



# Naturally Connected

## Celebrating the 57th Annual Festival of the Forks!

Since 1967, the Festival of the Forks has been engrained in the culture and community of Albion. Beginning as a heritage celebration, the Festival is an annual event that brings the community together to celebrate one another, our ethnic diversity, and our love for Albion.

Although the food is amazing, from tamales to BBQ, the Festival of the Forks is not named after the common eating utensil. The “Forks” is a reference to the Kalamazoo River. Albion is home to the convergence of the two branches of the Kalamazoo River, creating a “fork” in the river.

Over the years, the Festival of the Forks has grown and shifted along with the community. We have seen the additions of the Friday night car show, carnival games, and petting zoo. However, the core of the Festival has never changed – celebrating and enjoying Albion with friends, families, and visitors.

Most recently, an annual theme has also been added to the Festival of the Forks. This year, we can be excited to “follow the red brick road” to Albion, paying homage to the 85th anniversary of *The Wizard of Oz*, because there’s no place like Albion!

Join in the celebration Friday, September 20th and Saturday, September 21st. Visit [festivaloftheforks.org](http://festivaloftheforks.org) to stay up to date with the Festival schedule.



### Get ready for...

- Cruise In & Car Show
- The final Run Albion 5K Race of 2024
- The Foundry Mile
- Live Music & Art
- Parade
- BlueOx & Printer Source Rubber Duck 600
- Foam Party
- Carnival & Petting Zoo
- Canoeing
- 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament with Play Right Sports Academy
- Albion Community Foundation & the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC)’s Dunk Tank
- Farah Siraj: World Fest Concert
- Food Trucks, Vendors, & More!



# Up, Up, and Away

## with Kids 'N' Stuff Children's Museum Annual Auction

Collectively, the staff and board of Kids 'N' Stuff Children's Museum are gearing up to host their largest fundraiser of the year, Bids 'N' Stuff. Primarily a live and silent auction, the event offers an array of items for attendees to bid on, including unique experiences, vacations, signed memorabilia, tickets, memberships, and artwork. The theme for this year's event is, Up, Up, and Away, so visitors can expect to engage with exciting activities befitting to the theme (hint, a hot air balloon or two)!



This year, the host for the evening is celebrity and award-winning magician, Daniel Martin. Daniel has been awarded "Best Variety Artist" & "Best Male Performer" as well as the coveted "Entertainer of the Year" award. His awarding winning magic has been seen on the BBC's "NOW YOU SEE IT", Netflix, Disney+, NBC, and Discovery.

The event will take place on September 14th, from 6PM - 9PM in Stoffer Plaza. Tickets are on sale now, including a new VIP option. For additional details visit the Kids 'N' Stuff Children's Museum website at [kidsnstuff.org/bids-n-stuff-annual-auction](http://kidsnstuff.org/bids-n-stuff-annual-auction).

All proceeds from the event support operations at the non-profit museum.

## Coming Soon: Farah Siraj!

### A World Fest Performer

Arts Midwest is bringing the Arabian flamenco jazz of Farah Siraj to Albion as part of Arts Midwest World Fest!



Named Jordan's Musical Ambassadors, Farah Siraj balances a career that spans the United States, Europe, and the Middle East, having performed on some of the world's most prestigious stages, including the United Nations, Nobel Prize Hall, World Economic Forum, and Lincoln Center. Farah performs her original compositions, fusing influences of middle eastern music, flamenco, jazz, bossa and pop, with lyrics in Arabic, Spanish and English. As a humanitarian, Farah focuses on raising awareness about the consequences of war and violence, and advocates for women's rights, refugee rights and animal rights.

Farah Siraj's visit to Albion is made possible by a partnership between Arts Midwest, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Albion Community Foundation, and the Bohm Theatre. The partnership most recently brought "A Moving Sound", and in the spring of 2025 will bring "LADAMA" as the sixth and final part of the series.

# Build Albion Fellows Celebrate 10 Years!

In 2015 the Build Albion Fellows program was built to bridge the gap between the community and Albion College. The vision for the program centers around local Albion students gaining a post-secondary education and experiences within their home community. Each year the program welcomes up to ten local Albion students, and in exchange for financial support, the students complete community service throughout their time on campus.



This year's first-year class marks the 10th cohort of the program! For 10 years the program has ebbed and flowed to best support the needs of the community. With over 35 alumni, Build Albion Fellows have achieved Master's and Doctorate Degrees, created successful business careers, impacted youth's lives, and continued to support the Albion community.

Join the celebration of the Build Albion Fellows at Albion College's 2024 Homecoming. The program will be hosting "Behind the Impact – A Build Albion Fellows Celebration" Friday, October 4th at 7PM at the Ludington Center, "Continuing the Impact – A Build Albion Fellows Story" Saturday, October 5th at 8AM at Norris 102, Albion College, and host a tailgating tent prior to the homecoming football game. All are encouraged to attend! Stay up to date at [albion.edu/engage-support/alumni-events/homecoming/](http://albion.edu/engage-support/alumni-events/homecoming/).



*Register here!*

Mark your calendars for...

## *Albion's Winter Market!*

Make your holiday shopping easy this season with Albion's Winter Market. On Thursday, November 14th, 2024 from 4:30PM – 8PM explore downtown Albion as local businesses kick-off the holiday season with a fun shopping experience.



Gain gift ideas, enjoy local treats, listen to wonderful music, and experience local art! Superior Arts will be hosting local artist vendors at the Ismon House with handcrafted goods available. Businesses will have specials and activities.

From Superior Street to the Ismon House, Albion is sure to have a wonderful night.



COMMUNITY  
MEMBER  
HIGHLIGHT

*Sam Porter*

Born and raised in Albion, Sam Porter has been involved in the community of Albion for his entire life. Currently, Sam volunteers with Albion Scouting, Rotary Club, and is the parade coordinator for the Festival of the Forks.

*Thank you for your dedication to Albion, Sam!*

Do you have a community member nominee?  
Send it over to [ambassador@albionfoundation.org](mailto:ambassador@albionfoundation.org)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



- General election is Tuesday, November 5th
  - For early voting and absentee ballot information visit [cityofalbionmi.gov/departments/city\\_clerk/index.php](http://cityofalbionmi.gov/departments/city_clerk/index.php)

## Community ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Need a ride? Albion - Marshall Connector Bus travels between the two communities five days a week from 7:30AM - 4:30PM. The bus will run during special events for Marshall Public Schools such as parent teacher conferences and sporting events.
  - Unless a reservation is made 24 hours in advance, pick up is first come first serve.
  - One way fares
    - \$2 Adults / Children 13+
    - \$1 Disabled / Seniors 60+ / Children 5 - 12
    - Free Caretakers / Children under 5 with a paid rider
  - Call 517-654-3000 or 269-781-3975 for reservations
- Albion Area Philanthropic Women's next meeting is September 10th at 5:30PM
- Men Who Give's next meeting is September 10th at 7PM
- Join Albion Scouting at Riverside Cemetery September 11th at 6PM for a 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony



- Final grant deadline of 2024 is September 15th at 4PM.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The last Swingin' at the Shell summer concert at Victory Park is September 8th at 6PM.
- The last Run Albion 5K of 2024 is the Forks 5K on September 20th. To learn more visit [runalbion.com](http://runalbion.com)



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Eggs & Issues return this October! Stay tuned for more information.

## Get ready for... BRICK BY BRICK PODCAST



with  
*Cassidy Porter*

Hear from...

- Ian Barbour
- Kyndall Lewis
- Billy Beers & More!

Listen on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify, & Soundcloud.





# September

Now with all home Marshall Public Schools and Albion College sporting events!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>11AM</b> ⚽ AC Women's Soccer Alumni Field - AC*</p> <p><b>6PM</b> 🎵 Elton Rhon (Elton John Tribute Band) -Swingin' at the Shell Victory Park</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>5:30PM</b> 🏃 Albion in Motion Exercise Classes Holland Park</p> <p><b>7PM</b> City Council Meeting City Hall</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>9AM - 4PM</b> "Math to the Power of Art" by Exhibit Dave Reimann BVAC - AC*</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>10AM</b> 🏌️ AC Golf Cascades Golf Course-AC*</p> <p><b>12PM - 1PM</b> 📺 Brown Bag Documentary Series ADL*</p> <p><b>5PM</b> 🏐 Girls Freshmen Volleyball MHS*</p> <p><b>7PM - 9PM</b> Bingo Albion Moose</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>9AM - 4PM</b> "Math ... Art" by Exhibit Dave Reimann BVAC - AC*</p> <p><b>4PM</b> ⚽ Boys Freshmen Football MHS*</p> <p><b>4PM</b> 🎾 Boys Varsity Tennis MHS*</p> <p><b>6PM</b> ⚽ Boys JV Football MHS*</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>1PM - 3PM</b> 🍎🍌 Food Pantry Distribution Wesley Hall - AC*</p> <p><b>2PM - 8PM</b> "Math ... Art" Exhibit by Dave Reimann BVAC - AC*</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>9AM - 12PM</b> Albion Community Day - Albion College Ludington Center</p> <p><b>10AM - 2PM</b> "Math ... Art" Exhibit by Dave Reimann BVAC - AC*</p> <p><b>1PM</b> ⚽ AC Men's Football Stadium - AC*</p> <p><b>4PM</b> ⚽ AC Women's Soccer Alumni Field -AC*</p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>12PM</b> ⚽ AC Men's Soccer Alumni Field - AC*</p> <p><b>6PM</b> 🎵 Solitary Man (Neil Diamond Tribute Band) -Swingin' at the Shell Victory Park</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>4PM</b> 🎾 Boys Varsity Tennis MHS*</p> <p><b>5:30PM</b> 🏃 Albion in Motion Exercise Classes Holland Park</p> <p><b>7PM</b> 🎵 Blues at the Bohm w/The Fat Animals Bohm Theatre</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>9AM - 4PM</b> "Math ... Art" Exhibit by Dave Reimann BVAC - AC*</p> <p><b>12PM - 1PM</b> Lunch 'N' Learn: Labels (AHCA*) Bread of Life Ministries</p> <p><b>3PM - 5PM</b> 🍎🍌 Drive Thru Food Distribution Wesley Hall - AC*</p> <p><b>6PM</b> 🏊 Girls Varsity Swimming MHS*</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>12PM - 1PM</b> 📺 Brown Bag Documentary Series ADL*</p> <p><b>6PM</b> 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony Riverside Cemetery</p> <p><b>7PM - 9PM</b> Bingo Albion Moose</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>9AM - 4PM</b> "Math ... Art" Exhibit by Dave Reimann BVAC - AC*</p> <p><b>4PM</b> ⚽ Boys Freshmen Football MHS*</p> <p><b>5:30PM</b> 🎲 Euchre Night ADL*</p> <p><b>6PM</b> ⚽ Boys JV Football MHS*</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>2PM - 8PM</b> "Math ... Art" Exhibit by Dave Reimann BVAC - AC*</p> <p><b>5PM - 7PM</b> Dave Reimann Art Talk for "Math to the Power of Art" Exhibit BVAC - AC*</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Girls Varsity Swimming 🏊 MHS*</p> <p>Boys Varsity Tennis 🎾 MHS*</p> <p><b>10AM - 2PM</b> Dave Reimann Meet &amp; Greet for Exhibit BVAC - AC*</p> <p><b>1PM</b> ⚽ AC Men's Football Stadium - AC*</p> <p><b>6PM - 9PM</b> Bids 'N' Stuff: Up, Up &amp; Away Stoffer Plaza</p>

**Key\***

- AC - Albion College
- ADL - Albion District Library
- AHCA - Albion Health Care Alliance
- BVAC - AC - Bobbitt Visual Arts Center - Albion College
- FBD - Foundry Bakehouse & Deli
- KG - AC - Kresge Gym - Albion College
- KNS - Kids 'N' Stuff Children's Museum
- MHS - Marshall High School





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<p><b>15</b>  <b>10AM</b> 🏸                      AC Tennis                      Dow Center - AC*</p>	<p><b>16</b>  <b>9AM</b> 🏊                      Girls Varsity Golf                      (MHS)   <b>5:30PM</b> 🏃                      Albion in Motion                      Exercise Classes                      Holland Park   <b>7PM</b>                      City Council                      Meeting                      City Hall</p>	<p><b>17</b>  <b>9AM - 4PM</b>                      "Math ... Art"                      Exhibit by Dave                      Reimann                      BVAC - AC*   <b>3PM - 5PM</b> 🍎🍌                      Drive Thru Food                      Distribution                      Wesley Hall - AC*   <b>6:30PM</b> ⚽                      Boys Varsity                      Soccer                      MHS*</p>	<p><b>18</b>  <b>12PM - 1PM</b> 📺                      Brown Bag                      Documentary                      Series                      ADL*   <b>4PM</b> 🎾                      Boys Varsity                      Tennis                      MHS*   <b>7PM - 9PM</b>                      Bingo                      Albion Moose</p>	<p><b>19</b>  <b>9AM - 4PM</b>                      "Math ... Art"                      Exhibit by Dave                      Reimann                      BVAC - AC*   <b>5PM</b> 🏐                      Girls Freshmen                      Volleyball                      MHS*</p>	<p><b>20</b>  <b>Festival of the                      Forks</b> 🍷   <b>1PM - 3PM</b> 🍎🍌                      Food Pantry                      Distribution                      Wesley Hall - AC*   <b>2PM - 8PM</b>                      "Math ... Art"                      Exhibit by Dave                      Reimann                      BVAC - AC*   <b>5PM - 9PM</b>                      Polish Dinner                      and Polka                      Dancing                      St. John                      Evangelist                      Catholic Church   <b>6PM</b> ⚽                      Boys Varsity                      Football                      MHS*   <b>6PM</b> 🏃🚶                      Run Albion 5K                      Race                      Downtown   <b>7PM</b> 🎵                      Festival of the                      Forks Kickoff -                      The Devil Elvis                      Show                      AMBC*   <b>7:30PM</b> 🏐                      AC Women's                      Volleyball                      KG - AC*</p>	<p><b>21</b>  <b>9AM</b> 🏊                      Girls Varsity                      Swimming                      MHS*   <b>9AM</b> 🏃🚶                      Foundry Mile                      FBD*   <b>10AM</b> ⚽                      Boys JV Soccer                      MHS*   <b>11:30AM</b> ⚽                      Boys Varsity                      Soccer                      MHS*   <b>10AM</b>                      Parade                      Downtown   <b>10AM</b> 🏐                      AC Women's                      Volleyball                      KG - AC*   <b>10AM - 2PM</b>                      "Math ... Art"                      Exhibit by Dave                      Reimann                      BVAC - AC*   <b>3:30PM</b> 🎵                      Farah Siraj                      Concert                      Bohm Theatre   <b>4:30PM</b> 🏐                      AC Women's                      Volleyball                      KG - AC*</p>
<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b>  <b>5:30PM</b> 🏃                      Albion in Motion                      Exercise Classes                      Holland Park</p>	<p><b>24</b>  <b>9AM - 4PM</b>                      "Math ... Art" by                      Exhibit Dave                      Reimann                      BVAC - AC*   <b>3PM - 5PM</b> 🍎🍌                      Drive Thru Food                      Distribution                      Wesley Hall - AC*   <b>5:30PM</b>                      Bracelet Making                      w/Gwen Tabb                      Pure Albion   <b>6PM</b> 🏊                      Girls Varsity                      Swimming                      MHS*   <b>6PM</b> 📖                      Graphic Novel                      Book Club                      ADL*</p>	<p><b>25</b>  <b>12PM - 1PM</b> 📺                      Brown Bag                      Documentary                      Series                      ADL*   <b>5PM</b> 🏐                      Girls JV &amp;                      Freshmen                      Volleyball                      MHS*   <b>6:30PM</b> 🏐                      Girls Varsity                      Volleyball                      MHS*   <b>7PM - 9PM</b>                      Bingo                      Albion Moose</p>	<p><b>26</b>  <b>9AM - 4PM</b>                      "Math ... Art"                      Exhibit by Dave                      Reimann                      BVAC - AC*   <b>5PM</b> ⚽                      Boys JV Soccer                      MHS*   <b>6:30PM</b> ⚽                      Boys Varsity                      Soccer                      MHS*</p>	<p><b>27</b>  <b>2PM - 8PM</b>                      "Math ... Art"                      Exhibit by Dave                      Reimann                      BVAC - AC*   <b>7PM</b> ⚽                      Boys Varsity                      Football                      MHS*</p>	<p><b>28</b>  <b>10AM - 12PM</b> 🍼                      Healthy Babies                      Day                      Harrington                      Elementary                      School   <b>10AM - 2PM</b>                      "Math ... Art"                      Exhibit by Dave                      Reimann                      BVAC - AC*</p>
<p><b>29</b>  <b>8AM - 1PM</b> 🥞                      Pancake Brunch                      American Legion                      Post 55</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>7PM</b> 🏐                      AC Women's                      Volleyball                      KG - AC*</p>	<p><b>Key*</b>                      AC - Albion College                      ADL - Albion District Library                      AHCA - Albion Health Care Alliance                      BVAC - AC - Bobbitt Visual Arts Center - Albion College                      FBD - Foundry Bakehouse &amp; Deli                      KG - AC - Kresge Gym - Albion College                      KNS - Kids 'N' Stuff Children's Museum                      MHS - Marshall High School</p>			