



WE ARE GR

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

Let's Work Together to Make Sure Our Community Remains Safe



We are experiencing tremendous growth as a city. This growth brings both opportunities and challenges. Some of the challenges are complicated issues based on historical systems and contemporary considerations. They include housing affordability, mobility options and community-police relations. I recognize that some of these are not new issues and that there is fatigue among some members of our community. I am very hopeful that, working together, we can address these challenges and come out the other side stronger and more unified as a community.

I am grateful to our hardworking police officers. Policing is a necessary and noble profession. It requires a level of responsibility on officers' part to ensure the fair administration of justice to our community, particularly in moments of crisis, so all are safe and treated with respect. There is no perfect police officer – just like there is no perfect city manager, no perfect lawyer, no perfect elected official and no perfect clergy person. Every profession has

its challenges, but we all must be held accountable for our actions. Our police officers will hold accountable those individuals who violate the law. Our officers likewise must be held accountable to a high level of professionalism. I will always hold myself and the City's 1,500 employees accountable to the public it serves.

Accountability must include community voice. As we work to strengthen community-police relations, we need to continue to collaborate. We need real conversations with specific goals and measurable outcomes so we all understand expectations for what is asked and needed of us. Interim Police Chief David Kiddle and I have met with community members, and I know there are others we need to meet with to be inclusive and sensitive to issues that are impacting our community.

These conversations will help guide me as I search for a police chief. I want a police chief who is tough on crime, culturally competent and an innovative leader. Our next police chief will keep our community safe, have the commitment and conviction to proactively address our challenges and be comfortable making tough decisions. These qualities are paramount to strengthening trust

between our community and our police department.

The 2020 Preliminary Fiscal Plan is an opportunity to operationalize better community-police relations. I have listened to community calls for greater engagement regarding the Civilian Appeals Board as well as concerns about the appropriate staffing levels in our police department. I plan to share potential investments with the City Commission this month as we unveil the Preliminary Fiscal Plan. Budget discussions also will focus on enhancing areas of our Strategic Plan, and public safety is one of them.

In challenging times, I always lean back on values because values don't change regardless of the challenges. As an organization, we value accountability, collaboration, customer service, equity, innovation and sustainability. These values will guide our work to strengthen community-police relations and public safety so all people feel and are indeed safe at all times throughout our community.

In partnership,

Mark Washington, City Manager

City Plans \$14.6 Million in Road and Sidewalk Projects

As we begin our sixth season of ramped-up road construction, you again can expect to see improvements to streets and sidewalks near you this summer. Thanks to the Vital Streets millage, approved by voters like you, the City will have completed preventative maintenance and reconstruction on 365 miles of streets since 2014. Grand Rapids has gone from 37 percent of streets in good or fair condition to 61 percent thanks to the Vital Streets program.

The City Commission is reviewing the road construction plan for July through June 2020. If the plan is adopted and carried out, it brings the total miles of Streets improved over the past six years to 396. The City has inspected and repaired roughly 25 percent of the 870-mile sidewalk network. We have been busy making a \$11.9 million investment at 64 locations over the past year. We are planning improvements on an additional 31 miles of streets this coming fiscal year with an investment of \$12.8 million at 61 locations. In addition, we plan to dedicate a total of \$1.8 million for various sidewalk repair and construction projects in all three city wards.

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.

SCHEDULED Vital Streets Construction Projects

Note: This is a partial list of 2019 road construction projects with no start dates set to date. 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 Works Department are still being identified and prioritized, so they are not included in the following list:

Rotomill/Resurfacing

- Alexander St. SE – Eastern Ave. to Gibson Place
- Alten Ave. NE – Lyon St. to Michigan St.
- Alto Ave. SE – Griggs St. to Dickinson St.
- Ardmore St. SE – Madison Ave. to Union Ave.
- Atlantic Ave. NW – Valley Ave. to Van Buren Ave.
- Auburn Ave. NE – Sweet St. to North End
- Baldwin St. SE – Packard Ave. to Eastern Ave.
- Bates St. SE – Dolbee Ave. to Fuller Ave.
- Boston St. SE – Blaine Ave. to Kalamazoo Ave.
- Broadway Ave. NW – Bridge St. to Leonard St.

■ SEE VITAL STREETS/ A2

ECRWSS
Postal Customer

Vital Streets

Continued from A1

- Cadillac Drive SE – Hall St. to Alexander St. and Pontiac Road to Franklin St.
- Capen St. NE – Houseman Ave. to Diamond Ave.
- Carlton Ave. SE – Wealthy St. to Lake Drive
- Coit Ave. NE – North Park St. to Four Mile Road
- College Ave. SE – Woodlawn St. to Howard St.
- Cottage Grove St. SE – Blaine Ave. to Kalamazoo Ave.
- Crescent St. NE – Grand Ave. to Fuller Ave.
- Dallas Ave. SE – Hall St. to Watkins St.
- Dunham St. SE – Giddings Ave. to Ethel Ave.
- Eastern Ave. SE – Hall St. to Franklin St.
- Eleanor St. NE – Plainfield Ave. to Diamond Ave.
- Evelyn St. NE – West Dead End to Diamond Ave. NE
- Evergreen St. SE – Eastern Ave. to Blaine Ave.
- Eureka Ave. SE – Logan St. to Wealthy St.
- Fairmount St. SE – Diamond Ave. to Carroll Ave.
- Fairmount St. SE – Eastern Ave. to Diamond Ave.
- Fulton St. West – Lake Michigan Drive to the Grand River
- Grand Ave. NE – Michigan St. to Hake St.
- Griggs St. SE – Alto Ave. to Newark Ave.
- Hake St. NE – Eastern Ave. to Diamond Ave.
- Hall St. SE – Division Ave. to Jefferson Ave.
- Heritage Commons St. SE – Heritage Circle to Lafayette Ave.
- Hollister Ave. SE – Wealthy St. to Fairmount St.
- Houseman Ave. NE – Michigan St. to Hake St.
- Innes St. NE – Union Ave. to Grand Ave.
- Jennette Ave. NW – Seventh St. to Ninth St. and 11th St. to 12th St.
- John Ball Park Drive NW – Fulton St. to Lake Michigan Drive
- Lafayette Ave. NE – Michigan St. to Hastings St.
- Linden Ave. SE – Burton St. to Elliott St.
- Lockwood St. NE – Grand Ave. to Eastern Ave.
- Mack Ave. NE – Fountain St. to Lyon St.
- Mack Ave. NE – Fulton St. to Fountain St.
- Market Ave. SW – Westbound I-196 on-ramp to 200 feet west of Plaster Creek and Coit Ave. to Wealthy St.
- Marshall Ave. SE – Hazen St. to Burton St.
- Mason St. NE – Fuller Ave. to Ball Ave.
- Michigan St. NE – Leffingwell Ave. to Greenwich Road
- Neland Ave. SE – Dunham St. to Sherman St.
- Nelson Ave. SE – South End to Orville St.
- North Park St. NE – Monroe Ave. to Coit Ave.
- Northlawn St. NE – Plainfield Ave. to Fuller Ave.
- Orville St. SE – Silver Ave. to Kalamazoo Ave.
- Packard Ave. SE – Cherry St. to Lake Drive
- Paris Ave. SE – Alger St. to Ardmore St.
- Prospect Ave. NE – Fountain St. to Lyon St.
- Prospect Ave. NE – Lyon St. to Michigan St.
- Prospect Ave. SE – Wealthy St. to Cherry St.
- Silver Ave. SE – Burton St. to Elliott St.
- Silver Ave. SE – Elliott St. to Orville St.
- Spencer St. NE – West of Benjamin Ave. to Ball Ave.
- Thomas St. SE – Madison Ave. to Eastern Ave.
- Virginia St. SE – Eureka Ave. to Diamond Ave.
- Warren Ave. SE – Fairmount St. to Cherry St.

- Youell Ave. SE – Robinson Road to Milton St.

OTHER ROAD PROJECTS

- Allerton Ave. SE – Adams St. to Hall St. (water main, reconstruction)
- Bridge St. NW – North Park and Ann St. bridges over the Grand River (preventative maintenance)
- Dayton St. SW – Valley Ave. to Garfield Ave. (water main, reconstruction)
- Division Ave. South – Cherry St. to Fulton St. (street lighting improvements)
- Division Ave. South – Wealthy St. to Cherry St. (reconstruction)
- Emerald Ave. NE – Arbor St. to Leonard St. (water main, reconstruction)
- Griggs St. SE – Plymouth Ave. to Hutchinson Ave. (water main, reconstruction)
- Hall St. SE – Kalamazoo Ave. to east of Sylvan Ave. (reconstruction)
- Hastings St. NE – Fairview Ave. to Prospect Ave. (water main, sanitary and storm sewer, reconstruction)
- Hovey St. SW – Valley Ave. to Garfield Ave. (water main, reconstruction)

- Ottawa Ave. NW – Mason St. to Walbridge St. (water main, sanitary and storm sewer, reconstruction)
- Park St. SW – Valley Ave. to Garfield Ave. (water main, reconstruction)
- Seward Ave. NW at I-196 (lighting improvements)
- Stevens St. SW – Randolph Ave. to Division Ave. (water main, reconstruction)
- Umatilla St. SE – Madison Ave. to Union Ave. (water main, sanitary and storm sewer, reconstruction)
- Valley Ave. SW – Butterworth Ave. to Fulton St. (water main, reconstruction)
- Watson St. SW – Valley Ave. to Garfield Ave. (water main, reconstruction)
- Worden St. SE – Madison Ave. to Eastern Ave. (water main, sanitary and storm sewer, reconstruction)
- Ottawa Ave. SW extension – Oakes St. to Cherry St. (construction)
- Rumsey St. SW – Oakland Ave. to Grandville Ave. (water main, sanitary and storm sewer, reconstruction)
- Three Mile Road NE – Monroe Ave. to Coit Ave. and Northwood St. to Plainfield Ave. (sidewalk)
- Three Mile Road NE – Fuller Ave. to east city limits (bike lanes, sidewalk, resurfacing)



- Ionia Ave. NW – Michigan St. to westbound I-196 on-ramp (reconstruction) and new Ionia-Division Ave. intersection
- Lake Michigan Drive NW – Fulton St. to Garfield Ave. (water main, reconstruction)
- Lane Ave. NW – Sibley St. to Jackson St. (water main, reconstruction)
- Livingston Ave. NE – Hastings St. to Newberry St. (water main, reconstruction)
- Lyon St. NE – Mack Ave. to Fuller Ave. (water main, rotomill/resurfacing)
- Madison Ave. SE – Cottage Grove St. to Adams St. (reconstruction)
- Madison Ave. SE – Franklin St. to Wealthy St. (water main, sanitary sewer, rotomill/resurfacing)
- Mason St. NW – Monroe Ave. to Division Ave. (water main, sanitary and storm sewer, reconstruction)
- Michigan St. NE-College Ave. intersection (safety improvements, reconstruction)

SCHEDULED Vital Streets Sidewalk Projects

- The repair and replacement of sidewalks throughout Grand Rapids neighborhoods is an important part of the Vital Streets program. This summer, the City will:
- Invest \$250,000 in the installation of sidewalks on Three Mile Road NE from Monroe Ave. to Coit Ave.
- Dedicate \$200,000 for ADA ramp improvements on sidewalks across the city
- Reserve \$450,000 to address miscellaneous sidewalk repairs and requests
- Focus on systematic sidewalk inspection and repairs totaling \$900,000 – \$300,000 in each ward – in an effort to upgrade complete neighborhoods and improve the existing sidewalk network. Current conditions of sidewalks will dictate how many miles can be inspected and repaired in each ward. The 2019 contract areas are outlined below.

First Ward – Work generally will occur within three areas: The first and second locations will be in the Richmond Oakleigh neighborhood with the work locations generally bounded by west city limits, Leonard St. NW, Milo St. and Oakleigh Ave. The second location is bounded by Parkhurst Ave., Leonard St., Walker Ave. and Oakgrove St. The third location will be in the West Grand neighborhood bounded by Richmond St., Alpine Ave., Tamarack Ave. and Thornapple Court. Work is scheduled to be performed July to August.

Second Ward – Work will be performed in the Highland Park and Midtown neighborhoods. The work generally will occur within the general area bounded by Michigan St. NE, College Ave., Diamond Ave. and Leonard St. Work is scheduled to be performed April to June.

Vital Streets

Continued from A2

Third Ward – Work will be performed in the South East Community, Heritage Hill, South Hill and Madison Area neighborhoods. The work generally will occur within the general area bounded by Wealthy St. SE, Jefferson Ave., Highland St. and Union Ave. Work is scheduled to be performed September to November.

City inspectors will be in each neighborhood marking the sidewalks to be replaced. Properties that have sidewalk repairs in sections that cross through their driveways will get a 48-hour notice posted to their property informing of them of the upcoming work and expected duration the driveway will be unavailable. The duration of work performed in front of any home will average one week, which includes removal, forming of sidewalks, pouring of concrete and restoration of lawns.

Partner With Your Police Department to Build Relationships and Trust

The Grand Rapids Police Department (GRPD) invites you to participate in the final session of its Speed of Trust initiative. The session is set for Thursday, May 16. Spots are available for morning (8 a.m. to noon), afternoon (1 to 5 p.m.) and evening (6 to 10 p.m.).

The session is interactive and includes a 1:1 ratio of police officers and community members where attention is directed toward objectives instead of suspicion about others' intentions. The session helps community members and police officers identify and address "trust gaps" in community-police relations. During the session, you're paired with a police officer to continue relationship building. After the four-hour session, you're asked to speak to your police officer partner for at least 10 minutes once a week for six weeks. Partners in previous sessions also have met for coffee and participated in ride-alongs together.

GRPD Sgt. Dan Adams, Speed of Trust coordinator, said 175 community members already have participated in the program to cultivate trust, continue dialogue and build relationships.



"The relationships we have made during this program have had an impact on our promise to provide progressive, professional and responsive service to our community," Adams said.

If you're interested in participating in the Speed of Trust session, email TrustGRPD@grcity.us and provide your name, email address and session time preference.

Attention, Voters: Clerk's Office Has Important Information for You

The City Clerk's Office wants to thank all of you who voted in the November election. Our city set a record 56 percent turnout for the midterm elections. With that momentum, the Clerk's Office is gearing up for this year's elections.

Election days are set for:

May 7 – All Kentwood Public Schools voters in precincts 51, 54, 56, 57 and 58 will vote at Brookside Christian Reformed Church, 3600 Kalamazoo Ave. SE.

August 6 – City primary election for mayor, First, Second and Third Ward city commissioners and Library Board. The filing deadline for these offices is April 23. If interested, pick up a candidate packet in the Clerk's Office on the second floor of City Hall, 300 Monroe Ave. NW.

November 5 – City general election for mayor, First, Second and Third Ward city commissioners and Library Board.

Last November, Michigan voters approved Proposal 3, which changes a host of election laws:

Absentee voting – All registered voters are now eligible to receive an absentee ballot without a reason. To receive an absentee ballot, you need to fill out an application before each election. If you want to be placed on a permanent absentee voter list to receive an application before each election, contact the Clerk's Office at 616.456.3010 or cityclerk@grcity.us or sign up at grandrapidsmi.gov/avlist.



Straight party voting – The option to vote the partisan section of the ballot by selecting the party only has been restored.

Voter registration – Residents who are at least 18 are automatically registered to vote when they make a transaction with the Secretary of State. Voters may choose to cancel their registration. Eligible voters may register by mail up to 15 days before an election or register in person at the Clerk's Office within 14 days of the election. Voters need to prove residency in the city.

Need a passport or notary services?

The Clerk's Office also is reminding you about its passport and notary services. If you or a family member need a passport, please make an appointment with the Clerk's Office by calling 616.456.3010.

If you need a document notarized, the City Clerk's staff can assist you. The fee for notarization is \$5 per signature. You can learn more about these services and all the Clerk's Office has to offer at grandrapidsmi.gov/clerk

Neighborhood Summit Lifts Up Resident Voice and Power

Residents and community stakeholders who attended the largest-ever Grand Rapids Neighborhood Summit gave the annual event high praise. With more than 560 attendees, it attracted the most diverse group of attendees ever.

The planning team received numerous positive comments about the welcoming energy and community spirit of the event throughout the day and afterward. The City appreciates the near-perfect marks given by attendees, who said Summit not only strongly met their expectations but that they'd strongly recommend it to others.

The theme of this year's event – Connecting Our Stories - Connecting Our Power – spoke to the power of reclaiming and sharing our personal and community stories. Along with opening remarks by Mayor Rosalynn Bliss and others, the event kickoff also included presentations by the local Anishinaabe community drum Wandering Nation, a land recognition statement by the Native American Advisory Council of Grand Valley State University and a fun and interactive keynote by local theater company Mixed Roots Collective.

Guests selected up to three of the 18 fantastic workshops to attend. The closing session opened with remarks by sponsor Consumers Energy and a call to action from City Manager Mark Washington. Washington told attendees: "Some neighborhoods have dreams while some experience nightmares." He encouraged them to connect,

learn together and lead for positive change.

Residents who led projects in the past year funded by the City's Neighborhood Match Fund were recognized on stage for their leadership and community dedication. A travel song by Wandering Nation closed out the Summit before guests, speakers and organizers transitioned to a community celebration to continue conversations and express appreciation for making Summit such a success.

"The praise and rave reviews gained this year are a credit to the planning team who coordinates these events," said Stacy Stout, assistant to the city manager and chair of the Summit planning committee. "It focuses on creating a transformational and inclusive learning experience for guests."

Stout added that the numerous special touches and offerings were made possible by the planning team's dedication, leadership and creativity and by the support of Summit sponsors: City of Grand Rapids, Consumers Energy, GVSU Division of Inclusion & Equity, Mobile GR, Grand Rapids Public Schools, Wege Foundation, GRCC, West Michigan Works!, Rene Guzman Realtor, Downtown Grand Rapids Inc., Spectrum Health and West Michigan Environmental Action Council.

Make sure you to like and follow the Grand Rapids Neighborhood Summit on Facebook (@GRNeighborhoodSummit) and Twitter (@GRNSummit) for important event updates and related material throughout the year.



Join Us for the Annual Mayor's Greening Initiative Tree Planting and Giveaway

Love getting your hands dirty and making a difference in our community? If so, we can use your help. Volunteer registration is now open for the annual Mayor's Greening Initiative tree planting, which is Saturday, April 27 in the neighborhood surrounding Roosevelt Park, located off Grandville Avenue SW. The two-day Mayor's Greening Initiative event features a neighborhood tree planting and free tree giveaway for residents.

The tree planting activities take 9 to 11 a.m. April 27. All ages are invited to volunteer and plant trees. No

experience is necessary and all tools are provided. Register at friendsofgrparks.org/events. John Ball Zoo, a Mayor's Greening Initiative partner, is giving all volunteers a day pass to the zoo for planting trees during the event.

The tree giveaway takes place 6 to 7 p.m. Friday, April 26 at Roosevelt Park, 739 Van Raalte Drive SW. City of Grand Rapids residents are encouraged to come to the park, select a free tree of their choice and plant it on their property. Trees are provided by Bartlett Tree Experts and Lack's Enterprises.

The Mayor's Greening Initiative is a partnership of 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 Roosevelt Park and Southwest Community Elementary. This tree planting coincides with Arbor Day – a holiday in which people around the world are encouraged to plant and care for trees.

Interested in Composting?

The City is bolstering its commitment to sustainability by developing a registered composting facility at its yard waste drop-off site. The City Commission recently approved an agreement with a third-party operator for the composting facility, which will be the only one in operation in the Grand Rapids area.

The drop-off site will continue to accept only yard waste but will compost material onsite instead of having it transported it to another registered facility. This material is essential in making a high-quality compost that can be used to support local farming and residential soils.

Composting operations at the drop-off site at 2001 Butterworth St. SW are expected to start this spring.



SMART CYCLING

FULL COURSE

Gain confidence riding your bicycle in traffic with a Certified Cycling Instructor! Take the full Smart Cycling course in one day or in a 4 class series. The full course includes Bicycling Basics 101 and 201, Safety Maneuver Drills and a Road Ride. We'll cover topics including how your bicycle works, your gear, and riding behavior. You also have the option to add certification by passing a written test and a road test. Bring your bicycle and helmet as they're required to participate.

FULL COURSE	DATES	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	COST
FOUR-DAY COURSE I	TUESDAYS JUNE 4, 11, 18, 25	6:00 - 8:30 PM	201 MARKET AVE SW	COURSE ONLY: \$50 COURSE AND CERTIFICATION TESTS: \$80
FOUR-DAY COURSE II	MONDAYS JULY 8, 15, 22, 29	6:00 - 8:30 PM	201 MARKET AVE SW	COURSE ONLY: \$50 COURSE AND CERTIFICATION TESTS: \$80
FOUR-DAY COURSE III	THURSDAYS AUGUST 8, 15, 22, 29	NOON - 2:30 PM	201 MARKET AVE SW	COURSE ONLY: \$50 COURSE AND CERTIFICATION TESTS: \$80
ONE-DAY COURSE I	SATURDAY JUNE 8	8:00 AM - 6:00 PM	201 MARKET AVE SW	COURSE ONLY: \$50 COURSE AND CERTIFICATION TESTS: \$80
ONE-DAY COURSE II	SATURDAY JULY 20	8:00 AM - 6:00 PM	201 MARKET AVE SW	COURSE ONLY: \$50 COURSE AND CERTIFICATION TESTS: \$80

SMART CYCLING - SINGLE CLASSES

If you would rather take a single class without the safety drills, road ride, or certification, you can join us for a single day class.

SINGLE CLASS	DATE(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	COST
BICYCLING BASICS 101 Learn the basics of bicycle riding! We'll cover choosing the right bicycle, fitting your bicycle and helmet, learning the ABC Quick Check procedure and the rules of the road. Bring your bicycle and helmet as they are required to participate.	JUNE 4, JULY 8, OR AUGUST 8	6:00 - 8:30 PM	201 MARKET AVE SW	SINGLE CLASS: \$20
BICYCLING BASICS 201 Learn skills for riding in traffic! We'll cover scanning, signaling, shifting, and more. You'll learn how to clean your chain and where to position yourself in traffic. Bring your bicycle and helmet as they are required to participate.	JUNE 11, JULY 15, OR AUGUST 15	6:00 - 8:30 PM	201 MARKET AVE SW	SINGLE CLASS: \$20

5K TRAINING PROGRAM

2 RUNS A WEEK FOR 6 WEEKS, 10 FITNESS CLASSES, AND 1 RACE DAY

	Resident	Non
Registration Fee	\$60	\$70

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)
The 5K training program meets twice a week (Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings) beginning July 23 and ending September 8 . In addition, our running expert will hold "chalk talks" before Saturday runs to provide vital information on running topics (shoes, stretching, nutrition, clothing, hydration). Each participant receives a fitness punch card to attend 10 fitness classes throughout the time period to incorporate cross training in your program. Race fee included.	TUESDAYS, JUL 23 - SEP 10 SATURDAYS, JUL 27 - SEP 8 RACE DAY - SEP 15	6:00 PM START 8:30 AM START TBD	START/FINISH AT 201 MARKET AVE SW PARKS & REC OFFICES

SELF DEFENSE

	Resident	Non
Registration Fee	\$40	\$50

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)
This class will cover awareness and avoidance techniques, basic blocking, punching and kicking, effective throws and grappling techniques, escape techniques from grabs and holds, identifying exit routes after escaping and more.	TUESDAYS JUNE 18, 25, JULY 9, 16 (NO CLASS ON JULY 2)	7:00 - 8:00 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO



Parks and Recreation
CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

General Information

- Ages 18 & up (all fitness levels welcome) for adult fitness
- 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 Facebook
- You are encouraged to consult with a physician prior to beginning an exercise program

Three ways to register



ONLINE
grandrapidsmi.gov/recreation



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-register between May 6-May 31

Register between May 6 - May 31

	Resident	Nonresident
1 class per week	\$59	\$69
2 classes per week	\$89	\$99
3 classes per week	\$119	\$129

Register on May 31, 2019 or after

	Resident	Nonresident
1 class per week	\$69	\$79
2 classes per week	\$99	\$109
3 classes per week	\$129	\$139

Looking for flexibility?

P Adult Fitness Punchcards

Purchase a punchcard 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
166000A	5	\$42	\$52
166000B	10	\$72	\$82
166000C	20	\$102	\$112
166000D	30	\$132	\$142

FREE COMMUNITY CLASSES

Through a partnership with Downtown Grand Rapids Inc., Mobile GR and Priority Health, we're offering free outdoor fitness classes for ages 18+. Simply show up to class and have fun! **Free classes run June 17 - August 23.**

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)
ZUMBA (DESCRIPTION AT BOTTOM OF PAGE)	MON	5:30 - 6:15 PM	ROSA PARKS CIRCLE
YOGA (DESCRIPTION PAGE 7)	MON	12:15 - 1:00 PM	SIXTH STREET PARK
	TUE	6:15 - 7:00 AM	INDIAN TRAILS GOLF COURSE
	TUE	7:00 - 7:45 PM	LOOKOUT/RESERVOIR PARK
	WED	5:30 - 6:15 PM	BLUE BRIDGE
POUND (DESCRIPTION PAGE 7)	THU	7:15 - 8:00 PM	MLK PARK
	TUE	5:30 - 6:15 PM	BLUE BRIDGE
GROOVE (DESCRIPTION AT BOTTOM OF PAGE)	THU	6:00 - 6:45 PM	GILLETT BRIDGE
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
SoulfulMOTION			
Join us for an exciting class of fitness and inspiration! This is a Christian-centered HIIT class set to Christian and inspirational music. Designed for anyone, regardless of age or fitness level.	WED	6:30 - 7:15 PM	BLUE BRIDGE
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, not required.	FRI	7:00 - 8:00 PM	ROSA PARKS CIRCLE

CYCLING

Register online: grandrapidsmi.gov/recreation

CLASSES RUN FOR 10 WEEKS STARTING THE WEEK OF JUNE 17

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR
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	6:00 - 6:45 PM	P&R CYCLING STUDIO	CAROL S.


DANCE

CLASSES RUN FOR 10 WEEKS STARTING THE WEEK OF JUNE 17





CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR
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.
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.
GROOVE P				
Sweat away stress and dance some joy into your heart while following simple steps and easy toning moves. Groove is perfect for anyone who wants to add some fun into their current workout routine.	WED	5:30 - 6:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	TERRI S.
ZUMBA P				
A fusion of Latin and International music. This class combines high-energy and motivating music with unique moves and combinations.	THU	6:30 - 7:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	AMY K.



YOGA




Register online: grandrapidsmi.gov/recreation 

CLASSES RUN FOR 10 WEEKS STARTING THE WEEK OF JUNE 17

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR
BASIC YOGA  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.	MON	6:30 - 7:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	KAYE/KRISTA
GENTLE YOGA  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.	TUE THU	9:00 - 9:55 AM 9:00 - 9:55 AM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO P&R FITNESS STUDIO	TERRI S. TERRI S.
OUTDOOR YOGA  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.	MON	6:00 - 6:55 PM	RIVERSIDE PARK	BETH/SARA
QIGONG  Pronounced "chee kung", this qigong practice will be a very gentle movement class, focusing on harnessing the power of our own mind, correcting postural imbalances, and combining movement with breath. We will practice standing, seated, and/or lying down. This practice is accessible to anyone seeking to bring healing energy into their life.	WED	10:00 - 10:55 AM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	ALESHEIA

CARDIO & STRENGTH

CLASSES RUN FOR 10 WEEKS STARTING THE WEEK OF JUNE 17

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR
BOOTCAMP  Get ready to push yourself harder than you would on your own. With a mix of strength and cardio, this class is developed to help you improve your body composition, strength and endurance. Each week's workout will vary, challenging your body in different ways.	MON	5:30 - 6:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	JULIE D.
KICKBOXING  Mix up your routine with balance, coordination and strength-building moves. Strengthen your legs, upper body, abs and burn calories.	TUE	6:00 - 6:55 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	AILEEN M.
POUND®  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.	THU	5:30 - 6:15 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	KRISTIN P.
STRONG BY ZUMBA  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.	WED	6:30 - 7:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	AMY K.
WATER AEROBICS  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.	MON THU	6:30 - 7:25 PM 6:30 - 7:25 PM	RICHMOND POOL BRIGGS POOL	KATHLEEN H. KATHLEEN H.

Grand Rapids Welcomes a Wave of Exciting Water Features for Summer 2019

Warmer weather is here, which means summer and pool season are around the corner.

Grand Rapids is home to many water features, including public pools, splash pads, lakes, rivers and streams. Thanks to the City's parks millage, the Parks and Recreation Department has made significant progress on various water projects around the city that will help residents cool off during the hot and humid summer months.

"Summertime in Grand Rapids offers many opportunities to get outside and enjoy the City's pools and natural water resources," said David Marquardt, the City's parks and recreation director. "Over the past year, we have updated and renovated various water features throughout our parks and increased accessibility to the Grand River and Plaster Creek. We're excited to bring these new aquatic activities and features to the community."

Water feature updates around the city

Over the past several years, there has been a significant reinvestment through repairs and replacing water features across the city. Obsolete wading pools were replaced with more sustainable splash pads that use less water and don't require staffing, including those at Campau Park, Cherry Park, Fuller Park, Highland Park, Lincoln Park and Wilcox Park.

The City also replaced aging splash pads at Aberdeen Park and Mary Waters Park and will replace the Alger Park splash pad this summer. A new splash pad that doubles as a community plaza was added at Roosevelt Park in 2015 to meet the long, unmet need for a water feature in Southwest Grand Rapids.

Natural water recreation enhancements

The Parks and Recreation Department is committed to increasing access to community natural water resources, such as the Grand River and Plaster Creek. Through the parks millage and support from various grants, the City announced plans for projects that will help ensure all residents can enjoy natural water resources throughout the community.

In February, the Parks and Recreation department announced plans for a universal-access canoe and kayak

launch at Riverside Park that will replace the old dock. The new launch will feature guide rails for easy access in and out of the water, launch rollers for easy movement of the water craft and a transfer bench for easy transfer from wheelchairs to watercraft. This project is supported by a \$150,000 Michigan Department of Natural Resources Recreation Passport grant and \$80,000 from the parks millage.

Starting April 26, spring and summer kayak rentals will be available at Riverside Park Lagoon. Residents can enjoy kayaking Friday through Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. Cost is \$8 for one hour and \$6 for each additional hour. For more information, visit grandrapidsmi.gov and search "kayak."

This spring, the City also announced it was awarded a \$150,000 Great Urban Parks campaign grant by the National Recreation and Park Association. The funding will be used for stormwater infrastructure enhancements at Ken-O-Sha Park and Plaster Creek Trail in 2020 to increase green space, educational opportunities and accessibility. The grant also will fund the employment of local youth through the City's GReen Stewards program, which gives youth hands-on experience with natural resource management and beautification projects along Plaster Creek.

The City has contracted with Wilderness Inquiry for the third consecutive year to bring Canoemobile to the Grand River. Wilderness Inquiry is an organization that travels the country with the goal of bringing hands-on, water-based learning opportunities to urban students. The canoeing sessions, which are scheduled for May 6-13, allow for nearly 1,140 GRPS students to engage in a wide variety of outdoor land and river activities, including paddling nine-passenger canoes on the Grand River, learning about the waterway, water quality testing, nature hiking, cultural history lessons and more.

"We are fortunate to have support from residents and organizations that have helped make these water projects a reality for our community," Marquardt said. "Pools, splash pads, lakes, rivers and streams all play a part in recreation, wellness and education, and we are thrilled to increase access to these resources throughout Grand Rapids."

Outdoor Pools and Splash Pads Open June 3 - August 17

Pool Admission

Youth residents (under 18): \$1
Adult residents (18+): \$2
All nonresidents: \$4

Richmond Pool

Open Swim Hours

Mon - 1:00-5:00 PM
Tue - Sat - 1:00-7:00 PM
Sun - 12:00-4:00 PM

Briggs Pool

Open Swim Hours

Mon - Wed - 1:00-7:00 PM
Thu - 1:00-5:00 PM
Fri - Sat - 1:00-7:00 PM
Sun - 12:00-4:00 PM

Martin Luther King, Jr. Pool

Open Swim Hours

Mon - 1:00-7:00 PM
Tue - 1:00-5:00 PM
Wed-Sat - 1:00-7:00 PM
Sun - 12:00-4:00 PM

Splash Pads

Open 7 days a week

10:00 AM - 9:00 PM

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




SWIM LESSONS

Resident Non
Registration Fee: \$38 \$48

SESSION I: CLASS MEETS ONCE PER WEEK FROM JUNE 24 - AUG 3		DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)
PARENT/CHILD (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 TUE THU	5:30 - 6:00 PM 5:30 - 6:00 PM 5:30 - 6:00 PM	RICHMOND MLK BRIGGS	
PRESCHOOL LEVEL I (AGES 3-5) Orients children in the pool and helps them gain basic aquatic skills.	MON TUE THU	5:30 - 6:00 PM 5:30 - 6:00 PM 5:30 - 6:00 PM	RICHMOND MLK BRIGGS	
PRESCHOOL LEVEL II (AGES 3-5) Kids gain greater independence in their skills and get more comfortable in the water.	MON TUE THU	5:30 - 6:00 PM 5:30 - 6:00 PM 5:30 - 6:00 PM	RICHMOND MLK BRIGGS	
LEVEL I (AGES 6+) Helps kids feel comfortable in the water.	MON TUE THU	6:00 - 6:45 PM 6:00 - 6:45 PM 6:00 - 6:45 PM	RICHMOND MLK BRIGGS	
LEVEL II (AGES 6+) Child must have passed or show skills required for Level I. Class builds on fundamental skills.	MON TUE THU	6:00 - 6:45 PM 6:00 - 6:45 PM 6:00 - 6:45 PM	RICHMOND MLK BRIGGS	
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 TUE THU	6:00 - 6:45 PM 6:00 - 6:45 PM 6:00 - 6:45 PM	RICHMOND MLK BRIGGS	
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 TUE THU	6:45 - 7:30 PM 6:45 - 7:30 PM 6:45 - 7:30 PM	RICHMOND MLK BRIGGS	
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 TUE THU	6:45 - 7:30 PM 6:45 - 7:30 PM 6:45 - 7:30 PM	RICHMOND MLK BRIGGS	
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 TUE THU	6:45 - 7:30 PM 6:45 - 7:30 PM 6:45 - 7:30 PM	RICHMOND MLK BRIGGS	
SESSION II: CLASS MEETS 4 TIMES PER WEEK FROM JULY 8 - JULY 19 AND SESSION III: CLASS MEETS 4 TIMES PER WEEK FROM JULY 22 - AUG 2		DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)
PARENT/CHILD (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 - THU	12:00 - 12:30 PM	RICHMOND MLK BRIGGS	
PRESCHOOL LEVEL I (AGES 3-5) Orients children in the pool and helps them gain basic aquatic skills.	MON - THU	12:00 - 12:30 PM	RICHMOND MLK BRIGGS	
PRESCHOOL LEVEL II (AGES 3-5) Kids gain greater independence in their skills and get more comfortable in the water.	MON - THU	NOON - 12:30 PM	RICHMOND MLK BRIGGS	
LEVEL I (AGES 6+) Helps kids feel comfortable in the water.	MON - THU	11:15 AM - NOON	RICHMOND MLK BRIGGS	
LEVEL II (AGES 6+) Child must have passed or show skills required for Level I. Class builds on fundamental skills.	MON - THU	11:15 AM - NOON	RICHMOND MLK BRIGGS	
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 - THU	11:15 AM - NOON	RICHMOND MLK BRIGGS	
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 - THU	10:30 - 11:15 AM	RICHMOND MLK BRIGGS	
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 - THU	10:30 - 11:15 AM	RICHMOND MLK BRIGGS	
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 - THU	10:30 - 11:15 AM	RICHMOND MLK BRIGGS	

GOLF

Register online: grandrapidsmi.gov/recreation 

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. **Learn more about lessons and register at grandrapidsmi.gov/recreation**

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)
ADULT MIXERS Golf Clinics designed to be fun for business professionals in West Michigan. Come alone or with friends to enjoy learning golf in a fun, light-hearted environment. \$45 per person (1 hour of instruction, 2 drink tickets)	MAY 3, JUN 1, JUN 15, JUL 13, AUG 24	MAY 3 7:30 - 8:30 PM ALL OTHERS, 6:30 - 7:30 PM
ADULT BOOT CAMP For adult men and women. Multiple day golf clinics designed to transform your golf game! Work on golf drills, golf instruction with Q and A, video taping with an emailed analysis! Take advantage of real golf instruction with 1-on-1 instruction and tips. Learn about all four swings and course management. \$125 per person (6 hours of instruction over 3 days)	MAY 3-5, JUN 28-30, AUG 9-11	DAY 1, 5:00 - 7:00 PM DAY 2, 2:00 - 4:00 PM DAY 3, 2:00 - 4:00 PM
ADULT 1-DAY CLINIC Golf Instruction covering all major swings, course management, and anxiety control. Different themes and topics each week. \$45 per person (1.5 hours of instruction)	MAY 17 (6-7:30 PM), MAY 31 (7:30-9 PM), JUN 14 (7-8:30 PM), JUL 26 (5-7:30 PM), SEP 20 (6-7:30 PM)	
WOMEN'S 1-DAY CLINIC These clinics cover basic skills and is designed to be informative for beginner to advanced golfers. \$45 per person (1.5 hours of instruction)	MAY 18, JUN 14, JUL 27, AUG 23	ALL DATES 5:00 - 6:30 PM
WOMEN, WINE, & WEDGES This is a fun, worry-free atmosphere to learn the game of golf. Gain an introduction to golf instruction and Indian Trails Golf Course through a different golf focus each week. \$45 per person (1 hour of instruction, 2 drink tickets)	MAY 4, 31, JUN 29, JUL 12, AUG 10, SEP 6, 21	FIRST 5 DATES 6:00 - 7:00 PM LAST 2 DATES 5:00 - 6:00 PM
WOMEN'S BOOT CAMP (2-DAY CLINIC) Multiple day golf clinics designed to transform your golf game! Work on golf drills, golf instruction with Q and A, video taping with emailed analysis! Take advantage of professional golf instruction with some 1-on-1 instruction and tips. Two-day women's clinic to cover all four major swings. \$75 per person (3 hours of instruction over 2 days)	JUN 1-2, JUL 13-14, SEP 7-8	ALL DATES 1:00 - 2:30 PM
COUPLE'S CLINIC Designed to be like a date night or couple activity. There is a different golf focus each time. Games and activities to do as a couple is the focus. Fun at the course with your significant other! \$30 per person (1.5 hours of instruction)	MAY 19 (6:30-8 PM), JUN 28 (7:30-9 PM), JUL 26 (7:30-9 PM), AUG 9 (7:30-9 PM), SEP 6 (6:30-8 PM), SEP 21 (6:30-8 PM)	
JUNIOR 1-DAY CLINIC Two stations per clinic, different each time, designed to be fun and informative for youth. \$40 per person (1.5 hours of instruction)	MAY 4, MAY 18, JUN 15, JUN 29, SEP 7	ALL DATES 10:00 - 11:30 AM
JUNIOR 2-DAY BOOTCAMP Multiple day golf clinics designed to transform your child's golf game! Work on golf drills, golf instruction with Q and A, video taping with emailed analysis! Discover all four major golf swings, games and activities with some 1-on-1 instruction. We will send emailed video of your child's swing! \$75 per person (3 hours instruction over 2 days)	JUN 1-2, JUL 27-28, AUG 24-25	ALL DATES 10:00 - 11:30 AM
JUNIOR GIRLS' CLINIC Designed to be fun and informative for young girls interested improving their golf game. \$50 per person (2 hours of instruction)	AUG 11	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM



JOIN US FOR THE 3RD ANNUAL COMMUNITY FORE KIDS GOLF OUTING!

Give back on the green with an 18 hole scramble to benefit 18 and under! All proceeds from this event will support recreation programming for underserved youth in Grand Rapids.

DATE/TIME: June 7 at 9:00 am **REGISTER:** indiantrailsgc.org/cfk

Register online: grandrapidsmi.gov/recreation

TENNIS

(AGES 6-16)

We've partnered with West Michigan Community Tennis to provide youth tennis lessons at three 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. Lessons are free for residents, but pre-registration is required.

SESSION	AGE GROUP	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)
SESSION I: MONDAY - THURSDAY, JUNE 10 - 27	AGES 6 - 8	9:00 - 10:00 AM	UNION HS OR ABERDEEN PARK
	AGES 9 - 11	10:00 - 11:00 AM	UNION HS OR ABERDEEN PARK
	AGES 12-16	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	UNION HS OR ABERDEEN PARK
SESSION II: MONDAY - THURSDAY, JULY 8 - 26	AGES 6 - 8	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	MLK PARK
	AGES 9 - 11	12:00 - 1:00 PM	MLK PARK
	AGES 12-16	1:00 - 2:00 PM	MLK PARK
SESSION II: MONDAY - THURSDAY, JULY 8 - 26	AGES 6 - 8	9:00 - 10:00 AM	UNION HS OR ABERDEEN PARK
	AGES 9 - 11	10:00 - 11:00 AM	UNION HS OR ABERDEEN PARK
	AGES 12-16	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	UNION HS OR ABERDEEN PARK
SESSION II: MONDAY - THURSDAY, JULY 8 - 26	AGES 6 - 8	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	MLK PARK
	AGES 9 - 11	12:00 - 1:00 PM	MLK PARK
	AGES 12-16	1:00 - 2:00 PM	MLK PARK

	Resident	Non
Registration Fee	\$0	\$10

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.

DANCE

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)
PRINCESS BALLET (AGES 3-5) Stretch your imagination and your toes in the storybook dance class based on dances from your favorite fairy tales and ballet stories. Your child will explore elements of creative movement, ballet and jazz in this delightful trip to an enchanted kingdom. Ends with recital.	THURSDAYS JUN 20 - JUL 25	11:00 AM - 11:45 AM	201 MARKET AVE

	Resident	Non
Registration Fee	\$42	\$52

FENCING

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)
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 18-20 AUGUST 13-15 AUGUST 13-15	3:30 - 5:00 PM 1:00 - 2:30 PM 6:00 - 7:30 PM	WEST MICHIGAN FENCING ACADEMY

	Resident	Non
Registration Fee	\$79	\$89

CLASS LOCATIONS:

- Aberdeen Park - 2230 Eastern Ave NE
- Blue Bridge - Downtown Grand Rapids
- Briggs Park - 350 Knapp St NE
- Garfield Park Gym - 2111 Madison Ave SE
- Gillett Bridge - Downtown Grand Rapids
- Indian Trails Golf Course - 2776 Kalamazoo Ave SE
- Lookout/Reservoir Park - 801 Fairview NE
- MacKay/Jaycee Park - 2531 Kalamazoo Ave SE
- Martin Luther King Park - 900 Fuller Ave SE
- P&R Cycling Studio - 201 Market Ave SW
- P&R Fitness Studio - 201 Market Ave SW
- Riverside Park - 2001 Monroe Ave NW
- Rosa Parks Circle - 135 Monroe Center SW
- Sixth Street Park - 647 Monroe Ave NW
- Union High School - 1800 Tremont Blvd NW
- West MI Fencing Academy - 1111 Godfrey Ave SW

SOCCER

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)
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 24 - 27	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	MACKAY JAYCEE PARK

	Resident	Non
Registration Fee	\$45	\$55

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

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616.988.5400 • WWW.GRPL.ORG

Get Your Child Ready to Read with These Interactive Storytimes

Reading to your child from birth not only helps your child's brain grow, it also creates a wonderful bond between the two of you.

Baby & Me

0 – 18 months

Bring your babies and bounce along to fun stories, songs, and rhymes! Baby & Me is a 15-minute long storytime, followed by a relaxed playtime where baby and you will meet new friends.

Mondays, June 3 – 24, July 8 – 22

11:00 am | Main Library

Wednesdays, June 5 – 26, July 10 – 24

11:00 am | Yankee Clipper Branch



Pajama Time

Families with children 5 years and under

Come explore learning through fun stories, movement, and music activities in this evening storytime! Pajama Time is a 30-minute long storytime followed by a hands-on activity and playtime. Wear your pajamas and get those wiggles out before bed!

Mondays, June 3 – 24, July 8 – 22

6:30 pm | Main Library

Summer Storytimes for Families

Families with children 5 years and under

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

Wednesdays, June 5 – 26, July 10 – 24

11:00 am | West Leonard Branch

Thursdays, June 6 – 27, July 11 – 25

10:30 am | Seymour Branch

Thursdays, June 6 – 27, July 11 – 25

11:00 am | Yankee Clipper Branch



Let's Play

Families with children 5 years and under

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

Tuesdays, August 6 – 27

11:00 am | West Leonard Branch

6:30 pm | West Leonard Branch

Wednesdays, August 7 – 28

10:30 am | Seymour Branch

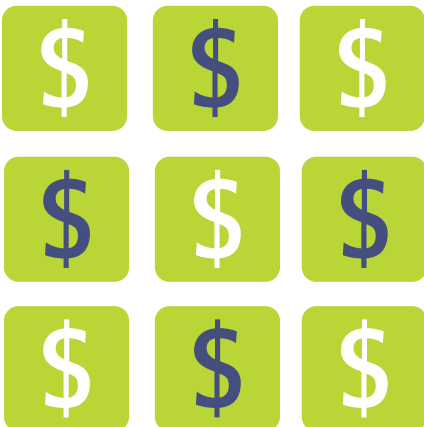
12:00 pm | West Side Branch

Let's Play is funded by:



Be a Boss: Build an App and Make Bank*

*results may vary based on your entrepreneurial spirit



Join Junior Achievement and learn how to 'Be a Boss,' a JA Company Program®. In this 8-week camp, solve a problem in the community by launching your own start-up business app. Unleash your creative entrepreneurial spirit and start building career skills for a high school job, vocational job, or college resume. This camp is for middle and high school students, with coed sessions available as well as sessions for girls only. Register at www.grpl.org/register. Snacks will be provided. This program is funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Dates and Locations:

Mondays & Wednesdays, June 3 – 26,
July 8 – 31

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm | Main Library

For high school students only

Tuesdays & Thursdays, June 4 – 27,
July 2 – August 1

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm | Main Library

For middle and high school girls only

Sponsored by:



2019 Summer Reading Challenge

Memorial Day – Labor Day | 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



Blast Off Into Summer Reading!

Saturday, June 1
10:00 am – 1:00 pm – Main Library



Food in Space

Tuesday, June 11
10:30 am – Main Library
2:00 pm – West Leonard Branch

Wednesday, June 12
10:30 am – Seymour Branch
3:00 pm – Yankee Clipper Branch
6:30 pm – Main Library



Exotic Zoo

Tuesday, June 18
10:30 am – Main Library
2:00 pm – West Leonard Branch
Wednesday, June 19
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, June 25
10:30 am – Main Library
2:00 pm – West Leonard Branch
Wednesday, June 26
10:30 am – Seymour Branch
3:00 pm – Yankee Clipper Branch
6:30 pm – Main Library

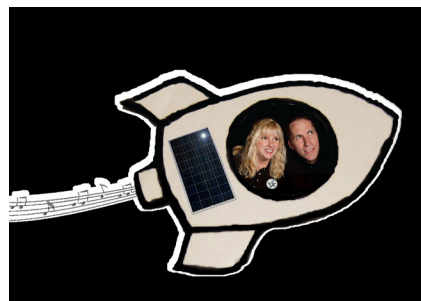


Comedy Magic with Cameron Zvara

Tuesday, July 9
10:30 am – Main Library
2:00 pm – West Leonard Branch
Wednesday, July 10
10:30 am – Seymour Branch
3:00 pm – Yankee Clipper Branch
6:30 pm – Main Library

Comic Geek Out

Saturday, July 13
10:00 am – 1:00 pm – Main Library



ScribbleMonster

Tuesday, July 16
10:30 am – Main Library
2:00 pm – West Leonard Branch
Wednesday, July 17
10:30 am – Seymour Branch
3:00 pm – Yankee Clipper Branch
6:30 pm – Main Library

Final Approach at the Public Museum

Saturday, July 27
10:00 am – Grand Rapids Public Museum
272 Pearl St NW

Events for Teens

The Art of Book Folding

Thursday, June 20
11:00 am – Main Library



Make Space for Honeybees

Thursday, July 11
2:00 pm – Main Library



Comic Geek Out

Saturday, July 13
10:00 am – 1:00 pm – Main Library



Modern Pop Art Experience and Collage Workshop

Thursday, July 25
2:00 pm – Main Library

Sponsored by:  GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC LIBRARY
FOUNDATION
The Doug and Maria DeVos Foundation

FRIENDS OF
THE LIBRARY

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

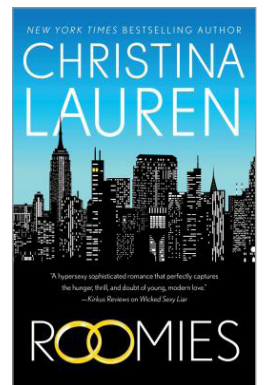
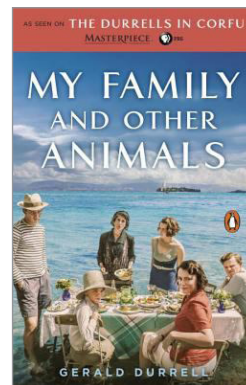
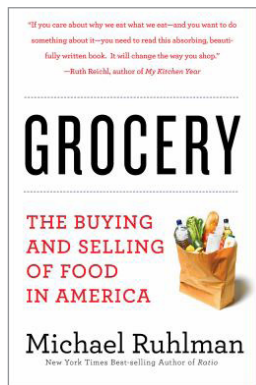
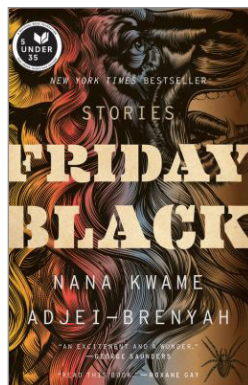
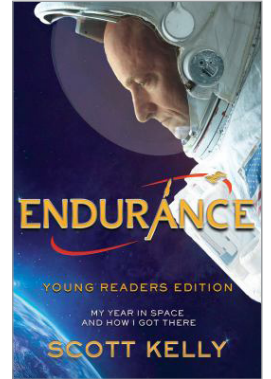
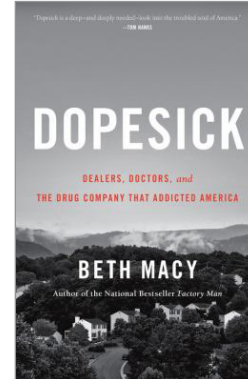
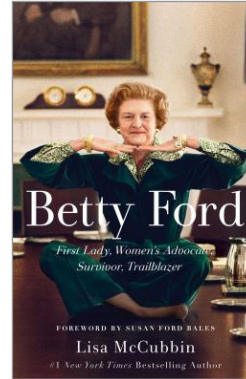
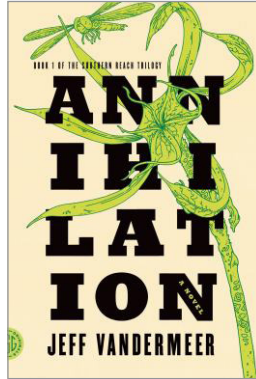
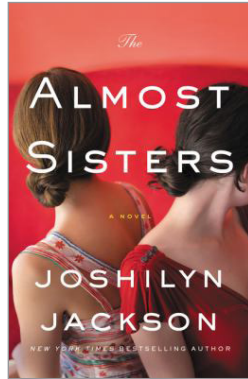


616.988.5400 • WWW.GRPL.ORG

GR Reads: Summer Reading All Grown Up

June 1 – August 31, 2019 | 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 ten 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/grreads or stop by any GRPL library.



Sponsored by:



Memorial Day Closings

The following branches will be closed on Saturday, May 25, 2019:

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

All library locations will be closed on Sunday, May 26 and Monday, May 27, 2019.

Closed on Summer Sundays

The Main Library is closed on Sundays in the summer beginning on Sunday, May 26 (Memorial Day weekend).

Sunday hours at the Main Library (1:00 – 5:00 pm) will resume on Sunday, September 8, 2019.

Fourth of July Closings

All library locations will be closed on Thursday, July 4, 2019.

Access your library on your phone!

Looking for eBooks? Want to stream movies? Use the key to discover which apps are right for you.



eBooks



eAudiobooks



Music



Movies/TV



Language Learning



Courses for Learning



Content for Kids



OVERDRIVE

Thousands of eBooks and eAudiobooks available to download on your computer or mobile device.



HOOPLA

Streaming service with a vast collection of audiobooks, comics, music, movies, TV shows, and eBooks.



KANOPY

Streaming service with an amazing collection of movies, documentaries, and TV shows.



MANGO LANGUAGES

70+ languages on an engaging and fun platform. Learn everything from the basics to advanced lessons.



RBDIGITAL

Enjoy thousands of eBooks, popular magazines, and streaming TV and video.



ACORN TV

Enjoy world-class mysteries, comedies and dramas from the very best of British television and film.



STINGRAY QELLO

Enjoy the world's largest collection of full-length concerts and music documentaries.



THE GREAT COURSES

Critically acclaimed experts in their fields of study, these college professors excel in their ability to teach.



To get started with OverDrive, Hoopla, Kanopy, and RBDigital, visit www.grpl.org/download. You can access Acorn TV, Stingray Qello, and The Great Courses apps after setting up an account through the RBDigital app.

To get started with Mango Languages, visit www.grpl.org/databases, scroll down to Language Learning and select Mango.

PROGRAMS FOR AGES 50+ AT GARFIELD PARK GYM

These programs 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 grandrapidsmi.gov, keyword "50+" or by calling 616-456-3696, option 1. **Please note: classes will not be held on July 4 or August 6.**

PROGRAM	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	10:00 - 10:55 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	\$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.	MON - THU	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	FREE
LUNCHTIME PICKLE BALL Get together to play this great court game! Never played? We'll teach you! We have equipment for new players to use. Come see what Pickleball is all about.	TUESDAYS WEDNESDAYS	12:30 -2:30 PM NOON -2:00 PM	FREE
OPEN LOBBY Join us for open lobby every Monday and Wednesday! Equipment for horseshoes, frisbee golf, card games, and more.	MONDAYS WEDNESDAYS	11:00 AM -12:00 PM	FREE

ENRICHMENT CLASSES

Register online: grandrapidsmi.gov/recreation

CLASS	DATE(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)
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: \$50, Non: \$60	JUNE 13 JULY 11 AUGUST 8	6:00 - 8:00 PM 6:00 - 8:00 PM 6:00 - 8:00 PM	RICHMOND PARK POND
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: \$50, Non: \$60	JULY 27 AUGUST 22	6:00 - 8:00 PM 6:00 - 8:00 PM	RICHMOND PARK POND
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. Ages 11-14, Resident: \$0, Non: \$25	MONDAYS JULY 8 - 29 MON-THU JULY 15 - 18 MON-THU JULY 22 - 25	5:30 PM - 7:30 PM 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	RICHMOND POOL BRIGGS POOL MLK POOL



KAYAK RENTALS

We'll be offering kayak rentals at the Riverside Park Lagoon starting April 26!

Pricing (cash only)

\$8 for the first hour
\$6 for each additional hour

Location & Hours

Riverside Park
Fridays, 4:00 - 8:00 pm
Saturdays & Sundays, 12:00 - 4:00 pm

Age Restrictions

Kayakers must be 16 years old or older to kayak alone
Kayakers between 10-15 years old must have an adult kayaking at the same time as them

Learn more: grandrapidsmi.gov, search "Kayak"



April 2019 | Section B

Early Childhood: 6

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Summer Camp Guide: 8

Athletics: 13

Your Bond Dollars at Work for Our Children

The Transformation Plan, originally approved in the 2012-13 school year, is about developing, reinvesting, and expanding school choices. As another school year comes to a close, we want to provide another update to our community regarding the progress of our bond projects. The bond pledged to secure, connect, and transform our district. Three years in, and that is exactly what it is doing.

TRANSFORM

Southwest Community Campus and Plaza Roosevelt
Status: In progress

If you drive by the Clinica Santa Maria located on the corner of Grandville and Franklin, you will see that work has already begun. New affordable housing is under construction, built by Habitat for Humanity. Plaza Roosevelt—a partnership between Dwelling Place, Ferris State University, Grandville Avenue Arts & Humanities, Grand Rapids Public Schools, Habitat of Humanity of Kent County, Hispanic Center of Western Michigan, Mercy Health Saint Mary's, Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Association, and the Resident Partner Committee—will

■ SEE BOND UPDATE / B2



Ribbon cutting at Ridgemoor Park Montessori, August 2017.

How Are You Enjoying We Are GR?

The We Are GR Newspaper is a joint publication of Grand Rapids Public Schools and the City of Grand Rapids.

We want to make sure that it is meeting the needs and wants of our community.

Take a brief survey and you will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win a \$50 gift card!

Please visit
surveymonkey.com/r/WeAreGR2019

Thank you!



Bond Update

Continued from B1

be a transformation to the Roosevelt Park neighborhood and GRPS. Construction is already underway for the new Southwest Community Campus High School, and the \$20 million project is expected to be completed for the fall of 2020.

City High Middle School

Status: In progress

While the outside of the school looks untouched, it's a whole new space inside. The \$17 million renovation included the installation of air conditioning and a new heating system for the whole building, as well as LED lighting throughout the academic wing. Classrooms received new window treatments, refinished hardwood floors, and furniture. Science labs received the same, plus new cases, counters, fume hoods, and Smart Boards. The school was also given a new secure entry and an updated front office. While the project is nearly completed, final work is anticipated to be completed between now and summer.

Ottawa Hills High School

Status: In progress

Home of the Bengals, Ottawa Hills High School will receive \$17 million in investments to renovate the school for students and incoming career academies. Starting fall 2019, the Academy of Hospitality & Tourism will be the first of 6 planned academies for Ottawa Hills. Along with aesthetic upgrades, including flooring, paint, and a newly located main entrance, the building will be reimagined to align with the planned academies.

Other programs located at Ottawa Hills will benefit from the renovation, including the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) partnership, which provides students support, school visits, and scholarships; and the Early Middle College program, which allows students to graduate after one additional year with both their high school diploma and an associate of arts



New playground at Buchanan Elementary.

degree.

Union High School

Status: Upcoming

Covering nearly a quarter of a mile, Union High School will receive \$17 million in investment. A bond advisory committee has been formed to help aid the project and is working with our Facilities Department to plan the renovation to ensure it meets the needs of our students.

Buchanan Elementary

Status: Completed

The \$13 million renovation was completed in August 2018.

Museum School

Status: Completed

The \$10 million renovation was completed in August 2018.

Ridgemoor Park Montessori

Status: Completed

The \$1.5 million renovation was completed in August 2017.

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. Many schools have had reconfigured entrances and offices to meet today's standards.

CONNECT

Our Management Information Services team has distributed and installed new technology throughout the district. More than 4,200 Chromebooks and iPads have been distributed to students. This helps support the district's new science and math curriculum. Instructional staff devices have also been upgraded for teachers, staff, and principals. Classrooms throughout the district have been upgraded with new state-of-the-art, interactive, wireless projection capabilities. Nearly 90% of technology has been distributed and the remaining is anticipated to be deployed between now and summer.

We look forward to continuing to share the progress as we continue to break ground, cut ribbons, and celebrate our transformation!

Asbestos Notice

Asbestos is a general name for a group of naturally occurring minerals composed of small fibers. These fibers are very strong and resistant to heat and chemicals. The mere presence of asbestos in a building does not mean that the health of the building occupants is endangered. When left intact and undisturbed, asbestos-containing materials do not pose a health risk to building occupants. There is, however, potential for exposure when the material becomes damaged or disturbed. Because of these problems associated with asbestos exposure, the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, or AHERA emphasizes that asbestos in school buildings must appropriately managed.

Grand Rapids Public Schools has an asbestos management plan that addresses contact persons, training, inspections, response actions, operation and maintenance activities,

periodic surveillance, cleaning, disclosure efforts and school building areas containing asbestos. Any person may review the management plan at the Grand Rapids Public School's Facilities Management Department, 900 Union, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503, during regular business hours (8:00 am to 4:00 pm). Plans may also be found on the district's website at grps.org/facilities-asbestos-info.

Alternatively, any person may request a copy of the plan by writing the Grand Rapids Public Schools Facilities Management Department, 900 Union, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503. There is a cost involved in reproducing the document of approximately 10 cents per page. Grand Rapids Public Schools will send a copy out of the management plan within 5 business days of receiving the request.

Grand Rapids Public Schools

WE ARE GR

April 2019

Grand Rapids

Board of Education

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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 2019

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GRPS Grad Rates Increase for 7th Consecutive Year

Grad Rates Up Nearly 60% Since 2012

The Michigan Department of Education recently released the graduation rates for the 2017-2018 school year. For the seventh consecutive year, Grand Rapids Public Schools saw an increase in districtwide graduation rates. Since Superintendent Weatherall Neal took the helm at GRPS and launched the GRPS Transformation Plan, the district's graduation rates have increased by nearly 60%. The numbers are equally impressive when broken down further.

All Schools – All Students: +59.9% (26.69 percentage points) increase since 2011-2012

African-American Students: +75% (30.45 percentage points) increase since 2011-2012

Hispanic/Latino Students: +76.4% (32.57 percentage points) increase since 2011-2012

Economically Disadvantaged Students: +78.8% (31.57 percentage points) increase since 2011-2012

English Language Learners: +95.6% (31.19 percentage points) increase since 2011-2012

“Over the past 7 years, our students and staff have repeatedly demonstrated their commitment to improving outcomes, especially around graduation rates. Our standards have remained high, and I’m pleased to see more students each year rising to them,” said Superintendent Teresa Weatherall Neal.

By Group	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Change in % pts
Overall	44.56%	47.31%	49.56%	56.20%	65.54%	66.58%	71.25%	26.69%
African-American	40.59%	48.3%	48.96 %	61.46%	66.33%	65.41%	71.04%	30.45%
Hispanic/Latino	42.62%	41.07%	50.58%	56.27%	70.46%	74.15%	75.19%	32.57%
Asian	37.50%	52.94%	47.15%	68.42%	71.43%	81.82%	78.95%	41.45%
White	53.36%	52.86%	52.31%	46.63%	56.36%	56.08%	62.86%	9.50%
Economically Disadvantaged	40.07%	44.49%	47.29%	55.10%	62.64%	64.59%	71.64%	31.57%
English Language Learners	32.61%	29.44%	37.13%	54.48%	60.68%	70.67%	63.80%	31.19%

By School	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Change in % pts
City High Middle School	96.97%	95.18%	96.77%	95.12%	98.70%	98.65%	98.85%	1.88%
Grand Rapids Learning Center* (alternative education)	0.00%	18.18%	16.67%	50.00%	40.91%	36.36%	46.67%	46.67%
GR Montessori*	83.33%	93.75%	52.94%	100.00%	72.73%	53.85%	90%	6.67%
UPrep				90.63%	92.50%	90.48%	95.65%	5.02%
Innovation Central			82.79%	81.46%	90.97%	91.43%	90.71%	7.92%
Ottawa Hills	54.95%	67.62%	52.90%	55.36%	68.60%	65.17%	70.49%	15.54%
Southeast Career Pathways* (alternative education)	4.82%	1.49%	9.52%	4.55%	25.00%	58.06%	54.17%	49.35%
Union	67.49%	62.57%	56.15%	56.82%	67.58%	78.33%	81.87%	14.38%

*Denotes small class size (30 or fewer students)

Painting, Podcasting or Rocking Out, Students Find Joy in Self-Expression

By Charles Honey, photos by Dianne Carroll Burdick, Courtesy of School News Network

An enticing aroma filled the hallways of North Park Montessori School as students cooked up Vietnamese chicken pho in the kitchen. In a nearby classroom, parent Sarah Jacques taught Anja Kholinger-Robinson how to cross-stitch, and grandmother Rebecca Leacock helped Harrison Stidolph cut out sewing fabric. In another room, North Park teacher Nijagara Davidson taught the Bosnian language to a table of students with a song, “Eci Pec Pec.” Meanwhile, down in the gym, former NFL player Dave Brandt had boys running pass patterns, while in the basement lunch room a student rock band called OLIVEPIT happily blasted original tunes.

This is self-expressions, a weekly session where North Park’s 60 seventh- and eighth-graders can try their hand at a smorgasbord of creative activities, all taught by volunteer “advisers.” It’s a key component of the Montessori way, designed to help students discover new interests and gain confidence.

“I like it because it gets on my creative side,” said seventh-grader Kasiel Robinson, as she spelled out “living lovely” with plastic beads in a perler-beading class.

Many classes are conceived and designed by students themselves, another way the program aims to empower them while stretching their young minds.

“It’s really fun,” said eighth-grader Anna Kalumbula, who sang in the rock band. “You think, ‘I don’t want to do this.’ Once you’re doing it, you’re like, ‘Whoa, this is awesome!’”

The Virtues of Valorization

The self-expressions program is an important part of

what Montessori philosophy calls “valorization.” That is, students experiencing success through their own efforts, said teacher Jennifer Hall, who has helped oversee the program since the North Park middle school opened five years ago.

“It’s not an adult telling them they’ve done a good job,” said Hall, who is trained in the Montessori Method. “It’s their peers. They gain standing in the community for who they are.”

Whether painting a picture, building a robot or recording a podcast, students are “building pride in what they do,” she added. That includes students who may struggle academically but shine in a special skill: “They have value, and they are seen for their value in that way.”

The program goes hand-in-hand with other activities designed to connect students to one another, their school and their community, said Principal Maureen Capillo. These “stewardship and engagement” activities include twice-weekly service projects, such as visits to Clark Retirement Community, and in-school efforts, like better organizing the lost and found.

“This work is extremely important for our adolescents, their brain development and their sense of social service and community involvement,” Capillo said.

Students Help Create Courses

At North Park, that involvement extends to student government, whose leaders were elected first semester. Student-planned and organized, the group meets weekly to address school issues. A big one for this spring is electing a new school mascot to replace its current one, a peace tree.



Eighth-grader Anna Kalumbula, here singing with the band class, likes the combination of creative learning and fun at North Park



Eighth-grader drummer Noah Krull helped create the self-expressions band class.



Rebecca Leacock, grandmother of Harrison Stidolph, to her immediate left, shows students how to make a pencil bag in sewing class.



Seventh-grader Stella Williams, front, and eighth-grader Lindsay VanderMaas use watercolors in a class advised by North Park teacher Kathleen Clough.

(Animals are being considered.) Students also elected a supreme court, which they hope can resolve minor student conflicts in a quasi-judicial process.

Eighth-grader Walker Idziak, a senator and secretary of state, was a driving force behind student government. He also took a self-expressions class in podcasting, where students were producing a piece about pawn shops. They hoped to submit it to an NPR student podcast challenge.

Eighth-grader Lena Chase initiated a French class. Students Noah Krull and Marek Remtema helped form the self-expressions rock band, after previously creating a BMX class complete with obstacle course. "It's really nice," Noah said of the classes. "We get a solid uninterrupted hour of doing what we want."

That's the great thing about self-expressions, said Sarah Jacques, who taught the cross-stitching class and is mother to seventh-grader Lucia.

"Whatever motivates them, what they want to learn about, what inspires them, I want them to be able to do," she said. "Sometimes students do something they've never done before."

For Anna Kalumbula, who sang with the basement band and is vice president of student government, the chance to express herself and be involved is a welcome part of her Montessori schooling.

"It's a nice way for us to have something educational," she said, "yet you're still having a lot of fun doing things with friends."



North Park eighth-grader Lydia Aderholdt paints with acrylics.



Seventh-graders Javen Figueroa-Johnson, left, and Caileb Austin pick out beads for their creations in perler beading class.

Gerald R. Ford Academic Center Staff and Students Receive Michigan Youth Arts Grant

Patricia Wunder, orchestra director and string instructor at Gerald R. Ford Academic Center, was recently awarded \$1,091 by the Michigan Youth Arts on behalf of the Michigan Council of Arts and Cultural Affairs.

Music is instrumental at Ford. Wunder teaches all K-4th grade students to play violin as part of their curriculum for music classes. 5th grade students have the opportunity to learn how to play instruments in a string orchestra, and 6th-8th grade students have the chance to select band or orchestra. Kindergarten and 1st grade students share a classroom set of violins. Once they reach 2nd grade, students are assigned an instrument that they are then able to take home to practice with the exception of cello and bass players, who do not have enough instruments to accommodate each student.

With the grant, Wunder was able to purchase two different sized violin cases, two bass bows, and a full-sized cello for her students.

"They are excited about these materials," says Wunder. "I have a middle school cellist who is excited to have a cello that is the right size for him, my middle school bass players are excited about having two new bows, and many students are excited about getting a new case to replace the broken cases that they have been using."

In March, 7th and 8th grade band and orchestra students participated in the GRPS Fine Arts Band and Orchestra Festival, where they performed for adjudicators.



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

Grand Rapids Public Schools' World-Class preschool programs provide young children with the foundation for both academic and social-emotional success! Within our World-Class PreK classrooms, children will have the opportunity to learn social-emotional, motor, cognitive, and academic skills in a developmentally appropriate play-based environment 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 Friday, May 3rd to attend Preschool Here I Come. From 9 am - 3 pm on this day, all of our GRPS elementary schools will be welcoming families into our PreK classrooms to meet the teachers, check out our awesome environments, ask questions, and fill out enrollment paperwork. If you have a future preschooler who will be 4 by December 1, 2019 we encourage you to attend this great event on Friday May 3rd.

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



Making a Mighty Impact on GRPS Students

By Salina Bishop

Education is a great equalizer. So what happens when the very foundation of education shifts? When funds are cut, and teachers are expected to do far more with very little? When teachers are leaving at a record pace, yet students are required to learn just as quickly regardless of those transitions? When student struggles mount and barriers continue to surface? As each dollar becomes scarcer and educators are forced to become more creative in making the almighty dollar go farther, how can we make an impact?

The Grand Rapids Student Advancement Foundation exists to make that mighty impact! With the help of our generous donors, we make sure Grand Rapids Public Schools' teachers can focus on teaching and students can focus on learning.

It's no secret education is constantly evolving. Districts are required to meet new benchmarks, yet government funding is pared down at an enormous rate. This creates inequity, and inequity in educational experiences has significant and lasting consequences. Inequity, simply put, hinders opportunities for our most important treasure – our students.

As the Foundation for Grand Rapids Public Schools, we focus on five critical impact areas we believe are vital to not only ensuring all students succeed in school but also in life. These educational impact areas are Arts, Environment, Literacy, Math, Science & Technology, and Physical Wellness.

Our vision as a Foundation is to put more books in front of our students, place more instruments at their fingertips, encourage arts exploration, afford more access to free sports, provide more journeys to culturally significant destinations, but most of all our goal is to reinforce equity in their education. We know it takes a village, and this community is the village which will ensure ALL GRPS students experience vital educational opportunities!

When a community rallies together, we can enhance students' learning, education can be brought to life and made more tangible for students - broadening their experiences with each opportunity explored. When the community supports the Foundation, they are supporting an equitable approach to education where student success will no longer be dictated

by access to resources, but instead only by their own unlimited potential and interests. Together, we can level the playing field, we can remove barriers, and we can come together behind every GRPS school, behind every student and say we are with you!

Want to make a mighty impact on the educational journeys of Grand Rapids Public School students?

Visit grsaf.org.



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grasp

Grand Rapids Academic Summer Programs



GRASP is a summer Math and Reading correspondence program parents can purchase for their children completing grades K-8. There is also an online version for grades 4-8. GRASP seeks to help students retain skills learned during the past school year by providing review exercises created by curriculum professionals and teachers.

There are 9 units to be submitted during the summer—one per week or your child's own to work around other activities, as long as everything is submitted by the deadline. Each lesson reinforces the basic skills typically taught at that grade level. GRASP staff score the lesson and return it to the student with comments. Online students get immediate results.

Students who successfully complete at least 7 of 9 lessons by the deadline are awarded a GRASP certificate. A medal is awarded for 9 successfully completed lessons.

GRPS students will receive enrollment forms from their schools soon. Students from other schools should first check with your child's school to see if they participate as they may get a discounted rate.

Sign up for GRASP at grps.org/grasp or by calling (616) 819-2548



School Meals Make a Difference

DID YOU KNOW?

All Grand Rapids Public Schools serve
FREE breakfast for all students.

Contact your school for serving times.

We would love to have your children join us!



SUMMER MEALS

Grand Rapids Public Schools will again be sponsoring
nutritious summer meals. We look forward to serving
your children.

Nutritious summer meals for kids ages 18 and under.
Everyone welcome!

WE'RE HIRING!

Grand Rapids Public Schools is seeking candidates for cook positions. This is a part time position that you will be trained for. If you are interested in part time employment during the school year, please apply online by visiting grps.org and clicking "careers".

Remember: professional references cannot be family members or friends.

If you have questions, please contact Jennifer Laninga at (616) 819-1669 or Lisa Dilworth at (616)819-2135

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 \$225 – financial scholarships available, call to inquire.

YMCA Summer Branch Day Camps & Clinics

Locations throughout
West Michigan
(616) 855-9622

www.grymca.org/

[summer-day-camps](http://www.grymca.org/summer-day-camps)

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/summer-day-camps to register today!

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.



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 all-sports 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
(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 Youth Adventure 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 6 and up are welcome!

West Michigan Center for Arts + Technology (WMCAT)

Grand Rapids, MI

www.wmcat.coursestorm.com

Join the West Michigan Center for Arts + Technology (WMCAT) for your most creative summer yet! We'll be offering a variety of summer camps for current 6th-11th grade students in June and July. These 4-day camp sessions will be meet Monday-Thursday, with both morning and afternoon options available. Tuition ranges from \$100-115, with need-based scholarships available. Register at the website above or contact us at teenprograms@wmcat.org or (616) 454-7004.

TOYS!

Be curious.
GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC MUSEUM

Free admission for Kent County children!



grpm.org

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cherryhealth.org



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2019 Citywide Art Show

APRIL 24—MAY 9



Public Receptions for GRPS Families and Friends

April 30 5:00—6:30 PM | GRPS Secondary Schools & all Non-Public Schools
May 2 5:00—6:30 PM | GRPS K-5, K-8, & Center Based Programs

Students See New Horizons, Thanks to Free Glasses

By Cris Greer, Courtesy of School News Network



Seventh-grader Frederick Charles said his new glasses opened up a whole new world for him, academic and otherwise.

After putting on the new glasses he received through Vision To Learn, Aberdeen School seventh-grader Frederick Charles had much to say about his new look.

“My grades will go way up,” he said. “I’ll get back to A’s. Everything will be easier to read in school.”

Just like 21 other students at Aberdeen, a PK-8 school, he recently got new glasses to fit an updated prescription, thanks to a new school district partnership aimed at improving vision for up to 3,000 students. The generosity was not lost on him.

“It’s amazing,” Frederick added. “It’s a real blessing. People are nice enough to give us glasses. We really need them.”

His mother, Vernee Pearson, would be thrilled, too, he predicted: “She’s going to be so excited when I get home. I can’t wait to see her reaction.”

He couldn’t have been more correct. His mom said she hasn’t seen that excitement in his eyes in a long time.

“I was excited to see that he was excited,” Pearson said, about three weeks after the glasses give-away. “He has been more delightful at home. I see a big difference and it’s been such a relief for him. He is able to study the way he needs to.”

Removing Barriers to Learning

In collaboration with Grand Rapids Public Schools and the Kent County Health Department, nonprofit organization Vision To Learn launched its program at Aberdeen and plans to roll it out to all 54 GRPS schools.

Aberdeen Principal Jamie Masco said her students were thrilled to get those glasses, and she’s thrilled by the initiative.

“They felt like real superstars when they were called up to the podium to receive their glasses,” Masco said. “They were grinning from ear to ear. I am grateful and honored that Vision To Learn chose to begin their journey at Aberdeen School and that other GRPS students will benefit from this amazing organization.

Besides being stars for the day, the students should see significant learning gains by getting vision screenings, eye exams and prescription eyeglasses, Masco added. “In today’s world, it is imperative that we remove as many barriers as possible in order to ensure academic and social-emotional success for our students.”

At Aberdeen, 174 students received vision screenings, 35 got eye exams, and 22 students were provided glasses. According to Joann Hoganson, community wellness director for the Kent County Health Department, a screening is a number of

tests designed to determine whether a student should be referred for a professional examination.

An examination is when a series of tests are performed by an ophthalmologist or optometrist, assessing the vision and ability to focus on and discern objects, as well as other tests pertaining to the eyes.

Program has Local Roots

The charity’s founder, Austin Beutner, superintendent of Los Angeles Unified School District, grew up in Grand Rapids and pegged his hometown as a place to help.



Fifth-grader Jack Klein makes no secret of his new-glasses glee after getting a pair from Superintendent Teresa Weatherall Neal, thanks to the Vision To Learn initiative.

Organization Brings Sight to Children in Need

Vision To Learn started with one van in Los Angeles in 2012 and now helps serve children in low-income communities in over 300 cities in 12 states. It serves the needs of the hardest-to-reach children; about 90 percent of kids served by Vision To Learn live in poverty and about 85 percent are children of color.

About one in five students will naturally need glasses to see the board, read a book or participate in class, according to the VTL website. Unfortunately, in low-income communities across the country, 95 percent of kids who need glasses (about 2 million) do not have them.

Since its inception, the program has helped provide vision screenings to over 800,000 kids, eye exams for over 170,000 and glasses for 135,000, all free of charge to students and their families.

Research by faculty from the Mattel Children’s Hospital at UCLA, about students who received glasses from Vision To Learn, showed the students’ grades improved and they were more engaged in the classroom. Students with untreated vision problems often struggle at school, and they are less likely to achieve reading proficiency by third grade, putting them at greater risk of dropping out.

Locally, Joann Hoganson, community wellness director for the Kent County Health Department, said the department’s nine full-time technicians screen children for vision deficits. But their rate of helping families afford the glasses for children who need them is “embarrassingly low,” a problem the partnership will greatly reduce, she said.

“The Health Department’s primary role is to identify children who potentially need further visual care and then to come alongside the parents in order to secure treatment,” Hoganson said. “While every effort is made to make sure the children get the follow-up they need, some children are not able to get the glasses they need, even when the parent knows the child has a vision deficit. New options such as VTL help us accomplish this important goal in a more efficient manner.”

The Health Department’s hearing and vision technicians screened a total of 93,000 children for potential hearing and visual deficits last year, according to Hoganson. Of that amount, 53,934 were screened for vision, 4,920 were identified as having potential visual problems and referred on for care, and 2,070 of those referred children received an eye examination.

His mom was a teacher here, according to Vision To Learn President Ann Hollister, who said the 1978 East Grand Rapids High School graduate wanted to make sure Grand Rapids had this program.

An estimated 3,000 children in Grand Rapids go to school daily without the glasses they need to see the board, read a book or participate in class. Through this collaboration, every student in GRPS will be provided a vision screening, eye exam, and, if needed, a pair of glasses, free of charge.

“Children who have trouble seeing often struggle in class, yet many students lack access to basic vision care,” Hollister said. “By bringing free eye exams to kids at school, Vision To Learn helps them get the glasses they need to succeed.” GRPS Superintendent Teresa Weatherall Neal called the partnership “a game changer” for those children and families, adding that she expects the program to benefit students throughout the school system.

“Imagine being in school, not having glasses, not being able to see, not having the resources to get those glasses,” Neal said. “Now we will be able to have this barrier removed thanks to our partnership with Vision To Learn.



Second-grader Jeckia Brooks gets a high-five from school board member Tony Baker, right, and Vision To Learn President Ann Hollister, center, and encouragement from Joann Hoganson, community wellness director for the Kent County Health Department.

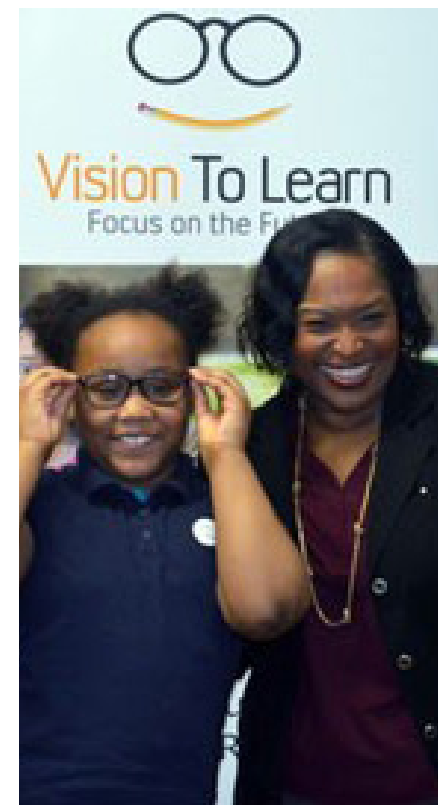
“It’s rare that a single intervention can make such an immediate and meaningful difference in a student’s education. Through this program, students who need glasses will get glasses, and as a result, they are more likely to do better at school.”

Frederick’s mom said she has seen evidence of that already. “He hasn’t been acting up in school like he has been in the past,” Pearson said. “I think the lack of him being able to see played a lot to his behavioral

issues and I believe he got bored and started acting out. Since his glasses, I haven’t had any phone calls or anything of that nature. It’s pretty awesome.”

Pearson also said he has been very responsible with his glasses.

“He has been keeping up with them, cleaning them and keeping them in the case and keeping them away from his little brother.”



Aberdeen School fourth-grader Ariana White is clearly pleased to receive a new pair of glasses from GRPS Superintendent Teresa Weatherall Neal.

WMCAT

WMCAT Arts + Tech Camps

Join the West Michigan Center for Arts + Technology (WMCAT) for your most creative summer yet! We’ll be offering a variety of summer camps for current 6th-11th grade students in June and July. These 4-day camp sessions will be meet Monday-Thursday, with both morning and afternoon options available. Tuition ranges from \$100-115, with need-based scholarships available. Visit www.wmcat.coursesform.com to register or contact us at teenprograms@wmcat.org or 616-454-7004.



WMCAT Idea Lab

Looking for a summer job that uses your creativity? The West Michigan Center for Arts + Technology (WMCAT) invites young creatives to join us for Idea Lab 2019, an eight-week summer employment experience through which you will learn about video production and develop content that will be featured across Grand Rapids during Project 1, ArtPrize’s new citywide public art event in fall 2019. WMCAT is a Summer Learning Academy site with Believe to Become, so you’ll not only collaborate in groups on a creative project, but you’ll also sharpen your math skills and explore college and career possibilities. Applications are being accepted now, with priority enrollment given to students who live within the Hope Zone neighborhoods.

Apply at believe2become.org/programs/summer-learning-academies/

Questions? Contact us at teenprograms@wmcat.org or 616-454-7004, or visit wmcat.org



Dad Mixes Cooking, Anti-bullying Message

By Charles Honey, Courtesy of School News Network



Justin Stermin drops his daughter, Waverly, off to kindergarten each morning at Mulick Park Elementary (courtesy photo).

One morning early this school year, when Justin Stermin was dropping his kindergartner daughter, Waverly, off to Mulick Park Elementary, he noticed some students picking on each other and rough-housing as they stood in line waiting to go inside. He admonished the kids to treat each other better, and promptly told Principal Thomas Standifer his concern about what he'd seen.

Standifer stationed a staff member outside the following day, which Stermin appreciated. But he wanted to do more. He approached be nice., an anti-bullying and suicide-prevention program of the Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan, about getting the program into Mulick Park. They were receptive but said the curriculum cost \$2,500.

Stermin didn't have that much change to spare, but he did have something else to offer: his skills as a chef. He donated catering to a be nice.-sponsored poetry slam at the Grand Rapids Ballet. In exchange, the program donated its curriculum to the school.

Impressed with his new parent's initiative, Standifer invited Stermin to join Mulick's parent-teacher council. He did, along with his wife, Heather. Since then they have been active in the school, Standifer says, "helping us plan family events, programs, and discussions on the direction of Mulick Park for our students."

"You make your community by putting into your community," says Stermin, 28. "We just see the value of volunteering, and giving these resources to the school that maybe they can't afford or don't know of."

Teaching Healthy Eating and Job Skills

He also sees value in helping children overcome barriers at a young age. He is cofounder and co-director of Kitchen Sage, a workforce development program serving students ages 18 to 24.

It offers an eight-week course on food safety, first aid and marketable skills, and sets up 90-day paid internships with community partners to help get young adults jobs in the food and restaurant industry. Based on Grand Rapids' West Side, it also prepares lunches for about 1,500 students at seven preschools of the Early Learning Neighborhood Collaborative.

Stermin is well-qualified for the role, having been a chef at several local restaurants, as a board member of the American Culinary Federation and advisory board member of the Culinary Institute of Michigan. He has taught classes for low-income parents through Steepletown Neighborhood Services, helping them prepare nutritious, economical meals with crockpots.

He sees firsthand what barriers many young people have had to overcome to be successful adults. He wants to help the children of Mulick Park – and GRPS more broadly — get on the right path, whether through donating a kindness program or teaching them good diet.

"Nutrition is so huge in not only a child's development, but their attitude," Stermin says. "I would love to be part of a team, getting them more education on healthy eating,"

For now, he and Heather are doing what they can to help Waverly and her classmates do well, and treat each other nicely.



Justin Stermin is co-director of Kitchen Sage, which teaches culinary skills to young adults and prepares meals for preschoolers.

Ottawa Hills High School Boys Swim and Dive Team Enjoys Record-Breaking Season

Highest finish at Division 3 state finals in school history, plus broken school records and academic accomplishments round out stellar year

It was a year of broken records for the Ottawa Hills High School boys swimming and diving team.

The Bengals had their highest team finish of 16th place at the Division 3 state finals on March 8 and 9 at Oakland University.

Diver Caleb Hekman made All-State by placing fifth, tying a school record going way back to 1990 when Robin Ward placed fifth at the state meet. The team achieved several academic honors and broke a few school records along the way this season as well.

Ottawa Hills tied Pinckney for 16th place with a total of 40 points, while Holland Christian won the D3 state title with 323.5 points. Area swimming giants East Grand Rapids placed second at 267.

“I knew that we were going to have a good season, we have a very talented senior class that had already placed at the state meet as juniors,” said coach Eve Julian, in her 14th season at Ottawa Hills. “We also added a very fast freshman backstroker (Jonathan Hoffman) this year. I had no idea that we would place as high as we did,

though. Especially considering how much training we missed in January and February due to pool issues, the polar vortex and the ice storm.”

Hekman (All-State, possibly All-American)

Julian said Hekman, a City High/Middle School senior, is an all-around athlete.

“In middle school, he participated in four sports each year: soccer, basketball, bowling and baseball,” said Julian, who also swam at Ottawa Hills and walked on at Michigan State before succumbing to a shoulder injury. “Caleb decided to try diving as a freshman because his friends talked him into it. On the second day of practice our diving coach Ashley Keener shouted across the pool to me, ‘He has six dives,’ and I knew he was going to be special. He qualified for regionals and then made it to the state meet as a freshman.

“Caleb attended dive camps in the summers to work on his skills, and continued to play soccer in the fall and spring. He has put in a lot of time, over 400



The Ottawa Hills boys swimming and diving team finished a record-high 16th place at the Division 3 state finals held March 8 and 9 at Oakland University. From left to right: Eve Julian (coach), Ashley Keener (diving coach), Dawson Eriksen (12), Caleb Hekman (12), Judah Vandyke (12), Andrew DeBoer (12), Jonathan Hoffman (9), Ben Vaandrager (12), Adam Kuzee (11), DJ Cochran (assistant coach)

■ SEE RECORD-BREAKING SEASON/ B14

Fuel Up with Breakfast

Eating breakfast has been linked to many benefits:

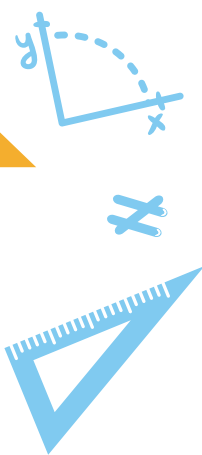
Increased test scores, math grades, memory, and learning.

Increased attendance, behavior, and attention.

Decreased childhood obesity.

17.5%
HIGHER
SCORES ON
STANDARDIZED
MATH TESTS

+ ÷ =



THOSE WHO EAT
BREAKFAST
ATTEND
1.5
MORE DAYS OF
SCHOOL
PER YEAR



CHILDREN
WHO EAT
BREAKFAST
— HAVE A —
LOWER
BODY MASS INDEX
THAN THOSE
WHO SKIP
BREAKFAST



MILK MEANS MORE

For more information visit MilkMeansMore.org.

Record-Breaking Season

Continued from B13

hours of practice in the last four seasons, and effort, and he continually challenged himself to be better. He has fought through back, knee, shoulder and ankle injuries over his career.

“Last year he tied for ninth place at the state meet and when it was over he told me that his senior year he was going to be All-State.”

He also earned All-American diving consideration, to be judged in June. If he makes the list of the top 100 divers he will be an All-American.

Hekman has made the state finals all four years, working his way up from 36th place as a freshman to this year’s finish of fifth.

“It feels amazing to be an All-State athlete, as I had missed it the year before because when I finished ninth, only top eight are All-State qualifiers,” Hekman explained. “I was determined to get it the following year.”

“To be on a team that is the best that it has ever been in the history of the program feels amazing.”

Hekman, a three-year captain and all-conference athlete for two seasons, also plays soccer for Ottawa Hills.

“I am set to attend the University of Michigan at their engineering college and have not yet determined if I will continue my soccer career in college, but it is unlikely that I will dive in college due to the large amount of practices, and in order to dive, I would have to change my major and be there for five years.”

He had much to say about his coaches.

“Coach Eve Julian and my diving coach Ashley Keener have helped push me out of my comfort zone and work to be great at something I had never done before.”

Strong State Finishes

Teammates Hoffman, Andrew DeBoer, Adam Kuzee and Dawson Eriksen placed 10th (1:40.38) in the 200 medley relay at the state finals, while Hoffman finished 11th (55.36) in the 100 backstroke and DeBoer placed 11th (1:01.27) in the 100 breaststroke.

Team Records

Hoffman, DeBoer, Kuzee and Eriksen broke the Ottawa Hills record in the 200 medley, and Hoffman and DeBoer also broke the school records in the 100 backstroke and 100 breaststroke, respectively. DeBoer also broke the Rainbow Conference Tier 2 record

and Hastings pool record in the 100 breaststroke.

“The three returning swimmers from last season’s state final 200 medley relay (DeBoer, Kuzee and Eriksen) told me that their goal was to break the Rainbow Conference record and place higher in the state meet,” said Julian, who was voted the Michigan Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association Zone 5 Coach of the Year last season. “With the addition of freshman Backstroker Jonathan Hoffman, they were able to reach both of those goals. The relay earned their state qualifying time during the second meet of the season ... and Hoffman was the fastest freshman backstroker in the state.”

Fast and Furious Finish

Julian said though nearly half the team was new to swimming, they had a strong finish.

“We had a challenging season because of the weather and record number of snow days, but the team worked hard when they could and swam really well at the end of the season,” Julian explained. “At the conference meet, we had 95 percent best times at prelims and 70 percent best times at finals. It seemed like we dropped most of our time for the season on those two days.”

“This is also one of the tightest teams that I have ever had. They had great leadership with their captains Andrew DeBoer, Dawson Eriksen and Caleb Hekman, and the team was really supportive of each other and the efforts of everyone, not just the state meet guys.”

Academic Awards

DeBoer, Eriksen, Hekman and Ben Vaandrager earned Academic All-America, while DeBoer, Eriksen, Hekman, Vaandrager and Evan Jasinski earned Academic All-State. Academic All-America requires an athlete to be a senior with a cumulative 3.75 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) over seven semesters to qualify. The four swimmers that received the Academic All-America award are all seniors at City High/Middle School, “which makes their accomplishment all that much more impressive,” Julian said. Approximately 2 percent of the graduating seniors around the country even qualify for the award.

The Academic All-State requirement is a 3.65 or better on a 4.0 scale.

The Bengals also earned the NISCA Scholar Team Award: Bronze Level for a combined 3.211 average GPA. The NISCA Scholar team award requires a team average GPA of 3.20 on a 4.0 scale.

“This is the first year that I have had a team that had an average GPA high enough to submit for the award,” said Julian, who works in sales and support for IST, which sells swimming scoreboards and timing systems.

DeBoer, a four-year swimmer at Ottawa Hills and City High/Middle School senior, was proud of the team’s accomplishments this season.

“My freshman year our team was only 18 at its peak, so seeing the massive growth we’ve had is absolutely incredible,” said DeBoer, who qualified for four events at state last year. “Every year we lose seniors who are key parts of our success and we wonder how we’re going to fill the space they left, and every year our veterans make huge improvements to fill that space.”

Leadership Experience

DeBoer, a second-year captain, came into the season with leadership experience.

“Most of the time the boys make it really easy, they listen well, do what coach asks them to do, work hard in practice, and there is hardly ever conflict between teammates that needs intervention.”

Though he “loves” year-round club swimming for the Rapid Area YMCA, DeBoer said every fall he’s “itching to get back in with the Ottawa boys; it’s just a different level of friendship and

brotherhood.”

A Little Help from Coach

DeBoer said it’s hard to explain the role Julian has played in his development as a swimmer and person.

“During swim season, I spend more time with her than I do my own parents,” said DeBoer, who has committed to swim for St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. “My sophomore season I injured my shoulder and needed to take time off and rehab. I was worried I was never going to get better, but Eve was there with me every step of the way. I ended up having a great season and haven’t had an injury since. She has been such a good motivator and support for me for the past four years.”

Beyond swimming, DeBoer is heavily involved in choir.

“I sing with the Grand Rapids Symphony Youth Chorus, and I’m in a few different groups at my school,” said DeBoer, who’s been in choir for nearly 10 years.

Noodles, Not Tomatoes

“I’ll eat literally anything except a plain tomato; tomatoes are the worst food ever conceived. As a swimmer, though, noodles are just about the best food you can eat. Noodles are the antithesis of tomatoes.”



Ottawa Hills diver Caleb Hekman made All-State by placing fifth at the Division 3 boys state finals held March 8 and 9 at Oakland University. Hekman is a senior at City High/Middle School.

Calling All Volunteers

During the Spring, GRPS Athletics hosts two large track and field meets at historic Houseman Field. The first meet will be the 4th Annual Elite Challenge on April 20, 2019. This meet continues to grow each and every year and this year there will be over 15 teams that will be in attendance with Ottawa Hills and Union High School as part of the event. As we know a meet of this size is not able occur without the help of volunteers.

If you're interested in volunteering for the Elite Challenge, go to volunteersignup.org/47JPC

This next meet is the OK Conference White Track Meet held on Friday, May 10th at Houseman Field. This is the Ottawa Hills Conference meet and is a smaller meet with only 7 schools in attendance.

If you're interested volunteering for the OK Conference, go to volunteersignup.org/FBCP3

As you look at the volunteer sign-up sheets, you will see Lead Official and Support Official needs. If you have knowledge in the event, please sign up for the Lead Official Slot. Descriptions of each responsibility are available upon request. Please email Jolinda Lucas at lucasj@grps.org with any questions.

High School Sports

Are you interested in participating in a sport this Spring? If so, Ottawa Hills and Union High Schools have many opportunities available. Current opportunities include: Softball, Baseball, Girls' Soccer, Track and Field, Boys' Golf, Girls Tennis. Please contact Mr. Harris at Ottawa Hills at harrism@grps.org or Mr. Walker at Union at walkerj@grps.org for more information.

Middle School Winter 1 Highlights

During the Winter 1 season for GRPS Athletics we had over 350 student-athletes participate in Boys' basketball, Competitive Cheer, and Swimming. We had a lot of great performances and improvement throughout the season.

Champions were:

6th Grade Boys' Basketball – SWCC

7/8 Grade Boys' Basketball – City

6th Grade Competitive Cheer – U Prep/Museum/GR Montessori

7/8 Grade Competitive Cheer – U Prep/Museum

Swimming – Theme Team with athletes from CA Frost, Harrison, North Park, Museum, Montessori, Shawmut, Zoo, and Blandford

Middle School Winter 2 is Wrapping Up. Think Spring!

The Girls' Basketball, Wrestling, and Bowling teams are in action. Girls' basketball concluded with the championship week beginning April 10. Wrestling City Championships were March 21 at Innovation Central, and Bowling City Finals were on March 21 at Eastbrook Lanes.

It is time to start thinking about our Middle School Spring Sports: Track and Field, Softball, Baseball, Girls Soccer and Golf. For more information please contact your athletic director.

The First Tee Golf Program is coming! Students in eighth and ninth grades will have the opportunity to participate in a one-day clinic at Indian Trails after Spring Break. More information will be available from your physical education teacher and principal.

Elementary Track & Field Coming Soon!

Elementary Track and Field is beginning soon. Registration forms are going out soon and must be returned by April 22. For more information contact your school's physical education teacher.

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

Ottawa Hills & Union High Schools

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

Middle School

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

Elementary

Track (2nd -5th Grades)



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

GRPS PRESENTS

DIA DEL NIÑO



Saturday, April 27 11AM-2PM

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