



ALGER HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Happenings

Spring 2015 - APRIL

PO Box 7809, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49507

WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?

- by Artie Lindsay

On January 31, 2015 the **Alger Heights Collaborative** hosted a training entitled, **"Sustaining the Practices of Good Neighboring"**. About 19 people joined us in an interactive, conversational training that served to remind all of us of the core good neighbor habits. We would like to thank Wayne Squires of Great Lakes Urban for facilitating our discussion.

Please consider the following questions:

- *What would you say are the three top qualities of a good neighbor?*
- *When have you seen these qualities in action?*

We encourage you to take the next steps and practice those good neighbor qualities with your neighbors and begin building

the foundation for a vibrant, caring neighborhood environment.

Below are a few ideas to help get you started:

- Get to know the first and last names of as many of your neighbors on your block. It may even be helpful to establish a neighborhood roster.
- Be intentional in getting to know those who live around you – a good neighbor will seek to understand before passing judgment.
- It is much easier to approach "sensitive issues" when you have done the previous two steps.
- Practice the art of hospitality as often as possible – host a block party, invite others to share a meal, bake cookies, help with yard tasks, share tools, etc.
- Be kind and considerate – the more you can make your neighbors aware of things that could potentially affect them, like parties you may be hosting or work being done on your home that could be disruptive, the better it is for neighbor relations. Provide them with as many details as possible such as when it starts, when it ends and how you would like to be communicated with should the noise become too disruptive.
- Remember the "Golden Rule" when it comes to neighbor to neighbor relations.

I would love to hear your ideas and thoughts regarding good neighboring practices, stories of when you've seen good neighboring in action, or maybe other topics for us to explore in this column. Please email your thoughts and ideas to alindsay38@gmail.com. 📧

President's Notes...



It's time to shake off winter and start organizing your "to-do" list for the warmer weather arriving. Whether you're looking forward to cleaning the garage, or just getting out for a walk that doesn't require boots and gloves, Alger Heights is waking up to spring. Your local businesses are just up the street and ready with whatever you need to complete your spring projects. Take a look around your street to see if there are new neighbors and greet them with a smile and welcome them to Alger Heights. Ask them if they have any questions about what our community has to offer. The Old Goat is getting ready to open in the early summer, and The Dog King will be open on April 15th. Make a note to visit them and check out their cuisine. Welcome them into the neighborhood by taking the family out for a great 'local' meal. These new businesses, and all the Alger Heights businesses, really appreciate your support. 🍷

Jerry Montague
AHNA President

AHNA ANNUAL MEETING

May 12, 2015
Alger Middle School Common Area
921 Alger SE (West Entrance)
Time: 7:00 pm

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POLICE NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER

456-3400

REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

Volunteers

We have a bank of 17 volunteers currently helping out in the neighborhood for various situations. This past winter, we helped 37 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 600 visits to help out our neighbors. We would like to help out again this spring, summer, and fall and would like to secure some additional volunteers. We do 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.

It is good exercise and you get to meet a lot of great neighbors. 🌱



Dumpster Day 2015

- by Jon Hall

With warmer weather coming soon, it's time to start thinking about Spring Cleaning. The Alger Heights Neighborhood Association hopes to host the annual Dumpster Day event sometime in June. Final confirmation of a date is pending a commitment from the city. So, please keep your eye out for more information on the AHNA Facebook page or website (algerheights.org). If Dumpster Day does happen, there will be the normal trash dumpsters available along with a collection area for scrap metal, electronics, grills, mowers, etc. Habitat for Humanity will be present to collect reusable home hardware, fixtures, doors, fencing, etc. that can be resold through their Re-Store locations. Family Promise will be receiving gently used home furnishings (sofas, chairs, tables, lamps, bedroom furniture, kitchen furniture, etc). They will donate these items to their clients who secure housing after being homeless. 🌱

GUEST SPEAKERS • COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES UPDATE • ELECTIONS



Alger Heights Neighborhood Association

ANNUAL MEETING

May 12, 2015 - 7:00pm

Dessert Bar and Punch Bowl start at 6:30pm

Alger Middle School Common Area - 921 Alger SE (West Entrance)

Please join us to find out what has been happening and bring up any issues that you would like the board to address.

There are 5 openings on the Alger Heights Neighborhood Association Board. 3 year terms. Are YOU filling one of them? You are welcome to come to the April 14th meeting of the board and see what we do.

New board members will be voted on by the AHNA members at the annual meeting on May 12. In addition to assisting in the growth and future of the neighborhood, Board members commit to the following:

- Attending monthly board meetings (2nd Tuesday of every month at 7pm)
- Actively participating in at least one AHNA Committee
- Attending and participating in AHNA events
- Serving as a Block Connector and actively work to build the AHNA's Block Connector network.

Standard term for a board member is 3 years.

Come early... DESSERT BAR & PUNCH BOWL start at 6:30pm

If you are interested please e-mail us with your name, address, e-mail address, phone number and number of years in the neighborhood. Also include a brief bio on yourself and why you would like to be on the board. **Deadline is April 30, 2015.**

E-mail to: Jerry Montague – jerry@montaguedesigngroup.com
Rick Savino – ricksavino@yahoo.com
Sam Evans – massnave1@att.net

Get Involved!



Pet friendly neighborhood

Alger Heights is a pet friendly neighborhood. We have seen evidence of that by how many neighbors helped get neighborhood cat Mogli reunited with her owners last year; and by the Alger Heights pet registry that was created to help each other identify dogs or cats that may have strayed from home. Over 100 pets are listed – you might want to list your pet if you live in Alger Heights, or check it if you are trying to locate an owner. It is part of the Alger Heights Discussion Group facebook page.

Not everyone is a pet lover. You should keep that in mind when walking your dog. So before you grab your leash and head outside, check out these 3 “Quick and Dirty Tips” for neighborhood dog walking etiquette:

Tip #1: Not Everyone Loves Your Pet

Remember: Your dog is your best friend, no one else's. It's improper to assume that he is loved by everyone in the neighborhood. So keep him close, leashed, and don't allow him to run up to (or onto) others.

Tip #2: Use a Leash

Leashes were not invented as a fad. They are not just some crazy device to hold back a dog's love for freedom. They are used to keep your pet, and others around you, safe. If you want your dog to run free and feel the wind through his wagging tail, then get a fence or take him to a park.

Tip #3: Clean Up

If your dog has to go #2, use a plastic bag. That's it; no options. Pick it up, tie it up, and dispose of it either in a public trash can or in your own, NOT in your neighbor's. I know, I know, it's SUCH a burden, but come on folks, you chose to have a dog, you knew the consequences. Not only is it disgusting not to pick up your dog's waste, but it inevitably ruins someone else's day. Everyone has stepped in dog poop some time in their life and NEVER has anyone said, “Great! My lucky day!” So, show your neighborly manners and keep your dog's waste where it belongs—in the garbage.”

Not only are these suggestions good etiquette, but some are laws. The City

Community Coordinator Update

- by Jenn Reidsma



Summer BBQ

Summer is on everyone's mind these days! Let's start summer off on the right foot by having a Kick-Off to Summer BBQ. Not only will this night be a great chance to gather with neighbors and enjoy food, but it will also provide you with an opportunity to learn how you can bring a block-party to your street. There will be block party planning booklets available as well as experienced neighbors who will be happy to answer questions. The night will be better when you bring your favorite or specialty 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.

SAVE THE DATE! The night won't be the same without YOU!

What: Kick-off to Summer BBQ

When: Monday, June 8 at 6:00 (rain date - Thursday, June 11)

Where: Alger Middle School

Watch for more details on the neighborhood Facebook pages and www.algerheights.org, as well as posters in neighborhood businesses. 🍷

of Grand Rapids has great suggestions for neighbors on their code compliance webpages. <http://grcity.us/community-development/Code-Compliance-Division/Pages/Identifying-Code-Violations.aspx> “Those who keep domestic animals (cats, dogs, etc.) in their homes, yards or other outdoor buildings are responsible for removing the animal's waste and repairing any damage to the dwelling or structure caused by the animal. 🍷



Business Association News

- by Nick Bakker

There is a new King in town! The Dog King that is. We are pleased to announce the opening of “The Dog King” right here in Alger Heights!

The Dog King will feature handmade hot dogs and sausages from Willi's famous sausage company in Frankenmuth, MI. The restaurant will feature up to 36 different flavors of sausages and hand-made hot dogs, including an exclusive pulled pork BBQ sausage. Yum!

The restaurant concept is a build-your-own hot dog and sausage bar with a myriad of great toppings to choose from. Each customer will purchase their flavored sausage or hot dog of choice at a set price and then build their own toppings with unlimited variety. The restaurant will also feature a chalk board wall where each customer can write out the recipe to their very own creation for others to try.

The Dog King is located right next to Alger Hardware and will also serve ice cream. They will be open every day from 11am-11pm and are expected to open around April 15, 2015.

Make sure you put The Dog King on your list of lunch, dinner, or snack stops in the near future! 🍷

Check us out online...
algerheights.org



Like Us on Facebook...

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



Alger Heights Neighborhood Crime Watch and Safety

-by Sam Evans



We would like to congratulate our Alger Heights GR Police Department Community Officer **Josh Mollan** for being selected as the **"Grand Rapids Police Officer of the Year."** Captain VanderKooi and his team of officers do a great job of policing our neighborhood and keeping it safe.

Crime Watch Training Meeting:

Saturday, May 2, 9:30am – 11:30am at Seymour Church, 840 Alger SE, Fellowship Room. Light snacks and beverages will be provided. Please RSVP me by April 30 if you plan on coming – via e-mail: massnave1@att.net or by phone: **540-2107**

This meeting will help educate you on the following: information sharing, how to observe and report suspicious activities, home security, crime prevention and fire prevention, proper engraving protection, support groups, etc.

Crime Prevention Reminders:

Remember to take all valuables out of your vehicles. Remove any charging cords or window mounted holder, in open view, and lock it up when not in use. Approximately 95% of all car larcenies are with vehicles not locked with valuables left in them.

Don't leave your bikes, sports or lawn equipment out in the yard, or your garage door open, if you are not in full sight of them. These are open invitations for someone to enter quickly and take something.

Now that the warm weather is here, please remember to report suspicious activity, to the police non-emergency number **456-3400** or, if a crime is taking place, call **911**. This will help keep our neighborhood safe.

It seems that along with the warm weather graffiti appears from time to time in our neighborhood. If it does, please contact me at massnave1@att.net or **540-2107**. We will have the city promptly take care of it. 🐾

Alger Heights Neighborhood Association Dues

-by Sam Evans

Enclosed in this Spring Newsletter is our annual dues envelope for you to submit.

The dues are as follows:

Seniors - \$10.00

Family - \$20.00

Business - \$25.00

So far this year our neighborhood voluntary contribution of dues is less than they have been in the past. All of the activities that we have in the neighborhood have been free to all residents. We are very frugal with our income and do a lot of activities throughout the year. Our board is strictly volunteers and all funds go directly back into the neighborhood.

We encourage neighbor participation and community involvement through volunteering for the various activities. The dues support the newsletter printing, flyers, activities, and community events. We have been trying to have additional activities per your requests.

These are some of the current yearly events: Annual Meeting, Annual Garage Sales, Annual Trash Day and Neighborhood Clean-up, Neighborhood Parks Clean-up, National Night Out, Christmas Lighting Contest.

Your contribution would be greatly appreciated. Thank you to all of those that have given so far this year. Thank you to those that will be giving in the next couple of months. 🐾

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

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

POLICE NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER

456-3400

REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY



Alger Heights Neighborhood Association Block Connector

-by Sam Evans

We are changing the designation "Block Captain" to "Block Connector." A "connector" is a person that reaches out to his or her neighbor as an equal. AHNA wants to connect with it's neighbors in a courteous and friendly manner.

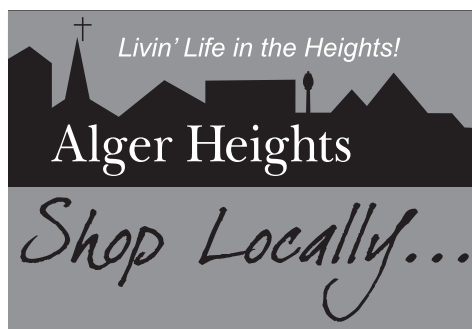
Block Connector Training and Updates Meeting:

Saturday, April 25, 9:30am – 11:30am at Seymour Church, 840 Alger SE, in Fellowship Room. Lights snacks and beverages will be provided. Please RSVP to Sam Evans by April 23 if you plan to attend - via e-mail: massnave1@att.net or by phone: **540-2107**.

The general requirements for a Block Connector are to be friendly, welcome new neighbors, and 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 your block. We will also work beside you for introductions to your neighbors.

We still need Block Connectors for the following blocks:

Alto, Walsh (Blaine-Eastern, Nelson St. (Kalamazoo to Burton), Nelson Apartments (Need 2 Block Captains), Nelson Street (homes), Merrifield (Eastern to Blaine), Merrifield (Blaine to Nelson), Merritt (Eastern to Blaine), Alger- Need 2 (Kalamazoo to Raymond), (Raymond to Eastern), Belfast – Need 2 (Alger to Nevada),(Nevada to 28th),Eastern (28th to Mulford), Edna (Eastern to Blaine), Otillia (Blaine to Nelson), Joslin – Need 2 (Eastern to Blaine), Walsh- Need 2 (Eastern to Blaine), Jennings (Kalamazoo to Oakfield). 🐾



2015 Business Directory

Alas Conexion Church

973 - 28th Street SE 214-6001
Services in English and Spanish at 1PM.

Alger Barber Shop

2422 Eastern Avenue SE 243-2697

Alger Hardware & Rental

2408 Eastern Avenue SE 243-9730
www.algerhardwareandrental.com

Alger Heights Business Association

2408 Eastern Avenue SE 243-9730

Alger Heights Neighborhood Association

PO Box 7809, Grand Rapids, MI 49507

Alger Middle School

921 Alger Street SE 819-6200

Alger Park Reformed Church

2655 Eastern Avenue SE 452-9686

Alger Pediatrics

733 Alger Street SE 243-9515
www.algerpediatrics.com

Alger Quick Stop

2355 Eastern Avenue SE 452-6589

Alger Shoe Repair & Dry Cleaning

810 Alger Street SE 241-3225
www.algershoerepair.net

Beauty House

2426 Eastern Avenue SE 245-1060

Chase Bank

2430 Eastern Avenue SE 771-7013
www.chase.com

CVS Pharmacy

727 - 28th Street SE 514-5602

Dalberg CPA

815 Alger Street SE 245-7941
www.dalbergandassociates.com

Express PC

2435 Eastern SE, Suite 103 805-9712
www.myexpresspc.com

Farmers Insurance Group

2435 Eastern Avenue SE 452-7850
www.farmersagent.com/merazo

Fifth Third Bank – Eastern Avenue Branch

2456 Eastern Avenue SE 771-5760
www.53.com

Dr. K. Frieswyk, DDS

2740 Eastern Avenue SE, Suite #2
452-0480

Grand Rapids Counseling Services

2400 Eastern Avenue SE 988-3433
www.grcounseling.com

GRPL - Seymour Square Branch

2350 Eastern Avenue SE 988-5413
www.grpl.org

G. Robert Carpenter & Judd

2445 Eastern Avenue SE 241-5800
www.grobertcarpenter.com

Great White Fish Chicken

2401 Eastern Avenue SE 475-0000

Joanne Grzeszak, D.O.

806 Alger Street SE 452-8923

Hearts In Step Christian Dance Academy

2520 Eastern Avenue SE 245-9501
www.heartsinstepdance.com

Hope Reformed Church

2010 Kalamazoo Avenue SE 241-3421
www.embracehopegr.com

ICON Coffee

2433 Eastern Avenue SE

Jack's Automotive

2349 Kalamazoo Avenue SE 245-9616

JB's Pizza Parlor

2433 Eastern Avenue SE 452-1022
www.jbspizzaparlor.com

Ken's Fruit Market, Inc.

2420 Eastern Avenue SE 245-7040
www.kensfruitmarket.com

Kingdom Life Ministries

2317 Kalamazoo Avenue SE 805-9094

Last Chance Tavern & Grill

1132 Burton Street SE 719-4270

Metro PCS

805 - 28th Street SE 541-5056

Mike Malinowski, Attorney

740 Alger Street SE 828-1073
mike@malinowskilaw.com

Dr. T Nykamp, DDS

2740 Eastern Avenue SE, #3
452-5721

Over the Top Academy of Dance

2423 Eastern Avenue SE 245-7333
danceoverthetop@gmail.com

The Old Goat Restaurant

2434 Eastern Avenue SE

The Posh Pet

2424 Eastern Avenue SE 719-4412
www.poshpetr.com

Real Food Café

2419 Eastern Avenue SE 231-4080

Ryan & Hart Party Store

2413 Eastern Avenue SE 243-5982

Seymour Christian Reformed Church

840 Alger Street SE 245-8726
www.seymourchurch.org

Sherwood Realty

2347 Eastern Avenue SE 241-0554

SVG Real Estate Firm

734 Alger Street SE 616-284-1528
www.algerheights.com

Tabernacle Community Church

2550 Eastern Avenue SE 988-9268
www.tabernaclecommunity.org

The Dog King

2404 Alger Street SE

Virtual Learning Center

2431 Eastern Avenue SE 616-710-1507

Walgreens Pharmacy

2643 Kalamazoo Avenue SE 452-4870

All phone numbers are area code 616 unless noted otherwise.

All addresses are Grand Rapids, 49507, except CVS which is Grand Rapids, 49423.

Celebrate the Heights

- by Carissa Bakker

The Alger Heights Business Association is excited to announce that Celebrate the Heights is coming back this year on Saturday, May 16. This event is an opportunity for the community and businesses of Alger Heights to showcase everything they have to offer! Celebrate the Heights will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in front of the businesses near the intersection of Alger and Eastern.

Activities during the event 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, churches, the community garden, and the Alger Heights 5K Run.

Activities for kids will include basic bike tune-ups, along with a fire truck and police car to explore and have pictures taken with.

This should be a fun opportunity for the whole family and a great way to get to know the people in this community. Come see what Alger Heights has to offer and Celebrate the Heights with us on May 16!

Rain date is Saturday, June 13.

If you're a local business owner who lives or works in the Alger Heights area and would like to participate in Celebrate the Heights, please contact Carissa at carissabakker89@gmail.com. 🌞

Church and School News

Seymour Church



Mobile Food Pantry at Seymour Church

A distribution of perishable food for those in need - Saturdays May 2, August 22, and December 12, 2015



MI Blood Drive

Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at Seymour Church. From 3 to 7 PM - appointments preferred but not necessary, call Linda at 245-1796 to schedule yours. Give the gift of life

Seymour Church, 840 Alger Street SE, Grand Rapids MI 49507
www.seymourchurch.org

Alas Conexion update

It is amazing how fast time passes by. It seems like yesterday when my family and I moved here from Arizona without knowing anybody or our way around the city. All we knew was that the neighborhood where we would start a church was called Alger Heights. So began our adventure as church planters. Can you believe it has already

been a year since we started to meet regularly at our building? Yes, April 20th marks our first anniversary as a church. We have seen many good things in our midst. Many people are getting connected with other people, with the church and with God. Furthermore, we have been able to participate in some of the events that the neighborhood has planned. More than anything, we want to be part of what is happening here in the community and in this city. Something we never imagined is how united and how well connected the neighborhood is. We are proud that our church is located in and associated with Alger Heights. It is our desire to be part of this wonderful community, and even though our services are in Spanish, and most of the people attending the church comes from outside, we are always looking for ways to connect with each other, ways we can help, and ways we can be good neighbors. It would be an honor to have more people from the community visiting our church. Once again, thank you for welcoming us, and thank you for allowing us to be part of this community.

Rodrigo Cano, Church Plant Pastor

Tabernacle Community Church

Tabitha's Closet Giveaway

The next Tabitha's Closet Clothing give-away will be held April 11th from 9am-11am. You may donate your new or gently used clothes of all sizes. Drop all donations off at Entrance C, just outside the Worship Center. Donations may be dropped off on Sundays or during the week, Monday-Thursday from 9:00am-5:00pm.

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).



Grand Rapids Public Schools invites students, parents, staff, and community members to hear more about the proposal bond and share their input at a series of community meetings. The meetings are modeled after the listening tour that Superintendent Teresa Weatherall Neal embarked on following her appointment as Superintendent. If the bond passes in May, the district plans to invest in every school in the district through technology, security, or construction.

Each meeting will take place from 6:00 – 7:30 pm. The following is the date for the school closest to Alger Heights: Gerald R. Ford Academic Center gymnasium, 851 Madison SE, Grand Rapids, MI. 49507

Alger Middle School is in need of tutors for reading and volunteers for the next school year beginning in September. You would need to pick-up and fill out a GRPS Volunteer form and submit it back to Mrs. Mays at Alger Middle School. It normally takes about 2 months for the form to get approved and returned to Alger Middle School. Once it comes back you will be contacted by Mrs. Mays to see what area you would like to help in volunteering.

*Celebrate
the Heights*

Mark your calendar...
join us

May 16, 2015

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.

**Sign up for the Alger Heights
Neighborhood Watch page:**
[http://www.facebook.com/
AlgerHeightsNeighborhood
Watch](http://www.facebook.com/AlgerHeightsNeighborhoodWatch)

FUN AT THE LIBRARY



Books in Bloom: A Spring Break Activity for Kids

Saturday - April 4 - Sunday, April 12, 2015

All GRPL locations

Families can stop by any GRPL location for a cool drop-in art activity. Budding designers will experiment with making patterns using paint bottles (fun for grown-ups too!). While you are at the library, get fun suggestions for spring-themed books to read during the week. Free and open to the public.

Pre-Reading Classes for Toddlers

Wednesday - April 1 - 10:30 am

Seymour Branch – 2350 Eastern SE

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 and have fun with related crafts and socialize during playtime. Free and open to the public.

EatPlayGrow

Thursdays - April 2, 9, 16, 23 - 10:30 am

Saturday - April 25 - 10:30 am

Saturday - May 30 - 10:30 am

Seymour Branch – 2350 Eastern SE

EatPlayGrow combines the latest science and research to teach children ages 2-5 and their parents how to make healthy nutrition and physical activity choices. Join GRPL and Cherry Health Services for interactive and engaging lessons that incorporate art-making, storytelling, music and movement activities into fun, hands-on educational lessons about the importance of making positive choices in areas that most affect health: nutrition, physical activity, and, based on emerging medical research, sleep.

One on One Computer Classes

Monday, January 6 – Thursday, May 28,

All library locations

If you need help navigating the Internet, setting up your email, or learning

computer basics, you can register for a free training session with a staff member. To register, call 988-5400.

Summer Reading Challenge

Memorial Day – Labor Day

GR Reads

June 1 – August 31, 2015

Other GRPL Events

Music for Life!

Saturday - April 18, 2015 - 11:00 am

Main Library – 111 Library St NE

Raise your voice in celebration during the week-long DisART Festival! Join music therapists Erinn Epp and Pete Muszkiewicz for an exuberant hour of music and movement.

Center for Michigan Community Conversation

Tuesday - April 21, 2015 - 7:00 pm

Main Library – 111 Library St NE

The Center for Michigan, a nonprofit and nonpartisan “think-and-do” tank will lead a 90-minute discussion on the paths from classroom to career in Michigan, specifically challenges to upward mobility. Participants will discuss challenges and opportunities for state residents in Michigan’s job market. To register, visit grpl.org/register.

Treasures of Your Library: A White Glove Event

Wednesday - April 22, 2015, 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Main Library – 111 Library St NE

The Grand Rapids Public Library Foundation is hosting a private viewing of unique items housed in the Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department of the library. The event will include the opportunity to examine items from President Gerald R. Ford, rare maps, the Peninsular Club Archives and the Robinson Photo Collections. This event will raise funds for the digitization and preservation of these collections. Tickets are \$40 and are available at grplfoundation.org.

Genealogy Lock-In

Friday - April 24, 2015 - 6:00 pm

Main Library – 111 Library St NE

Come to the Grand Rapids History and Special Collections department for a free after-hours program just for genealogists! Learn how to use the microfilm reader/scanner/printer, save images, and take advantage of free copying and printing during the event. Registration required: www.grpl.org/register or call 988-5400.

Solar Power 101

Tuesday - April 21, 2015 - 6:30 pm

Yankee Clipper Branch – 2025 Leonard NE

Thursday - April 23, 2015 - 7:00 pm

Main Library – 111 Library St NE

Join members from the Green Home Institute to learn more about solar power. This class will cover aspects of solar power that are not commonly known. Learn about the different types of solar power and the advantages and disadvantages of each, including costs. See examples of solar power being used in Michigan and have the opportunity to talk to people who are already using it. An opportunity to get your questions answered will follow the presentation.

Woulda, Coulda, Shoulda? It's Time for Will, Can, Did

Wednesday - May 13, 2015 - 6:00 pm

Main Library – 111 Library St NE

We all think about “what’s next” but often wonder where to start and how to make it real. AARP has created an innovative new program, Life Reimagined, backed by decades of research, to provide a new way of thinking about what’s next in your life. This powerful step-by-step approach helps you discover possibilities, prepare for change, and make your ideas real. Learn more at lifeimagined.org. Registration is required. To register, call 1-877-926-8300.

Ask-a-Lawyer: Social Security Disability

Wednesday, May 20, 2015, 6:00 pm

Main Library – 111 Library St NE

The Grand Rapids Public Library, in partnership with the Grand Rapids Bar Association, hosts this free series to provide information about common legal issues. At each session, expert attorneys will give a 10-minute overview of their area of law, followed by a question-and-answer period. This month’s topic: Social Security Disability.

Immigration Information

Thursday - May 21, 2015 - 7:00 pm

Main Library – 111 Library St NE

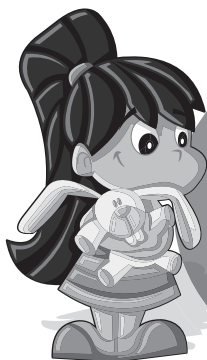
Attorneys from ImLaw and Legal Aid of West Michigan will host this free program on recent changes to immigration laws. Learn about the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents program (DAPA), the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA), and improvements to visa programs. Employment-based immigration will also be covered. A question and answer session will follow the presentation.





ALGER HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Happenings for



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 7 of the Happenings!

Toddler Tuesdays at the kroc

Tuesdays - 9 AM to Noon

This special drop-in playtime is just for parents & toddlers! Enjoy social time with other moms and dads while your little ones

splash around in our wading pool or play in the gym with foam toys, balls, scooters and other play things.

FREE for members! (family memberships only).

Non-members: One **FREE** adult per paid child admission of \$5.50 (child must be under the age of 4).

Coloring Corner...



GRAND RAPIDS Children's MUSEUM

Just Fort Fun

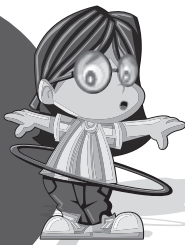
Grand Rapids Children's Museum's new exhibit! Create and build forts, tents, hideouts, and more in the GRCM's newest exhibit Just Fort Fun, opening March 4, 2014. With chairs, sofas, sheets, tables, stools, and a tower that includes a spiral slide, children of all ages, and their grown-ups, can put together imaginative structures that can become a tent out in the woods, a fort on the frontier, or a secret clubhouse. Go to www.grcm.org for more about the Children's Museum.



Kids...



**Hey Mom!
Check this
out...**



MUSEUMS FREE 4 ALL

Returns Sunday, April 26, 2015!

FREE DAY AT 4 GRAND RAPIDS'

MUSEUMS RETURNS! On Sunday, April 26, 2015 you and your family can get in free to four of Grand Rapids' greatest treasures. Spend the afternoon riding the shuttle and exploring what each museum has to offer.

Museums are open on this day from 12:00pm – 5:00pm.

Participating Museums include:

- Grand Rapids Public Museum
- Grand Rapids Art Museum
- Grand Rapids Children's Museum
- Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum

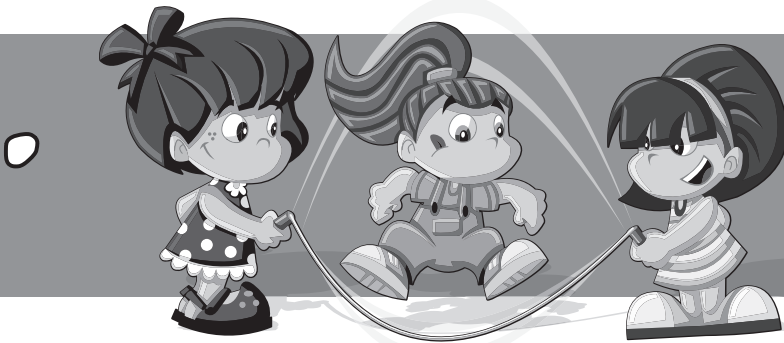
FREE SHUTTLE RIDES are available to and from all participating museums. There will be fun activities and opportunities available to win prizes at GRAM's Wege Plaza. For more information, please contact the GRAM's Guest Services at guest_services@artmuseumgr.org or 616-831-1000.



GRAND RAPIDS KIDS

OUR NEW GRAND RAPIDS AREA BASED APP IS JUST IN TIME FOR SUMMER.

See page 10 for more details.

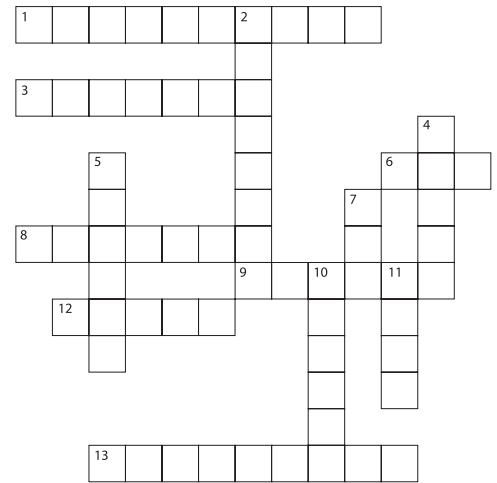


GVSU Story Time plans to be back again this summer. Free books and ice cream. Watch for more details!



"Hey Mom, let's go play at the Kroc Center."

Animals Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Big animal that has one horn
- 3 This animal has a very long neck
- 6 Man's best friend
- 8 Lives in the cold and waddles
- 9 Slow moving and has a shell
- 12 Striped animal that looks like a horse
- 13 Can swim under water and walk on land and has a big bite

Down

- 2 This animal has a long trunk
- 4 This animal likes to eat carrots and sugar cubes
- 5 This animal loves bananas
- 7 Some say this animal has nine lives
- 10 Has big ears and likes to hop
- 11 King of the jungle

Puzzle solution on page 11



KidsGames is back!

June 15-19 - 6-9pm at the KROC

Several neighborhood organizations including Seymour Church, Alger Park CRC, Tabernacle, the KROC, St. Luke AME, Alger Middle School and GPNA, are partnering to bring KidsGames back to our neighborhood this summer. Watch for more details.

KidsGames is a sports and games program for children aged 6-14 years that shares positive life values. It harnesses the power of sport to build relationship bridges and grow healthy, active children. It helps children learn important messages about life, and gives them opportunities to develop compassion and community spirit.

RJ's Kids Club



RJ's Kids Club

After-school program
for ages 6-12



RAY & JOAN
KROC
CORP. COMMUNITY CENTER
GRAND RAPIDS, MI

Fridays, 3:30-5:15 PM at the Kroc Center
October 3, 2014-May 15, 2015

RJ's Kids Club is a fun-filled and high-energy program that meets after school and helps girls and boys develop socially, mentally and spiritually. Your child will discover how they can make a difference in the world around them through fun, games and bible application.

The cost to attend RJ's Kids Club for the school year is a one-time fee of **just \$10**. For more info, please call Captain Wendy Faundez at 616.588.7200 ext. 2004.

2500 S. Division Avenue | 616.588.7200 | www.GrKrocCenter.org



The New Momma Commentary

- by Shannon Bruin

Alger Heights is full of young families and new mothers, me being one of them. I'm 2 weeks away from my due date, and when this goes to print, I'll hopefully be holding a healthy, beautiful baby. This article starts an ongoing column for us young mommas/parents to connect on the journey of parenthood, starting at the birth of baby #1.

We chose not to find out the gender of our baby, but everywhere I go people reach out, touch my basketball/watermelon of a belly and say, "It's a boy!" I'm sure you new mommas out there can relate!? "Hey... thank you man at Meijer... I'm so glad your wife survived the worst labor ever known to man...encouraging." Smile, and exit.

How many of these awkward encounters have you had? Similarly, how about the Birth Plan?! How many times have you been asked about your Birth Plan and been unable to answer? Sometimes I think I have a plan, and then I get another suggestion or read another article and have no idea if my plan will even work. As I come closer and closer to my first laboring experience, nothing is encouraging, and no amount of research really seems to bring me sanity. Quite the opposite really, I'm 2 weeks away from my due date and have no idea what to expect. I'm full of excitement and anxiety, joy and fear, and just about everything in between.

However, while I have several uncertainties, we are blessed to have supportive neighbors and family in the area to walk us through these first days, months, and years. We've also heard fabulous things about the services and support of Alger Pediatrics, located right here in our neighborhood. Alger Pediatrics has 6 pediatricians, many who have been in practice there since the 80s, and have served on various Pediatric boards in the area. They also have a parent handbook on their website for quick and easy access when needed. What a blessing to have so many quality resources available in our neighborhood! Stay tuned for more on our parenting journey and feel free to send your parenting resources to me at shannonmurphy11@gmail.com for inclusion in a future newsletter!

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Offer Includes
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Offer expires June 30, 2015

AD MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE TO RECEIVE YOUR DISCOUNT



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experience**

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plus parts (Pickup and delivery extra)

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AHNA Board of Directors: 2014 - 2015

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 2015

Carissa Bakker:
520-360-6480 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

Prentiss Naves:
666-9367 prentissnaves@yahoo.com
Term ends 2015

Artie Lindsay:
881-3849 alindsay38@gmail.com
Term ends 2015

Dave Thrasher:
243-6603 jdthrasher@aol.com
Term ends 2015

Matt Howard:
644-8193 matthew.j.howard@chase.com
Term ends 2015

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



Looks like spring is just around the corner. What better way to shake off the winter blues than to think about soaking up some Michigan sunshine this spring and summer with your neighbors in the Alger Heights Community Garden (located behind Tabernacle Community Church)! Regardless of how green your thumb is, this is a great way to spend some time outside, make new friends, and learn a little bit more about what it takes to grow your own produce.

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). 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.

Important dates to keep in mind:

Spring Cleanup: Wednesday, May 2nd
(Lunch will be provided at noon)

Planting Day: Any day after May 9th

Garden Potluck: Thursday, August 27th at 6pm

Fall Cleanup: Saturday, Oct 17th at 1pm

Garden Closed for Season: Saturday, Oct 24th

We will have official garden work times (potentially on Wednesday night and Saturday morning), when you can come work on your plot and get to mingle with your fellow gardeners at the same time.

Hope to see you at the Garden!

Alger Heights Community Garden Team 🌱

Check us out online... algerheights.org

6 Spring-Cleaning Tips to Get It Done Faster - from Readers Digest



Wash walls, cabinets, baseboards, and woodwork

The walls may not look as if they need a bath—after all, dust and soot fall to the floor, right? Most of it does, but just enough clings to vertical surfaces to warrant a seasonal or preholiday bath. Use a sponge and hand dishwashing detergent, washing the surface in sections. A sponge mop makes it easier to reach higher spots. Use two buckets: one for dishwashing detergent solution and another for wringing your sponge. Dry the walls and woodwork with a clean cloth.

Clean carpets and upholstery

Fabrics that have absorbed a winter's worth of dirt, body oil, and germs will need a deep cleaning to get them ready for another year of wear—and for that close inspection by your relaxing guests.

When you're shampooing carpets or cleaning or cleaning upholstery with a rented carpet cleaner, practice first in an

unobtrusive area to make sure you have the knack of the machine and that the treatment won't discolor fabrics or cause dyes to run. Save time by moving furniture just slightly—not out of the room or against the wall, as the old rules dictated—and place the legs of each piece back on top of small wax paper squares after shampooing. The wax paper will protect your carpet and keep the furniture legs from getting wet as the carpet dries. Open the windows to speed the drying process, which can take a day or more. If you're not the furniture-shifting and machine-renting type, make it easy on yourself. Call in a professional carpet and upholstery cleaner to do the work and take the morning off.

Finish your floors

To protect the floors in your kitchen from another year of wear and tear, wax or apply a sealer following label directions. The simplest method: Use a combination wash-and-wax floor cleaner. Don't feel guilty about saving time!

No-wax floors don't need a polishing treatment, but an occasional makeover will keep them looking fresher—and add a protective buffer that could help them last longer. Use a floor cleaner that cleans, shines, or both. It's best to follow label directions for proper use of each product. If you have wood floors, move furniture and rugs aside, then apply a wood cleaner and

either liquid or paste polish to clean and add a new wax coating.

Vacuum with intelligence

New rules will save you time, and you'll still get the corner-to-corner cleaning done: Simply move those big items a little to the left or to the right. Vacuum the area previously occupied by the furniture and then move it back into place.

Clean ceiling fixtures

Remove dust and dirt from ceiling fans and air-conditioner vents with a cloth and a vacuum with a soft nozzle attachment.

Clean your light fixtures

A few minutes with a stepladder, all-purpose cleaner, a sponge, and a polish cloth will give new light to your life. If your home has skylights or tall ceilings, consider investing in a stepladder and extended-reach dust-and-dirt-removal tools, all of which are available at your local hardware store. 🌱



Alger Heights Neighborhood Garage and Yard Sales

Friday & Saturday, May 15 & 16

The Alger Heights Neighborhood Association will be advertising the annual neighborhood garage and yard sale weekend. Lots of folks will be in our area looking for your sale. Clear out the attic, basement, closets and garage and earn some \$\$.

If you're holding a sale, you're welcome to visit Facebook/Alger Heights Neighborhood Association/Events/Alger Heights Neighborhood Garage Sale.

Leave a comment with your address and the types of items you have. We advertise the neighborhood sale on Craigslist, the Grand Rapids Press, and the AHNA Facebook page. Participants provide their own signage.

If you have gently used furniture, please consider donating to Family Promise (they will pick up). You will get a tax deductible form for your donation. This furniture will be given to homeless families that have been relocated to apartments or homes. Please contact Donna at 475-5220. 🏡

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?

The City implemented the 311 service on October 1, 2014. 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. 🏡

Worth Considering

GET THE LEAD OUT

GET THE LEAD OUT OF YOUR HOME.

If you live within the City of Grand Rapids, there is a possibility that your home could be contaminated with lead. Even if you live in a newly built house, there is still a possibility that lead hazards

can be tracked into the home on shoes or pets, or hazards can be present in or around the home due to neighbors' homes, or lead hazards at places of work, etc.

The primary source of lead poisoning is lead-based paint and residual lead dust in the home. Lead dust is a microscopic dust that you may not be able to spot. Lead poisoning in young children causes learning disabilities and brain damage.

Here are 10 tips to help keep children lead-safe.

- Get every child aged 1 year to 6 years TESTED for lead.
- WASH children's hands, toys, pacifiers and bottles OFTEN.
- Good NUTRITION: a diet with lots of

calcium and iron (green veggies, lean meat, low-fat milk and 100 percent fruit juice) and low in fat is very important.

- Clean weekly: wet mopping floors and wiping window sills and wells with soap and water helps control lead dust.
- Do not let children play in bare dirt.
- Cover bare soil with grass, woodchips or bushes.
- Make sure everyone takes off their shoes or wipes them on a mat before entering the house.
- When using tap water, let the water run for 30-60 seconds until the temperature changes. Do not make bottles or cook with hot tap water.
- When doing home repair or remodeling, remove children from home and consult lead -safe work practice materials before starting any work that involves disturbing paint. Better yet, use a professional contractor for all repairs if possible.
- Be sure that no one brings home lead from work on clothes and shoes (especially those employed in auto mechanics or construction).
- Help get the word out about lead poisoning.

For more information visit the Healthy Homes Coalition website at www.healthyhomescoalition.org or call them at 616-241-3300. 🏡



Real Estate Minute

- by Rick Savino Berkshire Hathaway Home Services

Let's hear it for spring! And warmer weather. The Real Estate market is already hot. Buyers are everywhere, and there is a shortage of homes to buy. As always, homes that are priced right are selling quickly. Did you know that according to a new survey by The Demand Institute (10,000 home owners participated), one in three U.S. households say they plan to move in the next five years?

And the most compelling reason for moving? Location! To a safer neighborhood. To be closer to work. For better schools. For a walkable neighborhood. For green

spaces. To a neighborhood with easy access to shopping, healthcare services, and restaurants and cafes.

Does all this sound familiar to you? It sounds a lot like Alger Heights! Ours is an increasingly desirable neighborhood. You can tell by how quickly homes sell in Alger Heights. Prices are increasing in our neighborhood at a faster pace than many areas. Of course, if you are considering moving, be sure to consult with a Realtor®. They can help you navigate the sale process, price your home correctly, and pave the way for a smooth, stress-free transaction. Be glad you live in a great neighborhood. Go outside. Get to know a new neighbor and spread the word about Alger Heights! 🏡

POLICE NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER

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SVG Real Estate Firm Opens New Office in Alger Heights

There's a new real estate office in your neighborhood, Alger Heights!

SVG Real Estate Firm recently set up shop at 734 Alger St SE, just west of Eastern Ave. The "spoke" office will be an extension of SVG's main "hub" office on Grand Rapids' Westside and will be staffed by real estate agent and Alger Heights Neighborhood Specialist Jamie Krier, along with administrative staff and, eventually, additional agents.

SVG's history of success working with Alger Heights buyers and sellers dates back to its beginnings as Steve Volkers Group in 2007. The opening of the new office is part of the brokerage's goal to establish a permanent presence in the Alger Heights neighborhood, and company leadership is looking forward to greater and more frequent opportunities to play a meaningful role in the residential and business community.

The company plans to host an open house for members of the community once the office is fully operational - look for details posted to the Alger Heights Facebook page and www.AlgerHeights.com soon! 🏠

ALGER HEIGHTS BARBER SHOP

2422 EASTERN AVENUE SE

Hours:

Monday - Friday: 7:30am - 5:00pm

Saturday: 7:30am - 12:00pm

Harm Faber

Bob Schaner

Appointments: Phone: 243-2697

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616-241-3225

Extreme Makeover

FLOWER PLANTER EDITION

The Alger Heights Business Association invites volunteers of all ages to help plant flowers and decorative grasses in the Alger Heights Business District.

Saturday, May 30 at 9:00 am Rain date: Saturday, June 6

- 22 volunteers are needed - 2 per planter (minimum)
- Bring your own shovels, rakes and work gloves if you have them
- Please meet at Alger Hardware (Eastern Avenue side) for instructions at 9:00

If you or your family is ready to play in the dirt, please RSVP to Jennifer Reidsma at jenn@tabernaclecommunity.org or 616-988-9268 ext 205



ATTENTION ALGER HEIGHTS

03/15

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT

RETIREMENT, COLLEGE SAVINGS OR LIFE INSURANCE ?

**FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ANY OF YOUR ALGER HEIGHTS NEIGHBORS
WHO ARE ALSO FINANCIAL ADVISORS WITH WADDELL & REED**

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Email: nbakker@wradvisors.com

Aaron DeVos, CFP®
Direct Line: 616-855-8647
Email: devos@wradvisors.com

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Direct Line: 616-855-8649
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Something New...

Happenings for Kids...

Pages 8 & 9



OPENING APRIL 15

THE DOG KING



HOT DOGS ♦ SAUSAGES
ICE CREAM ♦ SMOOTHIES

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Realtor

Caldwell Banker AJS Schmidt

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15655 Grand Point - 3 days

4341 Billmar - 1 day

448 Diamond - 12 hours

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