigh CAMERON



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- Top 25 Scholar
- National Honor Society
- Principal's All Academic
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- Community Award Recipient

Aidan KLONOWSKI



- Summa Cum Laude
- Top 25 Scholar
- National Honor Society
- Principal's All Academic
- Principal's Scholar
- President's Academic Award for Excellence
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AnnaLeise McKAY



- Summa Cum Laude
- Top 25 Scholar
- National Honor Society
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- Principal's Scholar
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Luke FERONI



- Salutatorian
- Summa Cum Laude
- Top 25 Scholar
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- Principal's Scholar
- President's Academic Award for Excellence
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Luke MacDONALD



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- President's Academic Award for Excellence
- Advanced Placement Scholar with Distinction
- Community Award Recipient

Kaden HAMEL



- Summa Cum Laude
- Top 25 Scholar
- National Honor Society
- Principal's All Academic
- Principal's Scholar
- President's Academic Award for Excellence
- Advanced Placement Scholar with Distinction
- Department Award Recipient

Cameron MALDONADO



- Salutatorian
- Summa Cum Laude
- Top 25 Scholar
- Principal's All Academic
- Principal's Scholar
- President's Academic Award for Excellence
- Advanced Placement Scholar with Distinction
- Community Award Recipient
- Department Award Recipient

Hannah POWELL



- Summa Cum Laude
- Top 25 Scholar
- National Honor Society
- Principal's All Academic
- Principal's Scholar
- President's Academic Award for Excellence
- Advanced Placement Scholar with Distinction
- Community Award Recipient

Honors continued on page 30



Honors continued from page 29

Kylen ROWE



- Summa Cum Laude
- Top 25 Scholar
- National Honor Society
- Principal's All Academic
- President's Academic Award for Excellence
- Advanced Placement Scholar with Honor

Alyssa THOMAS



- Summa Cum Laude
- Top 25 Scholar
- Principal's All Academic
- Principal's Scholar
- President's Academic Award for Excellence
- Advanced Placement Scholar

Gregory TOMBLIN



- Summa Cum Laude
- Top 25 Scholar
- Principal's All Academic
- Principal's Scholar
- President's Academic Award for Excellence
- Advanced Placement Scholar with Distinction
- Community Award Recipient

Kayla VILLANUEVA



- Summa Cum Laude
- Top 25 Scholar
- National Honor Society
- Principal's All Academic
- Principal's Scholar
- President's All Academic Award for Excellence
- Advanced Placement Scholar with Distinction
- Community Award Recipient



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'The Game We Have Grown to Love'

Allen Park lacrosse program improving, looking to expand By Terry Jacoby

THE exciting sport of lacrosse is experiencing an unprecedented surge at the high school level, transitioning from a prep sport to one of the fastest-growing team sports in the country, with participation of more than 300,000 high school student-athletes. The Michigan High School Athletic Association officially recognized boys lacrosse as a sponsored varsity sport during the 2004-05 school year.

Allen Park's Brody McCleary first recognized the sport by watching ESPN.

"Brody played for a really competitive soccer team and as time went on, he grew away from the game," said Michael McCleary, Brody's dad. "The very first weekend we didn't travel for soccer with him, we caught a college lacrosse game on ESPN and he asked if they had it around here. A quick internet search got him onto a local team for the season before his freshman year of high school."

Brody quickly took to the sport, winning Defensive Player of the Year in his first season.

"I started playing in the middle of the eighth-grade spring season, and I really liked the fast-paced style of play," he said. "I fell in love with the game."

Allen Park High School didn't have a lacrosse team at the time so Michael McCleary looked into changing that.

"We began the process of starting a program here in Allen Park," Michael said. "We quickly found support with the Sexton family and their son Aidan. His mom, Ame, is our assistant head coach to this day. Together we were able to navigate the start of the program with the school district."

The Jaguars took the field for the first time in the spring of 2023. They started with 15 players, but the roster soon grew to 24 when word began to spread of this new team playing this fun sport.

"Only two of them had played the game before but we still managed to win two games that first year," said Michael, who has been the team's head coach since day one.

Of course, Brody was one of those two players.

"My freshman year was the first year we had the team so it was pretty chaotic, but it was really fun," Brody said. "Compared to this season it is crazy how much better we got and how cleaner the games were played compared to year one."

In his fourth and final year with the Jags, Brody scored 48 goals with three assists for a single season school-record 51 points. He finished his career with a school record of 115 goals and 126 points.

But the number that stands out the most for Brody is nine – the number of wins the Jags racked up his senior year.

"I'm most proud of how our team performed this season and how much better Allen Park lacrosse has become over the past few years," he said.

Allen Park finished the season with a 9-7 record that included a five-game winning streak later in the year. The Jags lost 21-2 to Warren De La Salle in a Division 2 pre-regional game on May 15.

Brody, 18, isn't done with the sport he fell in love with.

"Right now I am committed to Albion to play lacrosse and go to school there," he said. "I picked Albion because they have a nice campus and a good lacrosse team and staff."

And the sport of lacrosse will continue to grow and evolve at APHS.

"The plan now is to be prepared to create a full-time JV team and simultaneously create an Allen Park Middle School team," Michael said. "We feel this will better build our program for future growth and give younger players a chance to try the game we have grown to love here in Allen Park."





BOARD PROFILES

The Allen Park Downtown Development Authority (DDA) was formed in 1991 by the City of Allen Park. The DDA exists to help promote existing businesses, recruit and support new businesses, and improve the overall appearance of the large DDA district.

The DDA is governed by 11 volunteer individuals who serve on the Board of Directors. Board members are approved by City Council and serve four-year staggered terms. Three Board members are featured in this edition of Allen Park TODAY. Other Board members will be featured in upcoming editions.

**- Ben Hughes
Allen Park DDA Director**

Fred FRANK Chairperson

FRED Frank has served on the Allen Park DDA Board of Directors for over 10 years. A part-time attorney and "part-time grandparent," Fred has lived in Allen Park for 39 years.

As a longtime professional in the area, he accepted the nomination to be on the board with a heart of service, and some ideas he thought would make the downtown area more attractive.

"I thought I could offer something to Allen Park," he said. "One of the things that I have wanted for years is more public art and murals. The DDA is now fully on board and there will be more to come."

Like his fellow officers Frank Cieszkowski and Jeff Holden, he's interested in making the downtown district an attractive place for people to come shop, eat and hang out. He points to the DDA's Façade Grant program, which helps businesses improve the outdoor appearance of their space by reimbursing them for one-half their costs up to \$25,000. It's one of the most generous offers by a DDA in the metro area.



Fred also mentioned the DDA's upcoming streetscape project on Allen Road between Ecorse and Englewood.

"It's in the early planning stages," he said. "A planning firm is just beginning to work out possible designs that the DDA will share with building owners, businesses

and the community at a later date. We have a great staff that handle so much of the DDA's work – Ben, Jamie and Laura."

Frank and his wife are the happy and proud grandparents of three grandkids – two of whom live in Michigan, with one in New York state.

"They all like being in downtown Allen Park," Fred said.

At 9, 6 and 2, they may not be old enough to appreciate everything their grandpa is doing to improve Allen Park, but there's no harm in starting them early!

Jeff HOLDEN

Vice Chair

In his second year as Vice Chair, Jeff Holden sits on the Allen Park DDA Board of Directors as a representative of Culver's, a national chain that takes pride in getting involved with every community they serve.

As the marketing and community relations director for Culver's in Allen Park, Chelsea and Dundee, Holden takes his position seriously, and enjoys serving where he can.

"I love being on the board of the DDA," he said. "I want to be involved, and our owner/operator wants us to be involved in the community."

He stressed that there's a difference in just being part of the community versus being active.

"As part of the DDA board, I want to help make Allen Park a better place to live," he said. "It's always the bigger picture with me."

Despite significant improvements that have been made during his tenure, and more that are in the pipeline, Holden isn't satisfied.

"There's always more that can be done," he said. "How can we better market and advertise Allen Park? I'm specifically looking into wayfinding signs – similar to what malls have with the electronic kiosks – and putting those in key positions around the area."

He points to the community center and the Allen Park Plaza – the space where the theater used to be – as examples. It all adds up to making Downtown Allen Park a premier destination for both residents and visitors.



Frank CIESZKOWSKI

Board Secretary

A lifelong resident of Allen Park, Frank Cieszkowski has been serving on the Allen Park DDA Board of Directors for six years. He attended Allen Park schools, and owns a local business Digital Solutions – an onsite computer servicing, recovery, repair, setup, installation and support provider. His business sits in the heart of the DDA district, at 6617 Park Avenue.

His insight as a native Allen Parker, along with being a business owner for 25 years, has given Cieszkowski a unique perspective on the area. He was nominated by Mayor Gail McLeod to serve, which worked out well since Cieszkowski was looking for a way to contribute further to the city he loves, and is especially interested in making sure the downtown looks and feels welcoming to both residents and visitors alike.

"I want the city to look nice," he said. "If it looks good, you feel good when you enter the city."

He noted the improvements the City and the DDA have made in the last few years, including upgrading the lighting. He said the board is always looking for ways to make the downtown experience better for patrons.

Looking toward the future, Cieszkowski said he'd like to see the DDA provide coaching/information to businesses who may want to move into the area – helping to familiarize prospective tenants on empty spaces for rent, educate them on the rules for occupancy, etc.

"We should have a document that makes it easy to get information from the city," he said.

Cieszkowski gave credit to DDA Director Ben Hughes for being a resource people can turn to.

"Ben has been pretty good with bringing in businesses, and talking to people and steering them in the right direction," he said.

Cieszkowski is enjoying his time on the board and serving the community he grew up in. He and his wife Christina (they were high school sweethearts) share three kids – Aiden, 22; Logan, 19; and Brooke, 16.

"Allen Park is a tight-knit community," he said. "Everybody knows everybody and it has a good feel to it."

Safety First, Service Always

A MESSAGE FROM THE ALLEN PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

By Chief Eron Feltz

NOW that the warmer months are here, the Allen Park Police Department remains committed to the safety and well-being of every resident. To ensure our community remains a peaceful place to live and work, we would like to share a few essential public safety reminders:

- **Vehicle Security:** Please remember to "Lock It or Lose It." Ensure your vehicle doors are locked, windows are rolled up and all valuables – especially electronics and bags – are removed or hidden from plain sight.
- **Home Awareness:** As you begin outdoor projects, keep garage doors closed when not in use and ensure your home's exterior lighting is functional.
- **Pedestrian Safety:** With more residents walking and cycling, we urge drivers to remain vigilant at

crosswalks and obey all posted speed limits within residential neighborhoods.

- **Bicycle Safety and Laws:** Michigan Law (MCL 257.657 - 257.662) gives bicyclists the same rights and responsibilities as drivers.
 - Failure to Yield: Not vacating the right-of-way for motor vehicles.
 - Improper Lane Usage: Riding on the wrong side of the road.
 - Hazardous Maneuvers: Stunt riding that interferes with safe vehicle operation.

By staying proactive and looking out for one another, we continue to make Allen Park one of the safest communities in the region.

Welcoming THE NEXT GENERATION of Law Enforcement

THE Allen Park Police Department is proud to announce the addition of three new officers to our ranks. Please join us in welcoming Officer Brendan Wilds, Officer Jacob Patton and Officer Mohammed Alwishah, who just completed a grueling five-month field observation period.

These individuals have demonstrated a high level of dedication and character, and we are confident they will serve our city with distinction.

In addition to our new officers, we are pleased to introduce our newest sponsored cadet, Gavin Segrest. Gavin's entry into the department is a particularly special occasion for the APPD family.

Gavin is the son of Lieutenant Segrest, a long-standing and highly respected member of our department. In addition to his leadership within Allen Park, the lieutenant serves as the regional SWAT commander and is a dedicated



Officers (clockwise from above) Mohammed Alwishah, Jacob Patton and Brendan Wilds.



instructor at the police academy.

It is a distinct honor to welcome a father-son duo to the force, continuing a legacy of service and excellence within the Allen Park Police Department. We look forward to seeing Gavin and all our new recruits grow in their careers as they work to protect and serve our community.



MOTORISTS



Violating any of the laws listed below could result in a ticket.

Michigan law requires at least 3 feet of space when passing a bicyclist, measured from the vehicle's side mirror.

Drivers may safely pass a bicyclist in a no-passing zone.

- ◆ Travel at a speed that will allow for a safe stopping distance when following a bicyclist.

GENERAL RULES



- ◆ A city, township, or village can adopt these laws into their local ordinances.

A bicyclist is not impeding traffic when they are keeping to the edge of the road when possible and traveling with the flow of traffic.

- ◆ A local authority cannot adopt a local law that provides lesser penalties or that conflicts with the state laws.
- ◆ A local authority can adopt their own regulations for bicyclists, such as requiring registrations or licenses for bicycles.
- ◆ Bicycling offenses will not be recorded on a person's driver's license, except for offenses involving...
 - » A controlled substance
 - » A minor in possession of alcohol
 - » Open alcohol

REFERENCES FOR LAWS

DEFINITIONS

Bicycle	MCL 257.4
Highway or Street	MCL 257.20

BICYCLISTS

Rights and Duties of Bicyclists	MCL 257.657
Signals for Stopping or Turning	MCL 257.648
Keep Right	MCL 257.660a
Riding on Seat of Bicycle	MCL 257.658(1)
Multiple Riders	MCL 257.658(2)
Riding While Attached to a Vehicle	MCL 257.659
Riding More than Two Side by Side	MCL 257.660b
Limited Access Highways	MCL 257.679a
Operating on Sidewalks	MCL 257.660c
Parking on Sidewalks	MCL 257.660d
Carrying Packages	MCL 257.661
Lights and Reflectors	MCL 257.662(1)
Brakes	MCL 257.662(2)
Parents or Guardians	MCL 257.656(2)
Fail to Yield Right-of-Way	MCL 257.649
Fail to Yield-Left at Intersection	MCL 257.650
Fail to Stop-Leaving Private Drive	MCL 257.652
Disobey Stop, Yield, or Merge Sign	MCL 257.671
Disobey Traffic Signal	MCL 257.612, MCL 257.614
Careless Driving	MCL 257.626b
Impeding Traffic	MCL 257.676b

MOTORISTS

Three-Foot Passing Law	MCL 257.636(2) (3)
Bicycle Racks on Vehicles	MCL 257.225(2)
Following a Bicyclist (Basic Speed Law)	MCL 257.627(1)

GENERAL RULES

Uniform Traffic Code	MCL 257.951
Local Laws and Regulations	MCL 257.605, MCL 257.606
Secretary of State Master Driving Record	MCL 257.732





FOCUS ON FUN, NOT UNEXPECTED EMERGENCIES

Make the most of Michigan's best seasons with confidence By Fire Chief Jeff O'Riley

As the long Michigan winter fades into warm, sunny days, spring and summer offer the perfect excuse to step outside and reconnect with the people around us. Backyard barbecues, evening bonfires and fresh-cut lawns become part of daily life again. But while these seasonal traditions create lasting memories, they also come with safety considerations that shouldn't be overlooked.



The Hidden Risk in Yard Waste

Spring cleanup often leaves behind piles of grass clippings, mulch and bagged vegetation. What many homeowners don't realize is that these materials can generate heat as they decompose. In certain conditions, that heat can build to the point of ignition. To stay safe, store yard waste well away from your home and never keep it inside enclosed spaces like garages or sheds. A little distance can make a big difference in preventing a fire.

when cooking with high heat or grease.

Lithium-Ion Batteries: Power with Precaution

From smartphones and laptops to power tools and e-bikes, lithium-ion batteries power much of modern life. While they are efficient and reliable, improper use or storage can increase the risk of overheating, fire or even explosion. Avoid charging devices on flammable surfaces, use only manufacturer-approved chargers and never charge damaged batteries. Store batteries in a cool, dry place and keep them out of direct sunlight or extreme heat.



With a few simple precautions, you can keep the focus on fun – not unexpected emergencies.

Backyard Fire Pits: Cozy, Not Risky

There's nothing quite like gathering around a fire pit on a cool evening. Whether your pit is store-bought or a DIY project, it should always be fully enclosed and topped with a screen lid to prevent sparks and embers from drifting. Fuel matters too – stick to seasoned, dry wood, and avoid burning leaves, paper or yard debris. Placement is just as important: Fire pits should be positioned at least 10 feet away from your home, garage, shed, or property line to reduce the risk of flames spreading.



Grill Smart This Season

Barbecue grills are a staple of summer gatherings but they require regular maintenance to operate safely. Before firing yours up, check for grease buildup and clean it thoroughly. Inspect gas hoses for cracks or leaks and never use a grill indoors or too close to combustible surfaces like vinyl siding. It's also wise to keep an ABC-rated fire extinguisher within reach – especially

For more guidance on safe use and storage, the National Fire Protection Association offers a range of resources to help consumers understand and reduce the risks associated with lithium-ion batteries.

Warm weather is meant to be enjoyed, and a safe outdoor setup ensures that your gatherings remain memorable for all the right reasons. By taking a few preventive steps, you can relax, entertain and make the most of Michigan's best seasons with confidence.

TEDDY PETTY

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THE

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ALLEN PARK 2026 RESIDENTIAL SALES QUARTERLY REPORT

The figures below reflect residential sales for each quarter beginning with the third quarter of 2025 and ending with the first quarter of 2026.

2026 RESIDENTIAL SALES QUARTERLY REPORT			
Date	# Homes Sold	Average Sales Price	Change From Prior Quarter
10/1/2025 - 12/31/2025	97	\$230,872	
01/01/2026 - 03/31/2026	69	\$224,040	(\$6,832)
4/1/2026 - 6/30/2026			
7/1/2026 - 9/30/2026			
10/1/2026 - 12/31/2026			



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE

24000 Outer Drive
Allen Park, Michigan 48101
Phone (313) 928-0550 | Fax (313) 928-1674
www.cityofallenpark.org

Dear Homeowner,

We are pleased to present this year's Consumer Confidence Report concerning the water quality that the City of Allen Park provides to our citizens. We purchase our water from the Great Lakes Water Authority's (GLWA) Southwest Water Treatment Plant located here in Allen Park. The plant intake is located in the Detroit River. The drinking water provided to our citizens is safe and meets or exceeds federal and state requirements.

Please find enclosed GLWA's 2025 Regulated and Unregulated Detected and Contaminants Tables as reported to the EPA along with definitions and other information. As stated in prior reports, we have our water monitored on a regular basis at various sites throughout the city, including lead and copper testing. If you have a question, or problem with the water quality or service, please call (313) 928-0550 Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Tuesday meetings at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. The Water Department also has staff on call 24/7 to respond to emergency situations such as sewer problems, main breaks, shutoffs, etc. The Water Department can be contacted after hours through the non-emergency Police Department's number at (313) 386-7800.

Respectfully,

Aaron Filipski
Director
Allen Park Department of Public Service

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WATER QUALITY REPORT

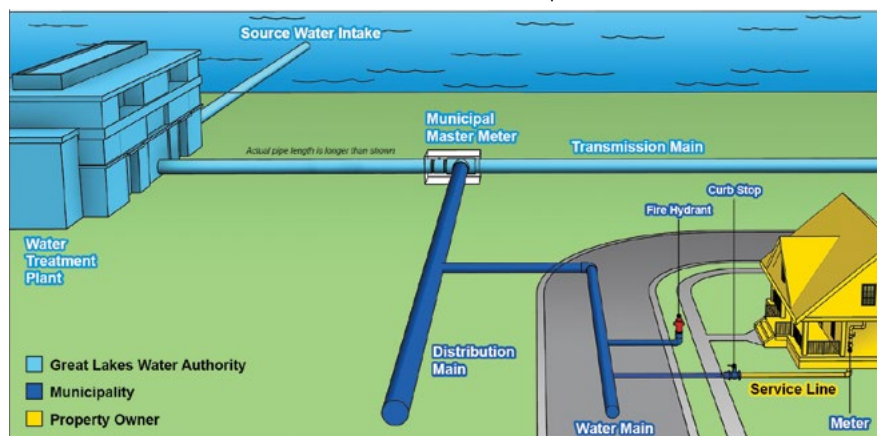


CITIZEN'S GUIDE

Every year, the City of Allen Park, like all other community water suppliers in Michigan, must develop an annual Water Quality Report to reach consumers in the city. This Citizen's Guide is meant to share easy to digest information "bites" from Allen Park's Water Quality Report. It is not intended to replace the full report. Consumers are encouraged to read the full Water Quality report. The City of Allen Park's official 2025 Water Quality Report is included after this Citizen's Guide in Allen Park Today.

Where does my water come from?

Your source water comes from the Detroit River, situated within the Lake St. Clair, Clinton River, Detroit River, Rouge River, Ecorse River, watersheds in the U.S. and parts of the Thames River, Little River, Turkey Creek and Sydenham watersheds in Canada. It is transported from Great Lakes Water Authority water treatment plants in transmission lines into city distribution mains. The city of Allen Park is served primarily from the Southwest Treatment Plant.



What's in my water?

We are pleased to report that your drinking water meets or exceeds all government standards set for water quality and safety.

Why would there be contaminants in my water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

SAFE DRINKING WATER IS ALL OUR RESPONSIBILITY

Safe drinking water is a shared responsibility. The water that GLWA delivers to our community does not contain lead. Lead can leach into drinking water through home plumbing fixtures, and in some cases, customer service lines. Corrosion control and proper maintenance of home or business plumbing fixtures reduces the risk of lead and copper from leaching into your water.

If at any time you notice a change in the look, smell or taste of your drinking water, please contact (313) 928-0550. For more information about the Water & Sewer Department, go to <https://www.cityofallenpark.org/Services-Departments/Public-Services/Water-Sewer.aspx>

2025 WATER REPORT

Detroit River Intakes Source Water Assessment Mandatory

Your source water comes from the Detroit River, situated within the Lake St. Clair, Clinton River, Detroit River, Rouge River, Ecorse River, watersheds in the U.S. and parts of the Thames River, Little River, Turkey Creek and Sydenham watersheds in Canada. The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, and the Michigan Public Health Institute performed a source water assessment in 2004 to determine the susceptibility of GLWA's Detroit River source water for potential contamination. The susceptibility rating is based on a seven-tiered scale and ranges from very low to very high determined primarily using geologic sensitivity, water chemistry, and potential contaminant sources. The report described GLWA's Detroit river intakes as highly susceptible to potential contamination. However, GLWA's Southwest water treatment plant that draws water from the Detroit River has historically provided satisfactory treatment and meet drinking water standards.

GLWA has initiated source-water protection activities that include chemical containment, spill response, and a mercury reduction program. GLWA participates in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit discharge program and has an emergency response management plan. GLWA has an updated surface water intake protection plan for both the Fighting Island and Belle Isle intakes. The plan has seven elements that include: roles and duties of government units and water supply agencies, delineation of a source water protection areas, identification of potential sources of contamination, management approaches for protection, contingency plans, siting of new water sources, public participation and public education activities. If you would like to know more information about the Source Water Assessment report please, contact GLWA at (313) 926-8127.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it can dissolve naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic

systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharge, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in the water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for human health.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, persons with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

Information about lead: Safe drinking water is a shared responsibility. The water that GLWA delivers to our community does not contain lead. Lead can leach into drinking water through home plumbing fixtures, and in some cases, customer service lines. Corrosion control reduces the risk of lead and copper from leaching into your water. Orthophosphates are added during the treatment process as a corrosion control method to create a protective coating in service pipes throughout the system, including in your home or business. The City of Allen Park performs required lead and copper sampling and testing in our community. Water consumers also have a responsibility to maintain the plumbing in their homes and businesses and can take steps to limit their exposure to lead.

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed) and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. City of Allen Park is responsible for

Water Report continued on page 42

providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry, or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for at least 5 minutes to flush water from both your home plumbing and the lead service line. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact City of Allen Park Water Department at (313) 928-3393 for available resources. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead/>.

There is no safe level of lead in drinking water.

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney, or nervous system problems.

Infants and children who drink water containing lead could experience delays in their physical and mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

CCR LCR Content Requirement:

Water supplies shall include the number of lead service lines, the number of service lines of unknown material, and the total number of service lines in the supply in their CCR.

City of Allen Park Service Line Data

Number of known lead service lines	149
Number of service lines of unknown material	1,536
Total number of service lines in the supply	11,770

A detailed table of information regarding these service lines is available online at the City of Allen Park's website under Departments → Department of Public Service → Water & Sewer → Responsibilities → Scroll down to Water Reports. The direct link for the web page the file is located at is: https://www.cityofallenpark.org/departments/departments_of_public_service/water___sewer/responsibilities.php

The following mineral table is provided but is not required for the CCR.

2025 Southwest Tap Water Mineral Analysis										
Parameter	Units	Max.	Min.	Avg.	Parameter	Units	Max.	Min.	Avg.	
Turbidity	N.T.U.	0.8	0.05	0.06	Phosphorus	mg/L	0.87	0.57	0.78	
Total Solids	mg/L	165	82	134	Free Carbon Dioxide	mg/L	15.3	5.6	11.2	
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	158	69	119	Total Hardness	mg/L	142	96	109	
Aluminum	mg/L	0.089	0.013	0.042	Total Alkalinity	mg/L	76	62	69	
Iron	mg/L	0.3	ND	0.2	Carbonate Alkalinity	mg/L	0	0	0	
Copper	mg/L	0.034	ND	0.004	Bi-Carbonate Alkalinity	mg/L	76	62	69	
Magnesium	mg/L	8.8	7.2	8.0	Non-Carbonate Hardness	mg/L	72	31	40	
Calcium	mg/L	35.3	24.8	28.1	Chemical Oxygen Demand	mg/L	22.6	ND	4.6	
Sodium	mg/L	9.0	0.4	4.1	Dissolved Oxygen	mg/L	19.3	7.5	12.4	
Potassium	mg/L	1.6	1.0	1.1	Nitrite Nitrogen	mg/L	ND	ND	0.0	
Manganese	mg/L	0.002	ND	0.000	Nitrate Nitrogen	mg/L	1.15	0.18	0.43	
Lead	mg/L	ND	ND	0.000	Fluoride	mg/L	0.72	0.27	0.54	
Zinc	mg/L	0.002	ND	0.000	pH		7.37	6.96	7.11	
Silica	mg/L	3.9	1.0	2.1	Specific Conductance @ 25 °C	µmhos	258	168	228	
Sulfate	mg/L	38.5	21.7	30.4	Temperature	°C	25.7	1.4	12.2	
Chloride	mg/L	16.4	10	11.8						

2025 Southwest Regulated Detected Contaminants Table

2025 Inorganic Chemicals - Annual Monitoring at Plant Finished Tap								
Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Health Goal MCLG	Allowed Level MCL	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detection	Violation	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Fluoride	02-11-2025	ppm	4	4	0.50	n/a	no	Erosion of natural deposit; Water additive, which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate	02-11-2025	ppm	10	10	0.35	n/a	no	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

Lead and Copper Monitoring at the Customer's Tap in 2025								
Regulated Contaminant	Unit	Year Sampled	Health Goal MCLG	Action Level AL	90 th Percentile Value*	Range of Individual Samples Results	Number of Samples Over AL	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Lead	ppb	2025	0	12	9	0-164	2	Lead services lines, corrosion of household plumbing including fittings and fixtures; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	ppm	2025	1.3	1.3	0.1	0-1.4	1	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

* The 90th percentile value means 90 percent of the homes tested have lead and copper levels below the given 90th percentile value. If the 90th percentile value is above the AL (action level) additional requirements must be met. The lead action level exceedance threshold, which requires additional communications and responses on the part of the city changed in 2025 to 12ppb from 15ppb.

2025 Disinfection Residual - Monitoring in the Distribution System								
Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Health Goal MRDLG	Allowed Level MRDL	Highest Level RAA	Range of Quarterly Results	Violation	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Chlorine Residual	2025	ppm	4	4	0.71	0.59-0.79	no	Water additive used to control microbes

2025 Disinfection By-Products - Stage 2 Disinfection By-Products Monitoring in the Distribution System								
Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Health Goal MCLG	Allowed Level MCL	Highest Level LRAA	Range of Quarterly Results	Violation	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2025	ppb	n/a	80	35	10-63	no	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2025	ppb	n/a	60	15	7-31	no	By-product of drinking water chlorination

2025 Turbidity - Monitored Every 4 Hours at the Plant Finished Water Tap					
Highest Single Measurement Cannot Exceed 1 NTU	Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Turbidity Limit of 0.3 NTU (minimum 95%)			Violation	Major Sources in Drinking Water
0.1 NTU	100%			no	Soil Runoff

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system

2025 Special Monitoring						
Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level Detected	Source of Contaminant
Sodium	02-11-2025	ppm	n/a	n/a	6.8	Erosion of natural deposits

Regulated Contaminant	Treatment Technique	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Organic Carbon ppm	The Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal ratio is calculated as the ratio between the actual TOC removal and the TOC removal requirements. The TOC is measured each quarter and because the level is low, there is no requirement for TOC removal.	Erosion of natural deposits

These tables are based on tests conducted by GLWA in the year 2024 or the most recent testing done within the last five calendar years. GLWA conducts tests throughout the year, only tests that show the presence of a substance or require special monitoring are presented in these tables. The state allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. The data is representative of the water quality, but some are more than one year old.

The following mineral table is provided but is not required for the CCR.

2025 Springwells Tap Water Mineral Analysis										
Parameter	Units	Max.	Min.	Avg.	Parameter	Units	Max.	Min.	Avg.	
Turbidity	N.T.U.	0.16	0.02	0.08	Phosphorus	mg/L	1.07	0.77	0.89	
Total Solids	mg/L	172	41	130	Free Carbon Dioxide	mg/L	12.5	1.7	9.6	
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	145	75	117	Total Hardness	mg/L	130	97	106	
Aluminum	mg/L	0.122	0.019	0.054	Total Alkalinity	mg/L	76	66	71	
Iron	mg/L	0.3	ND	0.2	Carbonate Alkalinity	mg/L	0	0	0	
Copper	mg/L	0.001	ND	0.000	Bi-Carbonate Alkalinity	mg/L	76	66	71	
Magnesium	mg/L	8.6	6.9	7.6	Non-Carbonate Hardness	mg/L	58	27	34	
Calcium	mg/L	28.5	24.3	26.4	Chemical Oxygen Demand	mg/L	9.3	ND	2.6	
Sodium	mg/L	6.1	0.4	3.4	Dissolved Oxygen	mg/L	13.0	7.0	10.1	
Potassium	mg/L	1.2	0.9	1.0	Nitrite Nitrogen	mg/L	ND	ND	0.0	
Manganese	mg/L	ND	ND	0.000	Nitrate Nitrogen	mg/L	0.47	0.22	0.30	
Lead	mg/L	ND	ND	0.000	Fluoride	mg/L	0.78	0.48	0.61	
Zinc	mg/L	ND	ND	0.000	pH		7.92	7.05	7.21	
Silica	mg/L	2.6	1.3	1.8	Specific Conductance @ 25 °C	µmhos	232	135	211	
Sulfate	mg/L	29.5	21.7	25.7	Temperature	°C	26.1	2.5	13.6	
Chloride	mg/L	12.1	9.5	11.0						

Key to the Detected Contaminants Table

Symbol	Abbreviation	Definition/Explanation
>	Greater than	
°C	Celsius	A scale of temperature in which water freezes at 0° and boils at 100° under standard conditions.
AL	Action Level	The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
HAA5	Haloacetic Acids	HAA5 is the total of bromoacetic, chloroacetic, di-bromoacetic, dichloroacetic, and trichloroacetic acids. Compliance is based on the total.
Level 1	Level 1 Assessment	A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our system.
LRAA	Locational Running Annual Average	The average of analytical results for samples at a particular monitoring location during the previous four quarters.
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level	The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal	The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow a margin of safety.
MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level	The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MRDLG	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal	The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
n/a	not applicable	
ND	Not Detected	
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units	Measures the cloudiness of water.
pCi/L	Picocuries Per Liter	A measure of radioactivity
ppb	Parts Per Billion (one in one billion)	The ppb is equivalent to micrograms per liter. A microgram = 1/1000 milligram.
ppm	Parts Per Million (one in one million)	The ppm is equivalent to milligrams per liter. A milligram = 1/1000 gram.
RAA	Running Annual Average	The average of all analytical results for all samples during the previous four quarters.
SMCL	Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level	
TT	Treatment Technique	A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
TTHM	Total Trihalomethanes	Total Trihalomethanes is the sum of chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane and bromoform. Compliance is based on the total.
µmhos	micromhos	Measure of electrical conductance of water

GLWA Addendum to the 2025 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)

The following item must be included in your CCR if any of your water was received from Springwells, Northeast, or Southwest water treatment plants:

Regulated Contaminant	Test Date	Unit	Allowed Level MCL	Highest Level Detected	Range of Detection	Violation	Major Sources in Drinking Water
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	03-11-2025	ng/L	4	2	ND-2	no	Industrial manufacturing sites, fire-fighting foams (AFFF) used at airports/military bases, and waste management facilities like landfills.

The key to detected contaminants must have the following definition added as also:

Symbol	Abbreviation	Definition/Explanation
ng/L	Nanograms per liter	The ng/L is equivalent to nanogram per liter. A nanogram = 1/1,000,000 milligram.

Communities served in any part by Southwest water treatment plant and NOT by the Springwells water treatment plant.

Required information on Great Lakes Water Authority's (GLWA) Administrative Compliance Agreement (ACA) with Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy Drinking Water and Environment Health Division (EGLE):

Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) is required to notify water users of any unresolved significant deficiencies identified by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, Drinking Water and Environment Health Division (EGLE). Below is the status of significant deficiencies in the GLWA water system identified by EGLE:

Date Identified by EGLE	Description	Compliance Agreement Deadline	Status
08-02-2022	Improper rapid mixing and coagulant feed location at the Southwest water plant	12-31-2027	Contractor is in place and the work has been initiated.
08-02-2022	Inoperable flocculation equipment at the Southwest water plant	07-31-2031	Review stage of procurement process.

Communities served in any part by BOTH Springwells water treatment plant and the Southwest water treatment plant.

Required information on Great Lakes Water Authority's (GLWA) Administrative Compliance Agreement (ACA) with Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy Drinking Water and Environment Health Division (EGLE):

Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) is required to notify water users of any unresolved significant deficiencies identified by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, Drinking Water and Environment Health Division (EGLE). Below is the status of significant deficiencies in the GLWA water system identified by EGLE:

Date Identified by EGLE	Description	Compliance Agreement Deadline	Status
08-02-2022	Improper rapid mixing and coagulant feed location at the Southwest water plant	12-31-2027	Contractor is in place and the work has been initiated.
08-02-2022	Inoperable flocculation equipment at the Southwest water plant	07-31-2031	Review stage of procurement process.
05-25-2022	Inoperable rapid mixing equipment at the Springwells 1930's water plant	12-31-2023	Completed in December 2023.
05-25-2022	Inoperable flocculation equipment at the Springwells 1958 water plant	11-11-2027	Phase I construction is completed as of December 2024. Phase II scheduled to begin in the fall of 2025.

DECODING EGGS

What are you really getting?

By Lisa Howard

EGGs can seem mysterious. Fortunately, with a little know-how, it's (mostly) easy to figure out what kind of eggs would suit your needs.

Eggs are particularly lovely combined with spring ingredients like mushrooms, alliums and fresh herbs, and they can be prepared in a variety of ways: baked into quiches (or mini quiches), sautéed into frittatas, hard-boiled, poached, made into omelets or scrambled. (If necessary, a tattered omelet can easily become a tidy scramble.)

As a complete protein, eggs are ideal for light-but-hearty meals as well as non-starchy desserts like custards and mousses. You can even make your own top-notch mayo using hard-boiled yolks and extra-virgin olive oil!

Eggshell colors can be shades of white, brown and blue. Different breeds lay different-colored eggs, making this factor kind of like human hair colors. While you might prefer blue eggshells (or hair), the color doesn't impact the quality or flavor of the egg.

Egg size can matter when you're cooking from recipes since most recipes are based on large eggs. If you opt for jumbo or peewee or any size other than large, your results might not match what the recipe stipulates. But you might want to use nonlarge eggs for other uses, like adorably small, hard-boiled eggs. (Quail eggs are even smaller.)

Egg grades are AA, A and B. Grade A is what's mostly sold in stores. According to CertifiedHumane.org, AA eggs have "thick, firm whites and high, round yolks and strong shells," while Grade A eggs have "reasonably firm" whites. Grade B eggs have "thin whites and wider yolks" and their shells may be stained. (You won't see those in stores.)

The pack date is the day the eggs were washed, graded and placed in the carton. This date is expressed using the three-digit Julian calendar, where January 1st is 001 and December 31st is 365. (So February 1st is 032.)

Free-range eggs are from hens allowed access to the outside. Technically, this "access" can be a tiny window high up in the wall or a tiny hatch leading to a paved parking lot. It can also be full outdoor access, making this label not as useful as you might think.

Pasture-raised eggs come from hens that probably are truly outside, roaming and foraging. But because the USDA doesn't

have requirements for this label, shoppers need to look for an animal welfare certification such as Certified Humane Raised and Handled or Animal Welfare Approved.

Organic eggs come from hens that are, according to the USDA, "free to roam in their houses and have access to the outdoors. The hens are fed an organic diet of feed produced without conventional pesticides or fertilizers." Again, though, "free-range" is a rather imprecise term.

Cage-free eggs are from hens that aren't kept in individual tiny pens. However, this has nothing to do with outdoor access or how much space hens actually have.

Vegetarian-fed eggs are from hens who are only fed vegetarian fare. But! As the saying goes, "The early bird gets the worm." Chickens are omnivores, not herbivores. If a hen is allowed to go outside, she will not be a vegetarian.

Hormone-free is meaningless since U.S. federal law requires that hens be raised without supplemental hormones.

Natural, farm-fresh, and all-natural mean essentially nothing. Per the USDA, "All raw single-ingredient meat and poultry qualify as 'natural.'"

Lisa Howard is a writer, editor and health educator who loves to share her joy of cooking delicious and nutritious foods during her community talks and culinary classes. You can find out more about her classes and recipes at www.theculturedcook.com.



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Promotional Partners



Helping Your Teen Navigate Friendships

By Tracy Willis

So much of middle school and high school drama revolves around friendships. When your child reaches their teen years, friends can morph from besties into enemies, seemingly overnight. The desire to fit in with a social group comes with tons of pressure. Add social media into the mix, and friendships can feel like tiptoeing through a minefield.

Navigating the ups and downs of adolescent friendships is a rite of passage. How can you help your child manage the drama?

Begin by helping your teen think about the qualities they value in their current friends. What traits do they exemplify? Point these characteristics out when you see them in other people. Encourage them to seek friends who have the qualities they value.

Next, teach your teen to recognize the trouble signs in friendships. Discuss dysfunctional friendship patterns like one-sidedness, jealousy, competitiveness, or exclusion. Help your teen build emotional awareness: how does the friendship make you feel? Do you feel unsure or unsupported when you're around a certain friend? A big part of navigating friendships for teens is learning that they deserve to be treated well within the relationship.

Boundaries. It's a popular word that seems to be everywhere lately. It's the foundation of healthy friendships and relationships. Reassure your child that it's okay to assert themselves, to say "no" to friends, and to communicate honestly about their own limits and to respect the limits of others.

And finally, talk openly with your teen about rejection and exclusion. They're a normal aspect of life that everyone deals with. Let them know that rejection doesn't define their worth. It may feel like it does, but that's a normal feeling, too. There's nothing wrong with asking for support when those big feelings well up.

Even if you talk with your child about their friendships until you're blue in the face, chances are they will still ride the friendship rollercoaster. Pay attention to your teen's behaviors:

- Are they withdrawing from social situations?
- Do they seem sadder or irritable after social commitments or time on social media?
- Are they complaining frequently about certain friends?
- Are they engaging in negative self-talk?

Tuning into your teen on a regular basis will help you know when they need more support, as well as the level of support they might need.

Most of us have cringy teen memories about our own over-involved parents. Giving the right amount and type of support feels like riding a bucking bronco at the rodeo. Here are some things to avoid while you're riding that bull:

1. Don't minimize their feelings or qualify them as being "right" or "wrong."
2. Avoid criticizing their friends. Remember, a week from now, they might be besties again. Criticism makes communication shut down when your teen becomes defensive.
3. Don't pry. This is a hard one. You want to know the ins and outs of the situation, but your teen is learning to be independent. Respect their boundaries (it's how they learn to have boundaries themselves).
4. You're not a friendship mechanic. Don't try to fix it unless there are extreme circumstances. Leaping in with your relationship wrench undermines your child's confidence.

It's hard to watch your child struggle. Remind your teen that facing challenges is about growth. They might not have it all figured out yet, but they're moving in the right direction.

Tracy has been teaching for over 30 years in and out of Michigan. She currently teaches middle school and spends her free time writing for publications and small businesses. When she's not putting pencil to paper or dreaming up ways to inspire her English students, she can be found in the woods on the trails.





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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 discount for those that sign up for Diving and Swimming.

Swim & Dive Club Placement Tests

September 1, 6:00 p.m.

September 8, 6:00 p.m.

Anderson High School Natatorium
15475 Leroy, Southgate, MI



Enroll Today!



AROUND Allen Park

June - August

ONGOING

- Visit the Allen Park Farmers Market every Friday through October 23 from 3-7 p.m. at the corner of Park Avenue and Philomene Boulevard in Downtown Allen Park. There will be a variety of local vendors, including artisan and hot foods, handcrafted items and more. The market will be closed on July 3 and September 4. For more information, visit www.downtownallenpark.org.



- Each first and third Thursday of the month through October, attend an Allen Park Block Party. This new event series will feature family-friendly activities, unique themes, curated vendors, live music, food and more. For a list of themes and locations, visit www.downtownallenpark.org.

- Allen Park Parks and Recreation will be providing Mobile Recreation from June 15 through July 24 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on Mondays at Sudman Park, Tuesdays at Humpty Dumpty Tot Lot and Wednesdays at Moore Park. Families can enjoy five weeks of crafts, games and summer fun. The program will not run the week of June 29. For more information visit www.cityofallenpark.org.



- Children are invited to Lemonade in the Shade presented by Allen Park Parks and Recreation at Moore Park from 12:30-2 p.m. on June 24, July 8 and July 22. Enjoy lemonade, live music by Kevin Devine and "The Balloon Guy" Steve Donohue. Find out more at www.cityofallenpark.org.

JUNE

June 18

Chrome and Classics Car Show

4-9 p.m.

Downtown Allen Park

Attend the free, family-friendly event and enjoy a variety of classic cars, food and summer fun. For more information, visit www.downtownallenpark.org.

JULY

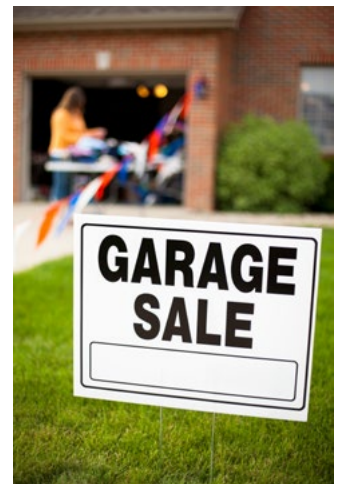
July 18

14th Annual Touch-a-Truck

10 a.m.-2 p.m.

15655 Southfield Road (Behind Culver's)

The whole family is invited to join the interactive adventure and get up close and personal with fire trucks, police cruisers, construction equipment and more at this free event. Learn more at www.downtownallenpark.org.



August 13-16

City-Wide Garage Sale

9 a.m.-4 p.m.

There is a \$10 garage sale permit required to participate in the city-wide sale and registration ends July 31. Permits can be obtained at the Parks and Recreation Office, 15800 White Avenue. Addresses/maps will also be available at the Parks and Rec Office for \$1 starting August 7. For more information, call (313) 928-0771.

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



AUGUST

August 6-7

Allen Park Street Fair

10 a.m.-11 p.m.

Downtown Allen Park

Celebrate one of Downriver's favorite festivals and enjoy vendors, crafters, food, live entertainment and more.

For more information, visit www.allenparkstreetfair.org.

Allen Park Market Update

Homes Sold: 51

Average sale: \$265,000

Days on Market: 44

CENTURY 21
Curran & Oberski



15107 Aster Ave, Allen Park
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