



WE ARE GR

Section A Contents:

City News: 1-5

Winter Recreation Programs - 6-11

Ice Skating at Rosa Parks Circle: 12

Library News: 13-16

In This Issue:

- City of Grand Rapids News - Section A
- Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation Winter Programs - Section A
- Grand Rapids Public Library News - Section A
- Grand Rapids Public Schools News - Section B

October 2019 | Vol. 18 | Issue 2 | Section A

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

Everyone Counts as We Work Together to Elevate the Quality of Life for All in Our City



Hello, my fellow Grand Rapidian.

The 2020 census count that takes place next spring is important to our community's success. Millions of dollars flow into Grand Rapids based on the census count. Support for our schools, health clinics, neighborhoods, infrastructure and many other vital programs are tied to the census. The census determines an estimated \$18,000 per resident over a ten-year period for services that you and your family rely on. When you do the math, that's important for all of us – and why everyone counts.

We're working with our partners in the business, education, government and nonprofit sectors to achieve a complete and accurate census count. We want everyone to be informed and ready to participate by Census Day – April 1, 2020. You can find more information at becountedgr.org.

November 5 elections and parks proposal

On November 5, you'll have the opportunity to vote on several City ballot items: city commissioners, library board commissioners, and mayor. There's also a parks, pools and playgrounds proposal on the ballot. You'll

determine whether to approve an estimated \$5 million per year for operational needs for pools, parks playground maintenance and support of additional recreational programming for children. The proposed rate of 1.25 mills would replace the current millage rate when it expires in 2020 and cost the average homeowner an estimated \$68.75 per year, or about \$5.73 per month.

Safe community

We work hard every day to provide vital services to our community and to ensure this is a safe city for everyone. New Police Chief Eric Payne is incorporating his vision of community policing and public input into the goals in our strategic plan. Fire Chief John Lehman coordinated the many City departments that worked tirelessly during our emergency response to the storm that hit our city in mid-September. Finally, another construction season is ending, and we're proud that the condition of our roads is trending toward our goal of 70 percent good or fair by 2031. We're currently at 61 percent good or fair.

River restoration project

I continue to be excited about the opportunities the Grand River restoration is bringing to our city. While Grand Rapids Whitewater's work consists of river

restoration, another part of the overall river corridor work is taking shape along and near its banks. Conceptual plans for redesigning public spaces on both banks of the Grand River – River for All – includes opportunity sites along the river, including the former City water storage site south of Riverside Park, Fish Ladder Park and the Grand Rapids Public Museum. The goal is to restore the river as much as possible while embracing the recreational and economic opportunities of today.

Mission-driven

Our mission to elevate quality of life through excellent City services is at the heart of what we do every day. Our programs and services continue to receive national recognition. However, we recognize there are daily challenges to overcome, such as affordability, displacement and sustainability. Know that we are up to the challenge and, with your support, we can elevate the quality of life of our community.

In partnership,

Mark Washington, City Manager

November Ballot Features Mayor, City Commission, Library Board and Parks, Pools, and Playgrounds Proposal

You can exercise your right to vote Tuesday, November 5. That's the general election for Mayor, City Commission, Library Board and a parks, pools and playgrounds millage proposal.

Remember these new state election laws before you vote:

- Absentee voting (AV) – All registered voters are now eligible to receive an absentee ballot without a reason. To receive an absentee ballot, you need to complete an application before each election. If you want to be placed on a permanent AV list to receive an application before each election, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 616.456.3010 or cityclerk@grcity.us or sign up online at grandrapidsmi.gov/avlist.
- Voter registration – Residents who are at least 18 are automatically registered to vote when they make a transaction with the Secretary of State. You can register to vote by mail up to 15 days before an election and in person at the Clerk's Office, 300 Monroe Ave. NW, second floor, within 14 days of the election up to and including Election Day. You



need to prove residency in the city. If you register on Election Day, you may vote in your precinct or by absentee ballot in the Clerk's Office.

For more on the November election, including your voter registration status and polling place, visit grandrapidsmi.gov/clerk.

We're Making History With a New Human Rights Ordinance

Your Grand Rapids City Commission has approved a historic human rights ordinance that updates and expands definitions of protected classes. The ordinance came to be after a Community Relations Commission subcommittee reviewed a proposal from LINC UP and identified best practices of other municipalities and a Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR) template to create our new human rights ordinance.

The multi-racial, multi-cultural and multi-generational subcommittee also met with partner investigative agencies, including the MDCR, Fair Housing Center of Western Michigan and Disability Advocates of Kent County to outline and identify the current state of investigations in the community. The ordinance goes into effect December 1.

Read the full ordinance at bit.ly/2kfoaea.



Members of the Grand Rapids Community Relations Commission.

Here's What You Need to Know About Consumers Energy Tree Trimming

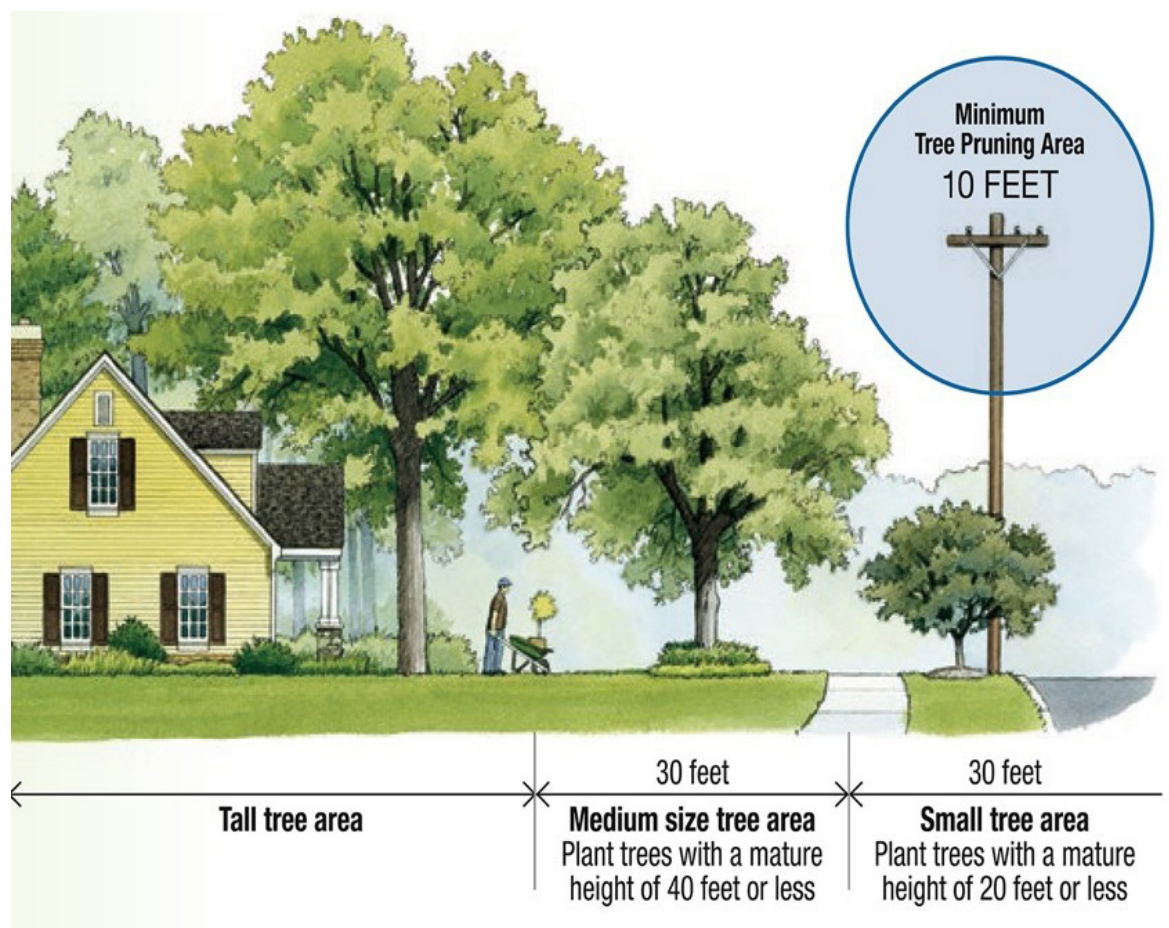
Consumers Energy supplies our community with the electric service we depend on every day. The utility's top priority is to provide us with safe and reliable service. To do this, it needs to minimize threats to power lines in rights-of-ways and easements – and reduce power outages during severe weather events – by trimming trees. Consumers Energy is committed to minimizing the risk to the health of trees and shrubs planted near our homes and businesses when it trims trees under its overhead service lines. The right-of-way is between the sidewalk and the street.

We, along with Consumers Energy, our Urban Forestry Committee, Friends of Grand Rapids Parks and other community partners, champion trees. We're striving to reach a 40 percent urban tree canopy in our city. Urban trees play an important role in our daily lives. They provide many economic, environmental and social benefits and they can have far-reaching effects on our community's quality of life. Unfortunately, trees also are involved in about 40 percent of all power outages. Trees that are too close to power lines can pose a danger to utility workers and residents. Trimming and removing select trees from areas surrounding power lines helps Consumers Energy provide safe, reliable electric service to our community.

Consumers Energy foresters are certified by the International Society of Arboriculture and they follow established guidelines. If tree trimming or removal is scheduled for your property, you'll be notified by mail or via a door hanger left on-site. This notification will specify the work that will be done, including which trees will be affected. Consumers Energy also will provide you with a forestry representative's contact information in case you have questions or concerns.

When Consumers Energy crews trim trees, they follow industry-accepted standards that vary based on the voltage of nearby electric lines. Other factors, such as species, location and health of the tree, influence electric line clearance guidelines.

Sometimes, it's necessary for crews to remove all



trees within the defined right-of-way to ensure safe and reliable service. Additionally, it's common for crews to identify trees growing outside these legal easement areas that pose a significant safety risk to the community and reliable operation of the electric system. In these cases, Consumers Energy asks for property owners' cooperation so it can safely address these hazardous trees. Consumers Energy will notify you of its plans to trim or remove these trees, which also might pose a threat to nearby

buildings and property.

To be sure you don't plant a tree that may need to be removed later in its life, Consumers Energy offers tips at bit.ly/2IHsjYK. For more information on Consumers Energy's line clearing program, visit bit.ly/2INddB2. If you have questions or concerns about a planned removal of trees in the easement near your home, call Consumers Energy at 800.477.5050.

Sign Up to Receive Real-Time Public Safety Messages

Your Grand Rapids Police Department has launched a community notification system to alert you in real-time of localized emergency situations and relevant advisories.

The mass communications hub, offered through Nixle, is built exclusively for local governments to provide secure, reliable and relevant information. More than 8,000 governmental agencies, fire and police departments, schools and hospitals across the country use the Nixle notification system.

You may register for this free service by:

- Texting "GrandRapids" to 888777 from your cell phone
- Texting your ZIP code to 888777 from your cell phone for notifications specific to your ZIP code
- Visit nixle.com to sign up and customize your user profile based on the type, times and ways you want to receive the alerts – available via text, email, online and social media



Parking Restrictions on Many Neighborhood Streets Begin November 1

Make sure you mark Friday, November 1 on your calendar. That's the start of our annual neighborhood street parking restrictions. Odd-even and same-side parking restrictions take effect at 12:01 a.m. November 1 each year and go until 11:59 p.m. April 1 of the following year. Streets with restrictions have odd-even or same-side parking signs posted. For a map of the streets, visit bit.ly/21OW49L.

Odd-even parking restrictions mean that on each even numbered day starting at 1 a.m. and until 6 p.m., you can't park on the odd numbered side of the street. On each odd numbered day starting at 1 a.m. and until 6 p.m., you can't park on the even numbered side of the street. From 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. each day, you can park on both sides of the street – unless signs indicate otherwise.

Parking restrictions allow our street sweepers and

snowplows easier access to neighborhood streets. They also help keep one lane of traffic open and available for emergency and public service vehicles.

After November 1, street sweepers clear roads of leaves and debris that naturally fall to the ground. Clearing the curbs, gutters and catch basins is critical to prepare them for possible snow and ice accumulation later in the season. Please remember it's against the law to rake your leaves into the street.

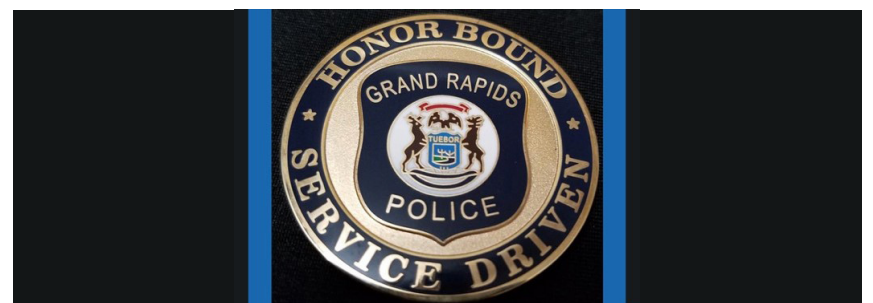
If your vehicles is parked on city streets in violation of city ordinance after November 1, you may be ticketed. Enforcement of winter parking regulations begins whether there's snow on the ground or not. To avoid a \$20 parking ticket, please comply with the signs posted on the street where you park.



Smoking is Related to More Than Half of Our City's Fire Fatalities

Your Grand Rapids Fire Department reports that, over the past five years, up to 58 percent of our city's fire fatalities may be attributed to smoking. Of the 12 fire fatalities since 2014, five were attributed directly to smoking and two were possibly related to smoking but could not be proven with certainty. This data shows that smoking was the reason for 42 percent of the fire fatalities – and may be higher at 58 percent.

Please don't be a statistic. Reduce the chances of the fire department responding to a call to your home for unsafe smoking practices. For a list of safety tips offered by the fire department, visit bit.ly/21OVijT.



Police Dept Adds Foreign Nationals Policy to Ensure Safety for All

Your Grand Rapids Police Department has added a policy that establishes guidelines for department personnel to follow when interacting with foreign nationals – individuals who are not naturalized citizens of the country where they're living. The guidelines ensure equal enforcement of the law and equal service to the public regardless of citizenship or immigration status. Read more about the policy at bit.ly/2mbYccd.

Be In the Know About Small Cell Technology – We've Got Answers

This summer, your Grand Rapids City Commission adopted an ordinance that regulates small cell wireless facilities on public-owned land. That's because new federal and state regulations now limit local government control of rights-of-way as it relates to wireless service providers. The new regulations promote the expansion of 5G wireless technology.

The City had to act and pass a local ordinance to conform with these regulations and have any remaining bit of local control over small cell wireless facilities. As it stands, the new City ordinance sets fees and procedures for approving these facilities.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), in collaboration with such federal agencies as the Environmental Protection Agency, Food and Drug Administration and Occupational Safety and Health Administration, maintains safety standards for small cell wireless facilities. In response to concerns about negative health impacts of wireless technology, the FCC says radio frequency emissions from antennas used for cellular and PCS transmissions result in exposure levels on the ground that are typically thousands of times below safety limits.

For more information, visit bit.ly/2ktBCLG. The World Health Organization has good information about radio frequency exposure and mobile phone use at bit.ly/2IHNxpm.

The City also has put together frequently asked questions (FAQs) – see below – and an online small cell wireless facilities map that shows the 5G permits that have been received, granted and placed within the city of Grand Rapids. Check out the map at bit.ly/2IG3TyF.

What's a small cell wireless facility?

A small cell wireless facility is a type of wireless broadband infrastructure. It can be placed on existing infrastructure such as street lighting or a utility pole as required by the FCC and state law. For more on the law, visit bit.ly/2m5ehjz.

Why are small cell wireless facilities needed?

The growth of small cell wireless facilities is to meet the demand of telecommunications providers. The increase in devices connecting to mobile networks is what drives the increase.

Why are small cell wireless facilities placed in public rights-of-way?

Small cell wireless facilities need fiber optic cable and power. Both are usually available in public rights-of-way. This makes it an ideal location for installation.

What are the City's rules for small cell wireless facilities?

A copy of the rules are at grandrapidsmi.gov/smallcell.

How are small cell wireless facilities being deployed in the city of Grand Rapids?

The City must process and issue permits for uses in the public right-of-way. Telecommunications providers must apply for a permit to install a small cell wireless facility.

How many small cell wireless facilities do we have in Grand Rapids?

Check out the map at bit.ly/2IG3TyF.

What are some of the benefits of small cell wireless facilities?

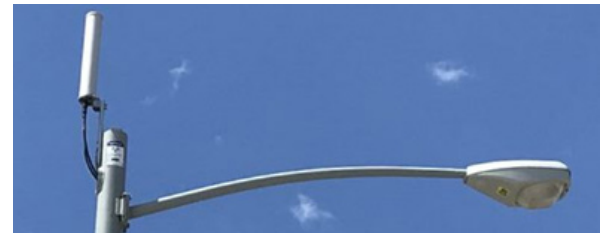
Small cell wireless facilities improve cellular data coverage in areas with weak signals. They increase data upload and download speeds. The equipment is small and easy to install on existing utility poles.

Where can I find more information?

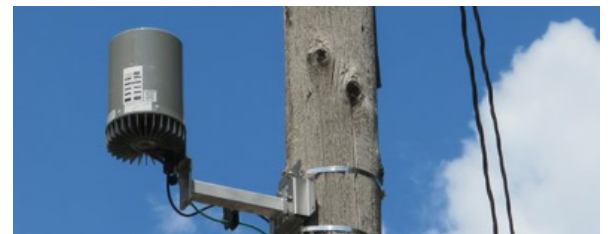
You can find more information on the City's website at grandrapidsmi.gov/smallcell. This includes an interactive map of installed locations. There's also a form to sign up to receive email notifications of new locations. You also can contact our 311 Customer Service team at 616.456.3000 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

What does a small cell wireless facility look like?

On a street lighting pole:



On a utility pole:



5G facilities operational in Grand Rapids

First Ward

652 Alpine Ave. NW
1503 Alpine Ave. NW
187 Antoine St. SW
1005 Baldwin St. SE
329 Bridge St. NW
1006 Bridge St. NW
1610 Broadway Ave. NW
20 Buckley St. SE
222 Cutler St. SW
1258 Division Ave. S.
1598 Division Ave. S.
2214 Division Ave. S.
2355 Division Ave. S.
625 Douglas St. NW
2458 Eastern Ave. SE
105 Front Ave. NW
10 Fuller Ave. NE
240 Fuller Ave. SE
10 Goodrich St. SW
370 Goodrich St. SW
37 Ionia Ave. SW
219 Jackson Place NW
732 Jefferson Ave. SE

37 LaGrave Ave. SE
1150 Leonard St. NW
81 Lyon St. NW
30 Marion Ave. NW
1128 Muskegon Ave. NW
198 Scribner Ave. NW
700 Scribner Ave. NW
1432 Scribner Ave. NW
890 Seward Ave. NW
400 Stone St. SW
1001 White Ave. NW

Second Ward

110 Abney Ave. SE
1199 Ball Ave. NE
216 Division Ave. N.
599 Division Ave. N.
419 Fountain St. NE
12 Fulton St. E.
206 Fulton St. W
473 Fulton St. E
51 Gay Ave. SE
405 Lafayette Ave. SE
310 Lafayette Ave. NE
498 Lafayette Ave. NE
1426 Lake Drive SE

243 Michigan St. NW
135 Monroe Center St. NW
429 Paris St. SE
321 Richard Terrace SE
366 Richard Terrace SE

Third Ward

329 28th St. SE
2640 Breton Ave. SE
329 28th St. SE
329 28th St. SE
3982 Camelot Drive SE
1209 Cass Ave. SE
1301 Dunham St. SE
2350 Elliott St. SE
829 Franklin St. SE
1601 Fuller Ave. SE
3433 Lake Eastbrook Blvd. SE
618 Madison Ave. SE
902 Madison Ave. SE
932 Madison Ave. SE
2321 Raybrook St. SE
1202 Sigsbee St. SE
3702 Sparks Dr. SE
3812 Sparks Dr. SE
1308 Thomas St. SE

127 Wealthy St. SE
524 Wealthy St. NE
1143 Wealthy St. SE

5G facility permits approved but not yet operational

First Ward

2 Bartlett St. SW
1998 Division Ave. S.
81 Front Ave. NW
181 Front Ave. NW
782 Fuller Ave. SE
236 Grandville Ave. SW
49 Ionia Ave. NW
307 5/5 Ionia Ave. SW
235 Jefferson St. SE
97 Logan St. SW
25 Oakes St. SW
125 Oakes St. SW
130 Ottawa Ave. SW

Second Ward

2 Cherry St. SE
200 Cherry St. SE
220 Crescent St. NE
11 Diamond Ave. SE

19 Fountain St. NW
 173 Lafayette Ave. SE
 425 Lafayette Ave. NE
 1531 Lake Drive SE
 4 Michigan St. NE
 100 Michigan St. NE
 186 Monroe Ave. NW
 13 Pearl St. NW
 1163 Wealthy St. SE

Third Ward

2200 East Beltline Ave. SE

5G facility permits received and pending approval

First Ward

102 Division Ave. S.
 220 Grandville Ave. SW
 201 Ionia Ave. SW
 195 Oakes St. SW

Second Ward

332 Barclay Ave. NE
 54 Campau Ave. NW
 160 Campeau Ave. NW

168 Campeau Ave. NW
 176 Campeau Ave. NW
 1002 Carrier Creek Blvd. NE
 149 Fountain St. NE
 421 Fountain St. NE
 61 Fulton St. E.
 309 Fulton St. W.
 215 Lafayette Ave. SE
 310 Monroe Ave. NW
 299 Ottawa Ave. NW
 40 Prospect Ave. NE

Third Ward

1516 Wealthy St. SE



Go Ahead and Try to Not Love This Face

Did you hear that our Bridge Street Fire Station got a new recruit? Axel – or Axe for short – is a Lab mix rescue puppy who’s “on duty” 24/7. Once trained, he’ll help with station tours, fire prevention efforts and community outreach.

Follow him on Instagram @axelgrfiredog. And don’t forget to follow the two-legged happenings at the City at facebook.com/CityofGrandRapids, twitter.com/CityGrandRapids and instagram.com/citygrandrapids.

Learn More About Our Parks With Book From Grand Rapids Historical Commission

We all enjoy – and possibly take for granted – our city’s beautiful parks system. Have you ever thought about how our 75 parks came to be? Careful planning and community engagement over the past century built our parks, which range from quaint neighborhood green spaces to huge major parks that offer recreational opportunities for all.

The Grand Rapids Historical Commission’s book, “Keep on the Grass: A Brief History of Grand Rapids Parks,” dives into how we created our first public green spaces and how our parks program evolved. The 96-page publication – Mayor Rosalynn Bliss’ 2019 Book of the Year – presents the history of individual parks with vintage black and white photos, postcards and color photographs.

The book includes stories on who planted the trees in Veterans Memorial Park, what the swimming pool at Briggs Park was like in the 1920s and what happened to a park once located on an island near downtown, among many others.

Copies of “Keep on the Grass: A Brief History of Grand Rapids Parks” are \$20 each and available at these Grand Rapids spots:

- Books & Mortar, 955 Cherry St. SE
- Grand Rapids Art Museum gift shop, 101 Monroe Center St. NW
- John Ball Park Zoo gift shop, 1300 Fulton St. W.
- Schuler Books, 2660 28th St. SE
- 625 Paper Studio, 40 Monroe Center St. NW

The book also is available at Amazon.

For more on the book or the history of Grand Rapids parks, email ghistoricalcommission@gmail.com. For more on the Grand Rapids Historical Commission, visit grandrapidsmi.gov/Government/Boards-and-Commissions/Grand-Rapids-Historical-Commission.

Keep on the Grass: A Brief History of Grand Rapids Parks



Grand Rapids Historical Commission



Parks and Recreation
CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

General Information

- Ages 18 & up (all fitness levels welcome) for adult fitness
- Classes begin the week of Jan 5 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 registration Nov 4 - Dec 19

Register between Nov 4 - Dec 19

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

Register on Dec 20, 2019 or after

	Resident	Nonresident
1 class per week	\$69	\$79
2 classes per week	\$109	\$119
3 classes per week	\$149	\$159

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.

	Resident	Nonresident
5 punches	\$42	\$52
10 punches	\$72	\$82
20 punches	\$102	\$112
30 punches	\$132	\$142

1 punch = 1 class



ADULT FITNESS MINI-SESSIONS

CLASSES RUN FOR 3 WEEKS STARTING THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 2

Register online: grandrapidsmi.gov/recreation

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR
BASIC YOGA (Description on page 8)	MON WED SAT	6:30 - 7:25 PM 5:30 - 6:25 PM 9:00 - 9:55 AM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO P&R FITNESS STUDIO P&R FITNESS STUDIO	TERRI S. KAYE E. SARA R.
CORE CAMP (Description on page 7)	TUE	5:30 - 6:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	KRISTIN P.
CYCLING (Description on page 8)	THU	6:00 - 6:45 PM	P&R CYCLING STUDIO	JULIE S.
CYCLE & STRENGTH (Description on page 8)	MON	6:00 - 6:55 PM	P&R CYCLING STUDIO	JULIE S.
GENTLE GROOVE (Description on page 7)	WED	9:45 - 10:40 AM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	TERRI S.
GENTLE YOGA (Description on page 8)	TUE THU	9:00 - 9:55 AM 9:00 - 9:55 AM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO P&R FITNESS STUDIO	TERRI S. TERRI S.
GROOVE (Description on page 7)	MON	5:30 - 6:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	TERRI S.
POUND® (Description on page 7)	THU	5:30 - 6:15 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	KRISTIN P.
STRONG BY ZUMBA (Description on page 7)	WED	6:30 - 7:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	JUDITH V.
ZUMBA (Description on page 7)	MON THU	5:30 - 6:25 PM 6:30 - 7:25 PM	GARFIELD PARK GYM P&R FITNESS STUDIO	BRI C. BRI C.

MINI SESSION FEES


Number of Classes	Resident Fee	Non Resident Fee
1 class per week	\$20	\$30
2 classes per week	\$30	\$40
3 classes per week	\$40	\$50

MINI SESSION PUNCH CARD FEES








Number of Punches/Classes	Resident Fee	Non Resident Fee
3 punches/classes	\$24	\$34
6 punches/classes	\$34	\$44
9 punches/classes	\$44	\$54

Punch cards allow you attend any of the mini sessions. 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.

CARDIO & STRENGTH

Register online: grandrapidsmi.gov/recreation 




CLASSES RUN FOR 10 WEEKS STARTING THE WEEK OF JANUARY 6

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR
CARDIO & CORE  This class combines a variety of strength and aerobic conditioning exercises followed by Pilates-based core work and stretching. Using a variety of equipment and unique training circuits, participants will work all major muscle groups and stay inspired and energized.	WED	5:30 - 6:25 PM	GARFIELD PARK GYM	ZIYAH D.
CORE CAMP  Incorporate weight training and cardio blast intervals to keep your muscles and heart pumping. Combined with today's hottest music, this class is as much fun as it is effective.	TUE	5:30 - 6:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	KRISTIN P.
KICKBOXING  Mix up your routine with balance, coordination, and strength-building moves. Strengthen your legs, upper body, abs, and burn calories.	MON	6:00 - 6:55 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	SHANNON H.
PILATES  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.	MON	5:30 - 6:25 PM	MLK PARK LODGE	ZIYAH D.
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.	TUE WED THU SAT	6:30 - 7:25 PM 6:30 - 7:25 PM 6:30 - 7:25 PM 9:00 - 9:55 AM	CITY HIGH POOL CITY HIGH POOL CITY HIGH POOL CITY HIGH POOL	KATHLEEN H. KATHLEEN H. KATHLEEN H. KATHLEEN H.

DANCE

Register online: grandrapidsmi.gov/recreation 


CLASSES RUN FOR 10 WEEKS STARTING THE WEEK OF JANUARY 6





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	BYRON D.
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  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.	MON WED	6:30 - 7:25 PM 5:30 - 6:25 PM	CA FROST ELEMENTARY P&R FITNESS STUDIO	TERRI S. TERRI S.
GENTLE GROOVE  If you like moving your body to a variety of music without complicated steps, this is the class for you. Boost your happiness level and gain confidence in your body and balance, while increasing your heart rate. Perfect for the 50+ crowd or those who prefer to move slower.	WED	9:45 - 10:40 AM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	TERRI S.
ZUMBA  A fusion of Latin and International music. This class combines high-energy and motivating music with unique moves and combinations.	MON THU	5:30 - 6:25 PM 6:30 - 7:25 PM	GARFIELD PARK GYM P&R FITNESS STUDIO	AMY K. & BRI C. AMY K. & BRI C.



YOGA


CLASSES RUN FOR 10 WEEKS STARTING THE WEEK OF JANUARY 6



Register online: grandrapidsmi.gov/recreation 

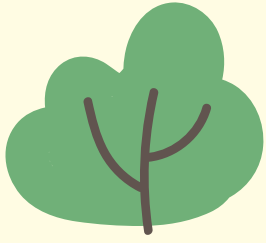
CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR
BASIC YOGA  Discover your inner yogi in a class that builds strength and body awareness. Begin with gentle stretching and move to flowing through and holding poses. Class will come to a restful end.	MON	5:30 - 6:25 PM	CA FROST ELEMENTARY	TERRI S.
	MON	6:30 - 7:25 PM	GARFIELD PARK GYM	AMY K.
	TUE	6:00 - 6:55 PM	N PARK PRESBYTERIAN	BETH H.
	WED	6:00 - 6:55 PM	PALMER ELEMENTARY	KATHY W.
	THU	12:15 - 1:00 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	KAYE E.
	THU	4:30 - 5:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	MARLA F.
	SAT	9:00 - 9:55 AM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	SARA R.
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	9:00 - 9:55 AM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	TERRI S.
	THU	9:00 - 9:55 AM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	TERRI S.
FIRESIDE YOGA  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.	WED	6:00 - 6:55 PM	INDIAN TRAILS GOLF COURSE	JUDITH V.
RESTORATIVE YOGA  Using breath work, props and holding simple poses this "mindful yoga" class will help you achieve a deep level of relaxation. The slower pace will help you disconnect from your busy life and tune into you, creating mind and body awareness.	SUN	7:00 - 7:55 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	KAYE E.

CYCLING

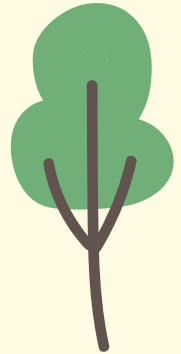
CLASSES RUN FOR 10 WEEKS STARTING THE WEEK OF JANUARY 6

Register online: grandrapidsmi.gov/recreation 

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR
CYCLING  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	5:45 - 6:30 PM	P&R CYCLING STUDIO	CAROL S. JULIE S. CAROL S.
	THU	6:00 - 6:45 PM		
	SAT	8:00 - 8:45 AM		
CYCLING 101  This is a low intensity class perfect for those new to indoor cycling! We will be on the bike for 10 minutes at a time. When off the bike (about 3 minutes) we will focus on upper body strength and balance.	WED	5:30 - 6:15 PM	P&R CYCLING STUDIO	JOAN O.
CYCLE & STRENGTH A combination of high-intensity cycling intervals followed by strength exercises that target the arms, abs and lower back.	MON	6:30 - 7:25 PM	P&R CYCLING STUDIO	JULIE S.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE **Parks, Pools and Playgrounds Proposal**



**The Parks, Pools and Playgrounds Proposal
will appear on the Tuesday, November 5 ballot.**

If approved by Grand Rapids voters, the parks millage would:

- Provide ongoing, stable and reliable funding for parks to keep our parks and playgrounds maintained and safe
- Keep all Grand Rapids pools and splash pads open for the summer season and provide the staff and supplies to keep them safe and clean
- Continue capital improvements and rehabilitation of our 74 neighborhood and community park spaces
- Support additional, free recreational programming for children in Grand Rapids
- Leverage outside grants and funding for capital improvement projects

What you need to know about the proposal:

- This parks millage would provide an estimated \$5 million annually in ongoing funding for our parks, pools and playgrounds.
- The proposed rate of 1.25 mill would permanently replace the 2013 parks millage when it expires next year and cost the average homeowner an estimated \$68.75 per year, or about \$5.73 per month.
- All millage dollars would be dedicated to parks, guided by the Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Plan and overseen by the Parks Advisory Board to ensure accountability and transparency.
- If passed, every park in the City of Grand Rapids would see higher levels of maintenance, quicker repairs and improved facilities.



Find more information at grandrapidsmi.gov/parks

YOUTH - DANCE

Resident Non
Registration Fee \$42 \$52

CLASS	SESSION(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.	FRIDAYS JAN 17 - FEB 21	9:30 - 10:15 AM	201 MARKET AVE SW
	SATURDAYS JAN 18 - FEB 22	10:15 - 11:00 AM	201 MARKET AVE SW
BALLET/TAP COMBO (AGES 3-5) This class will develop coordination, balance and rhythm through basic ballet/tap moves and creative movement. Participants should wear ballet shoes. The end of the session recital will be a tap dance performance.	MONDAYS JAN 13 - FEB 17	4:30 - 5:15 PM	201 MARKET AVE SW
BALLET/TAP COMBO (AGES 6-8)	SATURDAYS JAN 18 - FEB 22	11:15 - NOON	201 MARKET AVE SW

YOUTH - GYMNASTICS

Resident Non
Registration Fee \$42 \$52

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)
GYMNASTICS I (AGES 4-6) For the younger gymnast to encourage success and fun in the gym. Kids learn tumbling and balancing basics with emphasis on strength and flexibility.	SATURDAYS JAN 18 - FEB 22	12:30 - 1:15 PM	201 MARKET AVE SW
GYMNASTICS II (AGES 5-9) A follow-up to Gymnastics I. Activities increase strength, movement, coordination, agility and flexibility. Kids must be able to complete cartwheel and back bridge to sign up.	SATURDAYS JAN 18 - FEB 22	1:30 - 2:15 PM	201 MARKET AVE SW

YOUTH - FENCING

Resident Non
Registration Fee \$85 \$95

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)
YOUNG SQUIRES (AGES 5-7) This class is designed for kids with little or no fencing experience. Build Confidence, Focus, Self-Esteem and have fun! All equipment is provided. Plastic weapons will be used.	WEDNESDAYS JAN 15 - FEB 19 MAR 4 - APR 15 APR 29 - JUN 3	4:30 - 5:15 PM 4:30 - 5:15 PM 4:30 - 5:15 PM	WEST MICHIGAN FENCING ACADEMY
	THURSDAYS JAN 16 - FEB 20	5:30 - 6:30 PM	WEST MICHIGAN FENCING ACADEMY
	MONDAYS MAR 2 - APR 13	5:30 - 6:30 PM	
THURSDAYS APR 23 - MAY 28	5:30 - 6:30 PM		
SESSION I (AGES 7-13) No prior experience required. No additional equipment required.	MONDAYS JAN 13 - FEB 17	5:30 - 6:30 PM	WEST MICHIGAN FENCING ACADEMY
	THURSDAYS MAR 5 - APR 16	5:30 - 6:30 PM	
	MONDAYS APR 20 - JUN 1	5:30 - 6:30 PM	
SESSIONS II, III, IV (AGES 7-13) No additional equipment required. Must already have completed at least one 6 week class or camp.	THURSDAYS JAN 16 - FEB 20	6:30 - 7:30 PM	WEST MICHIGAN FENCING ACADEMY
	THURSDAYS MAR 5 - APR 16	6:30 - 7:30 PM	
	THURSDAYS APR 23 - MAY 28	6:30 - 7:30 PM	
THE SPORT OF KINGS AND QUEENS (AGES 14+) If learning to fence is on your bucket list, come on in and try it. Beginning Teen and Adult Classes for ages 14 and over. No prior experience required. No additional equipment required.	THURSDAYS JAN 16 - FEB 20	6:30 - 7:30 PM	WEST MICHIGAN FENCING ACADEMY
	THURSDAYS MAR 5 - APR 16	6:30 - 7:30 PM	
	THURSDAYS APR 23 - MAY 28	6:30 - 7:30 PM	



Register online: grandrapidsmi.gov/recreation

SWIM LESSONS

Registration Fee: Resident \$48 Non \$58

SESSION I: CLASS MEETS ON SATURDAYS FROM JAN 18 - MAR 7 (8 LESSONS TOTAL)	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)
PRESCHOOL LEVEL I (AGES 3-5) Orients children in the pool and helps them gain basic aquatic skills.	SATURDAYS	11:30 AM - NOON	CITY HIGH POOL
PRESCHOOL LEVEL II (AGES 3-5) Kids gain greater independence in their skills and get more comfortable in the water.	SATURDAYS	11:30 AM - NOON	CITY HIGH POOL
LEVEL I (AGES 6+) Helps kids feel comfortable in the water.	SATURDAYS	10:30 - 11:15 AM	CITY HIGH POOL
LEVEL II (AGES 6+) Child must have passed or show skills required for Level I. Class builds on fundamental skills.	SATURDAYS	10:30 - 11:15 AM	CITY HIGH POOL
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.	SATURDAYS	9:30 - 10:15 AM	CITY HIGH POOL
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.	SATURDAYS	9:30 - 10:15 AM	CITY HIGH POOL

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 page 6. A \$5 cancellation fee will be charged if the refund is requested after the early bird registration deadline but prior to the first class of a session.

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.

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 registering for a class/program.

PROGRAMS FOR AGES 50+ AT GARFIELD PARK COMMUNITY GYM

These programs are designed for ages 50+, however, everyone is welcome to participate. In addition to these classes, we share community information and offer Cribbage Game Days, Book Club, Knitting Thursdays, and Explore the Neighborhood for everyone to participate in. 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+", by calling 616-456-3696, option 1, or visiting our Facebook page at facebook.com/GarfieldParkGym. **All classes are held at 2111 Madison Ave SE.**

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	11:05 - NOON	\$3/CLASS
WALKING CLUB Come walk your way to health. New! Information on Senior Health and Fitness will be held on the last Monday of the month at 11:00 am.	MON - THU	10:00 AM - NOON	FREE
PICKLEBALL 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. We have two indoor courts available.	TUE & WED FRIDAYS	NOON - 2:30 PM 9:30 - 11:30 AM	FREE

CLASS LOCATIONS:

- CA Frost Elementary - 1460 Laughlin Dr NW
- City High - 1720 Plainfield Ave NE
- Garfield Park Gym - 2111 Madison Ave SE
- Indian Trails Golf Course - 2776 Kalamazoo Ave SE
- MLK Park Lodge - 900 Fuller Ave SE
- N Park Presbyterian - 500 North Park St NE
- P&R Cycling Studio - 201 Market Ave SW
- P&R Fitness Studio - 201 Market Ave SW
- Palmer Elementary - 309 Palmer St NE
- West MI Fencing Academy - 1111 Godfrey Ave SW



grandrapidsmi.gov/recreation



Photo by Downtown Grand Rapids, Inc.

ICE SKATING

AT ROSA PARKS CIRCLE

2019/20 SEASON: NOVEMBER 29 - FEBRUARY 23

OPEN SKATE HOURS

Monday - Saturday: 10:00 am - 9:45 pm
 Sunday: 11:00 am - 8:45 pm

ADMISSION*

Youth (17 and under): \$1
 Adult (18 and up): \$3
 *Admission includes hockey skate rental.
 Sizes range from youth 8 to men's 15.

SEASON PASS

Youth (17 and under): \$20
 Adult (18 and up): \$50

PUNCH CARDS*

12 punches: \$10
 24 punches: \$18
 *Youth admission is 1 punch, adult admission is 3 punches.

MONTHLY CALENDARS

Monthly printable skate calendars can be found online at grandrapidsmi.gov, keyword "rosa", or on Facebook at Rosa Parks Circle Ice Rink.

Skate calendars will also be available in the rink warming room.

RINK CLOSURES

Special events, weather, and maintenance may change the open skate schedule.

For up-to-date information please visit our Facebook page @RosaParksSkating, or call the cancellation hotline at 616.456.3699.

FOLLOW US

Follow us on Facebook for up-to-date rink information, giveaways, and more.

 @RosaParksSkating

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

Fall Storytimes

For ages 0 – 5 years

Baby & Me Storytime

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, through November 11
1:30 pm – West Leonard Branch
6:30 pm – Main Library

Wednesdays, through November 13
11:00 am – Yankee Clipper Branch

Thursdays, through November 7
10:30 am – Seymour Branch

Toddler Time

Bring your toddlers to share fun stories, songs, rhymes, and learn together! Toddler Time is a 25-minute long storytime, followed by a hands-on activity and playtime designed to help your child's brain grow.

Tuesdays, through November 12
11:00 am – Main Library

Wednesdays, through November 13
10:30 am – Seymour Branch
11:00 am – West Leonard Branch

Thursdays, through November 14
11:00 am – Yankee Clipper Branch

STEAM Ahead Storytime

Children ages 3-5 can discover the world around them through science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM). Join us for a 20-minute storytime followed by 25 minutes of hands-on activities.

Tuesdays, through November 12
6:30 pm – Yankee Clipper Branch

Wednesdays, through November 13
11:00 am – Main Library

Thursdays, through November 7
11:00 am – West Leonard Branch

Pajama Time

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

Tuesdays, through November 12
6:30 pm – Seymour Branch

Thursdays, through November 7
6:30 pm – Madison Square Branch

Bilingual Pajama Time

Join us for a bilingual storytime and share stories, rhymes, movement, and music with the whole family. The 30-minute English & Spanish Storytime is followed by a hands-on activity and playtime.

Mondays, through November 11
6:30 pm – West Leonard Branch



Let's Play

Children 0-5 are invited to a playdate at the Grand Rapids Public Library! Let's Play focuses on child-driven play using STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) toys to ignite the imagination. Caretakers are invited to enjoy a cup of coffee while meeting new people and learning helpful early literacy tips. Drop in for an hour of friends and fun.

Mondays, November 25 – December 16
6:30 pm – West Leonard Branch

Tuesdays, November 26 – December 17
11:00 am – Main Library

Wednesdays, November 27 – December 18
10:30 am – Seymour Branch
11:00 am – West Side Branch



Sponsored by:



Día de los Muertos:

A Community Exhibit Honoring Day of the Dead

Día de los Muertos is a Mexican holiday that honors family and friends who have passed on. Loved ones come together to build an altar, or ofrenda, that celebrate the life and memory of the dead. The day is a time of celebration and joy, filled with talk and memories of those who have died. On the ofrenda many significant objects are placed as gifts to the deceased loved ones. The altar holds four important elements: water, wind, fire and earth. These are represented by a pitcher or glass; candles; papel picado (punched paper); and food, usually pan de muerto. Other items seen on altars include sugar skulls, flowers, photos and religious items.

The altars, built by local residents who want to share the memory of their family and friends will be on display Wednesday, October 30 – Sunday, November 3 at the Main Library. Every altar is unique and taken together create a fascinating portrait of what the citizens of Grand Rapids hold close to them.

The library will host a Family Day during Día de los Muertos on Sunday, November 3 from 1:00 – 4:30 pm. There will be educational activities for families including a bilingual storytime, live music, crafts, and face painting. Food will be provided by local restaurants.

To learn more about Día de los Muertos and related programming, visit www.grpl.org/dayofthedeath.

Free Classes at the Library

Computer Classes

Basic Computer Maintenance

Have you noticed your computer is slowing down? Have you had a virus or malware infect your machine? In this class, learn a few basic things you can do to keep your desktop, laptop, or mobile device running smoothly. We will discuss various problems and threats that can completely disable or reduce the lifespan of your machine.

Tuesday, November 5
1:00 pm – Main Library

Backup Basics: How to Secure your Data

Whether it's your family photos, business documents, or digital media collection, your digital data is valuable. In this class, we discuss how to ensure your digital data is kept safe and secure. From thumb drives and hard drives to cloud storage, find multiple ways to backup your data, whether you use a traditional computer, smartphone, or tablet.

Tuesday, November 12
1:00 pm – Main Library

Intro to Coding Workshop

Looking to transition to a career in tech or curious about tech careers? This free workshop, taught by the Grand Circus community, is designed for those curious about coding but have little or no coding experience. This workshop will provide you with basic programming technology and give you the opportunity to practice basic programming ideas. This workshop is provided in collaboration with the City of Grand Rapids SmartZone and GRPL. Registration required: www.grpl.org/register-coding.

Tuesday, November 12
6:30 pm – Main Library

Internet Privacy: Protecting Yourself in the Digital Age

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 managing passwords and authentication devices.

Tuesday, November 19
1:00 pm – Main Library

Social Media Privacy: Taking Control of Your Profiles

Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram have revolutionized how we communicate and relate to one another. But at what cost? In this class, we cover how social media uses personal information and how you can regain some control over your online profiles. We also discuss important settings and features that help you control your social media profiles and online identity.

Tuesday, November 26
1:00 pm – Main Library

New Class! Internet Safety Bootcamp

Each year, millions of people are victims of identity theft. While there is no way to ensure all of your data is completely safe, you can minimize the risk and contain data breaches by developing good online habits. Attendees will have a chance to test their passwords, sign up for an online password manager, and enable two factor authentication on their accounts. Remember to bring any personal smartphones, laptops, email addresses, and passwords you will need to use in securing your online profiles

Tuesday, December 10
7:00 pm – Main Library

Small Business Resource Center Classes

Grantseeking 101 for Nonprofits

Designed for beginner fundraisers, this brief course shows how your organization can identify potential funders and prepare to seek grants. Using the Foundation Directory Online Platinum, a database of 140,000 funding sources, students will compile a list of foundation prospects that match their organization's needs. We'll also briefly touch upon other grant sources, such as government and business, and learn about various guidelines to proposal writing.

Wednesday, November 13
7:00 pm – Main Library

Holistic Job Seeking

In this class, we'll study the job seeking process, build our understanding of ourselves, and create solid job seeking processes that will keep us on track. You'll walk away with a better understanding of the job seeking process. But more importantly, you'll gain the confidence that comes with knowing what questions to ask, and how a good job seeker asks them.

Wednesday, December 4
7:00 pm – Main Library

Get Crafty at the Library

The Grand Rapids Public Library now offers Creativebug—online classes that will spark your creative flair. Creativebug has more than 1,000 award-winning art and craft video classes taught by recognized design experts and artists.



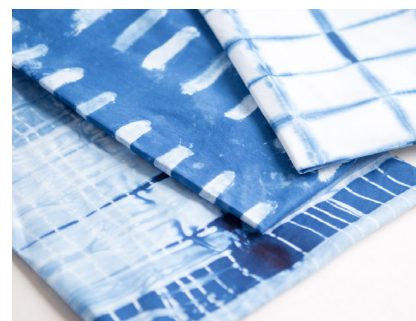
Big Stitch Hand Quilting

Video classes include:

- Art & Design
- Sewing
- Quilting
- Paper
- Knitting
- Crochet
- Food & Home
- Jewelry
- Holiday & Party

In addition to free classes, Creativebug also offers an inspiration section with patterns and other innovative ideas and a daily practice section.

To start creating, visit www.grpl.org/download.



Easy Indigo Dyeing



Entrelac Workshop

Library Closings

Staff In-Service

All GRPL locations will be closed Thursday, November 14 for a staff in-service day.

Thanksgiving

All GRPL locations will be closed Thursday, November 28 for Thanksgiving.

Holiday Closings

All GRPL locations will be closed Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25 for Christmas. The Main Library will be closed Sunday, December 29.

All locations will close at 6:00 pm on New Year's Eve and will be closed on Wednesday, January 1.

GRPL Looks to the Future with New Strategic Plan

For six months, the Grand Rapids Public Library worked with human-centered design firm Margaret Sullivan Studio to develop a three-year strategic framework that seeks to understand and respond to the systemic problems that face Grand Rapids. The plan shifts the library to be an outward facing organization that plays a larger role in the community. The move from a strategic plan to a strategic framework allows the library to be responsive to a rapidly changing city and to align with national trends in library service.

In Year One, the library will engage the community to help understand and refine the library's role in the lives of the community. Year Two will use the data gathered in the first year to prototype changes and prioritize addressing community needs. Year Three will see the implementation of the changes. The framework was designed to be flexible and iterative so that the library can adapt to an ever-changing community.



Our Vision

The Grand Rapids Public Library is key to a dynamic, creative, livable city where people come together to learn and be heard.

Our Mission

Inspiring opportunity, connection, and innovation.

Our Values

Inclusion

We model respect and embrace difference. We are a welcoming place for all.

Collaboration

We seek partnerships and build strong teams. We co-create with our community.

Access

We are flexible, transparent, and trusted. We provide equal access to information, programs, and services.

Excellence

We put people first. We provide exceptional experiences and hold ourselves to the highest standards. We are empathetic and responsive.



Learning

We embrace life-long learning. We support literacy, curiosity, and cultural enrichment. We uphold everyone's right to privacy, to seek information, and to voice diverse points of view.

Sustainability

We make strategic decisions with intentionality for a strong present and future library.

Innovation

We take risks, we fail forward, we seek feedback, we create, and we discover. We embrace change.



Strategic Initiatives of the Grand Rapids Public Library

Looking Outward: Understanding Our Community

We will:

- Identify opportunities to know our community better.
- Understand the infrastructure and systems within our community that affect the lives of those in Grand Rapids.
- Create a library responsive to the needs of Grand Rapids.

This will result in:

- Active and strong relationships with the City, the schools, the business community, and neighborhood agencies.
- New and deeper relationships with key partners, collaborators, and stakeholders.
- A more meaningful understanding of our patrons.

Success Indicators:

- GRPL has deepened relationships and is seen as a trusted partner, connector, collaborator, and community asset.
- GRPL has deeper institutional learning that informs programs and services.
- GRPL staff has confidence in active listening, using skills that they have practiced throughout the year.

Branching Out at GRPL: Spotlight on the Ottawa Hills Branch



Fast facts:

- Located at 1150 Giddings Ave. SE, off Hall St.
- Rapid bus route #5
- Hours: Tue 10:00 am – 6:00 pm
- Wed 12:00 pm – 8:00 pm
- Thurs – Sat 10:00 am – 6:00 pm
- Free WiFi and public computers
- Children's library with play area

1943-1944

As Director of the Grand Rapids Public Library, Donald W. Kohlsted (1941-1971) plans a number of well-placed branches throughout the city, with the goal of providing service to all patrons.

December 4, 1953

As a realization of this plan, a site for a new library is acquired at 1150 Giddings Ave. SE. Because the area in which the new building will be constructed is zoned as residential, every property owner needs to sign a consent waiver; thanks to the efforts of a Citizen's Committee, this is accomplished.

July 2, 1954

Roger Allen & Associates are retained as architects for the project.

Creating Inspiring Spaces and Experiences

We will:

- Examine how people use our spaces and experience library services.
- Evaluate how our spaces are aligned with our programs, our services, and our communities.
- Prototype, experiment, and engage patrons to make connections between user experience and our facilities.
- Learn about and apply best practices in service design.

This will result in:

- Staff skills to effectively assess how our facilities and programs align with future needs.
- Understanding how our physical environments shape patron experiences.
- Opportunities to encourage participation and feedback from patrons.

Success Indicators:

- The community uses our facilities in new and engaging ways.
- Responsive and improved patron experiences.
- Assess and design programs and services with informed feedback and strategy.

Transforming Our Culture

We will:

- Embed diversity, equity, and inclusion into the culture of the library.
- Create an environment of open communication and collaboration.
- Foster an internal culture of learning, growth, risk taking, and innovation.

This will result in:

- Updated policies and procedures using the lenses of diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Staff working more collaboratively across departments and throughout the community.
- Engaged and empowered staff with new skills, outlooks, and professional experiences.

Success Indicators:

- Through understanding diversity, equity, and inclusion, staff have new ways of working and are able to recognize their greater impact.
- Library programs and services reflect a deeper awareness and empathy for all of the patrons we serve.
- Staff are proud of their contribution and exhibit confidence and competencies in understanding institutional values.

Being Visible and Valuable to the Community

We will:

- Assess and evaluate our City's and community's perception of our credibility, value, and assets.
- Be an active participant in solving complex community problems.
- Strategically cultivate relationships which support friend-raising and funding opportunities.
- Build staff advocacy skills in development and fundraising.

This will result in:

- Increased awareness and visibility of the library as a part of the solution.
- Staff and Library Commissioners understand and see their potential in advocacy and fundraising.

Success Indicators:

- GRPL prioritizes future work around being more visible, credible, and valuable.
- Increased staff and Library Commissioner engagement in community groups.
- Enhanced staff and Library Commissioner awareness of funding opportunities.

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

William Baldrige
President

Kent Sparks
Vice President/Secretary

Rachel S. Anderson

James Botts

Sophia Ward Brewer

M. Jade VanderVelde

Caralee Witteveen-Lane

LIBRARY LEADERS

John J. McNaughton
Director

Marla J. Ehlers
Assistant Director



616.988.5400 • WWW.GRPL.ORG

January, 1956

Architectural plans are approved by the Board of Library Commissioners.

November, 1956

General building construction begins at the site, which is at the Northeast corner of Hall St. SE and Giddings Ave. SE.

June 20, 1957

The building cornerstone is laid for the new building; the completed branch measures approximately 3,850 square feet.

July 29, 1957

The Ottawa Hills Branch opens with 12,000 volumes—"nearly all of them new." Interesting features of the \$95,000 building include the accessibility of a night-deposit, air conditioning, and stuffed chairs.

Smoking is permitted in the building's browsing room. The total cost of furnishing the building is estimated to be approximately \$9,000.

September, 1957

The Ottawa Hills Branch receives an award from the Western Michigan Chapter of the American Institute of Architects for excellence in design, winner for non-profit buildings. The branch marks the first new building meant to function as a library erected in the city since the West Side Branch was built in 1927.

November, 1989

Prepared by Aaron Cohen Associates, "A Master Plan for the Grand Rapids Public Library" recommends closing the Ottawa Hills branch; the size is thought to be both too inadequate and too close to the East Grand Rapids Branch of the Kent District Library. Ultimately, however, the branch remains open and two millages in the 1990s help fund renovation plans.

2001

The Ottawa Hills Branch is renovated.



October 2019 | Section B

Theme Schools: 4-7

Turkey Trot: 9

SmartArt Competition: 12

Green Schoolyards Initiative Revitalizes Grand Rapids, Brings Nature to Students

In 2016, thanks to a grant from the National League of Cities' Cities Connecting Children to Nature initiative and the Children & Nature Network, Grand Rapids became one of seven pilot cities to improve access to green space where children can play, learn and grow outdoors in nature.

This year, Grand Rapids is continuing to build upon that foundation after being chosen as one of four communities in the Outdoor Foundation's nationwide Thrive Outside Community Initiative, which will provide a multi-year capacity-building grant to create repetitive positive outdoor experiences for kids and families. More students than ever will have the privilege of experiencing learning and education through nature, as part of the Green Schoolyards initiative.

"The City of Grand Rapids and Grand Rapids Public Schools have a dynamic partnership and joint commitment to environmental education, parks, schoolyard activation, and sustainability," said David Marquardt, the City's parks and recreation director.

This will be the backbone of the work to update the city's Green Grand Rapids master plan and the impetus for how we embed environmental education and direct

engagement with city parkland into the Grand Rapids Public Schools curriculum.

Currently, GRPS has several areas of environmental education including Teach for the Watershed; field trips to Blandford Nature Center and Lake Michigan; and Canoemobile.

Grand Rapids sees green schoolyards as a holistic way to benefit all the residents of our city, while supporting the academic performance and mental health of our students. Over the next few years, we will be expanding to target park-deficient areas for PK-12 environmental education. Projects include:

Burton/Plaster Creek Park

- Design and construction managed by City of Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation.
- Student engagement managed by Our Community's Children and Burton Elementary School Principal, Allison Woodside de Carrillo.
- Currently: Finishing construction on Meadows play areas, expected completion October 2019.



Students from Burton Elementary explore the new natural playscape at a Burton/Plaster Creek project preview event. When complete, the park will also include an outdoor playground and an accessible pathway from the school to the park.

■ SEE GREEN SCHOOLYARDS/ B2

Thank you to everyone who filled out our survey!

We will be reviewing all your feedback and using it to improve our newsletter to continue bringing you the best information in Grand Rapids.

Make sure to keep an eye out for any changes!

CONGRATULATIONS TO SURVEY WINNER SULARI WHITE!



Want to know what's going on at GRPS every week?

SIGN UP FOR OUR ENEWSLETTER

By signing up, you will receive regular communications about events around Grand Rapids, headlines and announcements from GRPS, athletics information, school spotlights, and more!

Go to: bit.ly/GRPSENEWS

Green Schoolyards CONTINUED FROM B1

- Up Next: Finish construction on the Nest (outdoor classroom), and host grand reopening in spring 2020.

Brookside Elementary

- Design and construction managed by GRPS.
- Student engagement managed by Our Community's Children, and Brookside Elementary School Principal, Melissa Wozniak, and Brookside Elementary School Youth Advocate, Tori Berg.
- The first outreach meeting was held on Sept. 10 with the Brookside to get input on design of green schoolyard features and site master plan.
- Currently: Working with Viridis design team to sort all feedback and begin master plan design.
- Up Next: Hold outreach event to share first draft master plan and gather community feedback.

Sigsbee Park

- Design and construction managed by GRPS.
- Currently: First outreach event was held on Sept. 17 to gather community input on the master plan and neighborhood priorities for the site. GRPS will be reviewing all community feedback received and begin drafting a site plan.
- Up Next: Complete the first draft of the master plan to present to community for feedback.

Ken-O-Sha Park

- Design and construction managed by City of Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation.
- Student engagement managed by Our Community's Children and Ken-O-Sha Park Elementary School Principal, Abbie Marr.
- Site renovations are paid for by the Parks millage and other Parks grants.
- Currently: First community outreach event was held on September 14. City of GR Parks & Rec will be reviewing all community feedback received and begin drafting site plan.
- Up Next: Presentation of the site plan to the community for feedback anticipated for late Oct or early Nov.

Buchanan Elementary

- Design and construction managed by GRPS.
- Student engagement managed by Our Community's Children and Buchanan Elementary School Principal, Evelyn Ortiz.



The Heart & Home Program.

UP TO **\$2,500** CLOSING COST ASSISTANCE
FOR ELIGIBLE BORROWERS

All loans subject to approval and program guidelines.

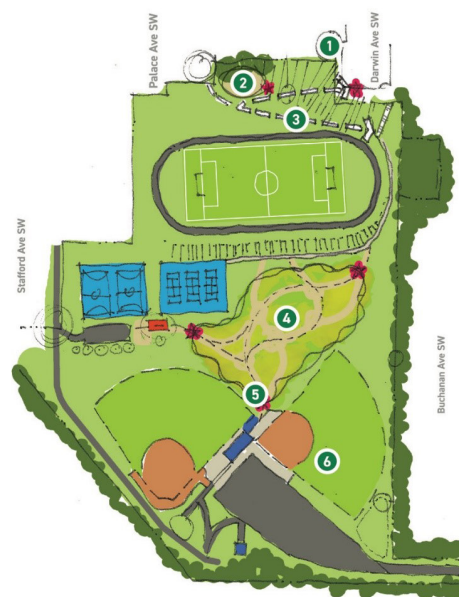
To learn more, visit ChemicalBank.com or contact your local Mortgage Loan Officer at **616.588.7618**.



Member FDIC

CHEMICAL BANK

A Division of TCF National Bank



Legend/Clave:

- 1 Improved Access to Neighborhood
Accesibilidad mejorada al vecindario
- 2 Outdoor Classroom - "The Nest"
Aula al Aire Libre - "El Nido"
- 3 Accessible Walking Path
Rastros de caminar accesibles
- 4 "The Meadows" Natural Playscape
"La Pradera" Área de Juego Natural
- 5 Picnic Tables and Grill
Mesa de Picnic y Parrilla
- 6 Electrical Utility Improvements
Mejoras Eléctricas

Connecting Children and Families to Nature.

Conectando niños y familias a la naturaleza

Concept plan for the green schoolyard project at Burton/Plaster Creek.

- Currently: Working internally to confirming site priorities and communication strategy for sharing with the community.
- Up Next: Design site plan, internal approval, and construction drawings.

Green Schoolyards Goal:

Increase equitable access and opportunities in nature for children by:

- Developing green schoolyards and

enhancing access to nature at public elementary schools and early childcare facilities

- Connecting to nature through out-of-school time programming
- Cultivating youth leadership and stewardship
- Bringing more diverse groups of residents in regular contact with natural features in city park systems

Grand Rapids Public Schools

WE ARE GR

October 2019

Grand Rapids
Board of Education

Kristian Grant, *President*
Jen Schottke, *Vice President*
Rev. John Matias, *Secretary*
Raynard Ross, *Treasurer*
Tony Baker, Ph.D.
Kymberlie Davis
José Flores, Ed.D.
Katherine Downes Lewis
Kimberly Williams

Ron Gorman, Ph.D.

Interim Superintendent of Schools

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

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

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

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

WE ARE GR

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

www.grps.org www.WeAreGR.com
John Helmholtz, *Executive Director of
Communications & External Affairs*
Kyle Pray, *Director of Communications
& Enrollment*

Javier Cervantes,
Communications Coordinator
Miranda Burel, *Administrative Assistant*

“Welcome Back Guys!” Latino Leaders Cheer on Returning Students

By Charles Honey, Courtesy of School News Network

When Union High School students arrived bright and early for their first day of classes Tuesday, Aug. 20, they were greeted at the school doors by more than a dozen exuberant Latino community leaders.

“Welcome back guys!” shouted the greeters, offering fist-bumps and applause as students walked through their V-shaped reception line. “Have a great year! Do well!”

Ismael Cristen appreciated the first-day boost heading into his senior year. “I wasn’t expecting this,” he said. “It was kind of great.”

Ismael is one of the GRPS Challenge Scholars, a program of the Grand Rapids Community Foundation offering full-tuition college scholarships to Union High grads who meet academic and attendance requirements. Program leaders organized the welcome-back, inviting members of the Latino and Latina Networks of West Michigan since Union has a large Latino population, said Ben Oliver, Challenge Scholars program officer.

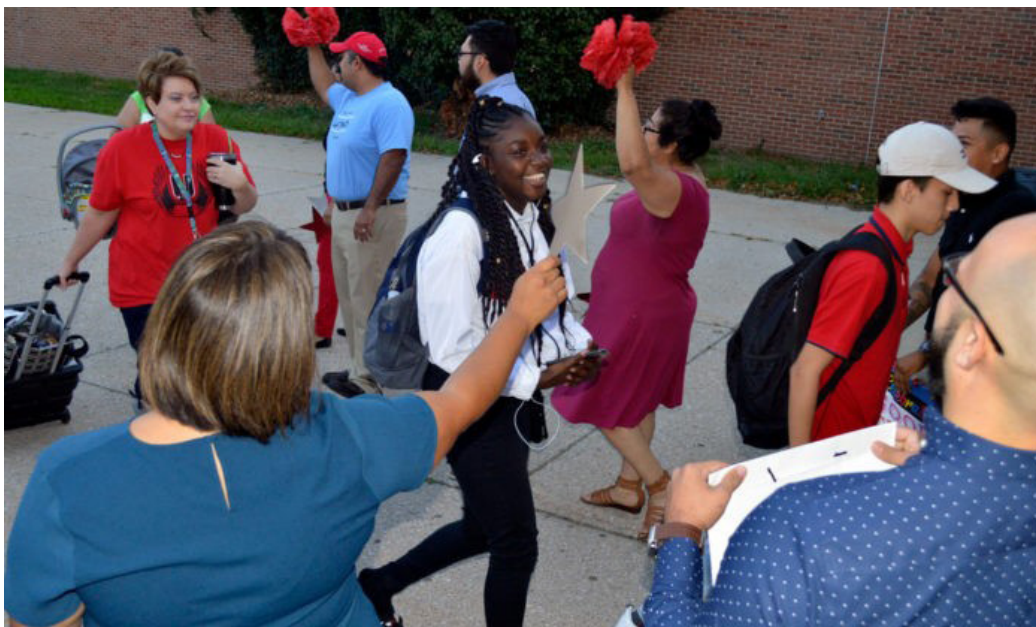
“As our first graduating class enters their senior year, it is important for them to see that there is a whole community out here of people who care about their success,” Oliver said, “but



There was no shortage of enthusiasm among the Latino and Latina leaders welcoming Union High students back to school.

who also share similar backgrounds and experiences, and have their own stories, successes and challenges they have overcome, including the critical role that education has played in their journeys.”

Maximiliano Velasco, a family coach who attended Union, said he was happy to welcome the students. “It makes me feel great that I was here before, I knew the support I was getting, and now I want to give that back.”



Senior Queanna Jackson drinks in the cheers as she returns to school.



Senior Genry Rafael Tercero makes a dramatic entrance with a fist-bump from Ben Oliver of Challenge Scholars.

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 Act, or AHERA emphasizes that asbestos in school buildings must appropriately managed.

The 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 www.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. The Grand Rapids Public Schools will send a copy out of the management plan within 5 business days of receiving the request.



THEME SCHOOL APPLICATION IS OPEN!

Grand Rapids Public Schools has a variety of school choices to fit your families needs! ACT NOW! APPLY TODAY! APPLICATION DEADLINE NOVEMBER 29, 2019.

The Montessori environment contains specially designed, hands-on materials that invite children to engage in learning activities of their own choosing. Under the guidance of a specially trained teacher, children in a Montessori classroom learn by making discoveries with the materials, cultivating concentration, motivation, self-discipline and a love of learning. Students learn in cohorts of three age levels. The multi-age classroom allows the students to become part of a learning community that fosters respect, understanding, and tolerance.



GRAND RAPIDS MONTESSORI (PK3 - 12)* is located near the heart of downtown in the Heritage Hill neighborhood, where students learn in the historic Fountain Building surrounded by green space and gardens.

NORTH PARK MONTESSORI (PK3 - 8)* features 2 campuses tucked away in the neighborhood. "Big" North Park is home to children in grades 1 through 8, and "Little" North Park is home to Children's House, students age 3 through kindergarten.

RIDGEMOOR PARK MONTESSORI (PK3 - 6)* is a newly renovated school found in the heart of the Ridgemoor neighborhood on the southeast side of Grand Rapids, adjacent to Ridgemoor Park which provides spectacular green space.

**All of our preschool options for 3-year-olds are limited to Montessori. Similarly, all of our preschool options for 4-year-olds through our theme school application are limited to Montessori. We do offer preschool options for 4-year-olds at all of our elementary schools, but only Montessori is placed through the theme school application. If you are interested in applying for preschool at a school other than Montessori, please contact the Early Childhood Department at 819-2111. Please check with the Early Childhood Office on specifics of GSRP age waiver. Age waivers are currently available but are subject to change. All Montessori kindergarten classrooms are half-day.*



CA FROST ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE ACADEMY (K - 12)* is designed to offer an experiential, hands-on approach for students interested in environmental science. Examples include local flora and fauna studies, ice and fly-fishing/angling instruction, adventure learning, local habitat studies, rock and mineral studies, naturalist studies, organic gardening and vermicomposting, greenhouse management and supplying local restaurants with hydroponically-grown produce, academy-wide Reduce, Reuse, Recycle program, "leave no trace" primitive camping training, sugarbush maple syrup collection, birding experiences, other wildlife observation, and more!



COIT CREATIVE ARTS ACADEMY (K - 5)* is where artistic students thrive! The arts are incorporated into all fields of learning, including math and science. Visual arts, music, dance, and performance are all used as tools to further students' learning. Students at Coit enjoy exciting trips to the symphony, ballet, plays, musicals and more! Coit is also in the candidacy phase of becoming an International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme school, the global standard of excellence in education.



GERALD R. FORD ACADEMIC CENTER (K - 8)* offers a college-focused culture where students embrace the idea that college is important and prepare for this goal by building habits of excellent scholarship and leadership. Students learn in small classes that foster civic and community leadership, develop character and integrity and participate in service-learning projects. At Ford, expectations are always high, including for parents and guardians, as outlined in the parent/guardian compact. Placement in the program is contingent on a parent/guardian interview, according to the selection criteria.





SHERWOOD PARK GLOBAL STUDIES ACADEMY (K - 5)* is where tradition meets technology. Students are prepared for the global economy through language and cultural studies. Sherwood Park Global Studies Academy is located in Grand Rapids' southeast side, in a building filled with artwork that reflects the global studies theme and highlights the diversity of its students. Sherwood Park is in the candidacy phase of becoming an International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme school, the global standard of excellence in education.



SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CAMPUS (K - 9)* offers a proven dual immersion experience in English and Spanish to help students become bilingual and bicultural. Research demonstrates that bilingual people are well-positioned for a successful future with more opportunities at college and in the workplace. Additionally, bilingual students perform better on standardized tests and are significantly more competitive in an increasingly global economy. In partnership with Plaza Roosevelt, Southwest will open a new \$20 million middle/high school campus, which will grow a grade each year until grade 12. SWCC accepts students at all grades, but because of the dual immersion model, students applying to grades 2 and above need to submit a theme school application and then test for proficiency in English and Spanish.



BLANDFORD SCHOOL (6 ONLY) extends beyond four walls and into the great outdoors, where your child will learn to identify different types of plants, trees, frogs, and birds. This experience is enhanced by two yearly camping trips where students learn team-building and outdoor skills. Additionally, students learn hands-on business skills by collecting and selling the eggs produced by the chickens. A year at Blandford is one your child will never forget! Nestled into the farm campus at Blandford Nature Center, the LEED-certified building is surrounded by 143 acres of forests, fields, and creeks, creating an organic and hands-on learning experience about the natural world.

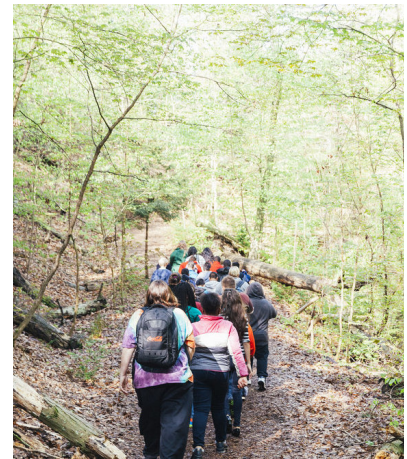


center for economicology

CENTER FOR ECONOMICOLGY (6 ONLY) is a combination of the words "economy" and "ecology". Coined by Peter Wege, the term advocates for reasoned, respectful, engaged stewardship of the Earth in service of both people and the planet. There are six guiding philosophies that provide the backbone for the Center for Economicology, known as the "Six E's". The Six E's are ECOLOGY, ECONOMICS, EMPATHY, ENVIRONMENT, ETHICS, and EDUCATION.



ZOO SCHOOL (6 ONLY) believes in the importance of learning through collaboration. Students participate in a number of groups as well as individual projects throughout the year. Projects culminate in an independently-chosen final project that allows students to creatively demonstrate their research and presentation skills. Students have exclusive opportunities to participate in exciting activities at the Zoo, including animal feeding, raising salmon, recycling, navigating trials, and water sampling. Students also participate in two camping trips during the year.



Qualifying math and reading NWEA (MAP) test scores are required for selection to Blandford School, Center for Economicology, Zoo School, and City High/Middle. Students who are NOT current GRPS students are required to submit test scores with their application.

Students who are not eligible based on all of the requirements are notified of ineligibility and are provided the opportunity to appeal with new scores. We provide opportunities for non-GRPS students to take the NWEA (MAP) test. All testing will take place at GR University, located at 1400 Fuller Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI, from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Please contact the Community & Student Services Department at (616) 819-2150 to register for this test. For additional information regarding NWEA (MAP) visit www.nwea.org. Dates are provided below:

Thursday, November 7
Thursday, November 14



CITY HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL (7 - 12) is proud to be an International Baccalaureate school. International Baccalaureate (IB) is an international program that expertly prepares students around the world for their post-secondary education. 7-10 grade students follow IB's Middle Years Programme, or "MYP", while 11th -12th graders follow the Diploma Programme, or "DP". Both programs are designed to encourage students to become lifelong learners who are naturally curious, seek knowledge to consider complex issues, and are able to communicate confidently and creatively. Qualifying math and reading NWEA (MAP) test scores are required for selection to City High/Middle (grades 7 - 9). Students who are NOT current GRPS students are required to submit test scores with their application. Students who are not eligible based on all of the requirements are notified of ineligibility and are provided the opportunity to appeal with new scores.



GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC MUSEUM SCHOOL (6 - 11) is filled with unique objects and artifacts from the community as well as around the world! Students have exclusive opportunities to touch, see, and learn from these historical items every day. This hands-on approach to learning activates the mind and a child's natural curiosity. Primary sources and their stories help students connect history, culture, art, science, and other subjects. Each day at the Museum School is different from the one before and activities often take students outside the classroom into the community. Students will be active every day and outdoors frequently.



GRAND RAPIDS UNIVERSITY PREPARATORY ACADEMY (6 - 12) is for students who value individualized learning plans in a rigorous college and career prep program. Students benefit from a culture of inclusion, innovation, and diversity in small class sizes utilizing project-based learning. Students create an individualized learning plan with input from their advisor and parent or guardian. This plan guides their work and is based on the student's personal interests, skill level, maturity, and learning style. Students participate in interest-based projects in addition to their traditional classwork. Teachers use narratives, which provide specific and concrete feedback, help to inform the student's given grade. Note: transportation is not provided for grades 6-8.



**APPLICATIONS REQUIRED
ACT NOW! APPLY TODAY!**

apply.grps.org



INNOVATION CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL combines all the innovation, talent, resources, and partnerships of five academies on one campus.



ACADEMY OF BUSINESS, LEADERSHIP & ENTREPRENEURSHIP (9 & 10) teaches students about business, management, marketing, and finance through cutting edge classroom instruction, internships, and real-world experience.

ACADEMY OF DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION (9 & 10) engages students in architecture, engineering, design, and construction through real-world and hands-on experiences.



ACADEMY OF HEALTH SCIENCES & TECHNOLOGY (9 & 10) goes beyond the classroom to develop the skills, knowledge, and personal characteristics needed in the healthcare industry.



ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATH (9 & 10) combines high-quality STEM education with college and career preparation.



ACADEMY OF TEACHING & LEARNING (9 ONLY) is proud to partner with Ferris State University School of Education on curriculum design, dual enrollment opportunities, and hands-on student teaching opportunities. Students will have the opportunity to earn up to 7 credits from Ferris State University through dual enrollment.



OTTAWA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL is home to innovation focused on new college-career prep academies offering work-based learning experiences, internships, and apprenticeships.



ACADEMY OF HOSPITALITY & TOURISM (9 ONLY) helps students chart career paths in one of the world's largest industries, including lodging, sports, entertainment, travel, food, and event management. Ottawa Hills High School has partnered with the National Academy Foundation to help the students meet the needs of this growing industry, emphasizing customer service and the mastery of tangible skills.



EARLY MIDDLE COLLEGE (10 ONLY) is where students, beginning in 10th grade, take college courses along with high school classes. Students in the program complete a 13th year made up primarily of college courses. Students graduate after year 13 with a high school diploma and an associate degree for free, with at least 60 transferable credits. Students must have a minimum of a 2.5 grade point average to qualify.

Transcripts are required to be submitted with your application for grades 10 (non-GRPS students only). Placement of students in grades 11 & 12 is handled on a case-by-case basis.

The Grand Rapids Student Advancement Foundation's program GR8 Sports, Great Kids Named as One of The Aspen Institute's 2019 Project Play Champions

GR8 Sports, Great Kids provides access to K-8 sports at GRPS, regardless of ability to pay

GR8 Sports, Great Kids, a program of the Grand Rapids Student Advancement Foundation, was selected as the Aspen Institute's 2019 Project Play Champion. This honor is part of a cohort of organizations making new, meaningful commitments to health and wellness in alignment with the strategies of Project Play.

A national campaign, The Aspen Institute's Project Play develops, applies and shares knowledge that helps build healthy communities through sports. The institute works with leading organizations to develop solutions to foster quality sports activity for all youth, regardless of zip code or ability.

The Project Play honor recognizes organizations and leaders – at a national level - who are committed to connecting youth, sports and health in a positive way. Recognizing the rising concerns associated with low physical fitness and the implications of such, Project Play drives progress by developing initiatives and sharing that knowledge to build healthy communities

through sport.

“As a community and an organization, the Grand Rapids Student Advancement Foundation understands the importance physical wellness has on students not only today, but also their future,” said Sally Andreatta Executive Director of the Grand Rapids Student Advancement Foundation. “Being recognized in this cohort is a cause for celebration both as an organization, a program and as a community.”

Reinforcing healthy, well-rounded kids both on and off the field, the Grand Rapids Student Advancement Foundation's GR8 Sports, Great Kids program will be recognized at this year's Project Play Summit in Detroit, Michigan. As a program with a sole focus on providing athletics to Grand Rapids Public Schools (GRPS) K-8 students free of charge, GR8 Sports, Great Kids ensures accessibility to sports regardless of financial situation – which means every student has access to participation.

Recently expanding its support of

sports programming for both middle school and elementary school kids, this honor will create a new elementary level coordinator position. This position will be responsible for training volunteer coaches, managing communications with parents and guardians, and track the thousands of athletes that participate in the program each year. The coordinator will integrate the “How to Coach Kids” course – an aggregate of best coaching resources for youth from the Project Play- into volunteer coach training. This will reach the 60 coaches who serve the 3800 GRPS student participants in the program.

“Our goal has always been to positively promote physical wellness at GRPS,” said Cara Jones, Director of the Grand Rapids Student Advancement Foundation's GR8 Sports, Great Kids program. “Being recognized as a Project Play Champion provides us the visibility, we need to get this important work done. Nonetheless, Grand Rapids should feel proud - out of all the communities in the country we are being

recognized as one that is taking on kids' physical wellness and sports. We are doing this right.”

The 2019 Project Play Summit took place on September 17-18, 2019 in Detroit, Michigan. More than 500+ registered to attend the Summit, making it the largest Summit in Project Play history. Speakers included former NBA star Chris Webber, former UCLA gymnastics coach Valorie Kondos Field, and New York Times Columnist David Brooks with ESPN host/reporter Cassidy Hubbarth as emcee.

About GR8 Sports, Great Kids

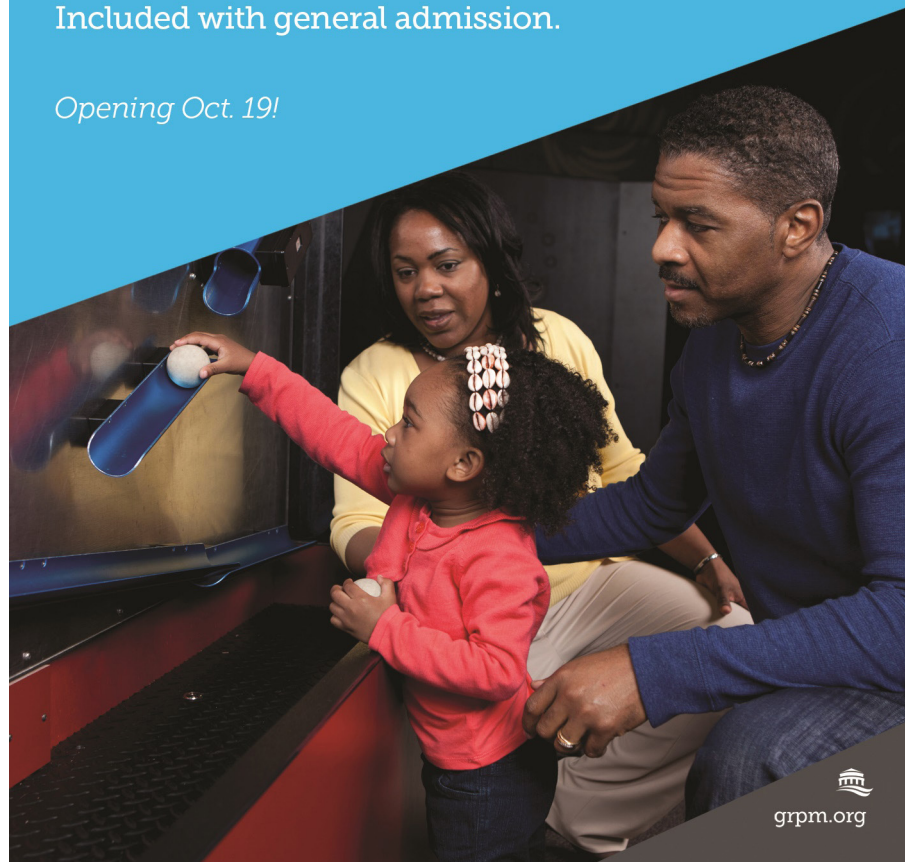
The GRSF implemented the GR8 Sports, Great Kids program to ensure access to K-8 sports to all students, regardless of ability to pay. Most school districts don't provide elementary programs at all and require that students “pay to play” at any level. By leveraging both district and private dollars, GR8 Sports, Great Kids offers an accessible and sustainable K-8 athletics program to all students. Visit grsaf.org/gr8.

Design Zone.

Be curious.
GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC MUSEUM

Included with general admission.

Opening Oct. 19!




grpm.org



Student
Advancement
Foundation

Grand Rapids

PROUDLY SUPPORTING
GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SINCE 1993

WWW.GRSAF.ORG



Homeless Children and Youth Have School Rights

The mission of Grand Rapids Public Schools Homeless Liaison is to assist GRPS students experiencing homelessness through direct support and advocacy. The primary objective is to remove educational barriers to help ensure students engage successfully in school and cultivate their unique strengths and talents.

The Liaison focuses support on school readiness and student success to include:

- School enrollment and advocacy
- Backpacks/school supplies
- School meal assistance
- Uniform assistance
- Basic-need supplies
- Community resources

Students and families may qualify if they are living in the following situations:

- Shelter
- Motel/Hotel
- Doubled up due to loss of housing and economic hardship
- Unsheltered – parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings
- Unaccompanied youth not in the physical custody or presence of a parent or legal guardian and living in one of the above situations.

Contact Edna Stewart, GRPS Student Homeless Program at (616) 819-2519 for assistance.



Help kick off the school year by registering for the 27th Annual Grand Rapids Turkey Trot!

Proceeds from this family-friendly 5K run/walk support GRPS K-12 student athletics.



USE CODE: BTS19
for \$5 off your registration!

For more information and to register, visit: www.GRPS.org/athletics



MINDSHARE 2020

**APRIL 29, 2020
20 MONROE LIVE**

**NEW YEAR.
NEW LOCATION.**

A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES.



WWW.GRSAF.ORG



Student
Advancement
Foundation

Grand Rapids

Raised In the District, They're Now 'Giving Back' by Teaching There

First-year teachers return to where they were taught By Charles Honey, Courtesy of School News Network

When she was a young child living in a Spanish-speaking home, Thalia Vega had a reading specialist at Buchanan Elementary School who helped her believe she could get the hang of reading in English. Other teachers also inspired her to believe she could do well if she gave it her best effort.

“Those people at school were like my cheerleaders. They always had something good to say,” Vega said. “The teachers would ask, ‘What do you want to be when you grow up?’ I automatically knew I wanted to be a teacher, because of the staff. They were so very kind, they believed in me.”

She thinks about those teachers as she begins her first year of teaching, in a third grade class at Southwest Community Campus. To be teaching in the same school system she attended makes the connection to her childhood mentors even stronger, she says.

“I am a product of this district,” she said, getting her classroom ready before school one early fall morning. “Teaching, it is a very humbling profession, but even more so if you are serving the district from which you came. You’re able to give back to the community.”

Leonard Garyson feels that gratitude as well. A 1997 graduate of Creston High School, he transitioned this fall from being a paraprofessional to a third grade teacher at Mulick Park Elementary School.

“It means a lot,” said Garyson, known affectionately as “Mr. Bo” to students and staff. “I feel like I’m giving back to myself, in a way. Being able to help people who are in the same situation as me, kids that are growing up in the same environment ... (to) be there for them the way a lot of people were for me.”

Value-added Grads

As GRPS grads coming back to teach in the city schools, Vega and Garyson offer something extra to the school system and their students, says Nick Swartz, talent acquisition manager for Grand Rapids Public Schools. Research shows students perform better under a teacher who went to their district, and teacher retention is higher, he said.

“It’s a success story that makes an impact,” Swartz said of homegrown teachers. “Students can kind of see themselves in those teachers. That’s going to help make a difference in the lives (of students).”

It may also nudge some students toward teaching to have teachers who “were once in their shoes and maybe look like them,” he added.

As his title suggests, Swartz looks for ways to recruit new teachers at a time when that’s easier said than done, especially for ethnic and racial minority teachers. “We want our teachers to reflect our students as much as possible,” he said.

GRPS encourages current students to consider teaching through programs such as the Academy of Teaching and Learning at Innovation Central High School. Through the Young Educators Society of Michigan, Swartz also takes district students to university conferences on the teaching profession.

With prospective teachers such as Vega and Garyson, Swartz and other officials try to provide support and connections to help them on their way to job interviews. Both worked as GRPS paraprofessionals while completing their college teaching certifications, providing them with income before being hired for their positions this fall.



Thalia Vega helps Leonardo Romo III with a math exercise in her bilingual classroom at Southwest Community Campus.

‘Children need to see themselves’

For Vega, a 2012 graduate of Central High School (now Innovation Central), connecting with Swartz at a job fair last March, along with meeting SWCC Principal Carlos de la Barrera, helped point her back to her own school system. Swartz helped her navigate the job application process and she lined up an interview with the principal.

She did her student teaching last fall at Harrison Park School, then worked as a parapro in the spring. She also interviewed with districts in Wyoming and at other GRPS schools before landing the job at Southwest Community Campus – a bilingual school she finds both fun and challenging.

“Teaching in Spanish is very tricky” in academic terms, even though she grew up speaking it at home, she said. “Honestly, I’m learning from the kids.”

But she’s glad for the chance to stand before her students as a Latino teacher, something she doesn’t ever recall having herself.

“I truly believe children need to see themselves represented in the media, in professions, in all forms,” Vega said. “Children really pay attention to that.”

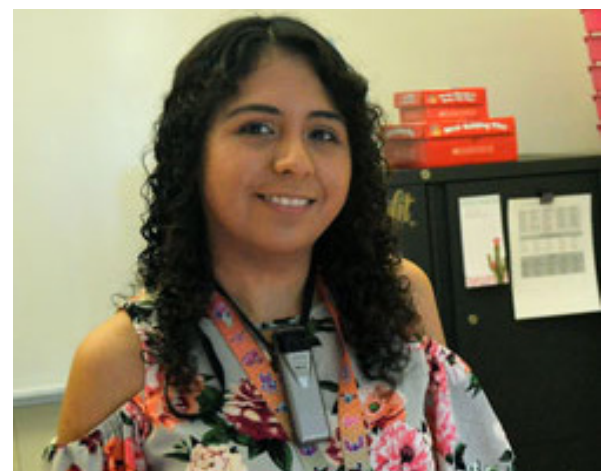
She wants to set a good example as a leader who teaches students not just the “un, dos, tres” of math, but to be kind to each other and never give up on themselves – the kind of encouragement she got from her childhood teachers.

“I want to be able to impact children the same way they impacted me,” she said.

Then she greeted each of her students as they came into the classroom: “Buenos dias!”



Thalia Vega gets help from Mercedes Alonso in quieting down her class.



Thalia Vega says she wants to make a lasting impact on her Southwest Community Campus students, as GRPS teachers made for her.

'Giving Back' CONTINUED FROM B10

Picking up the Torch

Over at Mulick Park, Garyson – let's call him "Mr. Bo," like everyone else does – was already a familiar friend to many students, staff and parents by the time he was hired to teach this fall.

A 1997 Creston High grad, he ran the LOOP after-school program at Mulick Park for 10 years, worked the last two as a parapro, and did his student teaching there last spring. He'd also done after-school programming at United Methodist Community House and coached basketball at the former Huff Elementary and Central High schools.

Mr. Bo was so much a part of Mulick Park that staff members encouraged him to become a teacher, giving him a confidence boost. While working, he earned a teaching degree online from Grand Canyon University, with which GRPS has an agreement, providing tuition discounts to its staff.

"I knew I was good at building relationships, and kids were willing to listen to me," Mr. Bo said, sitting in his classroom after school. "I felt I could do more to help in the classroom, and kind of tie the two together."

Above his desk hangs a sign reading, "Never Forget: 'You are the leaders of tomorrow.'" It's a quote from his late aunt, Ruth Jones-Hairston, a widely respected educator in GRPS for more than 30 years, who died in June. For him, it's a daily reminder of his responsibility and her legacy: "Her passing and me coming into this job at the same time was kind of like me picking up the torch."



Leonard 'Mr. Bo' Garyson says this quote from his aunt, the late Ruth Jones-Hairston, reminds him of why he went into teaching.

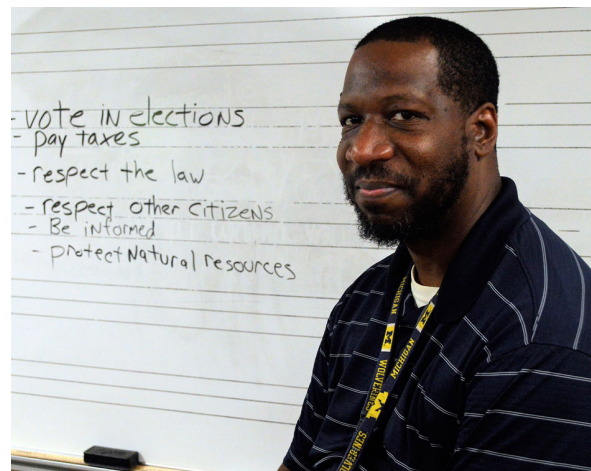
Having been taught in GRPS — including by his aunt in eighth grade – Mulick Park is the "perfect scenario" for picking up the torch while being a positive black male role model, he said.

"This will be a special group to me," Mr. Bo said of his class. "I hope to see them grow up to be leaders and be successful, that they feel they can achieve at a high level and be whatever they want to be in life."

“

I feel like I'm giving back to myself, in a way.

-Leonard 'Mr. Bo' Garyson,
Mulick Park Elementary teacher



'Mr. Bo's' long experience in GRPS helped him land a teaching post at Mulick Park Elementary, where his lessons include civic responsibilities.

Bone-chilling? More like bone-building.

Real cow's milk is a great way for kids to get their bone-building nutrients like calcium, vitamin D and potassium. Plus, it's scarily delicious!



Real Milk.

The everyday beverage that should be part of your every day. Served ice cold at school breakfast and lunch.

MILK
MEANS MORE

MilkMeansMore.org



Approved by the Michigan Dairy Market Program Committee.

SmartArt Competition Winner Finds Inspiration in Art, Science Classes

C.A. Frost student wins \$1,000 scholarship from Consumers Energy By Phil de Haan, Courtesy of School News Network

When Cindy Mazariegos-Barrios headed downtown to Rosa Parks Circle on Sept. 7 for the unveiling of the winner in the 2019 SmartArt competition, she went with her sister but didn't tell her parents.

The GRPS junior had been shocked enough when her piece, "We Are All in This Together," had made the top 10 in May, in the seventh annual ecology-themed competition. She was certain four months later that she had no shot at the top prize, which was being announced as part of the opening ceremonies for Project 1 by ArtPrize, now running through Oct. 27.

Oops.

It made it a little tough to explain the giant check she brought home later that night as the first-place winner — a \$1,000 college scholarship check courtesy of Consumers Energy, the SmartArt sponsor, that Cindy said is about as big as she is.

"They were surprised," she said of her parents' reaction, "but they know I'm a perfectionist and that I didn't want to waste their time."

The 10 finalists, along with their artwork titles and schools:

- Jaheem Aubrey, "Powering the Earth," Ottawa Hills
- Nate Beurkens, "Crude," Museum High School
- Lux Howell, "Present Projection," C.A. Frost
- Emilia Jasinski, "Save," City
- David Johnson, "Two Different Worlds," City
- Cindy Mazariegos-Barrios, "We Are All In This Together," C.A. Frost
- Jack McKellar, "What Side Will You Choose?," City
- Ruby Taylor, "Fabric of Our Future," C.A. Frost
- Kamryn Wezeman, "Energy Conscious," City
- Natalie White, "Code Blue," City
- Inspired by Art and Academics

But, she added with a laugh: "My dad's initial reaction when he found out I won was 'Good, that's how it should be because we work really hard for you!' It's true, and I appreciate it."

Cindy also appreciates the education she's getting at C.A. Frost Environmental Science Academy, a GRPS theme school she has attended since sixth grade. In fact, her winning entry was inspired by both an art class and an AP environmental science class that included a focus on renewable energy.

It shows four such energy sources surrounded by flags of countries that either use them heavily or produce too much carbon dioxide, suggesting a thought bubble of a person picturing the future. In her artist statement, Cindy said public awareness is key to sustainability, adding: "My art piece is trying to communicate to the audience that renewable energy is important and something that should always be in our minds."

She also credits art teacher Megan Talmage with inspiring the medium, rolled paper, for her project. Talmage had done her research and noticed a few media that hadn't been used much in prior competitions, including rolled paper. So, Cindy dove in and made that the centerpiece of her project, a decision she came to regret more than once as



Cindy Mazariegos-Barrios says her studies at C.A. Frost Environmental Science Academy High School helped inspire her winning entry in the 2019 SmartArt competition.

she continued with the work.

"Using pieces of rolled paper to form an image seemed really interesting, and the videos said it was time consuming," she said, "but I had no idea. I spent a lot of time rolling, unrolling, re-rolling. And then gluing and taping."

She submitted her piece right at deadline, though not without second thoughts.

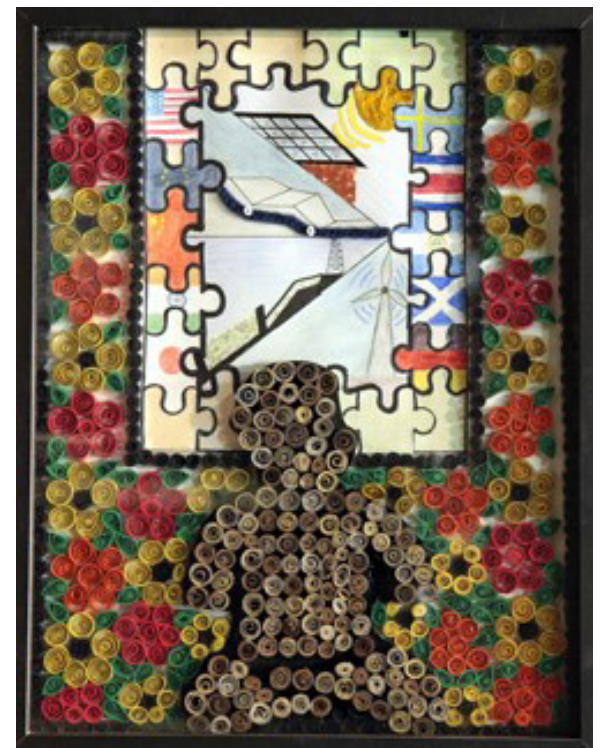
"I looked at it and felt like I could have done better," she recalled.

But a panel of judges from Kendall College of Art and Design at Ferris State University, Grand Rapids Community College and Grand Valley State University begged to differ, sending "We Are All In This Together" to the top 10 and then to the top of the podium.

Cindy was one of three students named to the top five from C.A. Frost — joining Ruby Taylor and Lux Howell — much to the delight of Talmage, who had the trio in her drawing and painting class and made the contest part of the curriculum.

"They each chose to step out of their comfort zones, and it's great to see that it paid off," Talmage said. "I hope this encourages them to continue to challenge themselves to be the best they can be in life, and to see that taking risks is sometimes necessary for success."

A large banner with the Top 10 finalists in SmartArt (Students Making Art with a Renewable Theme) is displayed at Consumers Energy's Ellsworth Substation at Fulton and Market streets in downtown Grand Rapids. The pieces also are on display inside downtown's JW Marriott.



'We Are All in This Together,' student Cindy Mazariegos-Barrios' winning entry in the 2019 SmartArt competition.

'SmartArt' CONTINUED FROM B12

"People's Choice" Winner

Consumers Energy also hosted a "People's Choice" contest on its Facebook page, and "Save" by City High 10th grader Emilia Jasinski garnered top honors. The award earned Jasinski a \$200 Visa gift card and her art teacher, Meagan Whittle, a \$200 gift card toward classroom supplies.

A record-number 81 entries were submitted this year by GRPS students, something that Interim Superintendent Ronald Gorman found very gratifying.

"GRPS made a commitment to going green in our Transformation Plan," he said, referring to the district-wide improvement effort of recent years, "and this is a tremendous opportunity for our students to be educated about those efforts and participate through their art."

C.A. Frost's Talmage agrees.

"I hear the way these students talk about the need for humanity to be better stewards for the environment," the art teacher said. "The SmartArt contest helps highlight both the creative talent and genuine desire of our students to advocate for a sustainable future."



'Save' by Emilia Jasinski won the People's Choice Award in the 2019 SmartArt competition.

Students Tell Designers What They Want to See in Their Park

Students from Burton Elementary and Middle Schools watched proudly Monday afternoon as dignitaries from the City of Grand Rapids and Grand Rapids Public Schools broke ground on a \$1.045 million improvement project at Plaster Creek Family Park.

The fifth- and sixth-graders played a key role in telling officials what they wanted to see and do in their neighborhood park. They took the designers on walks through the park on several occasions last year, noting what they would like to see changed.

Thanks to their input, the redesigned park will include The Nest, an outdoor classroom with seating, raised planter beds for a vegetable garden, a rain garden, native meadow plantings and a community picnic area.

The project also will include The Meadows, a stump forest and log jam playground feature made from local trees harvested by the city's Forestry Division. Other features will include accessible footpaths, a picnic area with tables and grills, a running track, a softball diamond, soccer field, and tennis and basketball courts.

"This project is truly a community effort," said Grand Rapids Public Schools Superintendent Teresa Weatherall Neal in a statement. "Burton students played an important role in this planning effort and we are looking forward to bringing their ideas to life.

"This project is an example of how connecting children with nature can help develop future environmental stewards and leaders," said Neal. Burton School is one of four "park-deficient" sites in the city that will benefit from green schoolyard projects over the next three years, city officials said.

"This project reaffirms our commitment to make sure that children in our community have access to the outdoors and public parks that serve as natural classrooms where they can



Sixth-grader Abby Gallegos, right, gathers together with fellow park designers Dayan and Sani Roblero, and Lynne Heemstra, director of Our Community's Children initiative, at the groundbreaking ceremonies for Plaster Creek Family Park.

appreciate their environment through hands-on learning," said Mayor Rosalynn Bliss in her remarks at the groundbreaking. "It also gets us closer to our goal of having a park within a 10-minute walk of every resident in our city."

City and Schools Working Together

The 19-acre park is tucked into a hollow west of Buchanan Avenue SW and southwest of Burton Elementary and Middle Schools. The park's namesake, Plaster Creek, flows through a wooded area on the park's southern edge. The improvements are scheduled to be complete by the end of October.

The outdoor classroom and natural playscape are designed to fit into the Thrive Outside Initiative, an effort that brings together local groups to make outdoor living part of people's everyday lives. The project also aligns with the Connecting Children to Nature Initiative, a partnership between the city

and schools that promotes environmental education, parks and schoolyard "activation" and sustainability.

The Plaster Creek Family Park project is being funded by a \$317,500 grant from the Wege Foundation, a \$601,250 outlay from the city's parks millage, and \$101,750 from the city's Environmental Services Department. The project also benefited from a \$25,000 planning grant given to the city by the National League of Cities.

"This project is the first of its kind featuring nature play and it highlights our strong relationship with Grand Rapids Public Schools," said David Marquardt, the city's Parks and Recreation director. "We are grateful for the many great partnerships making this project a reality. We deeply appreciate the input we have received from community members, including students, parents, teachers and neighbors."

Two Programs Become One, to Help Infants and Toddlers

Ken-O-Sha Home Community program merging with Kent ISD's Early On program By James Harger, Courtesy of School News Network

John and Erin Stelma noticed their son Maddock was favoring his left hand and not using his right side at about eight months. The Stelmans brought him to the Ken-O-Sha Home Community Program, an early childhood special education program run by Grand Rapids Public Schools, where another son was receiving speech therapy.

Working with Chad Vostad, their primary service provider from Ken-O-Sha, the Stelmans were able to correctly diagnose the fact Maddock had sustained a pediatric stroke.

Vostad began the physical therapies Maddock needed to develop his left side, and put them in touch with the doctors needed to continue his treatment, says Erin Stelma. "Chad was our eyes on everything."

Maddock and his parents benefited from a program that has long served infants and toddlers needing special services. Those services will only be enhanced, officials say, under a merger with a similar program run by Kent ISD, when GRPS transfers its special education center-based programs to Kent ISD beginning July 1.

Leaders say the Ken-O-Sha Home Community program will fit hand-in-glove with Kent ISD's Early On program. Both serving children from birth to 3 years old, the programs have operated side-by-side for years under state and federal laws that mandate services for children who have a delay in their development or a diagnosed disability.

"We're actually merging the programs," says Barbara Corbin, who heads the Early On program.

The Ken-O-Sha Home Community Program, headquartered at 1353 VanAuken St. SE, and Early On, headquartered at Kent ISD's campus at 2930 Knapp St. NE, will be moving into new combined quarters at the Lincoln School campus on Crahen Avenue NE. The merged program will be called Early On since it is moving off the Ken-O-Sha Elementary School campus.

The transition is part of a larger shift triggered last August when the GRPS Board of Education voted to turn operations of its center-based programs over to Kent ISD. Housed in nine offices and education centers, the center-based programs serve nearly 1,400 students from throughout Kent County and part of Barry County.

Complementary Merger

Unlike most of the other special education programs, which serve students at several centers during the school year, the Ken-O-Sha Home Community Program is a year-round program that serves children in their homes.

Meanwhile, the Early On program will gain more resources and expertise when the Ken-O-Sha program comes on board, says Corbin. The combined program will have about 72 persons organized in seven geographical areas to help families identify which state or federal programs are available to help their children.

Though Early On provides some of the same early childhood services as the Ken-O-Sha program, Corbin says her program relies on different funding sources.

"We can't necessarily blend our funding, but we can braid it," Corbin says. "I think we want to maximize the best of both teams."

Mary Cok, director of the Ken-O-Sha program, says the 60 professional staff members in her organization concentrate on home visits, and work with parents as much



The Ken-O-Sha Home Community program helped Erin Stelma, right, find the therapies that are helping her son Maddock develop strength in his right side after he sustained a pediatric stroke.

as their children by directing the parents how and where to find help for their children.

Most of the 1,000 children served by the Ken-O-Sha Home Community Program every year will "graduate" by their third birthdays and go on to regular pre-school and K-12 classes, according to Cok. She will join Corbin in administering the joint program after spending the first 20 years of her career with Grand Rapids Public Schools.

"We work with the parents to help them develop their child," says Cok, who has organized her staff into six teams that are cross-trained to develop individual education plans (IEPs) for each child. Her staff of primary service providers includes occupational therapists, speech therapists, physical therapists and other professionals trained to work with infants and young children.

Most of the children they serve enter the Ken-O-Sha program at about 18 months, when parents become aware of delays in their child's development that may indicate a physical or cognitive impairment.

Early Intervention Made the Difference

This summer, as Maddock Stelma celebrates his third birthday, he will leave the Ken-O-Sha program and continue into a preschool program. His parents will continue to work with him and Grandville Public Schools as he develops his strength and dexterity on his left side.

Erin Stelma says the early intervention was the key to helping Maddock overcome his impairments. "We just would not have been able to do as much without (the Ken-O-Sha program). This was just the springboard to everything."

More information about the transfer of center-based programs can be found on Kent ISD's website at Center Program Review pages.



Kent ISD's Early On program director Barbara Corbin, left, and Mary Cok, head of Grand Rapids Public Schools' Ken-O-Sha Home Community program, will merge their programs when Kent ISD takes over the GRPS special education center programs beginning July 1

North Park Montessori School Reopens After Asbestos Scare

State declares building safe to resume classes *By James Harger, Courtesy of School News Network*

Grand Rapids Public Schools reopened the North Park Montessori School for the new school year on Aug. 20, welcoming back 380 students and 54 staff members who were moved out last winter after an asbestos exposure scare.

As a last step in a renovation project, school officials decided to replace carpeting in the building to address questions from parents about the possibility of asbestos fibers remaining in the existing carpeting.

The carpet replacement will occur during the coming school year over the winter and spring breaks, with the remaining work to be done next summer, according to an Aug. 6 letter to parents and staff from Interim Superintendent Ronald Gorman. Although the Michigan Department of Health and Human Safety (MDHHS) concluded the existing carpeting was safe, the district decided to go ahead with the replacement “out of an abundance of caution,” he said.

Gorman said all of the tests performed by MDHHS and an outside consultant gave a clean bill of health for the 111-year-old brick building, also known as “Big North Park.” The building at 3375 Cheney Ave. NE houses classes

for children from the first through eighth grade.

“As outlined in the MDHHS clarification, Big North Park is perfectly safe for students and staff to return and there is ‘no risk to the health of students and staff when they enter North Park Montessori.’ (District consultant) Nova Environmental followed the strict federal guidelines for aggressive clearance air testing and the results came back none detected,” Gorman said in his letter.

“At no point in time were we advised to remove the carpet,” Gorman added. “As such, this had absolutely no impact on the construction timeline nor the process for reuniting students and staff back at Big North Park. In fact, the district proceeded with an abundance of caution and went far above and beyond what was required by law. Based on test results and input from the experts, re-occupancy could actually have occurred within weeks of the initial breach.”

Fines Reduced upon Appeal

The building was closed on Feb. 20 after possible asbestos exposure was discovered in classrooms where a new air conditioning system was being installed. The school’s

students and staff were moved to classrooms at GRPS University, 1400 Fuller Ave. NE.

GRPS spokesman John Helmholdt said they were still in the process of reuniting the staff and parents with personal items that were quarantined and cleaned in the wake of the evacuation. “Everything is cleaned, bagged and tagged and stored in the gym ready for redistribution,” he said.

Despite the clean bill of health from MDHHS, in July the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) notified the district of five violations tied to compliance with Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) requirements for the school.

Helmholdt said the state cut the original fines of \$11,900 in half after the district appealed. The violations included failing to notify employees that materials in the building contained asbestos; allowing asbestos to accumulate above ceiling tiles in two restrooms; not providing asbestos awareness training; and allowing a non-accredited employee to design the asbestos response program.



Grand Rapids Public School officials have given the North Park Montessori School, closed since late winter, a clean bill of health.



Students were moved out of the North Park Montessori School last February.

School-Based Health Centers

Convenient care for students

Services Provided: Counseling, dental, vaccines, and medical including treatment for illness or injuries and much more

Cherry Health

Comprehensive. Quality. Healthcare.

cherryhealth.org

WEST MICHIGAN'S
BEST AND
BRIGHTEST
COMPANIES
TO WORK FOR
WINNER 2019



GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
SAFETY/SECURITY



Parents/Community

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Location

GRPS University

1400 Fuller Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

616-819-2100

pd.grps.org

SCHEDULE

September 10, 2019:

School Safety Topics

October 08, 2019:

School Safety Topics

November 12, 2019:

School Safety Topics

December 10, 2019:

School Safety Topics

January 14, 2020:

School Safety Topics

February 11, 2020:

School Safety Topics

March 10, 2020

School Safety Topics