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"That which does not kill us makes us stronger."-Frederick Nietzsche

Nothing seemed to indicate that the bright sunny morning was going to bring anything unusual. Pulling into Andiamo's parking lot on Michigan Avenue, he noticed his car thermometer displayed 34 degrees. A nice crisp March morning with nothing but bright promise for a great run. Pretending to stretch for a few minutes, he surveyed the asphalt bike path that would lead him through the U of M Dearborn Campus, across Henry Ford Community College's cinder track, back down into the murky Rouge River flood plain, under the Ford Road Bridge and finally out to Historic Hines Park Drive. Out to Outer Drive and back was approximately six miles and an easy run for him. His legs felt strangely heavy that morning, and his progress was slower than usual. No big surprise for a runner in his middle fifties. Breathing the cold air deeply into his lungs, it seemed hard to catch his breath. Finishing the run and stretching in the parking lot, sweat seemed to come in torrents instead of the usual trickle. A dull aching pain radiated from his chest and down both arms. He calmly drove his Ford Taurus home and sat back in his easy chair, waiting for the pain to pass. Soon he would know more about Circumflex Arteries, Stents, Heart Catherizations, Drugs with unpronounceable names and countless other interesting minutiae relating to the central power plant and symbol of love, his heart.



The next week, hopeful cards and letters flooded his mailbox. Optimistic e-mails piled up in his inbox as the bell on the office door jingled with foot traffic, stopping in for updates on the patient's condition. Minutes accumulated on his cell phone bill setting a new personal record. His Coach stopped by with an Ecuadorian Rose and BoBo the Clown made a personal appearance, much to the delight of the entire Coronary Care Unit at Oakwood Hospital. Anxious parents made the long drive from "Up North" to sit by the sickbed. He had been very stoic during the entire affair, but what really brought a tear to his eye was when, while driving by the home of the Jaguars, he noticed that the cross-country and track distance runners put a message on the Allen Park High School Marquee that read: "Get Well Soon Mr. Ketelhut." Driving by that sign evoked an emotion he had never experienced in his life as he realized how much he would have missed everyone and everything if the worst would have happened on that critical March morning. Every day is now a treasured gift. Fruit and vegetables now taste so much better. Above all, his heart yearns to run again, pushing that heartbeat past the target rate, drinking in the exhilaration of what only a runner can feel while bounding over the hills and valleys, muddying his shoes and soaking his clothes with good honest sweat. For now, he is simply happy to still be here.

PARK AVENUE REALTY, INC. UPDATE

April 19, 2007 marked the one-year anniversary of Park Avenue Realty. First year went by so fast, gutting the building, setting up a Corporation, hiring an Accountant (**Chris Leonard-Allen Park 386-7622**), Attorney (**Watson Zdrodowski-Allen Park 928-2141**), and contractors to do everything from Heating & Cooling (**Lucky's Heating & Cooling-Allen Park 383-3124**) to carpeting. Roxanne & I became pros at stripping wallpaper, ripping up floor tile and painting. 2006 was a very slow sales year for the Board of Realtors, but we still did a pretty brisk business. Sold 21 homes and paid the bills on time. Goals for the second year are to keep listing and selling in Allen Park and the Downriver area. **My reduced commission program has been a huge success.** Park Avenue Realty is on two Multi-List Systems that broadcast your property for sale to over 1,000 offices and 50,000 agents in Southeastern Michigan. Having over **twenty years in the business** guarantees you will get excellent repre-

sentation and experience. The clincher is that you can cancel your contract with me anytime you are not satisfied. Check out other agents first and then talk to me...you will be glad you did.

Park Avenue Realty is also looking for a few more Agents to come and work with us. Very low Broker fees and the freedom to actually run your own business should attract the type of caliber of Agent we are looking for. Experienced Agents can call me anytime to sit down and talk about my program. Also, if you know of anyone looking to Buy or Sell Real Estate in our area, please refer them to me. We will all profit. Check out my website: **www.lynnketelhut.com**. It's a blast! One last thing: I framed all the historic photos that were published over the past 19 years and hung them on the hallway wall. Feel free to stop by and take a look. Call first, to make sure I'm in the office. Look forward to seeing you soon.

ALLEN PARK-PLEASANT PAST, BRIGHT FUTURE

The two pictures on the next page feature our Public Library, located on the corner of Champaign and Allen Road. Photos were taken in 1963. The Dedication Ceremony was January 27, 1963 and the Library opened for business the next day. Mrs. Margaret M. May was the Librarian. City Officials were: Clarence L. Lichtenberg-Mayor, Frank Rodwell-Clerk, & George Moore-Treasurer. City Council was Ralph C. Cunningham, Harold Duda, Kenneth W. Lieber, Lawrence J. Murphy, Leo L. Paluch and George G. Schafer. The building is 12,600 square feet and cost...Ha-Ha...\$210,000.00. The book collection was 20,000 with capacity to hold 40,000. I love the ultra-modern furniture and crisp lines of the interior. Notice the bookshelves are not even half full.

Flash forward 44 years...Spoke with Sandi Blakney, who is the Director of the Library today and Karen Smith, the Teen Librarian, who updated some facts for me. Currently the Library has 80,000 books and enter-

tained 96,000 visitors last year who borrowed 125,000 books to enrich their lives. Notice there are no computers in the bottom picture? Back then, there were large wooden boxes stuffed with cards telling you how to find any book you wanted. Those card catalogues have been replaced with 3 computers that can find any book in the Library Network in our area and have it delivered to our Library for your convenience. Two more computers are dedicated to pre-school kids, four more for 10-13 year olds, four for teens 13-18 and six for adults only. The Library also has microfilm of all the Mellus Newspaper articles dating back to 1928. In the mood for a good movie? Check out the DVD Collection. Allen Park Taxpayers pay one-half of a mill annually to run the Library (\$485,000.00). Out of that budget, \$50,000.00 is spent on books. Check out the website: **www.allen-park.lib.mi.us** or better yet, stop in and browse around. Don't forget your Library card and above all, Shhhhhhhhhhhh!!!



Allen Park Sales Report

Allen Park sales results slowly stumbled out of the starting gate during the first quarter of 2007. Good news is that the average sales price was \$142,598.00, stopping the sharp decline in prices we agonizingly watched during 2006. Buyers had their pick as sales prices ranged from \$80,000.00 up to \$265,000.00. Average sale price per square foot was \$119.00. Average days on the market was at least 75 days, which does not account for any additional time on the market due to expirations and re-listing with other agents.

Current active listing inventory has been in the 160-165 range, giving Buyers plenty to choose from. More good news is the prices are way up from the likes of the accompanying photo showing a brand new home on White Street that was going for \$4,290.00 in 1939. Unfortunately, we missed the Open House by 68 years!

Open Sunday in Allen Park



This attractive five-room home on White Street, Allen Park, will be open for inspection Sunday – one day only. Built by George Sangster, widely-known builder, it will be duplicated for \$4,290. It is built to FHA specifications.



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