

Naturally Connected

Albion's World Fest

World Fest is back with a new twist!

From 2022 - 2025, Albion experienced six different cultures of music through the Arts Midwest program. Twice a year, a band would spend a weeklong residency in Albion to provide free workshops in Marshall Public Schools and community venues like Kids 'N' Stuff Children's Museum, Stirling Books & Brew, Forks Senior Center, and Albion District Library. The week would end with a performance at the historic Bohm Theatre. This unique experience provided hands-on learning and joy through music.

Throughout the Arts Midwest partnership, Albion welcomed the Alaskan Inuit group: Pamyua, Ghanaian musician: Okaidja Arfroso, Brazilian band: Paulo Padiha e Bando, Taiwanese group: A Moving Sound, Jordanian performer: Farah Siraj, and Latin American group: LADAMA. Although the Arts Midwest World Fest concluded this past spring, local community leaders have seen the benefit of experiencing other cultures and learning new music. Sam Porter, local guide, group ambassador, and now lead organizer shared that seeing the engagement from community members, young and old, influenced his passion for the program, and that having accessibility to other cultures is an impactful way to support community growth.

September Albion community calendar inside!



Arts Midwest World Fest group - LADAMA during the Kids 'N' Stuff Children's Museum Workshop.

Connections to the Festival of the Forks

Albion, Michigan is rooted in history and culture. Beginning with our industrious roots, by the early 1900s, Albion was home to people from Italy, Poland, Holland, Mexico, and Black migrant people from the south. This rich ethnic diversity led to cultural sharing through food, music, and visual arts evolving into the Festival of the Forks in 1967.

Albion's World Fest board believes the weeklong residency fits perfectly with the roots of the Festival of the Forks. So, get ready for a weeklong cultural experience September 15th – 20th! **Story continues inside.**

Inside -

- 20 Years of Connections & Friendships at the Forks Senior Center
- Behind the Scenes of the Annual Bids 'N' Stuff Fundraiser

Albion's World Fest First Performers – Alla Boara!

Join Albion's World Fest, the Bohm Theatre, and the Albion Community Foundation this September for Alla Boara! Blending ancient Italian folk traditions with contemporary jazz, Alla Boara breathes new life into forgotten melodies, offering audiences a captivating journey through cultural heritage and universal human emotions.

The group will be providing free workshops at Marshall Public Schools, the Forks Senior Center, Kids 'N' Stuff Children's Museum, and a special music and wine workshop at Stirling Books & Brew. Wrap up the week with a final performance at 3PM on Saturday, September 20th at the Bohm Theatre.

Albion's World Fest continued.



A special thank you to the Albion's World Fest sponsors Albion-Homer United Way, Albion Community Foundation - Fund for Greater Albion and Youth Fund, City of Albion Arts Commission, Men Who Give, and Marshall Community Foundation.

20 Years of Connections & Friendship

at the Forks Senior Center

Written by Cassidy Porter

The oldest senior center in Calhoun County is turning 20! The Forks Senior Center (FSC) grew from the passion of a few local seniors wanting a place to connect in 2005. Beginning at the First United Methodist Church, members gathered to play card games and socialize, but the interest and membership grew rapidly. By 2008, the nonprofit outgrew the church and moved to the Crowell Elementary School building. For six years, FSC provided access to health and wellness programs, social activities, and everyday needs for the aging community at this location.



20 Years of Connections & Friendships at the Forks Senior Center cont.

Rooted in community partnerships and access to resources, FSC bridges countless seniors to resources they may not know exist like Carewell Services, Senior Health Partners, and the Community Table of Albion. Resources range from vaccine clinics and health check-ups, to transportation, food access, and legal services. Within the building, FSC offers fitness and movement classes for older adults at all movement levels plus daily programs such as euchre, bingo, five crowns, and more. Members build relations with new people, connect with old friends, and just spend time with a supporting community. The Forks Senior Center is truly a necessary hub for any older adult.



After speaking with Executive Director, Luann Sommers, I gained some insights into the true impact of the nonprofit. With 415 current members, Sommers sees the importance of movement as you age and the need for socialization. She shared how numerous members find their daily purpose at the center, whether it's brewing the morning coffee or helping at the front desk. One of Sommers proudest aspects is diversity of the membership. People from all walks of life are members, with ages ranging from 60 to 100 and people of different ethnicities and social classes. All are welcomed and encouraged to join.

A 20th Anniversary Celebration is planned for September 12th from 4PM – 6PM with a community open house. Come join the fun!

Behind the Scenes
of the Annual Bids 'N' Stuff Fundraiser

Picture this – a gathering of philanthropic community members on a beautiful fall evening, enjoying drinks and delicious foods, all with the purpose of supporting a beloved local non-profit through bidding on exciting auction items. But what does it truly take to plan a large-scale fundraising event? Kids 'N' Stuff Children's Museum Executive Director, Katie Gigliotti, took a bit of time to explain the work behind the 17th Annual Bids 'N' Stuff Fundraiser.

Planning started just weeks after the 2024 fundraiser was completed. The six volunteer committee members plus Kids 'N' Stuff staff took the time to debrief and understand the strengths and weaknesses of the completed event. Then in early 2025, the procurement of items and logistics began! It can take months for a single auction item to come to fruition for the event. **Story continues on the back.**

Behind the Scenes of the Annual Bids 'N' Stuff Fundraiser continued.

Every committee tackles the event differently, this year part of the committee tackled auction items, and the others handled the logistics – location, food, drinks, marketing, and more, all while securing sponsors.



But if it's a fundraiser, why do you need sponsors? Planning a quality event with food, drinks, rentals, marketing, and more costs upward of \$10,000 a year. As this is the only fundraiser the non-profit has in a year, it is crucial that the funds raised during the event support the needs of the museum. This year's sponsors are Oaklawn Hospital, Greater Albion Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau, Peter & Becky Mitchell, Team1 Plastics, Homestead Savings Bank, Michigan Automotive Compressor Inc., Marshall Community Credit Union, Battle Creek Tile & Mosaic Co. Inc., and Jeff Fielder and Dr. Karen Garcia.

How do you get the items for the auction? Auction items are a mixture of donations and purchased goods. Numerous come from the committee and board's personal connections whether they are a business owner or know someone willing to support. Various local businesses support the endeavor with donations. Determining what is included in the auction is fine balance between baskets and physical items to experiences.



Wonderland This year, you can expect the same amazing experience filled with wonder, just in a new venue! With the changes at Stoffer Plaza, the committee had to pivot locations to the Science Atrium at Albion College, on Saturday September 13th from 6PM – 9PM. Expect great food, fun games, and exciting auction items. All are welcome to join with every little bit helping the non-profit. Tickets are on sale now, and available for individuals, couples, groups of four, and tables. Visit kidsnstuff.org/bids-n-stuff.html to learn more and grab your ticket before they're gone!

UPCOMING
Signature Series Fundraisers!

- SEPT. 17TH 7PM — Specialty Bourbon
Bourbon at the Bohm
- OCT. 18TH 1PM — Little Shop of Horrors
Broadway at the Bohm
- NOV. 15TH 10AM — Love Actually
Brunch at the Bohm



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








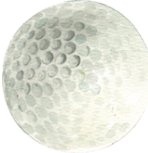





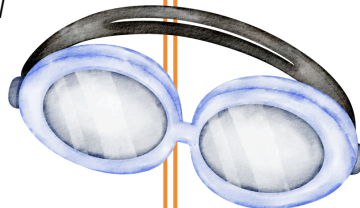




September

Upcoming Events



National Hispanic Heritage Month - September 15th - October 15th

Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday					
<div><div>1 Labor Day</div><div>No School <i>Marshall Public Schools</i></div><div>10:30A Children's Story Time <i>Stirling Books & Brew</i></div></div> <div></div>		<div><div>2 Superior Street Brick Closure</div><div>7A - 8A Tracks & Trades <i>Trackside Eatery & Pub</i></div><div>5P Boys JV Soccer <i>Marshall High School</i></div><div>5P - 9M Dungeons & Dragons - Senior Adventuring Guild <i>Albion District Library</i></div><div>6P - 7:30P Magic: The Gathering Club <i>Albion District Library</i></div><div>6:30P Boys Varsity Soccer <i>Marshall High School</i></div><div>7P City Council Meeting <i>Marshall Opportunity High School Library</i></div></div>		<div><div>3 Superior Street Brick Closure</div><div>12P - 1P Real to Reel Documentary Series <i>Albion District Library</i></div><div>12P - 1:30P Learning Lunch - Intuitive Eating - Albion Health Care Alliance - RSVP <i>Bread of Life Ministries</i></div><div>4P Albion Knitters <i>Stirling Books & Brew</i></div><div>5P Women's Soccer <i>Albion College</i></div><div>5P Girls JV Volleyball <i>Marshall High School</i></div><div>6P Teen/Adult Movement Class <i>In-Fluence Dance Studio</i></div><div>6P Zumba <i>The Body Shop Albion</i></div><div>6:30P Girls Varsity Volleyball <i>Marshall High School</i></div></div>		<div><div>4 Superior Street Brick Closure</div><div>4P Boys Varsity Tennis <i>Marshall High School</i></div><div>5P Boys JV Soccer <i>Marshall High School</i></div><div>5:30P Euchre Night <i>Albion District Library</i></div><div>6:30P Boys Varsity Soccer <i>Marshall High School</i></div></div> <div></div>		<div><div>5 Superior Street Brick Closure</div><div>6:30P Friday Trivia Night <i>Stirling Books & Brew</i></div><div>7P Boys Varsity Football & Coed Varsity Cheerleading <i>Marshall High School</i></div></div> <div></div>		<div><div>6</div><div>11A "School of Rock" Dollar Film Series <i>Bohm Theatre</i></div><div>1P Women's Soccer <i>Albion College</i></div><div>4P Men's Soccer <i>Albion College</i></div></div>					
Sunday		<div><div>7</div><div>10A - 3P Sunday Brunch <i>Galazio of Albion</i></div><div>6P 496 WEST - Swingin' at the Shell <i>Victory Park Bandshell</i></div></div> <div></div>		<div><div>8</div><div>10:30A Children's Story Time <i>Stirling Books & Brew</i></div><div>4P Boys Varsity Tennis <i>Marshall High School</i></div><div>7P Blues at the Bohm with Brandon Santini <i>Bohm Theatre</i></div></div>		<div><div>9</div><div>7A - 8A Tracks & Trades <i>Trackside Eatery & Pub</i></div><div>3P - 5P Drive-Through Food Distribution - Community Table of Albion <i>Marshall Opportunity High School</i></div><div>5:30P Albion Area Philanthropic Women <i>McIntosh Park</i></div><div>6P Girls Varsity Swimming <i>Marshall High School</i></div><div>6P Writing Circle <i>Albion District Library</i></div></div> <div></div>		<div><div>10</div><div>12P - 1P Real to Reel Documentary Series <i>Albion District Library</i></div><div>6P Teen/Adult Movement Class <i>In-Fluence Dance Studio</i></div></div>		<div><div>11</div><div>6P Open Study Group <i>Albion District Library</i></div><div>6P - 7:30P Yarn Craft Club <i>Albion District Library</i></div><div>6P Boys Varsity Soccer <i>Marshall High School</i></div></div>		<div><div>12</div><div>9A Redhawk Invitational - Girls Varsity Golf - Marshall High <i>Marshall Country Club</i></div><div>4P - 6P Forks Senior Center 20th Anniversary Open House <i>Forks Senior Center</i></div><div>6:30P Friday Trivia Night <i>Stirling Books & Brew</i></div><div>7P Boys Varsity Football (Hall of Fame Night) & Coed Varsity Cheerleading <i>Marshall High School</i></div></div> <div></div> <div></div>		<div><div>13</div><div>8A Men's and Women's Tennis Doubles Tournament <i>Albion College</i></div><div>11A Boys JV Soccer <i>Marshall High School</i></div><div>11A - 1P Green Witches Broom/Floral Besom <i>EBMY Farm</i></div><div>12P Women's Soccer <i>Albion College</i></div><div>12:30P Boys Varsity Soccer <i>Marshall High School</i></div><div>2P Euchre 101 Class <i>Stirling Books & Brew</i></div><div>3P Euchre Club <i>Stirling Books & Brew</i></div><div>3P Men's Soccer <i>Albion College</i></div><div>6P - 9P Bids 'N' Stuff: Wonderland - Kids 'N' Stuff Auction <i>Albion College Science Atrium</i></div></div>	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>14</div> <div>1P - 3P Triple P - Pinch Pot Pumpkin Class EBMY Farm</div> <div>6P Heartache Tonight - an Eagles Tribute - Swingin' at the Shell Victory Park Bandshell</div>	<div>15</div> <div>10:30A Children's Story Time Stirling Books & Brew</div> <div>11A Men's Golf Albion College</div> <div>3P Albion's World Fest Workshop Forks Senior Center</div> <div>4P Boys Varsity Tennis Marshall High School</div> <div>4P Grant Deadline at the Albion Community Foundation</div> <div>7P City Council Meeting Marshall Opportunity High School Library</div>	<div>16</div> <div>7A - 8A Tracks & Trades Trackside Eatery & Pub</div> <div>3P - 5P Drive-Through Food Distribution - Community Table of Albion Marshall Opportunity High School</div> <div>5P - 9M Dungeons & Dragons - Senior Adventuring Guild Albion District Library</div> <div>5P Boys JV Soccer Marshall High School</div> <div>6:30P Boys Varsity Soccer Marshall High School</div>	<div>17</div> <div>½ Day for Marshall Public Schools</div> <div>12P - 1P Real to Reel Documentary Series Albion District Library</div> <div>4P Albion Knitters Stirling Books & Brew</div> <div>5P Girls JV Volleyball Marshall High School</div> <div>6P Teen/Adult Movement Class In-Fluence Dance Studio</div> <div>6P Zumba The Body Shop Albion</div> <div>6:30P Girls Varsity Volleyball Marshall High School</div> <div>7P Bourbon at the Bohm Bohm Theatre</div>	<div>18</div> <div>11A Albion's World Fest Workshop Kids 'N' Stuff Children's Museum</div> <div>3:30P Girls Varsity Soccer - Marshall High Marshall Country Club</div> <div>5:30P Euchre Night Albion District Library</div> <div>6P Boys JV Football & Coed JV Cheerleading Marshall High School</div> <div>6:30P Albion's World Fest Wine Workshop Stirling Books & Brew</div> <div>7P Women's Soccer Albion College</div>	<div>19 Festival of the Forks</div> <div>5:30P Sister City Mural Dedication Alley between the Secretary of State & Anna's House of Flowers</div> <div>6P Run Albion Forks 5K In front of Homestead Savings Bank</div> <div>6:30P Friday Trivia Night Stirling Books & Brew</div> <div>7P Festival of the Forks Kickoff Party w/The Devil Elvis Show Albion Malleable Brewing Co.</div>	<div>20 Festival of the Forks</div> <div>8:30A Foundry Mile Ending in Front of the Foundry Bakehouse & Deli</div> <div>9A Festival of the Forks Parade Downtown Albion</div> <div>9A Marshall Invitational Girls Swimming & Diving Marshall High School</div> <div>12P Football Albion College</div> <div>3P Men's Soccer Albion College</div> <div>3P Alla Boara Concert - Albion's World Fest Bohm Theatre</div>
<div>21</div> <div>2P Murder in Victorian Western Michigan Stirling Books & Brew</div> <div>3:30P Women's Soccer Albion College</div> <div></div>	<div>22</div> <div>10:30A Children's Story Time Stirling Books & Brew</div> <div>5P Girls JV Volleyball Marshall High School</div> <div></div>	<div>23</div> <div>7A - 8A Tracks & Trades Trackside Eatery & Pub</div> <div>3P - 5P Drive-Through Food Distribution - Community Table of Albion Marshall Opportunity High School</div> <div>5P Boys JV Soccer Marshall High School</div> <div>6P Girls Varsity Swimming Marshall High School</div> <div>6:30P Boys Varsity Soccer Marshall High School</div> <div></div>	<div>24</div> <div>12P - 1P Real to Reel Documentary Series Albion District Library</div> <div>5P Girls JV Volleyball Marshall High School</div> <div>6:30P Girls Varsity Volleyball Marshall High School</div> <div>7P Men's Soccer Albion College</div> <div></div>	<div>25</div> <div>6P Boys JV Football & Coed JV Cheerleading Marshall High School</div> <div></div>	<div>26</div> <div>8A Greater Albion Chamber Eggs & Issues Albion College - Kellogg Center 2nd Floor</div> <div>6:30P Friday Trivia Night Stirling Books & Brew</div> <div>7P Women's Volleyball Albion College</div>	<div>27</div> <div>10A Healthy Babies Day - Calhoun County Public Health Department & Albion Health Care Alliance 1418 Cooper St. (Crowell Elementary)</div> <div>10A Boys JV Soccer Marshall High School</div> <div>11A - 1P Triple P - Pinch Pot Pumpkin Class EBMY Farm</div> <div>11:30A Boys Varsity Soccer Marshall High School</div> <div>2P Chess 101 Class Stirling Books & Brew</div> <div>3P Chess Club Stirling Books & Brew</div> <div>6P Football Albion College</div> <div></div>
<div>28</div> <div>9AM - 1PM Pancake Brunch American Legion Post 55</div> <div></div>	<div>29</div> <div>10:30A Children's Story Time Stirling Books & Brew</div> <div>4P Boys Varsity Tennis Marshall High School</div> <div>5P Girls Varsity Volleyball Marshall High School</div> <div>6:30P - 8P Albion Cub Scout Pack 158 Join Scouting Night American Legion Post 55</div>	<div>30</div> <div>7A - 8A Tracks & Trades Trackside Eatery & Pub</div> <div>5P - 9M Dungeons & Dragons - Senior Adventuring Guild Albion District Library</div> <div>6P Women's Soccer Albion College</div>	<div>Bobbitt Visual Arts Center Galleries Open Weekly</div> <div>9A - 4P Tuesdays & Thursdays</div> <div>2P - 8P Fridays</div> <div>10A - 2P Saturdays</div>			