



Fall 2017

October, November, December 2017

PO Box 7809, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49507

ALGER HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Happenings

ALGER HEIGHTS HALLOWEEN

5&10K

The leaves are changing color, mums have been planted, and pumpkins are around every corner. All those signs mean that October is officially here and the Alger Heights Halloween 5K and 10K, presented by platinum sponsor GR Consumers Credit Union, will be taking to the streets in just a couple of weeks!



This year's race will be held on Saturday, October 28 and is a great event for everyone! Runners, joggers, and walkers are all welcome. We also allow strollers on the course so that the entire family can participate!

If you haven't signed up yet, don't worry! You can register online at www.alger5k.com or during packet pickup at Alger Middle School. Shirt sizes can only be guaranteed to those who sign up before October 14, so don't delay.



Annual 5K-10K race set for Saturday, October 28

In addition to the 5K and 10K we also offer a free Kids Fun Run! There is no need to register for this event, just show up 10-15 minutes before the Kids Fun Run starts. Every child who participates will get their very own race bib and a finishers medal to celebrate their accomplishment.



This event brings in over 600 participants every year, and we want to show them that Alger Heights is the best neighborhood in all Grand Rapids! If you aren't participating in the race there are other ways to get involved. This race wouldn't be possible without the help of many volunteers. We have jobs ranging from packet pickup, helping to pass out water, set up snacks, and direct runners on the course! Shifts are just a couple of hours and you get a free t-shirt!

We also ask that everyone in the neighborhood familiarize themselves with the course map. To keep all our participants safe, roads will be closed to vehicular traffic throughout the duration of the event. So, plan ahead if you anticipate having to leave or enter the neighborhood on race day. If you live on the course we also ask that you move your cars off the street to create

a clear path for our participants. Please see the insert in the newsletter for more details and a map of the course. If you have further questions head over to our website www.alger5k.com for more information.

We look forward to seeing everyone out on race day and are excited to see the fun costumes everyone will be wearing!





A note from the President...

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

We live in a wonderfully vibrant community full of residents who strive to build better relationships and a better community. Recently our nation has come face-to-face with deep rooted issues that can cause us to take sides, label ourselves and others, and view those who disagree with us as “the enemy.”

It can be easy in the age of the internet to group with likeminded people around the world and forget about those that live right next to you. You share more in common with your neighbors than you may think. We all have dreams we chase after. We all have fears that can cloud our judgement. We have family and friends we cherish and wish to protect.

So, this fall I challenge you to engage in your neighborhood in two very important ways. First, get to know who your neighbors are. Learn the name of the neighbors on either side of you as well as the three neighbors across the street. Second is to put down your phone, close your computer, and go have an in-person conversation with someone in the neighborhood. Don't cling to the political, social, religious, or other beliefs that may make you different but rather focus on something you share in common and connect. Our lives are better when we are engaged in our community and not hiding behind screens, labels, and divisive language. I am proud to live in a neighborhood that finds value in building a stronger community.

Continue being awesome!

Andy Miller, AHNA Board President 🐼

The Grand Rapids Public Library is asking voters to renew an expiring capital millage in November. The millage, which costs the average homeowner \$18.76 a year, will generate \$1.75 million dollars per year for library operations. Homeowners will not see an increase in their taxes. Please remember to vote November 7.

Learn more at grpl.org/millage or love4grpl.org

AHNA Board of Directors: 2017 - 2018

AHNA board meetings are on the second Tuesday of every month, at 7:00 pm, at Seymour Church (840 Alger SE – use south entrance, the building is handicap accessible). Anyone is welcome to attend to see what we do and bring any questions or concerns to the board. We cordially invite you to attend. In May, we meet for the Annual Meeting.

- Andy Miller** 419-8455 andy@reviverealty.com
 - Jon Hall** 560-8556 cnw8835@yahoo.com
 - Ginny Hartger** 245-9832 ginnyhartger@gmail.com
 - Tyler Bekius** 502-4556 tyler.bekius@gmail.com
 - Sam Evans** 540-2107 massnave1@att.net
 - Mary Mauro** 262-1956 mary.mauro15@gmail.com
 - Amanda Moore** 745-1481 amandamallorymoore@gmail.com
 - Rick Savino** 550-1450 ricksavino@yahoo.com
 - Josh Schroyer** 292-2801 jsschroyer@gmail.com
 - Dave Thrasher** 243-6603 jdthrasher@aol.com
 - Kyle Kinnear** 708-289-2421 James.Kinnear@icloud.com
- Community Coordinator: Jenn Reidsma**
988-9268 / ext. 205 jenn@tabernaclecommunity.org

Emergency Numbers:
Suspicious Activity - 456-3400

Crime in Progress
9-1-1

FREE!

DROP-IN ZUMBA
Certified YMCA Instructors | Get Active, Stay Healthy

ALGER MIDDLE SCHOOL
Every Tuesday, 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Brought to you by:
YMCA OF GREATER GRAND RAPIDS
475 Lake Michigan Drive NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
616.855.9600 | www.gymca.org



- by Tom Bulten

Bringing a battered bicycle back to life takes creative thinking and perseverance. These are the important life skills being learned by young apprentices at Boston Square Community Bikes. Myles Moylen and Philemon Tumusimu have spent two months in the **Youth Mechanical Apprenticeship Program** learning basic bicycle repair skills and valuable life lessons. Both Myles and Philemon live in the neighborhood. Myles rode his bike to the apprenticeship every Thursday afternoon. Philemon simply walked across the street.

With the staff of Boston Square Community Bikes they worked on resurrecting a beat-up blue Magna "Great Divide" bicycle that had been donated to the program. Boston Square Community Bikes performs life support on many lower-end, "department store" bikes. These can serve as affordable transportation for those that need to get to work or other places. Yesterday, Mitchell called Boston Square Community Bikes desperate to find a bike to get him to work. He had only \$30 and would be fired from his job if he didn't arrive at work by 4 PM. He left the shop with a bike refurbished by program volunteers and staff.

In July Philemon was joined by Moise Tuyambaze and Yasir Ishimwe in the apprenticeship program. All three young men are refugees from Rwanda. As they work on bikes with us, they will be thinking about their futures, first as they start high school, then beyond. For yesterday's lesson, they wrote down their dreams for job, education, hobbies, and friends. A "Point and Name" game helped them learn the anatomy of a bike, the names of key components and parts. Next week, they'll learn the names of bike tools and begin "wrenching" on donated bikes.

Boston Square Community Bikes is a do-it-yourself community shop in the

Meet one of Alger Heights business neighbors

Tardy's Collectors Corner has been open since 1979 and has been scratching that collectible itch for Grand Rapids ever since! We offer a little bit of everything from Comics (both new and back issue back to the 1940's!), action figures, pins, patches, posters, statues, signed books, original artwork and lots more. The original owners, Kirby and Deb have been helping minds and collections grow for literal generations, and the new owners, Gavin and Deanna are keeping that tradition alive for many more years to come!



We offer a free pull and hold program so you don't miss a single issue of your favorite book. We have a very wide variety but if there's something you're looking for that we're missing? Ask us and we can order it if it's something new or try to track it down if it's something a little older.

We also have events periodically throughout the year. We do sales, parties, giveaways, and local and national artist signings. We always have a ton of books for free comic book day in the spring and Halloween Comic Fest in the fall (Saturday, October 28th this year)!

Stop by, come say hi and see what we have to offer, we promise you won't be disappointed!

Tardy's Collectors Corner
2009 Eastern Ave SE
www.tardys.com
www.facebook.com/TCollectors.Corner 🍷

Oakdale neighborhood of southeast Grand Rapids. The staff and volunteers help neighborhood residents and others learn bike repair and safe bike riding. Anyone can use the tools and space for free. Bike parts are available for sale. The staff offers free coaching and advice. The sale of bikes that have been donated helps sustain the program.

Boston Square Community Bikes is a project of Oakdale Neighbors, a community development organization in the neighborhood. The mission of the bike project is to provide affordable, sustainable transportation for those that need to get to work, the store, to school or church. You can assist Boston Square Community Bikes by donating bicycles to it or volunteering to work on bikes. No experience is necessary. You will learn bicycle repair as you help others. By training young apprentices like Philemon, the program secures its own sustainability and helps more people get further on two wheels. 🍷



Only 1 More Eastern & Alger Pop-Up Market this year!

October 21st, will be the last Eastern & Alger Pop-Up Market for 2017. Check out local artisans and vintage dealers offering all kinds of antiques, home décor, furniture, clothing, jewelry, made-in-Michigan items & more. For more information check out www.easternalger.com. 🍷



Neighborhood Crime Prevention and Safety

-by Sam Evans

We are planning a Neighborhood Watch training in October and if you are interested in being trained in Neighborhood Crime Watch, please e-mail me or call me if you don't have e-mail at: massnave1@att.net or 540-2107. Listed below are some helpful items from the training:

Keep an eye out for each other and report any suspicious persons, activities or vehicles to the police at the non-emergency number 616-456-3400 or if a crime is being done, call the police at 911.

We have had a number of larcenies from vehicles this spring and summer due to vehicles being unlocked and with valuables or other items in them. Don't forget to take all valuables out of your vehicles, not leaving any cords or window holder in the open when you lock it up when not in use. Approximately 95% of all car larcenies are with vehicles not locked with valuables in them.

Don't leave your equipment out in the yard or garage door open if you are not

Do You Smell Natural Gas? If you smell natural gas (a rotten egg or sulfur odor) or suspect a leak: Call 9-1-1 and 800-477-5050

- DO NOT try to locate the source of the leak.
- DO NOT use a light or electric device.
- DO NOT use a lighter or light a match.
- Notify the neighbors if possible. 🏠



in full sight. These are open invitations for someone to enter quickly and take something.

Please lock your doors and windows in your home when not at home or at night. Leave your outside lights on from dusk till dawn.

Get to know your neighbors on each side of you and across the street from you. The more people you know will help your block become a friendly area and an area that will feel comfortable in helping each other. If you have an issue with a neighbor, try to work it out in a friendly manner. If that does not work then feel free to contact the neighborhood association to help in the conflict resolution. We have resources available to us that can help just about any situation. Please e-mail: massnave1@att.net or call 540-2107.



Prevent carbon monoxide poisoning by installing a Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarm

- Never use a generator in your home or business.
- Inspect your furnace annually
- Change air filters at least every other month.
- Make sure your chimney and vent pipes are free of obstructions.
- Never use gas stoves or charcoal grills to heat homes. 🏠

Michigan Child Protection Registry

The State of Michigan offers a free program to stop adult advertisements from reaching e-mails, mobile phones (text messaging ads) and instant messenger ids. The Michigan Child Protection Registry is a free do-not-contact service for Michigan's families and schools and can be located at: www.protectmichild.com.

Alger Heights Neighborhood Association Dues

- by Sam Evans

Don't forget to send in your Neighborhood Association dues. These dues cover the expenses for our quarterly newsletter, neighborhood activities (garage sales, dumpster day, National Night Out, and flyers). As you well know in attending any of our activities, we do not charge for anything for participation. We are utilizing our face book pages but not everyone has a face book account or a computer. All newsletters are delivered in person either by a block captain or a board member.

Our board is an all volunteer board with no salaries. We all have a passion to help make ours the best and safest neighborhood in the city.

Our dues are as follows:

- Seniors - \$10.00**
- Household - \$20.00**
- Business - \$25.00**

Please make your checks out to AHNA and mail to PO BOX 7809, Grand Rapids, MI 49507 or via pay pal. 🏠

Handy Numbers

Emergency: 911
Non-emergency Police: 456-3400
Silent Observer: 774-2345
Reporting City Street Lights or Stop
Lights Out: 311

Handy Websites/Emails

The City of Grand Rapids - www.grcity.us
The Rapid Bus System - www.ridetherapid.org
State of Michigan - www.michigan.gov
Get the Lead Out - www.healthyhomescoalition.org
Heart of West Michigan United Way - www.211.org or call 211 🏠

Advertising in the AHNA newsletter

Current advertising rates:

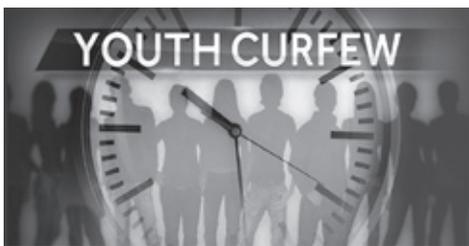
Business Card size: \$35.00
for single issue; \$120 for 4 consecutive issues

Double Business Card size:
\$55.00 for single issue; \$190 for 4
consecutive issues

1/4 Page size: \$95.00 for single
issue; \$325.00 for 4 consecutive issues

1/2 Page size: \$165.00 for single
issue; \$560.00 for 4 consecutive issues

If you are interested, please call Sam
Evans at 540-2107. 🏠



Our Children, Our Responsibility

The Grand Rapids City Curfew Law
states the following:

12 years and under - must be in
by 10:00 pm thru 6:00 am

15 years and under - must be in
by 11:00 pm thru 6:00 am

17 years and under - must be in
by Midnight thru 6:00 am. 🏠



New to the Neighborhood?

If you are new to the area, we invite you to contact Alger Heights Neighborhood Association. We have welcome packets available. We make every effort to deliver these to our new neighbors, but we realize that some may be missed. If you would like a welcome packet please contact Sam Evans at massnave1@att.net or 540-2107. 🏠

Alger Heights Neighborhood Association Block Captains - by Sam Evans

The general requirements for a Block Captain are to be friendly, welcome new neighbors, be the eyes and ears of your block. We do give you training and materials that will be helpful for you in this fun role for you block. We will also work beside you for introductions.

We are in need of Block Captains for the following blocks:

2 Captains needed for Eastern (28th to Mulford), Raymond (Nevada to 28th), Nelson Street (Kalamazoo to Burton – Homes Only), Jennings, (Kalamazoo to Oakfield), Louise (Kalamazoo to Oakfield), Edna (Eastern to Blaine), 2 needed for Hazen (Blaine to Nelson, 2 needed for Joslin (Eastern to Blaine), 2 needed for Merrifield (Blaine to Nelson, 2 needed for Merritt (Eastern to Blaine), Nevada (Brooklyn to Blaine) Nevada (Blaine to Eastern), Raymond (Nevada to 28th).

To learn more about these opportunities please contact Sam Evans at massnave1@att.net. 🏠



Submission guidelines for Happenings newsletter

Alger Heights Happenings is the quarterly newsletter published by the Alger Heights Neighborhood Association. It is distributed to over 2000 homes and businesses in Alger Heights. Printed newsletters are delivered by block connectors and board members to homes on their assigned block(s). Copies are also available at the Seymour Branch library and some businesses and churches. It is also available online at algerheights.org. Newsletters are published in January, April, July, and October. Deadline for submissions is the 8th of the month

before publication. You are welcome to submit information about your organization. If you have questions, you may contact the newsletter editor, Ginny Hartger, at ginnyhartger@gmail.com. Limit articles to 300-350 words and submit it in an email or Word document. You may submit a logo or graphic that we may use if there is room. AHNA reserves the right to include and edit your information as space allows. **Please include the following with each of your submissions:** Name of your organization. Your name, phone, email and your position in the organization (for use if we need to contact you). What do you want to tell us about? Is it a class, workshop, open house, Bible study, ministry, support group, etc.? Mention the fee, if there is one. Who is it for? If there is a specific group it is meant for, please specify (for example MOPS - mothers of preschoolers, or; a cooking class for 5th and 6th graders). Where? The location of the event or organization. When? Dates and times. Deadline to sign up if there is one. How? Give good contact information for how to sign up or get additional information.

Thank you for helping us communicate with our neighbors. 🏠

Church and School News

Alger Park Church

2655 Eastern SE

Sunday Services 9:30am and 5:00pm

Men's Bible Study

This fall we're offering a six-session Bible Study, Men of Integrity:

Passionate Pursuit

Discover God's call on your life by learning from six men of the Bible.

God wants men to passionately pursue him. In this six-session course that looks at the lives of Gideon, David, Elijah, John the Baptist, Stephen, and Paul, you will find examples of men who did this faithfully. Their examples will inspire you to obediently and faithfully lead those around you, while acknowledging and dealing with your weaknesses. For details, visit <http://www.algerparkchurch.org/Men>

Women's Bible Studies

Colossians: Christ Is ABOVE ALL.

Tuesday Mornings, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Began September 12 (6 Weeks)

Childcare Provided or Wednesday

Evenings, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Began

September 13 (6 weeks) Childcare

Provided upon Registration.

Suggested donation of \$30/family.

Colossians is so much more than a simple book guiding believers to live out their faith in Jesus Christ. It is

about the preeminence of Christ in all His glory and dignity. For each of us, Christ is our life and we are complete in Him. Colossians explains that the Christian life is Christ's very own life in each of us. He is our all in all!

Visit <http://www.algerparkchurch.org/Women-Of-Alger-Park> 🙌

The Branch Church

973 28th Street SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49508

Sunday Services: 9:30am

The Branch is a community of faith that embraces differences, pursues

justice, and invites all people to participate in our life together. We would consider it a joy to have you join us.

We worship on Sundays at 9:30am. BranchKids is available for children birth-4th grade. Visit our website for information about ways we are living our mission, including a combined worship gathering with our Spanish-speaking and Nepali brothers and sisters on 10/15, Learning Communities starting in October, and our every-other-week formational ministry for 5th-12th graders. www.thebranchonline.org 🙌

Comunidad Cristiana de Grand Rapids

973 28th Street SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49508

Sunday Services: 11:15am

Dear Alger Heights Neighbors,

It is amazing to see how fast time passes by. Here at Comunidad Cristiana de Grand Rapids we are happy to be part of this neighborhood and we have been able to enjoy many summer activities with you. As we plan the rest of the year, we want to invite you to several activities we are having. First of all, the last Sunday of every month we will be having fully bilingual services. Even though every Sunday we have translation available, we want to be sensible to the community in which we live. So, if you are interested in building relationships with people from all different parts of Latin America and learn some Spanish, we want to invite you to be part of our bilingual services. Furthermore, we are having meeting for youth from 6th to 12th grade in a very diverse context. This takes place on Wednesdays from 7-8:30pm.

On November 4th, we will be having what we call Vision night where we can celebrate what God has done in the life of CCGR and furthermore, what are the plans and dreams we have for the following year. It is also an opportunity to get to know us and find ways to partner with each other. We are still

looking for a place to hold it, but we will inform you as soon as we have a specific place and time.

On Thanksgiving Day, we provide a breakfast for the homeless of the city. We get together transportation and we pick them up from Heartside Park, bring them to our church, feed them, pray for them, and give them a space to express what's in their hearts. We are always in need of volunteers and/or supplies. Keep posted as we get closer to the date to find ways you can help.

Finally, on December 17, we will be having our annual Christmas concert. It will take place at 11:15am and we will be having good music, Christmas carols, toys to give to families and a good meal. It is totally free and we would love to see you here. Furthermore, if you know families that need toys and/or food for the season, please let us know.

Once again, we are grateful for the opportunity to be part of this neighborhood and know that we are looking for ways to get more involved in the community.

Blessings

Rodrigo Cano, Pastor, CCGR 🙌

Seymour Church

840 Alger SE

Sunday Services: 9:30am

Phone: 245-8726

Please join us for our Wednesday Alive at Seymour (W.A.S. Nights) for a FREE community meal beginning at 5:30pm and followed by programs for both adults and children from age 4 years old through 8th grade. A nursery is also provided for younger children. The fall dates for our W.A.S. Nights are October 4, October 18, November 1, November 15, November 29, and December 13.

Please contact the Seymour Church office for more information (616-245-8726 or info@seymourchurch.org).

Seymour MOPS (Mothers Of PreSchoolers), which meets at Seymour Church on the first Friday of each month at 9:15am, includes

Seymour Church

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Seymour MOPS (Mothers Of PreSchoolers), which meets at Seymour Church on the first Friday of each month at 9:15am, includes programs for both moms and children. Seymour MOPS also meet on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00pm with a program for mothers of preschoolers. Seymour Church is located at 840 Alger, please contact the Seymour Church office with any questions or for more information (616-245-8726 or info@seymourchurch.org).

Please stop by and visit Seymour Church at the MONSTER MASH at the KROC Center on Friday, October 27 from 5:00-7:00pm. Stop by our creative display for a fun treat and information on our many programs at Seymour Church.

Team SPARK, a Parkinson's Disease support group, meets on the second

Tabernacle Community Church

2550 Eastern SE
Sunday Services: 10:00am



Did you know the Alger Heights neighborhood is home to a clothing ministry? Tabitha's Closet, a ministry of Tabernacle Community Church, has offered low-cost clothing, shoes, and basic household items at periodic community sales for many years. Read on to find out how you can get involved in this neighborhood effort!

Donate - We can accept clothing, shoes, bags, purses, accessories. Winter hats, mittens, scarves, brand new socks and underwear (all sizes) are also welcomed. We can also use kitchen items, bed linens and towels. Items must be in excellent condition and can be dropped off at entrance A, Monday-Thursday, 9:00am-5:00am (please ring doorbell). Items can also be dropped off on Sunday mornings inside entrance C. We are always in need of more men's and boys' clothing.

Serve by sorting donations. Our team of volunteers is made up of customers and neighbors as well as members from Tabernacle. We all enjoy each other's company as we work together to sort and hang donations and run the sales. Join us once a month on either Tuesday mornings or Monday evenings at Tabernacle (use entrance

C). For every 30 minutes worked, you will earn a card worth 15 free items.

- Mondays 6:30-8:30pm: Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Nov. 20
- Tuesdays 9:00-11:00am: Sept. 5, Oct. 3, Nov. 7, Nov. 28

Shop on December 1 and 2. Mark your calendars for the next sale. Sales are open to the public. All items are only 10¢ each. Customers are encouraged to bring their own bags. Friday, December 1, 6:30-8:30pm and Saturday, December 2, 9:00-11:00am. For more information about Tabitha's Closet or to be added to the volunteer email list, contact Amanda Bridle at TabithasCloset@tabernaclecommunity.org.

People of all ages needed for the upcoming Christmas Pageant

The Church of Alger Heights

Best Christmas Pageant Ever!
The churches in Alger Heights are working on a Christmas pageant together--The Best Christmas Pageant Ever! And we need you to make it happen. This isn't a production just for kids--we need people from all ages and stages to be involved. There's room for everyone! Check out the neighborhood association FB page (<https://www.facebook.com/BestChristmasPageantAlgerHeights/>) for links, or email slmferenczi@gmail.com 

Recycling and Rewards:

- by Sam Evans

Did you know you can earn and redeem points just for recycling? Simply go to <http://www.mygrcitypoints.com/> to sign up and learn more.

If you're not recycling your paper, glass, and cans, start now by calling the city for a free recycling bin: Dial 311. Have an item to recycle but not sure where to take it: visit www.recyclekent.org for locations that accept most household items.

If you wish to reduce the amount of junk mail you receive, try: www.41pounds.org or www.dmchoice.org.

The official AHNA facebook page can be found at:
<http://www.facebook.com/AlgerHeightsNeighborhoodAssociation>



The official AHNA facebook discussion page can be found at:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AlgerHeights>

Sign up for the Alger Heights Neighborhood Watch page:

<http://www.facebook.com/AlgerHeightsNeighborhoodWatch>

Check us out online... algerheights.org



ALGER HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Happenings for Kids...



October brings thoughts of leaves changing to reds and golds, plus pumpkins being carved and goblins running house to house for treats. When was the last time you went on a hayride or picked your own pumpkin fresh from the patch?? Why not plan a great family day to visit some of the fall fun that's close to home and guaranteed to make lifelong memories. The list to the right are some of the well know attractions within a reasonable distance from Alger Heights. Check them out and enjoy the experience.

Coloring Corner...



Bethke Farms Pumpkin Patch

12124 136th Avenue, Grand Haven, MI 49417

Thru Oct. 30 - Mon-Thu 4pm-7pm; Fri-Sun 10am-7pm

Dunneback Farm Market

3025 6 Mile Road NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49544

Mon-Sat 9am-6pm; Sun 11am-6pm

Corn Maze; Fri noon-5pm; Sat 9am-5pm; Sun 11am-5pm

Friut Ridge Hayrides

11966 Fruit Ridge Avenue, Kent City, MI 49330

See online for hours - fruitridgehayrides.com

Klackle Orchards

11466 W. Carson City Road, Greenville, MI 48838

See online for hours - klackleorchards.com

Moelker Orchards & Farm Market

9265 Kenowa Avenue SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49534

Mon-Fri 8am-6pm; Sat 8am-5:30pm

Orchard Hill Farm Market

2934 68th Street SE, Caledonia, MI 49316

Mon-Sat 9am-6pm; Sun Noon-6pm

Paulson's Pumpkin Patch

11164 Belding Road, Belding, MI 48809

Thru Oct. 31 - Daily 9am-Duck

Robinette's Apple Haus & Winery

3142 4 Mile Road NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525

Mon-Fri 8am-6pm; Sat 8am-6:30pm; Sun Noon-6:30pm

Wells Orchards

9009 Kenowa Avenue SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49534

Mon-Sat 8am-6pm; Closed Sunday



Hey Mom!
Can we go to the
KROC and play?

Is your vehicle ready for another Michigan fall and winter?

- by Andy Pollina

It's hard to believe that another Michigan summer is already in the history books. Let's just hope we have another beautiful midwestern fall to ease us into another long winter. There are some other things to tend to this fall aside from Pumpkin Spice Lattes, trick or treating, and raking leaves. One often overlooked but important thing on your fall to-do list is making sure you minimize the chance of your car leaving you stranded in the middle of a color tour or worse yet, in the dead of winter. Here are some car care recommendations:

Compare your vehicle's service history to the manufacturer's recommended maintenance schedule so you can make sure you're up to date. This can be found in your vehicle's owner's manual or consult with your trusted local repair facility who will have the published service manual. Preventative maintenance is most often cheaper than repairing or replacing what was not maintained.

Take care of any known problems that you know about but may have been putting off. Have any warning lamps and other symptoms properly diagnosed by a professional. Existing problems often get worse with big temperature changes.

Check the condition of your tires and replace if necessary. Good tire condition is not only important to keep you from getting stuck, but they're also important for steering and stopping. Snow tires are a great idea, as well. I recommend having your steering and suspension system checked, as well as your wheel alignment checked to prevent premature tire wear.

Have your battery, starter, and alternator tested. These items, especially batteries, tend to fail when temperatures go to extremes.

Have your antifreeze tested to make sure it is at the correct level and has the correct freeze protection level. If necessary have it flushed and filled with the proper antifreeze recommended by the vehicle's manufacturer. There are many types these days. Frozen antifreeze can cause extreme damage to your engine and other cooling system components. Old coolant can cause cooling system components such as water pumps and radiators to fail prematurely.

Make sure your heater and defroster are working properly. It's not just for comfort, but safety as well!

Ensure that your spare tire is inflated properly and in good condition. Verify that your jack and tire tools are all present and in working order. Your owner's manual is considered one of those tools. Also, in some vehicles, the spare is mounted underneath the vehicle. Make sure the spare tire hoist is working properly, because in Michigan, due to salt, they can become rusted and seized which makes your spare tire inaccessible even to roadside assistance companies.



Replace worn wiper blades and ensure that the washers are working properly. Never add water to your washer fluid reservoir because it can freeze and damage your reservoir and pump.

As with the rest of the year, change your oil when recommended and use the correct type and viscosity recommended by the manufacturer.

Carry an emergency kit including but not limited to: gloves, boots, blankets, a shovel, jumper cables, sand or cat litter, tow strap, water, high-calorie energy bars, hand warmers, first aid kit, cell phone charger, flares, a flash light (I prefer a headlamp), extra batteries, and a simple tool kit.

Try to keep no less than a half of a tank of gas in your vehicle in case you get stuck and need to wait a while for help to arrive. Your heater won't work if your vehicle is not running.

If you slide off the road and get stuck in a ditch, but your car still runs to keep you warm until help arrives, make sure your tail pipe is not obstructed which could cause carbon monoxide to enter your vehicle.

Hopefully this list serves you well in getting you prepared for winter travel. A lot of these items can be checked by you, but you may want to have a comprehensive seasonal inspection performed by your trusted professional auto repair facility for peace of mind. Due to the complex nature of vehicles in recent years, they have become less and less serviceable by the do-it-yourselfer. I wish everyone safe travels this fall and winter!

Andy Pollina is an ASE Certified Master Technician and owner of Legacy Auto-Tech located in Alger Heights. 🙏



Stormy Weather

- by Rick Savino

We were jolted awake about 3:40am on that early July night by a huge noise that sounded like a lightning strike in our bedroom. We ran downstairs and a lightening flash revealed a large branch over our suddenly crooked garage. Morning light showed us the extent of the damage. A huge tree from our neighbor's yard had fallen on the garage and crushed the structure beyond repair. Amazingly, our car escaped major damage except for a few minor dings from the ladder and debris falling on or against it. As I write, the garage was demolished and debris removed. We will rebuild!

Others were not so lucky. While there is no official count, I am aware of three autos that were a total loss. The unofficial garage count: eleven! The official count for losses in Alger Heights follows:

- Fire Department report for downed wires and trees in road: 17 runs
- Utilities: Consumers AHNA outages: 600 homes
Comcast: 293 (some up to seven days)
ATT: over 100 (some lasting 3-5 days)
- Trees down (blocking streets): 9
- Trees Down (in yards): 17 (not all were reported)
- Total Garages (teardown) two reported (!) some vehicles replaced.
- Cemetery Trees: 11, more may be removed after evaluation.

Given the recent devastation from hurricanes in Texas, the Caribbean and Florida, we consider ourselves lucky to only have to deal with these minor inconveniences. 🙏

FREE SERVICES:

DTE Energy

Would you like to save money on your home energy costs? DTE Energy is offering a **free in-home energy consultation**. In addition, you will receive free energy saving products including the ecobee3 wifi enabled thermostat; the top rated product in its class.

Want to learn more or schedule an appointment? Log onto dteenergy.com/saveenergy or call 1-866-796-0512. Use referral code 01626288 to enter a drawing for the chance to earn fun credits for our neighborhood.

Alger Heights Business Association (AHBA) Update

AHBA continues to improve the appeal of the business district with new bike racks and new trash baskets.

The Artisan Market continues on the 3rd Saturday for one more month, October 21. The final market of the season is near or at capacity as far as vendor space is concerned. Come and join your neighbors. If you still haven't had a chance to check out the market, don't miss this one.

Other activities that affect the shopping area, are the Halloween 5/10K race October 28, fall decorations (before Thanksgiving), and Christmas decorations (mid Dec.).

Beer City, the new beer, wine, and liquor store (former Ground Round - 28th Street just east of Eastern), is beginning transformation of the interior and exterior.

AHBA is well represented at the CID activities. CID (Corridor Improvement District) is a collaborative of neighborhoods along with city and local interested organizations. The goal is improvement of each of the neighborhoods. Our group is actually SCID (Southtown CID). This association will make it easier to obtain funding for the future improvements. We will keep you posted. 🙏

Alger Heights – Curbside Leaf Pickup Program

MJR Landscape is excited to offer a special Curbside Leaf Pickup "group rate" for all Alger Heights residents! Simply make a pile of leaves within 3 feet of the curb and let MJR handle the rest. **The current date for the service is November 7, 2017.**

\$49 (normally \$69) covers the first 15 minutes of vacuuming. The price is per house, per pickup. The service is flexible – only those that want the service pay for it. Pricing is as follows:

\$49 covers the first 15 minutes per house, and if additional time is needed the cost is \$15 for each additional 5 minute block. Historically, about 75% of pickups cost the minimum amount.

Tips to keep costs as low as possible for you:

- Leaves need to be within 3 feet of the curb (not in the street), and raking they have to do takes additional time and tends to cost more.
- Avoid placing leaves by cars, mailboxes, or other obstacles.
- No rocks, no wood, no trash.
- Try to keep leaves dry.

**Contact: MJR Landscape 616-432-9876
or office@mjrlandscape.com**



Ready or Not, Snow is Coming

- by Jon Hall

Autumn is upon us and snow will be flying again before we know it. Remember that the city's Odd-Even parking rule goes into effect at 12:01am on November 1st and lasts at least until April 1st on streets that are posted with signs. The restrictions are in effect from 1am until 6pm every day. Think ahead the night before about where you are parking. If the next day is an odd numbered day, park on the side of the road with odd numbered addresses. If it will be an even numbered day, park on the even side. Remember that parking in this manner helps the city plow crews keep the roads cleared better for everyone to use.

When clearing your driveway and sidewalks of snow, please note that the city does have a law on the books that makes it illegal to put your snow in the street. For some residents, like those with little to no space next to their driveway or with shared driveways, this can become a serious hassle when the snow really starts piling. Pushing your snow into the street can present a hazard for passing vehicles and makes snow filled roads even harder to navigate before they are plowed.

The city also requires that sidewalks in front of your residence be cleared within 24 hours of a snowfall, again for the safety of anyone trying to pass. If you are physically unable to complete this task, please talk with your neighbors about helping you. If no help is available, please contact the Neighborhood Association and they will attempt to get someone to help you.

While some of these rules may seem burdensome or annoying, please do your best to comply with them for the benefit of everyone in the neighborhood. 🙏

Meet your newest AHNA board member

My name is Kyle Kinnear. My wife, Teresa, and I have two children, Zach (9) and Molly (6). We moved to Alger Heights from Caledonia last summer and have really grown to love our home, this neighborhood and the surrounding area. I'm a corporate pilot for an auto parts manufacturer in Grand Rapids. I love all things aviation, a passion of mine since I was a kid. Teresa is the Ministry Director at The Branch, an Alger Heights church. She occasionally leads the Sunday morning worship service which allows her to live out her passion of leading people through music, having played the piano since childhood. As a family, we love to gather people, share stories and a meal, and have a lot of laughs! It's through those stories that we learn of each other's strengths and weaknesses and when those collide, a stronger, healthier and happier neighborhood is born. Together, we must take ownership for this neighborhood. It's not up to anyone but ourselves to craft a culture that embraces love for one another, respect for all, reasonable safety measures and loads of fun! To that end, be willing to share more of yourself. You are, after all, part owner. Be well. 🙏



Become a Virus Fighting Machine

- by Travis & Whitney Washington, Owners of Life Addicts Studio

Fall is just around the corner and the shift in weather is near. This is the perfect time to build your immune system to prepare your body for the Fall/Winter months. One way to prepare is by giving your body Vitamin C because the body can't store it, you will need to consume some every day through grapefruit, oranges, lemons etc. Also incorporating garlic and onions in soup, stews, and other dishes are both sources of potent antiviral substances that can boost your resistance to infection. Other powerful allies include chile peppers, which thin nasal mucus; shiitake mushrooms, which aid white blood cell production; and ginger, which counteracts inflammation.

Exercise causes your body's immune system to produce more of the bacterial fighting blood cells needed to ward off those infection. According to U.S. research moderate exercisers (working out 5-6 times per week) have half as many colds and sore throats as people who don't. When we treat our body like an engine we start to understand that when you supply it with the proper things (fuel) to help it function its gets you where you need to go without hesitation. Don't wait until you're sick to get healthy, start NOW! 🙏

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Alger Heights

COLLABORATIVE

Community Coordinator Update

- by Jenn Reidsma



Alger Heights Resident Interview

Meet your neighbors: The Dave and Holly Diemer Family. The Diemers have been married for 19 years and have four children: Joe, Abbe, Bryan and Laudi (who was adopted from Haiti in 2010). They have lived in the 1400 block of Linwood Street for 15 years (only one other family on that block has been there longer) and have been block captains for a least 13 of those years. The Diemer kids help distribute the AHNA newsletters. The Diemer kids all go to Grand Rapids Christian Schools. Holly works in food service at Grand Rapids Christian Schools and Dave is an accountant.

Dave and Holly were living at Calvin College when they started looking for a starter home (which has turned into their long-term home, as they plan to stay awhile longer). They found that Alger Heights had homes within their budget. They chose the house on Linwood because it had a larger lot, a two-car garage, a cemetery in the backyard, an open field to the east and Oakfield Park down the street.

It's been a bit of a family affair on their block, Dave's two sisters live on the street and his brother flipped the house across the street from them.

The Diemers were members of the Community Garden and enjoyed going to story time at the library when the kids

were younger. Holly was involved with the "mom groups" at both Alger Park and Seymour Church.

On this section of Linwood Street, neighbors are especially helpful in the winter months by providing help to get cars unstuck from the snow. Dave will typically snow blow the sidewalks for neighbors. In the past, they've invited a single neighbor over to celebrate Christmas and former neighbors have brought cookies to everyone on the street during Christmas time. A group of young moms on the block get together with their kids and go to area attractions together.

Because they live in so close to the softball field for Ottawa Hills High School, they have built a relationship with the softball coach, Mary Dekker (who lives on Edna), over the years and now Holly is the assistant coach (or "Team Mom" as she describes herself). Their oldest son Joe would run the bases during practice when he was younger. The Diemers allow the players to use their bathroom and refill water bottles because their house is closer to the field than the school is. Holly is skilled at sewing and altered a prom dress for one of the players.

If you have a neighbor you would like to see featured in the next newsletter please contact me at jenn@tabernaclecommunity.org

One Block Captain's Experience

- by Shirley Snoeyink

Being a Block Captain is not a huge job, but it is an opportunity to meet neighbors. I have been a block captain for 40+ years. Our neighborhood is small because Alger School and Seymour Church take up much of Marshall Avenue. My main duty, which I appreciate, is delivering the newsletter. This gives me an opportunity to notice the changes in the neighborhood; empty houses, new move-ins, beautiful yards and opportunities to chat with neighbors.

We have had outdoor ice cream socials in the summer, dessert and vegetables sharing from our gardens in the fall, a "Cabin Fever Reliever" gathering for women in the winter, and Neighborhood Bible Study every other week with a small group of women. I have a dear neighbor who comes up with wonderful ideas and we deliver invitations together.

If something suspicious happens, we notify each other and call on Sam Evans for advice. Sam is the ultimate watchman who has a great heart for Alger Heights. We are thankful for him. 🙏

National Night Out

On August 1, a beautiful summer night, 400 of our neighbors came together at Alger Middle School to celebrate National Night Out. Children and adults enjoyed meeting our firefighters and police officers and checking out the various vehicles they came with. The petting zoo and free pony rides delighted all ages. Pizza, popcorn, lemonade and ice cream were served to the sounds of our DJ. Several organizations were on hand to share helpful information, explain their services, and entertain kids. Thank you to all the volunteers and sponsors who worked together to make the evening fun for all. 🙏

Emergency Numbers:

Suspicious Activity - 456-3400

Crime in Progress - 911

HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL

- by Sam Evans



We have received many requests on what constitutes hazardous waste materials and how to dispose of them. Below is the location and contact information, as well as what can and cannot be disposed of at the Kent County location.

Summer Hours (April-October)

Grand Rapids:

Wednesdays: 7:30am to 11:30am

Kent County DPW, 1500 Scribner Ave NW, GR, MI 49504 (north lot, near Scribner/Richmond)

Kent County makes every effort to make the hazardous waste centers available on the scheduled days and times. There are times that weather, training, or other events force us to shut down, sometimes unexpectedly. Kent County reserves the right to close the hazardous waste collection centers due to severe weather including wind chill, heat advisory and lightning; staff training; or other reasons at their discretion. If the local school district is closed due to a weather emergency, the hazardous waste center in that district is also closed. Closures will be posted on Kent County's website, www.recyclekent.org, and on the automated phone system at 616-632-7939.

LARGE LOADS: More than 6 large boxes of material, please complete the online appointment form or call ahead. Grand Rapids, Kentwood, or Rockford sites call 616-632-7939.

Accepted Materials

Automotive Products: Antifreeze, gasoline and other fuel, carburetor cleaner, motor oil, fuel additive, starter fluid, transmission and brake fluid, wax & cleaner, other automotive fluids.

Cleaning Products: Bleach (laundry), degreaser & spot remover, drain cleaner, oven cleaner, polish & wax, toilet & drain cleaner, tub, tile, shower cleaner, wood

and metal cleaners and polish, ammonia, other household cleaners.

Lawn and Garden Products: Fertilizer, fungicide, herbicide, insecticide, pesticide, wood preservative, ant dust, mosquito spray, other lawn & garden products.

Workshop/Painting Supplies: Oil-based paint & stain, adhesive, caulking & glue, deck, patio & chimney cleaner, furniture stripper, paint stripper and remover, solvent cleaning fluid, roof coating, sealant, thinner and turpentine

Other Flammable Products: Diesel fuel, gas/oil mix, home heating oil (call to get details on size & quantity limits), kerosene, lighter fluid, propane tanks (small, non-refillable tanks only), white gas, other flammable products

Miscellaneous: Aerosol cans, batteries, fluorescent light bulbs, including CFL bulbs, inks and dyes, mercury thermostats or thermometers, photo developer chemicals, pool chemicals, fire extinguishers, indoor pesticides, insect spray, flea repellent and shampoo, houseplant fertilizer, moth repellent, mouse and rat poisons and baits, other pesticides & fertilizers

Not Accepted Materials:

Latex paint (water based): may be dried out and placed in your regular trash.

Friable asbestos: Call the local Michigan Department of Environmental Quality at (616) 356-0500 for proper removal guidelines and disposal requirements and regulations.

Barrels or large drums: nothing larger than a five-gallon container.

Explosives, ammunition, fireworks, and flares: contact your local public safety agency (sheriff's department, police department, state police).

Materials from farms, businesses, offices, schools or institutions. Medical waste.

Propane, helium & other tanks (refillable).

Worth Considering

Fire Department installs smoke detectors in 15 percent of Grand Rapids homes

The Grand Rapids Fire Department is proud to announce a significant achievement for its **Residential Safety Program**. Lt. William Smith, fire prevention inspector, reports that more than 15 percent of owner occupied homes in the City of Grand Rapids have now had smoke alarms installed by Grand Rapids Firefighters. Lt. Smith says that 6,563 homes have participated in this initiative, bringing the total of free smoke alarms installed to 40,464. In addition to the installation of smoke alarms, the department has also performed Home Safety Assessments for each dwelling.

The Grand Rapids Fire Department urges residents to think about this important way to move fire safety forward. "Take the time to test your smoke alarms, and if you have alarms that are not the 10-year Lithium battery style, replace your batteries," Lt. Smith said.

To participate in the Grand Rapids Fire Department's **Free Residential Safety Program** and have smoke detectors installed in your Grand Rapids owner-occupied residence, call 311 or 456-3000 to schedule an appointment. Working smoke detectors do saves lives. 🙏

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Porch Light Initiative

As the days get shorter we want to see all homes with their porch lights and side door lights on. Turning your porch light on is the easiest way to promote safety in our neighborhood.

Alger Heights NEEDS YOU!

We are in need of 11 more volunteers for our resource team for this fall and winter. This would be for helping those that are unable to rake, mulch, and bag leaves this fall and also to help during the winter to shovel or snow blow, sidewalks and driveways. This would be an on call as needed basis. If interested please e-mail or call Sam Evans at (massnave1@att.net or 540-2107).

AHNA Volunteer Opportunities

Newsletter Distribution

Helping Neighbors with small tasks

Helping with Neighborhood Activities:

- National Night Out – August
- Annual Alley Clean-up – July/August
- Alger 5K/10K Race - October
- Block Captain (See List in Block Captain Article)
- Neighborhood Watch
- Welcome Bags distribution
- Neighborhood Block Parties
- Annual Griffins Hockey Game – February
- Mowing Lawns during the summer
- Raking Leaves in the fall
- Snow Blowing during the winter months
- Distribution of Flyers (As needed)

Helping Business District:

- Upkeep of the Alger Heights Rain Gardens – Eastern Avenue and AHNA Business District
- Helping to keep local parks, school grounds and neighborhood looking good
- Helping put up and take down Fall Decorations
- Helping put up and take down Christmas Decorations

Contact: Sam Evans (massnave1@att.net or 540-2107) or
Ginny Hartger (ginnyhartger@gmail.com) 🐾

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RJ KROC'S MINI MASH presented by DTE Energy
Tuesday, October 24, 9 AM-Noon
Dress up your toddler for a special miniature version of our 'Monster Mash' Halloween event. Special activities will include trick-or-treating around the Kroc Center, craft and snack. This event is most appropriate for children ages 2 - 4.

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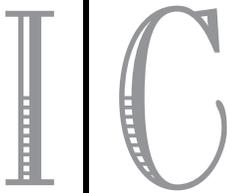


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