



ALGER HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Happenings

Spring 2016 - April, May, June 2016

PO Box 7809, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49507

AHNA Annual Meeting Tuesday, May 10 - 7pm Alger Middle School

- by Tyler Bekius

- **Meet Your Neighbors**
- **State Your Concerns**
- **Board Member Elections**
- **Special Speakers**
- **Refreshments**

Annual Meeting of the Alger Heights Neighborhood Association will take place Tuesday, May 10 at the Alger Heights Middle School - 921 Alger Street SE. The meeting will begin at 7:00 P.M. with items to be addressed including: the election of three open board member positions, review of financial reports, special community guest speakers, and upcoming volunteer opportunities for 2016.

Board member elections will be for a three year term positions. General board responsibilities include, attending monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of every month, writing articles for the Quarterly Newsletter, and assisting with community events throughout the year. Interested

community members should submit a short-biography or any questions to Alger Heights Board President Jerry Montague at jerry@montaguedesigngroup.com.

Guest speakers include: Officer Josh Mollan of the GRPD will be in attendance to discuss recent neighborhood incidents as well as a review of the monthly crime report. Also, Streets & Sanitation will also be in attendance to go over upcoming construction and the potential effects on your daily commute. Following directly after each speaker will be a period of question and answer to address any concerns or inquiries.

Come to the Annual meeting, let your voice be heard, enjoy some delicious bake goods, and find out what is happening in the Heights!

Can't make it? Join us for our monthly meetings held the second Tuesday of each month 7 - 8:00 p.m. at the Seymour Church - 840 Alger Street SE. 🌿



*A note from the
President...*

The grey skies are turning blue and that means we are entering the season of orange and white cones and construction. You will find an article in this newsletter (page 11) about the upcoming road construction slated to begin early this summer for Eastern Avenue from 28th Street to Burton Street. Yes, it will add confusion to your summer, but a bigger YES is the end result being a great street without cracks, potholes or bumps. Try to embrace the idea that the end justifies the means... new pavement for our neighborhood. Remember that all of our local businesses will remain open and eager to serve you during the construction process. Support the many establishments that will happily greet you with a smile when you stop buy for a visit or to make a purchase. You can still buy ice cream, lunch, dinner, nuts and bolts, rental equipment, fruit and vegetables and many more items available throughout the Alger Heights Business Community. As the weather warms up and we shake off the winter blahs, make an effort to get out for a walk and greet your neighbors. Check out page 7 for the dates of the Summer Kick-Off Potluck Barbeque and bring the family out for good food and a great time of gathering with your friends and neighbors.

Jerry Montague
AHNA President 🌿

Check us out online...
algerheights.org

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Won't You Be My Neighbor?

- by Artie Lindsay

Hello Neighbor. Spring has arrived and I want to encourage you to consider the following good neighboring practices.

1. Introduce yourself to someone on your block that you don't know.
2. Be conscious of your noise level.
3. Keep your dog on a leash, clean up after them and be aware that barking or whining dogs can be a source of contention for neighbors.
4. If you're planning a party, be sure to give your neighbors plenty of warning. Letting them know when it will start and end. Leaving your number as a contact may also be helpful. Just in case there is a need for you to turn it down, they can call you instead of the non-emergency police number.
5. Mow your lawn regularly.
6. If you miss the collection day, return your receptacle to your property and try to keep it contained.
7. Look out for your neighbors. When you see suspicious activity, call the police.
8. Look for opportunities to connect with your neighbor. Have them over for tea/coffee or participate in the neighborhood garage sales together.

9. When someone new is moving next to you, welcome them with cookies, a jug of lemonade or some other small gesture of hospitality.

If you have other ideas, stories of good neighboring on your block or you have been the beneficiary of good neighboring, please let me know so we can share in future articles. I'm always open to your suggestions for future topics, email me at alindsay38@gmail.com. 🍷

AHNA Board of Directors: 2015 - 2016

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.

Jerry Montague: President, newsletter
308-9904 jerry@montaguedesigngroup.com
Term ends 2017

Rick Savino: Vice President
550-1450 ricksavino@yahoo.com
Term ends 2016

Sam Evans: Treasurer, Block captain coordinator, Welcome bag, Mobile patrol
540-2107 massnave1@att.net
Term ends 2018

Carissa Bakker:
307-5683 carissabakker89@gmail.com
Term ends 2017

Nick Bakker:
307-6136 nbakker17@gmail.com
Term ends 2016

Jon Hall:
560-8556 cnw8835@yahoo.com
Term ends 2016

Josh Schroyer:
292-2801 jsschroyer@gmail.com
Term ends 2018

Artie Lindsay:
881-3849 alindsay38@gmail.com
Term ends 2018

Dave Thrasher:
243-6603 jdthrasher@aol.com
Term ends 2018

Maia Sieplinga:
304-5952 maia_sieplinga@usc.salvationarmy.org
Term ends 2018

Shannon Bruin:
893-8025 shannonmurphy11@gmail.com
Term ends 2017

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

Sign up for the Alger Heights Neighborhood Watch page:

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



Business Association News

Great People, Great Businesses

I've always thought that we have a great business district that provides the Alger Heights community with a variety of products and services. The variety of restaurants, professional practices, retail stores, community organizations, and service providers just stands to illustrate how wonderful it is to live in Alger Heights.

Recently I was sitting in a meeting with a number of other business district leaders and officials from the City of Grand Rapids. At this meeting the discussion turned to the diversity of the business districts in the Grand Rapids area. The initial consensus was that the businesses of Alger Heights are predominantly, if not completely, run by Caucasian business owners. Now, I'm not looking to get into a discussion about race relations, but this discussion caused me to do some thinking and some research.

I found that in addition to the great variety of products and services that the Alger Heights Business District offers, there is also a number of business owners and operators who contribute to a vastly diverse community. As President of the Alger Heights Business Association, I'm proud to represent a business community that consists of 3 Hispanic, 2 Middle Eastern, 2 Black, and 2 Asian business owner operators. I'm tremendously proud of the various businesses and business owners who go out every single day to provide great products and great service to the Alger Heights community. Please join me in continuing to support them this summer!

Nicholas Bakker
President - Alger Heights Business Association 🐾

Alger Heights Neighborhood Association Winter Volunteers

We would like to give a big thanks to the 17 volunteers who helped this winter in sidewalk/driveway shoveling and snowblowing. This past winter we helped 43 people as well as some of their neighbors with snow blowing, shoveling sidewalks and/or driveways. During the months of November through March we did over 511 visits to help out our neighbors. 🐾





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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.

FOR THE BIRDS

- by Rick Savino

Spring is here and we are getting out

to clean the yard. It's time to take care of the wild birds as well. Many species are returning (including hummingbirds!). All the following tasks can be done by the whole family. Attracting wild birds is easy: offer them a water source. Water is essential for drinking and for preening or cleaning oils from their feathers. Birdbaths can add nicely to a yard's decor, but a simple raised bowl will work. Use a few inches of water, and add a rock to give the birds depth perception, and a place to perch of needed. This will attract as many birds as seeds or suet.

Black Oil Sunflower seeds are the favorite of the greatest variety of wild bird species like cardinals, nuthatches and chickadees. Nyjer (or thistle) seed will attract finches and smaller songbirds. Offer nuts for woodpeckers and Blue Jays. Hummers require nectar, which is easy to make at home. Mixing instructions are readily available.



Hang your feeder from a tree branch six feet high and six feet from the base of the tree. Make sure there is cover overhead for protection from hawks and a quick escape spot like inner tree branches or bushes. Birds are at their most vulnerable when they visit a feeder to eat. Help them stay safe.

Clean old nest matter out of bird houses each season with mild soap, thoroughly rinse and dry. This prevents mites and other pests from attacking a new nest. Clean your feeder in the same manner.

For bird i.d., I recommend the free app from Cornell Lab of Ornithology, called "Merlin Bird ID". Easy to use, lots of info on range and food preferences, and sounds of each bird

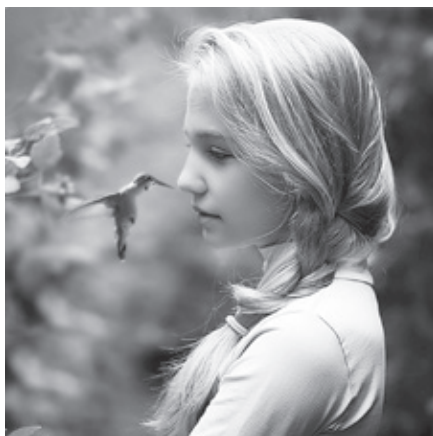
are included! With a little effort, you can enjoy the beautiful colors and songs of backyard birds. 🐦

Spring and Summer Volunteers Needed

We have a bank of volunteers currently helping out in the Alger Heights neighborhood for various situations. We would like to help out again this summer and would like to secure some additional volunteers. We interview the people requesting the help to make sure it is valid; due to illness, disability, surgery, age, etc...

If you would like to help as a volunteer for your AHNA neighbor, please e-mail: massnave1@att.net. 🐦

"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless." ~Sherry Anderson



Alger Heights Community Garden

Spring is just around the corner! That means it's time to join your neighbors in the Alger Heights Community Garden for the 2016 planting season! Regardless of how green your thumb is, this is a great way to spend some time outside, make new friends, and strengthen current relationships with the wonderful people from the Alger Heights community, families are welcome!!!!

While we hope to see plenty of returning faces, there will be plots available for new participants. Plots are 5'x10' and are \$10 each with a \$10 refundable deposit (your deposit will stay at \$10 regardless of how many plots you sign up for). The garden will be open for planting after our Spring Cleanup on May 14th and closed for the season after our cleanup on October 15th. If you would like to join the garden, or would just like some questions answered, do not hesitate to email us at algercommunitygardens@gmail.com or come find us at Celebrate the Heights on May 21st!

Important Dates to keep in mind:

Spring Cleanup and Pre-Planting Meeting: May 14th at 12pm (lunch provided)

Garden Potluck: August 24th at 6:30pm

Fall Cleanup: October 15th at 1pm
Wednesday evenings (6:30pm) and Saturday mornings (10am) from June-August are the official garden work nights. Come out to work on your plot and enjoy the company of fellow gardeners.

Hope to see you at the Garden!

Alger Heights Community Garden Team 🐦





Alger Heights Neighborhood Crime Prevention and Safety

-by Sam Evans

Street Smarts

IS IT SAFE TO WALK OR RUN?

Don't wear headphones, Go with another runner/walker, Don't zone out, Bring a cell phone, Don't hesitate to call the police, Don't hesitate to go up to a home or business for help, Vary your routes, Run/walk in familiar areas, Stay aware of your surroundings, Stay out of heavily foliated areas, .

SAFETY AT THE DOOR

Knock, Knock ... who's there?

You open your door to a woman who is clearly upset. She says she just had an accident around the corner and needs to get her car towed. The tow costs \$35 and she is short \$15. She says she's your neighbor, "You see my little boy riding his bike up and down the street all the time." She will pay you back as soon as her husband gets home. If she is given cash she has been known to come back for more about a half-hour later. She is a known prostitute with a crack problem. The cash goes for drugs.

Door to door panhandlers often plague urban areas. In Grand Rapids people knock on doors asking for cash for an emergency at any time during the day or night. They are very convincing and it is very difficult to turn them away. Men and women panhandle in residential neighborhoods. According to many police reports the panhandlers admit that the money is spent on drugs or alcohol. They are addicts and this is relatively easy way to get cash.

As an adult you can make your own decision about how to handle panhandlers, but crime prevention experts suggest never giving out cash

at the door for any reason. Panhandlers will often ask to use your phone. You should refuse or you can close and lock the door and make the call for them. Generally they just want to get in so you will have to give them the cash to get rid of them.

What to tell your children? Do they answer the door themselves? Do they answer the door when an adult is not home. Do they know what to do if a stranger comes to the door and presents an emergency situation and asks to use the phone?

Here is what we think will keep you and your kids safer: Keep the main door locked when you are not in the room. To use a storm/screened door, make sure it has a lock, and get an inexpensive door alarm that will alert you when the door is opened. It is risky to leave any door unlocked when you are nearby.

Don't let children answer the door when at home alone. Even young teens should have an adult nearby if they answer the door. Explain that the panhandlers are men and women who go door to door with a made up story to get money. Tell the children if people need help you will call the police for them. Tell them to never let a stranger in your home. Children should never get into a conversation with a panhandler.

TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS:

Recent books stress the importance of using our innate survival instincts. When the hair on the back of your neck stands up and every nerve is alive, don't push away your fear and think you are just being paranoid. Evolution has not totally dampened our "fight or flight instinct". It would be wise to take advantage of it when it kicks in and listen to what your mind and body are telling you. 🙌

Neighborhood Block Parties

We would like to have more block parties this year. If you are interested in having one please contact us. We will help you put together a theme if you like, print the invitations to be distributed to your block, we do have a small grant given to the block coordinator or captain, we will take care of getting the block closed for the party, have a fire truck and police vehicle there and we have a couple of games you could borrow. Most block parties are potlucks. Please contact Sam Evans at massnave1@att.net or 540-2107, so that we can schedule it on the calendar. 🙌



Home Safety

Did you know that the fire department will come to your home and do an audit for smoke detectors and recommend if you need additional or updated detectors? They will also provide new ones and install them for free. Please contact them at 456-3699 or 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

What is 311?

311 is the City's new first stop for all non-emergency City of Grand Rapids service questions, including water service, property tax assessments, reports of potholes, the Pay as You Throw refuse program and hundreds more. Live assistance : 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday to Friday. On-line- visit 311.grcity.us from your laptop, computer or smartphone. 🙌



Alley Clean-ups

This year we will have 3 different dates for alley clean-up in our neighborhood. They will be held in June, July, and August. We will work with the neighbors to the alleys and are seeking additional volunteers to help. We also have an agency that will be providing labor and equipment for the clean-ups. 🙌

Church and School News

Seymour Church
840 Alger SE.

April 1 at 9:00am: Seymour MOPS
(Mothers of Preschoolers)

April 21 at 7:00pm: Seymour MOPS

May 6 at 9:00am: Seymour MOPS



May 7 at Noon: Mobile Food Pantry
If you or a neighbor could use a little help putting food on the table, please consider the Mobile Food Pantry.

May 17 3:00-7:00pm: Blood Drive

May 19 at 7:00pm: Seymour MOPS

June 20-June 23 from 6:15-8:00pm
VBS (Vacation Bible School) combined with Alger Park CRC.



Looking for a Family Friendly event filled with laughter?

Join us at Seymour Church for a fun filled evening with River City Improv! The Seymour GEMS Girls Club is hosting this great evening of fun on Friday, April 22 at 7:30pm (Doors open at 7:00pm) Tickets will be \$10.00 per person at the door. Drinks and snacks will be available during the intermission and after the show. All proceeds support the Seymour GEMS Girls Club! For more information email Kim Hofstra at bkhofstra@gmail.com. 🍷



Alger Park Church

Vacation Bible School Wants the Force to Be With You! Children are welcome to attend a "Star Quest"-themed Vacation Bible School at Alger Park Church. **SAVE THE DATE!**
June 20-June 23 from 6:15-8:00pm in conjunction with Seymour Church. Watch for more details. And may the force be with YOU.



A **Plaster Creek Clean Up** session is set for Saturday, June 11 from 9 to 11. Meet in the Alger Park Church parking lot, lower level. We'll have gloves, and you are welcome to bring your own gear. Contact Don Vanden Berg: don48van@gmail.com for more details.

Spring Bible Study

Alger Park Church invites all women to join a short Bible study based on the feature film, War Room. We will show the movie in its entirety on Tuesday, March 29, from 9:30-11:30a.m. Then, after spring break (beginning April 12), we will meet for 5 Tuesdays, from 9:30-11:00, and work through the study guide together. All materials will be distributed on March 29. Study guide cost is \$7. Childcare provided. To register, email womensministry@algerparkchurch.org 🙏

Tabernacle Community Church
2550 Eastern SE



Tabitha's Closet will be offering low-cost clothing, shoes, and household goods to the public three times this year:

Saturday, April 16,
Saturday, August 6, and
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.

AWANA (Approved Workman Are Not Ashamed) meets every Wednesday from 6:15pm-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. You may start at any time throughout the school year. To learn more about Awana, go to awana.org.

Men & Ladies of Honor is a strategic program to train and mentor youth to realize their full potential. Youth (6th -12th grade) who participate are mentored and trained in principles of honor, chivalry, integrity, courageous leadership, and moral excellence using a three-pronged strategy of camps, conferences, and weekly curriculum based meetings. Join us every Wednesday night from 6:30pm-8:00pm at Alger Middle School (921 Alger St. SE). 🙏

Alger Heights

COLLABORATIVE



Community Coordinator Update

- by Jenn Reidsma

Community Canvassing Saturday May 14 from 10am-Noon

Three years ago in the spring of 2013 a large group of volunteers helped to survey the neighborhood. Since the neighborhood is a fluid place and many new neighbors have moved in, now is a good time to do some additional community listening. The Alger Heights Collaborative wants to hear from you, the neighbors of Alger Heights. A neighborhood-wide community listening session will be happening on Saturday, May 14 from 10am – noon. Volunteers will be walking the neighborhood and knocking on doors. The purpose of the canvassing is to get a better idea of residents hopes and dreams for the neighborhood and what concerns there might be. We will then gather residents around common themes of interest.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with community listening or have questions/concerns please contact, Jenn Reidsma at jenn@tabernaclecommunity.org or 988-9268 ext. 205.



Please note: if you live inside the neighborhood outlined above you are part of the canvassing area. Please be prepared for someone to knock on your door Saturday morning. All volunteers will be identified with an Alger Heights Collaborative name tag. The survey is 5 questions long and shouldn't take much of your time. If you are unavailable during the canvassing times, please follow the link below to complete the survey on-line. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XM95TMD>.



SAVE THE DATE! Monday, June 13 for a Kick Off to Summer Potluck

When: Monday, June 13
at 6:00 (rain date - Thursday, June 16)

Where: Alger Middle School
near the playground

Let's kick-off the start of summer with a neighborhood potluck. Last year's potluck was a huge success with around 100 neighbors in attendance. The night will be better when you bring your favorite summer time dish to pass. The main dish, drinks and place settings will be provided. Just bring your dish to pass and a blanket or chair to sit on.

Watch for more details on the neighborhood Facebook pages as well as posters in neighborhood businesses.

Questions or if you would be interested in planning the event, contact Jenn Reidsma at jenn@tabernaclecommunity.org or 988-9268 ext 205.

POLICE NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER
456-3400
REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY



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 ASSOCIATION

Happenings for

EDUCATION & FINE ART

Immersing yourself or a child in fine arts and in educational programming is a great way to lead a more fulfilling and enriching life. Whether it's learning to play an instrument or read music, or trying your hand at singing, dancing, or acting, there is a place to develop your talent at The Kroc Center. If the fine arts are more for you, classes in sculpting, drawing and painting are also available for you to create your masterpiece. Our state-of-the-art performance and studio spaces allow artists to hone their skills and showcase their work.

QUESTIONS?

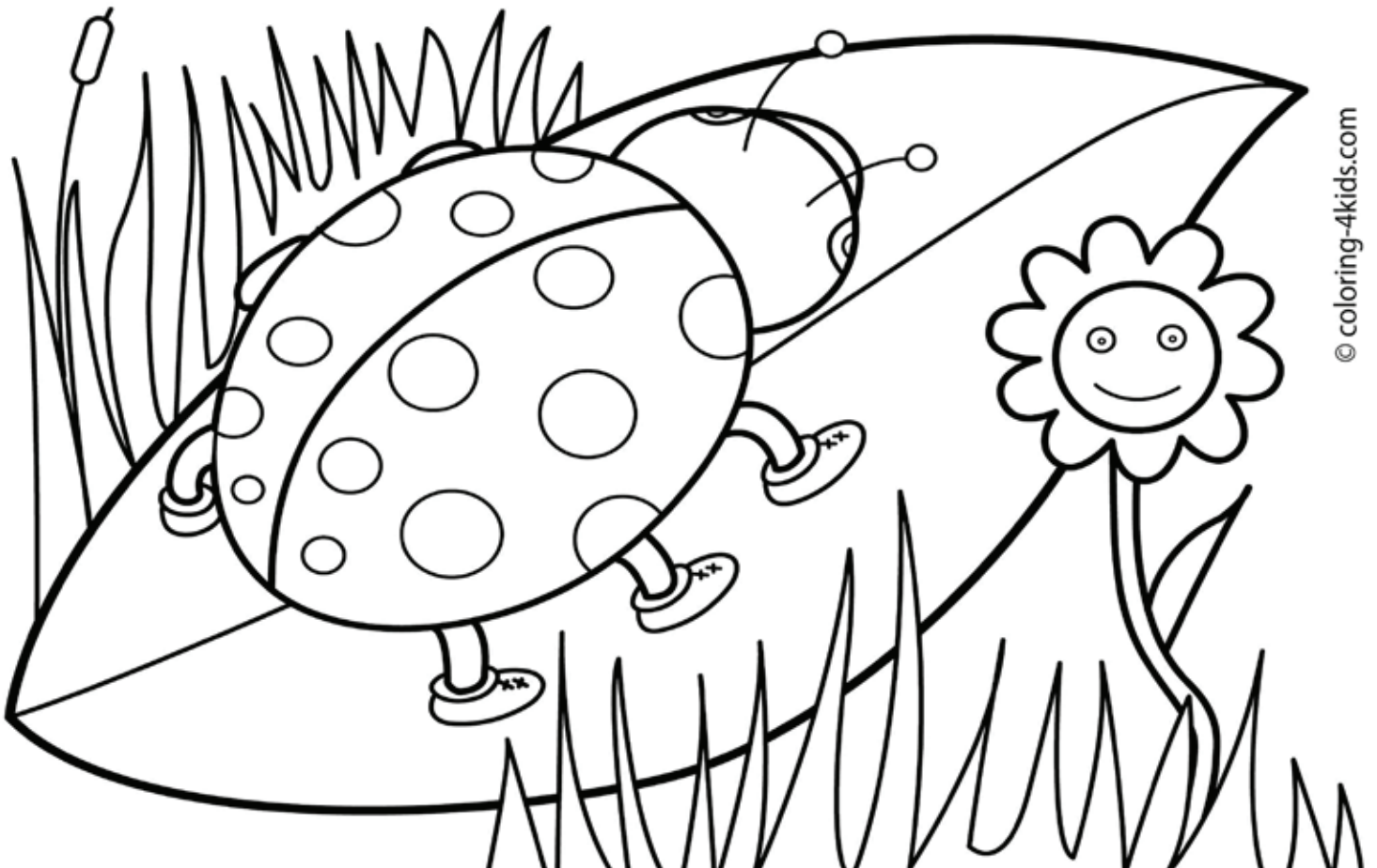
Please contact our Program Manager at 616.588.7200 if you have questions about any of our fine arts or education programs.



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

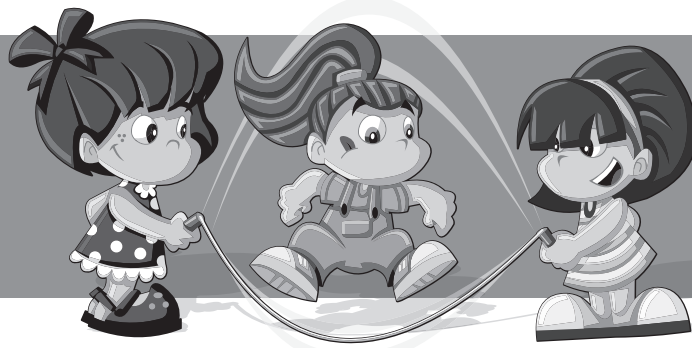


Coloring Corner...



© coloring-4kids.com

Kids...



growing beans



All you need for this easy activity is a glass jar or bottle, some cotton wool balls/wads and a bean!

First, stuff cotton wool balls into a glass jam jar. Then, simply stick one bean on either side of the jar so that you can watch 2 growing at once. You can use butter beans straight out of the packet (these can be purchased

wherever garden supplies are sold). Next, gently add water until the cotton wool gets damp, but not too wet, and place the jar in the window.

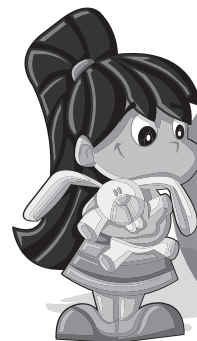
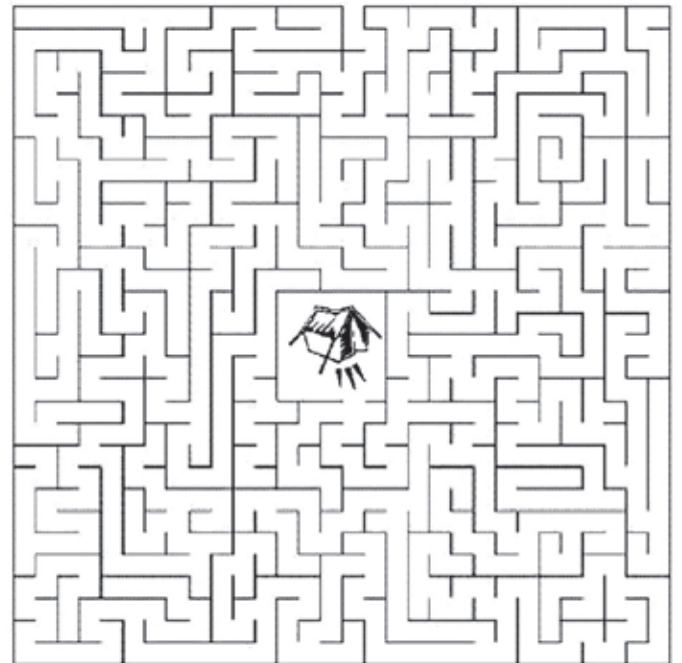
Within 2-3 days the beans will start to sprout a small root, and 2-3 days later you will see little tendrils growing. Another 4-5 days and the beans develop a large network of shoots coming off the main root, and a sturdy stem will grow straight upwards and above the top of the cotton wool. The shrivelled husk of the bean skin will probably drop off and it will appear ready to open up! Just a day or so later and dark green leaves will begin to unfurl. And finally, after 4-5 more days, the beans should be growing very steadily; tall and spindly with large leaves seeking out more sunlight.

Carefully remove them from the jar and examine the complex network of roots that have, by this time, entangled themselves around the cotton wool balls at the bottom. Gently unwind the roots from the cotton wool and replant the beans into soil in pots in the garden. Be sure to water them and you can watch their rapid growth out in the garden!

CAMP WANNA-HAVE-FUN



Our camper is done roasting marshmallows. Can you help him get back to his tent?



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

Pre-Reading Classes for Kids

10:30 am

Thursdays, April 7, 14

Parents and caregivers are invited to bring their preschoolers, ages 3 to 5, to 45-minute classes featuring literacy-rich activities such as interactive storytelling using puppets, dramatic play, and hands-on fun. Related songs, fingerplays, and activities are interspersed between books. Classes end with a fun and creative art activity. Free and open to the public.

Pajama Time! For kids 3 – 5 years

old 6:30 pm

Tuesdays, April 7, 14

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 lullabies, and get those wiggles out before bed. Great for working parents!

Elena & Sonia: Songs from Latin America and East Asia

10:30 am

Weds, June 22

Elena & Sonia are an exciting new duo that take audiences on a musical journey around the world, guided by folk and children's songs from East Asia and Latin America, and beyond. They perform songs in English, Spanish, Korean, Mandarin,

Japanese, Tibetan, and Taiwanese, exploring the stories and traditions behind these songs and discovering the common themes that tie us all together. Audiences will sing along in every language, dance, clap, and have fun, and take a musical exploration from Japanese sea shanties to Mexican party songs to American work songs, and everything in between.

Wildlife Safari

10:30 am

Wednesday, June 29

Learn about the super senses of the animal kingdom, featuring the American Barn Owl, Australian Sugar Gliders, and a Siberian Lynx, to name a few. Nelson's Wildlife Safari brings the wonder and excitement of animals with a truly unique hands-on encounter. Kids will see and touch creatures both great and small, while experiencing sights and sounds on a virtual trip around the world.

Other GRPL Events

Cutting the Cable Cord

7:00 pm

Monday, April 11, 2016

Main Library – 111 Library St NE

Have you been thinking of canceling your cable TV subscription? This program will help you save money and still get all the content you want. Luke Bouma, owner of **CordCutterNews.com**, will show you how to stream your favorite shows, movies and

more. From finding the right streaming player and antenna to finding content on provides such as Hulu, Netflix and Amazon (and of course your local library), this class will give you everything you need to start saving money today. A Q&A session will follow the presentation.

International Tabletop Day

presented by Vault of Midnight

2:00 – 5:00 pm

Saturday, April 30, 2016

Main Library – 111 Library St NE

Founded in 2013 by internet nerd gurus "Geek & Sundry," International Tabletop Day is a worldwide celebration of board gaming goodness. Local purveyors of comics and games, Vault of Midnight, will be on hand to lend their sharp wit & board gaming expertise to attendees. They will be teaching both classic and contemporary games for any age. International Tabletop Day is a great family friendly opportunity for both board and card games initiates and curious noobs alike

Summer Reading Challenge

May 31 – September 5, 2016

All GRPL locations

Get in the game this summer at the Grand Rapids Public Library! Read like a champion, and attend fun programs and events that will get you moving! Join one of the four teams and help your teammate move up the scoreboard. Are you up to the challenge? Competitors can sign up today at grpl.org/summerreading. For kids 18 and under.

GR Reads: Summer Reading All Grown Up

June 1 – August 31, 2016

All library locations

The Grand Rapids Public Library has once again partnered with area organizations to present the sixth annual GR Reads, a summer reading program designed for adults. For a complete list of books and events, visit www.grpl.org/grreads or stop by any GRPL library. 📖



The New Momma Commentary

- by Shannon Bruin

Well friends, I have made it through year 1, and now it's time to CELEBRATE! While *Pinterest.com* requires a huge, expensive, perfectly DIY'd celebration, families have many different traditions and value systems when it comes to birthdays. My husband and I come from very different backgrounds with this stuff, but we agreed we wanted to take this landmark occasion and celebrate with all of the folks who have loved us along the way and enjoy the "fruits of our labor" so to speak.

So what are the tricks to hosting a great birthday party?

Have fun! – Don't over plan or over DIY (Do It Yourself) to the point that it's not enjoyable. Make sure that whatever you will be doing, and whoever will be there, that you and your child are going to have fun together.

Remember, many very well-rounded, successful people had birthday parties without pony rides! – It's not required that we show off our craftiness or wealth on this occasion, it's required that our kids, and the people who help us raise them, know we love them.

Gifts - kids honestly have more fun playing in the empty box, than with what was once in there. Don't over materialize your kids before you have to. There's going to be plenty of time for that later.

Laugh and eat cake. These 2 things can never end up badly, especially when done in unison. 🍷

Alger Heights Neighborhood Association Annual Neighborhood Garage Sales

Dates: May 20th and 21st

Time: 9am – 5pm each day

(Some may be open earlier and close later)

Items for sale include all types of family clothes, games, appliances, toys, electronics, sports equipment, furniture, and other household goods. We will have posters displayed at our local businesses, as well as businesses just outside of Alger Heights. We will be sending electronic versions of the posters to the various neighborhood associations, city offices and the GR libraries. If you would like to state that you are having a sale, and list the street and what type of items you will be selling, we can post that on various media outlets.

Left over items may be donated to various agencies, such as: In The Image which is in need of gently used clothing and summer items or Family Promise, which is in need of gently used household items such as pots/pans, silverware, coffee pots, towels, kitchen tables/chairs, etc. Both agencies forward donated items directly to their clients. Check online, there are also other agencies available as well. 🍷

Summer of Construction

- by Jon Hall

Plan for longer travel times and detours this summer as the city prepares for reconstruction and repaving on Eastern Ave from Burton to 28th Street. While this is an inconvenient project for many, it is necessary to keep the road in good repair. The section of Eastern through Alger Heights sees on average 15,500 vehicles per day. There are 75 driveways and 10 bus stops in the area.

The city presented the current plans for the project at a February meeting at Alger Park Church. Currently, Eastern will be repaved from the south side of the intersection with Burton to the north side of the intersection with 28th Street. The section between 28th Street and Walsh will be completely reconstructed with underground utilities being replaced. All of the sidewalk ramps and associated curbs throughout the construction zone will be replaced and upgraded to current ADA standards.

The intersection of Eastern and Alger will also be reconstructed as the road surface and subsurface has begun to fail. There will be times when traffic will not be able to travel east and west across Eastern on Alger.

The project will begin in June and may last as long as September or early October for the finishing touches. It will be split into four stages. During the Stage 1, Eastern will be reduced to two lanes while sidewalk ramps and curbs are rebuilt on the east side of the road. For Stage 2, traffic will be shifted to the other side of the road for work on the sidewalks and curbs on the west side of the road. Both Stages 3 and 4 will require Eastern being reduced to one-way traffic while the road surface is rebuilt. Stage 3 will have traffic travelling southbound only while Stage 4 will have traffic travelling northbound only. The suggested detour for traffic while part of the road is closed will be via Madison Avenue.

Other changes that come with the project is the addition of a pedestrian island toward the south end of the Alger Height Business District along with several rain gardens and filtration basins for rainwater runoff. The rain gardens and filtration basins will be built between the road and sidewalks in select locations that have not been fully determined yet.

Work during the days will probably begin as early as 7am and conclude no later than 6pm. Access to Everglade will be maintained at all times through the area of full reconstruction near 28th Street. There are no tree removals planned as the city wants to preserve the mature tree canopy over the road. At the conclusion of the project, the road footprint will be the same as it is currently.

With some patience and flexibility, the work will pass by with no problem and we will all have a much nicer road to use for the future. 🍷

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Dumpster Day set for June 25

It is that time of the year again. I trust you have been piling up the trash, just waiting for this information. Trash Day will be on June 25 (Saturday) from 8am to 12 noon at Seymour Church parking lot (840 Alger SE) – earlier start if we have the dumpsters in place and earlier stopping if we run out of dumpster space.

We will require a driver's license indicating you are a resident of Alger Heights - 28th to Burton & Kalamazoo to Eastern – plus those just west of Eastern that have a block captain and those east of Kalamazoo adjacent to Ottawa Hills High School.

Remember, no yard waste, tires or liquids.

Paint cans are ok if the paint is completely dry.

Please make sure that all empty boxes are knocked down before putting them in the dumpsters. This will allow more space in the dumpsters.

We will have a recycler there for metals, etc., Habitat for Humanity will be there to take building materials, fixtures (faucets, lighting, etc.) and Family Promise will be accepting donated gently used furniture - bedroom, living room, kitchen, small household appliances, gently used pots/pans.

We look forward to seeing you on Dumpster Day.

Alger Heights Neighborhood Association Block Connectors

-by Sam Evans

The general requirements for a block captain are to be friendly, welcome new neighbors, distribute newsletters and flyers and be the eyes and ears for your block. We give you training, materials, and assistance that will be helpful for you in the unique role for your block. We will also work beside you for introductions.

We are still in need of block captains for the following blocks: Alto, Belfast (Alger-Nevada), Deming (Eastern-Union), Jennings (Kalamazoo-Oakfield), Louise (Kalamazoo-Oakfield), Merritt (Eastern-Blaine), Nelson Apartments (2 Block Captains), Eastern (Everglade-Mulford), Alger (2 Block Captains) (Kalamazoo-Eastern), Joslin (Eastern-Blaine), Edna (Additional Block Captains needed).

If interested or would like to know more about it please contact Sam Evans, 540-2107 or 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 🐼

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. 🐼

Check us out online... **algerheights.org**

AHNA Annual Membership Association Dues

- by Sam Evans

The dues envelopes were inserted in our Winter Newsletter issue. You can mail the dues in to AHNA, PO Box 7809, Grand Rapids, MI 49510, or via PayPal at algerheights.org.

The dues are as follows:

Senior - \$10.00

Family - \$20.00

Business - \$25.00

We are also pleased to announce that you can now also pay on line with your credit card thru PayPal at algerheights.org.

Why should you support AHNA with a donation? We encourage neighbor participation and community involvement. We are strictly a volunteer board and do not receive any funds that are donated, 100% of our funds go directly back into the neighborhood to support the newsletter printing, flyers, activities, and Community events. The neighborhood has stated they wanted more activities and we will need funds for those additional events.

These are some of the current yearly events: Annual Meeting, Annual Garage Sales, Annual Trash Day and Neighborhood Clean-up, Neighborhood Parks Clean-up, Volunteers that help with snow-blowing and grass cutting, National Night Out. All of these events cost money to have and at every one of them we do not charge for participation for those attending.

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.



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. 🐾

Advertising in the AHNA newsletter

You can advertise your business or home business in the Alger Heights newsletter. The newsletter is distributed to over 1900 homes and businesses in Alger Heights.

The rates are very reasonable:

Business Card size: \$25.00

Double Business Card size: \$40.00

1/4 Page size: \$75.00

1/2 Page size: \$140.00

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>.

Worth Considering



Business District Planter Sponsorship –

The Alger Heights Business Association has been working hard over the last few years to unify and improve the flower planters within the business district. The business association hired a Landscape Architect from the neighborhood to provide suggestions and plans for improvement. In the spring of 2015 a group of volunteers planted some, but not all, of the suggested plants. In 2016 we would like to provide a sponsorship opportunity for neighbors and business owners to invest more into the community. There are two levels of sponsorship which are outlined below.

Friend Level -

Cost \$75 per year includes:

- Two bags of mulch
- Additional perennial flowers
- Annual flowers
- Recognition in the newsletter

Business/Family Level -

Cost \$150 per year includes:

- Everything listed above
- Recognition in the newsletter will be in larger font than friend level and can include business contact information.
- Sign in planter with name and/or business name

Both levels are year round sponsorships and would require sponsors to help with spring planting and fall clean up. Watering and weeding are provided by the business association. Tentative planting day: Thursday, May 19 at 7pm.

If you are interested in sponsoring a planter please get in with Jenn Reidsma at jenn@tabernaclecommunity.org or 988-9268 ext 205. 🐾



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03/15

ATTENTION ALGER HEIGHTS

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Email: nbakker@wradvisors.com

Aaron DeVos, CFP®
Direct Line: 616-855-8647
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Hey Neighbors! Celebrate the Heights is back again this year on Saturday, May 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Come to the Alger Heights Business District at the corner of Alger and Eastern and see everything that the businesses in the Alger Heights and surrounding neighborhoods have to offer!

Activities will include prize drawings, coupons, giveaways, and specialty sales sponsored by the local businesses and neighborhood restaurants. Local crafters will be showcasing their handmade arts and crafts for sale.

Neighborhood community organizations will also be represented, including the local library, community centers, churches, the community garden, and the Alger Heights 5K Run. Children of all ages will enjoy checking out the fire and police department vehicles. Bring your bikes for a free inspection and get them registered with the fire department.

We're still looking for business owners that are interested in participating. If you know anyone that would like to have a space at this event, please have them contact Carissa Bakker by Monday, May 2 at carissabakker89@gmail.com.

Tell your friends and neighbors and join us on May 21 for this annual community event. The rain date for this event is Saturday, June 4. We look forward to seeing you at Celebrate the Heights. 🌸



Spring into fun at the Kroc!



SPRING BREAK AT THE KROC

Join us during spring break (April 4-8) for daily special activities and entertainment for the whole family, including extended open swim, family fitness classes, bounce houses, interactive performances, wildlife presentations and more!

Pick up our spring break activity guide at the Kroc Center or view it online at www.GrKrocCenter.org.

SPRING & SUMMER PROGRAMS

Learn something new this Spring! Sign up for a dance class, learn to swim, or challenge yourself in a fitness class! Register before the early bird deadline to save \$5 per program!

Stop by the Kroc Center to pick up our Spring & Summer Program Guide, available at the welcome desk and online at www.GrKrocCenter.org.



SIGN UP NOW FOR CAMP KROC!

The Kroc Center's Camp Kroc is a faith-based day camp program in which children ages 5-17 can play and grow in a safe and positive environment. Campers enjoy swimming, drama, music, arts & crafts, group games, sports, Bible lessons, and other fun activities.

Stop by the Kroc Center to pick up our Summer Camp Guide, available at the welcome desk and online at www.GrKrocCenter.org.



KROC CENTER

For the latest news & events throughout the year, visit www.GrKrocCenter.org
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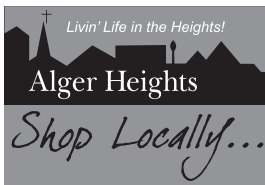
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Check us out online... **algerheights.org**



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES

Restaurants, Grocery & Meat Market, Pet Grooming, Shoe Repair, Hair cuts & styling, Banks, Hardware & Rentals, and more! For a complete list of local businesses in the Alger Heights area, check out the Alger Heights web page: www.algerheights.org

New Hours:
 Sunday, Tuesday & Thursday 11am - 10pm
 Friday & Saturday: 11am - 11pm ♦ Monday: Closed



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