

Naturally Connected

May 2025

Local Robotics Team takes on the World Championship and Receives the Judge’s Award

NERD Spark 9312, based out of Albion and Canton, Michigan, is a robotics team that competes in the globally recognized program, FIRST Robotics. FIRST develops students’ problem solving and communication skills through hands-on experiences with science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). The competition aspect of FIRST challenges students to build and compete with a self-made robot to complete the designated tasks in the annual game.

2025 marks NERD Sparks third year of competition and their third year of qualifying for the World Championship. Reaching this level of competition requires outstanding performance at the District and Regional levels. At Regionals, the team ranked 28th out of 528 teams. Only the top 86 teams from Michigan qualify to get to go to FIRST Championships aka Worlds. To put this accomplishment further into perspective, robotics team member, Ian Verbeke shared that there are about 8,000 active teams and only 600 of those teams go to Worlds.



At Worlds, held in Dallas last month, the team was recognized in the Daly Division with the Judge’s Award. During the competition, the judging panel may decide that a team’s unique efforts, performance, or dynamics merit recognition yet do not fit into any of the existing award categories. Out of 600 teams at the World Championship, only 8 teams are honored with the Judges Award. The Judges said “This young team is moving forward with SPEED” and we agree!

Congratulations NERD Spark on your hard work and creativity!

de Nicola and Saurer Families Celebrate Plaque Dedication in McIntosh Park



Back in 2021, two funds were established at the Albion Community Foundation that have impacted key assets in the City of Albion focusing on parks, recreation, children, and families. Tony and Christie de Nicola started the Beth and John Saurer Fund, in honor of Christie’s parents, and the Carol and Guy de Nicola Fund, in honor of Tony’s parents. One of the largest projects to date from these funds was the McIntosh Park Activities Complex.

This past March, Albion community leaders, the de Nicola, and Saurer families came together to celebrate the plaque dedication of the McIntosh Park! In honor of Beth and John Saurer, and Carol and Guy de Nicola, the addition of the plaque was the perfect wrap up on the beautiful complex.

To learn more about the de Nicola and Saurer families, check out our blog post at downtownalbion.com.



McIntosh Park Splash Pad Opens Memorial Day Weekend!

On Friday, May 23rd, the Splash Pad in McIntosh Park will be open for the season. The park will remain open 7 days a week from 10AM - 8PM through Labor Day.



Inside!

- “2025 Façade Grants to Support Downtown Preservation and Revitalization”
- “de Nicola and Saurer Families Celebrate Plaque Dedication in McIntosh Park”
- McIntosh Splash Pad Opening

Community Calendar inside! →

BUILD ALBION FELLOWS Seniors

ALBION COLLEGE

Celebrating the Class of 2025



TAILYNN WHITE

TALIYAH AUSTIN

KYNDALL LEWIS



2025 Façade Grants Support Downtown Preservation and Revitalization

The Albion Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is excited to share the awarding of three façade improvement grants for 2025, supporting key restoration and enhancement projects in Albion’s historic downtown district.

The Facade Grant Program is a 50% matching reimbursement program, meaning that for each project, the property owner matches the grant amount with their own funds.

The Palmer House Inn Bed & Breakfast, located at 108 E. Erie Street, was awarded \$7,500 to support the repair and refurbishment of 26 original historic windows and the restoration of the carriage house door and frame.

ACE Investment Properties received \$7,500 for their commercial property currently rented by Cuts by Moose. Their project includes the replacement of storefront windows and the main entry door, improving both the visual appeal and functionality of the space.

BlueUrban, the owner of 119 N. Superior Street and home to Stirling Books and Brew, was also awarded \$7,500. Their grant-funded project will replace the storefront windows and front entrance to the bookstore and café.

“The DDA is excited to support these projects that not only enhance individual buildings but contribute to a stronger, more vibrant downtown for the entire community,” said Emily Verbeke, Chair of the Albion Downtown Development Authority.



What’s happening on Erie Street? Exciting Updates from ACE Investment Properties

Have you noticed some changes to the 100 block of East Erie Street? Seen a bit of construction? ACE Investment Properties have started the renovation process to a portion of the block that will result in 9 new apartments, including one ADA accessible apartment, and one large or two smaller retail spaces on the first floor, plus a new elevator servicing all floors!

ACE Investment Properties Manager, Joe Verbeke shared, “This is incredibly important work first and foremost because it's bringing nine new, up to code and up to date housing units to Albion. Second, from a historic perspective, it preserves another historic building in town for another 100 years. One doesn't need to look far around downtown to see what happens if someone doesn't care for our historic structures.”

Beyond the exciting work of revitalizing Albion’s downtown this is a historic tax renovation project, meaning that ACE must preserve key elements of the exterior and interior of the building. The front of the building will get as close to old photos as possible, with the use of new materials. ACE has already uncovered the old cast iron posts that were covered up decades ago for a more "modern" look. With the partnership of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Revitalizing and Placemaking Program, this project should be completed around this time next year.



Get weekly Albion updates via email with Albion Connected!

Sign up here!



4th of July Fireworks Fundraiser

2025 Goal: \$18,000.00

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



NEIGHBORHOOD clean up

Scan for a list of Accepted & Not Accepted Items!



CURBSIDE PICK - UP
ONE DAY ONLY

All Items must be curbside by 7AM, please do not put out items prior to June 14th.



SATURDAY
21
JUNE



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

ALBION Women RECOGNITION



Albion women are the backbone of the community, constantly showing their commitment and love for our city. Submit impactful Albion women for a special social media shoutout!

CELEBRATE THE CLASS OF

2025



Submit your graduating senior for a special social media shoutout!



Market Applications

Now Open



Stay Connected!

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



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

SUNDAY

4

2P Poet Joesph Neely
Stirling Books & Brew

2P & 4P Women's Softball
Albion College

MONDAY

5

10:30A Children's Story Time
Stirling Books & Brew

4P Girls Varsity Tennis
Marshall High School

4P & 6P Boys JV Baseball
Marshall High School

TUESDAY

6

7A - 8A Tracks & Trades
Trackside Eatery & Pub

9A Albion Rec - Walk & Talk
Opportunity School - Gym

9:30A Albion Rec - Silverstars
Opportunity School

4:30P Track Meet
Marshall High School

6P Magic: The Gathering Club
Albion District Library

6:15P Albion Rec - Water
Aerobics
Opportunity School - Pool

7P Musical May - Singing in the
Rain
Bohm Theatre

WEDNESDAY

7

5A Beginners Vinyasa Flow -
Yoga
The Body Shop Albion

12P - 1:30P AHCA Learning
Lunch: Stroke Prevention/Blood
Pressure - RSVP
Bread of Life Ministries

12P Documentary Series
Albion District Library

1:30P - 5P Career Exploration &
Job Fair
*Kellogg Community College -
Eastern Academic Center*

4P - 5:30P Albion Knitters
Stirling Books & Brew

6P Albion Rec - Cardio
Drumming
Opportunity School - Gym

7P Conclave
Bohm Theatre

THURSDAY

1

4P Girls Varsity Tennis
Marshall High School

4P & 6P Girls Varsity & JV
Softball
Marshall High School

4P & 6P Boys Varsity Baseball
Marshall High School

5:30P Kai Time
Albion District Library

5:30P Euchre Night
Albion District Library

6P Vinyasa Flow - Yoga
The Body Shop Albion

6P A Royal Tea Party
Albion District Library

6:15P Albion Rec - Water
Aerobics
Opportunity School - Pool

FRIDAY

2

9A Albion Rec - Walk & Talk
Opportunity School - Gym

9:30A Albion Rec - Silverstars
Opportunity School

10A Make Your Own Marble
Maze
Kids 'N' Stuff Children's Museum

2P & 5P Women's Softball
Albion College

4P & 6P Girls Varsity Softball
Marshall High School

4P & 6P Boys Varsity Baseball
Marshall High School

5P Men's Baseball
Albion College

5P Girls JV Softball
Marshall High School

6P - 9P Euchre Tournament
Fundraiser for Albion Health
Care Alliance
Eckford Community Center

6:30P Girls Varsity Soccer
Marshall High School

SATURDAY

3

Albion College Graduation

9A Flag Placement on Veterans'
Graves
Riverside Cemetery

1P Dungeons & Dragons Club
Albion District Library

1P -2:30P Coffee Hour with
Attorney Jim Haadsma
Stirling Books & Brew

6P Cinco de Mayo Party
Albion Moose

10

9A Flag Placement on Veterans'
Graves
Memory Gardens Cemetery

10A Kitchen Witch - Cutting
Board and Tincture Workshop
EBMY Farm

11A "Come with Your Mother's
Hairdo!" Mother's Day Tea
Gardener House Museum

12P Engage & Elevate 2025
(MSU Extension/4-H)
Marshall Opportunity School

1P Tea Party
Salem United Church of Chirst

1P Precinct 3 - Coffee and
Conversation with Jim Stuart

2P Euchre 101 Class
Stirling Books & Brew

3P - 5P Euchre Club
Stirling Books & Brew

March in the Memorial Day Parade!

If you're interested in marching the Memorial Day Parade, contact
Al Smith - (248) 917-6527 OR
Sam Porter - (517) 494 - 0772
Line-up will be at 9:30A behind Kids 'N' Stuff Children's Museum.



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.



APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR
DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

May 15th at 4PM

For more information visit albionfoundation.org
or contact foundation@albionfoundation.org



BRUNCH
at the Bohm
10AM Saturday, May 17th

Brunch &
Breakfast at Tiffany's!

Seats are limited!
\$35
per ticket.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
11 Mother's Day 10A - 3P Mother's Day Brunch <i>Galazio of Albion</i>	12 10:30A Children's Story Time <i>Stirling Books & Brew</i> 4P Girls Varsity Tennis <i>Marshall High School</i> 4:30P Track Meet <i>Marshall High School</i>	13 7A - 8A Tracks & Trades <i>Trackside Eatery & Pub</i> 9A Albion Rec - Walk & Talk <i>Opportunity School - Gym</i> 9:30A Albion Rec - Silverstars <i>Opportunity School</i> 3P - 5P AHCA Community Table of Albion Drive Thru Distribution <i>Albion College Wesley Hall</i> 4P & 6P Boys Varsity Baseball <i>Marshall High School</i> 4P & 6P Girls Varsity Softball <i>Marshall High School</i> 6P Writing Circle <i>Albion District Library</i> 6:15P Albion Rec - Water Aerobics <i>Opportunity School - Pool</i> 7P Musical May - 8 Mile <i>Bohm Theatre</i>	14 9A Girls Varsity Tennis <i>Marshall High School</i> 12P Documentary Series <i>Albion District Library</i> 5P Girls JV Soccer <i>Marshall High School</i> 6P Albion Rec - Cardio Drumming <i>Opportunity School - Gym</i> 6P Zumba <i>The Body Shop Albion</i> 6:30P Girls Varsity Soccer <i>Marshall High School</i>	15 4P Grant Deadline <i>Albion Community Foundation</i> 4P & 6P Girls Varsity Softball <i>Marshall High School</i> 5P Family Game Night <i>Kids 'N' Stuff Children's Museum</i> 5:30P Euchre Night <i>Albion District Library</i> 6P Vinyasa Flow - Yoga <i>The Body Shop Albion</i> 6:15P Albion Rec - Water Aerobics <i>Opportunity School - Pool</i>	16 9A Albion Rec - Walk & Talk <i>Opportunity School - Gym</i> 9:30A Albion Rec - Silverstars <i>Opportunity School</i> 4P Boys Varsity Baseball <i>Marshall High School</i>	17 7 Year Itch - Anniversary Bash <i>Albion Malleable Brewing Co.</i> 9A Member Mornings: River Explorers <i>Kids 'N' Stuff Children's Museum</i> 10A - 2P Albion Scouting Geranium Pickup <i>St. Paul's Lutheran Church</i> 10A Brunch at the Bohm - Breakfast at Tiffany's <i>Bohm Theatre</i> 1P Dungeons & Dragons Club <i>Albion District Library</i> 5P 7 Year Itch - Anniversary Bash - Edison Hollow & The Lucid Furs <i>Albion Malleable Brewing Co.</i>
18 8A Pancake Breakfast <i>Sheridan Township Fire Dept.</i> 12P Tea is for Toys (Kids 'N' Stuff) <i>Ismon House</i>	19 TBA Girls Varsity Tennis <i>Marshall High School</i> 10:30A Children's Story Time <i>Stirling Books & Brew</i> 6P Learn & Pull: Mile-a-minute Weed <i>Whitehouse Nature Center</i>	20 7A - 8A Tracks & Trades <i>Trackside Eatery & Pub</i> 9A Albion Rec - Walk & Talk <i>Opportunity School - Gym</i> 9:30A Albion Rec - Silverstars <i>Opportunity School</i> 3P - 5P AHCA Community Table of Albion Drive Thru Distribution <i>Albion College Wesley Hall</i> 4P & 6P Girls JV Softball <i>Marshall High School</i> 4P & 6P Boys JV Baseball <i>Marshall High School</i> 5P Girls JV Soccer <i>Marshall High School</i> 6:15P Albion Rec - Water Aerobics <i>Opportunity School - Pool</i> 7P Musical May - Dream Girls <i>Bohm Theatre</i>	21 5A Beginners Vinyasa Flow - Yoga <i>The Body Shop Albion</i> 12P Documentary Series <i>Albion District Library</i> 4P - 5:30P Albion Knitters <i>Stirling Books & Brew</i> 6P Albion Rec - Cardio Drumming <i>Opportunity School - Gym</i>	22 6P Open Study Group <i>Albion District Library</i> 6P Classics Reading <i>Stirling Books & Brew</i> 6P Vinyasa Flow - Yoga <i>The Body Shop Albion</i> 6:15P Albion Rec - Water Aerobics <i>Opportunity School - Pool</i>	23 9A Albion Rec - Walk & Talk <i>Opportunity School - Gym</i> 9:30A Albion Rec - Silverstars <i>Opportunity School</i> 3P - 6P There's Enough Pop-Up <i>Tennant Hall</i> 10P bohmn@nite <i>Bohm Theatre</i>	24 10A - 1P There's Enough Pop-Up <i>Tennant Hall</i> 10A Paint a Chicken in a Basket Ceramic Workshop <i>EBMY Farm</i> 2P Chess 101 Club <i>Stirling Books & Brew</i> 3P - 5P Stirling Chess Club <i>Stirling Books & Brew</i>
25	26 Memorial Day 10A Memorial Day Parade <i>South Superior Street</i>	27 7A - 8A Tracks & Trades <i>Trackside Eatery & Pub</i> 9A Albion Rec - Walk & Talk <i>Opportunity School - Gym</i> 9:30A Albion Rec - Silverstars <i>Opportunity School</i> 3P - 5P AHCA Community Table of Albion Drive Thru Distribution <i>Albion College Wesley Hall</i> 6:15P Albion Rec - Water Aerobics <i>Opportunity School - Pool</i> 7P Musical May - Mamma Mia <i>Bohm Theatre</i>	28 12P Documentary Series <i>Albion District Library</i> 6P Albion Rec - Cardio Drumming <i>Opportunity School - Gym</i>	29 6P Vinyasa Flow - Yoga <i>The Body Shop Albion</i> 6:15P Albion Rec - Water Aerobics <i>Opportunity School - Pool</i>	30 9A Albion Rec - Walk & Talk <i>Opportunity School - Gym</i> 9:30A Albion Rec - Silverstars <i>Opportunity School</i>	31 1P Dungeons & Dragons Club <i>Albion District Library</i>