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Greetings to all and welcome to this issue of **THE ALLEN PARK INSIDER**. Happy 50th Birthday to our appealing City! We will be celebrating our Golden Anniversary of being a City on Sunday, August 5, 2007 with a special Birthday Party. Location will be on White Street next to the Ice Rink. The Allen Park Street Fair will be the Friday & Saturday two days prior, so it will be quite a weekend here in the Jewel of Downriver. Another interesting tidbit is that the 31st Allen Park 8K run, which usually is on Street Fair Saturday in the evening, will be moved to early in the morning. The one mile fun run starts at 8:00 and the 8K starts at 8:30. This will free up an abundance of parking for fair goers in the evening. Hope you are getting in shape to participate this year. I'll be looking for you at the finish line.



Metropolitan Furniture

The Fairlane Green development (former location of the Veterans Hospital) is now fully done. Roxanne and I have savored going to Salsarita's, Cold Stone Creamery, Leo's Coney Island and Starbucks. I've dropped a king's ransom at Staples, Lowes and the Vitamin Store also. Across the street on Outer Drive, Dunhams has opened a handsome new location and is a first-rate place to purchase athletic equipment. Going up to the top of the hill, where the old clay mine used to be, Meijer and Best Buy just had their grand

openings, joining over 10 other stores and 8 restaurants. Also, a new movie theater complex is being built. There is still a lot of space to be developed up there, and it is filling up quickly. The crowning gem will be the large public park in the northeast corner, which will be a great place to unwind during your next shopping frenzy. I believe there also will be a walking track around the entire complex once everything is completed.

Driving through Downtown Allen Park, you may have noticed that the long awaited Broadcast Booth Restaurant has finally opened directly across the street from our famous Moro's. Mickey Redmond's Travel Agency is located directly next door. Also, next time you take a stroll, check out Metropolitan Furniture. They have stripped off the outer facade

and you can see what the exterior looked like 50 years ago. They are going to redo the outside to fit that bygone era. Things just keep getting better and better in Allen Park. We have a lot to be thankful for, living in this great City.

One last note, I have to say THANK YOU to all of my friends and acquaintances who sent a card, dropped me an e-mail or stopped by for a visit the past few months. I am truly blessed to have you in my life.



ALLEN PARK-PLEASANT PAST, BRIGHT FUTURE

This issue's historic photo is one that was lent to me by a long-time friend of all Allen Parkers, Joe Agemy. Agemy's Market is stationed on the corner of Champaign and Rosedale and has been at this location since 1959. Many young kids have had the opportunity to work at his store over the years. It is a splendid place to buy fresh vegetables, meat and grocery items. Joe's Grandfather opened the original family store in Highland Park on Victor Street, right across from the first Ford Motor Company Plant back in 1932. In those

days, Mr. Ford was offering the hefty wage of \$5.00/day. In 1959, Joe's father, Mack, and Joe's Uncle Joe decided to relocate the family business out to Allen Park. The picture above shows the original building they purchased in Allen Park. In 1965, this building was completely demolished and the current building was erected on the same site. Joe is always ready to step up to the plate to help sponsor our local running events. Thank you so much, Joe, for all your support and for this great shot of Allen Park history.



Mayor Huebler watching Lynn pretend to sign an important paper.

ALLEN PARK REALTOR IS MAYOR (FOR A DAY)

On May 31, 2007, I had the privilege of serving as Allen Park Mayor for the day. Pulling my Ford into the parking lot that morning, I noticed that something was already horribly amiss. Storming into City Hall, I was greeted by Mayor Richard A. Huebler and his reliable Secretary Evelyn Boman. Pointing at the door, I told him something was very wrong ...someone was parked in my spot marked "Mayor." Being the good sport that he is, Mayor Huebler literally dashed out to the parking lot and moved his car from my spot much to the

(continued...)

(Mayor for a day cont.)

delight of all the city workers watching the drama unfold in the confines of Allen Park City Hall. The rest of my reign went fairly smoothly. I was presented with a glass with my name on it proclaiming me "Mayor" and a nice certificate announcing the same. We went out for lunch at the Silver Spoon and enjoyed discussing the State of the City. My one great accomplishment was really all Evelyn's doing. We got the News Herald to cover the event and got a major plug in the paper for my Friend Sharon Broglin's new history book called: Images of America-Allen Park. Sharon did

a fantastic job of assembling the largest collection of old & new photos of Allen Park I have ever seen. She describes each one in great detail, guiding you on a tour of our great city's history. It was because of her that I got to be Mayor for the day...you see, I got my political position the old fashioned way, I bought it (at a fundraiser for the historical museum). If you are interested in obtaining a copy of this wonderful book, stop by my office with a twenty-dollar bill and I will be happy to give you one. All the profit goes to the Historical Museum. Great job, Sharon.

"Dedication is not what others expect of you, it is what you can give to others."-Author Unknown

Since Neil Armstrong first walked on the moon, Mary Bolla has been the faithful school crossing guard on the corner of Park & Thomas. For those of you asleep in history class, that is since 1969! Every windy fall day, every freezing winter morning, every rainy spring afternoon, without fail, Mary has been at her post. I have had the pleasure of knowing Mary, and her son Geza, for almost 20 years. Her quick smile and cheerful wave welcomed me every morning I stopped at her corner when living on Thomas Street.



Mary Bolla in Duda Park.

I took a little time this spring to ask her a few questions about her job.

Mary grew up in the Delray area of Southwest Detroit and went to Southwestern High School. She loves all four seasons and has always been stationed at the Arno School Crossing. Some of the kids who Mary watches cross today have parents who were under her wing when they went to Arno. AAA, Allen

Park PTA and the City of Allen Park have all bestowed merit awards to her. She informed me that we have a total of four crossing guards currently working in Allen Park (Park & Wick, Allen & Wick, & Hanfor & Allen). 'Best part of her job is all the smiles and hugs she gets every day. Worst memory was the time, long ago, when she got hit by a new driver (Only got some bruises, but pretty scary). During the school year she is at her perch from 8:00-8:40 a.m., 12:00-1:00 and 3:30-3:50 p.m. Monday through Friday. Before being a crossing guard she worked at Kroger in the Deli wrapping meat. She also was a babysitter. Her husband was a Butcher at Kroger and they were married from 1942-1994 when he passed away.

Her 86th birthday will be October 29th this year. 'Might be a nice idea to go to the corner of Park & Thomas and give her a hug after she carefully lets you cross the street. Look both ways.

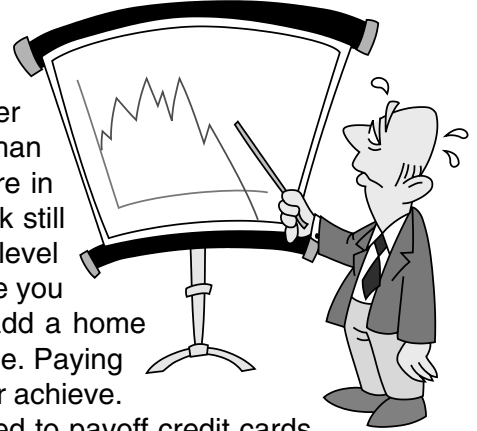


Mary Bolla standing at her post.

Allen Park Sales Results

Loyal readers may recall from the last issue that the first quarter average sales price for 2007 was \$142,861.00 (which was close to the average sales price back in 2002). Those with a weak stomach are advised to not read any further. OK, I warned you...As of the end of June 2007, the average sales price of a home in Allen Park was...you better sit down for this...\$135,517.00. You now all have my permission to become horrified readers. For those of you smarter than a fifth grader, that figures out to over \$2,400/month reduction. I believe the huge reduction is more sales on the lower price ranges, and not as many sales in the higher price range. The only way to figure what your home is worth is to have me come out to your home for a free market analysis. More revolting news: 113 homes sold during the first six months of 2007. Last year, 127 homes sold during the same period at an average sales price of \$145,937.00. Annual sales in 2006 marked the second lowest amount of homes sold in the past 20 years. It appears we are on track to blow away the bottommost record of 260 set back in 1991.

Now you can grasp why Michigan is among the leaders in the nation in Bank Foreclosures. Anyone who has bought a home in the past six years cannot get back what they paid for it. Many have refinanced at higher appraised values than were realistic and now find they actually owe more than they can sell for. One in every twenty-eight homes were in Pre-Foreclosure in Wayne County last year. As dreary as our sales results may be, Allen Park still out-performed most of Wayne County. Prices will stop dropping, eventually level off and, begin the slow uphill climb once again. Best advice anyone can give you is to not refinance your home unless it is to get a lower interest rate or add a home improvement. Never refinance non-real estate debt onto your new mortgage. Paying off a home loan is the greatest financial accomplishment most of us will ever achieve. Do not mortgage your future by paying for mistakes in the past. If you need to payoff credit cards or car loans, buck up and make some sacrifices to pay these debts off. Carefully examine your budget. Remove wants. Keep needs. Do not spend what you do not have.



You can count on me!

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