



ALGER HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Happenings

Fall 2016 - October, November, December 2016

PO Box 7809, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49507

On your mark. Get set. Go!

There is still time to register for the Alger Heights Halloween 5K & 10K! This year's race will be held on Saturday, October 29th, will run through our beautiful Alger Heights neighborhood, and is presented by GR Consumers Credit Union.

Whether you are a seasoned athlete, a first time 5K participant, or just looking to have a little Halloween fun with the family, you are going to love this race! We encourage everyone to dress up and will be having a costume contest where the best dressed will win some awesome prizes. The 10K kicks off at 9AM, with the 5K following shortly after at 9:05AM.

ALGER HEIGHTS HALLOWEEN



Once you cross the finish line, head inside Alger Middle School and celebrate your accomplishment with some fall treats and snacks!

We will also be hosting a FREE Kids Fun Fun (\$6 to receive a shirt) at 8:30AM, before the 5K and 10K kick off. Although this event is free, we ask that you register online in advance.

This race is made possible through the support of our generous sponsors and helpful volunteers. If you want to get involved please

email volunteers@alger5k.com for more information. Also, runners love crowd support - so make sure you come out and cheer on the more than 600 participants. The profits from this year's race will go to support the Alger Heights Neighborhood Association and My Team Triumph of West Michigan.

Registration is currently open online, but make sure you register before October 15th to guarantee yourself a shirt. For more information or to register, please visit our website www.alger5k.com. 🍂



A note from the President...

It's Fall Y'all!

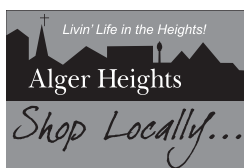
The Alger Heights neighborhood

has had a successful summer filled with activities such as block parties, celebrations, garage sales, picnics and camps, reading challenges, and the addition of several new neighbors. As we move into the next season the fun does not have to stop!

We encourage you all to stay actively connected to the neighborhood through participating in the fall activities listed in this newsletter and posted on our AHNA

Facebook Page. Make an extra pan of pumpkin muffins for your new neighbors or assist the seniors on your block with raking leaves. Let kindness, generosity, and fun be the pillars of this community in the season to come. 🍂

Shannon Bruin
AHNA President



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES

Restaurants, Grocery & Meat Market, Pet Grooming, Banks, Hardware & Rentals, and more! Many of our local business people advertise in the AHNA Newsletter. For a complete list of local businesses in the Alger Heights area, check out the Alger Heights web page: www.algerheights.org

Check us out online...
algerheights.org

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Invitation for neighborhood input:

Metro Health is seeking to purchase Tabernacle Community Church's South Building on Eastern Avenue. All Neighbors are welcome to attend the October 11, 2016, AHNA Board meeting held at 7:00pm at Seymour Church to ask questions and have dialogue regarding the preliminary plans for the project. If you are unable to attend the meeting but have questions you would like addressed, please contact Shannon Bruin at 616-893-8025 or shannonmurphy11@gmail.com . Thank you! 🙏



Light up the Night –

Holiday Luminaires in the Neighborhood

- by Jenn Reidsma

Last year 300 luminaries lined the streets in the Alger Heights Business District to celebrate the holiday season in December. Interested in helping light up Eastern and Alger this December? Contact Jennifer Reidsma, community coordinator at 988-9268 ext 205 or jenn@tabernaclecommunity.org to get involved. 🙏

AHNA Board of Directors: 2016 - 2017

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.

Shannon Bruin: President

893-8025 shannonmurphy11@gmail.com
Term ends 2017

Tyler Bekius: Vice President

502-4556 tyler.bekius@gmail.com
Term ends 2018

Carissa Bakker: Secretary

307-5683 carissabakker89@gmail.com
Term ends 2017

Sam Evans: Treasurer, Block Connector coordinator, Welcome bag, Mobile patrol, Crime Prevention

540-2107 massnave1@att.net
Term ends 2018

Jon Hall:

560-8556 cnw8835@yahoo.com
Term ends 2018

Josh Schroyer:

292-2801 jsschroyer@gmail.com
Term ends 2018

Dave Thrasher:

243-6603 jdthrasher@aol.com
Term ends 2018

Maia Sieplinga:

304-5952 pujitajoy@gmail.com
Term ends 2018

Jerry Montague: Newsletter

308-9904 jerry@montaguedesigngroup.com
Term ends 2017

Rick Savino:

550-1450 ricksavino@yahoo.com
Term ends 2019

Mary Mauro:

262-1956 mary_b_mauro@yahoo.com
Term ends 2019

Natalie Thue:

238-1882 natalie@businessconnectworld.com
Term ends 2019

Sign up for the Alger Heights Neighborhood Watch page:

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



Real Estate Minute

- by Rick Savino REALTOR®

Home Buying Myths

Home buyers get a lot of advice from friends and family – some good, some bad. These myths can negatively guide their home purchasing experience. Realtor.com warns buyers not to fall for one of these common buying falsehoods.

The only upfront cost is the down payment. Buyers need to be prepared for several expenses – everything from fees, taxes, costs for inspections, credit reports, mortgage insurance, and others. Closing costs can be anywhere from 5 percent to 9 percent of the purchase price in Michigan.

Just looking for a house casually is not a big deal. Some people may want to just start looking at homes to get a feel for the area, before they even sit down with a REALTOR®. But they could be setting themselves up for major heartbreak. A buyer might be viewing homes that are not in the price range where they qualify. Home shoppers should get pre-approved for a mortgage from the start so they know their budget and don't waste time looking at homes that are not in their price range, either too high or too low.

You must have a 20 percent down payment. With a 20 percent down payment buyers avoid paying private mortgage insurance. But 20 percent down isn't required. Many lenders will still qualify a buyer for home loans with 10 percent or 5 percent down. Some buyers can even qualify for only 3.5 percent down with an FHA loan. There are also many options for down payment assistance that lenders can explore with a buyer who has limited funds.

You don't need a home inspection. When the housing market is extremely competitive, some home shoppers may be willing to waive the home inspection in order to get the home they want. But beware: some sellers are banking on your skipping this crucial step. It means you may be taking on problems that can be found by a licensed inspector and addressed prior to the purchase. Source: "9 Home-Buying Myths You Need to Stop Believing Immediately," realtor.com® (Sept. 6, 2016) 🐾



ALGER FAMILY LAW

JOEL B. HELDER, ATTORNEY

734 Alger St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507

Phone: 616-965-1040



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**Pet friendly
neighborhood**

Unless your dog can do this... It's your responsibility. Be kind and clean up after your pet.

Meet your neighbor...

Shirley has lived in the 1100 block of Hazen for over 30 years. She moved into the neighborhood with her two young sons. She purchased the house on Hazen to put down roots for her family. She was the first African American on her street. When she bought the house on Hazen she was one of about three families that had children. Most of the street consisted of retired couples and all the traffic on the street was from those who lived on the street. She felt comfortable and safe in her new home. She took her boys to Cheseboro Park to play and they attended St. Stephen's through middle school and graduated from Ottawa Hills High School.

Shirley spoke of her wonderful neighbors and shared a story of Mrs. Jones who stood up for Shirley and her boys when another neighbor was not very welcoming. Being the first African American did make it difficult to break into the neighborhood.



Shirley was born in the south and moved to Grand Rapids when she was two years old with her family. She has a Masters of Social Work from Grand Valley. She worked as the Director of Head Start for Kent County and at the Grand Rapids Child Guidance Center (now Arbor Circle). She is now retired and enjoying time with her grandchildren. She still feels comfortable and safe in the

neighborhood and likes to get out and shovel and take care of her yard. As the longest resident on the street she takes time to introduce herself to new neighbors and let them know that it's a good, friendly and safe neighborhood. She has an appreciation for neighbors and their passions.

Shirley is only the third owner of her home. She had the unique opportunity to meet the original owner who had the house built when he stopped by and knocked on the door. He was impressed with how well she had maintained the home. She was able to ask why they didn't add a dining room when there was plenty of room to do so. The original owner decided they wanted a bigger yard rather than a larger home.

Do you have a neighbor that you would like to see highlighted in an upcoming newsletter? Contact Jenn Reidsma at 989-9268 ext 205 or jenn@tabernaclecommunity.org 🏡



National Night Out Update

- by Dave Thrasher

This year's National Night Out was again well attended. Without the movie (no serious complaints) families came and went all evening

long - there are a lot of young children in Alger Heights, which is great.

There was free ice cream, lemonade & popcorn, plus games, petting farm, and of course the ever popular ponies. Our police and fire departments were well represented - a big THANK YOU to both.

Do you have any suggestions for next year's event? Please email us (See AHNA Board of Directors Contact List). 🏡



Rick Savino, Realtor®

616-550-1450 | 616-974-6496

- Alger Heights Board member
- 29 year resident

Contact me today
for all of your real
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Like Us on Facebook...

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

Check us out online...
algerheights.org



Alger Heights Neighborhood Crime Prevention and Safety

-by Sam Evans

We are planning a Neighborhood Watch training session in October. If you are interested in being trained as a Neighborhood Crime Watch person, 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:

Let's 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 committed call the police at **911**.

We have had a number of larcenies from vehicles this Spring and Summer due to vehicles being unlocked with valuables or other items left in them. Don't forget to take all valuables out of your vehicles. Do not leave any cords or window holders in the open and lock your vehicle when not in use. Approximately 95% of all car larcenies are with vehicles not locked with valuable in them.

Don't leave your equipment out in the yard or garage door open if you are not in full site. 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 and at night. Leave your outside lights on from dusk till dawn.

Get to know your neighbors - one each side of you and across the street from you. Knowing your neighbors will help your block become a friendly place and an area that will feel comfortable and promote helping each other. If you have an issue with a neighbor, try to



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.



Porch Light Initiative

Turning your porch light on is the easiest way to promote safety in our neighborhood.

This fall and winter we want to see all homes with their porch lights and side door lights on.

work it out in a friendly manner. If you cannot resolve an issue on your own, feel free to contact the neighborhood association to help with conflict resolution. We have resources available that can help nearly any situation. Please e-mail: massnave1@att.net or call 540-2107. 🏠



Residential Safety Program

The Grand Rapids Fire Department wants you to be safe in your home. The **Residential Safety Program (RSP)** is a voluntary solution to help homeowners prevent fires. The **RSP** is designed to reduce the number, and severity, of fires in Grand Rapids. The **GRFD** are offering the following: **FREE** in home fire safety assessments and Free smoke alarm upgrades and installation. To qualify for the program, you must be a home owner residing within the dwelling. Rentals do not qualify at this time. Homeowners can ensure their safety by scheduling an appointment. Contact the Residential Safety Program at 311. 🏠

Handy Numbers

Emergency: 911

Police: Non-emergency - 456-3400

Silent Observer: 774-2345

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

311 - ONE CALL TO CITY HALL

- by Dave Thrasher

When you need information about something in the City of Grand Rapids, simply dial 311 - "ONE CALL TO CITY HALL" - (call **311** or **456-3000**) also see the website **311.grcity.us**. The 311 center is well staffed with ten (10) or more personnel ready to help you by answering your questions or connecting you with the correct department within the city of Grand Rapids.

The next time you are trying to find something within the city, just dial 311 - you will be pleased with the quick results. 🏠

Alger Heights Neighborhood Association Block Connectors

- by Sam Evans

The general requirements for a Block Connector is to be friendly, welcome new neighbors, be the eyes and ears of your block. We 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 still in need of Block Connectors for the following Blocks:

Eastern (28th to Mulford, West Side), Eastern (28th to Mayhewood, East Side), Belfast (Alger to Nevada), Raymond (Nevada to 28th), Nelson Street (Kalamazoo to Burton – Homes Only), Jennings Kalamazoo to Oakfield), Louise (Kalamazoo to Oakfield).

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

Identify every solicitor

“Solicitor” means any person who, while on a public street or while in a public place, offers for sale, takes orders for or attempts to take orders for the retail sale of any goods, personal property or whatsoever for future delivery, they must have a transient license issued by the City of Grand Rapids. Most solicitors generally do not get a license so they are operating illegally.

The phrase “transient merchant” shall mean any “canvasser”, “peddler”, “solicitor”, or “transient vendor”.

City Codes: 7.251 Definitions, 7.252 License Required, 7.253 License Applications 📋



Fall & Winter

Volunteers Needed

- by Sam Evans

We are in need of 7 more volunteers for our resources 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) 📧



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. 📧



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 Shannon Bruin at shannonmurphy11@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

Women of the Alger Heights you are welcome to join our community groups for women of all ages! All groups offer community friendship, an opportunity for spiritual growth, encouragement and support. For more information, visit us at <http://www.algerparkchurch.org/women>

Tuesday AM + Wednesday PM Bible Studies

From 9:30 to 11 a.m., two Bible studies meet, one on the book of Psalms--"A Life-changing Encounter with God," and the other on the book of Revelation--"God's Faithfulness Revealed." Childcare is provided. The Revelation study is also offered on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8 p.m. You don't need to pre-register, just show up and bring a friend! All materials are provided.

Tuesday AM mom2mom

Our mom2mom group meets weekly from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Moms of all ages and stages journey together through the joys and challenges of motherhood. This fall mom2mom is studying Out of Sorts: Making Peace with an Evolving Faith by Sarah Bessey. Our door is always open. Join us for moms nights out and winter open gym playgroup, too!

Pumpkinfest



Enjoy indoor fun and treats at Alger Park Church, Monday, October 31 from 6 to 8 p.m. Come join your neighbors and friends. A Hotdog meal will be served. 🍔

HOPE CHURCH

We are at the corner of Kalamazoo and Burton and will be hosting an FLI (Family Leadership Initiative) sequence on 8 Monday evenings in a row, October 3 – November 21, 2016, from 5pm to 8pm. This is for whole families, parents and children, with classes or activities for both. To register (ASAP) or if you have questions, call Deborah McCreary, 334-9083. 🙏

SEYMOUR CHURCH

Wednesday At Seymour (WAS)

Suppers at 6:00, free to community, downstairs. WAS nights thru December: 9/21, 10/5, 10/19, 11/2, 11/16, 11/30, 12/14

Kingdom Kids (boys and girls, Pre-K and K) Wednesdays at 6:30 - Grampy Bear, crafts, Bible stories

Gems (girls grades 1-8) Wed, 6:30 - Praise and worship, Bible time, crafts, activities

Cadets (boys grades 1-8) Wed, 6:30 - Praise and worship, Bible time, activities, crafts and camping activities

Monster Mash (Trunk or Treat) at the KROC - Friday, October 28 - Seymour will be represented by Cookie Monster himself! Candy distribution runs from 5:30-7:30.

Team Spark (Parkinson's Support Group) - Sundays, 3:00-4:30 in Fellowship Room at Seymour - 10/9, 11/13, 12/11

Blood Drive - Tuesday, November 15 -

Thanksgiving Service - Thursday, Nov. 24, 10:00am



Mobile Food Pantry - Sat, December 10, Noon

Children's Christmas Program Musical- Sunday, December 11, 5:00pm "Star of Wonder" 🙏

TABERNACLE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Tabernacle Community Church is a place to belong, believe and become. Join us every Sunday morning at 10:00am.

Children's Church (birth-5th grade) meets every week

Transitions (6th-8th grade) meets the 1st and 3rd Sunday every month.

Awana (Approved Workman Are Not Ashamed) meets every Wednesday from 6:15-8:00pm. We believe in equipping kids for life through children's ministry programs focused on evangelism, discipleship and the gospel. This is for kids ages preschool (2 yrs old)-6th grade. To learn more about Awana, go to awana.org.



Tabitha's Closet will be offering low-cost clothing, shoes, and household goods to the public one more time this year: **Saturday, December 3.**

All sales are held at Tabernacle Community Church (use entrance C) and run from 9:00-11:00am.

All items at the sales cost 10¢ each. Please feel free to bring your own bags or bins to the sale. If you have any questions or are interested in joining the volunteers who sort donations and run the sales, please contact Amanda Bridle at amandakaybridle@gmail.com. 🙏

.the point

thepointchurch.com
info@thepointchurch.com
616.698.9660



ALGER HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Happenings for



Ready for some real farm fun? There's always something exciting happening at Klackle Orchards! From challenging and fun Pavilion events to our Fall Fun Weekends, the excitement never ends at Klackle Orchards.

Our Corn Maze

The Klackle Corn Maze is a fan favorite! How will you challenge this year's maze? Go in as a family? Boys versus the girls? Can mom and dad really beat the kids



to the finish line? Head out to the maze to find out!



Wagon Ride Tours

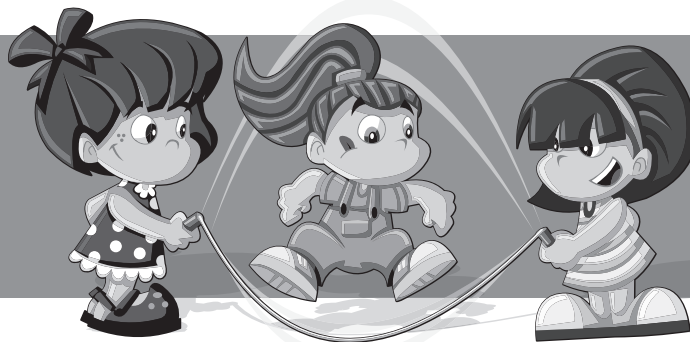
Enjoy a leisurely ride around the orchard in one of our

CONTINUES ON PAGE 9 -

Coloring Corner...



Kids...



tractor pulled wagons! This tour is a great way to see the scenic views of the orchard or to make your way to our u-pick!

More Fun This Fall

Our farm grounds are filled with tons of fun activities and attractions for all to enjoy! Little ones will love exploring our Western Play Town, coaster slide, straw maze, duck races, and more! Meet and greet with our fuzzy farm friends at the Farm Animal Petting Zoo, take a spin on our carousel, or challenge a friend to Pumpkin Putt-Putt! There is so much to see and do on the Klackle Orchards farm grounds! Come check it out for yourself!



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



Fall

Word Search

	R	A	C	O	R	N	X	S	N	
	N	E	F	A	E	L	Q	C	I	
	D	U	T	Q	X	U	V	A	K	
	H	U	T	A	I	C	H	R	P	
	A	C	C	R	E	S	U	E	M	
	P	D	R	K	A	W	R	C	U	
	P	E	N	U	S	A	S	R	P	
	L	C	Q	I	K	U	W	O	E	
	E	S	N	E	W	J	A	W	A	
	K	C	A	T	S	Y	A	H	R	

ACORN

APPLE

DUCKS

HAYSTACK

LEAF

NUT

PEAR

PUMPKIN

RAKE

SCARECROW

SQUASH

SQUIRREL

SWEATER

WIND

Try to find all of the hidden autumn related words in the puzzle above. Remember, words can be diagonal, vertical, horizontal, frontward or backwards.

www.funschool.com

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www.kaboose.com

Paint your pumpkin head...



Want your pumpkin to last longer?? This year, use paint on your pumpkin instead of carving it. Acrylic paints work well to decorate pumpkins large and small. Even the littlest hands in the house can have fun participating in this family fun project. Use your imagination and see who can create the most interesting results. Give out prizes for the most creative, then display everyone's creations around the house.



There's always
something to do at
the library!

There's always something fun and interesting to do at the Grand Rapids Public Library. For a list of activities, please go to page 10 of the Happenings!

FUN AT THE LIBRARY



Events at the Seymour Branch Library

- 2350 Eastern SE

Seymour Fall Events

Thursdays

September 15 – November 15

10:30 am

Pre-Reading Classes for Babies

Parents and caregivers are invited to introduce their babies, birth through 18 months, to music, movement, and language in these 30-minute classes designed just for their specific developmental stages. Babies will enjoy hearing a story and learning songs and rhymes. Playtime after enhances the development of social skills. Free and open to the public.

Wednesdays

September 14 – November 16

10:30 am

Pre-Reading Classes for Toddlers

Parents and caregivers are invited to bring their energetic toddlers, ages 18 months to 3 years, to 30-minute classes featuring hands-on, literacy-rich activities including stories, songs with fingerplays and other action, and sign language. Toddlers will develop pre-reading skills as they make connections between words and movement, have fun with related crafts and socialize during playtime. Free and open to the public.

Tuesdays

September 13 – November 15

6:30 pm



Pajama Time!

Get cozy in your pajamas, grab your favorite stuffed animal or blanket, and come to the library for a special bedtime event. Listen to stories, sing songs, and get those wiggles out before bed. Great for working parents! For families with children ages birth – 5 years old.

Wednesdays

November 30, December 7, 14, 21

10:30 am

Let's Play! Times and locations vary. Let's Play is a four-week program for children 0-5 and their parents or caregivers and focuses on child-driven play. Children will explore different types of play. Each week an early childhood specialist will be available to answer questions parents may have about their child's development. Families are encouraged to attend all four sessions.

Speak to a Geek: One-on-One

Computer Classes

Times and locations vary.

Are your relatives tired of you asking for computer help? Are you hoping to boost your resume with new computer skills? The library offers classes in: Basic Computers, Basic Internet, Email, Word Processing, Spreadsheets, Ebooks, and Library Resources. From getting acquainted with your computer or device, to training in spreadsheets, or internet navigation, we can help. Call one of our 7 branches to schedule a time or stop by one of our walk-in classes at the Main Library. Call 616-988-5400 to sign up.

Other GRPL Events



Saturday

November 19, 2016

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Main Library - 111 Library St NE

Santa's Workshop

After the Santa Claus Parade, stop by the library to warm up with some holiday cheer. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be stopping by after the parade to meet all the good little girls and boys in Grand Rapids. Listen to stories with Mrs. Claus while you warm up with a cup of hot chocolate. Decorate your very own tabletop holiday tree and help us light the Library Tree! Visit with Santa and tell him your holiday wishes. Holiday crafts and hands-on fun for all ages! Storytime with Mrs. Claus is at 10:45 am and Santa visits at 11:15 am. Free and open to the public. 🎅

Alger Heights

COLLABORATIVE

Community Coordinator Update

- by Jenn Reidsma

On Monday, June 13 at 6 p.m. approximately 70 neighbors gathered on the lawn of Alger Middle School to kick off the summer with a potluck. Neighbors participated in a fun game of "Get-to-Know Your Neighbors Bingo" with the winner getting to go through the food line first. Kids bounced in the bounce house and played on the playground. We are thankful for the many donations that made this event possible. Thanks to Costco for providing the hot dogs, buns and condiments, the Dog King for donating additional toppings for the hot dogs and Old Orchard for donating lemonade. Lots of hot dogs were eaten along with side dishes and desserts provided by

neighbors. Hope you can join us next year!

The awesome evening would not have been possible without the time and efforts of the planning team. Special thanks goes to:

- Trina Rookus
- Cadi Keil
- Linda Sheiko
- Sheila Johnson
- Paul Bylsma
- Mary Mauro
- Mike DeBlaay

If you have interest in planning more events like this for the neighborhood, please contact me at jenn@tabernaclecommunity.org. 🙏



Alger Heights Happy Hour

- by Tyler Bekius

On November 1st, Last Chance Tavern and Grill will be hosting the next Alger Height's Happy Hour from 5-7pm. Not sure if you want to go... below are 10 reasons why you should:

- 10) Meet your neighbor so you can start borrowing all their tools
- 9) Cheap drinks... need I say more
- 8) Free appetizers provided by the Alger Height's Neighborhood Association
- 7) Work can get tough and you deserve a break
- 6) Find out what is going on in the Alger Height's Neighborhood
- 5) Become a Regular - Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name
- 4) Break your normal routine
- 3) Drinking makes other people more interesting
- 2) It will give you one more thing you can post on Facebook
- 1) Somewhere in the world someone did something AWESOME and we should celebrate

This event is open to all and if you have any questions you can contact me at tyler.bekius@gmail.com. See you there! 🙏



Reading Mentors

You can make a difference in the life of a child at our neighborhood school. Join the Mulick Park Mentoring Collaborative as a mentor, for 4th and 5th grade students at Mulick Park Elementary School, and set a child on a new path toward reading success. Mentors meet for 1 hour weekly with students to build a friendship-relationship and provide structured guidance in reading (don't worry - we'll teach you how!) To learn more, contact Deborah McCreary, mentoring coordinator, by phone 616-334-9083 or email deborah.mccreary1@gmail.com. 🙏

POLICE NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER

456-3400

REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY



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MAKE TRICK or TREAT TIME FUN

- by Maia Sieplinga

Fall brings many fun things to the neighborhood for children (and adults), one of which is Halloween! With so many families in our community here are a few tricks and treats for hitting the neighborhood with your ghosts and goblins!

Plan a route in advance! Look over a neighborhood map to know that you don't get too far away and have too many tired feet.

Follow the lights! (If you are handing out candy turn on your exterior lights)

Head to the Alger Halloween 5K (see article for details on the fun)

Visit Monster Mash at the Kroc on Friday, October 28 from 5:30pm - 7:30pm. Kids wearing their favorite costumes can 'trunk-or-treat' around the Kroc parking lot. This event is appropriate for the whole family, kids under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Visit Pumpkin Fest at Alger Park CRC on Monday, October 31 from 6-8pm. There will be a free hot dog supper and candy!

Visit the Kroc mini-mash on Tuesday, October 25 from 9am - noon. This "mini" party will include trick-or-treating around the Kroc Center, a craft and a snack. This is geared for ages 2 - 4 and is included with Toddler Tuesday admission.

Have fun with candy handout on your block, with the decorating contest or host a halloween block party! Already have someone at your house to hand out candy? Lend a hand, offer to hand out candy for a neighbor while they are trick or treating.

As Robert Brault says, "There is a child in every one of us who is still a trick-or-treater looking for a brightly-lit front porch." Happy haunting! 🎃

AHNA Annual Membership Association Dues

- by Sam Evans

Don't forget to send in your Association dues. These dues are very important as they cover the expenses for our quarterly newsletter and neighborhood activities - garage sales, dumpster day, National Night Out, and flyers. If you attend any of our activities, you will know that we do not charge for participation. We utilize our Facebook pages for distributing information, but not everyone has a Facebook account or a computer so you may want to contact your Block Connector if you have a question. All Newsletters are delivered in person either by a Block Connector or a board member.

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

Our dues are as follows:

Senior - \$10.00

Family - \$20.00

Business - \$25.00

Please make your checks payable to AHNA and mail to PO BOX 7809, Grand Rapids, MI 49507.

You can now pay on line with your credit card thru PayPal at algerheights.org. 🐾

Your contribution would be greatly appreciated. Thank you to all of those that have given in the past. Let's make this the best year yet for donating.

POLICE NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER

456-3400

REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

Advertising in the AHNA newsletter

Due to increase in costs we are changing our newsletter ad rates effective for our Fall 2016 Newsletter which will be published in September. We have not changed our rates since the year 2000. The new rates will be as follows:

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. 🐾



Like Us on Facebook...

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



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.dmachoice.org. 🐾

Worth Considering

by Ginny Hartger

tradition: noun tra·di·tion

Simple Definition of tradition: *a way of thinking, behaving, or doing something that has been used by the people in a particular group, family, society, etc., for a long time : the stories, beliefs, etc., that have been part of the culture of a group of people for a long time*

Do you have family traditions? We started one ten years ago when we went to Chicago to celebrate my birthday. The oldest grandchild had a birthday in the same month, so we took him along to celebrate his 9th birthday with us. Now each grandchild gets a weekend in Chicago with grandma and grandpa near their 9th birthday. It's highly anticipated and personalized to the interests of each child.

Not all traditions have to be so elaborate to be special. Some families have a first day of school tradition, or something they do every Christmas Eve, or a birthday tradition. Traditions have multiple reasons to benefit families. If you've just moved or had a major life change, knowing that you will still have pizza every Thursday night or follow one of your routines, provides a measure of stability and comfort.

Autumn and the holiday season provide lots of opportunities for starting or continuing family traditions. Visiting a pumpkin patch, conquering a corn maze or apple-picking are popular traditions in the fall. In November, your tradition could center on gratitude like a blessing box or thankful tree. Christmas provides many ways to start or continue a tradition. Pinterest and Google provide endless ideas for traditions. Consider starting a new one this year to enrich your family life. 🐾



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HELLO FROM ALGER FAMILY LAW

In many ways, the opening of Alger Family Law feels like a homecoming.

My grandparents moved to Alger Heights in 1952 and raised their family on Everglade and then on Billanntau. They attended Seymour CRC and sent their kids to Seymour Christian School, where I also attended for 4th and 5th grade. My grandmother worked at Boorsma's Grocery and Modern Pharmacy. My grandfather owned Helder's Automotive near the corner of 28th and Eastern and would walk to work through the backyard of the house on Everglade. Needless to say, my family has deep roots in this community.

Most of us know that families are essential to the strength of a community. They support local business, visit the library, and send children to local schools. However, we also know that families are not static. They flex and bend, they grow and they separate. They plan and they may also fail to plan. However, no matter what your family's circumstances are, from a legal perspective, there is a best way to deal with them.

I specialize in what is known as Family Law, which includes such diverse areas as planning for your family's future through an estate plan, navigating the difficulties of separation and divorce, and solving parenting time disputes.

My job is to show you how to plan for the future and deal with the present, no matter how difficult it may be. I hope that you will find that I am not a typical attorney. I hope that you will find that I am a listener, a counselor, and an advocate for you and your family. I am very excited that Alger Family Law has the opportunity to join the Alger Heights Neighborhood. I look forward to serving the great families that call this community home. 🍷

Check us out online...
algerheights.org



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Won't You Be My Neighbor?

- by Artie Lindsay

The construction on Eastern is finally complete and the results are amazing! I'm grateful for all the hard work that was done to improve the quality of the roads on Eastern Ave.

I hope that you had an opportunity to connect with your neighbors and to get to know them a bit better during this summer. If not, it's not too late! Robert Putnam, Professor of Public Policy at Harvard University says, "knowing your neighbor on a first name basis...is a surprisingly effective first step toward a better America." When neighbors know one another better it fosters a deeper sense of community and the results are significant for the entire neighborhood. September 28th marks the annual celebration of National Good Neighbor Day. In the next few issues, I would like to highlight the stories of good neighbors in Alger Heights.

Is there someone who exemplifies what it means to be a good neighbor? In fifty words or less please tell us about your neighbor and what makes them a good neighbor. Send your submission to me at alindsay38@gmail.com

I look forward to hearing from you as we together celebrate good neighbors. 🌻

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PAINT DATE

Paint Date: For Ladies **NEW**
Thursday, October 13, 7-9 PM

Paint Date: For Couples
Thursday, November 10, 7-9 PM

Paint Date: For Kids & Teens
Friday, December 9 5:30-7:30 PM (Ages 7-12)
Friday, December 16, 5:30-7:30 PM (Ages 13-17)

We invite you to a Paint Date! Enjoy a fun night out while you create a beautiful masterpiece alongside a skilled artist. Register online or at the Welcome Desk.
\$30 members, \$35 nonmembers.

 **DAY CAMP REUNITE**

Day Camp Reunite **NEW**
Saturday, October 15, 12-4 PM
Saturday, November 12, 12-4 PM

We miss you! Come back to the Kroc or join us for the first time. Each Day Camp Reunite will be a fun time for previous and new campers to rock the Kroc, day camp style. Also, a great time for parents to have a few weekend hours to themselves.
\$15 members, \$20 nonmembers.

MONSTER MASH
FAMILY NIGHT AT THE KROC



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Breakfast With Santa
Saturday, December 3, 10 AM


Join Santa for story time, holiday art project, and a delicious buffet breakfast including pancakes, scrambled eggs, juice, and milk. Don't forget your camera for photos with Santa.
\$7 per person.

Monster Mash Halloween Party **FREE**
Friday, October 28, 5:30-7:30 PM

Join RJ Kroc for his annual 'Monster Mash' Halloween 'trunk or treat'. Come dressed up in your favorite costume and 'trunk-or-treat' around the Kroc Center's parking lot. This safe and fun event is appropriate for the whole family.

RJ Kroc's Mini Mash **NEW**
Tuesday, October 25, 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.
Free with Toddler Tuesday admission.


 **KROC CENTER**

2500 S. Division Avenue
P: 616.588.7200
www.GrKrocCenter.org

For more information and deadlines visit our website.

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