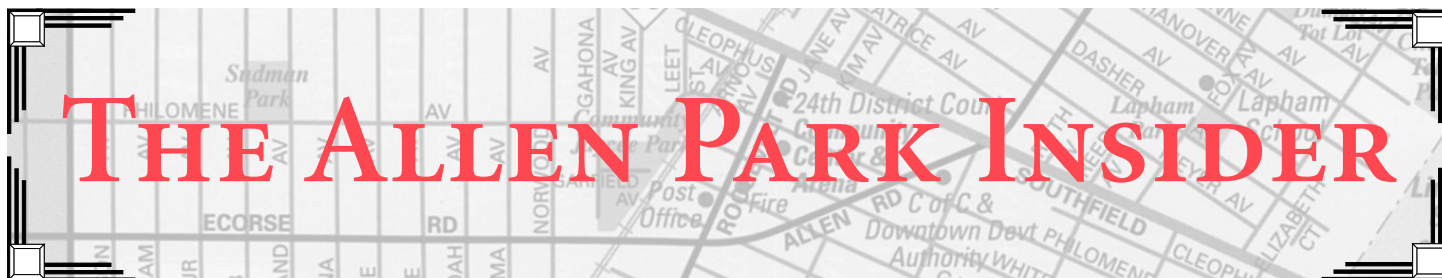


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## DREAM JOB

It is 7:45 a.m. on a cool, damp Thursday morning in beautiful Allen Park. My Ford Fusion is on auto-pilot, heading for its familiar parking spot near my office on Park Avenue. Out of the corner of my eye, I spot a young lady running by the corner of Cleveland and Park heading south. I instantly recognize Olivia by her gait. I pull up next to her and yell out the window, "I am proud of you!" She smiles, waves and continues on with her morning run. This scenario plays out day after day as I see my Lady and Men Jaguars training for the grueling cross-country season coming up quickly this fall. These kids are tough, dedicated runners and I proudly cheer them on whenever the occasion occurs. It is not easy training for a 3.1 mile race over hilly fields in any type of weather Mother Nature throws at them and their dedication always impresses me.

I have had the pleasure of being a volunteer assistant coach at Allen Park for the past four years. Watching these hardworking young men & women improve their times as they grow up through their high school years is one of my greatest pleasures. Preparing them for their futures is a very important part of every Coach's job. Learning that hard work pays off...that Victory demands payment in advance...what it means to be part of a team...are lessons that will make them better adults. It is an honor to be a small part of their young lives and I cherish it.

Last season, Joel Burkey, who has been head cross-country coach at APHS for the past 18 years, took me aside and told me he was going to retire from coaching to spend some well deserved time with his young family. I have watched him in action over the years and observed how much the kids love him. From cross-country camp in mid August through the first weekend of the November State

Finals, he has guided hundreds of kids through their running careers. He really cares about these kids and this wonderful sport. It is a tough time-consuming job in a sport that lacks the recognition of the major sports and he has served APHS honorably. When he started his coaching career, he



*Coach Burkey winning the Allen Park Harrier Cross-Country Classic in 2007 at Champaign Park*

trained both the boys and girls teams. Over the years, he developed a program that has had much success. His star pupil, Jackie Gaydos, was a State Champion in Cross-Country and Track. He handed over the boy's team to alumni Paul Vockler several years ago. Paul was one of Burkey's protégés. Joel's final decision was to recommend making me the head girls coach this coming season. Board of Education approved the appointment and I now have had my dream come true. Thank you, Coach Burkey, for giving me this opportunity to follow in your footsteps.

## REALTOR DOES MANUAL LABOR

I have been planning to clean up the backyard and make it look presentable for a while now. My family is coming to town for a family reunion, and everyone is meeting at my place so it seemed like now or never to get started. Covered up my soft, pink hands with cotton work gloves and began tearing out all of the old grass and plants all along the back 30 feet of the house and also all along the fence line for 60 more feet. Carefully knocked all the dirt off of the old grass and plants and filled up 21 recycle bags for the City to pick up. Dug a four foot wide trench along the fence and house and then called **TOM'S LAWN AND GARDEN** (4117 Allen Rd-313-386-2310) for delivery of two yards of top-soil, two yards of river rock, 100' of Black Diamond edging and 100' of weed guard fabric. Tom cheerfully delivered the above mentioned items right to my backyard. I had effectively blocked access to my garage now until I had moved these two large piles of dirt and rock. Our two Fords will have to sulk in the driveway until the mission was accomplished.



I sloped the dirt away from the house, covered it with the weed guard fabric and then covered the fabric with several inches of river rock. I dug another foot wide section in front of this to put a flower border. I then put the remainder of the dirt along the fence line in the four foot wide trench which was lined with the edging. Had LOWES deliver 15 Arborvitaes to my home and spaced them every four feet all along the fence line. Dug 15 holes, installed the Arborvitaes,

filled the rest of the hole with peat moss, then covered the whole thing with the weed guard, then more river rock. Planted two flats of white Begonias in the new



flower beds. I did save two Peonies and a Rose of Sharon that the previous owner had planted. Last step was scattering two buckets of seashells that my Father had collected in Florida over the river rock. Fertilized everything with Rapid Grow and plenty of water, mowed the lawn and then admired my handiwork. I would estimate that it took about 30 hours of my spare time over about a week and a half to complete the job. Total invested was \$888.00. It was hard work, but well worth the effort. Did my front yard last year and have included a few photos of the front and back yards to see the complete picture. Now it's time to paint that side entry door...



## ALLEN PARK - PLEASANT PAST, BRIGHT FUTURE



Photos above were taken on October 1st, 1955 on Regina Avenue just west of Allen Road. This house is located behind what was a vacant lot facing Allen Road. Brose Electric, which was just closed this past year, was built on this lot several years later. Photographer would be facing west looking at the railroad tracks at the end of the road. Notice that the sidewalks were paved and the road was still dirt. This home was a three bedroom model and featured Gas Heat. Coal and oil were the choice for heating before then. Harry & Joan Thomas purchased this home and took out a mortgage with American Savings and Loan Association for \$8,500.00 at 5.5% interest. They paid off the mortgage by July 2nd, 1959 when they sold their house to Floyd and Betty Reese, who raised three lovely daughters there. The girls went to grade school at Arno, until the boundary changed and they finished up at Bennie. Sixth through eighth grades were spent at North Junior High (right across Allen

Road) and then ninth through twelfth were at Allen Park High School. All the kids walked to school back then and the Reese girls would simply trek to the end of Regina, hop over the railroad tracks and take the gravel service road to the High School. One daughter fondly remembers going to Gee's Drive-in many times for the best burgers in town and walking to her first official date at the China Boy Restaurant, both of which were within a few blocks of her house. Floyd was a baseball coach for A.P.A.C. and was also one of the founding members of the Bulldogs. Betty was a cheerleading coach for the Bulldogs team. The Bulldogs have been a great place for young boys to learn how to play football. Many have gone on to star at APHS for the Jaguars. When both parents had passed away, the girls called me to sell the house and passed along these interesting photos. Thank you, Floyd and Betty, for your many years of community service.



## Allen Park Sales Report

2009 has now slowly crawled past the half-way mark as Michigan's economy continues its assault on the Real Estate Market. Good news is starting to trickle in though. Ford Motor Company actually reported a profit for the second quarter this year and has increased their market share dramatically. Chrysler and General Motors have emerged from bankruptcy, supposedly leaner and meaner. Southeast Michigan is seeing increases in the number of homes sold, although prices continue to sink. Good news is that the bank foreclosure properties are getting weeded out of the market and eventually we will hit a tipping point where prices bottom out and begin to rise. The low prices on the bank owned properties and HUD homes (government backed foreclosure sales) have kept private-owned homes from getting any decent price for the past 4-5 years. Hopefully, with the Big Three settling down, the layoffs and buyouts will slow down and stop the foreclosure rate.

Allen Park sales have actually been fairly brisk. As of July 30, 2009, 145 homes were on the market at an average list price of \$101,618.00. 193 homes have sold so far this year at an average sale price of

\$73,196.00. We will have an average amount of houses sell this year, compared to the past 25 years. Here is a statistic that will help you understand how the foreclosure madness has affected prices. If I take only the houses sold by private citizens, not bank or government, the numbers change dramatically. As of the same time period, there are 119 private-owned homes for sale at an average list price of \$109,823.00. 81 have sold at an average sales price of \$93,868.00. So, approximately 42% of the actual sales are private-owned homes. Of these, the average list price is \$8,205.00 higher and the average sales price is a whopping \$20,672.00 higher. Trust me, once we get rid of the foreclosure properties, prices will begin to rise.

If you know of anyone thinking of buying or selling in our area, **please** refer them to me. I **guarantee** they will get great advice, service and honesty. I **guarantee** I will meet or beat any commission if I agree to take the listing. I **guarantee** they will be advertised in the largest MLS System in the State and be on hundreds of other websites like REALTOR.COM. Thank you for reading my newsletter, Lynn

### **\$8,000.00 First time home buyers credit-IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:** **Purchase must close before 12/1/2009 to be eligible!**

There has never been a better time to buy than right now. Inventory is high, interest rates are low and the Federal Government is offering a tax rebate to boot. What do I have to do to get you to buy...offer to paint the thing for you too? Make your move now. If you know of anyone thinking of buying, please refer them to me. I will be glad to explain the program and show you how to take advantage of this great opportunity!



*You can count on me!*  
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