

WE ARE GR

Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation Activities - Section A
 • Adult Fitness, Youth Sports, and more!

City of Grand Rapids and Public Library News - Section A

Grand Rapids Public Schools News - Section B

Summer Fun



Pools & splash pads
open June 8



Golf at Indian Trails



Free outdoor fitness



Youth sports & activities

April 2018 | Vol. 17 | Issue 4 | Section A

Thanks to the generosity of our advertisers, this newsletter was funded using minimal taxpayer dollars.

Youth Interaction Policy Born From Initiatives Forged by a Strengthened Partnership Between Community and Police



The City of Grand Rapids continues to form partnerships with the community to strengthen relationships and build trust in its police department.

Since January 2015, the City has collaborated with organizations and individuals to implement most aspects of the 12-Point Plan to Strengthen Community and Police Relations.

The 12 recommendations – listed in the Report Card on A2 – have resulted in internal and external changes in the way the Grand Rapids Police Department

(GRPD) operates and trains officers. The 12-Point Plan also has generated such outcomes as:

- Meaningful opportunities for residents in all three wards to provide input on community and police relations during a citywide listening session tour. Questions and answers from those sessions are available at <https://www.grandrapidsmi.gov/Directory/Programs-and-Initiatives/Police-Policy-and-Procedure-Review-Task-Force>.
- Implementation of additional Safe Alliances for Everyone (SAFE) recommendations
- Hiring of 21st Century Policing to lead a yearlong review of the police department's policies and procedures to identify and eliminate racial disparities
- Creation of a Police Policy and Procedure Review Task Force comprised of community leaders and GRPD representatives from every rank, including

Police Chief David Rahinsky

- Addition of six citizens to serve on the City's Public Safety Committee
- Regular meetings between the police department and Grand Rapids Association of Pastors
- Chief Rahinsky is co-chair of the West Michigan Chapter of the Advocates And Leaders For Police And Community Trust
- Formation of the IMPACT youth advisory council – comprised of high school students who meet monthly with Chief Rahinsky and review and discuss GRPD policies

In March, the police department implemented its new Youth Interaction Policy – developed by the Police Policy and Procedure Review Task Force in

■ SEE YOUTH INTERACTION POLICY/A2

City Plans \$11 Million in Road Construction Projects

As the City enters its fifth season of ramped-up road construction, those traveling through Grand Rapids this summer can expect to see the dramatic impact of the voter-approved Vital Streets measure. By the end of June, the City will have completed preventative maintenance and reconstruction on 283 miles of streets since 2014. The City has moved from 37 percent of streets in good or fair condition to 58 percent through the Vital Streets program.

The City Commission is reviewing the road construction plan for July through June 2019. If the plan is adopted and carried out, it brings the total miles of streets improved over the past six years to 310.

“Nearly every corner of Grand Rapids will see some sort of road construction this summer,” Interim City Manager Eric DeLong said. “We have been busy making a \$13.3 million investment at 237 locations over the past year. We are planning improvements on an additional 27 miles of streets this coming fiscal year with an investment of \$11.8 million at 64 locations.”

Vital Streets projects are backed by a voter-approved plan in 2014 that extended a local income tax levy for 15 years. Vital Street investment, along with a road funding commitment by the State of Michigan, ensures

that 70 percent of Grand Rapids city streets reach fair to good condition within 15 years.

The City will continue to share information about road construction projects online at grandrapidsmi.gov/roadconstruction. Project specifics will determine the scope of community engagement. Notification can range from sending written notice to neighbors to organizing street design meetings.

SCHEDULED Vital Street Construction Projects

Note: This is a partial list of 2018 street construction projects, with no start date set for these projects at time of publication. Street projects, listed in alphabetical order, may be carried over to the next construction season. Additional street paving projects, conducted by the City's Public Services Department, are still being identified and prioritized and are not included in the following list:

Rotomill/Resurfacing

- Alexander Street SE – Eastern Avenue to Gibson Place
- Alger Street SE – Kalamazoo Avenue to Plymouth Avenue

■ SEE VITAL STREETS/A3

NON-PROFIT ORG
 ECRWSS
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 GRAND RAPIDS, MI
 PERMIT #319

ECRWSS
 Postal Customer

GRPS my choice
 Grand Rapids Public Schools
 1331 Franklin S.E., PO Box 117
 Grand Rapids, MI 49501-0117

Youth Interaction Policy

Continued from A1

consultation with 21st Century Policing and several community partners. The policy codifies the police department's expectation that officers use good judgement and act in the best interest of youth.

The policy requires officers to inform a parent or guardian in the case of a youth being patted down, searched or handcuffed. The interaction also must be documented in the incident report.

To read the policy in its entirety, visit <https://www.grandrapidsmi.gov/files/assets/public/initiatives/police-policy-and-procedure-task-force/files/youth-interactions-policy.pdf>.

Chief Rahinsky said the policy, coupled with new scenario-based training, "is intended to ensure equitable outcomes for all those we serve."

"Activation of the Youth Policy and implementation of the 12-Point Plan are important next steps for our department and our community," Chief Rahinsky said. "We are committed to continuing to strengthen relationships with our community and provide professional, progressive and responsive law enforcement services."

12-Point Plan to Strengthen Community and Police Relations

	Recommendations	Status	Outcomes
1	Review all Police and Fire hiring practices to ensure diverse workforce	COMPLETE	Most diverse class of police and fire recruits hired in March 2017
2	Create additional opportunities for Police Chief and service area Captains to regularly engage with community	COMPLETE & ONGOING	Regular Coffee with a Cop, office hours with Chief and community listening sessions
3	Mandatory cultural competence and implicit bias training for all police officers	COMPLETE & ONGOING	All sworn officers received training in spring 2016 and are undergoing it on continual basis
4	Develop Police Department Strategic Plan that provides framework for strengthening community and police relations	COMPLETE	Police Department completed an organizational review and released it in March 2015
5	Phased implementation of body cameras for police officers	COMPLETE	All sworn officers outfitted with body worn cameras by April 2016
6	Develop protocols for body cameras	COMPLETE	Protocols for use of body cameras implemented in December 2015
7	Hire consultant to review disparities in arrests	IN PROGRESS	Awaiting work of Police Policy and Procedure Review Task Force to be completed
8	Hire consultant to conduct race-based review of traffic stops	COMPLETE	Lamberth study showing disparate outcomes released in April 2017. Response was creation of Police Policy and Procedure Review Task Force one month later.
9	Work with Community Relations Commission to review City's diversity and inclusion policies and practices	COMPLETE	City Commission completed approvals of revisions to several ordinances and policies in October 2015
10	Develop Acquisition and Use of Surveillance Equipment policy to protect citizens' privacy amid increased use of new surveillance technology	COMPLETE	Policy signed by City Manager in March 2015
11	Develop protocols for outside agency to investigate any police officer-involved shooting	COMPLETE	Policy requiring all police officer-involved shootings be referred to Michigan State Police implemented in 2016
12	Launch public education campaign about citizens' right to use internal investigative process and Civilian Appeals Board	COMPLETE & ONGOING	Regularly provide information to community and report outcomes of all appeals

New Website Serves as Digital City Hall for Residents, Businesses & Community

The City's new website – grandrapidsmi.gov – serves as a digital City Hall for residents, businesses and other community members. The website, which replaces grcity.us, provides information in both English and Spanish and offers online payment for 54 City services and 24 business licenses, among other features.

"Our new site provides a digital City Hall that is open for business 24/7/365," Interim City Manager Eric DeLong said. "That means our community can access City services and information on any device, on any browser, at any time, from any place."

The new website was developed based on the community's feedback on how it wanted to conduct online transactions and receive information through services, said Becky Jo Glover, the City's 311 Customer Service Director.

The website features GRPayIt – <https://www.grandrapidsmi.gov/Payments> – which allows citizens to pay bills, including water, trash, property tax and

parking tickets with a single sign-on. The system notifies customers when due dates are nearing for bills, which is decreasing the number of delinquent payments and late fees passed on to customers, Glover said.

Here is an overview of the website:

- **Using this Site** guidance and instructions are available at <https://www.grandrapidsmi.gov/instructions>
- **Spanish translation** – English content may be switched to Spanish by changing the drop-down above the search bar located at <https://www.grandrapidsmi.gov/Home>. More language choices will be added based on community feedback.
- **Department pages** – Information on City departments is available at <https://www.grandrapidsmi.gov/Government/Departments>
- **City Commission meeting** information is available at <https://www.grandrapidsmi.gov/>

Government/City-Commission-Meetings. The City streams City Commission meetings on Facebook Live – <https://www.facebook.com/CityofGrandRapids/> – and broadcasts them on the Grand Rapids Information Network (Comcast Channel 26). Planning Commission meetings are streamed live at <https://www.facebook.com/CityofGrandRapids/>.

- **My Neighborhood** – An address-specific locator to find the nearest park, schools, libraries, events, refuse and recycling pickup days, City Commissioners in the ward, information on road construction and projects and to access the mobile app to report issues are available at <https://www.grandrapidsmi.gov/Residents/My-Neighborhood>
- **Community feedback** – Tell the City what is working on the website and what is not at <https://www.grandrapidsmi.gov/feedback>.

Vital Streets

Continued from A1

- Alpine Avenue NW – Stocking Avenue to Leonard Street
- Alto Avenue SE – Alexander Street to Watkins Street
- Ardmore Street SE – Madison Avenue to Union Avenue
- Baldwin Street SE – Diamond Avenue to Fuller Avenue
- Baldwin Street SE – Packard Avenue to Eastern Avenue
- Bates Street SE – Dolbee Avenue to Fuller Avenue
- Baxter Street SE – Eastern Avenue to Dolbee Avenue
- Beacon Street SW – Grandville Avenue to Sheridan Avenue
- Bemis Street SE – Eastern Avenue to Diamond Avenue
- Blaine Avenue SE – Reynard Street to Nevada Street
- Boston Street SE – Blaine Avenue to Kalamazoo Avenue
- Brown Street SE – Jefferson Avenue to Madison Avenue
- Cadillac Drive SE – Hall Street to Alexander Street and Pontiac Road to Franklin Street
- Capen Street NE – Houseman Avenue to Diamond Avenue
- Cass Avenue – Garden Street to 400 feet south of Hall Street
- Coit Avenue NE – Northpark Street to Four Mile Road
- College Avenue SE – Woodlawn Street to Howard Street
- Crosby Street NW – West end to Turner Avenue
- Dallas Avenue SE – Alexander Street to Franklin Street
- Dallas Avenue SE – Hall Street to Watkins Street
- Delaware Street SE – Lafayette Avenue to Madison Avenue
- Diamond Avenue SE – Logan Street to Wealthy Street
- Dunham Street SE – Giddings Avenue to Ethel Avenue
- Eastern Avenue SE – Hall Street to Franklin Street
- Eureka Avenue SE – Logan Street to Wealthy Street
- Eureka Avenue SE – Wealthy Street to Fairmount Street
- Evergreen Street SE – Eastern Avenue to Kalamazoo Avenue
- Fairmount Street SE – Eastern Avenue to Diamond Avenue
- Fitzhugh Avenue SE – Lake Drive to Fulton Street
- Giddings Avenue SE – Shangrai La Drive to dead end
- Howard Street SE – Madison Avenue to College Avenue
- Kalamazoo Avenue SE – 28th Street to Alger Street
- Kellogg Street SE – Packard Avenue to Eastern Avenue
- Langley Street SE – Kimball Street to Stuart Street
- Linden Avenue SE – Burton Street to Elliott Street

- Lowell Avenue NE – Fulton Street to Lyon Street
- Lyon Street NE – Diamond Avenue to Mack Avenue
- Madison Avenue SE – Burton Street to Cottage Grove Street
- Marshall Avenue SE – Cottage Grove Street to Evergreen Street
- Marshall Avenue SE – Hazen Street to Burton Street
- Milton Street SE – Benjamin Avenue to Carlton Avenue
- Myrtle Street NW – West end to Turner Avenue
- North Ottillia Street SE – Ottillia Street to Blaine Avenue
- Northpark Street NE – Monroe Avenue to Coit Avenue
- Nelson Avenue SE – South end to Orville Street
- Neland Avenue SE – Dunham Street to Sherman Street
- Orville Street SE – Silver Avenue to Kalamazoo Avenue
- Silver Avenue SE – Wealthy Street to Cherry Street
- Prospect Avenue NE – Fulton Street to Fountain



- Street
- Saginaw Road SE – Sylvan Avenue to Rosewood Avenue
- Spencer Street NE – West of Benjamin Avenue to Ball Avenue
- Three Mile Road NE – Plainfield Avenue to Winston Way
- Thomas Street SE – Madison Avenue to Eastern Avenue
- Union Avenue SE – Evergreen Street to Oakdale Street
- Worcester Drive NE – Kent Boulevard to Lonsdale Drive

OTHER ROAD PROJECTS

- Atlas Avenue SE – Wealthy Street to Lake Drive and Lake Drive – Richard Terrace to Atlas Avenue (reconstruction)
- Breton Avenue SE – 44th Street to Breton Industrial Park Drive (with City of Kentwood)
- College Avenue SE – Dickinson Street to Crofton Street and Dickinson Street - College Avenue to Eastern Avenue (water main, reconstruction)
- Wealthy Street SE, Michigan Street and Breton

- Avenue SE (concrete repairs)
- Covell Avenue NW – O'Brien Road to Lake Michigan Drive (bike lanes)
- Randolph Avenue SW – Stevens Street to Hall Street (reconstruction)
- Ionia Avenue SW – Stevens Street to Hall Street (reconstruction)
- Stevens Street SW – Buchanan Avenue to Division Avenue (reconstruction)
- La Belle Street SW – Ionia Avenue to Division Avenue (reconstruction)
- Home Street SW – Ionia Avenue to Division Avenue (reconstruction)
- Rena Street SW – Ionia Avenue to Division Avenue (reconstruction)
- Zeno Street SW – Ionia Avenue to Division Avenue (reconstruction)
- Grandville Avenue SW – Franklin Street to Bartlett Street (water main, storm sewer, reconstruction/rotomill/resurfacing)
- Lafayette Avenue NE – Hastings Street to 500 feet north of Bradford Street (water main, reconstruction)
- Lane Avenue SW – Sibley Street to Jackson Street (water main, reconstruction)
- Lake Michigan Drive NW – Bayberry Drive to Collindale Avenue (sidewalk)
- Madison Avenue SE – Cottage Grove Street to Adams Street (reconstruction)
- Montrose Street NE – West end to Coit Avenue (water main, reconstruction)
- Bowne Street NE – West end to Coit Avenue (water main, reconstruction)
- Newberry Street NE – Monroe Avenue to Division Avenue (water main, sanitary and storm sewers, reconstruction)
- Ottawa Avenue SW – Cherry Street to Weston Street (water main, sanitary and storm sewer, reconstruction)
- Cherry Street SW – Ottawa Avenue to Ionia Avenue (water main, sanitary and storm sewer, reconstruction)
- Oakes Street SW – Ottawa Avenue alley to Ionia Avenue (water main, sanitary and storm sewer, reconstruction)
- Rumsey Street SW – Oakland Avenue to Sheridan Avenue (water main, sanitary and storm sewer, reconstruction)
- Century Avenue SW – Rumsey Street to Logan Street (water main, sanitary and storm sewer, reconstruction)
- Sheldon Avenue SE – Weston Street to Fulton Street (reconstruction)
- Three Mile Road NE – Monroe Avenue to Coit Avenue and Northwood Street to Plainfield Avenue (sidewalk)
- Wealthy Street SW – Commerce Avenue to Division Avenue (water main, reconstruction)
- Weston Street SE – LaGrave Avenue to Sheldon Avenue (water main, reconstruction)

GOLF AT INDIAN TRAILS



Register by email: info@indiantrailsgc.org

Register at info@indiantrailsgc.org or 616-245-2021.

Indian Trails Golf Course (2776 Kalamazoo Ave SE) is a First Tee teaching facility. The First Tee provides educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values and promote healthy choices through the game of golf. Classes and lessons are taught by PGA Professional Andre Pillow. Equipment is included, or feel free to bring your own.

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR	FEE
YOUTH (AGES 7 & UP)	MAY 5 & 6	9:00 - 11:00 AM	INDIAN TRAILS GC	ANDRE P.	\$60
	MAY 19 & 20	9:00 - 11:00 AM	INDIAN TRAILS GC	ANDRE P.	\$60
	JUNE 16 & 17	9:00 - 11:00 AM	INDIAN TRAILS GC	ANDRE P.	\$60
	JUNE 23 & 24	9:00 - 11:00 AM	INDIAN TRAILS GC	ANDRE P.	\$60
	AUG 3 & 4	9:00 - 11:00 AM	INDIAN TRAILS GC	ANDRE P.	\$60
YOUTH (AGES 8 - 12)	JUNE 18 - 21	8:30 - 10:00 AM	INDIAN TRAILS GC	BOB F.	\$100
	JULY 9 - 12	8:30 - 10:00 AM	INDIAN TRAILS GC	BOB F.	\$100
	JULY 23 - 26	8:30 - 10:00 AM	INDIAN TRAILS GC	BOB F.	\$100
	AUG 3 - 9	8:30 - 10:00 AM	INDIAN TRAILS GC	BOB F.	\$100
	AUG 20 - 23	8:30 - 10:00 AM	INDIAN TRAILS GC	BOB F.	\$100
TEEN (AGES 13 - 18)	JUNE 25 - 28	8:30 - 10:00 AM	INDIAN TRAILS GC	BOB F.	\$100
	JULY 16 - 19	8:30 - 10:00 AM	INDIAN TRAILS GC	BOB F.	\$100
	JULY 30 - AUG 2	8:30 - 10:00 AM	INDIAN TRAILS GC	BOB F.	\$100
	AUG 13 - 16	8:30 - 10:00 AM	INDIAN TRAILS GC	BOB F.	\$100
	AUG 27 - 30	8:30 - 10:00 AM	INDIAN TRAILS GC	BOB F.	\$100
WOMEN (AGES 18 & UP)	MAY 12	1:00 - 2:30 PM	INDIAN TRAILS GC	ANDRE P.	\$30
	MAY 19	1:00 - 2:30 PM	INDIAN TRAILS GC	ANDRE P.	\$30
	JUNE 16	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	INDIAN TRAILS GC	ANDRE P.	\$30
	JUNE 23	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	INDIAN TRAILS GC	ANDRE P.	\$30
	AUG 24	5:00 - 7:00 PM	INDIAN TRAILS GC	ANDRE P.	\$30
GIRLS CLINIC (AGES 13-17)	AUG 11	8:00 - 11:00 AM	INDIAN TRAILS GC	ANDRE P.	\$30
ADULT GROUP LESSON (AGES 18 & UP)	MAY 7, 14, 21 & JUNE 4	6:30 - 8:00 PM	INDIAN TRAILS GC	BOB F.	\$125
	MAY 8, 15, 22, 29	6:30 - 8:00 PM	INDIAN TRAILS GC	BOB F.	\$125
	MAY 10, 17, 24, 31	6:30 - 8:00 PM	INDIAN TRAILS GC	BOB F.	\$125
	MAY 31 & JUNE 7, 14, 21	6:30 - 8:00 PM	INDIAN TRAILS GC	BOB F.	\$125
	JUNE 5, 12, 19, 26	6:30 - 8:00 PM	INDIAN TRAILS GC	BOB F.	\$125
	JUNE 11, 18, 25 & JULY 2	6:30 - 8:00 PM	INDIAN TRAILS GC	BOB F.	\$125
	JUNE 28 & JULY 5, 12, 19	6:30 - 8:00 PM	INDIAN TRAILS GC	BOB F.	\$125
	JULY 3, 10, 17, 24	6:30 - 8:00 PM	INDIAN TRAILS GC	BOB F.	\$125
	JULY 9, 16, 23, 30	6:30 - 8:00 PM	INDIAN TRAILS GC	BOB F.	\$125
	JULY 26 & AUG 2, 9, 16	6:30 - 8:00 PM	INDIAN TRAILS GC	BOB F.	\$125
	JULY 31 & AUG 7, 14, 21	6:30 - 8:00 PM	INDIAN TRAILS GC	BOB F.	\$125
	AUG 6, 13, 20, 27	6:30 - 8:00 PM	INDIAN TRAILS GC	BOB F.	\$125



COMMUNITY
FORE KIDS
GOLF
OUTING

JUNE 1 AT 9 AM
REGISTER AT INDIANTRAILSGC.ORG

Free Fitness Night at Rosa Parks Circle - July 23, 4-8 pm

Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation is turning Rosa Parks Circle into an outdoor fitness studio for ages 18 & up. Come sample a variety of fitness classes for free. For a detailed schedule, follow us on Facebook or visit the events page at grandrapidsmi.gov.

FREE COMMUNITY CLASSES

Thanks to our partner, Downtown Grand Rapids Inc., these indoor and outdoor community classes are offered free of charge to everyone ages 18 & up. Simply show up to the class you want to attend!



FREE COMMUNITY CLASSES RUN JUNE 17 TO AUGUST 25

FREE COMMUNITY INDOOR CLASSES	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)
YOGA (DESCRIPTION PAGE 7)	THU SAT	5:00 - 5:45 PM 9:00 - 9:45 AM	RAPID CENTRAL STATION P&R FITNESS STUDIO

FREE COMMUNITY OUTDOOR CLASSES	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)
ZUMBA A fusion of Latin and International music. This class combines high-energy and motivating music with unique moves and combinations.	MON	5:30 - 6:15 PM	ROSA PARKS CIRCLE
YOGA (DESCRIPTION PAGE 7)	MON WED WED THU	12:15 - 1:00 PM 12:15 - 1:00 PM 5:30 - 6:15 PM 7:00 - 7:45 PM	SIXTH STREET PARK HEARTSIDE PARK BLUE BRIDGE LOOKOUT/RESERVOIR PARK
POUND (DESCRIPTION PAGE 7)	TUE	5:30 - 6:15 PM	BLUE BRIDGE
GROOVE Dance your heart out with easy steps set to fun music.	THU	5:30 - 6:15 PM	BLUE BRIDGE
QIGONG/TAI CHI EASY™ A series of intentional movements and deep breathing will help you manage stress and increase your vitality.	FRI	7:00 - 7:45 PM	BRIGGS PARK

ACTIVITIES FOR AGES 50+ AT GARFIELD PARK GYM

These activities are suitable for ages 50+, however, everyone is welcome to participate. In addition to these classes, monthly community activities such as card games, book club and knitting are available. Stop in to pick up a monthly calendar of activities or to check out any of our classes. Find more information at www.grandrapidsmi.gov or by calling 616-456-3696, option 1.

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	PRICE
STRETCH AND FLEX Stretch and flex is focused on increasing strength, balance and flexibility. The class begins with chair exercises and light hand weights. A great class for men and women! Classes are drop-in and ongoing.	MONDAYS WEDNESDAYS	9:30 - 10:25 AM 9:30 - 10:25 AM	\$3/class
ACTIVE ADULTS FITNESS Class includes a warm-up, standing cardio and strength training. Classes are drop-in and ongoing.	TUESDAYS THURSDAYS	11:30 AM - 12:25 PM 11:30 AM - 12:25 PM	\$3/class
WALKING CLUB Walk your way to health and meet new friends. You can walk in the Garfield Park Community Gym or in the park. Strollers are welcome.	MON & WED TUE & THU	10:00 AM - 11:30 AM 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Free
COMMUNITY TIME Local professionals and neighborhood groups are invited to share information about services and opportunities in our city. Check out our monthly calendar for dates and times.	TUESDAYS THURSDAYS	10:00 AM 10:00 AM	Free
BOCCIE BALL - Free lessons on how to play or just brush up on the rules and skills of the game.	MAY 16, 23 & 30	10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Free
DISC GOLF - Free lessons on how to play or just brush up on the rules and skills of the game.	JUNE 13, 20 & 27	10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Free
HORSE SHOES - Free lessons on how to play or just brush up on the rules and skills of the game.	JULY 11, 18 & 25	10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Free
GOLF - Free lessons on how to play or just brush up on the rules and skills of the game.	AUG 1, 8 & 15	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Free



Parks and Recreation
CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

General Information

- Ages 16 & up (all fitness levels welcome) - no one under age 16 is permitted
- Classes begin the week of June 17 and run for 10 weeks
- We suggest bringing a Yoga mat and water bottle to each class
- Cancelled classes will be announced on the recreation update line at 616-456-3699 or on our Facebook page
- You are encouraged to consult with a physician prior to beginning an exercise program

Three ways to register



ONLINE
recreationgr.us



BY PHONE
616.456.3696, option #1



IN PERSON
201 Market Ave SW

Two ways to save

- 1) Multiple classes equal a reduced rate!
- 2) Early bird registration April 23-June 1

Register between April 23-June 1*

	Resident	Nonresident
1 class per week	\$55	\$65
2 classes per week	\$85	\$95
3 classes per week	\$115	\$125

*online registration closes June 1.

Register on June 2, 2018** or after

	Resident	Nonresident
1 class per week	\$65	\$75
2 classes per week	\$95	\$105
3 classes per week	\$125	\$135

**online registration not available

Looking for flexibility?

P Adult Fitness Punch cards

Purchase a punch card and attend any of the classes listed with the **P** symbol. You may also use a punch to bring along a family member or friend to try a class as long as you are present. Cards cannot be transferred, and all attendees must sign a waiver before participating.

Reg #	# of Classes /Punches	Fee Resident	Fee Nonresident
266000A	5	\$40	\$50
266000B	10	\$70	\$80
266000C	20	\$100	\$110
266000D	30	\$130	\$140

*online registration closes June 1.

CYCLING

Register online: recreationgr.us 

CLASSES RUN FOR 10 WEEKS STARTING THE WEEK OF JUNE 17

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR	REG #
CYCLE & STRENGTH A combination of high-intensity cycling intervals followed by strength exercises that target the arms, abs and lower back.	MON	6:30 - 7:25 PM	P&R CYCLING STUDIO	SADIE R.	266402A
CYCLING P Reach your fitness goals while building leg and core strength! Powerful music and pace-setting instruction helps you climb steep hills, move across flat road and master intense intervals.	MON WED WED	5:30 - 6:15 PM 4:30 - 5:15 PM 5:30 - 6:15 PM	P&R CYCLING STUDIO	CAROL S. JOAN O. JOAN O.	266401A 266401B 266401C

5-WEEK CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION/FEE	INSTRUCTOR	REG #
INTRO TO CYCLING P For the beginner cyclist or someone with minimal riding experience. This slower-paced class will build in intensity while teaching you how to operate your bike and familiarize you with terms and expectations of a cycling workout.	THU JUNE 21 - JULY 19 THU JULY 26 - AUG 23	6:00 - 6:45 PM 6:00 - 6:45 PM	P&R CYCLING STUDIO Register between April 23 - June 1 Resident \$40 Nonresident \$50 Register on June 2 or after add \$10	JULIE S. JULIE S.	266400A 266400B

DANCE

CLASSES RUN FOR 10 WEEKS STARTING THE WEEK OF JUNE 17

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR	REG #
BALLROOM DANCING Learn the Salsa, Waltz, Foxtrot, East Coast Swing, Cha Cha, Rumba, and Tango.	MON	7:30 - 8:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	JULIE G.	266800A
BALLROOM DANCING: THE NEXT STEPS A follow-up to Ballroom Dancing. Continue practicing basic dances and learn new moves to add flair!	FRI	4:30 - 5:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	JULIE G.	266801A
OLD SKOOL P  Dance Cardio with fly dance moves and all your favorite chart-topping beats from decades past.	WED	5:30 - 6:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	JULIE S.	266812A
ZUMBA GOLD P Get your body moving with easy-to-follow, low-impact dance steps. Dance your way to better health. Great for the active, older adult.	WED	9:00 - 9:55 AM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	AMY K.	266802A
CUBAN STYLE SALSA Learn the basics of Cuban-style salsa dancing, Casino and Rueda de Casino, and some of the more fundamental Afro-Cuban rhythms. A partner is recommended, but not required. This class begins June 28.	THU	7:00 - 7:55 PM	AH-NAB-AWEN PARK	KATE R.	266804A



Register online: recreationgr.us

CLASSES RUN FOR 10 WEEKS STARTING THE WEEK OF JUNE 17

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR	REG #
BASIC YOGA <p>Discover your inner yogi in a class that builds strength and body awareness. Begin with gentle stretching and move to flowing through and holding poses. Class will come to a restful end.</p>	MON TUE TUE	6:00 - 6:55 PM 12:15 - 1:00 PM 6:00 - 6:55 PM	RIVERSIDE PARK P&R FITNESS STUDIO P&R FITNESS STUDIO	DOM C./ BETH H. KATIE V. ROTATION	266100A 266100B 266100C
GENTLE YOGA <p>A balanced practice that will center you, leaving your body feeling open and relaxed. Basic poses and a slower flow unlock body tension, strengthen your core and help you tune into personal peace.</p>	TUE THU	9:00 - 9:55 AM 9:00 - 9:55 AM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO P&R FITNESS STUDIO	TERRI S. TERRI S.	266101A 266101B

CARDIO & STRENGTH

CLASSES RUN FOR 10 WEEKS STARTING THE WEEK OF JUNE 17

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR	REG #
30/20/10 <p>30 minutes of intense cardio, 20 minutes of targeted muscle sculpting and 10 minutes of relaxing stretching. This class works every muscle in your body! Equipment: weights, exercise bands and exercubes. Hand weights required (3-10 lb. recommended).</p>	TUE	5:30 - 6:25 PM	RAPID CENTRAL STATION	JULIE B.	266501A
HULA HOOP FITNESS <p>Learn creative movement that goes beyond waist hooping. Bring the hoop up, down, and off the body while moving to music. Burn calories, tone your body, increase rhythm and learn to move with a hoop. No experience necessary. Hula hoops provided and available for purchase.</p>	WED	5:30 - 6:25 PM	GARFIELD PARK GYM	AUDRIA L.	266805A
KICKBOXING <p>Mix up your routine with balance, coordination and strength-building moves. Strengthen your legs, upper body, abs and burn calories.</p>	MON	5:30 - 6:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	SADIE R.	266303A
POUND® <p>Using Ripstix®, lightly weighted drumsticks engineered specifically for exercising, POUND® transforms drumming into an incredibly effective way of working out. Instead of listening to music, you become the music in this exhilarating full-body workout that combines cardio, conditioning and strength training with yoga and pilates-inspired movements. Designed for all fitness levels, POUND® provides the perfect atmosphere for letting loose, getting energized, toning up and rockin' out! The workout is easily modifiable, and the alternative vibe and welcoming philosophy appeals to men and women of all ages and abilities. POUND® approved sticks required for everyone. Punch card holders must have their own Ripstix®. Ripstix® available at registration for \$20.</p>	THU	5:30 - 6:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	KRISTIN P.	WITH STIX: 266406A WITH-OUT: 266406B
STRONG BY ZUMBA <p>A non dance-based workout combining high intensity interval training (HIIT), body-weight exercises and cardio moves. In every class, music and moves sync in a way that push you past your limits and reach your fitness goals.</p>	WED	6:30 - 7:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	AMY K.	266504A
WATER AEROBICS <p>Build core strength, conditioning, endurance and all-over toning. Class features deep and shallow water exercises. A great low/non-impact workout. Float belts are available.</p>	MON THU SAT	5:30 - 6:25 PM 6:00 - 6:55 PM 9:00 - 9:55 AM	RICHMOND POOL BRIGGS POOL RICHMOND POOL	KATHLEEN H. KATHLEEN H. KATHLEEN H.	266702A 266702B 266702C
URBAN FITNESS <p>Downtown Grand Rapids will become a playground of workout equipment. You will get a good mix of cardio and strength training in this class. Elements found all around downtown (benches, stairs, etc.) will create an outdoor gym. Class will start and finish at Sixth Street Park.</p>	WED	6:00 - 6:55 PM	SIXTH STREET PARK	JULIE B.	266700A



Register online: recreationgr.us

PICKLEBALL



	Resident	Non
Registration Fee	\$15	\$25

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	REG #
PICKLEBALL (AGES 8-15) Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in America and is a combination of tennis, badminton and table tennis. Learn the basic rules and skills of this fun and exciting sport through an engaging program with the Grand Rapids Pickleball Club at Belknap Park. Tennis shoes and athletic clothing should be worn for this family friendly, body-friendly, social and challenging activity. Equipment will be provided for those who don't have any.	MON & WED SESSION I: JUNE 11 - 27 SESSION II: JULY 9 - 25	AGES 8-12 10:00 - 10:55 AM AGES 12-15 11:00 - 11:55 AM	BELKNAP PARK	235601A (SESSION I) 235601B (SESSION II) 235601C (SESSION I) 235601D (SESSION II)

SOCCER



	Resident	Non
Registration Fee	\$45	\$55

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	REG #
SOCCER CAMP (AGES 5-14) Participants will learn ball work, dribbling, shooting, passing and control. Skills will be taught using drills, games and competitions. Teamwork, sportsmanship and safety will be emphasized.	MON - THU JUNE 25 - 28	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	MACKAY JAYCEE PARK	235300A

FOOTBALL



	Resident	Non
Registration Fee	\$0	\$10

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	REG #
DAVID HARRIS ALL-PRO FOOTBALL CAMP (AGES 7-13) The 12th annual David Harris All-Pro Football Camp will provide youth with an opportunity to get coaching from NFL player David Harris and other area coaches.	SAT JULY 14	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM	HOUSEMAN FIELD (901 FOUNTAIN ST NE)	235600A

TENNIS



	Resident	Non
Registration Fee	\$25	\$35

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	REG #
TENNIS (AGES 6-14) Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation is partnering with West Michigan Community Tennis to provide youth tennis lessons at four city parks. Lessons are based on USTA's Net Generation curriculum, which builds players' confidence and skills with age and size appropriate equipment, balls, games, and more.	MON - THU SESSION I: JUNE 11 - 28	9:00 - 10:00 AM (AGES 6-8) 9:00 - 10:00 AM (AGES 6-8) 9:00 - 10:00 AM (AGES 6-8) 9:00 - 10:00 AM (AGES 6-8) 10:00 - 11:00 AM (AGES 9-11) 10:00 - 11:00 AM (AGES 9-11) 10:00 - 11:00 AM (AGES 9-11) 10:00 - 11:00 AM (AGES 9-11) 10:00 - 11:00 AM (AGES 9-11) 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (AGES 12-14) 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (AGES 12-14) 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (AGES 12-14) 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (AGES 12-14)	ABERDEEN PARK MLK PARK RICHMOND PARK PLASTER CREEK PARK ABERDEEN PARK MLK PARK RICHMOND PARK PLASTER CREEK PARK ABERDEEN PARK MLK PARK RICHMOND PARK PLASTER CREEK PARK	220000A (SESSION I) 220000B (SESSION I) 220000C (SESSION I) 220000D (SESSION I) 220000E (SESSION I) 220000F (SESSION I) 220000G (SESSION I) 220000H (SESSION I) 220000I (SESSION I) 220000J (SESSION I) 220000K (SESSION I) 220000L (SESSION I)
	MON - THU SESSION II: JULY 9 - 26	9:00 - 10:00 AM (AGES 6-8) 9:00 - 10:00 AM (AGES 6-8) 9:00 - 10:00 AM (AGES 6-8) 9:00 - 10:00 AM (AGES 6-8) 10:00 - 11:00 AM (AGES 9-11) 10:00 - 11:00 AM (AGES 9-11) 10:00 - 11:00 AM (AGES 9-11) 10:00 - 11:00 AM (AGES 9-11) 10:00 - 11:00 AM (AGES 9-11) 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (AGES 12-14) 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (AGES 12-14) 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (AGES 12-14) 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (AGES 12-14)	ABERDEEN PARK MLK PARK RICHMOND PARK PLASTER CREEK PARK ABERDEEN PARK MLK PARK RICHMOND PARK PLASTER CREEK PARK ABERDEEN PARK MLK PARK RICHMOND PARK PLASTER CREEK PARK	220001A (SESSION II) 220001B (SESSION II) 220001C (SESSION II) 220001D (SESSION II) 220001E (SESSION II) 220001F (SESSION II) 220001G (SESSION II) 220001H (SESSION II) 220001I (SESSION II) 220001J (SESSION II) 220001K (SESSION II) 220001L (SESSION II)

FENCING



Registration Fee Resident Non
 \$79 \$89

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	REG #
BEGINNING OLYMPIC FENCING CAMP (AGES 7-17) Take your first step to becoming an Olympian. These camps are for individuals with little or no fencing experience. By participating in various games, campers will have fun and become acquainted with fencing stance, movement, strategies and rules. This could be your first step to becoming an Olympic Fencer.	TUES - THURS JUNE 19-21 AUGUST 14-16 AUGUST 14-16	3:30 - 5:00 PM 1:00 - 2:30 PM 6:00 - 7:30 PM	WEST MICHIGAN FENCING ACADEMY	244102A 244102B 244102C

RESIDENT AND NON-RESIDENT FEES:

You are a resident if you reside within the City of Grand Rapids' boundaries. Nonresidents are welcome to participate but are charged a slightly higher fee.

REFUND POLICY:

A full refund is granted until the Early Bird Registration Deadline listed on the registration form. A \$5 cancellation fee will be charged if the refund is requested after the early bird registration deadline but prior to the first session of a class. If a refund is granted to a participant who registered online, the convenience fee will not be refunded.

A pro-rated refund will be granted when a program participant is unable to complete a program due to illness, injury or relocation.

A full refund is granted when Parks and Recreation cancels a class due to low enrollment. However, the online convenience fee is non-refundable.

CANCELLATIONS:

If a class or program is cancelled due to weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances, an announcement will be made on the recreation program update/cancellation line at 616-456-3699. Please call this number if you have any question as to whether classes will be held. This line is updated on a regular basis so call before you head out to any class or program.

FEE ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE:

Reduced fees are available for Grand Rapids residents who qualify. Applications may be obtained by visiting www.grandrapidsmi.gov or by calling 616-456-3696. Applications must be submitted prior to the deadline for processing.

CLASS LOCATIONS:

- Aberdeen Park - 2230 Eastern Ave NE
- Ah-Nab-Awen Park - 220 Front Ave NW
- Belknap Park - 30 Coldbrook NE
- Blue Bridge - downtown Grand Rapids
- Briggs Pool - 350 Knapp St NE
- Coldbrook Building - 1101 Monroe Ave NW
- Garfield Park Gym - 2111 Madison Ave SE
- Heartside Park - 301 Ionia Ave SW
- Houseman Field - 901 Fountain St NE
- Huff Park - 2286 Ball Ave NE
- Indian Trails Golf Course - 2776 Kalamazoo Ave SE
- Lookout/Reservoir Park - 801 Fairview NE
- MacKay/Jaycee Park - 2531 Kalamazoo Ave SE
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Park - 900 Fuller Ave SE
- P&R Cycling Studio - 201 Market Ave SW
- P&R Fitness Studio - 201 Market Ave SW
- Plaster Creek Family Park - 2512 Buchanan SW
- RAPID Central Station - 250 Grandville Ave SW
- Richmond Park/Pool - 1101 Richmond St NW
- Riverside Park - 2001 Monroe Ave NW
- Rosa Parks Circle - 135 Monroe Center SW
- Sixth Street Park - 647 Monroe Ave NW
- West MI Fencing Academy - 1111 Godfrey Ave SW

T-BALL/COACH PITCH (Ages 4-11)



The summer youth T-ball/coach pitch program begins June 26 (weather permitting) and ends August 4. T-ball age group is 4-6. Coach

pitch age group is 7-9 and player pitch is 10-11. All teams play on Tuesdays, Thursdays and a Saturday. The registration form is available online at <https://www.grandrapidsmi.gov/Services/Register-for-Youth-Baseball-or-Softball>.



Play ball with the Grand Rapids Police Department's OnBase program!

Boys and girls ages 9-12 (as of June 2018) are encouraged to participate in this free program. Practices will be held at Plaster Creek Park or Belknap Park. Games will be played at Huff Park.

Free lunch provided to players on practice and game days. Equipment and uniforms provided!

Learn the sport of baseball from Grand Rapids Police Officers!

To register: search on base at www.grandrapidsmi.gov or call 616-456-3696 option 1.



Fall Soccer (Ages 4-15)

Fall soccer will begin the week of September 4. The online registration form will be available starting May 1 at grandrapidsmi.gov.

City Clerk's Office Now Offering Notary Services

The City of Grand Rapids Clerk's Office is now offering notary services to the public.

The Clerk's Office is providing notary services during regular business hours – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The City Clerk's Office is located on the second floor of City Hall, 300 Monroe Ave. NW. Validated parking is available in the Government Center Ramp off Monroe and Ottawa avenues.

The City Clerk's office is staffed with several signing agents who are official State of Michigan notaries, Deputy Clerk Stephanie McMillen said. Each is authorized to notarize personal documents, which often is recommended for transactions to be legally binding.

For notary services, individuals must appear in person and present a photo ID. There is a \$5 charge per notarial stamp, which can be paid by cash, check or credit/debit card.

To learn more about notary services, contact the City Clerk's Office at 616.456.3010 or visit grandrapidsmi.gov/Services/Notarize-a-Document.

April is a Good Time to Plant Trees

Want to help make Grand Rapids a greener, healthier and more beautiful city? You can do all that by planting trees. April is a perfect time to get outside and get planting - and what better way to celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day than to help Grand Rapids meet its 40 percent tree canopy goal? Consider these options for helping to green up Grand Rapids:

1. Join the Mayor's Greening Initiative to plant trees on Saturday, April 28 (see related article on B16).
2. Connect with Friends of Grand Rapids Parks to help plant trees in various city neighborhoods, organize a tree planting on your block or become a Citizen Forester. Check out the possibilities at <https://www.friendsofgrparks.org/programs/urban-forest-project>.
3. Plant a tree in your yard or parkway. Remember that for parkway plantings, you need a no-cost permit and the species you select needs to be on the City's approved street tree species list. You can find more information about tree species and planting tips at <https://www.friendsofgrparks.org/programs/urban-forest-project/resources>.

**Outdoor Pools and Splash Pads Open
June 8 - August 25**

Richmond Pool

Open Swim Hours

Mon - 12:00-5:00 PM
Tue - Sat - 12:00-7:00 PM
Sun - 12:00-4:30 PM

Lap Lane Hours

Mon - 11:00 AM-1:00 PM & 5:00-7:00 PM
Tue - Sat - 11:00 AM-1:00 PM
Sun - 12:00-1:00 PM

Briggs Pool

Open Swim Hours

Mon - Wed - 12:00-7:00 PM
Thu - 12:00-5:00 PM
Fri - Sat - 12:00-7:00 PM
Sun - 12:00-4:30 PM

Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Pool

Open Swim Hours

Mon - 12:00-7:00 PM
Tue - 12:00-5:00 PM
Wed-Sat - 12:00-7:00 PM
Sun - 12:00-4:30 PM

Lap Lane Hours

Mon - 11:00 AM-1:00 PM
Tue - 11:00 AM-1:00 PM & 5:00-7:00 PM
Wed - Sat - 11:00 AM-1:00 PM
Sun - 12:00-1:00PM

Splash pads are open 7 days a week 10am - 9pm

For locations and additional details,
search aquatics at www.grandrapidsmi.gov

**Water Safety Day &
Swim Lesson Sampler**



Join us to learn about water safety, how to be safe around water and some techniques to help save a distressed swimmer. This program includes an introduction/sample to our swim lesson program. You will receive a coupon for a free swim lesson with us and our swim instructors will recommend which level you should participate in this summer. Registration is not required but recommended. Ages 5 & up.

Briggs Pool - reg #200012A

MLK Pool - reg #200012B

Richmond Pool - reg. #200012C

SWIM LESSONS



Resident	Non
Registration Fee	\$38 \$48

SESSION I: CLASS MEETS ONCE PER WEEK FROM JUNE 17 - AUG 11	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	REG #
PARENT/CHILD LEVEL I (AGES 6-18 MONTHS) Parents and children learn together to increase a child's comfort level in the water. Build a foundation of basic skills such as arm and leg movements and breath control.	MON SAT THU SAT	5:15-5:45P 11:30A-12:00P 5:15-5:45P 11:30A-12:00P	RICHMOND RICHMOND BRIGGS BRIGGS	211101R1 211101R2 211101B1 211101B2
PARENT/CHILD LEVEL II (AGES 18-36 MONTHS)	MON SAT THU SAT	5:15-5:45P 11:30A-12:00P 5:15-5:45P 11:30A-12:00P	RICHMOND RICHMOND BRIGGS BRIGGS	211102R1 211102R2 211102B1 211102B2
PARENT/CHILD (AGES 6-36 MONTHS)	TUE SAT	5:15-5:45P 11:30A-12:00P	MLK MLK	211103K1 211103K2
PRESCHOOL LEVEL I (AGES 3-5) Orients children in the pool and helps them gain basic aquatic skills.	MON SAT TUE SAT THU SAT	5:15-5:45P 11:30A-12:00P 5:15-5:45P 11:30A-12:00P 5:15-5:45P 11:30A-12:00P	RICHMOND RICHMOND MLK MLK BRIGGS BRIGGS	221101R1 221101R2 221101K1 221101K2 221101B1 221101B2
PRESCHOOL LEVEL II (AGES 3-5) Kids gain greater independence in their skills and get more comfortable in the water.	MON SAT TUE SAT THU SAT	5:15-5:45P 11:30A-12:00P 5:15-5:45P 11:30A-12:00P 5:15-5:45P 11:30A-12:00P	RICHMOND RICHMOND MLK MLK BRIGGS BRIGGS	221102R1 221102R2 221102K1 221102K2 221102B1 221102B2
PRESCHOOL LEVEL III (AGES 3-5) Helps kids start to gain basic swimming skills and get comfortable in and around water.	MON SAT TUE SAT THU SAT	5:15-5:45P 11:30A-12:00P 5:15-5:45P 11:30A-12:00P 5:15-5:45P 11:30A-12:00P	RICHMOND RICHMOND MLK MLK BRIGGS BRIGGS	221103R1 221103R2 221103K1 221103K2 221103B1 221103B2
LEVEL I (AGES 6+) Helps kids feel comfortable in the water.	MON SAT TUE SAT THU SAT	6:00-6:45P 10:30-11:15A 6:00-6:45P 10:30-11:15A 6:00-6:45P 10:30-11:15A	RICHMOND RICHMOND MLK MLK BRIGGS BRIGGS	231101R1 231101R2 231101K1 231101K2 231101B1 231101B2
LEVEL II (AGES 6+) Child must have passed or show skills required for Level I. Class builds on fundamental skills.	MON SAT TUE SAT THU SAT	6:00-6:45P 10:30-11:15A 6:00-6:45P 10:30-11:15A 6:00-6:45P 10:30-11:15A	RICHMOND RICHMOND MLK MLK BRIGGS BRIGGS	231102R1 231102R2 231102K1 231102K2 231102B1 231102B2
LEVEL III (AGES 6+) Child must have passed or show skills required for Level II. Builds on the skills in Level II through more guided practice in deeper water.	MON SAT TUE SAT THU SAT	6:00-6:45P 10:30-11:15A 6:00-6:45P 10:30-11:15A 6:00-6:45P 10:30-11:15A	RICHMOND RICHMOND MLK MLK BRIGGS BRIGGS	231103R1 231103R2 231103K1 231103K2 231103B1 231103B2
LEVEL IV (AGES 6+) Develops confidence in the skills learned and improves other aquatic skills. Must have passed Level III or demonstrate the skills required for Level III to participate.	MON SAT TUE SAT THU SAT	6:00-6:45P 10:30-11:15A 6:00-6:45P 10:30-11:15A 6:00-6:45P 10:30-11:15A	RICHMOND RICHMOND MLK MLK BRIGGS BRIGGS	231104R1 231104R2 231104K1 231104K2 231104B1 231104B2
LEVEL V (AGES 6+) Provides further coordination and refinement of strokes. Must have passed Level IV or demonstrate the skills required for Level IV to participate.	MON SAT TUE SAT THU SAT	6:00-6:45P 10:30-11:15A 6:00-6:45P 10:30-11:15A 6:00-6:45P 10:30-11:15A	RICHMOND RICHMOND MLK MLK BRIGGS BRIGGS	231105R1 231105R2 231105K1 231105K2 231105B1 231105B2
LEVEL VI (AGES 6+) Refines strokes to swim with ease, efficiency, power and smoothness over greater distances. Must have passed Level V or demonstrate the skills required for Level V to participate.	MON SAT TUE SAT THU SAT	6:00-6:45P 10:30-11:15A 6:00-6:45P 10:30-11:15A 6:00-6:45P 10:30-11:15A	RICHMOND RICHMOND MLK MLK BRIGGS BRIGGS	231106R1 231106R2 231106K1 231106K2 231106B1 231106B2
TEEN/ADULT BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE (AGES 6+)	MON SAT TUE SAT THU SAT	5:15-6:00P 11:30A-12:15P 5:15-6:00P 11:30A-12:15P 5:15-6:00P 11:30A-12:15P	RICHMOND RICHMOND MLK MLK BRIGGS BRIGGS	251107R1 251107R2 251107K1 251107K2 251107B1 251107B2

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

James Botts
President

M. Jade VanderVelde
Vice President/Secretary

Rachel S. Anderson

William Baldrige

Sophia Ward Brewer

Caralee Witteveen-Lane

LIBRARY LEADERS

John J. McNaughton
Director

Marla J. Ehlers
Assistant Director



616.988.5400 • WWW.GRPL.ORG

GRPL Welcomes New Director John McNaughton



On April 16, the Grand Rapids Public Library welcomed its new director, John McNaughton. John replaced long time Grand Rapids Public Library Director Marcia Warner, who retired in December. We caught up with John to learn a little more about our new library leader.

Welcome to GRPL! How did you get started working in libraries?

John: My 17 years of love for public library service began when I was hired as a circulation clerk in Plano, Texas. I then spent four years as a reference librarian before accepting my first directorship at the Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library in the Upper Peninsula. Most recently, I was the director of the Romeo District Library in Southeast Michigan, not far from my hometown of Lake Orion.

What is your vision for the Grand Rapids Public Library?

John: I believe that libraries should be innovative and progressive to grow with a community's changing demographics and needs. I thrive on change and geek out about new technologies. I am fiercely committed to the idea that libraries can be a driver for social change by providing places and services to advance equity, literacy and community engagement.

In your previous jobs, what are you most proud of?

John: While at the Romeo Library, I created a thriving new Teen Services department, redesigned the lobby to improve customer service and provide new spaces for small groups and studying, and developed a new strategic plan. Past accomplishments at the Ishpeming Carnegie Library include raising hundreds of thousands of dollars in partnership with local donors for building improvements to improve accessibility and ADA compliance.

I understand that your family is looking forward to living in Grand Rapids.

John: Yes! My spouse, Katie, is a Grand Rapids native and graduate of Grand Rapids City High. We are happy to be close to family and friends.

What do you like to do in your free time?

John: I enjoy playing board games, especially with my 3-year-old daughter, Louise. I am also working on my first graphic novel, which isn't half-bad.

Adulting 101 Classes at the Library

The Grand Rapids Public Library is here to help you get the skills you need to succeed. Join us for these free workshops that will teach you the basics of personal finance, home repair, job searching and more. Adulting has never been easier.

Basic Home Maintenance

Thursday, May 3, 2018
7:00 pm – Main Library

Learn how to do a long list of home repairs and upkeep, including filtering systems, venting systems, general repair and preventative maintenance. Discover ways to save energy and money on most home repairs. Weatherization such as sealing windows, doors and foundations will also be covered.

Green Cleaning

Monday, May 7, 2018
7:00 pm – Main Library

Join Angela Fox from GreenMichigan.org and learn why making your own cleaning products is both good for your home and the environment. Attendees will not only go home with recipes to make their own cleaners but will also get to make their own Softscrub to take home. Learn how to make your house sparkle without using harsh chemicals. Space is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis.

Find Work That Works

Thursday, May 10, 2018
7:00 pm – Main Library

Let's admit it: Job searching is not exactly fun. Decisions are maddening, research is a grind and resume writing is no cakewalk. If we can't make the search for a career fun, how can we at least make our search effective? Join the Business Librarian to find out how to think about the job search, how to present yourself in person and in writing and, most importantly, how to plan for future work that might not yet exist.

Tips to Create and Manage Your Spending Plan

Thursday, May 24, 2018
7:00 pm – Main Library

Everybody tells you to save your money, whether it is for retirement, emergencies or future goals. But how do you save when your student loans are out, the rent is due and you still have to feed yourself on something other than Ramen noodles? This workshop will train you to think critically about spending, save like you mean it and show you the way a spending plan can help you make your financial future secure.

Computer and Small Business Classes

Building Basic Computer Skills

Thursday, May 3, 2018
11:00 am – Main Library

Learn the skills you need to navigate the Internet, mobile devices and many types of software.

Discovering the Internet

Thursday, May 10, 2018
11:00 am – Main Library

Learn how the Internet works and basic definitions for the most common Internet terms. Discover tips and tricks on how to protect your information and identity while searching, shopping and surfing the web.

Exploring Social Media and Email

Thursday, May 17, 2018
11:00 am – Main Library

Learn the basics of Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Find out what you need to get started with Skype, Google Hangouts and other video calling services.

Managing Your Digital Footprint

Thursday, May 24, 2018
11:00 am – Main Library

Managing your digital footprint may seem intimidating but, with a plan and the right tools, you can stay safe and get the most out of your experiences online. This class offers methods and tools you can use right away to begin managing your online profiles, passwords and information.

Learn to Code with Lynda.com

Wednesdays, May 2, 9, 16, 23, 2018
7:00 pm – Main Library

Do you want to learn to write computer programs, design websites and create mobile apps for free and on your own time? With Lynda.com and your GRPL library card, you can get started right away. In this series of classes, learn how to begin coding and develop skills that are needed in the tech job market. First, discover the basic tools used in coding and some simple techniques to get started. In the following two classes, you will begin to write your own JavaScript and experiment with basic coding concepts and principles. In the last class, learn about more tools and resources you can use to practice your new skills and further your education in technology. To succeed in this class, you should be comfortable using computers and the Internet.

Market Research Series

Tuesdays, May 8, 15, 22, 2018
7:00 pm – Main Library

No matter your level, entrepreneurship is about risk. The most effective entrepreneurs understand how to reduce their risk through information, specifically market research. In this series, learn how to conduct research by industry, customers and competition and learn the tools, tactics and strategies to make market research faster, easier and more beneficial to any entrepreneur at any level. Sign up at grpl.org/register.

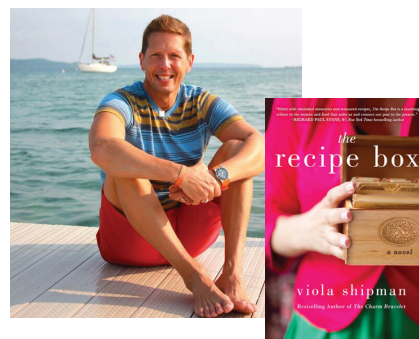
Spring Into Reading with These Author Events and Workshops!



LOCAL EPIC: A Poetry Workshop

Saturday, May 12, 2018
1:00 pm – Main Library

Poetry is an epic form of human expression; it reaches to the core of us, who we are as people and the communities we build. It is an invitation to craft something new while learning from the present and the past. Join us for a writing workshop with poet and teacher Mike Sikkema as we explore poetry from our collection, write our own poetry and add, in our own way, to the LOCAL EPIC.



An Evening with Wade Rouse: A Recipe for a Great Book

Wednesday, May 16, 2018
7:00 pm – Main Library

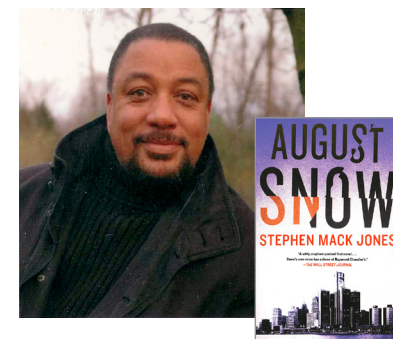
Wade Rouse is back with his third and final heirloom-centered novel, written under the pen name Viola Shipman. *The Recipe Box* tells the story of Samantha "Sam" Mullins, whose dreams of making her mark in New York City's culinary world do not work out as planned. Back at home, Sam gains a new appreciation for her family thanks to a well-worn, beloved family recipe box. An author signing will be held from 6:00 – 6:45 pm.



Gone Before Spring: A Retro Look at Alger Heights

Thursday, June 7, 2018
7:00 pm – Main Library

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.



An Evening with Stephen Mack Jones

Thursday, June 21, 2018
7:00 pm – Main Library

Michigan native Stephen Mack Jones is a man of many literary hats: published poet, award-winning playwright, and Michigan Notable Book author. He hit the ground running with his first novel, *August Snow*, a 2018 GR Reads selection. From the wealthy suburbs to the remains of Detroit's bankrupt factory districts, *August Snow* is a fast-paced tale of murder, greed, sex, economic cyber-terrorism, race and urban decay. A book signing will follow the presentation.

2018 Summer Reading Challenge

May 28 – September 3, 2018 | All Library Locations

The Grand Rapids Public Library's Summer Reading Challenge is a free and fun way to inspire your child to read! Kids challenge themselves to read a certain number of books or to read a certain number of minutes during the summer. Studies show that children who read during the summer maintain their reading levels when they return to school in the fall. The Summer Reading Challenge keeps kids motivated to read with interactive events, prizes, and team spirit. Sign up by visiting grpl.org/summerreading or any GRPL location.

Free Events for Kids



Photo Credit: Keyla Sanders

Rhythm & Books: A Library Festival for Kids

Saturday, June 16

10:00 am – 1:00 pm – Main Library



Animal Magic

Tuesday, June 19

10:30 am – Main Library

2:00 pm – West Leonard Branch

Wednesday, June 20

10:30 am – Seymour Branch

3:00 pm – Yankee Clipper Branch

6:30 pm – Main Library



Kevin Kammeraad & Friends

Tuesday, June 26

10:30 am – Main Library

2:00 pm – West Leonard Branch

Wednesday, June 27

10:30 am – Seymour Branch

3:00 pm – Yankee Clipper Branch

6:30 pm – Main Library

Read Like a Rock Star Greatest Hits Magic Show

Tuesday, July 10

10:30 am – Main Library

2:00 pm – West Leonard Branch

Wednesday, July 11

10:30 am – Seymour Branch

3:00 pm – Yankee Clipper Branch

6:30 pm – Main Library



Culture Kingdom Live with Culture Queen

Tuesday, July 17

10:30 am – Main Library

2:00 pm – West Leonard Branch

Wednesday, July 18

10:30 am – Seymour Branch

3:00 pm – Yankee Clipper Branch

6:30 pm – Main Library



Reginald Pettibone's Native American Dance and Cultural Program

Tuesday, July 24

10:30 am – Main Library

2:00 pm – West Leonard Branch

Wednesday, July 25

10:30 am – Seymour Branch

3:00 pm – Yankee Clipper Branch

6:30 pm – Main Library



Bubbleman Ron

Tuesday, July 31

10:30 am – Main Library

2:00 pm – West Leonard Branch

Wednesday, August 1

10:30 am – Seymour Branch

3:00 pm – Yankee Clipper Branch

6:30 pm – Main Library

Summer Reading Celebration

Tuesday, August 7

10:30 am – Main Library

10:30 am – Van Belkum Branch

2:00 pm – West Leonard Branch

2:00 pm – Madison Square Branch

Wednesday, August 8

10:30 am – Seymour Branch

10:30 am – West Side Branch

3:00 pm – Ottawa Hills Branch

3:00 pm – Yankee Clipper Branch

6:30 pm – Main Library



Storytimes for Little Readers

Baby Time

Mondays, June 4 – 25, July 9 – 23

11:00 am – Main Library

Wednesdays, June 6 – 27, July 11 – 25

11:00 am – Yankee Clipper Branch

Pajama Time

Mondays, June 4 – 25, July 9 – 23

6:30 pm – Main Library

Summer Storytimes for Families

Wednesdays, June 6 – 27, July 11 – 25

11:00 am – West Leonard Branch

Thursdays, June 7 – 28, July 12 – 26

10:30 am – Seymour Branch

11:00 am – Yankee Clipper Branch



Events for Teens

Mindstorm Saturdays

Every Saturday during the summer

10:00 am – 12:00 pm – Main Library

Zine Making Workshop

Thursday, June 21

3:00 pm – Main Library

The Amazing Honey Bee

Thursday, July 12

3:00 pm – Main Library

Writing Workshop with Shani Womack

Thursday, August 2

3:00 pm – Main Library

Sponsored by:



FRIENDS OF
THE LIBRARY



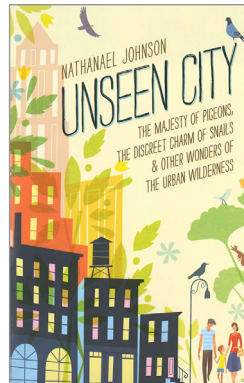
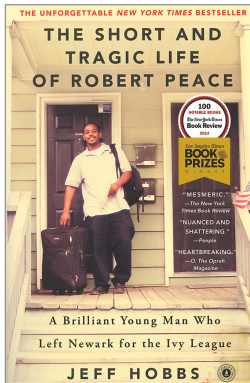
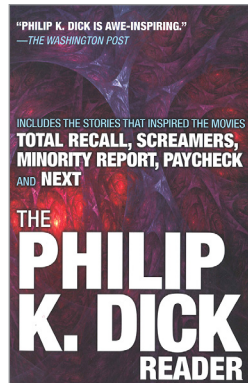
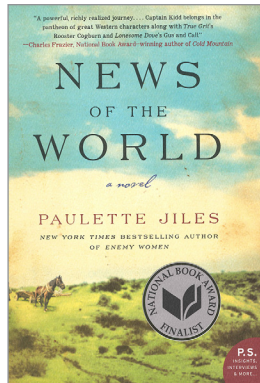
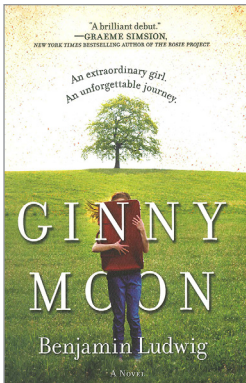
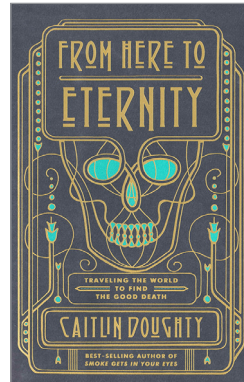
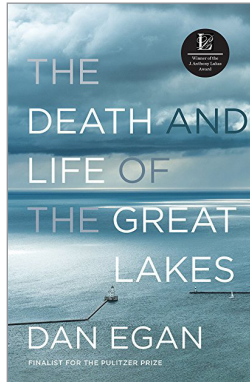
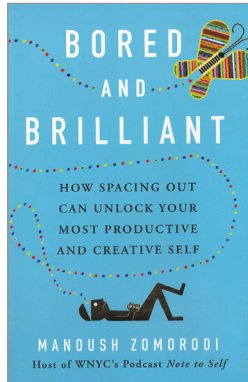
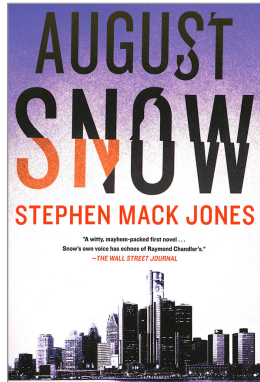
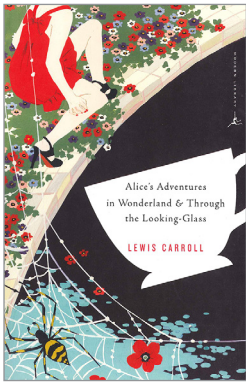
Media Sponsors:



GR Reads: Summer Reading All Grown Up

June 1 – August 31, 2018 | All Library Locations

Summer just got a whole lot more fun! Join us for GR Reads, a summer reading program for adults. Come discover the 10 interesting books that our smart staff have selected, or join your neighbors for fun, informative programs that are inspired by the books. For a complete list of books and events, visit www.grpl.org/greads or stop by any GRPL library.



Sponsored by:



Media Sponsors:



LOCATIONS & HOURS

Main Library

111 Library Street NE • 49503
616.988.5400

M-Th 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM
F-Sat 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Sun 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
(Sunday hours Labor Day to Memorial Day)

Madison Square Branch

1201 Madison SE • 49507
616.988.5411

T-W 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Th 12:00 PM – 8:00 PM
F-Sat 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Ottawa Hills Branch

1150 Giddings SE • 49506
616.988.5412

T 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
W 12:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Th-Sat 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Seymour Branch

2350 Eastern SE • 49507
616.988.5413

M-T 12:00 PM – 8:00 PM
W-Th 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Sat 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Van Belkum Branch

1563 Plainfield NE • 49505
616.988.5410

T 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
W 12:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Th-Sat 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

West Leonard Branch

1017 Leonard NW • 49504
616.988.5416

M-T 12:00 PM – 8:00 PM
W-Th 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Sat 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

West Side Branch

713 Bridge NW • 49504
616.988.5414

T-W 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Th 12:00 PM – 8:00 PM
F-Sat 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Yankee Clipper Branch

2025 Leonard NE • 49505
616.988.5415

M-T 12:00 PM – 8:00 PM
W-Th 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Sat 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Memorial Day Closings

The following branches will be closed on Saturday, May 26, 2018:

- Madison Square Branch
- Ottawa Hills Branch
- Van Belkum Branch
- West Side Branch

Closed on Summer Sundays

The Main Library is closed on Sundays in the summer beginning on Sunday, May 27 (Memorial Day weekend).

Sunday hours at the Main Library (1:00 – 5:00 pm) will resume on Sunday, September 9, 2018.

Fourth of July Closings

All library locations will be closed on Wednesday, July 4, 2018.

All library locations will be closed on Sunday, May 27 and Monday, May 28, 2018.



616.988.5400 • WWW.GRPL.ORG

ENRICHMENT/ADVENTURE CLASSES



Register online: recreationgr.us

CLASS	DATE(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	REG #
BEGINNER KAYAKING Learn the basics of Kayaking. From basic safety and wearing a flotation device to launching and paddling. All equipment included. Ages 10+, Resident: \$45, Non: \$55	JUNE 18 - JULY 9 JUNE 23 - JULY 14 JUNE 23 - JULY 14 JULY 11 - AUG 1 JULY 11 - AUG 1 JULY 16 - AUG 6 JULY 21 - AUG 11 JULY 21 - AUG 11	5:30 - 6:30 PM 10:00 - 11:00 AM 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM 5:30 - 6:30 PM 6:30 - 7:30 PM 6:30 - 7:30 PM 10:00 - 11:00 AM 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	RICHMOND PARK RICHMOND PARK RICHMOND PARK RICHMOND PARK RICHMOND PARK RICHMOND PARK RICHMOND PARK RICHMOND PARK	284104A 284104B 284104C 284104D 284104E 284104F 284104G 284104H
BEGINNER STAND UP PADDLE BOARDING Want to gain the skill and experience necessary to pilot a paddleboard by yourself? Join us this summer to learn how! All equipment included. Ages 10+, Resident: \$45, Non: \$55	JUNE 18 - JULY 9 JUNE 23 - JULY 14 JUNE 23 - JULY 14 JULY 16 - AUG 6 JULY 21 - AUG 11 JULY 21 - AUG 11	6:30 - 7:30 PM 10:00 - 11:00 AM 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM 6:30 - 7:30 PM 10:00 - 11:00 AM 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	RICHMOND PARK RICHMOND PARK RICHMOND PARK RICHMOND PARK RICHMOND PARK RICHMOND PARK	284105A 284105B 284105C 284105D 284105E 284105F
ECO-PLAY CONNECTION Join a community of children who love to explore, discover the wonder of the natural world and how they fit into it. Eco-Play Connection uses the natural areas of our parks to offer children something unique: time to play in nature by connecting with the outdoors through active hands-on experiences. Learn to navigate trails, search for salamanders, play games, listen to bird songs, observe life cycles, race sticks down a stream, build forts, climb trees and read nature's signs. Rebecca Brilowski-Podbregar is the creator and instructor of Eco-Play Connection. She has a master's degree in urban education and is an experienced elementary Montessori teacher. Ages 6-12, Resident: \$50, Non: \$60	THURSDAYS JUNE 14 - AUG 2 SATURDAYS JUNE 16 - AUG 4	5:00 - 6:30 PM 9:00 - 10:30 AM	HUFF, RICHMOND, & RIVERSIDE PARKS	284106A 284106B
PERFORMING ARTS This Community Theater program is designed for children 7+ years and adults, with or without experience looking to learn about performing arts and shine on stage in a performance of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream". Ages 7+, Resident: \$50, Non: \$60	MON & THU JUNE 18 - AUG 9	6:00 - 8:00 PM	COLDBROOK BUILDING	284107A
JUNIOR LIFEGUARDING Get a foundation of knowledge, attitude and skills required to become a certified lifeguard. You will participate in classroom lessons, swimming skills, and in-water rescue techniques. You will not receive lifeguard certification - this class builds the foundation to help become certified at age 15. Intermediate swimming skills are recommended. Class meets Monday through Thursday for 3 weeks. Ages 11-14, Resident: \$0, Non: \$25	MON - THU JULY 9 - 26 JULY 9 - 26 JULY 9 - 26	10:00 AM - 12:30 PM 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM	RICHMOND POOL BRIGGS POOL MLK POOL	200001A 200001B 200001C
LIFEGUARD CERTIFICATION If you successfully complete this course, you will be certified as an American Red Cross Water Park Lifeguard. It is recommended you have intermediate swimming skills to participate in this program. Ages 15 & up, Resident: \$150, Non: \$175	MON - THU JUNE 18 - 28 JULY 16 - 26 JULY 30 - AUG 9	10:00 AM - 12:30 PM 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM	RICHMOND POOL BRIGGS POOL MLK POOL	200008A 200008B 200008C

Mayor's Greening Initiative Tree Planting Set for Saturday, April 28

The third annual Mayor's Greening Initiative tree planting will take place 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 28 in the neighborhood surrounding Sullivan Field on the city's West Side. A Community Celebration featuring free food will follow from noon to 2 p.m. A tree giveaway will take place 6 to 7 p.m. Friday, April 27 at Sullivan Field. City of Grand Rapids residents are encouraged to select a free tree for their property during the giveaway.

All ages are invited to participate in the tree planting. No experience is necessary, and all tools will be provided. Volunteers may register online at friendsofgrparks.org/events. For more information, contact Dia Noble at Friends of Grand Rapids Parks at dia@friendsofgrparks.org or 616.288.7209.

The tree planting and giveaway coincide with Arbor Day - a holiday that encourages people around the

world to plant and care for trees.

The Mayor's Greening Initiative is a partnership between the Mayor's Office, Friends of Grand Rapids Parks and the City's Forestry Department as a way to engage the entire community in reaching our city's 40 percent tree canopy goal. This year's effort will bring together community and corporate volunteers who will plant up to 300 trees near Sullivan Field and Stocking Elementary. It also will honor an individual who has had a significant impact in the neighborhood.

The City Commission adopted a Green Grand Rapids amendment to the City's master plan in 2011 to activate the social, economic and environmental benefits of trees. Provisions to that amendment set sights on a 40 percent tree canopy goal for the city. The city's current tree canopy cover is roughly 35 percent, according to the 2015 Tree Canopy Survey.

Wag 'n' Wade & Kids Triathlon

August 26 - Richmond Park Pool



Save the date for the second annual Wag 'n' Wade and the first ever Kids Triathlon. Details and registration information will be posted on the Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation Facebook page and www.grandrapidsmi.gov.



Components of a Safe School

By Larry D. Johnson, Chief of Staff & Executive Director of Public Safety & President, National Association of School Safety & Law Enforcement



One of the things that makes school shootings so scary is that they seem so random. However, we believe that school shootings are predictable, and if you can predict them, you can prevent them.

Nobody is born a school shooter. School shooters are made by a combination of factors, both internal and external. School shooters have many of these factors in common, and as such, it is possible to identify a youth who is at risk for devolving into a school shooter. This means that with timely intervention, it can be possible to prevent a school shooting.

For several weeks on the nightly news, we have seen talk of school violence, and the death and destruction at American schools. These incidents have occurred in various locations, including both public and private schools. No school district is immune to the troubling issues facing American schools. As a school safety professional, I am convinced that these events can be mitigated; however, it starts with TRUST. Parents must TRUST those responsible for school safety and security. In as much as those involved in the safety of students enjoy the feedback, during a critical incident, it is so important that parents, staff and the community give districts the opportunity to manage the incidents.

The Grand Rapids Public School has had its share of incidents over the years, and each year we get better and better at preventing and managing these incidents. We hope and pray that our community will never face any of the death and heartache that communities are facing around the county.

With careful thought and consideration, and with the

input of students, parents, staff and community members, we will select the best avenue that will give our community and district an advantage in preventing, mitigating, preparing and recovery should we be faced with a critical incident in our schools.

We continue to work with our staff in “The Components of a Safe School” program. This process has been the backbone of our school safety program and it is recognized nationally as a model for school safety. See page B3 for the Components of a Safe School.

If we embrace these components, we are confident that we will continue to make Grand Rapids Public Schools one of the safest districts in the state, if not the entire nation. Our focus as we prepare to move forward is around security technology. The citizens of Grand Rapids believe so much in the district that they have given us the opportunity to improve on our school safety and security by passing a 10 million dollar bond that will allow for the upgrading of entry ways at our schools. This will also allow us to increase our use of cameras, card access, two-way radios and visitor management systems. We look forward to improving all of our schools in the very near future.

With the opening of C.A. Frost Middle/High School (2016), Buchanan Elementary, and Museum High School you will begin to see our thoughts and goals for all of our campuses. A process has been put in place to begin additional work on security entry ways and the increase use of other security technology solutions. In the coming months, look for additional security work to be completed at Gerald R. Ford Academic Center, Martin Luther King Academy, Cesar Chavez, and Burton Middle/Elementary Schools. We selected these schools as they had previous work that allows for easy integration of the new security technology and re-design of their front office.

Following the above-mentioned projects, we will

continue to solicit input from our parents, students, staff and the community to prioritize our work as we continue to create and maintain a safe school environment for all the schools in our district.

So keep your eyes open for new visitor management system, and new and improved two-way radio system, additional cameras in all of our buildings, increased use of card access and door intercom systems. In addition, we will evaluate all of our communication systems, and continue training our staff. In the spring of 2018, we plan to expand all of our school safety trainings to our students, parents and the community.

Keeping schools safe is our goal, and we want to continue to build the TRUST necessary for our parents to continue to send their students to what I believe are some of the safest schools in the nation. We will also continue to take the input from all of our stakeholders because we know this work cannot be completed in isolation.

For additional information on upcoming security related projects, contact Larry Johnson at Johnsonl@grps.org or call 616 819-2100. Further projects will also be posted on the district website. (Components of a Safe Schools taken from the book “Components of a Safe School by Larry D. Johnson.”) The components of a Safe School are detailed on page B3.



■ SEE SAFE SCHOOLS / B3

Schools Use Silent Observer to Stop Campus Violence



Silent Observer developed a School Violence Prevention Program for middle and high school students in 1998 – before acts of campus violence became

regular headline news. Grand Rapids Public Schools, together with most school districts in Kent County, has promoted this program to create an environment that is safe for all students. Students and parents can use their

voice anonymously to report information about crime occurring on or off school grounds by calling Silent Observer at 616-774-2345, using the Silent Observer mobile app, or by visiting to www.silentobserver.org. If the student’s tip leads to the recovery of stolen or damaged property or drugs, the student is eligible to claim a \$50 reward, using the identification number received at the time the tip was submitted.

For the past 20 years, tips from students have led authorities to guns, knives, drugs, assault, vandalism, threats of violence, bullying, sexting, theft, etc. Silent Observer developed this program to empower our young

people to get involved in the safety and well-being of their school community. Silent Observer influences our youth by educating them and showing them they have the power to stop the violence, they have the power to make things right, and they have the power to change their world. Their power is using their voice to stand up for family and friends by reporting dangerous situations safely, without fear of retaliation.

Silent Observer is your partner in helping to keep our families, our neighborhoods and our schools a safe place to live, work and play.

Community Update on Secure, Connect, Transform Bond Projects

Multiple Projects Underway or Completed

By Teresa Weatherall Neal, M.Ed., Superintendent of Schools

When I asked the residents of Grand Rapids to support our bond in 2015, I pledged to secure, connect, and transform our district. Thanks to your overwhelming support, we continue to make significant progress toward our goals.

SECURE

Student and staff safety is our greatest concern. Although our schools have had secure entrances and requirements for all visitors to sign in through the office, many of our buildings were not built for the complex security concerns of the 21st Century. Led by Chief of Staff and Executive Director of Public Safety/School Security Mr. Larry Johnson, building entrances and offices are being redesigned to meet today's standards.

CONNECT

Our Management Information Services team has been distributing and installing new technology throughout the district. Chromebooks and iPads were distributed to students in all schools. This will help support the district's new science curriculum, Discovery Ed Techbook. Instructional staff devices have also been upgraded as more than 1,400 teachers, staff, and principals have been equipped with new Microsoft Surface Pro 4 laptops. 800 classrooms throughout the district have been upgraded with new state-of-the-art, interactive, wireless projection capabilities, while the remaining classrooms are on the

schedule for the same upgrade.

TRANSFORM

Buchanan Elementary School

Status: IN PROGRESS

When complete, Buchanan Elementary will be approximately 75% new building and 25% fully renovated building. The addition to the school will include 16 classrooms, gym, cafeteria and kitchen. Renovations will be made to seven classrooms, media center, administrative offices, and a secure entry. Additional improvements to the school will include the playground, parking lot and drop-off areas. The 16 classrooms will be relocated to occupy new rooms over spring break. The entire building will be complete for the start of next school year on August 20, 2018.

Grand Rapids Public Museum High School

Status: IN PROGRESS

The first class of high schoolers will start in the fall of 2018 at the newly renovated Museum High School. The landmark 54 Jefferson, which served as the original public museum, will become the ultimate place-based learning environment. The project is a complete interior renovation designed for the Museum School's specific needs. The Public Museum High School will be ready for the first 9th class entering in the 2018-19 school year.

City High Middle School

Status: IN PROGRESS

City High Middle School is under construction for a major renovation of the original academic building, including classroom improvements, science lab renovations, revised secure entry, restroom upgrades, lockers, classroom furniture, heating and air conditioning. Classrooms improvements include new ceilings, new LED lighting, window treatments, flooring, painting, and technology. Currently the north half of the building is closed for construction, and will be complete for the start of next school year on August 20, 2018. Next school year will see the south half under construction. The full project completion is estimated at May, 2019.

Air Conditioning

Status: BEGINNING SUMMER 2018

CA Frost Elementary and Campus Elementary are scheduled for completion in August, 2018. Brookside Elementary, East Leonard Elementary, North Park Montessori, and Shawmut Hill Elementary are scheduled for completion in May, 2019.

Ottawa Hills High School, Union High School and the new SWCC High School are current in the preliminary design phase.

For a complete listing of current and future projects, please visit grps.org or wearegr.com.

Grand Rapids Public Schools

WE ARE GR

APRIL 2018

Grand Rapids
Board of Education
2018

Wendy VerHage Falb, Ph.D., *President*

Raynard Ross, *Vice President*

Kristian Grant, *Secretary*

Jen Schottke, *Treasurer*

Tony Baker, Ph.D.

José Flores, Ed.D.

Katherine Downes Lewis

Rev. John Matias

Maureen Quinn Slade

Teresa Weatherall Neal, M.Ed.

Superintendent of Schools

Equal Opportunity Institution: Grand Rapids Public Schools, as an Equal Opportunity Institution, complies with federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and harassment, including Title IV and Title VII (with amendments) of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the Educational Amendment of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Veterans Readjustment Act of 1974 as amended 38 USC 20-12 and the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990. The District will not discriminate against any person based on race, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and expression, height, weight, color, religion, national origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, disability or veteran status. The District's Civil Rights Compliance Officer is Larry Johnson. Mr. Larry Johnson may be contacted at 1331 Franklin SE, P.O. Box 117, Grand Rapids, MI 49501-0117 or (616) 819-2100. The District's Title IX Coordinator is Kurt Johnson. Mr. Kurt Johnson may be contacted at 1331 Franklin SE, P.O. Box 117, Grand Rapids, MI 49501-0117 or (616) 819-2010.

Title IX Annual Athletics Compliance Report: Grand Rapids Public Schools is committed to securing athletic equity and provides annual Title IX reporting to the athletes and parents in an effort to bring increased attention and resources towards ensuring that gender equity as required by Title IX of the Education Amendments for 1972, Grand Rapids Public Schools annual report is available at www.grps.org.

To comply with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), parents may request information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers.

Please contact Micky Savage, Director of Human Resources, in Human Resources via email savagem@grps.org or at (616) 819-2028.

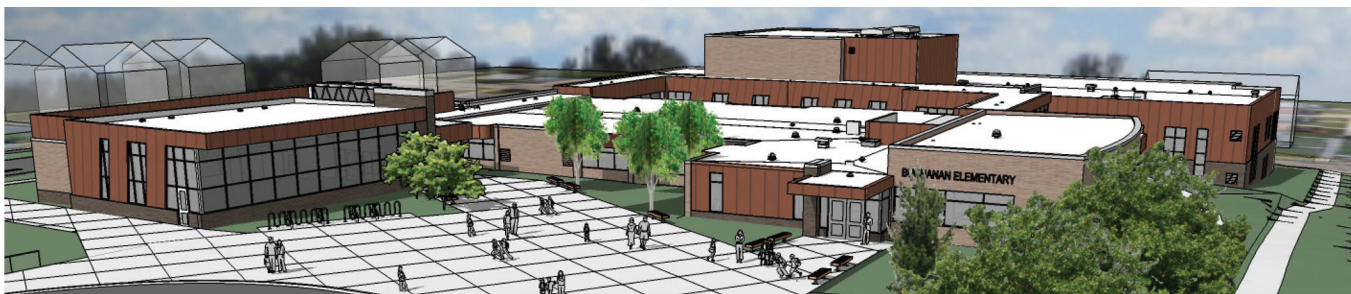
WE ARE GR

APRIL 2018

is published four times per year by
GRPS Communications Office
Grand Rapids Public Schools
1331 Franklin St. SE, P.O. Box 117
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49501-0117
Phone: (616) 819-2149
Fax: (616) 819-3480

www.grps.org www.WeAreGR.com
John Helmholdt, *Executive Director of
Communications & External Affairs*
Kalli Zielbauer, *Communications Coordinator*
Kyle Pray, *Student Retention Recruitment
Program Coordinator*
Lynn Ritsema, *Administrative Assistant*

THANK YOU GRAND RAPIDS!



YOUR BOND DOLLARS AT WORK.

Buchanan Elementary \$13 MILLION RENOVATIONS

Safe Schools

Continued from B1

The Components of a Safe School

Appropriate Student & Staff Relationships	Important to build relationships with students that are professional and appropriate. Healthy relationships with students help to establish trust, and give the staff members an opportunity to talk with students one on one to prevent and identify challenges, barriers and obstacles students may be having.
Administrative Support	Staff cannot be effective unless they know they have support from the administration from the top down. Building staff must reinforce this in buildings so that staff not only feels support but they know they are supported.
After School Athletic Security Program	More students attend high school athletic events than professional events. We have established security procedures from 7 am until 3 pm. We cannot allow security procedures to be reduced at a time when students will be inside buildings attending athletic or after school events. The same procedures before school ends should apply after the school day and on weekends.
Comprehensive School Safety Plan	Buildings must have a comprehensive school safety plan in place which includes: after school events, peer mediation, conflict resolution, restorative practices, PBIS and many more. These programs go to the core of a safe and healthy school environment.
Cleanliness of Building	Buildings must be clean both inside and outside. Staff must model the behavior by picking up litter that is on the ground and working with their operations staff to ensure a clean environment.
Crisis Management Plans	Staff must not only know the district's crisis management plan, they must ensure that drills and opportunities to practice the plan are implemented. Administrators must stress that staff follow the plan, and offer opportunities to practice so that in the event of an incident all staff will know how to respond.
Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (C.P.T.E.D.)	School design is very important; knowing how design plays into the day to day operations of a safe building becomes very critical. Adjustment to the school design and environment can help create and maintain a safe school.
School Security Program	When available, the utilization of the district's school security officers will give the administrator an opportunity to have professionally trained staff to assist with a major investigations and provide a level of safety that is open and inviting
School Pride	The administrator should understand that the culture of the school takes on the personality of the administrator within two years of working in a building. A well-established level of pride is evidence at the time a visitor walks in the building. This includes, the friendliness of staff, an organized and clean front office, student work displayed, billboards that reflect the correct information, etc.
School Uniform Policy	A school uniform policy must be fair, firm and consistent. This process must be established at the beginning of the school year; and be a part of the school culture and not utilized as a management tool to target certain students.
Student Pass Procedures	Student management and supervision is critical in any school environment, knowing where students are at all times will help to reduce vandalism, assaults, and other school related incidents. Ensuring that all staff is implementing an effective student hall pass procedure will reduce the opportunity for students to misbehave during non-supervised times.
Student Safety Audits	School safety audits and assessments should be conducted annually by school safety professional to help identify risk and vulnerabilities within the building. When completed, it helps administrative staff know those risk factors that can disrupt the school environment. Staff can adjust to them and thereby reduce risk to the entire school culture.
School Safety Leadership Academy	The School Safety Leadership Academy is an opportunity for school administrators and staff to learn critical information to assist them in the management of their building and the management of a potential crisis. It is designed to bring the latest information and best practices to the administrator and other staff members.
Positive Behavior Intervention Support (P.B.I.S)	Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a proactive approach to establishing the behavioral supports a student needs to be successful in school. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Each building has their own expectations and they should be posted in the building. ▶ Students should be receiving tickets/acknowledgements for exhibiting expectations. ▶ Staff should be referring to expectations when redirecting students. ▶ Staff should be utilizing positive reinforcement and positive language when engaging with students.
Perimeter Patrols	A simple concept of keeping a watchful eye on the school environment. Checking risk areas of the school including bathrooms, doors, parking lots etc.
Restorative Practices	A strategy that seeks to repair relationships that have been damaged, including those damaged through bullying. It does this by bringing about a sense of remorse and restorative action on the part of the offender and forgiveness by the victim. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Restorative Circles can be utilized to build community, check in with students, and resolve student/staff/parent conflicts. ▶ Restorative questions such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "What were your thoughts when you did ____?" • How do you think your actions made ____ feel? • What could you do differently next time?
Technology Utilization Plan	A strategy to select and utilize available and affordable security technology that can aid in the maintaining of a safe school environment. This includes, two way radios, card access, alarms, metal detectors, etc.
Teaching, Educating, and Mentoring (T.E.A.M)	A research based prevention program is a school based, law related curriculum to grades k-12 by trained school security officers.
Incident Reports	An official school record of a school related event reported to school officials and maintained as a record of events.
Law Enforcement Partnerships	Partnerships with local, state, county and federal law enforcement agencies established for the purpose of developing a positive relationship between school officials and enforcement agencies for the purpose of keeping schools safe.
Mandated School Security Training	A comprehensive school safety and security training program that trains all school staff in the best practices of school safety and security.
Nutrition Services	The districts meals program operating within the school to ensure students are receiving nutritionally balanced, low cost meals while attending school.
Truancy Program	A strategy within the district to manage chronic absenteeism and improve attendance of students.
Table Top Exercise	A meeting that discusses simulated emergencies, trains, and brings together key school officials to ensure that staff is properly prepared to respond to a school-based emergency.
Visitor Control Procedures	A district level procedure that establishes protocols for the management of the front office of a school. (Refer to Student Hand Book)
Youth Advocate and Intervention Specialist Programs	A school based program that hires and trains specially selected individuals to work with students. The program acts as a mentoring and tutoring program that works with at-risk students to help remove barriers and obstacles to assist student in being successful at school and home.

Choosing to Stay Close to Home: Five Families Commit to an Underutilized Neighborhood School

By Natalie Tomlin

Three years ago, Meryl Herr walked her toddler around the Alger Heights neighborhood with her mind full of questions. She was finishing a Ph.D. in educational studies at Trinity International University and was not only considering issues such as adult learning theory, but also more intimate, local issues: what she describes as “deeply personal questions about my family’s educational commitments and our connection to our neighborhood school.”

Even though her child was several years from kindergarten, Herr was already receiving opinions about Brookside Elementary, the school for Alger Heights and South Garfield Park. “When we moved into the neighborhood, Grand Rapids Public Schools (GRPS) had a very negative stigma,” she explains. A local teacher told her family not to send their child to Brookside, and she knew several friends who had chosen to homeschool or send their children to private schools. But her family was committed to sending their child to a public school, if possible. They wondered if perhaps schools-of-choice would provide them an option for doing so.

“I watched my neighbors shuttle their children across town to schools in Kentwood and Forest Hills, and the thought of spending so much of my day in the car disheartened me,” she continues. She began wondering if we could get a critical mass of families to commit to Brookside. At a block party, she asked neighbors where they sent their kids. Some of the long-time residents had actually gone to Brookside in their youth, and others remembered sending their children there. Yet no one seemed to advocate sending their child there now.

Herr didn’t have the time and energy to lead the effort, so she turned to prayer. “I sensed that I wanted to be involved in making our neighborhood school better, but I didn’t want to do it alone.”

Fast forward to winter 2016, the year before her child would enter kindergarten. Herr, now a mother of two, toured several GRPS theme schools and found they were not ideal fits for her child. It was then that her family became convinced “that we needed to turn our attention to Brookside.”

Then, her prayer was answered.

A neighbor whom she had met at our block party sent Herr a message, saying that she knew Herr was passionate about equity in education and that she knew four other families interested in sending their children to Brookside. “Within a matter of days, four moms and I sat in my living room, sharing brownies and talking about Brookside and our motives for engaging in our neighborhood school,” she says.

Three of the moms had already visited Brookside and met with the principal, and after doing so herself, Herr felt



Meryl Herr and her sons Jeremiah and Caleb walk home from school

convinced that Brookside was the place for her family.

After the living room meeting, the group of five posted their decision on a neighborhood Facebook page. They were showered with ‘likes’ and comments in support of their decision.

Exploring the impact of school of choice

School of choice is gaining popularity in Michigan: in 2016, MLive reported that 26 percent of Michigan students are enrolled outside of their home school

district. Before choosing Brookside, Herr was like many parents within Kent Intermediate School District’s (ISD) school of choice system or choice systems all over Michigan: she was shopping around for a possible school that presented an ideal fit for her child. In order to secure a seat at any school outside of her neighborhood, she would need to complete an application. If the school she applied to received more applications than seats available, a lottery would be held, and if her child was not selected, she would be placed on a waitlist.

It’s an elaborate process that can place stress on families, and some argue, schools. In 2016, an MLive story quoted Kent ISD Superintendent Ron Caniff about the effects of school of choice on West Michigan. “I am not convinced that the evidence is there to demonstrate that choice has uplifted all schools as it was intended,” he said. “Rather, it has decimated some districts and destabilized schools.”

The story also explained the impact of school of choice on the city schools of Grand Rapids, where Brookside is located: “Grand Rapids Public Schools, the largest district in the West Michigan, has been hit the hardest [...] About 39 percent of public school students living in the city are not enrolled in their home district.”

Parents all over Michigan can turn to mischooldata.org for detailed information about public schools and the site reports that at Brookside, just 18.2 percent students are proficient in English Language Arts at the end of third grade, and according Michigan Accountability Scorecard, which rates student attendance as well as proficiency in core subjects, Brookside is rated yellow, or 71.4 percent. 85.5 percent of Brookside’s students were economically disadvantaged as of 2016.

A GRPS official shared the following demographics for Brookside for the 2016-2017 year: 32 percent of the students are English Language Learners (ELL), 58 percent are African American, 27 percent Hispanic, 1 percent Asian, 6 percent two or more races, and 7 percent white.

GRPS Executive Director of Communications and External Affairs John Helms explains that high ELL enrollment has been driven by two factors: first, Brookside attracts ELL from outside the Brookside attendance area because it is one of 18 designated “Cultural Centers” with highly qualified bilingual teachers providing support and services. Also, Brookside is a “buddy school” to Southwest Community Campus (SWCC). Since SWCC has a specialty dual immersion theme, if students are not bilingual by the second grade, they may not have SWCC as a neighborhood option and need to travel to Brookside.

Inspired by critical thinking

Herr was armed with this information, but since she has expertise in educational theory, she had more in mind as she faced the decision. When she elaborates on her thought process, she delves into the work of Stephen D. Brookfield, a leading voice on critical thinking in adult learning. In his book “Developing Critical Thinkers: Challenging Adults to Explore Alternative Ways of Thinking and Acting,” Brookfield wrote that critical thinking “involves calling into question the assumptions underlying our customary, habitual ways of thinking and acting and then being ready to think and act differently on the basis of this critical questioning.”

Brookfield identifies one of the key components to critical thinking: “identifying and challenging assumptions.” He continues, “Trying to identify the assumptions that underlie the ideas, beliefs, values, and actions that we (and others) take for granted is central to critical thinking.”

As Herr applied Brookfield’s ideas directly to her search for a school, she uncovered questions: “What assumptions had I made about Brookside? On what information had I based those assumptions? The opinions of others? Hearsay? Test scores?”

Annie House, a registered dietitian and mom of one, found that neighbors played a huge role in challenging her assumptions. She grew up near Brookside and recalls playing on the playground at Brookside while never thinking much about why she didn’t go to school there. Her perception continued when her family moved back to the neighborhood several years ago.

“We’d never really considered our neighborhood public school as an option....we just assumed we would enroll our daughter into a private or charter school. There were other areas surrounding Grand Rapids that had high performing schools but many of them lacked the diversity that we felt essential for our multiracial family,” she says.

While House had been impressed with a tour of a nearby private Christian school with a great reputation, her perspective

was challenged when family had begun to get close to neighbors through weekly dinners. “When neighbors started asking questions about Brookside, I realized how little I actually knew about the school. We started



wondering if it might be a realistic option.”

One key to shifting House’s perception was that she would not be alone: four neighbors were getting ready to send their kids to kindergarten. “If we worked to support each other, the school didn’t feel intimidating anymore,” she says. “The more we talked about it, prayed about it, [and] read about how to support neighborhood schools, the more it started feeling like we’d been placed in a situation where we had a unique opportunity to be a part of something really special—it didn’t feel like a sacrifice.”

Seeking more information

Amanda Van Essendelft, mom of two, registered nurse, and another parent who attended the living room meeting, had lived in Garfield Park for seven years before she began to get curious.

“Our good friends started talking about sending their son to Brookside for kindergarten and it got us thinking about the school as an option,” she says. “I did wonder, ‘is the school as bad as everyone says it is?’ This was put to rest by just visiting the school in person and meeting the staff and students.”

Like many parents, Van Essendelft looked into the school’s online ratings and reviews, but found the information “extremely limited.” Ultimately the information she received from visiting the school itself and meeting with the principal and teachers was what pushed her to send her child there. “The personal connection and ability to ask questions face-to-face put us at ease far more than the few outdated facts available online,” she explains.

In order to gain more insight on Brookside and GRPS, one of the parents, Trina Rookus, stay-at-home mom and mother of three, reached out another neighbor, Barbara Lubic, a professor in the College of Education at Grand Valley State University. Rookus knew that Lubic understood GRPS, as well as best practices in education, and would be able to guide her in terms of what to look for beyond test scores, including the environment of the school and community connections that had been established.

Lubic helped guide the group to formulate questions, meeting with the principal, and taking the tour of the school. “I was basically their cheerleader!” she says.

Van Essendelft describes the process of touring the school as highly positive: “We met with the principal, who welcomed a meeting and encouraged us to visit in the kindergarten class. The principal answered all of our questions, the teacher was great, and her students were engaged. Visits to the website gave us basic information on test scores and such but talking with the principal told us the story behind the statistics.”

Van Essendelft and other parents are quick to point out that while websites report low test scores at Brookside, they don’t report the high number of English Language Learners enrolled in the school, who impact test scores as they master the language.

Valuing neighborhood involvement and diversity

As a resident of Alger Heights for more than thirteen years, Lubic has insight into the character of the neighborhood. “I LOVE my neighborhood. It is full of families who are active in the community and support one

another. When you walk down the street, you see people out, walking, riding bikes, sitting in their yards talking with neighbors.

“I think the one unfortunate thing about our neighborhood is that, to my knowledge, until this year, not one family sent their children to the neighborhood school,” she continues. “We all drive out of the neighborhood to Christian schools, charter schools, or other districts for public schools of choice.”

“For a neighborhood full of people who are so invested in their community, why aren’t we invested in our neighborhood schools?” she asks. “I am not sure anyone truly ever checked out the schools. I think many families simply went with the assumption that the schools were less than adequate.”

As their children approached their kindergarten year, the parents shared their strong commitment to diversity and how happy they were that their children would share classroom with children from different walks of life.

“Sending our daughter to a school where there was a lot of diversity was always a high priority for us,” explains House.

“We believe that social intelligence is vital to success, and a major part of social intelligence is learning to respect and interact with people who are different from us,” Herr says. “Brookside is a cultural center with students of many races, ethnicities, and cultures. This diversity should be celebrated and nurtured.”

They also expressed excitement in becoming more rooted in their community and pointed to an unspoken divide within the neighborhood. “Families in our neighborhood come together at community events like Alger Heights Days or Story Time in the Park,” Herr says. “We see each other at the Kroc Center or Ken’s Market. But rarely do we have families viewing our neighborhood schools as a place of community interaction and engagement.”

Navigating the transition

Although the parents enter the school with the energy and resources to volunteer in different capacities, they are careful to respect the existing school culture. “I’m new to being the parent of a school-aged child and I want to take time to get to know the school and the school system first,” Van Essendelft says. “I think it’s important to listen first and learn about a place and people before taking action. Jumping in with what I think is best for the school might not be best at all and might actually be harmful if I don’t take the time to listen and learn beforehand.”

While the parents are focused on supporting their own child’s school experience, they also place high value on the well-being of the larger school community. “I’m expressing comments and concerns to teachers, staff, and

administrators when appropriate. I’m advocating for my child and hopefully for all children. We want the school to know that we are there for them!” says Herr.

Van Essendelft echoes this concern: “I want my child and all the children there to receive a quality education and for the teachers and staff to feel supported,” she says.

And though they are only a few weeks into school and are facing the same stresses as any family would as they transition into kindergarten, their reactions are overwhelmingly positive. “I couldn’t be happier. The teachers and staff and principal are incredible,” says Van Essendelft. “My daughter loves going to school and she is thriving there.”

“We have an enormous amount of support from our friends and neighbors,” says House. “We walk to school with each other, drop off or pick up each others kids from school (great when you’re working parents), and our kids had the comfort of knowing people in their class on their very first day.”

“My child is learning to write, count, and play games in gym class—perhaps like every other kindergartner in Grand Rapids” says Herr.

It’s uncertain what type of effect or larger movement might result from the decision of these five families. Beginning last summer, Herr started advocating more broadly for neighborhood school involvement. At Story Time in the Park in Garfield Park, she set up a table

with flyers and information about Brookside because she wanted other neighborhood families to see Brookside as a viable choice for their children.

As a professor of education and long-time observer the school of choice model in Grand Rapids, Lubic hopes change comes sooner, rather than later.

“If the families in the neighborhood don’t invest in their school, they will struggle to survive, let alone thrive. Families can no

longer drive out of their neighborhoods and abandon their neighborhood schools if we want cities to grow and thrive. If we want to attract young professionals and families to our city, we need to invest in our city schools and make them strong.”

This article is part of Michigan Nightlight, a series of stories about the programs and people that positively impact the lives of Michigan kids. It is made possible with funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Natalie Tomlin is a freelance writer based in Grand Rapids. Her recent work appears in Midwestern Gothic, New Pages, Literary Mama, Cultured.GR, and elsewhere. A former public school teacher, she has taught writing for over a decade, most recently at DePaul University in Chicago.

Photos by Adam Bird of Bird + Bird Studio.



Barbara Lubic walks with her sons Alexander and Harold to classes

Preschool: Starting Off Right!

Did You Know...

- A high quality preschool education will give your child the needed skills to be successful in Kindergarten and beyond
- Research has shown that those who have attended preschool programs are more likely to graduate from high school, get better jobs, and earn higher wages than those who did not attend a preschool program
- Grand Rapids Public Schools provides world-class preschool learning opportunities to qualifying preschoolers in ALL of our district's elementary schools throughout the city

GRPS' World-Class preschool programs provide young children with the foundation for both academic and social-emotional success!

Within our World-Class preschool classrooms, children will have the opportunity to learn social-emotional, motor, cognitive, and academic skills in a developmentally appropriate play-based environment. Children focus on important Kindergarten readiness skills including letter recognition, letter-sound relationships, connecting numerals and quantities, and many more all through engaging, fun, hands on activities!

Whether children are busy exploring with magnifying glasses in the classroom's discovery area, building intricate creations in the block area, letting their imaginations run wild in dramatic play environments, or making masterpieces in the art area, children in GRPS preschools are building skills and developing the attitudes of life-long learners!

Mark your calendar now for May 11's Preschool Here I Come Event. This is a wonderful opportunity to visit preschool classrooms throughout the district, meet our amazing team of preschool teachers, and find the best fit school for your child and family.



Contact the Early Childhood office of Grand Rapids Public Schools today at (616) 819-2111 to learn more about preschool options for your child!

Grand Rapids Student Advancement Foundation Supports Literacy Initiatives

Lucy is in the third-grade and loves to read. But Lucy isn't yet reading at a third grade level.

In October 2017, Michigan passed a new third grade reading law that creates extra accountability for students, families and schools for students not reading at grade level by the end of third grade. And in 2020, under the new law, students not reading at grade level will be held back from entering fourth grade. The serious consequences of this legislation are far-reaching, and no school district is safe. In fact, some predict this new law could impact more than half of all Michigan students!

The State of Michigan is at a crossroads. As it's already being reported, Michigan is slipping from its title as a top-education state. Now ranking 41st in national fourth-grade reading scores, Michigan's substantial decent from its previous 28th seating in 2003, spells trouble. Our schools don't have years to find solutions. More importantly, our students don't have years.

So what can we do for Lucy and all of our students to ensure they read at grade level by third grade? With real systems change, we, as a community, can support teachers, students and their

families. Grand Rapids Public Schools is already responding. By partnering with the Midwest Education Trust, literacy coaches and other education partners, GRPS is finding additional avenues in which to support both the students and the teachers. But GRPS is not doing it alone.

2017, GRSF introduced its new Literacy Fund, which specifically earmarks funds to bolster initiatives that respond to third grade reading needs, including access to resources that replicate successful programs of other districts across the state and in the country. Thanks to the community,

Portal Program. Currently in four GRPS elementary schools, with five additional schools waiting to be added, TutorMate is an online volunteer tutoring program that pairs volunteers with first grade students who are falling behind in grade level reading skills. The goal of TutorMate is to intervene early and provide these students the help they need to catch-up with their peers. Unique to TutorMate, volunteers do not simply read to or with students, but rather are guided and supported by the program to help target key learning areas for students. Focusing on fluency, comprehension, phonics, and spelling, TutorMate in conjunction with the Kindles provide the needed technology for more students to participate in this vital program.

While the Literacy Fund raises critical dollars for GRPS' use to pilot or expand literacy programs like TutorMate, it also allows donors and the community the opportunity to be partners in this work. As the Foundation remains committed to funding this need, we are also committed to communicating the challenges as well as the opportunities to provide the seed funding as a catalyst for change.

Let's change Lucy's story! Interested in being a catalyst for change? Visit www.grsaf.org!



From providing access to the right literacy tools and resources for classrooms, supporting literacy efforts is at the heart of the Grand Rapids Student Advancement Foundation's (GRSAF) mission. In fall

the Foundation has already raised more than \$25,000! In December 2017, the GRSF approved its first grant from the Literacy Fund to purchase Kindles to support the TutorMate Teacher/ Student



GRASP is an academic summer correspondence program in **READING** and **MATH** for grades K-8. There is also an online version for grades 4-8. The program seeks to help students retain skills learned during the previous school year by providing review exercises. Students can earn certificates and medals!

Registration forms will be given to GRPS students. Non-GRPS students can still take GRASP. Contact your school to see if they participate or call us at 819-2548 to register individually.



NUTRITIOUS SUMMER MEALS FREE FOR KIDS AND TEENS

Food That's In When School Is Out

*Breakfast consists of: Assorted Cereals, Benefit Bar, Yogurt or String Cheese, Orange Juice & 8 oz fluid Milk.
Snack consists of: Popcorn OR Apple Way Bar & 8 oz. fluid Milk*

Cold Menu

● MONDAY ●	● TUESDAY ●	● WEDNESDAY ●	● THURSDAY ●	● FRIDAY ●
Yogurt Sunflower Seeds Mandarin Oranges UBR Paradise Punch Ice Cold Milk	Ham & Cheese Sandwich Carrots Cheetos Banana Ice Cold Milk	Tortilla Scoops Nacho Cheese Salsa Refried Beans Peach Cup Ice Cold Milk	Italian Sub Sandwich Broccoli Apple Slices Fruit Snack Ice Cold Milk	Chicken Salad Grape Tomatoes Cherry Craisins Pretzel Roll Sun Chips Ice Cold Milk

Hot Menu: Cereal

Cini Mini

Bene Bar

Sausage Br Sandwich

● MONDAY ●	● TUESDAY ●	● WEDNESDAY ●	● THURSDAY ●
Pep Pizza Apple Slices Salad Carrots Emoji Ice Ice Cold Milk	Cheeseburger Ranch Wedge Cheetos Banana Ice Cold Milk	Chicken Drumstick Macaroni & Cheese Broccoli Watermelon Fruit Snacks Ice Cold Milk	Italian Sub Cole Slaw Grapes Doritos Ice Cold Milk



Get Involved!
If you're a school, private nonprofit organization, a unit of local government, a residential summer camp or a day camp, you may be eligible to provide free meals to children in low-income areas during the summer. By becoming a sponsor of the program, you will help local children receive nutritious meals and take part in fun activities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
Grand Rapids Public Schools
Nutrition Services - 819-2135

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service prohibits discrimination based on race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability, in program access and delivery. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). **"USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."**

Summer Camp Guide

Sherman Lake YMCA Camp Augusta, MI 269-731-3000

www.shermanlakeymca.org/camp

Sherman Lake YMCA offers a summer of growth for your child and memories that will last a lifetime! Through discovery of the great outdoors, skill development, and the building of healthy relationships, campers leave with a renewed sense of belonging, confidence and courage to try new things. That's what keeps campers coming back to Sherman Lake YMCA Summer Camp! Sherman Lake offers Day, Overnight and High School Leadership Camp opportunities for campers ages 4-18. Scholarships are available.

YMCA Camp Manitou-Lin 1095 N. Briggs Rd. Middleville, MI 49333 888.909.2267 www.grymcacml.org

SUMMER STARTS HERE! Make this summer one to remember at YMCA Camp Manitou-Lin and choose from 9 weeks of overnight or day camp fun, adventure, and friendships! Horseback riding, zip-lining, swimming, rock climbing, kayaking and so much more make for good times and great memories, visit grymcacml.org to register today! Prices start at \$200 – financial scholarships available, call to inquire.

YMCA Summer Branch Day Camps & Clinics Locations throughout West Michigan 616.855.9622 [www.grymca.org/ summerdaycamps](http://www.grymca.org/summerdaycamps)

Summer is the time for discovery! From field trips to fostering creativity, we help kids flourish and explore new talents and interests while having fun all summer long. We offer convenient hours and affordable pricing for kids ages 5-12 at locations throughout Greater Grand Rapids. Visit grymca.org/summerdaycamps to register today! Prices start at \$45 – financial assistance is available, call to inquire.

Ferris State University 1201 S. State Street Big Rapids, MI 49307

151 Fountain Street, NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Kendall College of Art & Design 17 Pearl St. NW ferris.edu/summercamps

Ferris State University offers various sports and academic summer camps for kids. Whether you're looking for a day camp or a sleep-away camp, Ferris offers a variety for many different interests. Campers gain a university experience while participating in faculty led academic camps and varsity team led sports camps. Costs and discounting vary by camp selected. See website for more information.

The Salvation Army Kroc Center Day Camp Grand Rapids, MI 616-588-7200 x2021 www.grkroccenter.org/camp

The Salvation Army Kroc Center's Day Camp is a Christian camp licensed through the State of Michigan that gives children the opportunity to engage and fun-filled activities in a safe and positive environment. Day camp is loaded with activities every day with fun things and weekly field trips! We offer 11 weeks of camp throughout the year. Price includes lunch and snacks daily, field trips, and a Camp Kroc T-shirt, and start at \$125 per week. 1/2 day specialty camps are available at lower rate. Scholarships available. Ages 5-17 years old.

Cran-Hill Ranch (231) 796-7669 www.cranhillranch.com

Cran-Hill Ranch has summer youth camps, horse & specialty camps, a full service 120 site family campground resort, cottages and a retreat facility for any size group. Located near Big Rapids, MI on 380 beautiful acres with 2 allsports lakes offering incredible programs, activities and services. Faith-building, life-changing fun with a purpose. Something for everyone! Day camp starts at \$99.

Tall Turf Ministries 2010 Kalamazoo Ave SE Grand Rapids, MI 49507 (616) 452-7906 www.tallturf.org

Camp Tall Turf provides a culturally diverse and inclusive Christian camp experience for youth ages 8-17. We have unique sessions including Science Camp, Olympics, and Young Leaders. Additionally, we offer weekend camp sessions for families. Affordable pricing is offered on a sliding fee scale based on family size and income.

Camp Henry Newaygo, MI 616-459-CAMP www.camphenry.org

Camp Henry sits on 200 beautiful acres in Newaygo, with over 1/4 mile of lake frontage on Kimball Lake and provides an ideal setting for summer campers, school groups, youth group retreats, sports teams, and family camps. We offer over 50 awesome programs, from high adventure courses and zip lines to canoeing and horseback riding. Summer camp prices start at \$235. Scholarships available.

Humane Society of West Michigan Grand Rapids, MI 616-453-8900 hswestmi.org/camps

A great place for your child to spend their summer learning, growing and having a fun filled experience that will leave a lasting impression! Prices start at \$90. Ages 5-17 welcome!

West Michigan Center for Arts + Technology (WMCAT) Grand Rapids, MI www.wmcat.org/teen-program

WMCAT Teen Arts + Tech Summer Camp will give you your most creative summer yet! They offer a variety of summer camps in the visual arts for 7th-11th grade students. Weekly 4-day camp sessions are being offered June 25-28 and July 30-August 2, with both morning and afternoon options available. Tuition ranges from \$100-110, with limited need-based scholarships available.



Up to **\$995 OFF**
your mortgage closing fees!



NMLS# 419813



Mercantile
Bank of Michigan

mortgages@mercbank.com mercbank.com/mortgage

* Up to \$995.00 off your mortgage Origination Fee. Amount off cannot be greater than your Origination Fee. Loans subject to credit approval. Contact a Mercantile Mortgage Lender for complete details. To receive offer, present this ad to a Mercantile Bank Mortgage Lender by 06/30/18.



LAKER EFFECT

Impact.

When you become a Laker, you look outward, focusing on others instead of yourself. With professors' caring guidance, you learn how to make a lasting difference. Then, as you go forward into the world, you're ready to tackle challenges and make meaningful contributions. Like West Michigan itself, your positive impact will be far reaching. That's the Laker Effect.

gvsu.edu



Dual Enrollment

GRPS high school students can earn free college credit!

GRCC | grcc.edu/dualenrollment



KEEP MOVING GR FORWARD

City Building Goals

- » Reestablish the Grand River as the draw to the city & region.
- » Develop a true Downtown neighborhood home to a diverse population.
- » Implement a 21st century mobility strategy.
- » Establish an equity-driven growth model in Downtown Grand Rapids.
- » Reinvest in public space, culture & inclusive programming.
- » Retain & attract families, talent & job providers with high quality public schools.
- » Grow more & better jobs & ensure continued vitality of the local economy.

Fiscal Year 2018 Agenda for Action

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cut the ribbon on the renovated Veteran's Park. | <input type="checkbox"/> Renovate old Public Museum into new Grand Rapids Public Museum School. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Design bike and pedestrian trail connecting Belknap Hill and Monroe North. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complete audit of Downtown's accessibility for people with differing abilities. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> File for State of Michigan permits to restore the rapids in the Grand River. | <input type="checkbox"/> Improve safety for people walking and bicycling on the river trail across Michigan Street. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deploy bus shelters to enhance experience for people who ride the DASH. | <input type="checkbox"/> Explore opportunities to beautify public plaza at Van Andel Arena. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plant 200 trees. | <input type="checkbox"/> Establish program to expand commuting options for employers, employees and residents. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Add 500 Downtown parking spaces for employees and visitors. | <input type="checkbox"/> Support delivery of 350+ new housing units toward residential critical mass in Downtown. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluate economic impact of improving and expanding the riverfront trail. | <input type="checkbox"/> Recruit car share service provider. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Develop riverfront trail identity and design guidelines. | <input type="checkbox"/> Support establishment of a fund for affordable housing. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Complete bike share business plan. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pilot protected bicycle lane. |

GR Forward, unanimously approved by the Grand Rapids City Commission in December 2015, is a community plan and investment strategy to transform the Grand River into a distinct asset and support the next generation of growth in Downtown Grand Rapids.

downtowngr.org
#GRFwd



Second Annual Canoemobile River Experience Invites 1,000+ GRPS Students to Explore Grand Rapids by Water



Thanks to Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation and the Wege Foundation, more than 1,000 8th graders from Grand Rapids Public Schools will learn about the history, culture, and biology of the Grand River this May. GRPS and the Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation Department have partnered with non-profit Wilderness Inquiry for the second year to bring Canoemobile back to Riverside Park.

Canoemobile is a travelling classroom in the form of six 24-foot canoes and a team of instructors ready to teach urban students about their local waterways through hands-on learning experiences. The goal of the program is introducing students to non-traditional outdoor learning and helping them explore the Grand River, a Grand Rapids feature typically unexplored by urban youth.

The multi-day series, scheduled for May 7-14, includes a variety of outdoor learning opportunities including nine-passenger canoe rides through the Grand River, learning about the waterway, water quality testing, nature hiking, cultural history lessons, and more.

The Parks and Recreation Department hopes to make Canoemobile an annual event for students.

"The positive student reception of last year's program encouraged us to continue this unique nature-based learning in the heart of our city," said Director of Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation David Marquardt.

Students are expected to hit the water at 11:00 a.m. on May 7.

Asbestos Plan Available

A copy of the Grand Rapids Public Schools management plan describing the presence of asbestos is in place in every school building. Asbestos is a building material that in the past was often used in building construction. Contact with some forms of asbestos has been found to be highly dangerous for both children and adults. Following the guidelines of the 1989 Asbestos Hazard Emergency Act, or AHERA, school districts nationwide began an effort to safely remove or contain asbestos in school buildings. The Grand Rapids Public Schools is in complete compliance with AHERA and, under the guidelines of this act, makes its asbestos plan available to the public. Interested citizens can stop by any of the district's schools to look over the plan, which includes information on the location and condition of asbestos materials and details how the district is managing these materials. Community members may also request a copy of the plan by writing the Grand Rapids Public Schools Facilities Management Department, 900 Union, N.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503. There is a cost involved in reproducing the document of approximately 15 cents per page. A copy will be sent out within 15 days.

GRPS Teachers and Staff are the BEST!



"I heard your teacher is the best!" exclaimed the Grand Rapids Student Advancement Foundation's executive director Michele Suchovsky as she entered a 2nd grade classroom carrying a special gift. "Don't you agree?"

Cheers erupt from the students as their teacher looked on in curiosity.

Passing the gift over to the teacher, Michele gratefully spoke, "We are so thankful for you and your commitment to the students of GRPS."

To say we've been busy is an understatement – but we don't mind!

With West Michigan well into its cold, hard winter the Grand Rapids Student Advancement Foundation (GRSAF), along

with the Shine Foundation and the Amway Corporation wanted to cook up a special surprise to show our appreciation. Taking that prompt, on January 12, 2018 the GRSAF, along with countless volunteers, congregated at the GRPS Services Building ready and willing to take on this project.

volunteers also took the time on Friday to hand-deliver hundreds of boxes to more than 50 GRPS schools!

The real joy came when volunteers arrived to their prospective schools. Although it was a snow-laden day and the roads were slick, these committed

Excited and humbled by this heartfelt display of appreciation, teachers and support staff accepted their gifts.

Holding the tote to look closer, GRPS teacher Karrie Fordney gushed, "This is such a surprise. This is awesome, thank you! Now I can get rid of my son's diaper bag!"

The Grand Rapids Student Advancement Foundation appreciates all the teachers and staff of GRPS! It is because of them and their commitment to our students that we are able to do what we do. They have dedicated their careers to inspiring students each and every day, providing them with the tools to create brighter futures. THANK YOU for everything you do to make an impact on the students of GRPS! Learn how you can support GRSAF at <https://grsaf.org/>.



Arriving with can-do attitudes, volunteers rolled their shirt sleeves and got to work. Assembling nearly 2,300 winter-beating tokens of appreciation in just a few hours,

volunteers trudged their way up the walks to deliver on this surprise! Welcomed by the principals, volunteers began their morning appearing at the doors of each unsuspecting classroom.



Caring for the Community for 30 Years

 **Cherry Health**
cherryhealth.org

Former GRPS Teacher Lupe Ramos-Montigny: ‘Everyone Deserves to be a Part of Something’

By Tom Rademacher, photos by Dianne Carroll Burdick, Courtesy of School News Network

Anyone attempting to digest Lupe Ramos-Montigny’s entire resume would be well-advised to reserve the better part of an afternoon, and be sure to allow for snacks and hydration.

But if you were short on time and wanted to condense her life into a single word, this might suffice:

Doer.

In her nearly 75 years, she’s done as much as anyone – and perhaps more than any Latina – to advance educational opportunities for children in Grand Rapids and beyond. Armed with a passion to change things that need to be, people who know her agree that you either hop on her wagon for social justice and equity or get the heck out of the way.

And don’t expect a lot of breathless rhetoric or political correctness.

“She’s not careful,” says Michigan State Rep. Winnie Brinks (D-Grand Rapids), “because she doesn’t need to be careful. She says what she thinks, and she’s not beholden to anybody.”

By the same token, says Brinks, a longtime activist and current candidate for the State Senate later this year, Ramos-Montigny is “quick to comment, but also committed to being right. And I have never known her to not take ownership for something if she is wrong.”

Brinks is especially impressed with the way Ramos-Montigny often seems to have someone in tow, learning the ropes. “She is a networker,” Brinks observes. “She almost always has a young person that she’s mentoring, bringing them around to help get them connected and involved.”

Strong Roots in Faith and Family

She was born on Dec. 12, a date that doubles as the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, who according to the Catholic Church appeared to St. Juan Diego in 1531, sparking the conversion of some 8 million Mexicans to Catholicism over the ensuing decade. Lupe is named after that venerated image of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a moniker she carries proudly. Ramos, meanwhile, is her given maiden name, and Montigny what she retains from her marriage to ex-husband Remi, of French descent.

A native of Texas, Ramos-Montigny is the seventh of nine children born to parents who never advanced past the third grade, but in her mind “were Ph.D.’s in their own right, for the gifts they brought to their greater community and lessons they imparted on their children and others.”



Lupe Ramos-Montigny with statues of Our Lady of Guadalupe, for whom she was named

“My parents had very strong family values,” she says.

“Respect was of the utmost importance. And we learned that hard work was part of life. They also understood that education was the door to opportunity.

“We all became something,” she says of her brothers and sisters, and she rattles off roles as pastor, doctor, businessman, attorney, Realtor, nurse and more.

“As we came of age,” Ramos-Montigny remembers, “we were expected to chip in on everything. On Saturdays, we cleaned the house, mopped the floors, ironed and starched the clothes.”

At the age of just 10, Ramos-Montigny joined her parents and most of her siblings for what would be three consecutive summers working as migrants in Michigan — a round trip of 4,000 miles that they endured in an open-bed truck where clothing in a pillow case was all you took with you and “that was my bed and my seat for the trip.”

Even against the agrarian hardships, Ramos-Montigny fell in love with the topography, climate and



Lupe Ramos-Montigny leads the Committee to Honor Cesar E. Chavez. Here, she takes part in a planning meeting with Carla Moore of Baxter Community Center

culture of Michigan as the family picked cherries on Traverse County’s Old Mission Peninsula, then harvested beets in Caseville and tomatoes in a third locale.

“Oh the bay,” she says of the sparkling waters just steps away from the cherries they’d bucket. “And those hills.” It created indelible images in her mind, and convinced her at a young age to leave Texas in the rear-view mirror in favor of The Mitten.

No-Nonsense Educator

She got her chance while earning a bachelor of science degree from Pan American University in Edinburg, Texas, signing up to spend her senior year teaching migrant farm workers in Lake Odessa, a half-hour east of Grand Rapids.

Though homesick at first, she grew to love Michigan enough that she moved north to teach a total of 36 years, first in Montcalm and Van Buren counties, and then for Grand Rapids Public Schools, where she served the better part of three decades

In the classroom, she was an innovator and a stickler,

raising a family of two children while earning a master’s degree at Grand Valley State University, with an emphasis in bilingual education.

“I was a tough teacher,” she says, again brimming with pride. “What I did was assign everyone leadership positions, even if it was in the role of passing out papers, sharpening pencils, watering the plants. Everyone deserves to be a part of something.”

Her voice rises in remembering that “My students didn’t come into the classroom and ever act crazy. First thing, they had to line up. Then I’d check to make sure they had their paper and pencil, their lesson. Every day. Every hour. And if they didn’t have it, they’d better get it.

“Guess what? They’d only mess up once. Once. I mean, what good is a carpenter who shows up to work without his hammer? Are you going to work that day? You’d better figure it out.”

She shakes her head with disgust: “There were other teachers who would just give a kid who forgot another pencil. But that’s not making it a teaching moment, is it? In my class, you showed up and you’d better be ready to learn.”

Finding Another Gear

Ramos-Montigny retired from the classroom in 2008, but continued to beat drums for others, and in a dozen different ways.

She’d already heavily invested her time and efforts into the Hispanic community. For 17 years, she’s chaired the Committee to Honor Cesar E. Chavez that galvanizes an entire community each spring and serves as a springboard for scholarships. Three years ago, the Lupe Ramos-Montigny “Si Se Puede” (Yes We Can) Legacy Endowed Scholarship was established at GVSU. Since its inception, seven scholarships of \$3,000 each have been awarded.

On the political front, she’s advanced the cause of the local Democratic party with gusto. She was elected to chair the Kent County Democratic Party, its first Latina. She’s also the first Latina to become the second vice-chair



On an after-school scavenger hunt with her granddaughter and friends from Meadowlark Elementary, Lupe Ramos-Montigny points out ants and the bark of a tree

of the Michigan Democratic Party, and has attended numerous Democratic national conventions.



Lupe Ramos-Montigny enjoys cuddling with her granddaughter, Amelia Montigny

Since retiring especially, she's received a dozen impressive awards for community action, including the Helen Claytor Civil Rights Award, Dave and Carol Van Andel Leadership Award, an honorary doctorate from Ferris

State University and more. She also has served on behalf of innumerable committees, caucuses, foundations and organizations.

In November 2012, she garnered nearly 2 million votes in earning a spot on the Michigan State Board of Education, with a term that extends through 2020.

People who have worked alongside Ramos-Montigny – and even those who have opposed her politically – agree it's no surprise she's ascended to lofty positions of trust.

"I've known Lupe for most of my adult life," says former Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell. "She's intensely loyal to her friends, and ... well, I wouldn't want to be her enemy."

According to Heartwell, Ramos-Montigny "brings a passion and energy to everything she does. And since just about everything she does has to do with kids, that means there are few more passionate about the well-being of children than Lupe."

Most recently, Heartwell points out, Ramos-Montigny is active with a statewide initiative known as the Safe Places Alliance, focused on protecting children and adults alike from gun violence. "In our present political environment," Heartwell emphasizes, "this is frustrating work. But Lupe comes at it with dogged determinism."

Indeed, it seems nothing can stand as an obstacle.

"There's no book that says you have to like Ramos-



Lupe Ramos-Montigny, who grew up working in a migrant family, leads the Committee to Honor Cesar E. Chavez, the pioneer farm worker activist

Montigny," she says with a laugh. "I just believe in doing good work, and hoping others join in.

"My motto? Do not allow anyone or anything to get in the way of progress."

'IN MY CLASS, YOU SHOWED UP AND YOU'D BETTER BE READY TO LEARN.' — LUPE RAMOS-MONTIGNY

INSPIRING

one-of-a-kind care for every kid.

When little ones are facing big health problems, we give them everything we've got.

Spectrum Health Helen DeVos Children's Hospital has specialist after specialist working hard to keep kids healthy. No matter if it's a simple injury or serious illness, we provide state-of-the-art treatments close to home. It's care that's as unique as the children and teens themselves.



Isaiah, 9 years old



Contact Us

Ottawa Hills Athletics
616.819.2879

Union Athletics – 616.819.3168
Middle School Athletics
616.819.3243

For schedules, highlights, and
parent resources check out our
website at
www.grps.org/athletics

Athletic Physicals

Athletic physicals are a MANDATORY REQUIREMENT for all student athletes in 6th – 12th grades. No student will be allowed to participate on an athletic team or practice without a current athletic physical. A current athletic physical must be dated on or after April 15th of the previous school year and is valid for the duration of one (1) school year. Student athletes who want to play sports in the 2018-19 school year need to have a physical dated on or after April 15th, 2018 to participate.

Calling All Volunteers

Any parents, family, or community member interested in volunteering your time to support GRPS student athletes, please contact the volunteer office at 819-2131 or go to www.grps.org/ volunteer for the volunteer application. We are currently looking for elementary coaches for cross country, soccer, basketball, and track. Please be aware you will need to fill out our volunteer application and be cleared and approved before assisting any programs.

Sportsmanship Corner

As a spectator of interscholastic athletics, please consider the time and effort that each of these young participants have put forth to represent his/her school. The purpose of all athletic activities is to provide positive learning experiences and opportunities for personal growth for the participants, coaches, officials, and spectators. Everyone who attends can – and is expected to – assist in the promotion and achievement of good sportsmanship ideals by taking personal responsibility for keeping this contest at a high level of fair, clean, and wholesome competition. Remember...SPORTSMANSHIP COUNTS!

Spring Special Events

GRPS Elite Challenge

April 28th at Houseman Field, 9:00am

Ottawa Hills Marti Beckering Tournament

May 12th at Ottawa Hills, 9:00am

Middle School Baseball/Softball

May 19th at Huff Park, 9:00am

Middle School Girls' Soccer Championship

May 24th, 5:15pm

Middle School Track Championship

May 31st at Houseman Field, 9:00am

Elementary Track

Houseman Field, 5:15pm

Group 1 - May 15, 22, 29 and June 4

Group 2 - May 16, 24, 30 and June 5

Next Year's Special Events

Football Season Opener

August 23rd at Houseman Field, 7:00pm

Turkey Trot presented by Blue Care Network of Michigan

Thanksgiving morning

Holiday Classic Basketball Tournament

December 2019

6th Annual Floyd Mayweather Classic

January 2019

4th Annual Red Hawk Showcase

February 2019

For the most current and up-to-date spring schedules, visit us online at www.grps.org/athletics.

Why Play Sports?

Students who participate in extra-curricular after school sports tend to have overall better school performance in the areas of academic achievement, attendance, behavior, involvement, and school spirit. They also tend to go on to college, graduate from college, have higher paying jobs, assume leadership roles, and enjoy a better quality of life. Start now on improving your future. Get involved in school sports!

Spring Sports

High School Start Dates

Baseball
Softball
Boys' Golf
Girls' Soccer
Girls' Tennis
Track & Field

Middle School Start Dates

Baseball
Softball
Girls' Soccer
Track and Field
First Tee of West MI Golf

Elementary

Track (2nd -5th Grades)

Because our community recognizes the importance, value and positive impact on students and families that after school sports can have, we would like to thank our following supporters for their continued support of these programs:

GRPS Calendar

April 28 GR Elite Challenge (Houseman Field)

April 28 Collaborative Youth Fair

May 1-25 M-STEP testing

May 1-11 NWEA/MAP K-11 testing

May 4 NO SCHOOL, Professional Development

May 11 Preschool, Here I Come (GRPS preschool classrooms)

May 14 Union High School Graduation, 5:00pm, Calvin College
University Prep Academy Graduation, 7:30pm, Calvin College

May 15 Ottawa Hills High School Graduation, 5:00pm, Calvin College
Innovation Central High School Graduation, 7:30pm, Calvin College

May 16 Center-Based Special Education Recognition Ceremony, 5:00pm, Cornerstone University
Grand Rapids Learning Center/KEC Beltline Graduation, 7:30pm, Cornerstone University

May 18 City High Middle School Graduation, 7:30pm, Fountain Street Church

May 25 Half Day for Students (am); No LOOP programming

May 28 DISTRICT CLOSED, Holiday

June 2 Last day of LOOP programming

June 6-8 Half Day for Students; Secondary Exams (am)

June 8 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

She Supports School With Business Partners, Great Food

By Charles Honey, Courtesy of School News Network



When Amanda Ebenhoeh walked into Congress Elementary School carrying an armful of food, Rachel Lee was ready to take it. She began setting up plates on which teachers would soon serve themselves sweet potato and quinoa sandwiches, kale salad and Valentine’s Day cookies, compliments of Marie Catrib’s restaurant, where Ebenhoeh is general manager.

The popular East Hills eatery donates teachers’ lunch once a month to the nearby school, thanks to Lee’s

matchmaking. She also has arranged for other neighborhood restaurants to donate meals to the staff of about 30, drawing on her connections as former director of East Hills Council of Neighbors. It’s one of the many ways she supports her two children’s school, knitting it ever closer to its surrounding business community.

“I love the city, and I love doing what I can to contribute to make it a safer, better, happier and more equitable city,” says Lee, a longtime Grand Rapids resident. “That all starts with your neighborhood school.”

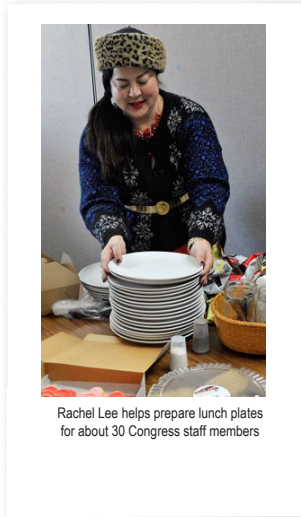
She began volunteering at Congress last year after seeing what a great school it was for her children, first-grader Lyon and third-grader Logan. “I can’t imagine my kids being anywhere else,” says the East Grand

Rapids High School graduate, praising the dedicated staff and beautiful brick building.

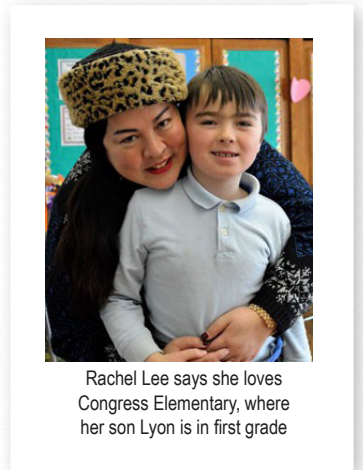
She encourages other neighborhood parents to check out the school, and helps in the classroom and on the playground, all while running her own restaurant, Citizen.

With a degree in public administration from Grand Valley State University, Lee is a strong believer in “community building.” That commitment and her neighborhood activism helped her forge relationships with nearby businesses such as Family Fare, which pitched in a gift card, and Van’s Pastry Shoppe, which recently supplied goodies for a mothers-and-teachers breakfast.

“Businesses that support and invest



Rachel Lee helps prepare lunch plates for about 30 Congress staff members



Rachel Lee says she loves Congress Elementary, where her son Lyon is in first grade

in the schools receive that back,” Lee says. “It’s not just a donation, it’s a partnership.”

Besides building business relationships, Lee is a “parent leader” who encourages other parents to get involved, Principal EreK Kooyman says. “She’s here to help,” he says. “Anything we need, we just have to ask.”

Lee is happy to oblige. “I can come in here tired, and leave with smiles,” she says.

studio

Where Story Happens





Healthy Living

begins in your community



KentCountyHealthConnect.org



La vida sana comienza en tu comunidad



KentCountyHealthConnect.org

