

MONTHLY ALLOY



An update on community projects and events.

Term: Spring | Issue 2 | Date: March 3, 2020

MARCH 10TH: UPCOMING ELECTION

Here's what's at stake on March 10th:

The Democratic and Republican presidential primaries are being conducted. Whichever candidates receive the most votes are in turn placed on the primary election in August, which determines who is on the general ballot in November. Albion does not have anything else on the ballot.

The main purpose of a primary election to narrow the field of candidates before a general election.

Here's how you participate:

If you aren't registered to vote, you can do so in person up until and on Election Day. Bring a document with your name and address (driver's license, or a piece of mail, for example) to Albion City Hall to register.

If you are registered, then you can vote in person at your precinct location (see Page 2.) If you are going to your polling location on the 10th, bring a driver's license, or be prepared to sign a voter's affidavit that affirms your place of residence.

The deadline to apply and receive an absentee ballot by mail is Friday March 6th- applications must be in by 4:00 pm that day. You can still **pick one up in person** at Albion City Hall until the Monday before the election.

City Hall will be open Saturday, March 7th from 8 am until 4 pm to help voters apply for absentee ballots. You do not need a reason to apply for absentee, due to the passage of Proposition 18-3 last November.

Jill Doming is available for contact at 517-629-7864 or at jadomingo@cityofalbionmi.gov.

CONTENTS:

Page 1: Upcoming Election Notice

Page 2: Precinct Information

Page 3: City Council Spotlight

2020 Census Call to Action!

Albion St. Bridge Update

Page 4: County Commissioner Update

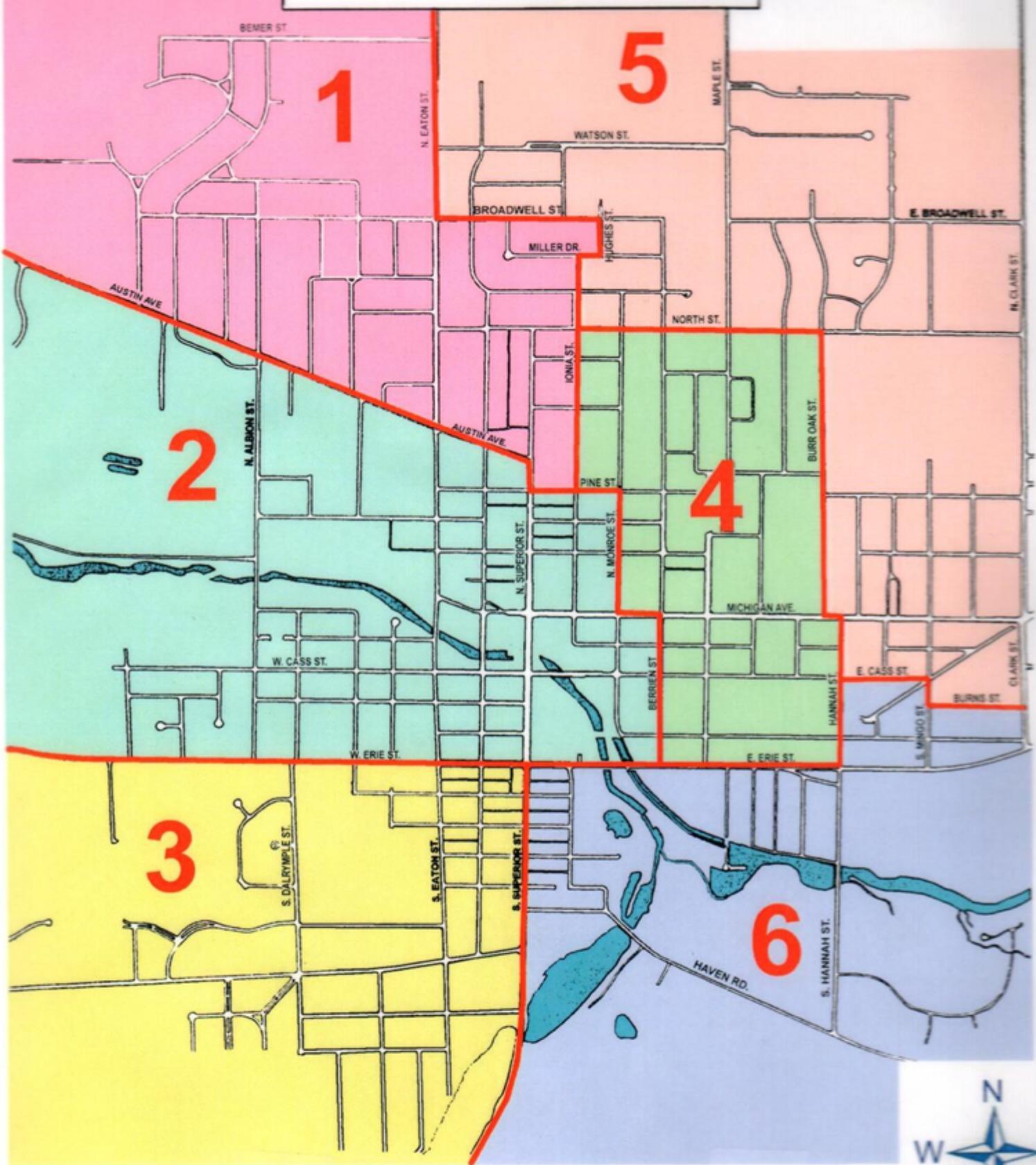
Monthly Events

DDA Overview

CONTACT US:

If you have any newsletter questions, comments, concerns, complaints, or corrections to report, please direct them to the City of Albion's Department of Public Affairs and Public Relations. They can currently be reached at jyt10@albion.edu.

VOTER PRECINCTS



Precincts 1 and 5-Crowell School, 1418 Cooper St.

Precincts 2 & 3-St. Johns' School, 1020 Irwin Avenue

Precincts 4 & 6, 600 East Michigan Avenue

CITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT: AL SMITH

Al Smith is the current council member representing Albion's 3rd precinct. A five-year resident, Smith ran last year in a recall election and has served for three months.

Smith is optimistic about his involvement in City Council. "There's a lot of excitement coming up in Albion right now- the top is about to blow off the bottle," says Smith. "I'm really looking forward to the economic development that's coming."

Smith's interests in city government include workforce development, housing, vocational education, and young entrepreneurship. "There's a lot of young people around here that could use the expertise and training," says Smith.

Smith cited the Rental Certification Program as a recent focus of City Council- citing the 10th's public hearing as an opportunity for residents to voice concerns. Also mentioned was the finalization of the 2020 fee schedule- determining the exact cost of city services such as cemetery upkeep, water, sewer systems, and parks services.

A long-term goal for Councilman Smith is the establishment of a vocational training and education center where the Dalrymple elementary school was previously located. "It was used for schooling once before, and I would love to see that site be used gainfully again."

Councilman Al Smith can be reached at (248)-917-6527 or at asmith@cityofalbionmi.gov.

MICHIGAN 2020 CENSUS ANNOUNCEMENT:

From the Michigan 2020 Census Website:

The State of Michigan is preparing for the 2020 Census. The census happens once every decade and is a critical tool for counting the U.S. population. The census remains a critically important civic duty that determines **funding for local communities** and essential services, shapes congressional representation, determines legislative districts and much more.

Research shows low-income people, communities of color, rural communities, young children and non-citizens are especially undercounted and this is something we are working to change in our state in 2020. In order to show our growth and economic opportunity, it will take participation from all Michigan residents, including neighbors, business owners, employers and community leaders, to make sure everyone is counted.

Our 60 Complete Count Committees across the state will work with our nonprofit and state and local government partners to get our message out and help ensure everyone in Michigan is counted.

Want to help ensure a complete count for Michigan? The U.S. Census Bureau is looking for thousands of Michiganders to apply for census jobs, both full and part time positions, including nights and weekends. Apply here:

<https://2020census.gov/en/jobs>

ALBION STREET BRIDGE: UPDATE

From Darwin McClary, City Manager:

North Albion Street Bridge is inspected every two years by law due to its span. During the most recent inspection, the outer supports to the bridge (under the curb line) were found to be in poor condition.

The recommendation made by the inspectors was to narrow the lanes on the bridge by 6 feet on either side with barricades. This allows the bridge to remain open to regular traffic as normal. However, it must operate as a single-lane bridge. Drivers are strongly advised to yield to traffic on the bridge when approaching it, and wait for an oncoming vehicle to pass before going. "If we were to keep the bridge completely open, and allow traffic to

travel in both lanes, we would have to reduce the weight load to 4 tons," said McClary. "We decided we still want all traffic to drive down here that meets the higher weight limits, but they may have to pass one at a time."

The current cost to replace the bridge entirely is estimated at 1.6 million dollars. Grant funding applications are currently underway at City Hall.

In summary:

Take due caution driving down N. Albion Street.

Make sure to be attentive to reduced lanes. Only one vehicle may be able to pass over the bridge at a time.

If there is a vehicle on the bridge, yield to it until it has cleared the bridge.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER OVERVIEW: GARY TOMPKINS

Gary Tompkins is Calhoun County's commissioner for the 7th district- an area comprising the cities of Albion and Homer, as well as Lee, Clarence, Sheridan, Clarendon, Albion, and Homer Townships.

It's a job that comprises three official responsibilities: overseeing the county budget, constructing policies for the county, and responding to constituents' concerns. This last point is one Tompkins takes very seriously- he "tries to be everywhere at once." He is also quick to point out that while he may not have the ability to solve every problem, he is more than capable of directing a concern towards the relevant offices- acting as a liason between people in his district and various city and state-level authorities. "It doesn't matter what party you're from, it's my responsibility and pleasure to represent everyone in my district- not just people who voted for me," says Tompkins, who is a member of the Republican Party.

His current projects include overseeing the Senior Millage allocation, serving on the Albion/Homer Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, the Suicide Prevention Coalition, and, following research on his part, **a proposed replacement to Public Act 51**- the state law that provides funding for roads using the gasoline tax and other funds.

Chief among the changes would be the removal of the allocations to the Treasury and State departments, which totals to 80.1 million dollars. According to Commissioner Tompkins, this money would be better spent on the roads. He also suggests that more money should be spent on rural and local roads, citing that population density isn't the best indictator for urgency of upkeep when certain roads haven't received attention in 40 years.

Commissioner Tompkins can be reached at (517) 607-5202 or at tompkinscc7@gmail.com.

DDA: YEARLY GOALS

Scott Evans is currently the President/CEO of Homestead Bank, and has been since 2015. Outside of that, he's proud to be an active member of the community- in particular, he points to his position as the Chairman of the Downtown Development Authority.

"My focus is, while we aren't able to do a lot financially at the moment, we'd like to be more known and active in the community by servicing projects," Evans explains. "How can we partner with the EDC or the Chamber or Kids 'n Stuff? How can we keep the downtown looking professional and clean?"

Evans' direction is to engage the DDA in supporting the city in bringing businesses downtown, which is their ultimate goal: "Being active to do projects to support the people that live downtown, and the businesses.

Evans considers DDA's goal to be a bit different than the other planning boards- while the EDC and the Chamber of Commerce have broader scopes, the Downtown Development Authority is charged with focusing on the downtown.

One goal for the DDA is to be *(continued)*

DDA: YEARLY GOALS (CONTINUED):

(continued) able to facilitate facade grants for downtown storefronts. "If we had funding, we would go to a business and say, 'let us help you improve your facade,'" Evans states. "Awnings, painting, keeping up the fronts and backs of these buildings- because the state has a program of matching, the DDA and the business owner would

have to match the state funds in order to get the grant," Evans explains. "That [facade grants] should be the primary goal of the DDA."

Long-term ambitions for the DDA beyond attracting new and supporting current businesses include improving parking, street and sidewalk lighting, filling storefronts and keeping buildings

full, and keeping the downtown looking attractive and safe.

"We're an extension of the city that says, 'this is our focus,'" Evans said.

Scott Evans is available for further contact at 517-629-3296 or at sevans@homesteadsavings.com.