



## MAY MAGIC

The Yak has always liked adventures.

Sometimes he's out on an adventure, and other times he is curled up reading an adventure story.

In this issue, we start our adventures with a walk along Detroit's riverfront, re-exploring what's happening downtown, Pages 2 and 3.

We talk with Floyd Norman, the animator behind many of the beloved Disney adventures we've seen, being honored this week in Detroit as a Ford Freedom Scholar, Pages 4 and 5.

Then meet a man who has explored all the waterways in Southeast Michigan, Pages 6 and 7.

For more new adventures this summer, you'll want to take a ride on the new QLINE, Pages 8 and 9.

And don't forget to find adventures at museums. We take a Field Trip to a new exhibit at The Henry Ford, Page 12.

### ALSO INSIDE:

Meet this year's Caldecott artist and author, Page 10.

And checkout "Lemons," that's a new adventure from a new author, Page 11.

### ON THE COVER:

**The QLINE is impossible to miss with its snazzy colors and shape, whooshing along Woodward Avenue.**

Photo by Marty Westman



## SUMMER ADVENTURES RIGHT HERE!

Photo by Marty Westman

**The RiverWalk's downtown stretch is a mix of a cityscape and nature.**

**Y**ou don't have to venture far for an adventure. Just take a quick look around you.

You've got Detroit glowing and growing with all kinds of places to visit.

Summer is made for exploring. (Check out our story on the QLINE on Pages 8 and 9.) We thought the best place to start is the Detroit Riverfront, which is more and more a place to stay and play, then connect with our other favorite summer spots.

We had a chance to catch up with Mark Wallace, the chief executive officer of the Riverfront Conservancy, the group responsible for remaking and shaping the sites along the Detroit River as destinations. It's much more than the walk, Mark reminded us. It's now pretty much a complete "loop" connecting to other city spots. For example, you can take the Dequindre Cut all the way to Eastern Market. The Riverfront Conservancy looks to the "community" for what they want to happen, said Mark. It's growing strong on plans for the East Riverfront walk. Later this summer, you'll be able to walk from the Mt. Elliott Park to the Belle Isle bridge – and over the bridge to Belle Isle.

The connection includes the delightful little Gabriel Richard Park.

And if all goes well, you'll soon see the start of a project called the Atwater Beach (on the East Riverfront), which should happen next year. At Yak's Corner press time, the project was up for a vote in the USA Today contest "A Community Thrives" for funding. Whether it wins or not, the Yak is sure it will happen and what a place: sandy beach, hammocks, gardens and a river barge!

To Mark, the Riverfront is a place to play and stay that is key to the resurgence of downtown Detroit. He sees it as a place that will draw people in as they enjoy the city. The Conservancy works with volunteers and depends on growing through donations. But what can kids do?

"Come on down to the Riverfront," says Mark. Bringing your family down to start your city adventure is a good way to support the Riverfront just by visiting.

Beaches are already part of the city, by the way. You'll want to make a stop at Campus Martius this summer, which filled the ice rink with sand again this year and is a sunny place to play, or take a swing ride.

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