

VOLUME VIII NUMBER I

Published by LYNN KETELHUT

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WHAT DO KIDS WANT?

The following letters and punctuation marks were published in the clinic notes of the State Association of Track Officials of Michigan. I am so lucky to be a Track & Field Official and wanted to share some thoughts with you. I believe this article sums up the way all kids who participate in all sports feels. This is the main reason I feel that sports participation is an important ingredient in our schools curriculum.

They get up early in the morning and listen to their parents or siblings bug them. They go to school and enjoy/endure all the drama and stress of High School. When 2:37 p.m. comes, they rush to the locker room and change into their Track uniforms. They laugh and joke with their teammates and silently feel the butterflies fluttering around inside their stomachs. They open the gym door and the bright sun pierces their eyes as they jog towards the track. Finally, they are where they want to be...out on the track ready to have some fun. That is the main reason most of them are out there. Fun. Most know that they will not go on to run in College. Most know that they will not get a Track and Field Scholarship. Most may not ever participate in the sport after they graduate. Most of them are out there because they want to have fun.

Track and Field has something to offer to almost anyone. Sprinters, middle and distance runners, relay teams, hurdlers, long jump, high jump, pole vault, shot put and discus all appeal to someone. Kids need someplace to go after school to burn off steam and who can think of a better way to do it than Track and Field or Cross-Country?

There are many lessons to be learned. Follow directions. Know the rules. Sportsmanship. Be a gracious loser and humble winner. Show up on time. Help each other. Learn all the mechanics of training for a particular event. And when it is all done, go home and study because the most important thing at this time in their young lives is to get good grades.

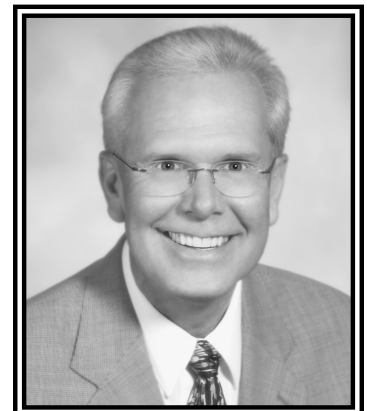
Being a kid is tough. We are so proud of them and lucky to be a small part of their lives. My main objective, as a Track and Field Official, is to keep the meet enjoyable and to run it smoothly. I love to encourage the kids and watch them give their best effort. For just a brief moment in their crazy lives, there is nothing else going on in their world than the competition. To be a part of this is why I am a Track and Field Official.

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The kids look up to us and only expect us to treat everyone fairly. They ask us hundreds of questions and want us to answer those questions in a kind, respectful manner. They want us take them seriously when they line up for a race or get ready to make their Field attempt. I believe they understand that they are the kids and we are the adults. If we are firm and professional with our directions, most will try their best to follow suit. They do not want to be yelled at or hurried. Our purpose is not to get the meet over as fast as we can, but as fairly and efficiently as we can.

We do not know what is going on in each of their lives, only what is going on during the meet. Some may be having a very bad home life. Some may have just broken up with a boyfriend or girlfriend. Some may even be contemplating suicide. Whatever problems they are having, they are trying to forget it for a brief moment and focus on what might be the only thing that gives them pleasure... Track and Field. Every time I put on that red and yellow jacket, I make it my goal to try to make the next several hours' fun for these kids. What better way to promote our sport?



PAST, BRIGHT FUTURE

Fred Seabloom married Dorothy Richards in April of 1943. Shortly after, he put on his uniform and flew over to Europe to harass the Fuehrer as a Waist Gunner in a big old bomber. Fred flew 51 missions over that deadly arena and was discharged in September of 1945. Thank You very much Fred! He returned to his bride and they lived in Fred's Mom's house on Montana in Detroit (Close to the old State Fair Grounds). A little over a year later, they packed up all their belongings and moved into a little bungalow located on Horger Street in the Village of Allen Park. Fred's Mom Ruah moved into the house with them. They raised four kids in that house. Currently, Fred's Grandson and Great grandchildren live in that house. All added up, that makes for five generations that lived in the house since it was built 66 years ago.

This issue's glance back into the hazy past of beautiful Allen Park was donated to me by Judy Martin, Fred and Dorothy's firstborn. The Allen View Subdivision, where this home was erected, was formerly the Charles Lindeman farm. Lindeman School was named for this gentleman. Top

picture, you can see the 1929 vintage home on Hanover, right behind Judge Burger's old office. Lower picture shows fertile farmland all the way out to the rail road tracks along with the sidewalks, which were installed in the twenties. Due to the Great Depression, most roads were not paved until the late forties or even the fifties. During and after World War II, Allen Park was morphing from a quiet farming community into a thriving suburb of Detroit. Most homes in Detroit were on 30' wide lots and had back alley access to their garages and trash pickup. Allen Park's 40' or wider lots offered plenty of breathing room between the neatly lined up doorways. Our heroes pulled out their wallets and plunked down money on a little piece of heaven on a tenth of an acre. Most homes were built without drive-ways or garages. Alleys were built, but later vacated in the sixties. Builders installed two narrow ribbons of concrete off of the road for the occupants to park. 1947 tax bill was \$43.26 for the Village (we weren't a City yet) and \$94.98 for the County and School tax. Elsa Woodrow was the Village Treasurer.

2011 ALLEN PARK SALES REPORT

First of all, I have to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who referred me business, bought a house or listed with me last year. Thanks to you, I closed 48 sales and had a record year. I am so grateful for your support! I also passed my 1,000th career sale early last year. I am so lucky!

In 2011, we had 376 total sales in Allen Park, which was the 2nd best total in the past 25 years. The record was set in 1998 when 380 houses sold. Prices still continued to drop as we saw a decrease in our homes equity by \$3,806.00 last year. This was the sixth straight year that prices dropped. 2005 was our high point at \$150,392.00. 2011 was rock bottom at \$66,187.00. Checking my stone abacus, that figures out to an \$84,205.00 drop in equity. We all hope that prices turn around soon.

How about a little good news? Last year, 162 (44%) of the total sales were bank-owned or HUD foreclosures. Remove those sales out of the mix and the average price for the remaining private owned homes leaps up to \$79,975.00 (1994 levels). There are still plenty of foreclosures waiting

to come on the market, but the pace is slowing down. The Auto Companies are slowly recovering. People are starting to spend money again. We will not see a true recovery until Real Estate comes back. Here is a suggestion for Washington; why not have the Federal Reserve refinance every mortgage in the country down to 1%. This will help so many people either keep their homes, pay down the principal, put money in savings or spread it out into the economy helping all business. Foreclosures would drop like a lead balloon and values would start to improve, putting money in those people's pockets who own their home free and clear. Sounds like a win-win situation for everyone. We send billions and billions of dollars to countless other countries in the world. Why not start taking care of ourselves for a change?

If you know of anyone thinking of buying or selling in our area, please mention my name to them. I will appreciate the business and your friends will get the best service in town. Wonder what your home is worth? Give me a call for a free market analysis.

ALLEN PARK SALES RESULTS

YEAR	# SOLD	RANK	AVERAGE SALES PRICE	PRICE CHANGE
1986	288	21	\$52,511.00	
1987	374	4	\$56,350.00	+3,839
1988	314	17	\$62,769.00	+6,419
1989	297	20	\$68,729.00	+5,960
1990	283	22	\$72,837.00	+4,108
1991	260	24	\$75,510.00	+2,673
1992	269	23	\$81,338.00	+5,828
1993	313	18	\$77,532.00	-3,806
1994	362	5	\$85,144.00	+7,612
1995	341	11	\$93,253.00	+8,109
1996	316	15	\$99,450.00	+6,197
1997	353	9	\$102,502.00	+3,052
1998	380	1	\$111,502.00	+9,000
1999	356	8	\$120,529.00	+9,027
2000	375	3	\$130,205.00	+9,676
2001	315	16	\$139,070.00	+8,865
2002	319	14	\$141,765.00	+2,695
2003	359	6	\$146,068.00	+4,303
2004	357	7	\$148,732.00	+2,664
2005	330	13	\$150,392.00	+1,660
2006	251	25	\$138,681.00	-11,711
2007	246	26	\$127,360.00	-11,321
2008	310	19	\$103,691.00	-23,669
2009	349	10	\$73,680.00	-30,011
2010	341	12	\$69,993.00	-3,687
2011	376	2	\$66,187.00	-3,806



You can count on me!

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