ALGER HEIGHTS NEWSLETTER

Summer Recap

Co-hosted a community forum event on street safety with the Garfield Park Neighborhood Association.	**Held a neighborhood open house on June 23 on the Seymour Branch Library lawn.**	**Helped organize the neighborhood garage sales on June 26 and 27.**
Became a verified 501(c)(3) nonprofit. The application was filed by July and the status was confirmed in August.	**Got the block liaison (block captain) program running.**	**Took a seat at the City's Neighborhood Association Collaborative, the monthly meeting of neighborhood associations.**
Filled the board and published board member bios.	**Joined the Safe and Vital Streets effort with Garfield Park.**	**Created and launched a digital newsletter.**





What a summer it has been for Alger Heights! We've had a busy few months getting the neighborhood association up and running and, most importantly, getting more neighbors connected. In June, we co-hosted a Street Safety Community Forum with the Garfield Park Neighborhoods Association at JB's Pizza, hosted a neighborhood open house at the Seymour Branch Library, and helped organize the neighborhood garage sales. We also officially became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, which opens up some exciting opportunities for grants, donations, and partnerships in the future. Our board positions are filled, and we've launched our block liaison program to help neighbors stay connected and make sure everyone gets a copy of the newsletter. We've also seen our email newsletter grow from just 24 neighbors in May to more than 120 by the end of August! We've continued working with Garfield Park on Safe and Vital Streets, joined the City's Neighborhood Association Collaborative, and started getting more involved in conversations about improvements throughout the neighborhood. It was a great summer, and we're excited about what's ahead for Alger Heights!

Stay informed:

Contact us: info@algerheights.org

Join our monthly meeting!

We meet at 6:30pm at the Seymour Church (840 Alger St SE)

Next meeting dates: Nov 10, Dec 1, + Jan 5

Up to date information: www.algerheights.org (sign up for our digital newsletter)

2027 Roadmapping Survey

Help us shape 2027! As we look ahead to next year, we're starting to build our roadmap for what the Alger Heights Neighborhood Association should focus on in 2027. Your feedback will help us understand what matters most to neighbors and, along with the grants and funding opportunities available to us, will help guide the projects and priorities we take on. Whether it's street safety, community events, neighborhood improvements, or something we haven't thought of yet, we want to hear from you! Take a few minutes to fill out our 2027 Neighborhood Survey and help us decide what's next for Alger Heights.

survey.algerheights.org

Upcoming Event

Holiday in the Heights

December 5 || Business District

Kick-off the holiday season with your neighbors. Check our website for more details as the date gets closer.

Help for Households

- **Baby on the way?** Check out Rx Kids. Families in the 49507 zipcode can receive $1,500 during pregnancy and $500/month for the baby's first six months, with no income requirement. Enrollment is open from week 16 of pregnancy through 6 months after birth. {rxkids.org}
- **Need help with lead hazards?** The City's Lead Hazard Control Program can provide up to $20,000 for lead-related home repairs. Income and household eligibility requirements apply. Call 616-456-3030 to learn more.
- **Turn food scraps into compost.** Renew Grand Rapids offers a food-scrap drop-off at MacKay-Jaycees Park near the tennis courts. Registration is required, and space is limited to 500 participants.
- **Free yard waste drop-off.** Grand Rapids residents can drop off yard waste for free at 2001 Butterworth St. SW, Monday–Saturday, 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., through the second Saturday in December. Bring proof of residency.
- **Not sure where to take hazardous waste or electronics?** Kent County's SafeChem site at 1045 Wealthy St. SW accepts household hazardous waste, while Comprenew accepts electronics. Find disposal information at reimaginetrash.org.

Streets, Sidewalks & Scooters

- Enhanced pedestrian crossing coming to Alger & Blaine. Alger and Blaine is one of 13 locations receiving an enhanced pedestrian crossing with warning lights. As of September 15, the lights were installed and is officially operating.
- If your parkway is still torn up or unfinished from sidewalk construction, contact the City's Engineering Department at sidewalk@grand-rapids.mi.us or 616-456-4311 to report it.
- Veo replaces Lime. As of September 1, Veo is Grand Rapids' only shared e-bike and scooter provider, offering e-bikes, standing scooters, and seated scooters. Veo Access offers qualifying residents rides for $5/month, including 30 free minutes each day. Eligibility includes SNAP/Medicaid participants, students receiving financial aid, veterans, and AARP members.

Resources:

Need assistance?

- Food insecurity: reach out to SECOM - www.secomministries.org
- For food or emergency assistance, call 2-1-1 or visit MI211.org
- Know of a neighbor in need? Contact the Neighborhood Association!
- Take Two Hygiene Pantry runs the 2nd Tuesday of every month out of Seymour Church from 4-6pm

Community Police Officer:

- Officer Austin Highlen
- Phone Number: 616-280-1015
- Email: ahighlen@grand-rapids.mi.us

3rd Ward Commissioners:

- Marshall Kilgore: mkilgore@grcity.us
- Kelsey Perdue: kperdue@grcity.us

Library:

There's a lot going on at the Seymour branch of the Grand Rapids Public Library. Scan this code to discover the programs happening right in our neighborhood!

Community Spotlight

Micro Grant Fund

We're launching a mini grant fund to support neighborhood projects and ideas! Have an idea that could bring neighbors together, improve a shared space, or make Alger Heights even better? We want to hear it! Ideas big or small are welcome. Submit your idea through the mini grant form on our website, and let's see what we can make happen together!

Want to get involved?

- **Volunteer.** The association is all volunteers and nobody is paid. It needs committee chairs, block captains, and help with events, communications, beautification, and advocacy. Email info@algerheights.org.
- **Become a block captain.** If a newsletter was not hand-delivered to a street in the spring, that street has no block captain yet. Not sure if your street is covered yet? Email us!
- **Come to a meeting**. First Tuesday of every month, 6:30 PM, Seymour Church, 840 Alger St SE. Open to everyone in Alger Heights.
- **Get the email newsletter.** Sign up at algerheights.org.
- **Send in news.** Neighbors, businesses, and groups can submit items at algerheights.org/newsletter.
- **Donate.** Printing, newsletters, and outreach run on donations. Venmo @AlgerHeightsNeighborhood. The association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, EIN 39-2510724.
- **Contact us.** General questions and volunteering: info@algerheights.org. News, events, or announcements for the newsletter: newsletter@algerheights.org.