ALGER HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Happenings

AHNA

Spring 2018

April, May, June 2018

PO Box 7809, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49507

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 8 - 7 p.m. at Seymour Church

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

The Annual Meeting of the Alger Heights Neighborhood Association will take place Tuesday, May 8 at a new location, Seymour Church (840 Alger Street SE). The meeting will begin at 7:00 with items to be addressed including: the election of open board member positions, review of financial reports, community guest speakers, upcoming events, and volunteer opportunities for 2018.

Board member elections will be for up to a three year term position. General board responsibilities include attending monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of every month, possibly writing articles for the quarterly Happenings 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 Andy Miller at andy@reviverealty.com. Guest speakers include Captain Collard of GRPD, James Hurt from Streets & Sanitation, Chris Zull from Street Safety, and Principal Rodney Wade from Alger Middle School.

Come to our annual meeting, let your voice be heard, enjoy some refreshments, and find out what is happening in the Heights! Can't make it? Join us for our monthly board meetings held the second Tuesday of each month 7 - 8:00 p.m. at the Seymour Church - 840 Alger Street SE.

Sign up for the Alger Heights Neighborhood Watch page:

http://www.facebook.com/AlgerHeightsNeighborhood Watch

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

Livin' Life in the Heights!

Alger Heights

Shop Locally...

Highlights...

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A note from the President...

Hello neighbors! I can't believe we are approaching out annual meeting. I have had the privilege of being your neighborhood president for the past year and I am so grateful for all of those that give their time and passion to Alger Heights. You will see several references in this issue to our upcoming annual meeting. That is because it is crucial that you attend. We want to hear your input on the community and we want to meet you in person.

This year we have an unprecedented **SEVEN** board seats opening up. Now, more than ever, we need committed people who love this community to step up and consider running for the neighborhood board. With this unique opportunity of board member transition we have the chance to better represent the make up of our community. That is why I am specifically reaching out to any and all women and people of color to consider joining the team. We need your experience and perspective to help Alger Heights grow more inclusive and aware of the groups that may not have a strong voice.

Here's to a record turn out at our annual meeting,

Andy Miller
AHNA Board President

AHNA Board of Directors:

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

Andy Miller	419-8455	andy@reviverealty.com
Jon Hall	560-8556	cnw8835@yahoo.com
Ginny Hartger	245-9832	ginnyhartger@gmail.com
Tyler Bekius	502-4556	tyler.bekius@gmail.com
Sam Evans	540-2107	massnave1@att.net
Mary Mauro	262-1956	mary.mauro15@gmail.com
Amanda Moore	745-1481	amandamallorymoore@gmail.com
Rick Savino	550-1450	ricksavino@yahoo.com
Josh Schroyer	292-2801	jsschroyer@gmail.com
Dave Thrasher	243-6603	jdthrasher@aol.com
Kyle Kinnear	708-289-2421	James.Kinnear@icloud.com
Nick Butler	337-9634	nicolasbutler96@gmail.com

Community Coordinator: Jenn Reidsma

988-9268 / ext. 205 jenn@tabernaclecommunity.org

Find us on Facebook

Official AHNA page
www.facebook.com/AlgerHeightsNeighborhoodAssociation

Alger Heights discussion page
www.facebook.com/groups/AlgerHeights

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PAINTING

Rembrandt

Michael Lautenbach
Phone: 616.291.0182
mlautenbach4@comcast.net

RESIDENTIAL
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David Nellis
(616) 432-7925

- Curb Appeal
- Residential Maintenance
- Spring Clean-up
- Power Washing (Exterior, patios, decks, sidewalks, driveways)

Over 25 years experience

*Free Quotes for Alger Heights Residents

Celebrate the Heights

Celebrate the Heights is back for the 11th year on Saturday, May 19 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 may include prize drawings, coupons, giveaways, and special sales sponsored by the local businesses and neighborhood restaurants. Local home-based businesses may be showcasing their products for sale. Neighborhood community organizations will also be represented, including the local library, community center, churches, and the Alger Heights 5K Run. Children of all ages will enjoy checking out the fire and police department vehicles.
The Bike Safety Rodeo will also be back this year from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.. Brought to us by the Travelers Protective Association, the bike rodeo teaches children about bike safety. Bring your bike and helmet, and look for us in the parking area of Seymour Church just west of the building, easily accessible from Alger Street or through the parking lot behind Ken's Market.

Invite your friends and neighbors and join us on May 19 for this annual community event. The rain date for this event is Saturday, June 2. We look forward to seeing you at Celebrate the Heights. Watch the Alger Heights Facebook pages, including "Celebrate the Heights" page for more updates.

A Neighbor Story

-by Jennifer Reidsma, Community Coordinator

Frank and Donna have lived in the neighborhood for over 40 years in the 1100 block of Alger Street. Donna's Great Uncle and Aunt (Herman and Margarite Pype) built the house in 1927 during the Great Depression. Herman was a builder by trade. In the evenings after work he would work on the house. Marggie and their two daughters would take the interurban trolley to Burton and Eastern and walk across the open fields to bring Uncle Herman supper. Their daughters went to Seymour Christian School and lived in the house on Alger until they got married.

Donna's dad sold real estate. When Aunt Marggie got too old to live by herself she sold the house. Frank and Donna purchased it in April of 1974 because they were to be married in May. The house was listed for $16,000. When they went to sign the loan Aunt Marggie reduced the price to $10,000. They saved a lot money but there was a lot of updating that needed to be done. The house had not been updated in 25-30 years. The money saved went to updating the house, the especially kitchen.

Frank and Donna purchased the house because it was affordable, and they needed a place to live after they were married. Frank lived in Kalkaska and liked that they could now walk to the store and other conveniences rather than drive. They raised three kids in the house. One memory that Donna shared was when the City raked leaves into a huge pile in the cemetery and didn't come to clean them up before the weekend. The neighborhood kids took advantage of the huge pile by jumping in the leaves. One of her daughters lost a shoe in the pile.

They enjoy sitting on the porch during the nicer weather. On nice days, they see anywhere from 75-100 people walking by. They leave a pan of water out for dogs on hot days. Donna enjoys walking in the neighborhood where she feels safe. She loves the friendly neighbors that she meets along the way. Like many of their neighbors they frequent Ken's and the library.

It's neighbors like Donna and Frank who do the little things like spending time on their porch and putting out water for the dogs walking by that make this neighborhood a friendly and welcoming place to live.

EASTERN & ALGER PopUp Market

Vintage • Artisan • Made in Michigan

The days are getting longer, the temperature is beginning to warm, the trees are starting to bud and the grass is showing hints of green — all sure signs that it's finally getting to be outdoor market season in West Michigan and time for the Eastern & Alger PopUp Market to kick off another successful year.

Recently awarded Grand Rapids' Best District Promotion, the Eastern & Alger PopUp Market draws thousands of people from all over the Greater Grand Rapids area. On the 3rd Saturday of each month from June through October, the streets of Alger Heights Business District are lined with over 30 booths by local cottage business owners, artisans, and vintage dealers. Filled with all kinds of antiques, handmade home décor, artwork, furniture, boutique clothing, jewelry, edible treats, & much more.

The market was conceived by Jay and Barbara Brooks, owners of Reinspired Treasures — a home décor store in the Alger Heights Business District known for their eclectic mix of new and vintage décor, home furnishings, and unique gifts. The idea came about as a way to introduce new people to the business district while also giving something back to the Alger Heights community that has been so supportive of our local businesses. The Alger Heights Business Association was quickly on board with this new venture, and now having been honored by the city of Grand Rapids, the market has definitely been a success for our community!

Markets like the Eastern & Alger Popup Market are proven to be beneficial to the local economy, and we are definitely seeing many of the positive effects here in Alger Heights. Not only are they known for making communities come alive and feel more energetic, but they also help the area become a more desirable place to live — often contributing to increased home and real estate values. The market provides opportunity for entrepreneurs to grow their small businesses and several neighborhood artisans sell their products and services at our market. Gatherings like this promote cohesion among people of every race, political persuasion, and religion in a safe and non-threatening environment.

We're excited for this new season of the Eastern & Alger PopUp Market. Mark your calendars for the 3rd Saturday of every month, beginning in June, and come support this valuable event for our community. Invite your friends, and let's make our popup market become an even greater event for our community in 2018!

AHNA Seeks New Board Members

- by Kyle Kinnear, AHNA Board Member

The AHNA board will have openings this spring as several current board members near the end of their terms. Ideally, the board will be composed of residents who are representative of the many racial, cultural, and economic groups who call Alger Heights home. As a board member, you can help the AHNA review community issues, discuss proposed new projects, and ultimately make decisions that affect the health and vitality of this neighborhood. Board member duties typically include attending monthly board meetings and serving on various committees that works to support the neighborhood.

Interested residents who would like to learn more are encouraged to attend the April board meeting on April 10, 2018 at 7:00pm. Meetings are held at Seymour Christian Reformed Church, 840 Alger St SE. Contact AHNA board President Andy Miller (andy@reviverealty.com) for more information.

Share your vision for your neighborhood business district!

Drop in and share sessions:

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
APRIL 11	**APRIL 12**	**APRIL 13**
LINC Up	Seymour Christian Reformed Church	Eastern Avenue Christian Reformed Church
2:00 - 5:00pm	9:00 - 11:30am	8:30am - 12:00pm
6:00 - 8:00pm	12:00 - 5:00pm	***9:00am: presentation***
6:30pm: presentation	***12:30pm: presentation***	
	6:00 - 8:00pm	
	6:30pm: presentation	

For more information: grandrapidsmi.gov/southtownplan

Alger Heights Neighborhood Association Dues

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

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

Our dues are as follows:

Seniors - $10.00

Household - $20.00

Business - $25.00

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

Advertising in the AHNA newsletter

Current advertising rates:

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

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

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

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

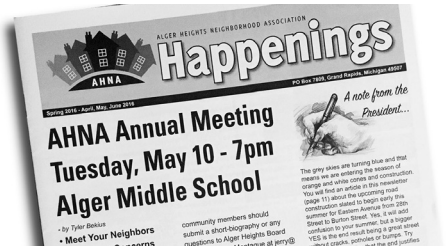
If you are interested, please call Sam Evans at 540-2107.

Handy Numbers

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

Handy Websites

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



Submission guidelines for Happenings newsletter

Alger Heights Happenings is the quarterly newsletter published by the Alger Heights Neighborhood Association. It is distributed to over 2,000 homes and businesses in Alger Heights.

Printed newsletters are delivered by block captains and board members to homes on their assigned block(s). Copies are also available at the Seymour Branch library and some businesses and churches. It is also available online at **algerheights.org**.

Newsletters are published in January, April, July, and October. Deadline for submissions is the 1st of the month before publication. You are welcome to submit information about your organization. If you have questions, you may contact the newsletter editor, Ginny Hartger, at ginnyhartger@gmail.com.

Limit articles to 300-350 words and submit it in an email or Word document. You may submit a logo or graphic to use if there is room. AHNA reserves the right to include and edit your information as space allows.

Please include the following with each of your submissions: Name of your organization, your name, phone, email and your position in the organization (for use if we need to contact you).

What do you want to tell us about? Is it a class, workshop, open house, Bible study, ministry, support group, etc.? Mention the fee, if there is one. Who is it for? If there is a specific audience, please specify (for example MOPS - mothers of preschoolers, or a cooking class for 5th and 6th graders). Where? The location of the event or organization. When? Dates and times. Deadline to sign up if there is one. How? Give good contact information for how to sign up or get additional information.

Thank you for helping us communicate with our neighbors.

Family Wok

452-8888

3338 Eastern Ave. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49508
(Between 32nd and 36th St.)

Hours:
Monday-Saturday 11-8:30pm
Sunday 12-8:30pm
Closed Tuesdays

Metro Health-University of Michigan Health

- by Frank E. Belsito

Greetings, Alger Heights neighbors! I am the chief physician executive for Metro Health-University of Michigan Health, which means I oversee the system's neighborhood outpatient centers delivering primary and specialty care.

That includes our new home in the neighborhood at 2550 Eastern Ave. SE. We know many of you are eager to learn when work will start. We haven't set a date yet, but you can be sure you'll all be invited when we break ground on this innovative facility. Before that, however, we will honor the legacy of the building there now, the former Seymour Christian School. While the school started in 1920, the current structure was built in 1942. Hundreds of neighborhood children went through that school over the years, sometimes multiple generations, and they all created memories along the way.

We are planning an event before the site is cleared, inviting people to come say goodbye to the building where they learned, played and grew. We will celebrate the history of Seymour and its legacy of learning and showcase the plans for our new facility and its future of healing.

Right now, we are still in the design phase. Plans call for a new one-story building inspired by the exterior design elements of the former school. Many thanks to the several Alger Heights community members who have helped us so far by meeting with our architects and providing input and feedback on the design. We not only want the new facility to fit into the unique Alger Heights neighborhood, we want it to be aesthetically pleasing, too. The most recent rendering is shown here; refinements and revisions will continue over the coming months.

We are planning to move the existing playground to the adjacent Tabernacle Community Church and have a 64-space parking lot accessible via Eastern Avenue only. The community garden is already on the church's property and they plan to continue it once construction is complete.

For the interior layout, we are partnering with Herman Miller, who is a leader in using meaningful data and real experiences to design an effective workplace environment. While we have several primary care offices in the area, this is our first opportunity to build a brand new facility designed specifically around the patient experience. We envision this facility as a healthcare destination for the community, an open place for residents to get care, gather for education classes and have an ongoing relationship with their healthcare provider.

With Herman Miller, we will capture the latest and best practices in healthcare design so we, in turn, can offer the latest and best practices in healthcare to our Alger Heights neighbors.

The new facility will have care teams comprised of physicians, physician assistants and medical assistants providing full-service healthcare along the continuum – from wellness checks to serious illnesses to chronic disease management.

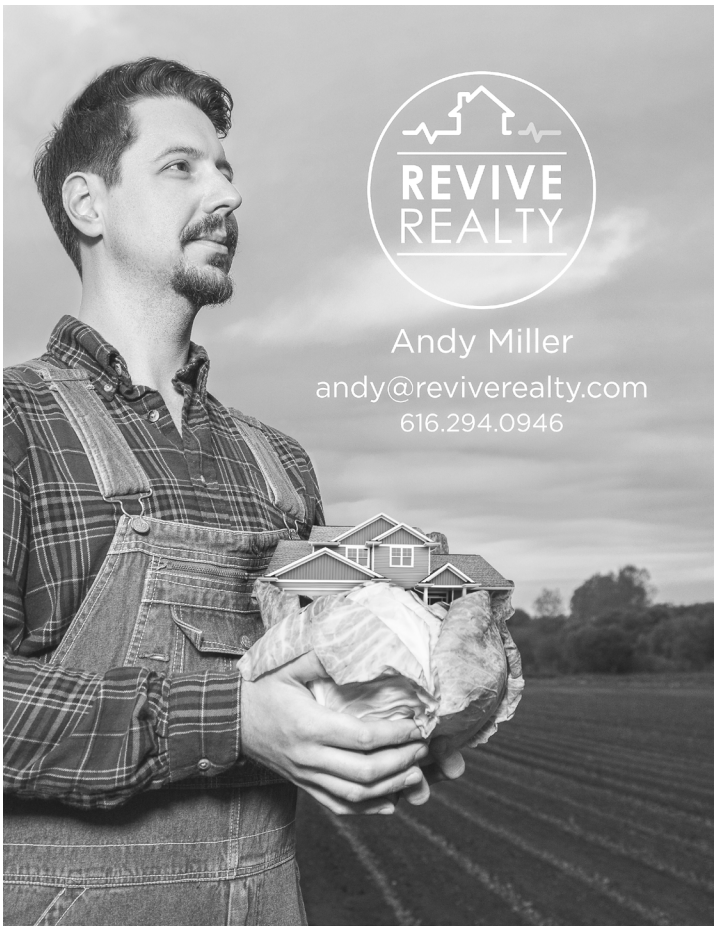
We have already started hiring new staff in preparation for the facility, including a physician assistant who will start working in our office at 806 Alger St. SE in April. All Alger Street operations will move into the Eastern Avenue facility when it opens.

Metro Health has been in the Grand Rapids area for more than 75 years. It was launched out of a home in East Grand Rapids by two doctors who wanted something more for their patients than the existing healthcare model offered. And while we've now grown to an expansive village-style campus in Wyoming, we still prioritize the multiple primary care locations where we serve our neighbors throughout the area.

Our affiliation with the University of Michigan Health System enhances that, expanding our clinical expertise and allowing us to stay true to our roots of serving patients in mind, body and spirit to the best of our ability.

We look forward to growing our relationship with the Alger Heights community as we invest in this new facility and work with and alongside existing Alger Heights businessesand service providers.

As our preparations continue over the course of the next year, you'll likely see some activity and workers on site. Please stop by and say hello—we would love to hear from you!



We make a **practice** of getting to know you.

It's easy to feel like a patient. At Metro Health – University of Michigan Health, we want you to feel like a person. Choose a Metro Health physician who will take an active role in keeping you healthy, from wellness visits to coordinating care with specialists—and everything in between.

metrohealth.net/primary-care

Metro Health Alger Heights
806 Alger Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507

616.452.8923

METRO HEALTH
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH
Primary Care

Church and School News

Alger Park Church

2655 Eastern Ave. SE
616 452-9686
Worship: Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Yoga
Join us each Monday evening from 7-8 p.m., and Saturdays at 10 a.m., for an all-levels community yoga class (beginners welcome!) at Alger Park Church. Taught by Heights Yoga Project. Suggested $5 donation.

Picnic
SAVE THE DATE for our August 12 Picnic in the Parking Lot. Let's go deeper into our relationships, have fun and enjoy good food -- All for free.

The Branch Church

We are hosting two events this Spring/Summer and would love to invite our Alger Heights Community to participate in one or both! For questions on either event, email teresa@thebranchonline.org.

Conflict as Opportunity Training Event
What if our darkest conflicts became the places where the gospel light shines most brightly? It's no secret we live in a divided world. From the Thanksgiving table to the pew, conflict seems to be everywhere. It's a reality that often leaves us feeling overwhelmed, hopeless and paralyzed. What can we do? How can we move forward in the midst of such polarization? But what if there was a way to engage conflict that led to a strengthening of relationship? What if we could learn to engage challenging issues in a way that built up the body? What if (as crazy as it sounds), conflict could become a gift? Join us on Saturday, April 28, from 12:30-4:30pm as we learn new ways to look at conflict and gain practical, tangible steps to grow in our capacity to engage others in difficult conversations. The training will be led by The Colossian Forum, a non-profit whose mission is to equip people to transform messy cultural conflicts into opportunities for spiritual growth and witness. Their vision is to see a Christian community that acts Christian, especially in the face of conflict. You can learn more about them here: www.colossianforum.org. Register here:https://www.eventbrite.com/e/conflict-as- opportunity-tickets-43710515328

CREATE Art Camp
CREATE is a week-long art camp we offer to the community every summer for kids K-8th grade. Join us June 18-22 at the Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center for a fun week of creativity. Be
sure to like and follow our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/CreateGR/) for the most recent updates, registration information, volunteer opportunities and more. You're also invited to be added to our email list, or to become one of our sponsors, by emailing us at create@thebranchonline.org.

Seymour Church

Please join us on Monday evenings at Seymour Church for **Gentle Yoga** from 6:00pm-7:00pm. Come move and breathe with us, restoring mind, body spirit and deepening your connection to God and our community. Class will be taught by experienced, registered yoga teacher, Jeff Brown, certified RYT 200, with Yoga Alliance. Jeff believes anyone can do yoga and makes class accessible to all. No superhuman abilities are required, just come as you are and please bring a mat and clothing comfortable to move in. There will be a recommended donation of $5.00 per week. Please feel to bring a friend.

Seymour MOPS (Mother Of PreSchoolers) will meet together twice a month from September through May. On the first Friday of each month they begin at Seymour Church at 9:15am for programs for both mothers and pre-school age children. On the third Thursday of each month, they meet as mothers at 7:00pm. The upcoming dates are: Friday, April 6 at 9:15am;Thursday, April 19 at 7:00pm; Friday, May 4 at 9:15am and Thursday, May 17 at 7:00pm Seymour Church is blessed to be partnering with Feeding America West Michigan to host four (4) **Mobile Food Pantry** perishable food distributions here this year. These are held in our parking lot on Saturdays. Registration starts at 12:30pm with distribution of food beginning at 1:00pm until 2:00pm or will end earlier if food is gone. Our next Mobile Food Pantry is scheduled for: May 5, 2018 Future Mobile Food Pantry Dates are: August 11, 2018 and December 8, 2018

Team SPARK: A Parkinson's Disease Support Group meets once a month at Seymour Church. Please feel free to join if you, a loved one or friend has been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. They meet at Seymour Church on the 2nd Sunday of each month (except for May it is the third Sunday) at 3:00pm. The upcoming scheduled dates are: April 8, May 20, and June 10, 2018.

Tabernacle Community Church

TCC will be hosting our 7th annual **SpringHill Day Camp**, July 2-6 (no camp on Wednesday, July 4) from 9:00am-4:00pm. Any child who has completed Kindergarten thru 5th grade by the end of the 2017/18 school year may register. Several families have gifted funds to help cover the cost so the cost per child is only $75 for the week (original cost $189). To take advantage of this great deal, you may register online at www.springhillcamps.com. You must use the code: 18TCC75.

Neighborhood Clothing Ministry is Growing!
Tabitha's Closet, a clothing ministry of Tabernacle Community Church (2530 Eastern Ave. SE, Grand Rapids), is thrilled to report a record-breaking sale in December where over 600 neighbors came to shop for clothing, shoes, kitchen items, and linens. Because Tabitha's Closet is growing this neighborhood ministry seeks to increase both donations and volunteers.

The Tabitha's Closet team of volunteers is made up of customers and neighbors. The team meets twice per month throughout most of the year on Tuesday mornings or

(more on page 11)

FUN AT THE LIBRARY

Spring Events at the Seymour Branch Library

2350 Eastern SE

Church and School News Continued

Monday evenings. For every 30 minutes worked, volunteers earn a card worth 15 free items. Those items can be purchased on the day of sorting or the card can be saved and spent at a future sale.

Sales are open to the public. Customers are encouraged to bring their own bags and use Entrance C in the back of the building. Our 2018 prices are: 20¢ per item on Friday night and 10¢ per item Saturday morning. We currently only accept cash.
Friday, May 18, 6:30-8:30pm and Saturday, May 19, 9:00-11:00am Friday, December 7, 6:30-8:30pm and Saturday, December 8, 9:00-11:00am

Donations welcome
Tabitha's Closet accepts donations throughout the year. Items must be in excellent condition and can be dropped off at entrance A off of Eastern Avenue, Monday-Thursday, 9:00am-4:00pm (please ring doorbell to be admitted). Items can also be dropped off on Sunday mornings inside entrance C or during any sorting session. Tabitha's Closet is always in need of more men's and boys' clothing.

Accepted items
Clothing, shoes, bags, purses, accessories
Kitchen items, linens (bedding and towels)
Brand new socks and underwear (all sizes)

For more information about Tabitha's Closet or to be added to the volunteer or customer email list, contact Amanda Bridle and Corinne Muilenberg at TabithasCloset@tabernaclecommunity.org.

Let's Play

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

Wednesdays, April 4, 11, 18, 25 at 10:30 am

Animal Magic

Mark Rosenthan uses his magic to introduce his amazing animal ambassadors. His unique blend of exotic animals, life sciences, and magic make this a highly entertaining show!

Wednesday, June 20, 2018, 10:30 am

Kevin Kammeraad & Friends Join Kevin Kammeraad and Friends in this interactive, all-ages program of poetry, puppetry, music and movement. Together we'll create and write, sing and dance, and be inspired to keep on creating long after the show.

Wednesday, June 27, 2018, 10:30 am

Summer Storytimes for Families

Parents and caregivers are invited to bring their children 18 months to 5 years old to this 45-minute class featuring hands-on, literacy rich activities such as stories, songs, fingerplays, and hands-on fun. Classes end with a fun and creative art activity.

Thursdays, June 7-28, 2018, 10:30 am

Gone Before Spring: A Retro Look at Alger Heights*

Local author Sheila Solomon Shotwell's new novel, Gone Before Spring, is a coming-of-age story that takes place in and around Alger Heights in 1967-68. Together with local historian Melissa Fox, the pair will uncover some of the history of the southeast neighborhood, highlighting the business district and Garfield Park, and remembering what life was like there against the backdrop of the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam war, and a rising counter culture.Joining Shotwell and Fox will be Mrs. Roshewski, the owner of the former Mitchell's Young and Heart clothing store, who will share her memories of the Alger Heights neighborhood.

Thursday, June 7, 2018, 7:00 pm
***Held at the Main Library - 111 Library St**

Crime Prevention & Safety

Now that the warm weather is here, please don't forget to report suspicious activity to the police non-emergency number 456-3400. If a crime is taking place call 911. This will help keep our neighborhood safe. It seems as though with the warm weather that graffiti may appear from time to time in our neighborhood. If it does, please call or send an e-mail to massnave1@att.net or 540-2107. We will have the city promptly take care of it.

Crime Prevention and Safety
Now that the weather is getting warmer it is the time to do some preventative crime updates for your home and car.

Car
Please make sure no valuables are left in your vehicle. and all portable cords and holders are put in the center console or your glove box (out of sight). Make sure your vehicle doors are locked at all times. Park in your garage and driveway. Don't leave any loose change in sight.

Home & Garage
Make sure that your home and garage doors and windows are locked when you're not at home. Also, when you are at home, please make sure your doors are closed if you are outside and they are not visible to you. Secure items in your garage. Don't leave bikes, tricycles, or lawnmowers out in the open when not in use.

Take pictures of your equipment for reference in case it is taken. Thieves look for easy access for grabbing and running. Keep your outside house lights on from dusk till dawn as this will help curtail thieves who don't like to be seen. Get to know your neighbors; let them know your routine and get to know theirs to help keep an eye out for suspicious activity.

Appreciation for our GRPD Officers

We would like to congratulate our very own Captain Curt VanderKooi who has been promoted to Captain of the GRPD Detective Unit for the entire city. He has served the Southeast Service area of the city since 1999. With his team of officers, he has patrolled our area to keep it safe and has become part of the Alger Heights neighborhood. He has been with the GRPD since 1980. He started out as a patrol officer, then served as a major case Detective, Sargent, Training Bureau Lieutenant, Internal Affairs Lieutenant, Support Services Division Commander (Captain) and has been our Captain of Southeast Service area since 1999. He has been very active in our neighborhood talking to neighbors and board members and helping. He has received numerous letters of recognition, commendations, commendation medal, etc. We would like to thank him for his service to our neighborhood along with the great officers that he oversaw and wish him the best.

We would also like to congratulate our two Community Officers Josh Mullan and Benjamin Hawkins on their promotions to Sergeant. We appreciate everything they have done for our neighborhood and their involvement in meeting with neighbors, and we wish them the best.

Introduction of our New Officers

We would like to introduce you to our new Captain who is replacing Captain VanderKooi. His name is Captain Geoffrey Collard and he has also been an officer since 1999. He came from Flushing, MI. to the Wyoming Police department and joined the GRPD in 2005. He was a patrol officer for two years, then went to Special Response Team (SRT), was promoted to Sergeant in 2012, then was promoted to Lieutenant in 2015, Watch Commander in 2016, then to Captain. He has been attending a lot of meetings with the various neighborhoods and we have been working together to help each other in Alger Heights.

We would also like to introduce you to our new Community Officer, Mark Morrison. He came to the GRPD from Birmingham, MI in 2015. We look forward to working with him and introducing him to the community.

Neighborhood Volunteers

We have a bank of volunteers currently helping in the neighborhood for various situations. This past winter, our 21 volunteers helped many people including their neighbors with snow blowing, shoveling sidewalks and/or driveways for 61 households (December 257 times, January 91 times, and 293 times in February). That's not counting the numerous people in the neighborhood paying it forward. If you would be interested in volunteering for our many activities such as Celebrate the Heights, Block Parties, Dumpster Day, National Night Out, or Alger Heights Halloween 5K/10K race and walk, please go to our website algerheights.org to sign-up.

Business News:
Eklectico

By now you may have noticed the work going on at the corner of Alger and Eastern! This is the future home of Eklectico, Greek Kuzhina. Eklectico means 'eclectic' in Greek and is the second project of Andreas and Nicole (Thrasher) Papangelopoulos. Their previous business was Penelope's Creperie in the Downtown Market.

Nicole was raised in Alger Heights and attended Alger Elementary School. Shortly after university she moved overseas where she met Andreas in Athens, Greece. They had a common love of travel, cultures, and food. They moved back to the States in 2012 for the birth of their first child, choosing Alger to raise their family.

Andreas attended culinary school in Athens and has worked in the food industry both in Athens and on many Greek Islands. He is passionate about his authentic recipes. Many of the dishes served at Eklectico will be familiar, but others will be new. They will represent his love of his country and its cuisine.

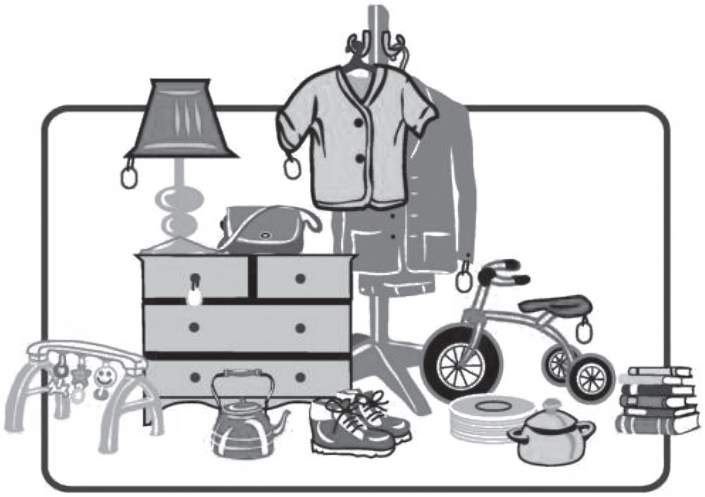
Eklectico will serve traditional Greek dishes and souvlaki on the grill. There will also be a variety of Greek sweets and an ice cream window. The menu will be available for take-out and dining in. See you early summer!

Indian Trails Golf Course

We have been talking with Indian Trails Golf Course and would like to see if there is interest from the neighborhood in planning several activities there this spring and summer? They have a deck (seats 100) or indoor (seats 40). We can play golf and have a cook-out with burgers, brats, hot dogs and side dishes. They also have a bar with beer, wine, and soda. They have been in the neighborhood since 1928. They recently remodeled the course and club house this past year. They also accept leagues.

If interested please let us know via e-mail: massnave1@att.net if you are interested, so that we can get some dates, times, etc. We will also have a neighborhood meeting to discuss if there is enough interest.

Annual Neighborhood Garage $ales



Friday, June 22 and Saturday, June 23, 2018

We've moved the annual garage sale weekend to June this year. The AHNA will advertise 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, cupboards, and garage and earn some $$. The neighborhood sale will be posted on Craigslist, GRKids.com, the Grand Rapids Press, and the AHNA Facebook page. Participants provide their own signage.

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GR Housing Rehabilitation Program

-by Jill Johnson, Resident

There is a wonderful program out there from the city of GR that I believe many Alger Heights residents would benefit. I received a flyer with my City of Grand Rapids Summer Tax Notice from The City of Grand Rapids Housing Rehabilitation Programs and I contacted them in August of last year.

The person I spoke with explained some of the program to me and sent me additional information and the forms I needed to complete. This is an Income and Occupancy restricted loan program in which payments are repaid in monthly installments and secured by a mortgage on the property (which a Home Equity loan would also require). The benefits this program offers are (for Homeowners - there is also a Landlords program):

Up to $24,000 in repairs
(get 50% in matching funds)

It can cover

- Repairs or upgrades to improve energy efficiency
- Emergency repairs, such as roof or furnace replacement
- Exterior repairs like new siding, new windows, and porch repairs or replacement
- Repairs to items that effect the homeowner's health and safety
- Repairs to make the home accessible for a handicap person
- Treatment of lead-based paint or asbestos hazards

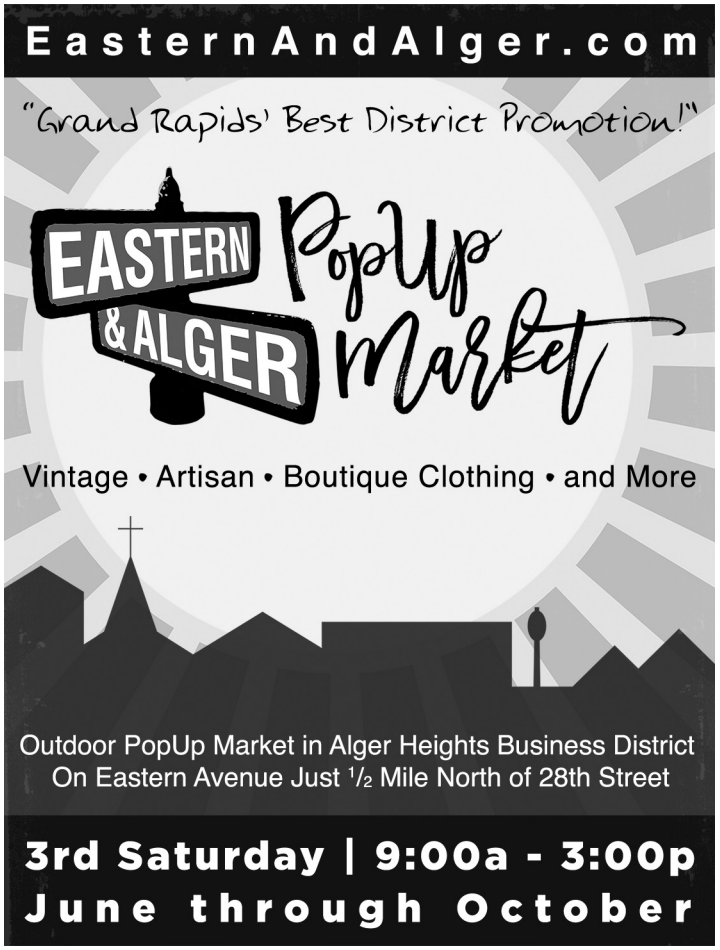
The 49507 zip code is an area with noted lead paint in residential homes, so they concentrate on removing that. In almost all cases, you must vacate your home for about 5 days, including pets. You are not allowed to return until the home has been inspected to make sure all of the lead paint has been removed.

This is not fast-moving, but once the work starts it goes pretty smoothly. The added value to my home and the confidence that my mechanical appliances are energy efficient and new is well worth the wait.

For more information contact the office of Community Development:

616-456-3030

communitydev@grcity.us



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THE SALVATION ARMY KROC CENTER For the latest news & events throughout the year, visit **GrKrocCenter.org**
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