



# WE ARE GR

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## Transformative Developments Alter Skyline And Enhance Neighborhoods



Dear fellow Grand Rapiidians:

The coming of the new year is a special time full of hope, optimism and an opportunity to look forward with anticipation at the many exciting things the next 12 months hold. In 2024, we'll see progress on many transformative

development projects within our community that will alter the skyline and enhance the neighborhoods of Grand Rapids. I'm thrilled to share just a few of them with you as we head into what I'm sure will be a historic year in our community's story.

### Grand River Greenway

Along our riverfront, there are several projects underway along the Grand River Greenway.

The long-awaited river restoration project is advancing and is currently in the permitting process. We continue to work with our partners at the Michigan Department of Environment Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Grand Rapids Whitewater to revitalize the lower and upper reach of the Grand River and remove the dangerous low-head dams.

The stream restoration design will meet fish passage and aquatic habitat enhancement targets, protect the integrity of the bridges and floodwalls and will diversify recreational opportunities along the river.

The Acrisure Amphitheater is scheduled to begin construction this year with completion set for the 2026 outdoor concert season. City operations on the 201 Market Ave. SW site are in the process of locating to temporary facilities to allow for the demolition of existing structures. The amphitheater is the anchor project planned for a 31-acre development on Market between Fulton and Wealthy streets. It is expected to spur redevelopment of existing surface parking lots and city facilities into housing, green space and retailers.

Construction continues on a \$12 million revamp to Lyon Square park downtown. Located between DeVos Place and the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, the park is being transformed with a new river overlook, greenery on Lyon Street, a sidewalk snow melt system, new seating and lighting and a space for special events. The renovated park is expected to open this fall.

Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. (DGRI) earned \$55 million in federal funds for trail improvements along the Grand River in Kent County. It has earmarked trail and Grand River access enhancements in Grand Rapids for:

- Riverfront redevelopment of the Grand Rapids Public Museum – \$4 million
- A new trail from Fulton Street to Wealthy Street. This stretch of trail will pass behind the Acrisure Amphitheater at 201 Market – \$10 million
- Oxford Trail rehabilitation and extension. The Oxford trail starts south of Wealthy Street along Market Avenue and connects to neighborhoods on the city's Southwest side such as Roosevelt Park and Black Hills – \$8 million

The Grand Rapids Downtown Development Authority also is providing \$60,000 the Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds (LGROW), to designate a 92-mile stretch of the Grand River from Ionia County to Grand Haven as a state recreational water trail. The designation would help promote the river as a destination for canoers, kayakers, anglers and other recreational users.

### Grand Rapids Development

Large scale residential, office and retail projects also continue to keep pace in 2024. Some of the major projects to note are:

Corewell Health Place, the health system's new Grand Rapids office headquarters in the Monroe North neighborhood. The \$110 million project is expected to wrap up this summer. The eight-story, 157,000-square-foot building will serve as the Corewell Health System's West Michigan headquarters.

Construction also continues on Corewell's new 12-story, 240,000-square-foot outpatient facility along Medical Mile, across from Butterworth Hospital.

The \$62 million, 16 story second phase of Studio Park in downtown Grand Rapids is expected to wrap up by the end of the year. The residential tower will house 165 market and affordable apartments and 25 condominiums. Amenities will include a gym, golf simulator, commercial laundry, pet wash, sauna, indoor/outdoor pool, deck with a grilling station and a pickleball court.

The \$14.8 million mixed-use multifamily project in the Creston neighborhood, is expected to wrap up by early fall. The project will include 72 apartments and a ground-floor Quickwater Coffee Roasters coffee shop.

### City Facilities

Efforts continue in 2024 on the planned development of five major City facilities to serve the public.

Pre-construction efforts are underway on two new fire stations and a training facility with both stations opening in 2025 and the fire training and operations center scheduled to open in 2026. The projects were aided by \$35 million recently awarded by the State of Michigan. The projects include:

- Fire Station No. 12 – located on the corner of Kalamazoo Avenue and Kendall Street – \$8 million
- Fire Station No. 10 – located at 1823 S. Division Ave. – \$12 million
- Training and operations facility – located at 850 Pannell St. NW – \$25 million

Progress also continues on the planned reconstruction of the lodge at Martin Luther King Park, 1200 Franklin St. SE. The existing structure will soon be raised and replaced this year with new \$18.5 million, 25,000 square foot Martin Luther King Park Lodge that will feature a full gymnasium, classrooms and more.

As you can see, there are many public and private projects underway and many on tap in 2024. The City's core values of accountability, collaboration, customer service, equity, innovation, and sustainability remain the foundation for all City services and help scope these and future economic development projects. To read more about how we a working on continuous service improvement at our Development Center, please related story on page 7.

Here is wishing you and your family a safe and prosperous new year!

Mark Washington, City Manager

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



## Citywide LED Streetlighting Project is Nearly Complete

Grand Rapids' conversion of its 18,000 City streetlights to LED fixtures is nearly complete. The Citywide LED project is more than 80 percent complete with 15,000 already converted to LEDs.

The project enters its final phase with the City's lighting contractor scheduled to install 1,000 LEDs a month in the three remaining Focus Areas over the next three months, depending on the weather. The City's lighting contractor will be working from North (Focus Area 1) to South (Focus Area 2) and finishing up in Downtown (Focus Area 3). The remaining Focus Areas will complete the work in Cheshire, Creston, Monroe, Michigan Street, Heartside, Division South, East Fulton, Cherry/Lake/Diamond neighborhoods and business districts. See map to the right for details.

The work is unlikely to disrupt access or traffic. Neighborhood associations will be informed of the general schedule in their areas, but neighbors are unlikely to notice work occurring until the light fixture has changed.

The decision to move to LED lights for all neighborhood street lighting was done for its economic, safety and environmental benefits. According to City Engineer Tim Burkman, the installed LEDs are already saving the City significant electrical costs. The City expects an estimated annual energy savings of approximately \$350,000 when fully operational.

"Our primary goal in arriving at this decision was the safety of our residents and neighborhoods, which is a critical objective in the City's strategic plan," Burkman said.

"We know that most accidents involving pedestrians and bicyclists happen at night,

and many of those are the result of poor visibility. Additionally, better lighting will make residents feel safer in their own neighborhoods — cities like Detroit have seen great results when they transitioned to this LED temperature for their street lighting."

This move also aligns with the City's strategic plan in the following objectives:

- residents feeling safe in their neighborhoods at all times
- community engagement through surveys for residents' perception of City services, events, programs and facilities
- improving cost-effectiveness through asset management, continuous improvement and innovation.
- reduce carbon emissions and increase climate resiliency by reducing the carbon footprint of our City's electrical utility.

In early 2019, the City formed an LED Pilot team composed of staff from the Energy, Lighting, and Communications (ELC), Environmental Services and Engineering departments, along with engineering consulting firm GeoTech. The group recommended this change after extensive research, analysis and community engagement, which included surveys in targeted neighborhoods and side-by-side comparison of two light color temperature options. Work began in summer 2021 on the outer limits of the city and is working toward the center/downtown of Grand Rapids.

For information on the City's LED Color Temperature Selection Process, visit [grandrapidsmi.gov/Government/Departments/Energy-Lighting-and-Communications/LED-Color-Temperature-Selection-Process](http://grandrapidsmi.gov/Government/Departments/Energy-Lighting-and-Communications/LED-Color-Temperature-Selection-Process).

# SAVE THE DATE!

EMBRACING THE POWER OF **TENSION**, **TENACITY**, & **INTENTIONALITY**



**SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024**

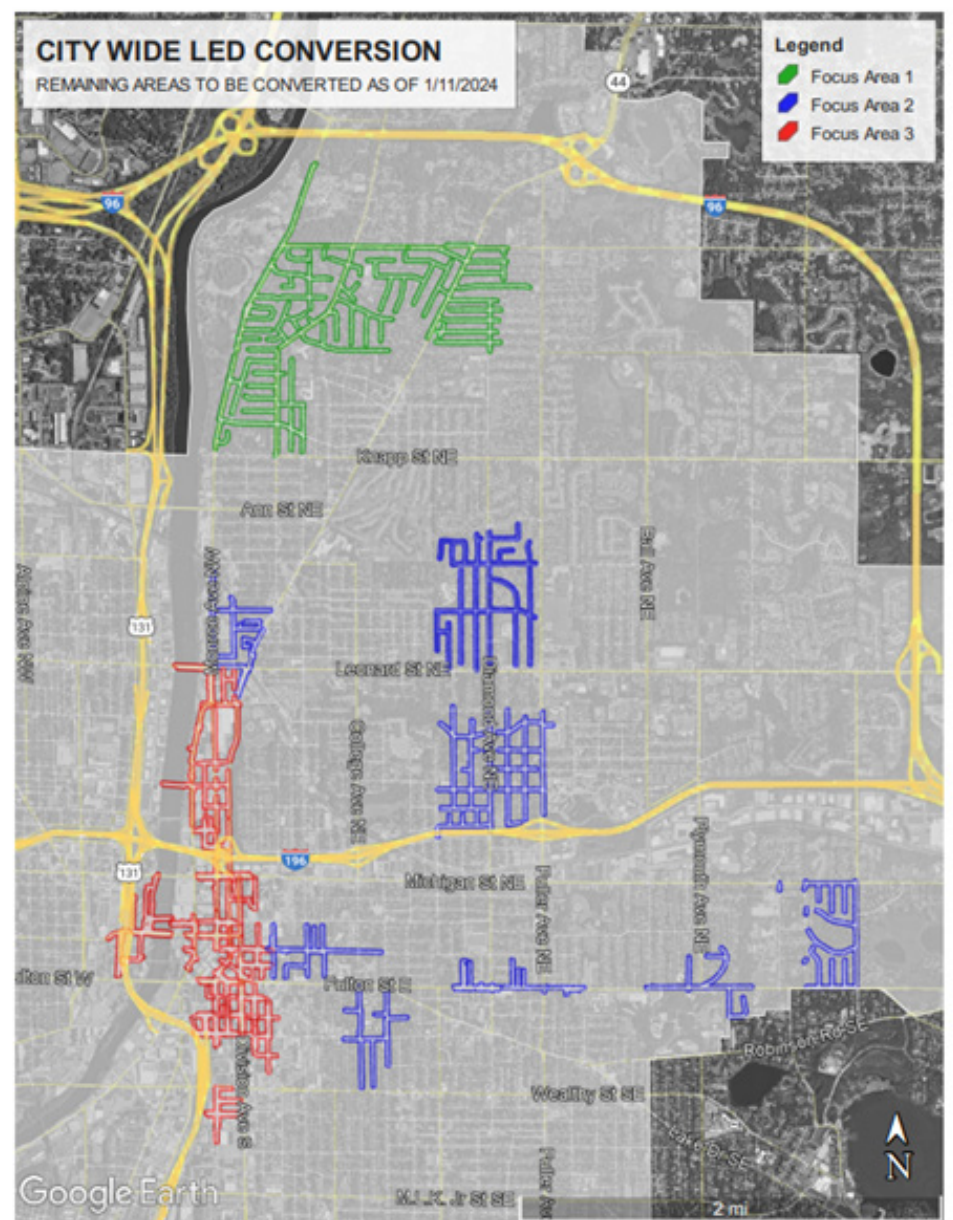


**8 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

*followed by a community celebration*



**Grand Valley State University,  
Pew Campus 401 Fulton St W,  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504**



## City Plans On Replacing 1,400 Lead Service Lines This Year

The City of Grand Rapids is committed to protecting the public's health and has initiated a strategy to eliminate all lead services in our city.

In June 2018, Michigan implemented the nation's most proactive Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). The revised LCR requires water utilities to create an inventory of all water service connections, inform customers about the presence of a lead service line and replace all lead service lines within the next two decades.

You can use the inventory mapping tool at [grcity.us/LSL](http://grcity.us/LSL) or scan the QR code below to search for your property address to determine if you have a lead service line.

### Minimizing Lead Exposure

Your tap water may be a source of lead if you have a lead service line or old plumbing and fixtures in your home. The most common lead exposure in the city is from paint, dust and soil. Children under six years old living in pre-1978 housing are most at risk. If you are pregnant, lead can harm your baby and prevention is the best way to protect your family. Talk to your healthcare provider about blood lead testing. If you do not have a healthcare provider, contact the Kent County Health Department at 616.632.7063.

You can take steps to protect yourself and your family from lead in your drinking water by:

1. Only use cold water for drinking, cooking, making ice, beverages and infant formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water.
2. If you have a lead service line, are pregnant or have children aged six and under in your home, consider buying a filter that meets NSF standard 53. When using a filter, follow the manufacturer's recommendation for maintenance and replacement. Visit [gettingaheadoflead.com](http://gettingaheadoflead.com) or call 616.632.7145 to verify your eligibility for a free water filter.
3. If water has not been used for a few hours, run the kitchen or bathroom faucet for at least five minutes. You can also run the dishwasher and shower or use a washing machine.
4. Remove your faucet aerators at least once every six months and clean them out. Small particles may accumulate on the screens.
5. A licensed plumber can inform you about alternate lead-free approved materials for your household plumbing. Visit [epa.gov/water](http://epa.gov/water) for more information about lead-free plumbing products.

### Lead Line Replacement Program

In 2017, the City began replacing lead service lines at zero cost to homeowners and commercial properties. These replacements happen during emergency leaks or planned construction projects.

The City allocates \$8 million annually to fund these replacements. The City has also secured state loans and federal grants to fund lead service line replacements. In 2020, the Environmental Protection Agency awarded the City a \$5.1 million grant to replace 1,600 private lead service lines in the Neighborhoods of Focus. In 2021, the City secured a \$10 million loan from the state, followed by an \$8 million loan in 2023.

Thanks to these investments, the City has replaced 5,300 lead service lines since 2017, with 2,400 replacements in 2023 alone. Approximately 20,000 lead service lines remain citywide.

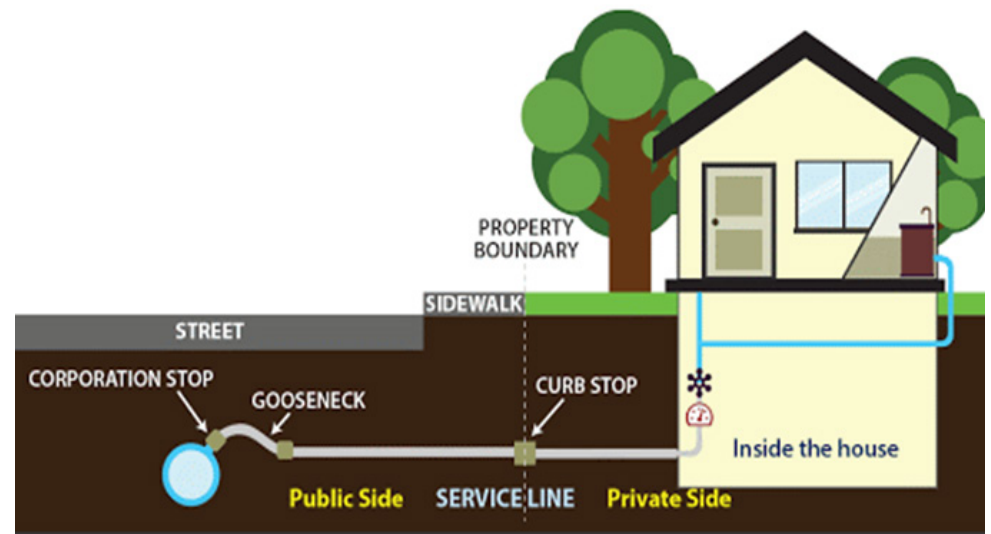
### Is my home scheduled for a lead service line replacement?

Tenants and property owners will receive a letter, door hanger or phone call informing them of their upcoming lead service line replacement and the steps to begin the process. If you receive a letter, it is important that you contact us as soon as possible so we can obtain your permission to replace the lead service line on your property. To find out if your home is scheduled for a lead service line replacement within the next 24 months, email us at [leadfreewater@grcity.us](mailto:leadfreewater@grcity.us).

For more information about the Lead Line Replacement Program, visit [grcity.us/LSL](http://grcity.us/LSL) or call 616.456.3000. If you would like to learn more about lead exposure and resources that may be available, visit [firststepskent.org](http://firststepskent.org) or [michigan.gov/mileadsafe](http://michigan.gov/mileadsafe).



*You can use the inventory mapping tool at [grcity.us/LSL](http://grcity.us/LSL) or scan the QR code above to search for your property address to determine if you have a lead service line.*



### 2024 Replacement Schedule

The City plans to replace approximately 1,400 lead service lines this year. The replacements are scheduled for the following streets:

Street	From	To
Cesar E. Chavez Ave SW	Clyde Park	Hall
Division Ave N	Fulton	Michigan
Eastern Ave SE	Burton	Ardmore
Eleanor St NE	Plainfield	Diamond
Fremont Ave NW	Third	Fourth
Hall St SE	Madison	Eastern
Oakley Pl NE	Lyon	Crescent
Robinson St SE	Lake Dr	Plymouth
Ann St NW	Monroe	Plainfield
California St NW	Lane	Seward
Dorroll St NE	Diamond	Fuller
Duiker Ave NE	Knapp	Eleanor
Fourth St NW	Valley	Garfield
Hovey St SW	Gunnison	Straight
Johnston St SE	Kalamazoo	Giddings
Lincoln Ave NW	5th	6th
Martin Ave SE	Dickinson	Griggs
Pine Ave NW	3rd	6th
Prospect Ave NE	Bradford	Cedar
Quarry Ave NW	11th	Leonard
Third St NW	Valley	Garfield
Ardmore St SE	Linden	Eastern
Brown St SW	Steele	Horton
Dickinson St SW	Steele	Union
Fair St SE	Division	Jefferson
Palace Ave SW	Burton	Stewart
Stafford SW	RR	Griggs
Sutton St SW	Buchanan	Division

Area bounded by Plainfield, Quimby, College, Leonard  
Area bounded by Tamarack, Myrtle, Seward, Leonard

## We've Got You Covered For The 2024 Elections

It's a busy year of elections and your City Clerk's Office wants to make sure you're prepared. Here are important dates and information for each election:

**February 27:** Presidential Primary election for selecting your preference for presidential nominee. Voters must choose a Democratic or Republican ballot.

Grand Rapids voters registered in the Kentwood Public Schools district may select a non-partisan ballot.

**August 6:** Partisan Primary election for federal, state, and county offices – Democratic and Republican candidates are listed on the ballot. You need to select one or the other – can't cross between parties. There will also be a Non-Partisan Primary for City Mayor, City Commission, Library Board, Judges and proposals if necessary.

**November 5:** Presidential General election – You may vote a straight party for partisan offices or select candidates individually. This ballot includes federal, state, county, judicial, city and school offices as well as proposals.

# GRVOTES

### Proposal 2 of 2022 gives voters more options.

- **Early Voting** – Voters may go to an early voting site to get a ballot, vote and place the ballot in the tabulator during a nine day period between February 17 and 25. Hours of operations are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday; and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. You may also bring your absentee ballot to the EV site to tabulate that ballot.
  - Sts Peter and Paul School – 1430 Quarry NW
  - GRPS University – 1400 Fuller NE
  - Ottawa Hills High School – 2055 Rosewood SE
- **Absentee Voting** – Voters may choose

to be placed on a Permanent Ballot List. A voter will apply once for all future elections. A voter may still choose to fill out an application for every election.

### Some reminders before you head to the polls:

- **Voter registration** – Residents who are 18 or older and a United States Citizen are automatically registered to vote when they make a transaction with the Secretary of State. You may register to vote by mail up to 15 days before an election and in person at the City Clerk's Office within 14 days of the election up to Election Day. You need to prove residency in the city.
- **Check your voter registration status,**

register to vote, view a sample ballot, apply for and absentee ballot or find your polling location at [michigan.gov/vote](https://michigan.gov/vote).

### Get involved – Become an Election Worker

To run successful elections, we need help from the community. Election workers are on the frontline of democracy. You will be able to see firsthand how the election process works.

Election workers report how rewarding it is to experience the voting process, especially when you see someone vote for the first time. To learn more about becoming an election worker, please visit [grandrapidsmi.gov/Residents/Elections/Election-Workers](https://grandrapidsmi.gov/Residents/Elections/Election-Workers).



Interested in a law enforcement career? Visit the revamped [joingrpd.com](https://www.joingrpd.com) for more information and to talk to a recruiter.

**Strong Roots**

GRPD

## Have You Ever Wondered What It's Like To Be A Firefighter?

GRFD is encouraging interested persons to consider becoming a GRFD Fire Cadet.

The City of Grand Rapids continues to find ways to recruit firefighters from the community to protect this great city. The Grand Rapids Fire Department proudly announces a continuance of the GRFD Fire Cadet program, and you can apply online. Last year was the first time the GRFD hired Cadets. As paid interns, these Cadets were educated about the fire service in general and the GRFD in particular. The Cadets spent one year working part-time as uniformed members of the Department. They learned about firefighting skills, participated in community activities, engaged in regular physical fitness, and were taught the Department's values. The Cadet program bore fruit as two of the six Cadets were hired as firefighters for the City of Grand Rapids.

The 2024 Cadet program will continue to evolve with this year's model being reduced to a four-month program but for more hours (32) per week. The goal will be to impart the same training to a new group of Cadets but adding a Medical First Responder license to the curriculum.



If you are interested in becoming a Cadet, contact the City of Grand Rapids' Human Resources Department at 616-456-3176 for more information.

Online applications are available at: [www.joingrfire.com](https://www.joingrfire.com)

## City Increases Access To Public Meetings And Agenda Items Through New Agenda Management System

Earlier this year, the City of Grand Rapids implemented its first stage migration to a new agenda management system. The new system prepares and publishes documents for public meetings and enables elected officials, public and staff to access meeting materials.

Chief of Staff Lou Canfield said, “staff has collectively worked to learn and implement the tool and is excited to provide the update for more transparent, engaged and effective meetings.”

The new One Meeting system replaces

# ONEMEETING

the old IQM2 system in place since 2015 and promises improved consistency and efficiency vs. previous hybrid paper/Word/Adobe processes. The web/cloud-based system offers translation to 133 languages and will eventually offer links to streaming video

of the meeting and a public comment sign-up option. New features and expansion to the Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, Historic Preservation Commission, etc. will occur in progression in 2024.

Bob Ainsbury, chief product officer at

Granicus, said, “Grand Rapids’ dedication to enhancing the lives of the residents through superior digital experiences not only sets a high standard for civic engagement but also inspires us to continually elevate our solutions and services. The team there truly understands the tech marketplace, the latest innovations, and how applying them can support the needs of the Grand Rapids community. We truly appreciate our partnership with Grand Rapids.”

## Commission Awards Another PBGR Project

In December the City Commission approved a \$300,000 contract with Vibrant Futures to provide a pathway for affordable daycare services for general public second and third shift workers. The concept was one of the final ideas/proposals dreamt by community during its 2022 Participatory Budgeting Grand Rapids (PBGR) initiative.

PBGR is a process in which community members came together to make recommendations by ward on how to spend \$2 million of allocated American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds. These ideas were voted on by the public in each Ward.

Vibrant Futures will address the critical need for second and third shift affordable childcare services in the First and Third Ward. The goal is to design and implement a comprehensive program that will provide accessible and affordable childcare for the public during non-traditional hours for working families.

Vibrant Futures, through its “Village Pathways to Childcare” will:

- Build/leverage local networks to identify specific needs and referrals
- Provide outreach, matching and navigation services for families seeking service
- Work with a variety of providers to build/create/expand capacity to provide childcare during non-traditional hours
- Integrate existing approaches employed by Vibrant Futures to facilitate participants’ access to resources and available cost sharing programs

Vibrant Futures plans to continue this work through December 2026. As part of the agreement, it will be partnered with the Johnson Center for Philanthropy for development and reporting of performance measures.

The City of Grand Rapids reports that 11

of 12 projects and ideas selected through the PBGR public vote process held last year have been awarded or bid out. The final project request for proposal (RFP) – addressing lead risks in homes in the Third Ward – will be forthcoming later this spring.

The PBGR projects, which span across the City’s three wards, are funded by \$2 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The graduated ward distribution of funds includes: First Ward - \$600,000, Second Ward -\$400,000, and Third Ward - \$1 million.

The public vote for projects recommended by the public and finalized by the PBGR Steering Committee Votes by ward took place online during Vote Week – September 30 to October 5, 2022 at PGRG.org, in-person at all Grand Rapids Public Library sites and at a

series of neighborhood events. Residents, 13 years of age and older, were eligible to vote.

Based on the voting results and project rankings using ranked-choice voting methodology, the PBGR Steering Committee formally adopted the following projects (with estimated costs) to advance in the community.

### In Ward 1 - \$600,000 Total Investment

1. Affordable Childcare for 2nd and 3rd Shift Workers (\$150,000)
2. \*\*Supporting Victims of Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking (\$100,000)
3. \*\*Youth Affordable Housing Support (\$145,000)
4. \*\*Cleaning Up Grand Rapids (\$75,000)

5. \*Community Reading Initiative for Violence Reduction (\$50,000)

6. \*Citizen Advocacy Skills Academy (\$80,000\*) – Partially funded (from a requested \$100,000) due to reaching total investment limit

### In Ward 2 - \$400,000 Total Investment

1. Mental Health Community First Responders (\$350,000)
2. CURE Violence – 2nd Ward (\$50,000\*\*\* + additional possible investment)
3. \*\*\*Partially funded (from a requested \$250,000) due to reaching total investment limit

### In Ward 3 - \$1 million Total Investment

1. Lead Water Line Replacement (\$500,000)
2. Affordable Childcare for 2nd and 3rd Shift Workers (\$150,000)
3. Youth Affordable Housing Support (\$145,000)
4. Community-Based Violence Reduction Initiative (\$205,000\*)

\* Projects distributed in first round of RFPs – March 2023

\*\* Projects distributed in second round of RFPs – June 2023

For a list of these projects with descriptions of each, please visit PBGR.org. For the final vote tally, please visit [publicinput.com/Report/wcq3z5eego1](http://publicinput.com/Report/wcq3z5eego1)

The City of Grand Rapids’ participatory budgeting initiative is a democratic process that allows residents the opportunity to help determine how public funds are spent. To learn more about the project, please visit PBGR.org, or @PBGrandRapids on Instagram, Facebook, and X.





## Ross Named Chief Judge Of The 61st District Court

The Michigan Supreme Court has appointed Judge Angela T. Ross to serve as chief judge of the 61st District Court. The chief judge serves a two-year term and is the presiding officer of the court. Her responsibilities include calling meetings of the court, appointing committees, initiating policies concerning the court's internal operations, establishing the court's position on external matters affecting the court, representing the court with other community organizations and representatives, counseling other judges in the performance of their responsibilities, supervising caseload management and personnel, among numerous other functions.

"I am honored to be appointed as chief judge by the Michigan Supreme Court," Judge Ross said. "During my time on the bench, I have found this court to have incredibly knowledgeable judges and court staff who are committed to serving this community. This court is an instrumental part of the justice system, and we will be dedicated to making sure people are heard, respected, and valued while providing fair and efficient access to justice for all."

Judge Ross presides over one of 61st District Court's four Problem-Solving Courts – a Sobriety Court specifically handling felony drunk driving cases funded by a grant through the Office of Community Corrections (Kent County). In this capacity, she collaborates with a team to develop an individualized approach to each participant's path to recovery. Data indicates that participation and graduation in the program yield lower recidivism rates resulting in a safer community.

Judge Ross was appointed to the bench by Governor Gretchen Whitmer in March 2022. Prior to her appointment, Judge Ross served as director of enforcement in the criminal enforcement division. As an attorney she practiced in family, criminal, and business law. Judge Ross is the president of the Floyd Skinner Bar Association, a trustee with the Grand Rapids Bar Association and chair of the Grand Rapids Bar Minority Clerkship Committee.

# TAKE CHARGE OF BATTERY SAFETY



## Incidents involving lithium-ion batteries are on the rise.

### Everyday use leads to everyday incidents.

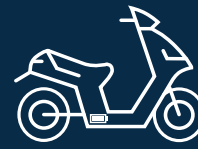
Total incidents reported (1995-2023 YTD)



Consumer Products

**1,159**  
Total Injuries

**114**  
Total Fatalities

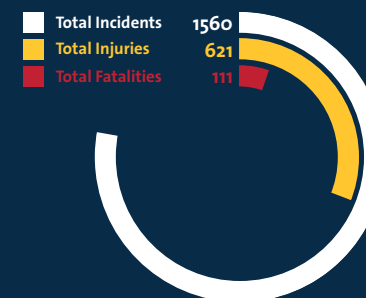


Micro-Mobility Devices  
(<20mph)

**1,140**  
Total Injuries

**214**  
Total Fatalities

Incidents in 2023 (as of 10/19/2023)



Research provided by UL Solutions: <https://www.ul.com/insights/lithium-ion-battery-incident-reporting>



### New technologies present new risks.

Lithium-ion batteries can go into thermal runaway undetected and result in a fire. Not just any fire, a fire that emits flames, smoke and toxic gases that can cause an explosion and spread throughout a house, apartment, or storefront.



### Fire moves fast.

From the first warning signs of smoke or hissing noises, you may have less than one minute to escape a fire.

### Take C.H.A.R.G.E. of Battery Safety.

The best way to be safe is to prevent a lithium-ion battery fire from starting. Take these important actions now.



**C** Choose certified products.

**H** Handle with care.

**A** Always stay alert for warning signs.

**R** Recycle devices and batteries properly.

**G** Get out quickly if there's a fire.

**E** Educate others on safe practices.



Learn more at [batteryfiresafety.org](https://batteryfiresafety.org)

© 2023 Underwriters Laboratories Inc.



TAKE CHARGE



## Planning, Design & Development



### City Development Center Focused On Improving Customer Satisfaction

Feedback from the Development Center's most recent customer survey is providing staff with insight into key improvements that would improve the overall permitting experience in specific places.

The customer satisfaction survey is part of a Citywide effort to measure and improve customer service. Results show that Development Center patrons are generally satisfied with the level of customer service provided by the Center's 48 employees.

The customer service survey asked Development Center customers to rate satisfaction levels (satisfied, neutral or dissatisfied) of their overall experience to specific questions about staff response and helpfulness to impressions of the Center's website.

Results showed:

- 87% reported satisfaction or provided a neutral response on their Overall Satisfaction with the Grand Rapids Development Center (GRDC)
- 81% agreed or provided a neutral response that GRDC staff responds to calls or emails within one business day
- 91% agreed or provided a neutral response that GRDC staff provides valuable suggestions on their project and provides information about the permitting process
- 80% agreed or provided a neutral response that online services are clear and user friendly

What's more, customers were asked to identify areas of success, where they felt the Development Center was performing well. Results showed positive marks in areas of application submission, inspection results, inspection scheduling, access to staff or questions, and clear explanations of development issues.

Customers were also asked to identify areas of where they felt the Development

Center needed improvement. Respondents indicated the Center needed to improve access to staff for questions, the timeliness of reviews, and further defining the permit process.

City Planner Kristin Turkelson said that while customer feedback is requested at the conclusion of each transaction throughout the year, this specific customer survey was developed in a transparent manner to focus on ways the Development Center can offer best its service.

"The work that we do at the Development Center is complicated, but there are over 40 individuals that are working really hard on this work and take great pride in the work that they do," she said. "These results are really highlighting the dedication that we have to the work that we do, but also making sure that we are aligning resources to meet those needs of service for our customers."

Based on feedback, the Development Center has identified opportunities for more customer service training for employees, a website redesign, refining the inspection scheduling process and adding staff positions to provide greater capacity. Prior rounds of customer-centered service improvement have included plan review and inspection technology enhancements, creation of the customer ombudsperson position, and recent Commission approval of requested staffing additions to improve service timeliness and quality. The Development Center serves a dynamic and growing construction community, as demonstrated by construction investment of nearly \$458 million in calendar year 2023 – the highest level since 2019.

The City of Grand Rapids Development Center Customer Service presentation PDF can be found at [grandrapidsmi.gov/Government/City-Commission/City-Commission-Briefings/2024-01-09-2024-Development-Center-Customer-Survey-Results](http://grandrapidsmi.gov/Government/City-Commission/City-Commission-Briefings/2024-01-09-2024-Development-Center-Customer-Survey-Results).

## Join Us This Spring For "Moving Forward," The Final Round Of The Bridge To Our Future Engagement

We're creating a new Community Master Plan (CMP) that will define the vision of how our city will grow and develop over the next 20 years and we need your help. Please consider participating in our upcoming final engagement round to shape the future of Grand Rapids.

This round is all about moving forward into the future. It will present the draft recommendations for great neighborhoods, vital business districts, a strong economy, balanced mobility and desirable development character. Additionally, the recommendations will incorporate the themes of equity, safety, vibrancy, culture and sustainability.

The spring meetings will be announced

later, but each event will provide an opportunity to give feedback. Please watch our website at [BridgeToOurFuture.com](http://BridgeToOurFuture.com) or join our mailing list via the website to be informed once the meetings are scheduled.

The CMP is expected to be presented to the Grand Rapids City Commission for adoption later this year. Leading the initiative, among others, are planning NEXT, a nationally recognized municipal planning consultant; the Grand Rapids City Commission; the city's Planning Commission and Planning Department; and the Community Master Plan Steering Committee. Grand Rapids' last plan was developed in 2002 and since updated.



# T2C Studio... Your Front Door to College!



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Through College

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 **Grand Rapids Public Library**  
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Grand Rapids, MI 49503

 **Gina Peters, T2C Studio Coordinator**  
(616) 881-6767  
[gpeters@grcity.us](mailto:gpeters@grcity.us)

**BeAnka Masefiade, Retention Specialist**  
(616) 320-9891  
[bmasefiade@grcity.us](mailto:bmasefiade@grcity.us)

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 [www.t2cstudio.us](http://www.t2cstudio.us)

  @T2CStudio

The T2C Studio is a project managed by Our Community's Children (OCC). OCC is a public/private partnership between the City of Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids Public Schools and community partners.





CITY OF  
GRAND  
RAPIDS

Parks and  
Recreation

# COMMUNITY RECREATION

## REGISTRATION OPENS

February 5

## CLASS DATES

March 11 - April 27 (No class the week of April 1)

## ADULT PROGRAM PRICING:

\$33 per 6-week class, \$43/nonresidents unless noted

## YOUTH PROGRAM PRICING:

\$45 per session, \$55/nonresidents unless noted



### Register online

[grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr](http://grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr)



### Register by phone

616.456.3696, option #1



### Register in person

201 Market Ave SW

## YOGA

CLASSES RUN FOR 6 WEEKS STARTING MARCH 11, UNLESS NOTED

Register online: [grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr](http://grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr)  
Registration opens Feb 5

Additional classes may be added after the time of this printing. Check our website for the full calendar!

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR
<b>BASIC YOGA</b> 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	12:00 - 12:55 PM	201 MARKET SW	SARA R.
	MON	5:30 - 6:25 PM	201 MARKET SW	SARA R.
	MON	5:30 - 6:25 PM	VIRTUAL	TERRI S.
	TUE	6:30 - 7:25 PM	201 MARKET SW	AMY K.
	WED	9:00 - 9:55 AM	201 MARKET SW	SARA R.
	WED	5:30 - 6:25 PM	201 MARKET SW	MELISSA H.
	WED	6:00 - 6:55 PM	VIRTUAL	SARA R.
	SAT	9:00 - 9:55 AM	VIRTUAL	SARA R.
<b>GENTLE YOGA</b> 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	9:15 - 10:10 AM	VIRTUAL	TERRI S.
	THU	9:15 - 10:10 AM	VIRTUAL	TERRI S.
<b>FIRESIDE BASIC YOGA (3-week class ending March 25)</b> Enjoy a peaceful evening of Yoga in a cozy clubhouse complete with a fireplace. 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. Please bring a yoga mat	MON	6:00 - 6:50 PM	INDIAN TRAILS	DARCEL S.
	MON	7:00 - 7:50 PM	GOLF COURSE	DARCEL S.
<b>POWER YOGA</b> This energetic class is designed to build strength, flexibility, and balance! Challenging peak poses, breath to movement flows, and mind body connections will encourage students to find their edge. Modifications are always offered and body awareness is always encouraged.	TUE	6:30 - 7:25 PM	VIRTUAL	SARA R.
<b>VITAL MOVEMENT</b> Strength, flexibility and balance are vital to our well-being. This class combines yoga stretches and poses (from the chair and standing only), along with light core work. No mat required. Perfect for anyone needing to stretch, improve their range of motion, or modify their practice as they recover from injuries. This class is great for any age, especially those 50+.	TUE	9:15 - 10:10 AM	VIRTUAL	TERRI S.



# CARDIO & STRENGTH

CLASSES RUN FOR 6 WEEKS STARTING MARCH 11

Register online: [grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr](http://grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr)  
 Registration opens Feb 5

Additional classes may be added after the time of this printing. Check our website for the full calendar!


CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR
<p><b>BARRE</b></p> <p>Barre is a low impact, high intensity total body workout that incorporates elements of Pilates, Ballet and Yoga. This workout is fast paced and set to fun upbeat music. During the workout you will use light hand weights, resistance bands, and your own body weight. You will complete small range movements at high repetitions meant to fatigue your muscles to build strength and endurance, and then stretch everything out to increase your flexibility. Barre is a great workout for any fitness level as there are options to level up or down based on your own body. Barre is for EVERYBODY.</p>	WED SAT	5:30 - 6:25 PM 8:00 - 8:55 AM	201 MARKET SW	TBD ERIN L.
<p><b>HIGH LOW (HIGH FITNESS)</b></p> <p>A lower impact workout (not intensity!), HIGH Low is the sister format to HIGH Fitness. Offering impact progressions for every move, HIGH Low is a steady state cardio workout tailored to the individual, by the individual. Highly adaptable to all fitness levels, this lower impact format focuses on the same elements of the HIGH brand: fun, fabulous music, and a community-based inclusive environment!</p>	TUE	5:30 - 6:25 PM	201 MARKET SW	AMANDA B.
<p><b>HIIT EXPRESS</b></p> <p>This class uses High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT) to increase your heart rate, strengthen your muscles, and boost your metabolism. Participants will be given 30 seconds to do as many reps of a single body weight exercise as possible. Then rinse, repeat, with a new move! Class will end with mat routines that includes core and upper body strength exercises. All movements will have modified options as well as progressions, allowing each person to decide their own intensity level. All fitness levels welcome!</p>	WED	6:30 - 7:15 PM	201 MARKET SW	AMY K.
<p><b>KETTLEBELL AMPD</b></p> <p>Kettlebell AMPD is a group fitness format that takes heart-pumping music and kettlebell moves and combines them into a calorie torching fun workout! The program uses lightweight kettlebells, in both traditional and non-traditional ways, to create a fun, effective, full body workout. Combining the benefits of strength training, functional movements and cardiovascular exercise, this program is a safe and effective workout for all ages and fitness levels. No experience necessary!</p>	THU	4:30 - 5:25 PM	201 MARKET SW	MONICA S.
<p><b>PILATES</b></p> <p>Tone muscles, improve posture and learn flexibility and balance. Focus on moving as one unit with control and grace. Improve circulation, endurance and reduce stress.</p>	WED	5:30 - 6:25 PM	GARFIELD PARK COMMUNITY GYM	ZIYAH D.
<p><b>POUND</b></p> <p>Using Ripstix®, lightly weighted drumsticks engineered specifically for exercising, POUND® transforms drumming into an incredibly effective way of working out. Instead of listening to music, you become the music in this exhilarating full-body workout that combines cardio, conditioning and strength training with yoga and pilates-inspired movements. Designed for all fitness levels, POUND® provides the perfect atmosphere for letting loose, getting energized, toning up and rockin' out! The workout is easily modifiable, and the alternative vibe and welcoming philosophy appeals to men and women of all ages and abilities.</p>	THU	5:30 - 6:25 PM	201 MARKET SW	JANNA S.
<p><b>STRENGTH &amp; POWER</b></p> <p>This laser-focused strength class will work all your muscle groups with a variety of exercises to elevate your current routine. It will combine compound exercises to engage as many muscles as possible in a single move, as well as incorporate isolation moves. Modifications and challenges will be given to make the class appropriate for all levels</p>	MON	5:30 - 6:25 PM	201 MARKET SW	AMANDA B.
<p><b>WATER AEROBICS</b></p> <p>Build core strength, conditioning, endurance and all-over toning. Class features deep and shallow water exercises. A great low/non-impact workout. Float belts are available. <b>8-week class ending May 11. \$44/residents, \$54/nonresidents.</b></p>	MON WED SAT	6:45 - 7:40 PM 6:45 - 7:40 PM 10:15 - 11:10 AM	UNION HIGH SCHOOL POOL	KATHLEEN H.



## CYCLING & ROWING

CLASSES RUN FOR 6 WEEKS STARTING MARCH 11

Additional classes may be added after the time of this printing. Check our website for the full calendar!


Register online: [grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr](https://grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr)   
Registration opens Feb 5

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR
<b>CYCLING</b> 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	5:30 - 6:15 PM	201 MARKET SW	CAROL S.
	TUE	5:30 - 6:15 PM		MICHELLE D.
<b>CYCLE &amp; TONE COMBO</b> A combination of high-intensity intervals followed by strength exercises that target the arms, abs, and lower back.	MON	6:30 - 7:25 PM	201 MARKET SW	CAROL S.
	WED	6:00 - 6:55 PM		JULIE S.
	SAT	8:30 - 9:25 AM		MICHELLE/CAROL
<b>STRENGTH &amp; ROW CIRCUIT</b> This high intensity class will improve your endurance and strength to row faster and for longer. Each class will include a rowing and strength training circuit to maximize calorie burn!	TUE	6:30 - 7:25 PM	201 MARKET SW	AMANDA B.
	SAT	10:00 - 10:55 AM		AMANDA B.

## DANCE FITNESS

CLASSES RUN FOR 6 WEEKS STARTING MARCH 11

Additional classes may be added after the time of this printing. Check our website for the full calendar!

Register online: [grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr](https://grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr)   
Registration opens Feb 5

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR
<b>BEGINNER BALLROOM DANCING</b> A beginner class targeted toward couples wanting to learn ballroom dancing. Learn the Salsa, Waltz, Foxtrot, East Coast Swing, Cha Cha, Rumba and Tango.	TUE	8:00 - 9:00 PM	201 MARKET SW	BYRON D.
<b>BALLROOM DANCING: THE NEXT STEPS</b> A follow-up to Ballroom Dancing. Continue practicing basic dances and learn new moves to add flair.	WED	7:45 - 8:45 PM	201 MARKET SW	SHANNON B.
<b>GENTLE MUSICAL MOVEMENT</b> This 45 minute class encourages freedom for body, mind, + spirit while working range of motion, strength, flexibility and balance. Class is created around music and combines simple dance and stretch moves for all body parts. Move your body in ways outside of your daily routine, inviting in both fun and freedom of personal expression. Perfect for all ages, especially those 50+. This class can also be adapted to the chair.	MON	9:15 - 10:00 AM	VIRTUAL	TERRI S.
<b>LINE DANCING</b> Enjoy line dancing while exercising mind, body, and spirit. In QK Linedance, we dance to all genres of music and everyone is welcome!	THU	8:00 - 8:55 PM	GARFIELD PARK COMMUNITY GYM	QUEEN J.
<b>MINDFUL MUSICAL MOVEMENT - FORMERLY GROOVE</b> Move in new ways, get your heart pumping, and infuse your whole body with joy in this not-so-typical dance class set to a variety of great music. Simple steps designed to work your whole body are provided and you are encouraged to supply the intensity level and flair. Perfect for all levels, all you need is space to move freely.	WED	5:30 - 6:25 PM	VIRTUAL	TERRI S.
<b>SWING DANCING &amp; MORE</b> This partner class will focus on the basics of East & West Coast Swing, Hustle, Country Two-Step, Night Club Two-Step, and more! No previous dance experience is necessary. Class is for couples. Each person required to register.	THU	7:45 - 8:45 PM	201 MARKET SW	SHANNON B.
<b>WERQ</b> WERQ is a nonstop cardio dance class with fun and unique routines set to the hottest pop and hip hop music. Participants will get a high calorie burn, and a non stop workout, combining repetitive athletic moves with fresh dance steps. Anyone can WERQ it! Bring your own water bottle and towel.	WED	6:30 - 7:25 PM	201 MARKET SW	JEANNIE W.
<b>ZUMBA</b> Zumba is a fast, fun, and upbeat dance fitness class that incorporates latin and international music. Every class feels like a party, so you will burn calories without even realizing it! All fitness levels welcome.	MON THU SAT	6:30 - 7:25 PM 6:30 - 7:25 PM 9:00 - 9:55 AM	201 MARKET SW	AMY K. & BRI C. AMY K. & BRI C. AMY K.

## ENRICHMENT & ADVENTURE

Register online: [grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr](https://grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr)  
Registration opens Feb 5.

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)
<b>TAE KWON DO (AGES 7 TO ADULT)</b> Learn the basics of the Korean martial art form of Tae Kwon Do. Participants will develop confidence, increase flexibility, concentration, balance, and learn how to defend themselves. <b>\$45 residents/\$55 nonresidents.</b>	TUE MAR 5 - APR 30	6:00 - 7:30 PM <i>*Green belts and up will meet until 8:00</i>	GARFIELD PARK COMMUNITY GYM
<b>BEGINNER PICKLEBALL LESSONS (AGES 18+)</b> Learn the basic rules, skills, and strategies needed to play the sport of pickleball! <b>\$25/residents, \$35/non for 4-class session.</b>	TUE & THU, FEB 13 - 22 TUE & THU, MAR 12 - 21 TUE & THU, APR 9 - 18 TUE & THU, MAY 21 - 30	2:45-4:00 PM	GARFIELD PARK COMMUNITY GYM

## YOUTH DANCE & GYMNASTICS

6-CLASS SESSIONS. \$45/RESIDENTS, \$55 NONRESIDENTS

Register online: [grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr](https://grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr)  
Registration opens Feb 5

CLASS	DATES	TIME(S)	LOCATION
<b>PARENT &amp; ME TUMBLE &amp; PLAY (AGES 2-3)</b> For the younger gymnast to encourage success and fun in the gym. Kids learn tumbling and balancing basics with emphasis on strength and flexibility. <b>Required Clothing:</b> leotards, athletic clothing with shirts that can be tucked in, comfortable with stretch.	THURSDAYS MAR 14 - APR 25	5:15 - 5:45 PM	GARFIELD PARK COMMUNITY GYM
<b>GYMNASTICS 1 (AGES 4-6)</b> For the younger gymnast to encourage success and fun in the gym. Kids learn tumbling and balancing basics with emphasis on strength and flexibility. <b>Required Clothing:</b> leotards, athletic clothing with shirts that can be tucked in, comfortable with stretch.	MONDAYS MAR 11 - APR 22 THURSDAYS MAR 14 - APR 25	5:00 - 5:45 PM 6:00 - 6:45 PM	GARFIELD PARK COMMUNITY GYM
<b>GYMNASTICS 2 (AGES 7-10)</b> A follow-up to Gymnastics 1. Activities increase strength, movement, coordination, agility and flexibility. <b>Required Clothing:</b> leotards, athletic clothing with shirts that can be tucked in, comfortable with stretch.	MONDAYS MAR 11 - APR 22 THURSDAYS MAR 14 - APR 25	6:00 - 6:45 PM 7:00 - 7:45 PM	GARFIELD PARK COMMUNITY GYM

## BRICKS 4 KIDZ

3-CLASS SESSIONS. \$45/RESIDENTS, \$55/NONRESIDENTS

Register online: [grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr](https://grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr)  
Registration opens Feb 5

CLASS	DATES	TIME(S)	LOCATION
<b>ARCADE AND VIDEO GAMES PART 2 (AGES 6-11)</b> Calling all gamers! Kids will use LEGO® Bricks to create and build different characters from their favorite video games. Themes such as Super Mario Bros, Roblox, and Beyblades come to life through our motorized models and mosaics, all made out of LEGO® Bricks. Don't forget classic Nintendo and SEGA themes such as Zelda, Duck Hunt, Pacman, and Sonic the Hedgehog! Each class will be a new adventure as the virtual and LEGO® worlds combine! We have enough models to offer this class in two sessions—models and themes will not be repeated!	MAR 12, 19, 26	4:30 - 5:45 PM	201 MARKET SW
<b>AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS (AGES 6-11)</b> Tour the world on an adventure of a lifetime as we explore the history and culture of varied places from east to west. Construct modes of transportation that will enable travel to at least three different continents. Build famous emblems and structures using our motorized models, mosaics, and 3-D color kit bricks! Don't forget your passport and mountain hiking gear, as there are a few other surprise stops along the way. Bon Voyage!	APR 9, 16, 23	4:30 - 5:45 PM	201 MARKET SW

## YOUTH ENRICHMENT

6-CLASS SESSIONS. \$45/RESIDENTS, \$55 NONRESIDENTS

Register online: [grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr](https://grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr)  
Registration opens Feb 5

CLASS	DATES	TIME(S)	LOCATION
<b>GENERATION POUND (AGES 6-12)</b> Generation POUND® was created not just as a workout geared towards kids, but a MOVEMENT that aims to change the concept of health and fitness for today's youth. The program fuses movement and music to improve focus, coordination, physical fitness and teamwork skills for "Rockstars in Training," ages 6-12. Instructors use Ripstix®-POUND's lightly weighted exercise drumsticks—to learn alternative ways to explore movement.	TUESDAYS MAR 12 - APR 23	5:00 - 5:45 PM	GARFIELD PARK COMMUNITY GYM

## ADULT SWIM LESSONS

All lessons held at Union High School. Dates and times TBD.

Visit [grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr](http://grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr) for more information and to register online.

### SWIMMING ESSENTIALS (AGES 16+)

Swimming Essentials is designed for anyone 16 years of age and older. This class will develop fundamental swim skills including floating, water safety, breathing techniques, and foundational swim strokes while allowing participants to gain confidence in a safe, controlled setting. This class is great for individuals who are brand new to swimming or have an existing fear of the water.

### STROKE DEVELOPMENT (AGES 16+)

Stroke Development is designed for anyone 16 years of age and older. This class will build on fundamental swimming skills by introducing different swimming strokes. This class is great for individuals who are comfortable in the water and looking to expand on their skills and learn different ways to swim. Swimmers will leave being able to swim using a variety of strokes.

## YOUTH SWIM LESSONS

### SWIM LESSON LEVELS

#### PARENT CHILD (AGES 6M-3Y)

Introduce water safety and basic swim skills to parents and children. Parents will learn skills to safely work with their child in the water, including how to correctly support/hold them in the water and how to encourage them.

#### PRESCHOOL LEVEL 1 (AGES 3-5)

Introduces water safety and basic swim skills. Children will work with instructors to gain confidence, develop positive attitudes around the water, and receive an introduction to swim foundations like submerging, floating, and the movements of front and back crawl.

#### PRESCHOOL LEVEL 2 (AGES 3-5)

Builds on the skills introduced in Preschool Level 1. Children will continue to develop a positive relationship with the water while mastering swim foundations like floating, submerging, and the basics of front and back crawl.

#### YOUTH LEVEL 1 (AGES 6+)

Youth Level 1 aims to develop positive relationships with the water while mastering swim foundations – like floating, submerging, and the basics of front and back crawl. At the end, participants will be able to perform swim foundations independently or with minimal assistance.

All lessons held at Union High School.

Visit [grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr](http://grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr) for more information and to register online.

### SWIM LESSON LEVELS

#### YOUTH LEVEL 2 (AGES 6+)

Builds on the foundations in Level 1 to support the foundational swim skills. Focuses on proper technique of foundational skills to ensure participants are strong and capable in the water independently. Participants will learn how to float, glide and move forward in the water with no support and will continue to develop the foundations for future swim strokes.


#### YOUTH LEVEL 3 (AGES 6+)

Aims to increase proficiency of previously learned skills by providing additional practice with an emphasis on technique. Participants will learn and practice survival floating and improve their front crawl, back crawl, breaststroke, and elementary backstroke technique while swimming longer distances. Participants will also learn safe headfirst entries and begin learning the foundations of butterfly. After successfully completing Level 3, participants will have achieved basic, independent water competency in a pool environment.

#### YOUTH LEVEL 4 (AGES 6+)

Participants will improve their technique and increase endurance in previously learned strokes. Swimmers will gain better control over front crawl, back crawl, and breaststroke and will continue to learn butterfly foundations. Emphasis will be placed on headfirst entries and swimming underwater to provide the basic skillset for competitive swimming.

## YOUTH SPRING SOCCER

Register online: [grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr](http://grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr) 

AGE GROUP	DATES	LOCATIONS
<b>AGES 4-5</b> Meet only on Saturdays for 45 minutes. Week one will include time to meet your child's team and practice. Week two will include a practice followed by a scrimmage. Weeks three through six will consist of game play. <i>\$38/residents, \$48/nonresidents.</i>	SAT, APR 20 - JUN 1	ABERDEEN OR MACKAY-JAYCEES PARK
<b>AGES 6-7</b> Practice one evening a week on Tuesday or Thursday, with games on Saturdays. <i>\$48/residents, \$58/nonresidents.</i>	<b>PRACTICES</b> TUE, APR 9 - MAY 28 OR THU, APR 11 - MAY 30	LINCOLN OR MLK PARK
	<b>GAMES</b> SAT, APR 20 - JUN 1	ABERDEEN OR MACKAY-JAYCEES PARK
<b>AGES 8-9</b> Practice one evening a week on Tuesday or Thursday, with games on Saturdays. <i>\$48/residents, \$58/nonresidents.</i>	<b>PRACTICES</b> TUE, APR 9 - MAY 28 OR THU, APR 11 - MAY 30	LINCOLN OR MLK PARK
	<b>GAMES</b> SAT, APR 20 - JUN 1	ABERDEEN OR MACKAY-JAYCEES PARK
<b>AGES 10-12</b> <i>Practice one evening a week on Thursday, with games on Saturdays. \$48/residents, \$58/nonresidents.</i>	<b>PRACTICES</b> THU, APR 11 - MAY 30 <b>GAMES</b> SAT, APR 20 - JUN 1	ABERDEEN OR MACKAY-JAYCEES PARK
<b>AGES 13-16</b> Meet only on Saturdays for games. <i>\$38/residents, \$48/nonresidents.</i>	<b>GAMES</b> SAT, APR 20 - JUN 1	MACKAY-JAYCEES PARK

#### Registration and Season Information:

- Registration opens January 29
- Registration deadline is March 18
- Practices begin April 9 & 11
- Games begin April 20
- Season ends on June 1
- No games will be held on May 25
- Registrations received before deadline are prioritized.



### Main Library

111 Library St NE  
616.988.5400

### Madison Square

1201 Madison Ave SE  
616.988.5411

### Ottawa Hills

1150 Giddings Ave SE  
616.988.5412

### Seymour

2350 Eastern Ave SE  
616.988.5413

### Van Belkum

1563 Plainfield Ave NE  
616.988.5410

### West Leonard

1017 Leonard St NW  
616.988.5416

### West Side

713 Bridge St NW  
616.988.5414

### Yankee Clipper

2025 Leonard St NE  
616.988.5415

grpl.org

## Free Events for Everyone



### Music in the Stacks

Enjoy local music at the Grand Rapids Public Library! Featuring emerging and established talent, Music in the Stacks is a fun and lively event designed for all ages. Concerts take place in the book stacks on Level 1 of the Main Library. Seating is first come, first served. Promotional support for GRPL's musical events is provided in part by 88.1 FM WYCE.

### Molly

Thursday, January 25, 7:00 – 8:00 pm  
Main Library – 111 Library St NE

### Brandon Marceal

Thursday, February 15, 7:00 – 8:00 pm  
Main Library – 111 Library St NE

### PHABIES

Thursday, March 21, 7:00 – 8:00 pm  
Main Library – 111 Library St NE

### GVSU Music Students

Thursday, April 4, 7:00 – 8:00 pm  
Main Library – 111 Library St NE

### Free Hat

Thursday, April 18, 7:00 – 8:00 pm  
Main Library – 111 Library St NE

### Teen Anime Club

Tuesdays, January 30, February 13, February 27,  
March 12, March 26, April 9, April 23  
4:00 – 5:30 pm

Madison Square – 1201 Madison Ave SE  
Registration Required: [www.grpl.org/register](http://www.grpl.org/register)

Join Teen Anime Club to talk with other enthusiasts about your favorite anime and manga fandom. Chat about what you're currently reading and watch movies and TV episodes together! Snacks are provided and attendees can enter a drawing to win a prize. This program is designed for teens ages 13 – 19.

Ask a staff member for more information about how to join our GRPL Teen Discord to keep the conversation going online.

### Mindstorm Saturdays

Saturdays, February 10, March 9  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Main Library – 111 Library St NE

Kids ages 10 and up can explore robotics with the Forest Hills COMETS robotics team on select Saturdays at the library. Using LEGO Mindstorms EV3 kits, these hands-on robotics activities teach essential coding skills, problem solving, and more. This is a self-guided, drop-in event.

### Teen Hangouts

Tuesdays, February 13, March 12, April 9  
3:00 – 5:00 pm

Main Library – 111 Library St NE

Teens aged 11–18 are invited to play video games and board games and use arts & crafts supplies during this drop-in event.

### Crafternoons

Thursdays, February 15, March 21, April 18  
1:00 – 2:00 pm

Yankee Clipper – 2025 Leonard NE

Join us for an afternoon of coffee, cookies, and crafts. Bring your own project or make a craft with the supplies provided by the library. Meet new friends and chat with neighbors while you get creative.

### Solar Eclipse Series

March 25 – April 8, 2024

Join GRPL for a series of educational events designed to celebrate this year's solar eclipse! From March 25 – April 8, 2024, pick up a free pair of solar eclipse glasses at any GRPL location while supplies last. Limit 1 per person.

### Solar Eclipse Fun with Air Zoo

Wednesday, April 3, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Main Library – 111 Library St NE

Join the Grand Rapids Public Library and Air Zoo for a family-friendly event that's all about space in preparation for the April 8, 2024 solar eclipse. Enjoy interactive presentations and visit the portable STARLAB planetarium during your visit! Event attendees will also receive a pair of solar eclipse glasses while supplies last. Limit 1 per person. This event is designed for all ages.

## 56th Annual Dyer-Ives Poetry Competition

The Dyer-Ives Poetry Competition was started in 1968 by poet James Allen at the urging of John Hunting, the founder of the Dyer-Ives Foundation, to encourage excellence in writing and to provide recognition for local work of high quality. The annual contest is open to poets ages 5 through adult who reside in Kent County.

Submissions are open February 1–29, 2024. Winners selected in different categories will have their poems published in *Voices*, receive a cash award, and participate in a live reading in June.

Funded by:



Dyer-Ives Foundation Poetry Fund



National Judge Francesca Bell

## The One Book, One City for Kids 2024 Selection



### About the Program

One Book, One City for Kids is an annual reading program that encourages upper elementary students to read and discuss the same book. The program also helps to develop a lifelong love of reading among school-age readers, to inspire readers to bring story ideas and themes to life through discussion and creative reactions, and to build collaborative ties between public libraries, school libraries, and area schools.

This year's One Book, One City for Kids selection is *Shine On, Luz Véliz!* by Rebecca Balcárcel.

### About the Book *Shine On, Luz Véliz!*

Have you ever been the best at something... only to lose it all? Luz Véliz is a soccer star—or rather, she was a soccer star. With her serious knee injury, it's unlikely she'll be back on the field anytime soon. But without soccer, who is she? Even her dad treats her differently now—like he doesn't know her or, worse, like he doesn't even like her. When Luz discovers she has a knack for coding, it feels like a lifeline to a better self. If she can just ace the May Showcase, she'll not only skip a level in her coding courses and impress Ms. Freeman and intriguing, brilliant Trevor—she'll have her parents cheering her on from the sidelines, just the way she likes it.

But something—someone—is about to enter the Vélizes' life. And when Solana arrives, nothing will be the same, ever again. Unforgettable characters, family drama, and dauntless determination illuminate Luz's journey as she summons her inner strength and learns to accept others and embrace the enduring connection of family. Through it all, Luz's light is a constant—a guide for others, a path forward through the dark, and an ineffable celebration of her own eternal self.



### About the Author

Rebecca Balcárcel loves popcorn, her kitty, and teaching her students at Tarrant County College as Associate Professor of English. She is the author of *Shine On, Luz Véliz!* and *The Other Half of Happy*, which was named a Pura Belpré Honor Book, an ALSC Notable Book, and the Best Middle Grade Book by Texas Institute of Letters. Her most recent book, *Boundless*, is a collection of short stories by multi-racial/multi-cultural authors. Find Rebecca on YouTube where she analyzes literature and chats about writing as the SixMinuteScholar.

### STEAM Showcase for Kids

Monday, February 19, 1:00 – 4:00 pm  
Main Library – 111 Library St NE

Kids are invited to try out the engineering and computer technology used by Luz, the main character in the book *Shine On, Luz Véliz!* Write a computer program, build a circuit, and see how a 3D printer works. This drop-in event is designed for kids ages 9 – 12.

### Author Talk with Rebecca Balcárcel

Thursday, March 21, 1:00 – 2:00 pm  
St. Cecilia Music Center – 24 Ransom Ave NE  
Registration Required: [www.grpl.org/register](http://www.grpl.org/register)

Meet Rebecca Balcárcel, the author of *Shine On, Luz Véliz!*, the 2024 One Book, One City for Kids selection. Rebecca will discuss her book and writing process. She will answer questions from the audience during this kid-friendly event. Educators are encouraged to bring their class to this one-of-a-kind experience.

Funded by:



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## Winter & Spring Storytimes

### Family Storytime

These storytimes feature great books, songs, fingerplays, and hands-on fun. Classes end with an art activity and playtime designed to help your child's brain grow. For ages 0 – 5 years.

*Mondays, January 22 – March 25, 10:30 am*  
Main Library – 111 Library St NE

*Wednesdays, January 24 – March 27, 10:30 am*  
Seymour – 2350 Eastern SE

### Pajama Time

Get cozy in your pajamas, grab your favorite stuffed animals or blanket, and come to the library for a special bedtime event! Listen to stories, sing songs, and get those wiggles out before bed. Great for working parents of children ages 0 – 5 years.

*Mondays, January 22 – March 25, 6:30 pm*  
West Leonard – 1017 Leonard St NW

### Baby & Me

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 can meet new friends.

*Tuesdays, January 23 – March 26, 10:30 am*  
Main Library – 111 Library St NE

*Thursdays, January 25 – March 28, 10:30 am*  
Seymour – 2350 Eastern SE

### Bilingual Family Time

Join us for an evening bilingual storytime filled with fun stories, movement, and music activities. This 30-minute English and Spanish storytime is followed by a hands-on activity and playtime. Wear your pajamas and get those wiggles out before bed! For families with children ages 0–5 years.

*Thursdays, January 25 – March 28, 6:30 pm*  
Madison Square – 1201 Madison Ave SE

### Toddler Time

Bring your toddlers to the library for fun stories, songs, and rhymes! Toddler Time is a 25-minute long storytime followed by a hands-on activity and playtime designed to help your child's brain grow. For ages 18 months – 3 years.

*Tuesdays, January 23 – March 26, 10:30 am*  
West Side Branch – 713 Bridge St NW

*Thursdays, January 25 – March 28, 10:30 am*  
Yankee Clipper – 2025 Leonard St NE

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## Free Computer Classes

### Managing Your Digital Footprint

Monday, January 29, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm  
Wednesday, March 27, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm  
Main Library – 111 Library St NE

Have you ever forgotten a password? Do you wish you had a plan to manage your online information and protect your privacy? Managing your digital footprint may seem hard, but with a plan and the right tools you can stay safe online. This class will offer methods and tools to manage your online profiles and passwords.

### Internet Privacy: Protecting Yourself in the Digital Age

Monday, February 5, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm  
Wednesday, April 3, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm  
Main Library – 111 Library St NE

It seems every day we hear about how governments, corporations, and hackers are gaining access to individual accounts and personal information. Fortunately, there is a lot you can do to minimize risk as you go online. Join us in learning how to secure information and manage your digital footprint. Topics include securing your internet connection and browser, creating and managing effective passwords, and using email aliases to keep your information more secure.

### Backup Basics: How to Secure your Data

Monday, February 12, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm  
Wednesday, April 10, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm  
Main Library – 111 Library St NE

From family photos to business documents, your digital data is valuable. In this class, we discuss how to ensure your digital data is kept safe and secure. Learn how to back up your data with thumb drives, hard drives, and cloud storage.

### Google Drive Basics

Monday, February 19, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm  
Wednesday, April 17, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm  
Main Library – 111 Library St NE

Cloud storage services like Google Drive allow you to store and edit documents online. These documents can be accessed or edited on any device with an Internet connection. Learn how to share and back up media and photos in the cloud.

### Learning Online: Free Tools and Classes

Monday, February 26, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm  
Wednesday, April 24, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm  
Main Library – 111 Library St NE

In this class, we will explore free tools and sources for online education, including LinkedIn Learning, MOOCs, and more. Whether you are a beginner to online education or a graduate, you'll find plenty of tools in this class to keep learning for a lifetime.

### Building Basic Computer Skills

Wednesday, March 6, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm  
Main Library – 111 Library St NE

Are you often confused by computer terms and lingo? In this class, you will gain skills to help you start navigating the internet, mobile devices, and many types of software. Learn basic terminology used in technology to build a foundation for digital literacy.

### Discovering the Internet

Wednesday, March 13, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm  
Main Library – 111 Library St NE

Using the internet can be an intimidating experience for many people. In this class, you will learn how the internet works and basic definitions for the most common internet terms. Discover tips and tricks on how to protect your information and identity while searching, shopping, and browsing the web.

### Exploring Email

Wednesday, March 20, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm  
Main Library – 111 Library St NE

The internet is always evolving and developing new services and functions. But as services and social networks have come and gone, email has remained constant. In this class, you will explore how to secure your email account and regain access if you forget your password. You will also discover how to use two-factor authentication to protect your accounts.

## Join a Book Club

Join us for our monthly book clubs! Enjoy popular fiction and nonfiction titles selected by GRPL librarians and participate in discussions about each reading with members of the community and library staff. These book clubs are designed for adults and are a great way to meet new friends, explore real and imagined worlds, and discover new perspectives.

### Popular Pages Book Club at West Side

Thursdays, February 15, March 21, April 18  
6:00 – 7:00 pm  
West Side – 713 Bridge St NW

February: *Never Caught*  
by Erica Armstrong Dunbar  
March: *The Power* by Naomi Alderman  
April: *Leave the World Behind*  
by Rumaan Alam

### Popular Pages Book Club at the Main Library

Saturdays, February 10, March 9, April 6,  
May 4, June 1, 12:00 – 1:00 pm  
Main Library – 111 Library St NE

February: *The Sum of Us* by Heather McGhee  
March: *A Psalm for the Wild-Built*  
by Becky Chambers  
April: *Jesus and John Wayne*  
by Kristin Kobes Du Mez  
May: *Severance* by Ling Ma  
June: *Trick Mirror: Reflections on Self-Delusion*  
by Jia Tolentino



# Black History Month 2024

February 1–29, 2024 | Celebrate Black History and Culture

Celebrate Black History Month with Grand Rapids Public Library! Join us for programs for both kids and adults that highlight and celebrate our Black community.

## Events

### Black History Month Storytimes

Join us for a series of storytimes during Black History Month. Storytimes will highlight Black stories and include songs, fingerplays, and hands-on fun. Classes end with a special art activity and playtime.

*Monday, February 5, 10:30 am*  
Main Library – 111 Library St NE

*Monday, February 5, 6:30 pm*  
West Leonard – 1017 Leonard St NW

*Tuesday, February 6, 10:30 am*  
West Side – 713 Bridge St NW

*Wednesday, February 7, 10:30 am*  
Seymour – 2350 Eastern Ave SE

*Thursday, February 8, 10:30 am*  
Yankee Clipper – 2025 Leonard St NE

*Thursday, February 8, 6:30 pm*  
Madison Square – 1201 Madison Ave SE



### Always Judge a Book by the Cover: Artist Talk with Octavia Ink

*Sunday, February 4, 1:30 – 4:00 pm*  
Main Library – 111 Library St NE  
Registration Required: [www.grpl.org/register](http://www.grpl.org/register)

There is an old adage that says, “Never judge a book by the cover,” but the truth is many of us do! Best selling authors and titles often take center stage, but what about the artists behind the cover art?

Join us for a conversation with Grand Rapids based artist, Octavia Ink (Pretty in Ink Press). Octavia has designed nearly a dozen book covers, including best sellers by Tabitha Brown, Ibram X. Kendi, and Nic Stone.

The conversation will be facilitated by Kendra McNeil, owner of We Are LIT Multicultural Bookshop. After the discussion, attendees can contribute to a community art canvas designed by Octavia Ink and enjoy treats from Tasteful Vegan. Merchandise from We Are LIT will be also available for purchase.



### The Black Panther and Beyond: The World of Afrofuturism with Dr. Julian Chambliss

*Saturday, February 17, 12:30 – 1:30 pm*  
Main Library – 111 Library St NE  
Registration Required: [www.grpl.org/register](http://www.grpl.org/register)

Join us for a celebration of Afrofuturism! Learn from teacher and scholar Dr. Julian Chambliss about the intersection of art, technology, and activism that forms the bedrock of the Afro Fantastic. Learn about the history and importance of Afrofuturism with a focus on comics and movies.

After the discussion, attendees can contribute to a community art canvas designed by Octavia Ink (Pretty in Ink Press) and enjoy refreshments provided by Social Chef Catering.

Guests are encouraged to stay for a screening of the film, *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* immediately following.

### Movies at Main | Black Panther: Wakanda Forever

*Saturday, February 17, 2:00 – 4:45 pm*  
Registration Required: [www.grpl.org/register](http://www.grpl.org/register)  
Main Library – 111 Library St NE

Families are invited to visit the Main Library for a special showing of the film, *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*. Musically inspired, age appropriate crafts and popcorn from Mosby's Popcorn will also be available first come, first served.



### Teen Printmaking Workshop with Octavia Ink

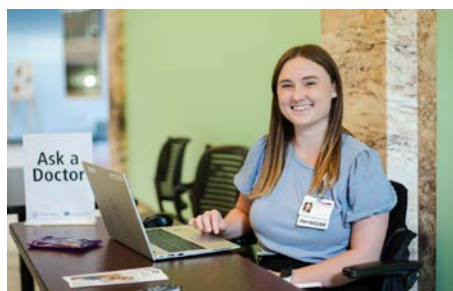
*Monday, February 19, 2:00 – 4:00 pm*  
Main Library – 111 Library St NE  
Registration Required: [www.grpl.org/register](http://www.grpl.org/register)

Find out how to make reproducible artworks with local artist, Octavia Ink (Pretty in Ink Press). Participants will go home with their very own work of art. Refreshments and supplies will be provided.

Funded by:



## Service Spotlight



### Ask a Doctor

*Fridays, February 2, March 1, April 5, May 3,  
June 28, 2:00 – 3:00 pm*  
Main Library – 111 Library St NE

Trinity Health Medical Residents will be available to answer general health questions from patrons. This is a drop-in event and participation is first come, first served.



### NewsBank

We're pleased to announce the addition of NewsBank to our list of online databases. Cardholders can now enjoy online access to the Grand Rapids Press without needing an individual paid subscription. Available on any device. Visit [www.grpl.org/magazines](http://www.grpl.org/magazines).

This resource is available thanks to support from the Titcher Family Fund of the Grand Rapids Public Library Foundation.