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 Nightly Entertainment

January 19, 2024

Volume 7 Issue 2

Allen Park Guardian

Phone: 734-636-3779

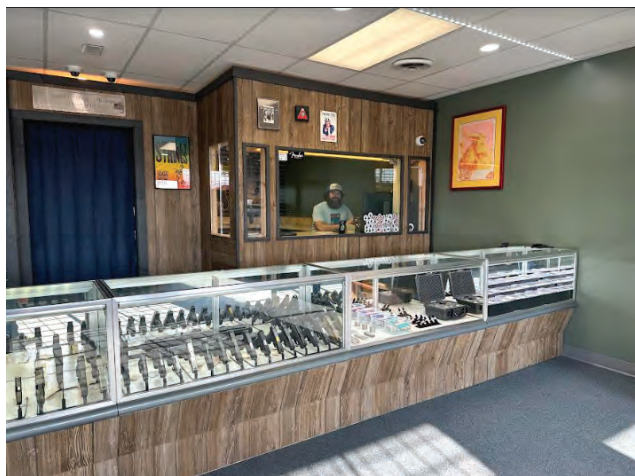
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Hamilton
Publishing

Business Spotlight: Opplemans Trading & Exchange Company



Photos Courtesy of J. West

By Charla Hamilton
charlachelseaguardian@gmail.com

There are a lot of unique businesses located in Allen Park. One such business is Opplemans Trading & Exchange Company. Recently Allen Park Guardian had the plea-

sure of speaking with owner of Opplemans, Jesse West and learning more about his business.

Allen Park Guardian: Please provide some background information on you and your business.

Jesse West: Oplemans Trading & Exchange Company opened in 2012 with less than \$8,000 to rent a space, renovate, get fixtures and what not. My wife worked full-time to support our growing family as we started the

shop, we had a 1 year old boy at home. We now have 4 children, two boys and two girls, aged 12, 9, 7, 5. I didn't take a paycheck for about a year and a half, which enabled us to put everything back into the

continued on page 4

CHECK US OUT ON **UNTAPPD**
DRINK LOCALLY

DUNLEAVY'S
FOOD and SPIRITS

10AM-2AM
(INSIDE)
10AM-2AM
(PATIO)

CHECK OUT OUR
FISH FRIDAY'S!

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AP

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**APHS
Students
Present at
Michigan
Department
of Education
State Board
of Education
Meeting**



Photo Courtesy of Allen Park Public Schools

City of Allen Park Awarded Grant from America In Bloom and CN Rail

**From: City of Allen
Park Government**

On December 1st, the City submitted a grant application to assist with new landscaping at the Allen Park Historical Museum through the America In Bloom - Canadian National (CN) Rail

“EcoConnexions From the Ground Up” grant program.

We are very happy to announce that the City was awarded a \$25,000 grant from America In Bloom and CN Rail to overhaul the museum landscape.

Full Service Catering

\$15⁹⁹ per person

Includes Plates, Napkins, Silverware. Choice of 3 Entrees, 1 Side, 1 Veggie & Dessert Choice, Plus Dinner Rolls With Butter & Choice of Salad

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 Questions Please Call Tim Estheimer or Bob "Rudy" Rudo



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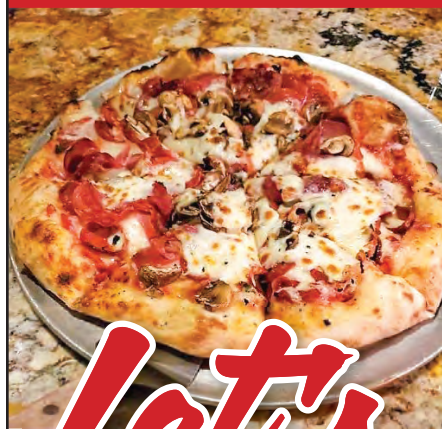
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Monday Thru Wednesday!

Buy One,
Get One
1/2 Off,
Equal or Less Value
SALUTÉ TAVERNA
(Does not include Ribeye, Filet or Lamb Chops)
Dine In Only, Expires 1/30/24.



Let's Eat



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Hours: Mon-Thurs 11:30am-9pm • Fri & Sat 11:30am - 10pm • Sun 11am-9pm • Sun Brunch 11am-2pm • Nightly Entertainment

Saluté taverna
Italian Restaurant and Bar
734.318.2800
Sun 10am-10pm • Mon-Thurs 11:30am-10pm
Fri 11:30am-11pm • Sun 10am-10pm

SHAREABLE'S

BRUSCHETTA crustini bread topped with roma tomato, basil, garlic, seasoned mixture, drizzled balsamic glaze \$14

SALUTE CHEF BOARD varieties of cheese, fruit, cold cuts, mediterranean olives, and homemade crisps \$16

COCONUT SHRIMP coconut battered shrimp served with pineapple relish \$12

STEAK BITES Angus prime beef \$16

ITALIAN SAUSAGE PEPPERS & ONIONS \$14

MUSSELS white wine, butter garlic sauce \$15

MEATBALLS (12) veal, pork, beef made in house \$7.50

CLASSIC SHRIMP COCKTAIL Spicy Cocktail Sauce & Lemon \$12

ARANCINI 2 breaded, homemade rice balls filled with spinach and mozzarella \$14

CALAMARI handcut made in house \$16

EGGPLANT stuffed with ricotta, spinach and parmesan cheese \$16

WINGS served with celery and carrots, choice of blue cheese or ranch, tossed in your choice of italian parmesan, buffalo or sweet bbq (6) \$12 (12) \$17

SOUP Homemade Bowl \$5.00

Specialty Salads

Any salad add a protein

Chicken \$6 * Salmon \$8 * Steak \$8 Shrimp \$8

CAPRESE Traditional fresh mozzarella, basil, roma tomato, balsamic reduction \$14

CAESAR SALAD fresh romaine lettuce with homemade * caesar dressing, croutons, parmigiano Small \$10 Large \$14

DONNA'S ANTIPASTO 3 meats, 3 olives, 3 cheese, 3 sweet pepper, red onion, pepperoncini, roma tomato tossed with choice of penne pasta, romaine or both Small \$16 Large \$18

WEDGE romaine heart, tomato, cucumber, red onion, bacon, and blue cheese crumbles \$14

MICHIGAN CHERRY SALAD Seasonal romaine, tomato, dried cherries, walnuts, apple, blue cheese or mozzarella \$16

Brick Fired Pizza's 14"

MARGARITA \$18 mozzarella cheese, tomato sauce, fresh basil

SALUTE SPECIAL \$18 mozzarella cheese, soppressata, capicollo, prosciutto, pepperoni

SHRIMP & PESTO \$18 pesto sauce, shrimp, sliced tomato and Parmesan

BLANCO \$16 mozzarella, ricotta, basil & olive oil

FIG GOAT CHEESE PIZZA \$19 fresh fig jam, goat cheese, prosciutto, topped with balsamic glaze and arugula

BUILD YOUR OWN \$16 Additional Items: \$1.50 GF Add cauliflower crust for \$3.00

Toppings: Italian sausage, bacon, ham, ground beef, pepperoni, yellow & red pepper, mild peppers, anchovies, tomatoes, black olives, onion, pineapple, jalapeño, feta, mushrooms, capicollo, prosciutto, spinach, salami, basil

LIFE
Better
WITH A
BOWL OF
PASTA

BETWEEN THE BUNS

SALUTE BURGER BUILD YOUR OWN \$14 1/2lb Certified Angus Beef, served on a toasted roll, with pickle, lettuce, raw onion, and tomato, fries included

Your choice of cheese: american, provolone, mozzarella, swiss, cheddar. Sautéed onion, mushroom, bacon add \$1.50 ea

BLEU BURGER with blue cheese & arugula \$15

MUSHROOM ONION SWISS BURGER \$15

SANTINO SOUTH SIDE ITALIAN BEEF \$14 marinated beef roasted, Au jus on a crusty roll (dry or wet) your choice of hot giardiniera, sweet peppers, grilled onions add cheese \$1.00 fries included

Seafood Entrees

All entrées choice of soup or salad. Served with house vegetables. Choice of red skin potatoes or pasta

GRILLED SALMON 8oz \$24

SHRIMP grilled or scampi \$24

PERCH sautéed or fried \$22

COCONUT SHRIMP DINNER \$23

ZUPPA DE PESCE clams, shrimp and scallops in a white or red sauce \$28 (soup or salad only)

SEAFOOD POMODORO with fettuccine, shrimp, scallops, mussels \$28 (soup or salad only)

COD fried or baked \$16

Chicken Entrees

All entrées choice of soup or salad. Served with house vegetables. Choice of red skin potatoes or pasta

MARSALA sautéed, mushrooms, marsala wine sauce \$22

PICCATA artichoke, capers, with lemon butter cream sauce \$22

PARMESAN breaded, baked, mozzarella, and marinara \$22

ALFREDO Homemade fettuccine noodles, alfredo sauce \$23 (soup or salad only)

CACCIATORE onion, peppers, mushrooms, in marinara sauce \$18

Veal Entrees

All entrées choice of soup or salad. Served with house vegetables. Choice of red skin potatoes or pasta

MARSALA sautéed, mushrooms, marsala wine sauce \$24

PICCATA artichoke, capers, with lemon butter cream sauce \$24

PARMESAN breaded, baked, mozzarella, and marinara \$24

FLORINTINA breaded veal cutlet, alfredo, spinach \$24

SALTIMBOCCA white wine, prosciutto, mushrooms and sage \$24

MILANESE breaded veal cutlet with lemon butter sauce \$24

Dinner Menu

Eat, Drink
& Be Merry

Beef, Pork & Lamb Entrees

All entrées choice of soup or salad. Served with house vegetables. Choice of red skin potatoes or pasta

Extra charge for green beans, asparagus, broccolini

RIBEYE 20oz angus prime \$35

FILET MIGNON 8oz angus prime \$35

LAMB CHOPS (4) rosemary seasoned \$36

LAMB CHOPS MARSALA STYLE (4) sautéed mushrooms, marsala wine sauce \$38

HERITAGE PORK CHOP (2) grilled to perfection, just the way you like \$22

Italian Specialties

All entrées choice of soup or salad

HOMEMADE LASAGNA (meat) five layer of homemade Italian love \$22

RAVIOLI (meat) \$19 (lobster) \$21

choice of meat sauce, marinara or pomodoro

OLIVIA'S LULU LINGUINE \$19 red or white

GNOCCCHI \$19 choice of meat sauce or marinara, pesto

EGGPLANT PARMESAN \$18 served with house vegetables

Spaghetti
DAY

Pasta's

All entrées choice of soup or salad

BUILD YOUR OWN PASTA \$13

Choice of Meat, Marinara, Aglio Olio, Pesto

Vodka Sauce, Pomodoro or Alfredo additional \$4

Choice of pasta: Penne, Spaghetti, Fettuccine, Pappardelle, Angel Hair

Add a protein: Sausage \$6 Chicken \$6

Salmon \$8 Steak \$8 Shrimp \$8

Accompaniments

GF Salute's Side Salad \$5

Meatballs (2) \$7.50

Red Skin Potatoes \$4

House Bread \$3

Italian Sausage \$8

Green Beans, Asparagus, Broccolini \$4

French Fries double cooked skin on \$6

Side of Pasta (marinara or meat sauce) \$7

We Encourage Family and Group Sharing

GF Gluten Free

All Parties 8 or more are subjected to one tab and 20% Gratuity / 2.9% Charge when using a credit card

Ask your server about menu items that are cooked to order or served raw. Consuming raw or undercooked meats, poultry, seafood, shellfish, or egg may increase your risk of foodborne illness.

Savings in the Guardian

MIKE THE PAINTER

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Taylor Animal Shelter

Pets of the Week

Visit **Adopt a Pet** and search Taylor Animal Shelter for more information or call Taylor Animal Shelter at 734-274-1354 and visit us on Facebook at The City of Taylor Animal Shelter

Spunky Domestic Shorthair Male, Young Tails: 14

Nacho Chihuahua Male, Young Tails: 14

Tilly Domestic Shorthair Female, Young Tails: 14

Sunshine Domestic Shorthair Female, 11 mos Tails: 14

Blake Domestic Shorthair Male, Young Tails: 14

Glenda American Staffordshire Terrier Female, Young Tails: 14

Jill Domestic Shorthair Female, Young Tails: 14

Tilly Domestic Shorthair Female, Young Tails: 14

Billy Bob Domestic Shorthair Male, Young Tails: 14

Badger Domestic Shorthair Male, Young Tails: 14

Princess Domestic Shorthair Female, Young Tails: 14

Spooky Domestic Shorthair Female, Young Tails: 14

Leslie Domestic Shorthair Female, Young Tails: 14

Tanya American Staffordshire Terrier Female, Young Tails: 14

Bunny American Staffordshire Terrier Female, Young Tails: 14

ALLEN PARK

Allen Park Community Center
15800 White St.
Allen Park, MI 48101
Office: 313-928-0770
Senior Office: 313-928-0771
Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm

FRIDAYS 3-7

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Allen Park Guardian

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or charlachelseaguardian@gmail.com

Please like and share our Facebook Page: APGuardian

Mission Statement:
Hard work, good work and creating and fostering great relationships are the keys to community success.

SAVINGS IN ALLEN PARK YOUR AD HERE

2x3 for \$50 per week, 4 week run = \$200 total
2x2 for \$25 per week, 4 week run = \$100 total

Call: 734-636-6577 or email
charlachelseaguardian@gmail.com

SAVINGS IN ALLEN PARK YOUR AD HERE

2x3 for \$50 per week, 4 week run = \$200 total
2x2 for \$25 per week, 4 week run = \$100 total

Call: 734-636-6577 or email
charlachelseaguardian@gmail.com



Allen Park Police Department Weekly Summary

HIT/RUN ACCIDENT

Date: 1/2/2024

Location: SB M 39 FREEWAY/ 1-94 WB, ALLEN PARK, MI

Time: 10:00 PM

Hit/ Run Accident

01/02/2024

Location: SB M 39 Free-way/1-94 WB

Victim: 2014 gray Toyota Camry

Suspect: Unknown white van

Conditions: On 01/02/204 at ap-proximately 10:00 hours, officers were dispatched to the lobby for a report of a traffic accident. Upon arrival a Officer met with (Victim) who told his that on 12/28/2023 at approx-imately 1415 hours, he was involved in a traffic accident. While traveling in the sec-ond lane on SB M39 FWY near I-94 W in his gray 2014 Toyota Camry. Then a white van came to sudden stop in front of him.

The other vehicle failed to stop at an assured distance and struck the white van with the front bumper of his vehicle. The white van was struck in the center rear bumper and then pro-ceeded to drive away. The victim was not injured in the acci-dent and was unable to provide any further information about the white van.

POSSESSION OF COCAINE/ RETAIL FRAUD

Date: 1/3/2024

Location: 23000 W OUTER DR, ALLEN PARK, MI

Time: 4:51 PM

POSSESSION OF COCAINE/ RETAIL FRAUD

23111 W OUTER DR (LOWE'S)

01/03/2023 -1651 HOURS

CITATION: NONE

PENDING REVIEW BY THE APPDDB

EVIDENCE: 1 SMALL PLASTIC BAGGIE AND 2 SMALL FOLDED PAPER RECEIPTS CONTAINING SUS-PECTED WHITE POWDER CO-CAINE, 1 PLASTIC STRAW CONTAINING SUS-PECTED COCAINE RESIDUE (TAGGED AND SECURED IN LOCKER

11) STOLEN AND RE-COVERED: MAR-SHALL TOWN GROUT BRUSH \$4.98, MARSHALL TOWN GROUT SAW \$6.68

SUMMARY: An Officer responded to Lowe's regarding a suspect in custody for retail fraud. Upon arrival the Officer met with Asset Protection in the loss prevention office. He reports he observed the suspect tear the packaging off the 2 listed recovered items in the paint de-partment. He con-cealed items in his left front pants pocket then passed all points

of purchase without attempting to pay. He was confronted in the main vestibule and they escorted him to the office. While re-trieving the stolen items from - left front pants pocket, discov-ered the above listed suspected cocaine and straw. When asked what the substance is, he noted it is cocaine. admitted using co-caine yesterday. The Officer collected all evidence and later tagged then secured it in evidence locker #11. He was trans-ported to the APPD where he was booked and secured in a cell.



ALLEN PARK DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

LOGO CONTEST

WIN UP TO \$250

Allen Park DDA is moving to a new future through new lighting, exciting community events and much more to come. Help us produce a new Logo & Slogan that represents Allen Park Downtown.

To enter and for full details visit www.cityoffallenpark.org

ALLEN PARK DOWNTOWN
Rediscover Your Timeless Appeal.

FRAUD

Date: 1/3/2024

Location: SB M 39 FREEWAY/ 1-94 WB, ALLEN PARK, MI

Time: 6:09 PM

January 3, 2024 - 1809Hrs

Fraud

Victim: ALLEN PARK MI 48101

Circumstance: A victim came into APPD to report fraudulent activities. She stated she re-ceived a billing state-ment from Service Fi-nance Company LLC regarding a loan and payment for HVAC Equipment. The loan was filed for on 11-21-2023, and a balance of \$24,655.99 was ap-proved on 12-07-2023. The full amount of the loan was used on 12-22-2023. Service Fi-nance is requesting a payment of \$410.94. She stated she con-tacted Service Fi-nance and was told the HVAC equipment was installed at a re-sidence in Belleville, IL, but could not be given an address. She contacted all 3 major credit bureau's at this time, and was advised to file a report. She stated 2 other fraud-ulent accounts had been opened in her name that she was not aware of, but did not have that informa-tion at this time. She was provided a report number and advised to contact SOS to have her identity flagged. There is no suspect or further information available at this time. A copy of the billing statement was placed in the DB box.

HIT & RUN

Date: 1/4/2024

Location: SHENANDOAH AVE/ KEPPEM AVE, ALLEN PARK, MI

Time: 3:28 PM

HIT & RUN

SHENANDOAH AVE/ KEPPEM AVE

01/04/2023 -1528 HOURS

CITATION: CHARGES:

An Officer respond-ed to the corner of Shenandoah Ave and Keppen Ave regard-ing a parked vehicle that was struck by another vehicle. The Officer spoke with the victim who lives at Keppen Ave. He reports he heard a crash then looked out his window. He saw a black Chevy Equinox crashed into a parked, unoccupied silver Ford Fusion. He reports the driver to be an older W/M possibly in his 60s. The male drove away then returned a short-time later in a Ford Ranger. He knocked on the door of a near-by house but did not talk to anyone and drove away again. The victim followed him to Euclid Ave then re-turned home and had his mother call 911. The Officer observed the damaged Fusion which was legally parked on the road facing north. The Of-ficer ran the registra-tion in LEIN. The Offi-cer attempted contact at 2 nearby houses but got no answer. The Of-ficer went to Euclid Ave and observed a black Equinox with front end damage and a Ranger in the driveway. The Officer made contact with the suspect who admit-ted crashing into the Fusion. He reports a dog ran into his path so he swerved to avoid same, striking the Fu-sion. He indicated he left then came back and attempted con-tact with the vehicle owner by knocking the door of a near-by house. He made no contact with any-one and did not leave a note. The Officer asked why he did not call 911 and he noted he did not think he was required to do so. The Officer issued the listed citations and placed a business card with a report number on the Fusion. The Of-ficer was not able to make contact with the owner of the Fusion.

RETAIL FRAUD - SUPPLEMENT

Date: 12/23/2023

Location: 3100 FAIRLANE DR, ALLEN PARK, MI

Time: 1:28 PM

Retail Fraud - Supple-ment

Saturday December 23, 2023 @ 1 :28 PM

Location: TARGET 3100 Fairlane AP

Suspect Vehicle: 2007 Saturn Aura

Traffic Stop @ Lowe's entrance off Outer-drive

An Officer was work-ing Fairlane traffic OT and dispatch gave out retail fraud from Target. Suspects were 2 black females one in Tan coat, 1 in a black coat, driving a gray Saturn with 1 headlight out. Tar-get reported the sus-pects stole children's clothing. While work-ing the traffic light at Outerdrive/Enter-prise. The Saturn ex-ited the complex and everything matched. The driver, B/F was wearing tan coat and the Passenger B/F was wearing the black coat. The Officer ap-proached the car and children's clothing was observed in the back seat. The Officer advised them why she stopped them and the driver. They explained it was Christmas time, she has 3 children and no money for gifts. She was cooperative during the entire pro-cess. The Officer is-sued both Suspects retail fraud violations and release them. The Officer took the sto-len property back to Target and turned it over to LPO. The Offi-cer advised she would complete her report and email the inci-dent. The total added up to \$240.

Recovered Stolen Property:

3 gold Necklaces \$20 each = \$60

Green sweatshirt \$18

Blk pants \$18

Blk pants \$14

gry shirt \$6.00

Blue shirt \$5.00

Jeans \$14

Pants \$5

Kids jeans \$12

Chi Hair Straightener \$85.99



Business Spotlight: Opplemans Trading & Exchange Company



► continued from page 1 business. By the grace of God, and our hard work, we have grown to include two locations. One is in Allen Park and the other is in Southgate at 14160 Pennsylvania Road. For the first five years, we were located just a couple doors down from the Allen Park \$1 Show. In 2017, we bought and renovated our current location at 17037 Ecorse Rd, Allen Park, MI 48101, right next door to Putzig Plumbing.

AP Guardian: What are some things you love about Allen Park and about having a business in Allen Park?

JW: Allen Park is where I grew up, class of 1998. I loved growing up Downriver and specifically in Allen Park. My friends and I loved hanging out downtown, going to the Wheat and Rye, playing street hockey in the parking lot of Lindemann Elementary, and going to football games on Friday nights. Looking back, it was a pretty ideal time grow-

ing up. I still love Allen Park, which is why we've invested in the community. In 2019, we purchased and renovated 17218 Ecorse Road and now lease it to Deep Roots Massage. Check her out!

AP Guardian: What characteristics set you apart from similar businesses in surrounding areas?

JW: Prior to opening Opplemans Trading & Exchange Company, I was Director of Humanitarian Aid for a domestic and international NGO. I spent time in Haiti just days and weeks after the 2010 earthquake, I spent time in the Horn of Africa, Dadaab Refugee Camp, Central America, the isle of Hispaniola helping people in need. At Opplemans, we have a heart for people, not just people in need, but all people. We have developed many solid relationships because of the pawn shop. We try to demonstrate gratitude to each person that walks through our front

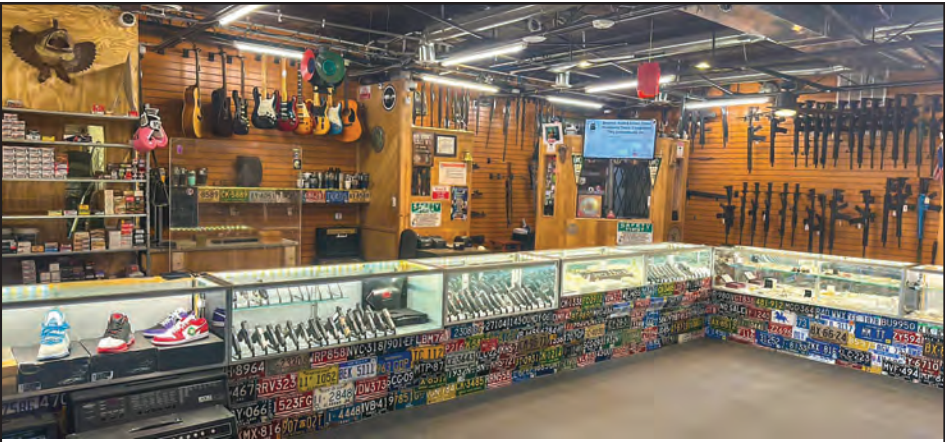
door, even if we don't make a deal. The smile they receive at the shop may be the only smile they get that day.

AP Guardian: Any special facts or information you would like the Allen Park community to know?

JW: We have a Gemological Institute of America (GIA) certified diamond grader on site that can grade diamonds for color, cut, clarity, and carat weight, the 4c's. We are licensed at both locations by the ATF to buy and sell firearms, we have a Federal Firearms License, aka and FFL. At Opplemans, we buy, sell, pawn, buy back and trade firearms, coins, gold & silver, musical instruments (especially, American guitars and tube amps), jewelry, vintage hifi, pretty much anything of value. We deal in estates helping loved ones deal with the stuff people leave behind. We can help identify what has value, what could be donated, and what should be disposed of.

AP Guardian: Any deals for the new year to share with customers?

JW: We do \$25 ffl transfers every day for in-state or out of state firearms transfers. We've always got a deal



Opplemans Trading and Exchange Company

We buy anything of value!



WE BUY:

- Firearms • Gold
- Jewelry • Vintage Stereo
- Musical Instruments • Coins

Est. 2012
Family Owned
& Operated
A+ rating by BBB



\$25 FFL Transfers
GIA Certified
Diamond Grader
Licensed, Bonded,
and Insured

Two convenient locations!

Allen Park
17037 Ecorse Rd
Allen Park, MI 48101
313-769-5145
Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 10-4

Southgate
14160 Pennsylvania Rd.
Southgate, MI 48195
734-718-8186
Mon-Fri 9:30-5:30, Sat 9:30-1:30

on something, it just depends on what you are looking for.

For more information on Opplemans visit their website at <https://goldcashguns.com/> or their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/goldcashguns2> or call them at (734) 718-8186. Opplemans is also a A+ rated Better Business Bureau member.

5 Lakes Wood Co. in Allen Park



Pictured is Len Perotta. Photos By Jim Jacek.



► continued from page 1
By: Jim Jacek

Ever notice a glass display in Allen Park City Hall with flags made out of wood? Len

Perotta creates these flags. He founded 5 Lakes Wood Co. with the goal of expressing himself through his art. Hand carved

flags are his specialty. Each flag is created by putting 13 individual boards together and carefully carving the unique waves, stars

and other details. It is then taken apart, sanded, stained, and re-assembled. Each is one-of-a-kind. Len also created unique

art pieces, cutting boards, cheese cutters, and other home décor items. Born and raised in Allen Park, and the grandson of a dedi-

cated city councilman, Len himself is committed to the future of the city. You can reach Len at 5lakeswoodco@gmail.com.

APHS ALUMNI NOAH GENEVICH CHEERING AT U OF M CHAMPIONSHIP GAME IN HOUSTON



Photo Courtesy of Allen Park Public Schools

MAKENNA YOST FROM DIVINE CHILD CHEERS ON WOLVERINES AT CHAMPIONSHIP GAME!



AP ALLEN PARK ATHLETICS

ON THE SIDELINE: COMFY SEATS, LONG LOST FRIENDS, DAYS GONE BY AND THE DETROIT LIONS



By Don Richter
drichter101@comcast.net

I heard there was an NFL playoff game last weekend in Detroit. What happened? Did Green Bay get snowed in and have to move their playoff game to the Motor City?

What's that you say?

The Lions actually hosted a playoff game? No way. You do mean "my" Detroit Lions, correct? Not some Lions team overseas that plays that other type of "football," right?

Nope.
THE Detroit Lions, OUR Detroit Li-

ons, actually won an NFL playoff game last weekend. I know, I can't believe it either. I watched the game — it was amazing. I couldn't fathom what I witnessed.

What's next, little green men landing on top of the White House?

Actually, that would be pretty cool. Let me try again.

What's next, the Detroit Lions winning the Super Bowl?

There it is.

Hey, three more wins and the Lions will win the Super Bowl. I know, crazy right? I can't believe I just wrote a sentence with the "Lions" and "Super Bowl" and not be joking. These Lions actually have a chance to win a Super Bowl. Of course, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, this weekend's opponent in the NFC semifinals, might have a say in the Lions' Super

Bowl chances, as will the NFL's two best teams, the San Francisco 49ers and the Baltimore Ravens.

The last time the Lions won a playoff game was in 1991, if I'm remembering correctly. I was in my mid-20s. What I do remember was watching the game with about 20 of my friends in a house in Birmingham, in suburban Detroit.

I remember prior to kickoff all of us guys in the group played a pick-up game of football out in the snow in a field behind the house. I remember playing quarterback and throwing an interception that was returned for a touchdown. I also remember redeeming myself by throwing the game-winning touchdown pass just before one of my friends' dad pulled up out of nowhere with a cou-

ple cases of, ummm, "ginger ale" for all of us to enjoy. Dads were just cooler back then, weren't they?

A few of the girls in our group arrived at the house a few minutes later with a ton of food and the party was on.

I remember everyone packing into the tiny home's living room to watch the Lions' playoff game. My buddy who owned the house had no money and even less furniture. His lone couch was filled with people sitting on the cushions, lounging on the couch's arms, sprawling on laps and laying on the back top of the over-burdened piece of furniture. Lawn chairs were opened up and sat on, random boxes or crates were brought out and, of course, the uncarpeted, hard wooden floor was always a choice of last

resort.

For me? Somehow I snagged the lone random arm chair in the entire house. Sadly, my claim on the chair didn't last long because as soon as I got up to use the restroom, the arm chair disappeared beneath a sea of bodies as "floor people" clamored for a more comfortable seat. That's how it went the entire game. Every chair, every couch cushion, every crate was in play as soon as someone got up to do anything. There was no "saving" a spot. It was one big "comfy seat" free-for-all the entire playoff game. Whoever had the strongest bladder stayed the most comfortable.

I remember everyone raising the roof off that little house with yells and cheers every time the Lions scored or did something positive.

Those were fun days, indeed.

I've lost track with all those guys and girls. Hopefully they're all doing well.

That, however, was my memory of the Detroit Lions' last playoff win until this past weekend.

This time around, I sat in my own plush, comfy recliner, in my own home watching the game.

The Lions earned a victory last weekend in their playoff win over the Los Angeles Rams.

I like to think I earned my own "victory" of sorts with the Lions' playoff win. Last weekend, I didn't have to worry about someone stealing my seat if I went to the bathroom.

It's the little victories in life that count.

Go Lions...

White Lavender Boutique



Patty Manzella is one of the owners of White Lavender Boutique.
Her sister Fran helps her out on Saturdays.



White Lavender Boutique is located at 6543 Allen Road.

By Jim Jacek

White Lavender Boutique is a brand new business to open in Allen Park in 2023. They are located at 6543 Allen Road, between Major Tomato and Moro's Restaurant. The business is in the same location that housed both the Allen Park DDA office and the Allen Park

Chamber of Commerce.

White Lavender Boutique is a family owned and operated online business with the occasional pop-up and special events throughout the year!

We are two sisters, Patty & Fran, who decided it would be fun to bring our two very unique styles

and ideas together and form WLB. Never afraid of hard work and a challenge, we set forth on our journey and put our plan to action!

Although our styles may be different, our mission is one and the same. At WLB, we offer classic, timeless, on-trend fashions that are not only comfortable but also affordable. To compliment and complete your individual style, we offer accessories from bold statement pieces to a little more modest and subdued pieces. Whatever your preference-whatever your style, we are here to help you and provide you with what you need to stand out from and above all the rest!

Our wish is for every woman to bask in her confidence. Highlighting her individuality, her creativity, her uniqueness and her beauty. Being everything she ever

imagined she could be! We are all destined to be and do great things!

Patty, Fran and the WLB brand, take great pride in supporting Made in the USA! A majority of our merchandise is either Made in the USA or at the very least, locally sourced in the USA! We stand and support our local communities, family, neighbors and friends!

We thank you for your support and for visiting us! We wish you all the best!!

The current hours are Wednesdays and Fridays 11am to 4pm, Thursdays 11am to 6pm, and Saturdays 11am to 3pm. They are closed on Sundays, Mondays, and Tuesdays. You can email them at info@whitelavenderboutiquellc. You can find additional information on their website at www.whitelavenderboutiquellc.com



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FAN CAVE AT CHICAGO'S PIZZA



By: Jim Jacek
 Chicago's Pizza on Allen Road set up a fan cave, where you can watch the Detroit Lions on TV while enjoying a meal there. After the season ends, they will raffle off the fan cave banner.

American House



Director. She is located at 16336 Allen Road in Southgate. American House is a senior living community, with one or two bedroom apartments and a large common area to visit with family and friends. Your maintenance free lifestyle lets you enjoy the activities, create new friends, and has amenities and services such as chef prepared meals, weekly house-keeping, and transportation. You can reach her at 734-246-2860, or by email at southgateassistant@americanhouse.com. For more information, visit the website at www.AmericanHouse.com.

By: Jim Jacek
 The Allen Park Chamber of Commerce member of the week is Rachel Otero with American House. Rachel is the Community Relations



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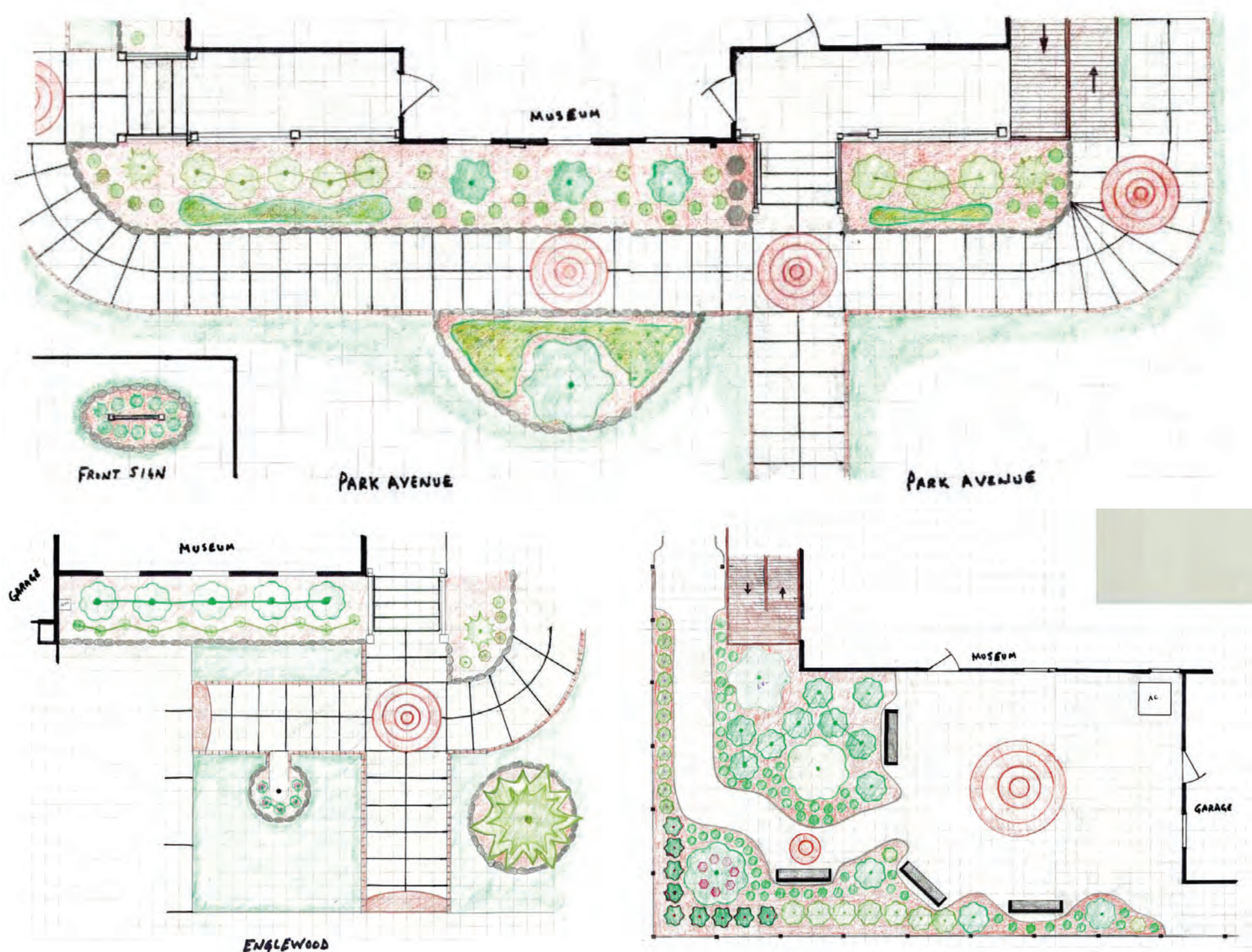
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Allen Park Guardian

January 19, 2024

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City of Allen Park Awarded Grant from America In Bloom and CN Rail



➤ continued from page 1
ing with new shrubs, perennials, trees, concrete walkways, and a patio area with bench seating that can be used for small community

gatherings. The project will also include a new flagpole (if needed), upgraded lighting for the flagpole, and a GFI outlet near the evergreen trees so it

is easier and safer to add Christmas lights. This will allow for the continued transformation of the museum that started in October 2022 - all of which has

been funded through grants from the Wayne County CDBG program. This project will start after July 1st and be finished by November 15th.

The City was awarded this same \$25,000 grant by America In Bloom and CN Rail in 2022 for the Brand Park Vietnam

Veterans & Beyond Memorial and the Champaign Park Blue Star Memorial projects that were substantially completed in the Fall.



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