

# Naturally Connected

March 2025

## 40 Years of Flowers

### Celebrating Anna's House of Flowers 40th Anniversary

**"I truly believe you don't know what you are doing with your life until you're in your 40s."**

At 42 years young, Anna Merritt began her venture as a business owner and florist. With the support of countless community members and the business expertise of Verne Plassman, Anna's House of Flowers came to be. Originally located on Michigan Avenue, Anna's House of Flowers was one of three florists in the community, working alongside one-another in the thriving Albion environment.

Anna's passion for floral work was planted when she was 15 years old working at Hubert's Greenhouse here in Albion. As time passed, Anna took this budding love and blossomed it into a 40-year career. The driving force for her now at 82? Making people happy. After all these years and the changes in Albion, Anna enjoys being able to continue to provide a service to the community, for the good and the sad times.



Mary Habicht (left) and Anna Merritt (right)

Six months after opening in 1985, Mary Habicht joined Anna in her journey and has been by her side ever since. Mary enjoys being able to work with the public while expressing herself through a creative, hands-on medium. As an artist in multiple platforms, Mary uses her experience as a florist to impact her other creations.

One of the biggest questions I had for Anna and Mary was how they have sustained a business in Albion for 40 years. The answer was simple: persistence, flexibility, and community support.

#### Story continues inside!



Anna's House of Flowers 40th anniversary ribbon cutting.

### Celebrating Anna's House of Flowers 40th Anniversary Continued.

Over the years, Anna and Mary have seen countless changes to Albion and the biggest piece they learned is being flexible with the changes. Space too big? Move to a new location. Anna shared that the support of John and Jane Shedd led to her current location on Superior Street. Competition changing? Offer a unique and personal experience.



The community has supported the shop throughout the years and every person on Anna's staff is dedicated to the community, creating an interpersonal relationship with each customer.

Anna and Mary have persisted throughout the years on hard work and dedication. Albion is looking forward to the future of Anna's House of Flowers!

## Michigan Dept. of Health & Human Services Neighborhood Wellness Center Located at the Albion Community Foundation

The MDHHS Neighborhood Wellness Center is now located at the Albion Community Foundation, 1002 N. Eaton Street, offering free health screenings.

Offering **FREE** preventive care!

- Blood pressure screenings
- Cholesterol screenings
- Diabetes screenings
- Community Health Worker Services
- COVID-19 and flu testing

Mon: 12PM - 7PM  
Wed: 12PM - 7PM  
Fri: 9AM - 5PM

No cost to you. No ID, insurance or appointment required.

#### Inside -

Updates about from the Albion Farmer's Market, exciting events happening at the Bohm Theatre, and more!

March Albion community calendar inside!

# Run for You. Run for Albion

Run Albion is back with its 8th season of 5Ks! Grab your running (or walking) shoes for the first 5K of 2025, Run the Rock on April 25th. Race down the red bricks of main street, flash by Albion College's iconic campus rock, and breeze through the peaceful trails.



Photo by Steve Ferency, Brick Street Marketing

This race is more than a medal for your amazing speed, it is a fun way to celebrate your health and support the community of Albion. Run Albion is non-profit organization dedicated to giving back to Albion organizations. The registration fees are donated to the volunteer organizations like Citizens to Beautify Albion, Scout Troop 158, Little Lambs, 4-H Creative & Expressive Arts, and Albion's Big Read, who make the race run smoothly. In exchange for their evening of work, Run Albion is able to donate approximately \$1,000 to their organization. But it doesn't end here. Due to sponsor dollars, the costs of the entire race are covered, from timing to supplies, even the race swag. The advantage to this is to keep the race entry fees low and have participant dollars go straight to community organizations.

So lace up your shoes and hit the pavement as we support Albion together! Runner and walkers of all abilities are welcome. To register, visit [runalbion.com/registration](http://runalbion.com/registration).

## NEW CHIEF OF PUBLIC SAFETY



Born and raised in Albion, Michigan, Aaron Phipps is the new Chief of Public Safety in Albion! Phipps graduated from Albion Sr. High School in 2001 and then Ferris State University in 2007 with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

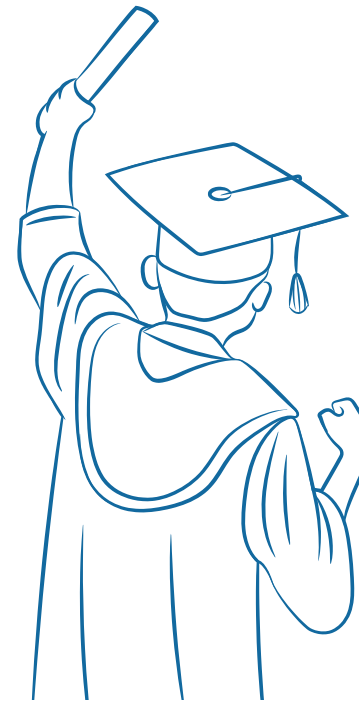
Prior to becoming a police officer at 34, Phipps worked in the Calhoun County Juvenile Home, was Associate Director of Albion College Campus Safety, and was a contracted dispatcher for Federal Protective Service, which is an agency inside Department of Homeland Security.

Phipps always wanted to be a police officer and when offered the position of Chief, Phipps shared that he "wanted to make sure our department has leadership that isn't leaving. Retired Chief Kipp was here for a long time, and I felt the next Chief should be as well, so I want to make sure that happens."

As for the future, Phipps explained "keeping ADPS fully staffed has always been a challenge, but that's also every departments issue right now. That is one goal I have, and I would like the department to be staffed with people from the Albion area who care about the community and want to be here. Albion's been moving in the right direction, and I want to help in any way to make sure it stays that way."

# The Dan & Linda Ohmer Scholarship Fund

## New Scholarship at the Albion Community Foundation



Albion  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Albion Community Foundation is excited to announce a new scholarship fund, the Dan and Linda Ohmer Scholarship Fund.

Dan and Linda Ohmer have established a scholarship fund for individuals who reside within the greater Albion area and/or graduate from Marshall High School who are seeking educational opportunities beyond high school. This scholarship is established to support students admitted to Ferris State University or Adrian College.

Scholarships are an impactful way to support the continued education of our youth. Thank you for continuing your legacy and impact in Albion, Dan and Linda Ohmer!

This scholarship is open for applications now! There are two scholarships will be award at \$1,500 each. The 2025 scholarship application deadline is March 31st. Please visit [albionfoundation.org/scholarships/](http://albionfoundation.org/scholarships/) for more information about applying. Applicants will be notified by May 1st.

## CITY OF ALBION TOWN HALL

# 2025 Albion Construction Projects

- March 4th, 2025**
- 7PM - 8:30PM**
- Ludington Center, Downtown Albion**

The City of Albion is hosting a Town Hall on March 4th to share updates on upcoming construction projects. Learn about the upcoming construction projects including the water system/roadway improvements and bridge preventative maintenance.

This open house is a great time to ask questions, learn the details, and get prepared for the upcoming work.



# Albion's Historic Train Depot

Albion's beloved train depot is getting a much-needed face lift, 40 years after the original restoration.

Built in 1882 as part of the Michigan Central Railroad, the Italianate style depot provided a transportation hub from Detroit to Marshall, while the railroad provided freight transportation for the numerous factories in the community. Although train transportation was expanding, the depot was abandoned in 1971 and at risk of demolition. That is until the community came together.



Seeing the iconic depot that had welcomed generations of visitors leave the community was not an option for Mary Ellen Cram. Mrs. Cram was one of the lead organizers for restoration in the mid-1980s. Between the Friends of the Depot, Albion Community Foundation, Albion College, Greater Albion Area Chamber of Commerce, and other organizations, "raised approximately \$30,000 and solicited in-kind donations of labor, construction materials and more to rehabilitate the depot and outfit it with modern amenities".<sup>1</sup>



Sources:  
1. <https://www.greatamericanstations.com/stations/albion-mi-ali/>  
2. Interview with Virginia Cram-Martos

## Present Day

The legacy of Mary Cram and family lives on with The Cram Fund at the Albion Community Foundation. Established in 2021 by Dr. Ralph Cram (husband) and Virginia Cram-Martos (daughter), The Cram Fund was created to maintain and repair the depot in honor of Mary Ellen Cram.

Exterior renovation of the train station began late 2024 focusing on repairing the front door and threshold, repairing the wood canopy columns, painting the trim and soffits, tuckpointing brick and stone as needed, and so much more.



This phase of the renovation will be completed early spring 2025, but more work is needed on the interior of the train station, including refurbishing of the waiting room and a new heating system. If you would like to support the efforts of The Cram Fund to complete the renovation and transform the train station into a resource for the community and future generations, donations can be made at [albionfoundation.org/donate/](http://albionfoundation.org/donate/).

# Bohm Signature Series



Come home to the Bohm during the new Bohm Signature Series! Launching this month, the Bohm Theatre will be hosting a monthly signature event rotating through Bourbon at the Bohm, Broadway at the Bohm, and Brunch at the Bohm. This first series round is proudly sponsored by Decker Manufacturing. Immerse yourself in the excitement of the Bohm.



## Bourbon at the Bohm | 6PM Wednesday, March 19th | Bohm I

The best in Michigan! Taste a variety of locally made bourbons while immersing yourself in the knowledge behind the distilled liquor. Partnering with Superior Street Mercantile to bring you an experience you wouldn't forget. \$35 per ticket. Seats are limited for this exclusive tasting.

## Broadway at the Bohm | 1PM Saturday, April 12th | Bohm II

"You're the one that I want!" Sing along to the iconic American musical **Grease** as you indulge in timeless treats from the 50s! \$25 per ticket.

## Brunch at the Bohm | 10AM Saturday, May 17th | Bohm II

Grab your girlfriends, moms, and daughters for a memorable Brunch at the Bohm with the screening of **Breakfast at Tiffany's**. Enjoy the delicious offerings of the Foundry Bakehouse & Deli as you travel back in time with Audrey Hepburn. \$35 per ticket.

Seats are limited for these exclusive events! Purchase your tickets now at [bohmtheatre.org](http://bohmtheatre.org).

# Albion Farmer's Market Updates

## Albion Farmer's Market to Continue in 2025 with Temporary Location Under Consideration



The Albion Downtown Development Authority (DDA) remains committed to hosting and supporting the Albion Farmer's Market despite the removal of the market structure at Stoffer Plaza due to underlying infrastructure issues. To ensure the market continues to serve the community, the DDA board has begun discussions on a temporary location for the 2025 season, with the east-side alleyway adjacent to the old bank building on Superior Street under consideration.

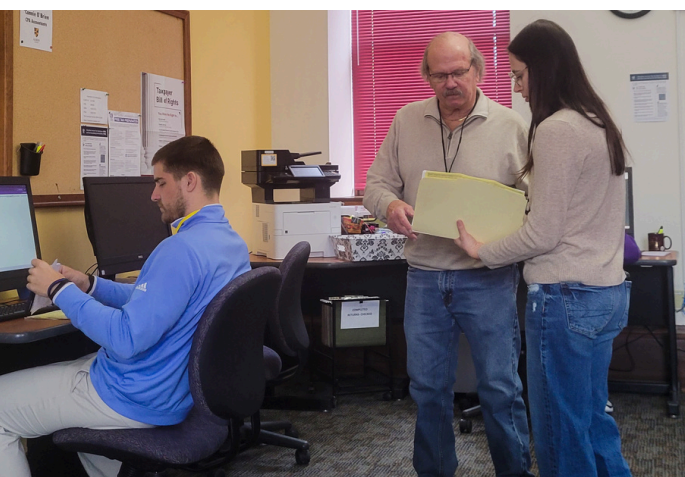
A final decision regarding the location, along with approval of the 2025 market policies and vendor applications, will be made at the March DDA meeting. Information and applications will be available shortly thereafter. The market will run from mid-May through the end of September, maintaining a similar schedule to previous years.

The DDA is hopeful that, through its continued commitment to the market, local vendors, produce growers, and artisans will participate consistently throughout the season, ensuring the market remains a vibrant part of downtown Albion.

# Free Tax Assistance

from Albion College Students

This tax season, students at Albion College are offering a valuable service to the Albion community: free tax filing assistance! Certified students are helping prepare and E-file federal and Michigan tax returns, and mail Albion tax returns.



Professor John Bedient and student Londyn Pachota.

Each student has completed an IRS training program called Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and gone through extensive testing. The program is sponsored by the Albion College Accounting society and supervised by CPA certified professors John Bedient and Connie Obrien.

You will meet with your assistant privately and confidentially, so you can rest easy as the students complete your forms. By allowing the VITA students to help you, they are also practicing classroom skills and earning course credit. "We're confident in our abilities, and eager to gain real-world experience" senior business major, Londyn Pachota shared. Pachota hopes to pursue a career in finance after graduating. The statement seems to hold true for all the students, and creates an environment that is collaborative, hard-working, and professional.

Those who have visited already have had resoundingly positive feedback. Every Wednesday from now until April 9th you can make an appointment for 1PM or 3PM and have a qualified student handle your tax forms. Located in Robinson Hall at Albion College, this program helps the community and helps the students! For an appointment or more information contact Renée Harlow in the Economics and Management department at 629-0419 or at rharlow@albion.edu.

## Kids N' Stuff Unveils A-MAZE-ING New Traveling Exhibit

Last month, Kids N' Stuff Children's Museum opened their newest traveling exhibit, A-MAZE-D: The Puzzling World of Dave Phillips, created by designer Dave Phillips and artist Chris Minsal. What was once a multipurpose room has now become a wonderland of painted maze walls and interactive puzzles. The immersive experience is both entertaining and educational—promoting problem solving, critical thinking and learning of spatial awareness. The exhibit is fun for kids of all ages. Even grown-ups are joining in the fun and might find themselves a bit puzzled.



Funding for this limited time experience came from several generous organizations including the Albion Community Foundation. The staff of Kids 'N' Stuff said that they are very happy with the finished product—kids, parents, and teachers are all loving the exhibit with the brightly painted cardboard making a must experience exhibit. Stay on the lookout for more exciting additions, including new instruments in the interactive music room!

The deadline for first grant round of 2025 is fast approaching.

**MARCH 15TH AT 4PM**

albionfoundation.org/grants



Sign up!

**Albion Connected**  
emails, weekly email with upcoming events and stories.

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

**SAVE THE DATE**  
June 21st - Neighborhood Clean Up!  
FREE curbside pickup, for one day, stay tuned for more information.

**4th of July**  
Fireworks Fundraiser  
2025 Goal: \$18,000.00

Donations can be dropped off to:  
P.O. Box 238, Albion MI 49224

**EGGS & ISSUES**  
Greater Albion Chamber Annual Meeting  
8AM - 9AM MARCH 21ST  
Albion College Upper Baldwin

**BRICK BY BRICK**  
PODCAST with Cassidy Porter

Albion guests sharing their Albion stories and involvement. Listen on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify, & Soundcloud.



To submit feedback or information contact [ambassador@albionfoundation.org](mailto:ambassador@albionfoundation.org).



# March 2025

## Upcoming Events

### Saturday

**1**  
Malleable Mardi Gras  
*Albion Malleable Brewing Co.*

**10AM, 12PM, & 2PM** Esports  
*Albion College Esports Lab (Ferguson Building)*

**10AM - 2PM** Galleries Open  
*Bobbitt Visual Arts Center*

**1PM** Coffee Hour with Attorney Jim Haadsma  
*Stirling Books & Brew*

**1PM** Blues Workshop  
*Dickerson Music Co.*

### Sunday

**2**  
**3PM** Malleable Mardi Gras feat The Paxton Spangler Band  
*Albion Malleable Brewing Co.*

### Monday

**3**  
**10:30AM - 11AM** Children's Story Time  
*Stirling Books & Brew*

**7PM** Blues at the Bohm - Laith Al-Saadi  
*Bohm Theatre*

**7PM** Euchre  
*Albion Moose*

**7PM** Girls Varsity Basketball  
*Marshall High School*

**8PM** Esports  
*Albion College Esports Lab (Ferguson Building)*

### Tuesday

**4**  
**9AM - 4PM** Galleries Open  
*Bobbitt Visual Arts Center*

**6PM** Magic: The Gathering Club  
*Albion District Library*

**7PM - 8:30PM** City of Albion Town Hall - 2025 Construction Projects  
*Ludington Center*

**7PM** "Wonderful Women" Movie Series  
*Bohm Theatre*

### Wednesday

**5**  
**12PM - 1:30PM** Learning Lunch with Albion Health Care Alliance - Registration Required  
*Bread of Life Ministries*

**4PM** Albion Knitters  
*Stirling Books & Brew*

**5:30PM** Marshall High School Girls Varsity Basketball vs open  
*Marshall High School*

**6PM** Zumba - Reserve your spot  
*The Body Shop Albion*

**7PM** Girls Varsity Basketball  
*Marshall High School*

**7PM** Bingo  
*Albion Moose*

### Thursday

**6**  
**9AM - 4PM** Galleries Open  
*Bobbitt Visual Arts Center*

**5PM** Cardio Drumming - Reserve your spot  
*The Body Shop Albion*

**5:30PM - 7:30PM** Euchre Night  
*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*

**7PM** Girls Varsity Basketball  
*Marshall High School*

**8**  
**10AM & 2PM** Esports  
*Albion College Esports Lab (Ferguson Building)*

**10AM - 2PM** Galleries Open  
*Bobbitt Visual Arts Center*

**1PM** Dungeons & Dragons Club  
*Albion District Library*

**1PM - 2PM** Precinct 3 - Jim Stuart Coffee & Conversations  
*Stirling Books & Brew*

**1PM** Assessing Antique and Vintage Jewelry - Albion Historical Society  
*Stirling Books & Brew*

**2PM - 3PM** Euchre 101 Class  
*Stirling Books & Brew*

**9** Daylight Savings - Spring Forward!

**9AM** Reset & Rejuvenate Yoga Class - Reserve your spot  
*The Body Shop Albion*

**10**  
**10:30AM - 11AM** Children's Story Time  
*Stirling Books & Brew*

**7PM** Euchre  
*Albion Moose*

**8PM** Esports  
*Albion College Esports Lab (Ferguson Building)*

**11**  
**3PM - 5PM** Drive Thru Food Distrib.\*  
*Albion College Wesley Hall*

**6PM** Writing Circle  
*Albion District Library*

**6PM** Beginners Flow Yoga Class - Reserve your spot  
*The Body Shop Albion*

**7PM** "Wonderful Women" Movie Series  
*Bohm Theatre*

**12**  
**12PM - 1PM** Documentary Series  
*Albion District Library*

**7PM** Bingo  
*Albion Moose*

**13**  
**5PM** Cardio Drumming - Reserve your spot  
*The Body Shop Albion*

**5:30PM** Kai Time  
*Albion District Library*

**6PM** Open Study Group  
*Albion District Library*

**6PM** Yarn Craft Club  
*Albion District Library*

**7PM** Pool League  
*Albion Moose*

**7PM** Albion Everywhere Virtual Student Panel - Albion College

**14**  
St. Paddy's Day Celebration  
*Albion Malleable Brewing Co.*

Sign Up Deadline for Albion Arts Competition

**6PM** Euchre Tournament  
*Forks Senior Center*

**6PM** Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner  
*Albion Moose*

**15**  
St. Paddy's Day Celebration  
*Albion Malleable Brewing Co.*

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

**10AM, 12PM, & 2PM** Esports  
*Albion College Esports Lab (Ferguson Building)*

**10AM** Paint your own ceramic bunny - RSVP at [puralbion.com](http://puralbion.com)  
*Pure Albion*

**10AM - 2PM** Galleries Open  
*Bobbitt Visual Arts Center*

**1PM** Pre-St. Patrick's Day Celebration  
*Charlie's Tavern*

**1PM** Women's Lacrosse  
*Albion College Alumni Field*

**4PM** Grant Application Deadline  
*Albion Community Foundation*

**Sunday**

**Monday**

**Tuesday**

**Wednesday**

**Thursday**

**Friday**

**Saturday**

**16**  
 St. Paddy's Day Celebration  
*Albion Malleable Brewing Co.*

**9AM** Reset & Rejuvenate Yoga Class - Reserve your spot  
*The Body Shop Albion*

**1PM & 3PM** Women's Softball  
*Albion College Dempsey Field*

**17**  
 St. Paddy's Day Celebration  
*Albion Malleable Brewing Co.*

**10:30AM - 11AM** Children's Story Time  
*Stirling Books & Brew*

**7PM** Euchre  
*Albion Moose*

**18**  
**9AM - 4PM** Galleries Open  
*Bobbitt Visual Arts Center*

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

**6PM** Beginners Flow Yoga Class - Reserve your spot  
*The Body Shop Albion*

**7PM** "Wonderful Women" Movie Series  
*Bohm Theatre*

**19**  
**12PM - 1PM** Documentary Series  
*Albion District Library*

**4PM** Albion Knitters  
*Stirling Books & Brew*

**4PM** Boys Varsity Basketball  
*Marshall High School*

**5PM** Men's Lacrosse  
*Albion College Alumni Field*

**6PM** Zumba - Reserve your spot  
*The Body Shop Albion*

**7PM** Bingo  
*Albion Moose*

**7PM** Bourbon at the Bohm  
*Bohm Theatre - tickets available in advance*

**7:30PM** Women's Lacrosse  
*Albion College Alumni Field*

**20**  
**9AM - 4PM** Galleries Open  
*Bobbitt Visual Arts Center*

**5PM** Family Game Night  
*Kids 'N' Stuff Children's Museum*

**5:30PM - 7:30PM** Euchre Night  
*Albion District Library*

**7PM** Pool League  
*Albion Moose*

**21**  
**8AM - 9AM** Greater Albion Chamber Eggs & Issues  
*Albion College Baldwin Hall*

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

**2PM - 8PM** Galleries Open  
*Bobbitt Visual Arts Center*

**22**  
**10AM** Beginners Flow Yoga Class - Reserve your spot  
*The Body Shop Albion*

**10AM & 12PM** Esports  
 Albion College Esports Lab (Ferguson Building)

**10AM - 2PM** Galleries Open  
*Bobbitt Visual Arts Center*

**1PM** Dungeons & Dragons Club  
*Albion District Library*

**1PM** Women's Softball  
*Albion College Dempsey Field*

**2PM** Chess 101 Class  
*Stirling Books & Brew*

**3PM** Women's Softball  
*Albion College Dempsey Field*

**3PM** Stirling Chess Club  
*Stirling Books & Brew*

**23**  
**2PM** Songwriter Justin Loukotka  
*Stirling Books & Brew*

**TBA** Men's Lacrosse  
*Albion College Alumni Field*

**24**  
**10:30AM - 11AM** Children's Story Time  
*Stirling Books & Brew*

**7PM** Euchre  
*Albion Moose*

**25**  
**3PM - 5PM** Drive Thru Food Distrib.\*  
*Albion College Wesley Hall*

**4PM** Girls Varsity Tennis  
*Marshall High School*

**6PM** Beginners Flow Yoga Class - Reserve your spot  
*The Body Shop Albion*

**7PM** "Wonderful Women" Movie Series  
*Bohm Theatre*

**26**  
**10:30AM** Spring Break: Escape Rooms  
*Kids 'N' Stuff Children's Museum*

**12PM - 1PM** Documentary Series  
*Albion District Library*

**4:30PM** Junior Varsity Basketball  
*Marshall High School*

**6:30PM** Junior Varsity Softball & Baseball  
*Marshall High School*

**7PM** Bingo  
*Albion Moose*

**27**  
**5:30PM** Kai Time  
*Albion District Library*

**6PM** Classics Reading Group  
*Stirling Books & Brew*

**6PM** Open Study Group  
*Albion District Library*

**7PM** Pool League  
*Albion Moose*

**28**  
**10PM** bohmn@nite "Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery"  
*Bohm Theatre*

**29**  
**10AM** Family Jigsaw Puzzle Competition  
*Kids 'N' Stuff Children's Museum*

**10AM** Weight Form Workshop - Reserve your spot  
*The Body Shop Albion*

**11AM** Women's Tennis  
*Albion College DOW*

**1PM** Women's Softball  
*Albion College Dempsey Field*

**2PM** Men's Tennis  
*Albion College Dow Center*

**3PM** Women's Softball  
*Albion College Dempsey Field*

**4PM - 6PM** Albion Everywhere - Albion College Celebration

**30**  
**9AM** Reset & Rejuvenate Yoga Class - Reserve your spot  
*The Body Shop Albion*

**9AM - 1PM** Pancake Brunch  
*American Legion Post 55*

**31**  
**10:30AM - 11AM** Children's Story Time  
*Stirling Books & Brew*

**\*Albion Health Care Alliance - Community Table of Albion**

**Albion Art Competition**

April 12th from 11AM - 3PM  
 Showcase and sell your art, plus compete in a 3 hours contest of acrylic paint. Prizes for the top 3, \$25 participate. **Deadline to sign up is March 14th, contact albionartscompetition@gmail.com.**  
 Sponsored by the Albion Arts Commission and Albion Gerstacker Institute.

**VITA Tax Appointments**

Appointments available Wednesday 1PM & 3PM. No appointment March 5th. Contact Renée Harlow in the Economics and Management department at 629-0419 or at rharlow@albion.edu

**Bobbitt Visual Arts Center Exhibits**

Thru March 22, 2025  
 Dickinson Gallery: "Paracosm" by Amelia Douglass '27  
 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.