



Summer 2017

July, August, September 2017

PO Box 7809, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49507

ALGER HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Happenings

National Night Out 2017

Tuesday, August 1, 2017 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Alger Middle School (921 Alger) East Side



National Night Out (NNO) is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

Millions of neighbors take part in National Night Out across thousands of communities from all fifty states on the first Tuesday in August. In Alger Heights, it has been our largest event of the year. We gather at Alger Middle School to meet each other, have fun, and learn about safety and crime prevention.

Your Alger Heights Neighborhood Association board members will be there to answer your questions about our neighborhood, sign up new members, help you plan a block party and more. We will have a table to hand-out crime and safety tips along with other helpful literature. Please stop by, we'd like to meet you.

The Grand Rapids Police and Grand Rapids Fire Department vehicles will be there for everyone to see and tour. The fire department will also be doing sign-ups for free smoke detectors with free installations. Several agencies (Healthy Homes, WMEAC, DTE Energy, Chase Bank, 5/3 Bank, Seymour Branch Library, City of Grand Rapids, etc.) are sharing helpful literature and free prizes. The churches of Alger Heights will be represented as well as the Alger Heights Business Association with a raffle.

Some of the details are still being finalized, but a favorite each year, Farm on the Go with their petting farm animals and free pony rides will be back. Free popcorn and lemonade will be served. The Splash Pad will be open. We hope to see you and your family and neighbors at this fun and informative event. Mark your calendar. We will share more details on the Facebook pages. **Children must be accompanied by an adult.** 🐾

ALGER HEIGHTS HALLOWEEN



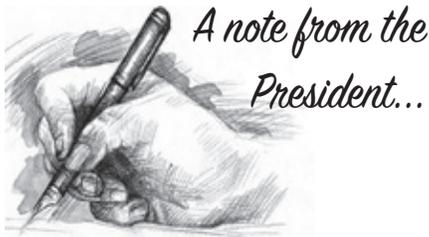
- by Josh Schroyer

Registration is now open for the Alger Heights Halloween 5K, 10K, and Kids Fun Run! This year's race takes place on Saturday, October 28 and is presented by GR Consumers Credit Union. Whether you are looking to complete your first 5K, want to get out for a fun walk with the entire family, or are trying to beat your time from last year - this is a great race for participants of all levels. The course will take you throughout our beautiful Alger Heights neighborhood and you will cross the finish at Alger Middle School where fall treats and goodies will be waiting for you!

To make this race a success we are looking for volunteers to help. We have a variety of positions available ranging from helping set up the course, passing out water to runners, and assisting at packet pickup. Please check our website for more information.

We look forward to seeing you training through the summer months and can't wait to see what creative costumes you come up with for race day!

For more information and to register visits www.alger5k.com. 🐾



Dear Neighbors,

Summer is just around the corner! What a fabulous school year we've had in the neighborhood.

We recently "Celebrated the Heights" with our local businesses and enjoyed a large turnout of folks, showing lots of new growth and creativity in the neighborhood, and held our Annual Meeting, which was also well attended. The GRPD acknowledged a significant drop in crime in Alger Heights over the last 5 years and is crediting the great work of the community in making this happen.

The AHNA Board has gained 3 new board members for the coming year. Please see their bios included.

This summer we are looking forward to gathering together through the planning of several summer picnics, markets, and activities here in Alger Heights.

Shannon Bruin
AHNA Board President 🐾

AHNA Board of Directors: 2017 - 2018

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

- Shannon Bruin** 893-8025 shannonmurphy11@gmail.com
- Tyler Bekius** 502-4556 tyler.bekius@gmail.com
- Sam Evans** 540-2107 massnave1@att.net
- Jon Hall** 560-8556 cnw8835@yahoo.com
- Ginny Hartger** 245-9832 ginnyhartger@gmail.com
- Mary Mauro** 262-1956 mary.mauro15@gmail.com
- Andy Miller** 419-8455 andy@reviverealty.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
- Natalie Thue** 238-1882 natalie@businessconnectworld.com
- Community Coordinator: Jenn Reidsma**
988-9268 / ext. 205 jenn@tabernaclecommunity.org



You have probably heard by now that Alger Heights is about the hottest real estate market in the Grand Rapids area. Homes have seen a dramatic rise in prices over the last few months. Year to date, (through June 1) 39 homes sold in Alger Heights proper (official Alger Heights is bordered by Burton and 28th Street, and Kalamazoo (including the area nestled next to the cemetery east of Kalamazoo) and Eastern Ave. The average price for these sold homes was \$132,506. Last year at this time, our average sale price was about \$121,000. I'm not a math major, but that's over a 9% increase! Lots of buyers want Alger Heights. It's because we are a well-kept, walking and family-friendly neighborhood. We love it!

Let's talk a little curb appeal. An easy way to dress up your

home's appeal is with landscaping. Most important is to choose a design that is easy to maintain. A few flowers and ornamental plants will make your home stand out.

Many plants, like basil, mint and oregano are easy to grow and enjoy. Fruits like concord grapes and strawberries and veggies like tomatoes and cucumbers will yield a tasty and bountiful garden here in West Michigan.

If you are really ambitious, bring back the pergola. An arbor, or trellis can help create an oasis in your yard. Get out there and enjoy the beautiful weather. This time of year is why we live here. How about you?

Located at 1700 Woodward Ave SE



has some spots available in their 3 and 4 year old classes for the fall

**Check out their website
eastminsterkids.org**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL

616-247-0433



More Eastern & Alger Pop-Up Markets Coming!

- by *Natalie Thue*

Our first test market last fall was a huge success and we're anticipating that the Eastern & Alger PopUp Market will become one of the premiere markets in Grand Rapids for vintage, made-in-Michigan, and artisan goods. 30+ venter booths line Eastern Avenue in the Alger Height Business District. They will be held every third Saturday of the month from June through October, from 9 am until 3 pm. The dates are June 17th, July 15th, August 19th, September 16th, and October 21st. The streets of the Alger Heights business district will be lined with booths by local artisans and vintage dealers filled with all kinds of antiques, home décor, furniture, clothing, jewelry, made-in-Michigan items & more. We are hoping to have music, food trucks and featured items from area restaurants to check out as well. For more information check out www.easternandalger.com. 🍷



Celebrate the Heights 2017 a huge success

Saturday, May 20, was a cool and breezy day with a chance for rain. That did not deter over 2,000 people from gathering to Celebrate the Heights. Our sponsors this year were Metro Health, Harvest Health Foods, ReMax realtor Sherlynn James, and the Travelers Protective Association who provided the bike safety rodeo with volunteer help from the Church of Alger Heights.

Most local businesses participated with giveaways, free samples, food specials, sales, and coupons, and much more. A DJ provided music to liven things up, the joy of the kids dancing at Over the Top was so fun to watch, and one lucky person won a complete room makeover. Ten home-based local businesses and seven non-profits also participated. We had the grand re-opening of Life Addicts, Reinspired Treasures turned 1 and Old Goat turned 2. And Harvest Health Foods celebrated their 65th Anniversary in our neighborhood.

Thank you to all the volunteers, the merchants, our police and fire personnel and everyone who came to Celebrate Alger Heights with us. See you next year! 🍷

Welcome to our new AHNA Board Members

ANDY MILLER

My name is Andy Miller. My wife, Kryss, and I have lived in Alger Heights for two years. I attend The Branch Church and have served as an elder there for the last three years. Professionally, I am a residential real estate agent with Revive Realty. I co-founded the brokerage in April of 2016. This recent professional move has helped me align my personal goals with my professional ones; namely, to help strengthen communities. I believe in our current age of instant gratification and self-made independence we have lost a crucial part of our culture. By nature, people desire to belong somewhere, to be a part of something greater than themselves. I want to help connect people and resources so we may better thrive as individuals and as a community. I will strive to increase community involvement and awareness, starting with simply being available and willing to engage whenever I can be of service. This is an amazing neighborhood to live in and I want to see Alger Heights continue to grow as a strong community and be a place people are proud to call their home.

AMANDA MOORE

My name is Amanda Moore and I am a recent resident of the Alger Heights neighborhood. My husband and I moved to Merrifield St SE in October of last year. We lived in many neighborhoods but this is our first home together and we're excited to be a part of this friendly and diverse Alger Heights neighborhood. I'm an active volunteer for community events, equity and mental health organizations, Grand Rapids Public Schools, and the Civic Theater. I'm excited to be more involved and will enjoy helping in creating opportunities for neighbors to meet and get to know each other.

GINNY HARTGER

My name is Ginny Hartger and I am a life-long resident of Alger Heights. My husband Jim is another Alger Heights native and we raised our family here. For 13 years, I worked as the administrative assistant at Seymour Church, where we worship. For many years, I have volunteered with the AHNA. Alger Heights is a friendly, safe, and compassionate community and I want to work to help it thrive and grow stronger. 🍷

Happy Anniversary to:

Alger Hardware – 10 years (it has been a Hardware store for the past 80 years with different owners)

Kens Market – 7 years

Posh Pet – 10 years

Real Food Café – 17 years

Reinspired Treasures – 1 year

The Old Goat – 2 years

Next newsletter we will post about the other great businesses we have in Alger Heights. **REMEMBER SHOP LOCAL!** 🍷



Neighborhood Crime Prevention and Safety

-by Sam Evans

The Benefits of a Neighborhood Watch Program

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

Remember to take all valuables out of your vehicles. Remove any cords or window holders when not in use.

Approximately 95% of all car larcenies are vehicles not locked with valuables in them.

IF YOUR VEHICLE WAS RUMMAGED THROUGH WITH THE DOORS UNLOCKED, PLEASE REPORT IT TO THE GRPD BY CALLING 456-3400. THIS HELPS THE POLICE GET APPROXIMATE TIMES AND PATTERNS FOR STREETS INVOLVED WHICH WILL HELP IN CATCHING THE THIEVES.

Don't leave your equipment out in the yard or garage door open if you are not in full sight. These are open invitations

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

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

for someone to enter quickly and take something. Please make sure in the evening when going in the house for the night that all doors and windows are locked.

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



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

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

FREE SERVICES:

DTE Energy

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

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

Michigan Child Protection Registry

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

Alger Heights Neighborhood Association Dues

- by Sam Evans

Remember to send in your Association dues. These dues cover the expenses for printing our quarterly newsletter and neighborhood activities (garage sales, dumpster day, National Night Out, Christmas lights contest, and flyers). If you have attended any of our activities you know that we never charge for participation.

We generally utilize our Facebook pages for day to day communication but not everyone has a Facebook account or a computer so we still print our newsletter and flyers for those who don't use Facebook. All newsletters and flyers are delivered in person either by a block captain or a board member. We continue to be an all-volunteer board, with no salaries, as we all have a passion to help make AH 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 payable to: **Alger Heights Neighborhood Association PO BOX 7809, Grand Rapids, MI 49507** or via PayPal at algerheights.org.

If you have not already sent your dues in, please consider sending them in to help us with our activities and functions and fighting crime in the neighborhood. 🏠

Handy Numbers

Emergency: 911

Police: Non-emergency - 456-3400

Silent Observer: 774-2345

Reporting City Street Lights or Stop Lights Out: 311

Handy Websites/Emails

The City of Grand Rapids - www.grcity.us

The Rapid Bus System - www.ridetherapid.org

State of Michigan - www.michigan.gov

Get the Lead Out - www.healthyhomescoalition.org

Heart of West Michigan United Way - www.211.org

or call 211 🏠

Advertising in the AHNA newsletter

Current advertising rates:

Business Card size: \$35.00

for single issue; \$120 for 4 consecutive issues

Double Business Card size:

\$55.00 for single issue; \$190 for 4 consecutive issues

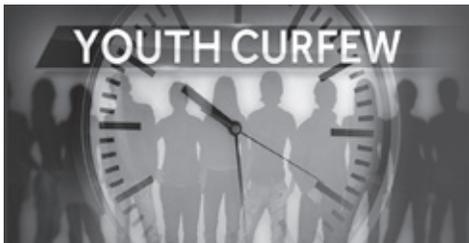
1/4 Page size: \$95.00 for single

issue; \$325.00 for 4 consecutive issues

1/2 Page size: \$165.00 for single

issue; \$560.00 for 4 consecutive issues

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



Our Children, Our Responsibility

The Grand Rapids City Curfew Law states the following:

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

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

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



New to the Neighborhood?

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

Alger Heights Neighborhood Association Block Captains - by Sam Evans

The general requirements for a Block Captain are to be friendly, welcome new neighbors, distribute newsletters and flyers 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.

We are still in need of Block Captains for the following Blocks:

Almont (Alger to Nevada), Brooklyn (2500 Block), Eastern (Mulford to 28th), Edna (Eastern to Blaine), Edna (Blaine to Nelson - need (1) additional Captain), Griswold (Blaine to Nelson) need (1) additional Captain, Hazen (Blaine to Nelson) need (2) people, Jennings (Kalamazoo to Oakfield), Joslin (Eastern to Blaine) need 2 people, Jennings (Kalamazoo to Oakfield), Merrifield (Blaine to Nelson) need 2 people, Nelson (Kalamazoo to Burton - Homes Only) need 2 people, Raymond (Nevada to Walsh), Walsh (Blaine to Eastern) need 1 additional person. Please contact Sam Evans at massnave1@att.net or 540-2107.

We also would like to have more block parties so that you can get to know your neighbors. We provide a packet with ideas for the party, games to play and will secure the city permit to close your street to have the party. If interested please contact Sam Evans or Ginny Hartger. 🏠



Submission guidelines for Happenings newsletter

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

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

Thank you for helping us communicate with our neighbors. 🏠

Church and School News

Alger Park Church

2655 Eastern SE

Sunday Services 9:30am and 5:00pm

Please join us for a community picnic, Sunday, August 13 from 4pm to 7pm.

New City Fellowship Church

700 Burton SE

Sunday Services: 10am

The Branch Church

973 28th Street SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49508

Sunday Services: 9:30am

Comunidad Cristiana

de Grand Rapids

973 28th Street SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49508

Sunday Services: 11:15am

Seymour Church

840 Alger SE

Sunday Services: 9:30am

Phone: 245-8726

Seymour Church will be hosting **Seymour Summer Picnics** every Wednesday evening in July. These picnics will begin at 6:00pm with a free hot dog cookout for our community followed by crafts, games, and different entertainment each week. July 5 will feature a Bubble Performer followed by a Patriotic Bike Parade (bring your own bike, scooter,

wagon, or stroller to decorate and ride in the parade). July 12, we will have PAWS with a Cause join us followed by a Neighborhood Pet Show (bring your pet to show off their fun and unique tricks). We will have a Hula Hooper perform on July 19 and she will also be bringing hula hoops for you to try with her. Then we will finish the month on July 26 with Will Juggler. Please come for one or all four, we look forward to seeing you!

Seymour Church also hosts a monthly Parkinson's Disease support group on the 2nd Sunday of each month from 3:00-4:30pm. Please feel free to join them at the next meeting on July 9 if you, a family member and/or friend could use this support. 🙏

Tabernacle Community Church

2550 Eastern SE

Sunday Services: 10:00am



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

Donate - Donations of clothing, shoes, accessories, kitchen items, and linens

in excellent condition are accepted year-round. Items can be dropped off at entrance A, Monday-Thursday, 9:00am-5:00pm (please ring doorbell). Items can also be dropped off on Sunday mornings inside entrance C. We are always in need of more men's and boys' clothing.

Serve - Our team of volunteers is made up of customers and neighbors as well as members from Tabernacle. We all enjoy each other's company as we work together to sort and hang donations and run the sales. Join us once a month on either Tuesday mornings or Monday evenings at Tabernacle (use entrance C). For every 30 minutes worked, you will earn a card worth 15 free items.

Mondays, 6:30-8:30pm: Aug. 14, Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Nov. 20
Tuesdays 9:00-11:00am: Aug. 1, Sept. 5, Oct. 3, Nov. 7, Nov. 28

Shop - Mark your calendars for the next sale. Sales are open to the public. All items are only 10¢ each. Customers are encouraged to bring their own bags. Friday, December 1, 7-8 pm and Saturday, December 2, 9-11am.

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

Recycling and Rewards:

- by Sam Evans

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

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

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



Official AHNA Facebook sites

The official AHNA facebook page can be found at:

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

The official AHNA facebook discussion page can be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AlgerHeights>

Sign up for the Alger Heights Neighborhood Watch page:

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

Check us out online... algerheights.org



How to Rock your Block

- by Andy Miller

Tis the season for sunglasses, grill marks, picnics, and potlucks. Where is the best party in the area? It may be in your own front yard. That's right, you too can host your very own block party this summer. With some planning and neighbor support, you can put together a fun-filled day of games, food, and getting to know your neighbors. Here are a few key things to think about as you plan your neighborhood shindig:

Picking a date: Summer can be a busy time and people are more likely to be out of town. While weekend parties tend to have higher attendance, your block may have no problem with a weekday evening. Try going door to door to get input from as many neighbors as possible. And whatever date you choose make sure you schedule a rain date. You never know what the weather will do.

Choosing a location: Sounds simple enough, a block party should be on your block. To have the best set up for mingling and socializing you should designate certain areas for food, games, activities, and sitting. That way you aren't so spread out that no one interacts. Try setting up a canopy with seats near an activity area for kids. That way parents can be nearby but still have a space to socialize.

Inviting your neighbors: Once you have an idea of what to do you need people to show up. Make a fun, eye catching invitation, and pass them out to every house on the block. Include the few houses on the corner that may not be "on your street", they are neighbors too. Ask an Alger Heights board member how to get assistance to print off invitations, and make sure not to stick them in mailboxes!



The food: There are a number of different ways food can be organized. That is best decided by your planning team and can range from you doing all the shopping and having others chip in to a straight up, no fuss potluck. Make sure whatever food you have is stored properly (keep hot things hot and cold things cold)

The games: Your activities can be any combination of, but not limited to *deep inhale* guessing booth, chalk contests, potato sack races, bike parades, face-painting, corn hole, ladder ball, treasure hunts, squirt guns, yard twister, water balloon toss, talent show, karaoke, tree planting, street clean up, story readings, eating contest, or the largest game of duck-duck-goose you can comprehend. *gasps for air* There are a lot of options, find out what your neighbors are interested in and have fun!

The neighborhood board would love to help connect you with resources to make your block party the event of the summer. Including flyer printing, micro-grants, road closing assistance, and firetruck and police cruiser visits. Start looking now for neighbors who can help plan and get your block party on the calendar. Summer won't last forever. 🌻

A Neighbor of Plaster Creek

- by Amanda Moore



As a little girl growing up in the Fulton Heights neighborhood, my best friend and I would don our bathing suits, throw towels over our shoulders, and go for a romp along Wallinwood Avenue. On into the trail stringing through the campus of Aquinas College we would go. Our bare feet would squish the mud between our toes and we would lose the afternoon to the Coldbrook Creek.

Fast forward twenty years, I'm paddling a kayak down the Grand River leading a

tour of development and natural history of the river, "to your left, is the Coldbrook Creek Drain." I remember learning about the water cycle and storm drains in school, but I never connected it to that gently winding creek of my childhood.

In early May, my husband and I took a stroll through the neighborhood and stumbled upon the small tributary that flows into Plaster Creek, the body of water that holds the runoff from all our roofs, driveways, sidewalks, and streets. Our

urban living has led to the channelization of our smaller streams and creeks but these bodies of water still flow to the Grand River and eventually to Lake Michigan.

Plaster Creek suffers from poor water quality and contamination due to sediment run off, pet waste, pesticides, and other urban contaminants. As residents of the watershed, we can be friendly neighbors to the natural creek by doing our best to reduce causes of run off pollution or treating our storm water on our properties. From small choices like picking up litter clogging a storm drain or washing your car on your lawn instead of on the driveway, to larger commitments like installing a rain barrel or building a raingarden, we can all contribute to improving the quality of our local watershed.

To learn more about ways to improve the water quality of Plaster Creek, google the Plaster Creek Stewards. They organize events, native plant sales, and have volunteer opportunities for those who want to go the extra mile. 🌻



ALGER HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Happenings for Kids..



Let's Go Swimming

- by Mary Mauro



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

Did you need to cool down from the beautiful summer sun? Grab your floaties, water rafts or other fun toys to play with in a pool. The Salvation Army is a great place to bring the family for open swim or swim lessons (it is recommended to make sure children are supervised at the pool or splash pad). Please visit their website for hours and for more information on membership. Another option to cool down is to visit the splash pad on the east side of Alger Middle School.

Swimming is a fun exercise that can be a great family fun day. Some fun ideas for games for younger children to assist in building their swimming skills are listed below.

Red light, green light!

Sit next to your child on a shallow step of the pool. If your child is a little older, he/she can hold onto the side of the pool, facing the wall. When you say green light, have him kick like crazy! A red light means stop, and yellow light means kick slowly. *Make sure to have them point their toes.

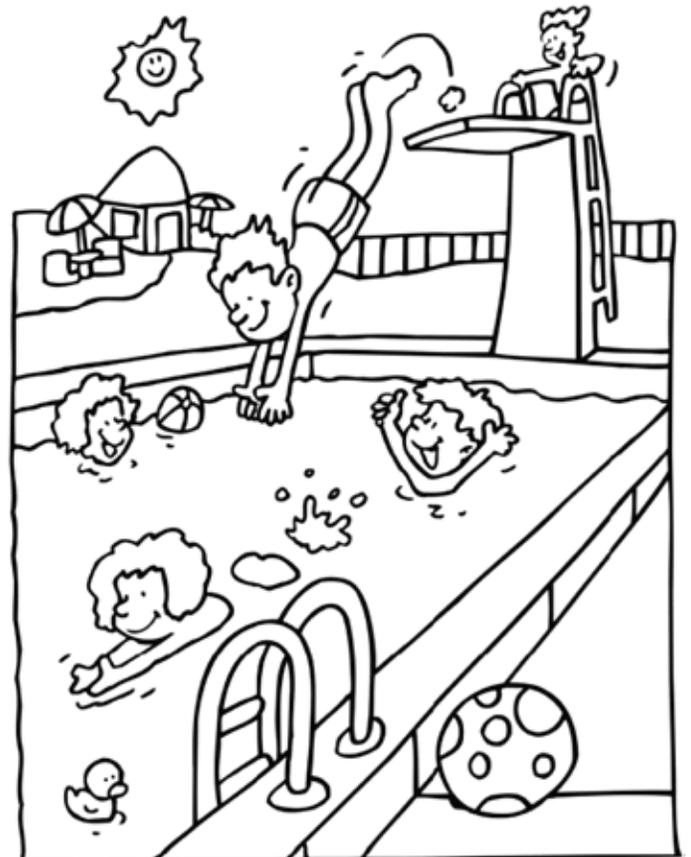
Taking the plunge!

In the shallow end, crouch two feet away from the wall, and hold your child so he/she is standing on your knees, your hands supporting his/her waist (you are both facing the wall). Ask him/her to jump off your knees and grab on to the wall. The first few times, he/she will not actually be swimming, but using the propulsion from his jump to get to the wall. This technique slowly gets your child used to swimming independently. Let him/her hang on to the wall for a moment so he/she can get used to supporting his body weight until you come over and grab him to try it again.

So, grab your towels and let's go to the pool!



Coloring Corner...



FUN AT THE LIBRARY



Seymour Branch Library Summer Events

- 2350 Eastern SE

Wildlife Safari

Wednesday, July 12 at 10:30 am

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



The Gratitude Steel Band

Wednesday, July 19 at 10:30 am

Explore the history and music of steel drums! The Gratitude Steel Band will perform a Caribbean Fun Time show. Kids will have an opportunity to play the steel drum and the show ends with limbo and conga line fun!

Madcap Puppets

Wednesday, July 26 at 10:30 am

There's no business like monkey business! Max and Vinnie are expert

zookeepers, but keeping the rascally monkeys from getting into trouble is easier said than done. When Mr. Cleaver, the zoo manager, decides to send one of the monkeys to another zoo, it's time for their great escape!

Travel with the monkeys as they explore new exhibits at the zoo--each one is a backdrop for exciting stories from around the world.

Summer Reading Programs for all ages

Summer Reading Celebration

Wednesday, August 2 at 10:30am

Join us for a summer reading celebration at your favorite location of the Grand Rapids Public Library! If you've completed the summer reading challenge, the party is a great time to collect your finisher prize and t-shirt. If you are still working on your challenge, come party with your teammates! Fun crafts and refreshments will be provided. 🍷

A Review of the AHNA 2017 Annual Meeting

- by Jon Hall

The 2017 Annual Meeting of the Alger Heights Neighborhood Association Board was held on May 9th at Alger Middle School. The Board and over 50 neighbors heard from city representatives from the Police Department, the Fire Department, and the Streets & Sanitation Department. Captain VanderKooi from the GRPD briefly addressed some of the recent reports about the department, changes happening within the department and the continuing long term downward trend of crime in the Alger Heights area.

Mr. Hurt from Streets & Sanitation gave the audience updates on road repair and paving projects along with information about the city starting a curbside compost pickup service in the future. The Fire Department gave updates on their initiatives regarding smoke detector installations in homes and their new local community involvement plans. All presenters had an open question and answer time for those in attendance.

The Neighborhood Association followed with updates from the Alger Heights Business Association regarding the planned opening of Brass Ring Brewery in the fall, the installation of new bike racks in the business district this spring and the start of monthly Artisan Markets on the 3rd Saturday of the month from June until October. Updates on the finances of the Neighborhood Association and the need for block captains were also presented along with news about other upcoming events.

To conclude the evening, voting to fill 4 seats on the board was held. One returning and three new members were elected.

The Alger Heights Neighborhood Associations looks forward to serving you for another year and invites neighborhood residents to their monthly meetings at 7 pm on the second Tuesday of the month at Seymour Christian Church. 🙏

Summer Salad Recipe

- by Tara Aday



Hopefully, many of you are already enjoying the fruits of your garden's first harvest (or produce via Ken's Fruit Market). If you are anything like me, the first hint of summer has you craving all types of fresh fruits and vegetables, including salads. If you are also like me, you hate to see any amount of fresh produce—homegrown or purchased—go to waste. This salad recipe provides the perfect opportunity to use up any extra vegetables, and the minimal prep makes it perfect for lunches or a quick dinner. The salad is super versatile and measurements never need to be exact—continue to experiment until you find the perfect combination!

For this salad, I added raw vegetables to give it an extra taste of summer and topped it off with a delicious sumac dressing to add another layer of freshness. For me, one of the things I like most about this salad is the raw corn—if using Michigan sweet corn at the peak of its harvest, there is no need to cook! As for the addition of sumac to the dressing, the spice is native to the Middle East and

has a slightly tart taste. It is a great compliment to fresh lemon juice and good-quality olive oil. If you have ever had a fattoush salad, you have probably tried this spice!

Now for the recipe:

- 1-2 heads of Romaine lettuce
- 1 cup fresh green beans (remove ends and cut beans in half)
- 1 small raw zucchini cut into ½ inch pieces
- 1 small cucumber cut into ½ inch pieces (hint: if your cucumber is really big in diameter, remove some of the seeds with a spoon to keep your salad crunchy and prevent excess water)
- 1 raw ear of corn, kernels removed
- ½ small sweet onion, sliced

Dressing:

- 3:4 lemon juice to oil ratio
- ~ 3 TBSP lemon juice
- ~1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 TBSP sumac
- Salt and pepper to taste

Combine ingredients and toss with dressing.

Looking for modifications? Tomatoes, peppers, berries, and avocado are all great additions to this salad. Also, consider adding chickpeas or nuts if you want to create a more filling dinner salad.

Tara Aday is a nonprofit professional by day, but has always enjoyed cooking and gardening. Tara has taught several vegan cooking classes throughout her Grand Rapids community. She and her partner, Patrick, moved to Alger Heights a little over a year ago, and while they are disappointed they will not be able to participate in the Alger Height Community Garden this year, they look forward to expanding their backyard garden. For more recipe ideas and inspirations, follow Tara on Instagram @taraaday! 🍷

EMERGENCY SAFETY TIPS - 10 TIPS TO BUILD AN EMERGENCY PLAN

1. If you have electrically-powered medical equipment, ask your physician, nurse, or equipment provider about an emergency plan before an outage occurs
2. Have at least a three-day supply of food, water, and medication on hand
3. Stock enough supplies for infants and pets
4. Store first aid kits in the home and in the car
5. Keep flashlights, a portable radio and plenty of fresh batteries handy
6. Make sure family members know how to get in touch with each other during an emergency
7. Store emergency contacts in your mobile phone
8. Know where your cell phone charger is
9. Hire a licensed electrician to install a transfer switch for your generators.
10. Keep cash on hand in case ATMs and credit card machines are not working



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Downed Power Line?

Call 9-1-1 and 800-477-5050

If you see a downed power line: DO NOT get close to it. Stay at least 25 feet away. DO NOT touch anything it's in contact with. Always assume it's dangerous. Assume overhead power lines are also dangerous. 🍷

AHNA Business Updates Summer 2017

BELIEVE ACHIEVE SUCCEED

SUCCESS

 VIRTUAL
LEARNING
CENTERS

The Success Virtual Learning Centers (Success VLC) is a non-traditional education program partnering with public school systems to better serve students. We focus on students who have dropped out or are at risk for not completing high school as well as home school families in need of additional curriculum and college dual enrollment. Success VLC is more than just an online/virtual school. With first class facilities that students can visit as often as needed, one-on-one teaching assistance, and their own computers and internet access, students are able to learn at their own pace, while receiving all the tools and support in a welcoming, unassuming, and inclusive learning environment.

This unique education approach is targeted at high school students that may not have found success with traditional schools. In addition to our regular curriculum, Success VLC offers internships and mentoring opportunities with local businesses, as well as field trips, clubs, and other extracurricular activities, setting Success VLC apart from other alternative education programs or virtual schools, all at no cost to the student.

Each student is given their own laptop and a mobile hotspot to do their coursework anywhere, at any time. This makes the program flexible, working around a student's busy schedule and home life. Students can learn at their own pace as they balance school with employment if necessary. Each student who attends Success VLC is held accountable for his or her educational progress, but more importantly, we ensure they have the right support system in place for their growth.

The mission of the program is to provide innovative educational opportunities that inspire hope and lifelong achievement. If you, or someone you may know, would benefit from the Success VLC program in Alger Heights, please give us a call at (616) 350-9896 or visit our website at successvlc.com. We look forward to hearing from you! 🙌

CHASE

We would like to welcome Nestin Mason as the new branch manager at Chase Bank in Alger Heights. She has a wealth of experience having been in banking for the past 6 years, most recently in Cedar Springs where she served as branch manager. She is very excited for her new placement in the neighborhood that she has been a member of the past 3 years. Nestin is looking forward to connecting with her community by providing help and lending her expertise in the areas of finance, lending, and wealth management.

Nestin Mason | Chase | Branch Manager | NMLS ID 802515
2430 Eastern Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507
nestin.d.mason@jpmorgan.com | T: 616-771-7013 🙌



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lifeaddictsstudio.com/membership



We would like to welcome a new business to the Alger Heights community that recently relocated in April. Life Addicts Studio, a boutique fitness studio is located at 2427 Eastern SE between Over the Top Academy of Dance and Virtual Learning Center School.

They are a habit building fitness studio and healthy living community that specializes in group training and is focused on helping people build healthy habits for sustainable change through discipline, accountability, and fun. Services are centered around the habits of healthy eating, healthy exercise, and healthy self-engagement.

The owners are certified fitness professionals, husband and wife Travis and Whitney Washington. Travis is a Certified Personal Trainer and Whitney is a Certified Group Exercise Instructor & Lifestyle Weight Management Specialist. They believe that everyone with the will to live healthy can attain and sustain a healthy lifestyle...with a little bit of help.

They value genuine business and community relationships and selected the space in Alger Heights as their new home in a collaborative space share with Over the Top Academy of Dance. They have outgrown 2 previous facilities in the Kentwood area where they provided their services for over 3 years. They are in the process of expanding their staff of trainers and instructors soon.

Life Addicts Studio offers a variety of boot camps, classes, coaching, meal planning and meal prep services as well as monthly social events for members. Stop by to welcome them and see what they have to offer for a healthier lifestyle. You can also get additional information at lifeaddictsstudio.com or give them a call at (616) 389-0626. 🙌

Alger Heights

COLLABORATIVE



Community Coordinator Update

- by Jenn Reidsma



Alger Heights Resident Interview

What does it look like to be intentional in building relationships with your neighbors? Dave and Trina in the 400 block of Mulford provide a great example of how being intentionally present and available to neighbors can build a better neighborhood.

Dave and Trina were married in 2005 after meeting at Grand Valley. They lived in Oregon for four years before moving back to Michigan. They were renting in Wyoming while looking in Grand Rapids for a walkable community like they had experienced in Oregon. On a whim Trina purchased a Groupon for Sweet Melissa's (a former AH business) and they fell in love with the business district and the walkability of the neighborhood. They loved that there was a library, school, parks, and a grocery store so close by. They have lived in the neighborhood now for four years. They closed on the house the day that Trina went into labor with their second son, Max. They

now have 3 boys. They spend a lot of time outside and are active members of the Kroc Center.

Community is very important to them and many of the choices that they make daily are centered around that. They don't spend much time in their backyard. Dave and Trina have garden boxes in the front yard for their boys to play in, as well as a table and chairs which provide ample opportunity for conversations with neighbors walking by. While they were in Oregon they were part of a church that had Missional Communities (A Missional Community is a group of people, about the size of an extended family, who are united through relationship through shared experiences). They attend the Branch Church on 28th Street near Eastern Avenue and have started their own Missional Community (MC) on their street. They formed a friendship with their neighbors, Amanda and Andrew, and started to share weekly meals together. As their relationship continued to grow they invited other neighbors to join them each week. For the last 18 months, six families (over 25 people) regularly attend weekly meals at Trina and Dave's house. They keep it simple by having every family bring their own meal and share it. They support each other and share life together. When Dave and Trina decided to send their oldest son to Brookside school in the fall of 2017, many neighbors also checked out the school. There are now five families within 2 blocks that will be sending their children to Brookside this fall. 🙌

Alger Heights Business District Planter Sponsorship Update

For the second year in a row the Alger Heights Business Association has offered the opportunity to sponsor the planters along Eastern to area residents and businesses. We have several sponsors who are returning for the second year and we are excited to welcome three new sponsors this year. A big **THANK YOU** to our sponsors who help make our business district beautiful. Please be sure to express your thanks when you utilize or visit their business.

Friend Level

- The Diephouse Family (2nd Year)
- The Baar Family (2nd Year)
- Alger Hardware (2nd Year)

Business Level

- Jacobsen Remodeling Inc. (1st Year)
www.jacobsenremodeling.com
616.243.7261
- Brass Ring Brewing (1st Year)
www.brassringbrewing.com
616.460.1587
- Hulst Jepsen Physical Therapy (1st Year)
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www.hjphysicaltherapy.com
616.608.8485
- Tabernacle Community Church (2nd Year)
www.tabernaclecommunity.org
616.988.9268
- Linda Sheiko - RE/MAX Sunquest Realty (2nd Year)
lsheiko@grar.com
616.581.2229
- Andy Miller - Revive Realty (2nd Year)
andy@reviverealty.com
616.419.8455 🙌

Summer Power Outage:

- Call 800-477-5050 to alert us to any life support equipment in the home.
- Keep refrigerators and freezers closed to keep food fresh (food is still safe to consume when the power is out less than 4 hours).
- Turn off your air conditioner.
- Open windows for natural ventilation.
- Drink bottled water to stay cool and hydrated.

Consumers Energy

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Emergency Numbers:

Suspicious Activity - 456-3400

Crime in Progress - 911

HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL

- by Sam Evans



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

Summer Hours (April-October)

Grand Rapids:

Wednesdays: 7:30am to 11:30am

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

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

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

Accepted Materials

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Not Accepted Materials:

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

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

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

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

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

Propane, helium & other tanks (refillable).



Worth Considering

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

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

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

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

FIRE SAFETY IS IN YOUR HANDS



Alger Heights NEEDS YOU!

The success of the Alger Heights community is dictated by the level of engagement of Alger Heights residents. We have many committees and events where residents input and involvement are critical. If you would like to share your vision and talents, and help shape the future of Alger Heights as a vibrant, diverse, and inclusive community, please contact us! Call 616-540-2107 or email: massnave1@att.net

AHNA Volunteer Opportunities 2017

Newsletter Distribution

Helping Neighbors with small tasks

Helping with Neighborhood Activities:

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

Helping Business District:

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

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

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Porch Light Initiative

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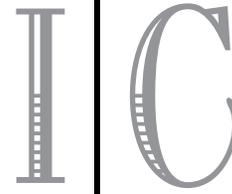
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Stop by the Kroc Center to pick up our Summer Camp Guide, available at the welcome desk and online at GrKrocCenter.org.

FAMILY FUN & FITNESS NIGHTS

Make the Kroc your summer hangout every Wednesday in July from 5:45 - 8:30 PM! Work up a sweat in a FREE family fitness class beginning at 5:45 PM, then cool off on the giant slip & slide from 6:30-8:30 PM. Concessions and other activities will also be available on our outdoor campus. Sponsored by:



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Tuesday, August 1 starting at 5:30 PM, join local police, fire, and other neighborhood partners as we celebrate community safety and togetherness.



For the latest news & events throughout the year, visit GrKrocCenter.org
2500 S. Division Avenue, Grand Rapids, MI 49507 | Phone: 616.588.7200

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