

Naturally Connected

February 2025

“Focused on Freedom” The Albion Branch NAACP’s Future

After 18+ years of service, **Robert (Bob) Dunklin** has step down as the **President of the Albion Branch NAACP**. Dunklin has been an integral part of the organization, fighting for freedom and equity not only in Albion but in our state and our nation. When Albion community members think of the Albion Branch NAACP, more likely than not, their minds think of Dunklin. His kind heart, intentionality, and dedication have **left major shoes to fill**.

Stepping into the role is **Ronnie Sims**, life-long Albionite and committed NAACP member. After being approached multiple times to apply for the role, Sims found it in his spirit to take on this work and is **approaching it head on with some big plans!**

One of Sims’ focuses is reinstating the ACT-SO program of the NAACP. This program recognizes the talents and skills of our youth through programming geared to enhance and compete. Branches across the state and nation gather throughout the year for ACT-SO competitions. Sims believes this program allows students to learn to be bold, confident, and gain key life skills. Marquette Frost and Andrea Armstrong will be heading up this program.

Inside!
“Celebrating Black History Month”
“Love is in the Air” - Celebrate love this Valentine’s Day all week long with some exciting Albion plans!



This Black History Month, the Albion Branch NAACP will be hosting **Founder’s Day on February 8th** at the Marshall Opportunity High School from 3PM – 4:30PM. Founder’s Day is one way the NAACP shares their origin: the who, what, when, and the continued why. This event is for the whole community to learn through presentations and involvement. It is also a great chance to join the NAACP.

Sims has hit the ground running as President by challenging the organization to get 100 new members in 2025. This effort will take the work of all current members, but also the community. As Sims shared **“what affects me, affects you”**, and the NAACP is for all people, no matter your race, because **the fight for justice and equity is a fight for all**.

Stay informed with the Albion Branch NAACP through their Facebook page @AlbionNAACP, and their website AlbionNAACP.org. Look for updates in the coming months.

Celebrating Black History Month

Black History Month is an annual celebration that highlights the achievements of Black people throughout our history and culture. Black History Month is an expansion of the work of historian Carter G. Woodson. Woodson founded the “Association for the Study of Negro Life and History” in 1915 that aimed “for Black scholars to study and preserve Black history”¹ after observing the white-dominated American Historical Association having little interest in Black history.¹ This organization went on to establish “Negro History Week” in 1926 to celebrate and share Black history throughout communities and schools.

As the years went by, mayors adopted the weeklong celebrations and on college campus the week was evolving into a month.² In 1976, President Gerald Ford officially recognized February as Black History Month.²

Today the celebration continues, and here are some upcoming Black History Month events in Albion!

Taste of Blackness

5PM - 8PM Thursday, February 13th
Albion College Upper Baldwin

Join Albion College’s Black Student Alliance for the annual “Taste of Blackness” dinner! This immersive event will take your taste buds across the global with traditional Black dishes throughout the Black diaspora. Explore the depth and diversity of Black cuisine, each dish steeped in history and tradition.

All are welcome to this celebration! It kicks off at 5PM in Upper Baldwin on Albion College’s campus. The event will go until 8PM, with a small price to experience some truly amazing cuisine.

Albion Celebrates Its Black Artists

February 27th - March 1
Ismon House

Immerse yourself in Albion’s culture and art at Albion Celebrates Its Black Artists presented by the Albion Arts Commission. View the local talents of Albion through numerous mediums including painting, etching, fabric art, jewelry and so much more. This showcase is featuring works that reflect significant history, ethnicity, or cultural values.

Join the Arts Commission:
Thursday, February 27, 6 - 8PM

Friday, February 28, 5 - 8PM
Soul food available for purchase

Saturday, March 1, 12 - 4PM
Soul food available for purchase

It is important to remember that although there is a concerted effort in February to celebrate Black history, Black history is American history, and should be celebrated, learned, and highlighted all year long.



Sources:
1. “Carter G. Woodson.” NAACP.org.
2. History.com Editors “Black History Month” HISTORY.com. January 29, 2024.

February Albion community calendar inside! →



Love is in the Air

Celebrate love this Valentine's Day all week long with some exciting Albion plans!

Paint & Sip Fundraiser for Rotary Club of Albion

6PM Monday, February 10th
Galazio of Albion
Kick off your Valentine's celebrations with the Rotary Club of Albion's Paint and Sip Fundraiser! Unlock your inner artist and create your next masterpiece with step-by-step instructions from Annette Lerma. Immerse yourself in culture and cuisine at Galazio of Albion all while supporting the Rotary's numerous community projects and collaborations.

Tickets are \$50 and include all the needed supplies and appetizers provided by Galazio's. Wine will be available by the glass. To reserve your seat contact Stephanie Shepherd at (517) 607-8106, or shephest717@gmail.com. Tickets are limited!

True Love Tuesdays

7PM Every Tuesday in February
Bohm Theatre
Catch a true love story at the Bohm every Tuesday for the month of February! The Tuesday before Valentine's Day enjoy *Somewhere in Time*, the 1980 film following the love obsession of Richard Collier as he travels in time to be with Elise McKenna, a turn-of-the-century stage actress. Enjoy the screening for only \$5, plus add a small combo, popcorn and drink, for just \$5.

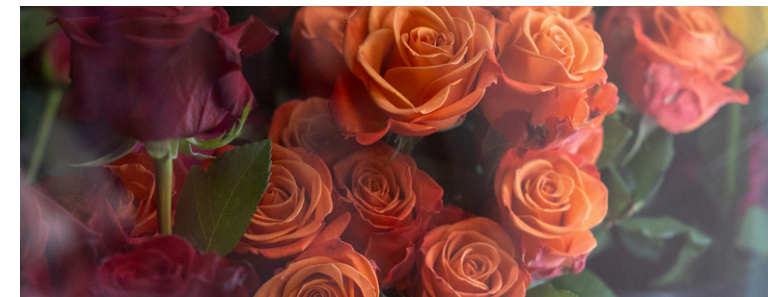
Other screenings include February 4th *When Harry Met Sally*, February 18th *In the Good Old Summer*, and February 25th *Casablanca*.



Chocolates from Yellow Bird Chocolate Shop.

Tumbler Decorating

5:30PM - 7PM Wednesday, February 12th
Pure Albion
Continue your celebrations at Pure Albion for a fun, hands-on Galentine's event. Grab your friends, sisters, moms, and partners and come decorate your own glass tumbler! Choose between a 24oz tumbler for \$25 or a 16oz tumbler for \$20, to decorate with a wide array of precut vinyl designs. Tumblers include a bamboo lid and straw, perfect to sip your iced coffees, mixed drinks, and teas!



Flowers from Anna's House of Flowers

Valentine's Day Plans

Spend your special evening with your partner in Albion. Choose from one of the various local eats, from legendary burgers, tasty tacos, or delicious Mediterranean. It will be hard to decide.

After your romantic dinner, stroll down to the Bohm Theatre to catch new release of *Captain America Brave New World* or *Paddington in Peru* movie showings. Munch on some yummy popcorn from their Couples Combo, large popcorn and two drinks, and enjoy a sweet treat as you and your loved one cuddle up for showtime.

Is dancing more your thing? Grab your dancing shoes and make your way to the Marshall Opportunity High School for "A Valentines Day Dance", presented by the Albion High School Alumni Association. Connect with the community for a fun night of music and food. Only \$10 to enter, and proceeds support the Alumni Association's endeavors. Dance the night away from 7PM to 10PM.

Community Updates



Listen to the Brick by Brick Podcast!

Learn about Albion's change makers, organization leaders, and local legends all on the Brick by Brick Podcast.



Available on most streaming platforms or on the Downtown Albion website.

KCC Foundation Scholarships

The KCC Foundation offers more than 180 scholarship opportunities based on academic merit, financial need, program of study, and other donor criteria. Scholarships are awarded annually and range from \$500 to \$4,500.

Scholarships are available whether you are a new or returning student, full-time or part-time or reside in or out of district. This includes Albion residents!

View all scholarships and apply now at kellogg.edu/kccscholarships. **Deadline to submit is March 3, 2025!**



Never miss a movie! **The Bohm Theatre has an app!** Catch all the latest happens at the Bohm with new Bohm app. Purchase your tickets in advance, see the upcoming showings, and much more! Download it now using the QR code to the right.



INNOVATE Albion

Last call for two amazing youth programs this winter!

Girls Who Code Club
3rd - 5th grade girls who are interested in learning more about computer coding, building their confidence and finding their purpose in the world.

The club will meet weekly from 4:30PM - 6PM for 12 weeks, **starting February 5th**. To register visit tinyurl.com/y7cmddbe.

Made in 3D
6th - 8th grade students interested in entrepreneurship, product design and stretching those creative muscles to solve a problem of today or the future.

The group will meet weekly from 5PM - 7PM until mid-May, **starting February 5th**. To register visit tinyurl.com/2euhe7p

Stay Connected!

Follow @DowntownAlbion on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok to stay up to date with all things Albion.

Read more stories here.



Scan the QR code to read more stories on the Downtown Albion website.

Have an upcoming community event? Share it with ambassador@albionfoundation.org! We love including all events on the newsletter, online calendar, and social media pages.



To submit feedback or information contact ambassador@albionfoundation.org.



February 2025

Upcoming Events

Saturday

1
Indoor Jumper Schooling Show
Albion College Equestrian

10AM - 2PM Galleries Open
Bobbitt Visual Arts Center

1PM Albion College Swim & Dive
Albion College Dean Aquatic Center

3PM Men's Basketball
Albion College Kresge Gym

4PM 130th Anniversary
Leisure Hour Club

8PM Sonic Voodoo
Duck Lake Tavern

Sunday

2 Groundhog's Day

Indoor Jumper Schooling Show
Albion College Equestrian

10AM - 3PM Sunday Brunch
Galazio of Albion

2PM "Image Making" -
Photography Class with Andrew
Hurteau
Pure Albion

2PM Songwriter Ann Wade
Stirling Books & Brew

Monday

3

7PM Blues at the Bohm with
Moto City Josh & The Big 3
Bohm Theatre

7PM Euchre
Albion Moose

Tuesday

4

9AM - 4PM Galleries Open
Bobbitt Visual Arts Center

10AM - 12PM AALL* Travelogue
Series
Ludington Center

4PM Girls Freshmen Basketball
Marshall High School

5:30PM Girls JV Basketball
Marshall High School

6PM Boys Swimming
Marshall High School

6PM Magic: The Gathering Club
Albion District Library

7PM Girls Varsity Basketball
Marshall High School

7PM True Love Tuesday
Bohm Theatre

Wednesday

5

12PM Learning Lunch: Heart
Health Albion Health Care
Alliance(Registration required)
Albion Bread of Life Ministries

4PM Albion Knitters
Stirling Books & Brew

5:30PM Boys Wrestling
Marshall High School

6PM Zumba Class
The Body Shop Albion

7PM Women's Basketball
Albion College Kresge Gym

7PM Bingo
Albion Moose

Thursday

6

9AM - 4PM Galleries Open
Bobbitt Visual Arts Center

3:30PM Coed Bowling
Marshall High School

4PM Girls Freshmen Basketball
Marshall High School

5:30PM Girls JV Basketball
Marshall High School

5:30PM Kai Time
Albion District Library

7PM Pool League
Albion Moose

Friday

7

1PM - 3PM Food Pantry*
Albion College Wesley Hall

2PM - 8PM Galleries Open
Bobbitt Visual Arts Center

5:30PM Zumba
Albion Moose

5:30PM Girls Varsity Basketball
Marshall High School

7PM Boys Varsity Basketball
Marshall High School

7:30PM Chicago A Cappella
Concert
Goodrich Chapel

8

10AM Women's Tennis
Albion College Dow Center

10AM - 2PM Galleries Open
Bobbitt Visual Arts Center

1PM Women's Basketball
Albion College Kresge Gym

1PM Men's Tennis
Albion College Dow Center

1PM Dungeons & Dragons Club
Albion District Library

3PM Men's Basketball
Albion College Kresge Gym

3PM - 4:30PM NAACP
Founder's Day
Marshall Opportunity High School

5PM Winter Defiance Dance
Party
Salem United Church of Christ

8PM Triple Shot (live music)
Duck Lake Tavern

9

9AM - 11AM Albion College Free
SAAC Clinic - Golf
(Ages 4 - 13)
Registration Required -
gobrits.com/sports/2021/12/13/saac-clinics

12:30PM - 2PM Men Who Cook
First Baptist Church

10

4PM Girls Freshmen Basketball
Marshall High School

5:30PM Girls JV Basketball
Marshall High School

5:30PM Author Brenda Peynado
- Book Reading & Signing
Bobbitt Visual Arts Center

6PM - 7:30PM MHS Board of
Education Meeting
Marshall Opportunity High School

6PM Paint & Sip Fundraiser
(Rotary Club of Albion)
\$50 Tickets
Galazio of Albion

7PM Girls Varsity Basketball
Marshall High School

7PM Euchre
Albion Moose

11

10AM - 12PM AALL* Travelogue
Series
Ludington Center

1PM - 3PM Albion Workshop:
Which Resume is Best?
Michigan Works!(101 N. Albion)

3PM - 5PM Drive Thru Food
Distrib.*
Albion College Wesley Hall

3:30PM Coed Bowling
Marshall High School

4PM Boys Freshmen Basketball
Marshall High School

5:30PM Boys JV Basketball
Marshall High School

6PM Writing Circle
Albion District Library

7PM Boys Varsity Basketball
Marshall High School

7PM True Love Tuesday
Bohm Theatre

12

12PM - 1PM Documentary Series
Albion District Library

7PM Men's Basketball
Albion College Kresge Gym

7PM Bingo
Albion Moose

13

4PM Girls Freshmen Basketball
Marshall High School

5PM - 8PM Taste of Blackness
(presented by Albion College
Black Student Alliance)
Albion College Upper Baldwin Hall

5:30PM Girls JV Basketball
Marshall High School

6PM Open Study Group
Albion District Library

6PM Yarn Craft Club
Albion District Library

6PM Boys Swimming
Marshall High School

6PM Women's Wrestling
Albion College

7PM Men's Wrestling
Albion College

7PM Pool League
Albion Moose

14 Valentine's Day

Half Day of School
Marshall Public Schools

5:30PM Girls Varsity Basketball
Marshall High School

6PM Valentine's Day Dinner
feat. music by Marcus & Tiffany
Shelton
Reservations Required
Galazio of Albion

7PM Boys Varsity Basketball
Marshall High School

7PM - 10PM Valentines Day
Dance presented by Albion
High School Alumni Association
Marshall Opportunity High School

15

Albion College Equestrian
Tournament

9AM Member Mornings:
National Gumdrop Day
Kids 'N' Stuff Children's Museum

10AM - 2PM Galleries Open
Bobbitt Visual Arts Center

10AM Women's Tennis
Albion College Dow Center

1PM Men's Tennis
Albion College Dow Center

Continues on the back! →

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
16 Albion College Equestrian Tournament 1PM Mitten Making Bee <i>Salem United Church of Christ</i>	17 President's Day No School <i>Marshall Public Schools</i> 7PM Euchre <i>Albion Moose</i>	18 9AM - 4PM Galleries Open <i>Bobbitt Visual Arts Center</i> 10AM - 12PM AALL* Travelogue Series <i>Ludington Center</i> 3PM - 5PM Drive Thru Food Distrib.* <i>Albion College Wesley Hall</i> 4PM Boys Freshmen Basketball <i>Marshall High School</i> 5:30PM Boys JV Basketball <i>Marshall High School</i> 7PM Boys Varsity Basketball <i>Marshall High School</i> 7PM True Love Tuesday <i>Bohm Theatre</i>	19 12PM - 1PM Documentary Series <i>Albion District Library</i> 4PM Albion Knitters <i>Stirling Books & Brew</i> 6PM Zumba Class <i>The Body Shop Albion</i> 7PM Men's Basketball <i>Albion College Kresge Gym</i> 7PM Bingo <i>Albion Moose</i>	20 9AM - 4PM Galleries Open <i>Bobbitt Visual Arts Center</i> 4PM Girls JV Basketball <i>Marshall High School</i> 5:30PM Boys Freshmen Basketball <i>Marshall High School</i> 7PM Boys JV Basketball <i>Marshall High School</i> 7PM Pool League <i>Albion Moose</i>	21 1PM - 3PM Food Pantry* <i>Albion College Wesley Hall</i> 2PM - 8PM Galleries Open <i>Bobbitt Visual Arts Center</i> 5:30PM Senior Night: Girls Varsity Basketball <i>Marshall High School</i> 7PM Senior Night: Boys Varsity Basketball <i>Marshall High School</i> 7:30PM High School Honor Band - Albion College <i>Goodrich Chapel</i>	22 Albion College Equestrian Tournament 10AM - 12PM Wings of Winter <i>Whitehouse Nature Center</i> 10AM - 2PM Galleries Open <i>Bobbitt Visual Arts Center</i> 1PM Men's Tennis <i>Albion College Dow Center</i> 2PM Chess 101 Class <i>Stirling Books & Brew</i> 3PM Stirling Chess Club <i>Stirling Books & Brew</i>
23 9AM - 1PM Pancake Brunch <i>American Legion Post 55</i> 2PM Victorian Southwest Michigan True Crime <i>Stirling Books & Brew</i>	24 7PM Euchre <i>Albion Moose</i>	25 9AM - 4PM Galleries Open <i>Bobbitt Visual Arts Center</i> 10AM - 12PM AALL* Travelogue Series <i>Ludington Center</i> 1PM - 3PM Albion Workshop: Which Resume is Best? <i>Michigan Works!(101 N. Albion)</i> 3PM - 5PM Drive Thru Food Distrib.* <i>Albion College Wesley Hall</i> 4PM Girls Freshmen Basketball <i>Marshall High School</i> 5:45PM Girls JV Basketball <i>Marshall High School</i> 7PM Girls Varsity Basketball <i>Marshall High School</i> 7PM True Love Tuesday <i>Bohm Theatre</i>	26 12PM - 1PM Documentary Series <i>Albion District Library</i> 4PM Men's Tennis <i>Albion College Dow Center</i> 7PM Bingo <i>Albion Moose</i>	27 9AM - 4PM Galleries Open <i>Bobbitt Visual Arts Center</i> 6PM Classics Reading Group <i>Stirling Books & Brew</i> 6PM Open Study Group <i>Albion District Library</i> 6PM - 8PM Opening Reception of Black History Month Art Exhibit (presented by the Arts Commission) <i>Ismon House</i> 7PM Pool League <i>Albion Moose</i>	28 5PM - 8PM Black History Month Art Exhibit with Soul Food (presented by the Arts Commission) <i>Ismon House</i>	*AALL - Albion Area Lifelong Learners *Drive Thru Food Distribution - provided by Community Table of Albion

Men Who Cook

Grab a Plate and Help Make Albion Beautiful

Are you looking to have a hearty meal before kickoff on Superbowl Sunday, or just craving some delicious dishes and quality time with the Albion community?

On Sunday, February 9th, Citizens to Beautify Albion is hosting the 38th annual Men Who Cook, a community event second only to the Festival of the Forks. In previous years, over 100 men from the Albion community have brought a signature dish, or something new and creative to share, from their home kitchen or restaurant. Although it is a fundraiser, the intention is to celebrate the community's connection, which is, as your plate will be, overflowing.

"Everybody looks forward to it," Juanita Solis-Kidder, one of the organizers of the event, said proudly. With so many dishes, there is certainly something for everyone— from classics such as mashed potatoes and mac n' cheese to novel takes on barbecue. Juanita shared the only complaint so far: "Halfway down the line, I don't have any more room on my plate!"

Food will be served from 12:30PM-2PM at First Baptist Church. Tickets, which are a direct donation to Citizens to Beautify Albion's cause, can be purchased ahead of time or at the door, starting at \$6.



Bobbitt Visual Arts Center Exhibits

Thru February 8, 2025

Munro Gallery: "Exposure Pathways", by Sarah Lindley

Dickinson Gallery: "Passions", by Fox Dionysus '25, Prints from the Albion Collection

February 15 - March 22, 2025

Munro Gallery: Exhibition by Philip C. Curtis Artist in Residence M. Florine Démosthène

Dickinson Gallery: Prints from the Albion Collection



Free Learning Lunches

Learn about chronic health conditions from local experts. Free lunch is included with registration. Register by emailing monique@albionhca.org or calling (517) 629-5080.