



**Register for  
Spring Soccer**

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## City Manager Continues Engaging with Community, Planning for the Future



Hello, my fellow Grand Rapiadians.

I have enjoyed spending the first few months as your City Manager getting to know our community better. I have taken this time to listen to and appreciate the hopes, dreams and concerns of residents and community stakeholders throughout our city. I don't have to tell you that Grand Rapids is growing and changing. As City Manager, I value an intentional and thoughtful approach to change. I am working with residents, businesses both large and small, neighborhood and community groups, the City Commission, City staff and others to make sure this change results in a Grand Rapids that is a great place for everyone. Here are other updates from the past few months:

Police Chief David Rahinsky announced his retirement after a 32-year career in law enforcement. I am grateful to Chief Rahinsky for his service to our community and his leadership of our Police Department. His departure provided an opportunity for interim leadership. I appointed Deputy Chief David Kiddle as Interim Police Chief. Interim Chief Kiddle has been with our Police Department since 1992 and Deputy Chief since March 2015. As Interim Police Chief, he will focus

on keeping our community safe, running the day-to-day operations of our Police Department, completing a deployment study and preparing the department's Fiscal Year 2020 budget.

I expect to hire the new Police Chief this summer. The new Police Chief will be selected as part of a national search conducted by an outside firm that specializes in such searches. The search firm will seek community input during the selection process. It is important we have the right leader to ensure the safety of our community. I am looking for someone who is tough on crime and who is able to be collaborative with residents and other community members. I look forward to hearing from the community on other qualities we need in our next Police Chief. I am confident that whomever I choose can help us strengthen community-police relationships and continue to build trust.

In addition to meeting with community members, I have held 25 town halls with City staff across the organization. This has given me a great opportunity to get to know the hardworking staff who keep our city safe and serviced 24/7. These town halls also have provided an opportunity for many of our 1,500 City employees to show me their work sites, ask questions and share what is important to them. In turn, I have shared my

core values of accountability, collaboration, customer service, innovation, diversity, resiliency, sustainability, transparency, ethics and integrity.

In partnership with the City Commission, I am working with City staff to develop a strategic plan that helps inform the priorities for the Fiscal Year 2020 budget. We also are updating the City's mission and vision statements to ensure they are aligned with current and future organizational and community needs. The strategic plan will help us understand who we are, where we want to go, how we can reach our goals and measure our success over time. The strategic plan – along with the future updated Master Plan – will serve as a community roadmap for prioritizing initiatives, resources, goals and City operations and projects.

We will have a few opportunities for you to provide feedback on a draft strategic plan this winter. The strategic plan will be a living document that will be changed over future budget years, and community engagement will be included during the budget process.

In partnership,

Mark Washington  
City Manager

## Parks Millage Success Story Continues with Major Redevelopment of Nine City Parks

The reinvestment in our treasured park system through the voter-approved Parks Millage continued in 2018 with nine City parks welcoming nearly \$4 million in redevelopment. In its fourth full year, the Parks Millage took us closer to our goal that every neighborhood would see improvements to their parks, which are vital to our continued success and future growth in Grand Rapids.

Our community has made significant gains over the past four years in addressing a massive backlog of repairs, keeping our neighborhood pools open and delivering on the promise of park improvements inspired by our community. Primarily funded through the voter-approved Grand Rapids 2013 Parks Millage, these nine parks join the list of more environmentally focused park projects and playscapes across the city. The scope of redevelopment of each came about through an individualized community-led park planning and design effort that stressed inclusive community voice.

At his recent annual report to the City Commission on the status of parks, Parks and Recreation Director David Marquardt said last year's park projects – including

the Huff Park boardwalk and playspace, Aberdeen Park's Michigan-themed splash pad and Ottawa Hills' new inclusive, universally accessible playground – were developed based on the principles formed during the 2017 Park Master Plan process.

Those guiding principles emphasize creating and supporting a healthy, vibrant community through active neighborhoods, inclusive programs and events, innovation, best practices, exceptional services and diversity.

his past year, the City introduced dozens of environmentally focused amenities in these nine major park improvements and redevelopment projects:

### 2018 Projects

#### Bike Park, 580 Kirtland St. SW

This ongoing construction project, expected to wrap up this year, features an advanced pump track, bike loop for kids 5 and younger, bike playground/skills loop and various site improvements.



#### Cheseboro Park, 951 Merrit St. SE

The \$145,000 construction project includes a new multi-age playground, new picnic tables, bench seating, bike racks, site lighting, shade trees and an improved entryway.

#### Coit Park, 727 Coit Ave. NE

The \$300,00 construction project includes an improved playground, community gathering/picnic space, shuffleboard and four-square court, fruit trees and a



pollinator garden.

#### **Huff Park, 2399 Ball Ave. NE**

The \$2.1 million project includes a new boardwalk with an overlook deck, rest areas and interpretive signage.

#### **Mooney Park, 314 Logan St. SE**

The \$154,000 construction project includes an improved playground, new site lighting and walkways and a new masonry seat wall, planter and landscape bed.

#### **Ottawa Hills Park, 2060 Oakfeld Ave. SE**

The \$765,000 construction project includes a new fully universally accessible playground with areas for older and younger children, a new picnic area, benches, lighting and shade trees. This park is new to the Grand Rapids parks system thanks to a longstanding partnership with Grand Rapids Public Schools.

#### **Roosevelt Park, 739 Van Raalte Drive SW**

The \$90,000 project includes a new circular pathway, new exercise equipment and community mural.

#### **Wilcox Park, 100 Youell Ave. SE**

The renovated basketball court project is a reality thanks to \$28,500 in community fundraising accompanying \$37,000 in millage funding. The court was dedicated in memory of Mike Sanders, an Eastown resident who frequented the park and court.

These park improvement projects and those completed since 2014 were made possible thanks to the seven-year Parks Millage approved in 2013 that formed a stable and reliable base of funding that leveraged additional private and public grants and revenue. In addition to these dollars, the Parks and Recreation Department has also secured \$11 million of outside grants and funds to assist in park development and acquisition.

Each year, the Parks Millage generates roughly \$4 million for repairs, rehabilitation and new improvements to parks, pools and playgrounds. To date, the millage has funded \$3 million for pool operations, \$3.8 million to park improvements and \$9 million to park rehabilitation and repair.

So far, your millage dollars have supported the

redevelopment of 67 percent, or 49 of the City's 75 parks. The City's annual park improvement program has touched the following parks with a variety of amenities:

#### **2015 Projects**

**Cherry Park**  
**Fuller Park**  
**Garfield Park**  
**Highland Park**  
**Lincoln Park**  
**Roosevelt Park**  
**Westown Commons**  
**Wilcox Park**

#### **2017 Projects**

**Aberdeen Park**  
**Alexander Park**  
**Ball-Perkins Park**  
**Veterans Memorial Park**

#### **2016 Projects**

**Camelot Park**  
**Campau Park**  
**Dickenson Park**  
**Douglas Park**  
**Mary Waters Park**  
**Mulick Park**

However, there is still work to be done, and we can't afford to lose momentum. The Parks and Recreation Department is already hard at work planning for another \$4 million in park improvement projects and repairs for 2019. More than 750 community members engaged in planning this year's projects – all of which get under way this spring and summer. These projects help us move closer to our goal of offering a world-class parks system for a world-class city.

Marquardt said the remarkable work accomplished across the city in making these improvements a reality could only happen with the enthusiastic assistance of the community. He recognized the work of Friends of Grand Rapids Parks and the 55 other community partners, including state agencies, foundations, neighborhood associations, business associations, individual businesses and citizens who have moved the needle in improving parks.

"Our City parks have made a remarkable transformation over the past four years," Marquardt said. "As we approach the sunset of the existing Parks Millage, we can look back at how much has been accomplished but know we still have a long way to go. With the continued support of all who have supported our efforts and have partnered with us, I know we can reach our goals to have an inclusive and nature-based park system that is designed, developed, built and enjoyed by all

Grand Rapiidians."

#### **2019 Projects**

##### **Ah-Nab-Awen Park**

Anticipated restroom and shelter improvements and community master plan for post-river construction

##### **Alger Park**

New splash pad with picnic area and improvements to restroom building

##### **Belknap Park**

Improvements to restrooms, pathways and sport courts

##### **Briggs Park**

Playground improvements, new picnic shelter, new accessible pathways and community art

##### **Clemente Park**

New shelter and restroom building, new natural play space and new green infrastructure

##### **Foster Park**

Landscaping, site amenities and historic/educational signage

##### **Joe Taylor Park**

Expanded playground area, new pedestrian lighting and site amenities

##### **Lexington Park**

New picnic area, new playground, hammock grove and landscaping

##### **Lookout Park**

New overlook deck with seating, new pathway with lighting and vegetation clearing to improve view

##### **Mackay Jaycee Park**

Improvements to athletic fields, nature trail, playground and new beach volleyball court

##### **Martin Luther King Jr. Park**

New pedestrian lighting, new picnic shelter and playground improvements

##### **Plaster Creek Family Park**

See story on page 5

##### **Reservoir Park**

New seating and site amenities, sidewalk improvements and vegetation clearing to improve view



Visitors explore nature on the new boardwalk at Huff Park.



The City's first fully universally accessible playground at Ottawa Hills Park.



New playground at Cheseboro Park.



## Fifth Annual Grand Rapids Neighborhood Summit: Everything You Need To Know

We want to hear your Grand Rapids story at our 2019 Grand Rapids Neighborhood Summit. This year's Summit takes place 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 2 on Grand Valley State University's Pew Campus in downtown Grand Rapids. This year's theme, "Connecting Our Stories – Connecting Our Power," reflects the power of reclaiming, sharing and connecting our personal and community stories. You can register for the Summit starting in late January at [grandrapidsmi.gov/summit](http://grandrapidsmi.gov/summit).

The Grand Rapids Neighborhood Summit is an annual one-day experience for you and fellow residents, business owners and other stakeholders. Come learn with and from one another about strategies, resources and opportunities to strengthen neighborhoods and advance equity.

The day features breakfast and community resource tables, a welcome by Anishinaabe community drum, opening remarks by Mayor Rosalynn Bliss, an engaging keynote experience by Mixed Roots Collective and our

signature workshops. You can participate in three of 18 workshop offerings, engage in interactive lunch activities and gather for a closing ceremony.

We conclude the day with resident leadership recognition and a prize drawing provided by local businesses and organizations. You can enter the prize drawing by visiting community resource tables at the Summit to get your "Summit Passport" stamp. Once your passport is complete, you can be entered into the drawing. The Anishinaabe community drum will grace us with a travel song as we leave for the day or attend the Community Celebration from 4 to 6 p.m.

To reduce barriers to attendance and give children 12 and younger intentional leadership and learning opportunities, we will once again provide free onsite child care. You can sign up your children for the Kids Summit when you register online for the Summit. Space is limited. Follow the Summit on Facebook ([GRNeighborhoodSummit](https://www.facebook.com/GRNeighborhoodSummit)) for the most up-to-date information.



### Thank you to our 2019 Summit sponsors:

City of Grand Rapids and Mobile GR, Consumers Energy, Grand Rapids Community College, Grand Rapids Public Schools, Grand Valley State University, West Michigan Works!, West Michigan Environmental Action Council, Cascade Engineering, Frey Foundation, Grand Rapids Area Black Businesses, Grand Rapids Public Museum, West Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Dwelling Place of Greater Grand Rapids and Good For Michigan.

## Grand Rapids Fire Department is First in State to Achieve Insurance Services Office Class 1 Rating



Great news, Grand Rapids! Your Fire Department is the first fire agency in the state to receive the Insurance Services Office (ISO) Class 1 rating. The Class 1 rating is the ISO's highest and is the result of the Grand Rapids Fire Department's overall efficiency in execution and response of emergency service. The rating has been achieved by less than 1 percent of fire departments nationwide.

"This rating reflects the hard work and dedication of our fire department, water department and emergency communications center in providing high-quality services to our citizens," Fire Chief John Lehman said.

"We appreciate that we have attained this rating, recognizing it was hard work to get here. It is our mission to maintain this high standard and continue to provide world-class fire service in an ever-growing community."

The ISO evaluates more than 50,000 fire departments nationwide, with only 330 earning the Class 1 rating. Among the 259 accredited fire agencies worldwide, only 71 hold a Class 1 rating.

Fire departments nationwide are rated by the ISO to determine a public protection classification for individual cities or counties. Most U.S. insurers of homes and business property use the classification in calculating premiums. In general, the price of fire insurance in a community with a good classification is substantially lower than in a community with a poor classification.

"I am proud of our fire department for achieving this rating," City Manager Mark Washington said.

"Better insurance rates make Grand Rapids more attractive for residents and businesses and they move us forward as a city of the future."

## Answer the Call: Here's How You Can Become a Grand Rapids Firefighter

Are you seeking a challenging and rewarding career that allows you to have a positive impact on your community? If so, consider becoming a Grand Rapids firefighter.

The Grand Rapids Fire Department (GRFD) is preparing to train recruits for its upcoming class. The GRFD is an internationally accredited department with an ISO Class 1 rating, one of only 71 in the nation with both distinctions. With the City's growing population and department retirements, the GRFD is opening another round of applications for the position of entry-level firefighter. Salary for the position starts at \$45,000+ with benefits.

The GRFD provides fire suppression to residential and commercial properties. Other emergency services include specialized rescue operations, hazardous material incident mitigation, weather-related emergencies and first response to medical emergencies. Non-emergency services include, but are not limited to, public safety education programs and support of community-based events.

### To become an entry level firefighter, some of the requirements include:

- Being at least 18 years old
- Possessing a valid driver's license
- Having a high school diploma or GED

**NO CALLING IS  
HIGHER  
THAN TO FIGHT  
FIRE**

- Having at least 20/30 corrected vision or 20/100 uncorrected vision

The hiring process involves several steps beginning with your accepted application. After passing both a written exam and a physical agility test, an oral exam/interview is conducted. Once hired, you begin your assignment with the GRFD Training Academy. As a recruit, you are paid while attending the academy, which typically runs 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday for about six months.

To apply or get additional information on the requirements, salary, benefits, training and job description, call 616.456.3900 or visit [grandrapidsmi.gov/fire](http://grandrapidsmi.gov/fire).

## Grand Rapids Income Tax Office Offers Extended Hours



Need help filing your income tax return? Our Income Tax Office is here to help – in fact, we are opening on selected Saturdays starting in February to help you file your city return.

The office will be open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the following Saturdays:

- February 9
- February 23
- March 9
- March 23
- April 13
- April 20
- April 27

You can also visit the Income Tax office during regular hours – Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Be sure to bring your photo ID, the first page of your federal return and any W-2s, 1099s or schedules that you may have.

Walk-ins are welcome. However, avoid lines by making an appointment via email at [grincometax@grcity.us](mailto:grincometax@grcity.us) or call 616.456.3415 and select option 0.

Our Income Tax office is located on the third floor of City Hall, 300 Monroe Ave. NW. Validated parking is available in the Government Center Parking Ramp off Monroe and Ottawa avenues.

**The filing deadline for 2018 City of Grand Rapids income tax returns is Tuesday, April 30.**

## Be Aware of Identity Theft and Tax-related Scams

Our Income Tax Department wants you to be aware of several email and phone scams that target taxpayers this filing season. Cybercriminals collect names, social security numbers and addresses that they then use to file fraudulent returns.

One scam features thieves posing as representatives of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), IRS taxpayer assistance center, a professional tax organization, a tax software company, IRS refunds, the State of Michigan or the City of Grand Rapids. The email scam tricks taxpayers into opening a link in an email or requests personal information over the phone.

In the email scam, personal information is stolen when inputted. Malware may also be secretly downloaded. Malware gives the thief control of the computer or allows the thief to track keystrokes to determine passwords or other critical data. The phone call scam involves operators telling taxpayers that a warrant will be issued for their

arrest if they do not comply and immediately pay their debt.

If you receive a suspicious call or email, let the caller or sender know it will be returned after you confirm that it is legitimate. Then, contact the City and IRS to report the suspicious call or email. Contact information includes:

- City of Grand Rapids: 616.456.3415, option 0, or email [grincometax@grcity.us](mailto:grincometax@grcity.us)
- IRS: [irs.gov/privacy-disclosure/report-phishing](https://irs.gov/privacy-disclosure/report-phishing)

**Remember:** The City of Grand Rapids does not conduct door-to-door collections or initiate contact by calling homes requesting immediate payment. It is rare for the Income Tax Department to initiate contact via phone or email without a taxpayer contacting it first.

## Homeowners, Are You Receiving the Principal Residence Exemption? Here's How to Find Out

The Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) is a property tax exemption administered by the City Assessor's Office. The PRE is sometimes referred to as the "homestead exemption." It is an exemption from the local school operating millage. As an example, if your home has a Taxable Value of \$50,000, a 100 percent PRE exemption can result in a savings of up to \$900 per year.

If you own and occupy your home as your primary residence, you're eligible to claim the PRE. You are allowed to claim only one PRE in Michigan, and you can't claim a similar exemption in another state at the same time. The exemption is not automatic, which means you need to file a claim to receive it.

### Check your current PRE status:

When we say status, we're talking about the percentage of your PRE. This could range from 0 or 100 percent because you could live in a multi-family home or rent rooms in your home. For example, if you own a duplex and live in one side of it, you could have 50 percent PRE. If you do have 100 percent PRE, you won't pay any of the 18 mills of school operating tax.

### Here are a few options to check on your PRE status:

- Your most recent summer or winter tax bill
- The most recent notice of assessment mailed to you in January every year
- Look it up online. We have a guide on our website at [grandrapidsmi.gov/Directory/Guides/Search-or-Pay-using-BSA](http://grandrapidsmi.gov/Directory/Guides/Search-or-Pay-using-BSA)
- Call us and we can tell you. Dial 311 or 616.456.3000.

If you find out you have 0 percent PRE but you live in the home you own, you may file a PRE affidavit.



### The exemption is valid until you:

- Move out of your home
- Rent out your home
- Sell your home
- Some other status change

This form has to be filed on or before June 1 of the year you want the exemption to be applied. Print and file an original completed form with the Assessor's Office by mail or drop it off in person:

### Link to form:

[michigan.gov/documents/2368f\\_2605\\_7.pdf](http://michigan.gov/documents/2368f_2605_7.pdf)

### Mail to:

City of Grand Rapids Assessor's Office  
300 Monroe Ave. NW, Third Floor  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

### More questions? We're happy to help!

Please call 311 or 616.456.3000 or check out the Michigan Department of Treasury information page: [michigan.gov/taxes/0,4676,7-238-43535\\_43539-468609--,00.html](http://michigan.gov/taxes/0,4676,7-238-43535_43539-468609--,00.html).



## School-Parks Partnership Continues Momentum to Connect Children to Nature

With strong support from Mayor Rosalynn Bliss and Superintendent Teresa Weatherall Neal, the City of Grand Rapids and Grand Rapids Public Schools continue working to create meaningful nature-based experiences for young people in a variety of ways. Teachers are taking classroom lessons outdoors and after-school programs through the Expanded Learning Opportunity Network are focusing on STEAM curriculum to help children discover nature and environmental learning.

The local initiative to connect children to nature in Grand Rapids is specifically focusing on neighborhoods that lack green spaces and in communities of color, with the vision that “all Grand Rapids youth have equitable access to natural places and space for a happy and healthy life.”

This vision is becoming reality with the construction of a new green schoolyard at Burton Elementary and Middle School, which sits next to Plaster Creek Family Park. Youth voice and leadership is a central component of the project, and Burton students have risen to the challenge. Six fifth-grade students known as the “Plaster Creek Crew” led park audits and surveys and gave recommendations to the project team to improve their park space. The work of these students, along with input from parents, teachers, neighbors, Our Community’s Children, City and GRPS staff and the design team, made the plans a true community effort.

Construction will begin at the school-park site this summer thanks to funding support from the Wege Foundation and the 2013 Grand Rapids Parks Millage. Components of the project include an outdoor classroom, natural play features such as log tangles and a hillside slide, vegetable garden, rain garden, native meadow planting, community picnic area and athletic field improvements. The majority of play features in the “Meadows” natural playscape will be made from local trees stored by the City’s Forestry Division.

Burton School is one of four sites in park-deficient areas of the city that will benefit from green schoolyard projects over the next three years. Planning for projects at Buchanan Elementary, Sigsbee school site and Ken-O-Sha Elementary will begin with the community this spring and summer. Improvements to these sites will also seek to create inspirational spaces for children that encourage exploration and direct interaction with nature and highlight the unique ecology of Grand Rapids.

The impact of green schoolyards goes beyond students. The spaces provide countless benefits to the health and wellness of the community and environment. By elevating the voices of students and young people in the design process of these projects, GRPS is cultivating our community’s future leaders and environmental stewards.



*Six fifth-grade students known as the “Plaster Creek Crew” led park audits and surveys and gave recommendations to the project team to improve their park space.*



*Right: Log jam play feature similar to what will be installed at Plaster Creek Family Park.*

## Forestry Division’s Initiative Proves Successful for Proactive Tree Care Approach

In 2016, the City’s Forestry Division took the first step in transforming from a reactive system to a proactive system by completing a city tree inventory. All 86,000 identified trees, stumps and planting locations were put into the City’s database at the beginning of 2017. By Fall 2017, the Priority 1 Project launched to address the 1,558 tree removals and 1,479 tree prunes and a backlog of more than 1,800 stump grindings. A year later, the Forestry Division completed 1,900 high priority removals, 1,400 high priority prunes and all of the backlogged stumps in the system.

During the same time, Forestry staff responded to resident requests, monitored for forest health, and planned for the next phase of the proactive maintenance program. In addition, 500 of the removed trees were replanted in Fall 2018 with an additional 1,000 scheduled for Spring and Fall 2019. This winter and spring, Forestry will work alongside contractors to finish all the remaining high priority work orders in the system. Strategically addressing the identified medium priority work (Phase 2) begins Summer 2019, focusing on the areas with the most work first.

This focus on proactive work has allowed Forestry to double the amount of trees that get pruned or removed by in-house crews without a sizeable increase in staff. The goal of these quality efforts is to efficiently provide for a healthy and safe tree canopy and set a pruning cycle to minimize residents’ need to call in for service.



\*1,000 more plantings scheduled for 2019





**Parks and Recreation**  
CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

### General Information

- Ages 16 & up (all fitness levels welcome) - no one under age 16 is permitted
- Classes begin the week of March 24, 2019 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 program update/cancellation line at 616-456-3699
- You are encouraged to consult with a physician prior to beginning an exercise program

### Three ways to register



ONLINE  
recreationgr.us



BY PHONE  
616.456.3696, Option #1



IN PERSON  
201 Market Ave SW

### Two ways to save

- 1) Multiple classes equal a reduced rate!
- 2) Early bird-register between Jan 28-Feb 28

### Register between Jan. 28 - Feb. 28\*

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

\*online registration closes February 28.

### Register on Mar. 1, 2019\*\* or after

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

\*\*online registration not available.

### Looking for flexibility?

### **P** Adult Fitness Punchcards

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

Reg #	# of Classes /Punches	Fee Resident	Fee Nonresident
166000A	5	\$42	\$52
166000B	10	\$72	\$82
166000C	20	\$102	\$112
166000D	30	\$132	\$142

\*online registration closes February 28

Register online: [recreationgr.us](http://recreationgr.us)



## DANCE

CLASSES RUN FOR 10 WEEKS STARTING THE WEEK OF MARCH 24

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR	REG #
<b>BALLROOM DANCING</b>					
Join the growing West Michigan ballroom dance community. Learn the Salsa, Waltz, Foxtrot, East Coast Swing, Cha Cha, Rumba, and Tango.	MON	7:30 - 8:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	JULIE G.	166800A
<b>BALLROOM DANCING: THE NEXT STEPS</b>					
A follow-up to Ballroom Dancing. Continue practicing basic dances and learn new moves to add flair and style to your dance floor fun.	FRI	4:30 - 5:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	JULIE G.	166811A
<b>GROOVE </b>					
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. If you like to move to a variety of great music, this class is for you!	MON WED	6:30 - 7:25 PM 5:30 - 6:25 PM	KEC OAKLEIGH KEC OAKLEIGH	TERRI S. TERRI S.	166804A 166804B
<b>ZUMBA </b>					
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. AMY K.	166803A 166803B

## CYCLING

CLASSES RUN FOR 10 WEEKS STARTING THE WEEK OF MARCH 24










CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR	REG #
<b>CYCLE &amp; STRENGTH</b>					
A combination of high-intensity cycling intervals followed by strength exercises that target the arms, abs and lower back.	MON	6:30 - 7:25 PM	P&R CYCLING STUDIO	SADIE R.	166402A
<b>CYCLING </b>					
Reach your fitness goals while building leg and core strength! Powerful music and pace-setting instruction helps you climb steep hills, move across flat road, and master intense intervals.	MON TUE WED THU SAT	5:30 - 6:15 PM 6:30 - 7:15 PM 5:30 - 6:15 PM 6:00 - 6:45 PM 8:00 - 8:45 AM	P&R CYCLING STUDIO P&R CYCLING STUDIO P&R CYCLING STUDIO P&R CYCLING STUDIO P&R CYCLING STUDIO	CAROL S. STEVE C. JOAN O. JULIE S. ROTATION	166401A 166401B 166401C 166401D 166401E



# CARDIO & STRENGTH


CLASSES RUN FOR 10 WEEKS STARTING THE WEEK OF MARCH 24

Register online: [recreationgr.us](http://recreationgr.us)








CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR	REG #
<b>BOOTCAMP </b> Get ready to push yourself harder than you would on your own. With a mix of strength and cardio, this class is developed to help you improve your body composition, strength and endurance. Each week's workout will vary, challenging your body in different ways.	TUE	6:30 - 7:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	JULIE B.	166108A
<b>CARDIO &amp; CORE </b> 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	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	ZIYAH D.	166508A
<b>CORE CAMP </b> Weight training meets cardio blast intervals to keep your muscles and heart pumping! This class is as fun as it is effective, set to today's hottest music.	TUE	5:30 - 6:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	KRISTIN P.	166504A
<b>HULA HOOP FITNESS </b> Learn creative movement that goes beyond waist hooping. Bring the hoop up, down, and off the body while moving to music. Burn calories, tone your body, increase rhythm, and learn to move with a hoop. No experience necessary. Hula hoops provided and available for purchase.	WED	7:30 - 8:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	AUDRIA L.	166805A
<b>KICKBOXING </b> Mix up your routine with balance, coordination, and strength-building moves. Strengthen your legs, upper body, abs, and burn calories.	MON	5:30 - 6:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	SADIE R.	166300A
<b>POUND® </b> 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. Punchcard holders must have their own Ripstix®. Ripstix® available at registration for \$20.	THU	5:30 - 6:15 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	KRISTIN P.	HAS STIX 166406A  NEEDS STIX 166406B
<b>STRONG BY ZUMBA </b> 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.	166505A
<b>TABATA </b> This high-intensity strength and cardiovascular training class will utilize a variety of exercises in timed intervals. The four minute intervals include 20 seconds of work and 10 seconds of rest, repeated eight times. Expect to sweat, burn a ton of calories, get stronger, leaner and overall healthier..	TUE	6:00 - 6:55 AM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	CRYSTAL C.	166513A
<b>WATER AEROBICS </b> 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 THU SAT	6:30 - 7:25 PM 6:30 - 7:25 PM 9:00 - 9:55 AM	CITY HIGH CITY HIGH CITY HIGH	KATHLEEN H. KATHLEEN H. KATHLEEN H.	166702A 166702B 166702C



# YOGA

Register online: [recreationgr.us](http://recreationgr.us) 

CLASSES RUN FOR 10 WEEKS STARTING THE WEEK OF MARCH 24

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR	REG #
<b>BASIC YOGA</b>  Discover your inner yogi in a class that builds strength and body awareness. Begin with gentle stretching and move to flowing through and holding poses. Class will come to a restful end.	MON	12:15 - 1:00 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	SARA R.	166102A
	MON	5:30 - 6:25 PM	KEC OAKLEIGH	TERRI S.	166102B
	MON	6:30 - 7:25 PM	GARFIELD PARK GYM	AMY K.	166102C
	TUE	6:00 - 6:55 PM	N. PARK PRESBYTERIAN	BETH H.	166102D
	WED	6:00 - 6:55 PM	PALMER ELEMENTARY	KATHY W.	166102E
	WED	6:30 - 7:25 PM	KEC OAKLEIGH	TERRI S.	166102F
	THU	12:15 - 1:00 PM	CITY HALL	SARA R.	166102G
	THU	5:30 - 6:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	MARLA F.	166102H
	SAT	9:00 - 9:55 AM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	SARA R.	166102I
	SUN	6:00 - 6:55 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	KAYE E.	166102J
<b>CORE YOGA</b>  Focus on strengthening and toning your core with this all levels class. We will use primarily yoga and other familiar fitness moves to work this important muscle group and get a full body workout along the way.	WED	12:15 - 1:00 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	KRISTA D.	166110A
<b>GENTLE YOGA</b>  A balanced practice that will center you, leaving your body feeling open and relaxed. Basic poses and a slower flow unlock body tension, strengthen your core and help you tune into personal peace.	TUE	9:00 - 9:55 AM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	TERRI S.	166101A
	THU	9:00 - 9:55 AM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	TERRI S.	166101B
<b>RESTORATIVE YOGA</b>  Achieve deep relaxation with breath work, props, and holding simple poses. The slower pace helps 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.	166105A
<b>SUNRISE YOGA</b>  Start your day out right with this basic yoga class. Begin with stretching and move into a flow sequence that will wake you up and get you physically and mentally prepared to take on the day.	THU	6:00 - 6:55 AM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	KRISTA D.	166310A
<b>TAI CHI EASY™</b>  A gentle standing meditation, designed to encourage energy flow throughout the body. You will learn total-body movements that can be combined into forms that are unique to your needs. This practice is accessible to anyone wanting to invite calm and clarity into their life.	SUN	4:30 - 5:25 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	ALESHEIA H.	166600A
<b>QIGONG</b>  Pronounced "chee kung", this qigong practice will be a very gentle movement class, focusing on harnessing the power of our own mind, correcting postural imbalances, and combining movement with breath. We will practice standing, seated, and/or lying down. This practice is accessible to anyone seeking to bring healing energy into their life.	WED	10:00 - 10:55 AM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	ALESHEIA H.	166502A

## 5K TRAINING PROGRAM

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

	Resident	Non
Registration Fee	\$60	\$70

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	REG #
<b>ACHIEVE YOUR 2019 FITNESS GOALS! (AGES 18+)</b> The 5K training program meets twice a week (Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings) <b>beginning March 19</b> . In addition, our running expert will hold "chalk talks" before Saturday runs to provide vital information on running topics (shoes, stretching, nutrition, clothing, hydration). Each participant receives a fitness punch card to attend 10 fitness classes throughout the time period to incorporate cross training in your program. Race fee included.	MAR 19, 26 & APR 9, 16, 23, 30 MAR 23, 30 & APR 6, 13, 20, 27 RACE DAY - MAY 4	6:00 PM START 8:30 AM START TBD	START/FINISH AT 201 MARKET AVE SW PARKS & REC OFFICES	142791A

Register online: [recreationgr.us](http://recreationgr.us)

# YOUTH - FENCING

Registration Fee      Resident      Non  
 \$85      \$95

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	REG #
<b>YOUNG SQUIRES (AGES 5-7)</b> Great for beginners - no previous experience necessary. Plastic weapons will be used in this class.	WEDNESDAYS APRIL 24-MAY 29	4:30 - 5:15 PM	WEST MICHIGAN FENCING ACADEMY	134101A
<b>YOUTH (AGES 7-13)</b> Great for beginners - no previous experience necessary.	THURSDAYS APRIL 25-MAY 30	5:30 - 6:30 PM	WEST MICHIGAN FENCING ACADEMY	134102A
<b>CONTINUING YOUTH (AGES 7-13)</b> Must have already completed at least one 6-week class or camp. No additional equipment required.	MONDAYS APRIL 22-JUNE 3	5:30 - 6:30 PM	WEST MICHIGAN FENCING ACADEMY	134103A
<b>TEEN &amp; ADULT (AGES 14+)</b> Great for beginners - no previous experience or equipment necessary.	THURSDAYS APRIL 25-MAY 30	6:30 - 7:30 PM	WEST MICHIGAN FENCING ACADEMY	154100A

# YOUTH - GYMNASTICS

CLASSES RUN FOR 6 WEEKS STARTING THE WEEK OF APRIL 8

Register between Jan 28 - Feb 28      Resident      Non  
 \$42      \$52

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	REG #
<b>GYMNASTICS I (AGES 4-6)</b> For the younger gymnast to encourage success and fun in the gym. Kids learn tumbling and balancing basics with emphasis on strength and flexibility.	SAT	2:00 - 2:45 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	133100A
<b>GYMNASTICS II (AGES 5-9)</b> 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.	SAT	3:00 - 3:45 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	133101A

# YOUTH - DANCE

CLASSES RUN FOR 6 WEEKS STARTING THE WEEK OF APRIL 8

Register between Jan 28 - Feb 28      Resident      Non  
 \$42      \$52

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	REG #
<b>CREATIVE MOVEMENT (AGES 3-4)</b> This class is perfect for young kids' first dance class. Kids work on engaging with the instructor and other students. This class helps kids explore through ballet, games, and exercises on the mats.	FRI SUN	10:15 - 11:00 AM 1:00 - 1:45 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	127100A 127100B
<b>HIP HOP (AGES 6-12)</b> Kids learn the basics of hip hop in an upbeat environment. Activities include stretching, isolations, rhythms, and funky footwork along with different body movements.	SUN SUN	2:00 - 2:45 PM (AGES 6-8) 3:00 - 3:45 PM (AGES 9-12)	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	100195A 100195B

# YOUTH - YOGA

CLASSES RUN FOR 6 WEEKS STARTING THE WEEK OF APRIL 8

Register between Jan 28 - Feb 28      Resident      Non  
 \$42      \$52

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	REG #
<b>KIDS YOGA (AGES 5-9)</b> Kids will be introduced to yoga in a fun, active class.	SAT	10:00 - 10:45 AM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	136400A



Register online: [recreationgr.us](http://recreationgr.us)

# YOUTH - SWIM LESSONS

CLASSES RUN FOR 6 WEEKS, APRIL 20 - MAY 25

	Resident	Non
Registration Fee	\$38	\$48

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	REG #
<b>PRESCHOOL LEVEL I (AGES 3-5)</b> Level 1 helps children become more familiar with the water and helps them learn basic skills. Participants begin to develop positive attitudes and safe practices in and around the water. Participants should be comfortable in the water without a parent.	SAT	11:30 AM - NOON	CITY HIGH POOL	121101C1
<b>PRESCHOOL LEVEL II (AGES 3-5)</b> Participants work on skills such as floating, breath control, arm and leg actions on their front and back. They will be working towards performing these skills independently with the supervision of a swim instructor. Participants must be comfortable in the water without a parent, understand floating and be comfortable putting their whole face in the water.	SAT	11:30 AM - NOON	CITY HIGH POOL	121102C1
<b>LEVEL I (AGES 6+)</b> This is an introductory class that helps participants become more comfortable in the water. Participants learn basic swimming and water safety skills throughout the class. Participants should learn how to enter and exit the water without assistance, breath control, floating with assistance, arm and leg actions for front and back crawl, and how to stay safe near water..	SAT	10:30 - 11:15 AM	CITY HIGH POOL	131101C1
<b>LEVEL II (AGES 6+)</b> Participants build on foundation skills such as simultaneous and alternating arm and leg actions on front and back, floating and gliding so they can be performed without support, increasing distance, and greater endurance. Participants must be able to swim two body lengths with support.	SAT	10:30 - 11:15 AM	CITY HIGH POOL	131102C1
<b>LEVEL III (AGES 6+)</b> Participants start learning new strokes: elementary backstroke, breaststroke kick, dolphin kick, scissors kick, rotary breathing, and survival floating are taught at this level. Participants must be able to swim at least five body lengths (15 feet) on front and back without support or assistance.	SAT	9:30 - 10:15 AM	CITY HIGH POOL	131103C1
<b>LEVEL IV (AGES 6+)</b> Participants work toward increasing distance and stamina for swimming and treading water. Participants work on new strokes and refining previously learned swimming skills. This class works on breaststroke, butterfly, sidestroke, basic diving and open turns. Participants must have an understanding of elementary backstroke, breaststroke kick, rotary breathing, dolphin kick and scissor kicks. Participants need to be able to swim 15 yards front crawl, back crawl and elementary backstroke before entering this class.	SAT	9:30 - 10:15 AM	CITY HIGH POOL	131104C1

## YOUTH - SPRING SOCCER

### QUICK INFO

- Practices begin March 26 or 28
- Games begin April 13
- Season ends May 18
- Each team practices for one hour per week
- Each team plays one game per week on Saturdays
- Children of all abilities are welcome to play

### REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 28

(RESIDENTS: \$45, NONRESIDENTS: \$55)

#### ONLINE

[grandrapidsmi.gov](http://grandrapidsmi.gov)  
 Search "soccer"

#### BY PHONE

616.456.3696  
Option #1

#### IN PERSON

201 Market Ave SW  
Form at [grcity.us/parks](http://grcity.us/parks)

Register online: [recreationgr.us](http://recreationgr.us)

# KAYAKING CLASSES AND RENTALS

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	REG #
<b>BEGINNER KAYAKING</b> Learn the basics of Kayaking! From basic safety, wearing a flotation device, to launching, and paddling. All equipment included.  <b>Ages 10+, Resident: \$45, Non: \$55</b>	THURSDAY, MAY 2	6:00 - 8:00 PM	RICHMOND PARK POND	184104A
	THURSDAY, MAY 30	6:00 - 8:00 PM	RICHMOND PARK POND	184104B

## KAYAK RENTALS

Starting April 26, 2019 Parks and Recreation will be offering kayak rentals at Riverside Park on the internal waterways. Kayakers are required to stay within the park and are not allowed on the Grand River. Weather permitting, rental kayaks will be available Friday, Saturday, and Sunday afternoons from 12:00-4:00 pm. Ages 10+ are permitted to rent kayaks. Must be 16+ to rent a kayak alone. Each kayak is only \$8 for the first hour and \$6 for each additional hour of use.

For more information, visit [grandrapidsmi.gov](http://grandrapidsmi.gov) and search "Kayak Rentals".

# PHOTOGRAPHY

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	REG #
<b>DIGITAL EDITING 101</b> Make your photographs look amazing! Unlock the power of your editing software, and learn the art of editing your digital photographs in this hands-on course. Improve your photos by learning basic photo editing skills that you can use on any device, like your computer or phone. No software purchase necessary.  <b>Ages 16+, Cost: Residents \$50, Nonresidents \$60</b>	WEDNESDAYS APR 23, 30 & MAY 7	6:30 - 8:00 PM	PORTER HILLS VILLAGE	184603A
				184601A
<b>DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY 101</b> Digital cameras are powerful tools, but they only produce great results when you know how to use all the features. Join Grand Rapids portrait photographer, Josh from Weiland Studios, for a hands-on photography course. This photography course is designed for anyone who already owns a camera and wants to learn how to properly use its settings and modes to take better photos of family, friends, or nature. Bringing a Digital Camera (DSLR) is recommended but not required.  <b>Ages 16+, Cost: Residents \$75, Nonresidents \$85</b>	TUESDAYS APR 24 & MAY 1	6:30 - 8:30 PM	PORTER HILLS VILLAGE	184601A
				184601A

## 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 registration fee.

## REFUND POLICY:

A full refund is granted until the Early Bird Registration Deadline listed on the registration form. A \$5.00 cancellation fee will be charged if the refund is requested after the early-bird registration deadline, but prior to the first session of a class. If a refund is granted to a participant who registered online, the convenience fee will not be refunded.

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

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

## CANCELLATIONS:

If a class or program is cancelled due to weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances, an announcement will be made on the Recreation Program Update/Cancellation Line at (616) 456-3699. Please call this number if you have any question as to whether classes will be held. This line is updated on a regular basis so feel free to 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 our Web site at [www.grcity.us/parksandrec](http://www.grcity.us/parksandrec) or by calling (616) 456-3696. Applications must be submitted prior to the deadline for processing.

# KARATE

	Resident	Non
Registration fee:	\$60	\$70

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	REG #
<b>SHORIN RYU KARATE (AGES 12+)</b> Shorin Ryu Karate is one of the major modern Okinawan martial arts and is one of the oldest styles of karate. Instructor Frank Coronado has 27 years of martial arts experience and is a fourth degree black belt in Shorin Ryu Karate.  In these classes students will be instructed, how to properly make a fist and how to properly punch. The 15 basic techniques, which include blocking, punching and kicking, will also be part of the training. Self-defense techniques will also be included in the training sessions. Students should wear loose clothing or clothing that they feel comfortable in.	MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS  APR 8 - MAY 30	6:30 - 7:30 PM	P&R FITNESS STUDIO	111124A

## CLASS LOCATIONS:

- City Hall - 300 Monroe Ave NW
- City High - 1720 Plainfield Ave NE
- Garfield Park Gym - 2111 Madison Ave SE
- KEC Oakleigh - 2223 Gordon St NW
- N. Park Presbyterian - 500 N. Park St NE
- Palmer Elementary - 309 Palmer St NE
- P&R Cycling Studio - 201 Market Ave SW
- P&R Fitness Studio - 201 Market Ave SW
- Porter Hills Village - 3600 Fulton St E
- Richmond Park - 1101 Richmond St NW
- Riverside Park - 2001 Monroe Ave NW
- West MI Fencing Academy - 1111 Godfrey Ave SW



## BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

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Director

Marla J. Ehlers  
Assistant Director



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## Mission: Read! Blasts Off

Children in elementary school can rocket into reading with a new program at their library. Mission: Read is a fun way to grow reading skills and make reading a daily habit. The mission is to read for 1,000 days before 6th grade.

In 2016, state reading tests show that only 46% of third-graders passed the English language arts exam. Of those who did not pass, 25% were “partially proficient” and 29% were “not proficient.” Mission: Read helps beginning readers to develop a daily reading habit and improve reading skills.

The first goal of Mission: Read is to help grow strong reading habits and improve test scores. Students in Kindergarten through third grade can sign up for the program at their local library. All the public libraries in Kent County are offering the program. For every 100 days of reading, each participant will get a planet sticker for their star chart. The 500 day prize is a book and the 1,000 day prize is a digital tablet reader.

The second goal of Mission: Read is to help students with low reading assessment scores. A family can go to their local public library when a student needs help with a specific reading skill. Libraries have books and activities to strengthen these specific skills.

Starting in the 2019-20 school year, students who are at least one grade level behind in reading by the end of third grade will be held back. This new law hopes

to improve childhood literacy. Research shows that high third grade reading scores predicts future academic success.

Starting in Kindergarten, students take tests three times a year to measure their reading progress. Students who read below grade level will have an Individualized Reading Improvement Plan (IRIP). The IRIP identifies up to five specific reading skills that may need improvement. These skills include phonics, phonemic awareness, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. It also includes a “Read at Home Plan” to encourage reading support outside of school.

Third-grade students will take the M-STEP reading test near the end of the school year. If their score is below the threshold, they may not advance to fourth grade.

### GRPL librarians can help you:

- understand your child’s Individualized Reading Improvement Plan (IRIP)
- boost your child’s reading skills
- find books your child will love
- learn tips for reading with your child
- discover ways to teach your child about sounds (phonemic awareness), letters (phonics), reading smoothly (fluency), and understanding stories (comprehension)



One of the best ways to make sure your young child is ready to learn to read is to join a GRPL storytime. All library storytimes, whether for babies, toddlers, or preschoolers, introduce sounds and letters, increase vocabulary, and help children understand stories. Library staff are experts in finding the right books for helping new readers become strong readers.

To learn more about Mission: Read, visit [www.missionread.org](http://www.missionread.org).

Partners in Reading Success is a collaboration between the Grand Rapids Public Library, Kent District Library, the Literacy Center of West Michigan, and Kent ISD. The group helps parents and their children understand the new third grade reading requirements. Their goals include: boosting children’s reading skills and love for reading; finding the right books for children; and helping parents understand their child’s Individualized Reading Improvement Plan.

## 51st Dyer-Ives Poetry Competition

The Dyer-Ives Poetry Competition started in 1968 to encourage excellence in local writing. The annual contest is open to poets ages five through adult who live in Kent County. Submissions are accepted every February and winners are notified in the spring. Winners have their poems published in *Voices*, receive a cash award, and take part in a reading in June.

### About the Dyer-Ives Poetry Competition

- FREE to enter
- CASH prizes
- PUBLICATION in the annual literary journal, *Voices*
- WINNERS read poems at the Awards Reading held during Grand Rapids’ Festival of the Arts in June 2019
- Open to Kent County, Michigan residents of all ages and students attending classes within Kent County including GVSU

### Divisions and Awards

First Division –  
Kindergarten through Eighth Grade  
1st Place: \$100  
2nd Place: \$75  
3rd Place: \$50

Second Division –  
High School through Undergraduate  
1st Place: \$125  
2nd Place: \$100  
3rd Place: \$75

Third Division –  
Graduate Student through Adult  
1st Place: \$150  
2nd Place: \$125  
3rd Place: \$100

### How to Enter

- Submissions will be accepted February 1 – February 28, 2019.
- Visit [www.grpl.org/dyer-ives](http://www.grpl.org/dyer-ives) for submission guidelines.

All winners are notified by May 1, 2019.

Sponsored by:



## Smart Kids Start Here!

### Get Your Child Ready to Read with these Interactive Storytimes

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

#### Baby & Me 0 – 18 months

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

Mondays, January 21 – March 25

12:30 pm | West Leonard Branch

Wednesdays, January 23 – March 27

11:00 am | Yankee Clipper Branch

Thursdays, January 24 – March 28

10:30 am | Seymour Branch



#### Toddler Time 18 months – 3 years

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, January 22 – March 26

11:00 am | Main Library

Wednesdays, January 23 – March 27

10:30 am | Seymour Branch

11:00 am | West Leonard Branch

Thursdays, January 24 – March 28

11:00 am | Yankee Clipper Branch

#### STEAM Ahead 3 – 5 years

Come share books, stories, rhymes, music, and movement with the whole family! Family Time is a 20-minute storytime followed by a hands-on activity and playtime.

Tuesdays, January 22 – March 26

6:30 pm | Yankee Clipper Branch

Wednesdays, January 23 – March 17

11:00 am | Main Library

Thursdays, January 24 – March 28

11:00 am | West Leonard Branch



#### Pajama Time Families with children 5 years and under

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

Tuesdays, January 22 – March 26

6:30 pm | Seymour Branch

Thursdays, January 24 – March 28

6:30 pm | Yankee Clipper Branch

#### Bilingual Pajama Time Families with children 5 years and under

Join us for a bilingual storytime and share stories, rhymes, music, and movement with the whole family in the evening! Pajama Time in Spanish is a 30-minute long storytime followed by a hands-on activity and playtime. Wear your pajamas and get those wiggles out before bed!

Mondays, January 21 – March 25

6:30 pm | West Leonard Branch

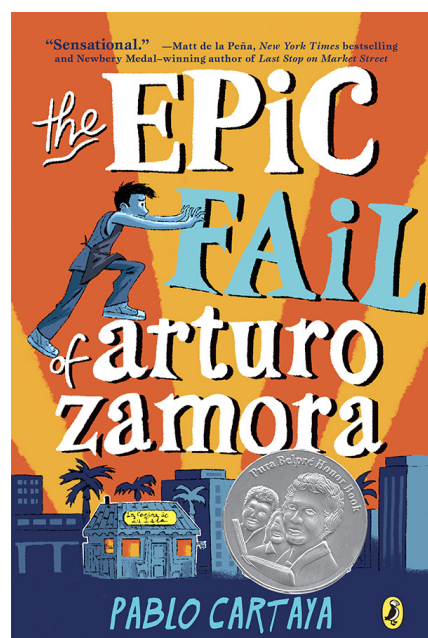
#### Hora de Pijamas en Español Familias con niños menores de 5 años

¡Ven a la biblioteca para disfrutar una hora de cuentos bilingüe para toda la familia! Compartiremos cuentos, rimas, música, y movimiento. La Hora de Pijamas en español incluye 30 minutos de lectura y movimiento seguido por una actividad para los niños y tiempo para jugar juntos. ¡Ven a la biblioteca vestido en tus pijamas para un evento especial antes de dormir!

Cada lunes del 21 de enero al 25 de marzo

6:30 pm | Sucursal West Leonard

## The One Book, One City for Kids 2019 Selection is...



#### The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora by Pablo Cartaya.

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

#### About the book The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora:

Save the restaurant. Save the town. Get the girl. Make Abuela proud. Can thirteen-year-old Arturo Zamora do it

all or is he in for a BIG, EPIC, FAIL?

For Arturo, summertime in Miami means playing basketball until dark, sipping mango smoothies, and keeping cool under banyan trees. And a few shifts as junior lunchtime dishwasher at Abuela's restaurant. But this summer also includes Carmen, a cute girl who moves into Arturo's apartment complex and turns his stomach into a deep fryer. He almost doesn't notice the smarmy land developer who rolls into town and threatens to change it. Arturo refuses to let his family and community go down without a fight. As he schemes with Carmen, Arturo discovers the power of poetry and protest through untold family stories and the work of José Martí.

#### Meet the Author Pablo Cartaya

Meet Pablo Cartaya, the author of *The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora* on Monday, March 11 at 6:00 pm at the Main Library. He is an award-winning author, speaker, actor and educator. His other books include *Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish* and *Tina Cocolina: Queen of the Cupcakes*. Pablo often gives talks on writing, reading, and multilingualism. Refreshments and a book signing will follow his talk.

Copies of the book are available to check out at all GRPL locations. To learn more, visit [www.grpl.org/onebookforkids](http://www.grpl.org/onebookforkids).

Sponsored by:





## 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

# Free Classes for Adults at the Library!

All computer classes are held at the Main Library (111 Library Street NE) in the Adult Computer Training Center on the Lower Level.

For more information on each of these classes, visit [www.grpl.org/computer](http://www.grpl.org/computer).

### Exploring Social Media and Email

Tuesday, January 22  
1:00 pm | Main Library

Thursday, March 21  
11:00 am | Main Library

Monday, April 22  
6:30 pm | Yankee Clipper Branch

### Managing Your Digital Footprint

Tuesday, January 29  
1:00 pm | Main Library

Thursday, March 28  
11:00 am | Main Library

Monday, April 29  
6:30 pm | Yankee Clipper Branch

### Building Basic Computer Skills

Thursday, March 7  
11:00 am | Main Library

Monday, April 8  
6:30 pm | Yankee Clipper Branch

### Discovering the Internet

Thursday, March 14  
11:00 am | Main Library

Monday, April 15  
6:30 pm | Yankee Clipper Branch

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

Tuesday, April 9  
1:00 pm | Main Library

### Social Media Privacy: Taking Control of Your Profiles

Thursday, January 17  
11:00 am | Main Library

Tuesday, April 16  
1:00 pm | Main Library

### Backup Basics: How to Secure Your Data

Thursday, January 31  
11:00 am | Main Library

Tuesday, April 30  
1:00 pm | Main Library

## Open Lab – Bilingual Computer Help

Need help with your computer, tablet, or smartphone? We're happy to help. Stop by during our drop-in computer help sessions.

Drop-in sessions at the Main Library:  
Wednesdays, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm  
January 9 – May 22  
(No Open Lab session on April 3)

### Comprenew Connect

During Open Lab sessions, GRPL is also partnering with Comprenew to offer computer literacy training designed to help members of our community learn to operate technology and acquire a home computer. Those that complete at least eight sessions will have an opportunity to receive a discounted and warrantied computer from a Comprenew store. To enroll in the Comprenew program, stop in at one of our Open Lab sessions.

## Small Business Resource Center Classes

All business classes are held at the Main Library (111 Library Street NE) in the Adult Computer Training Center on the Lower Level.

### Small Business Research Essentials

Wednesday, January 23  
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

### How to Use the Library to Write a Business Plan

Wednesday, January 30  
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

### How to Use the Library to Write a Marketing Plan

Wednesday, February 6  
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

### NEW SERIES! Job Seeking at Your Library

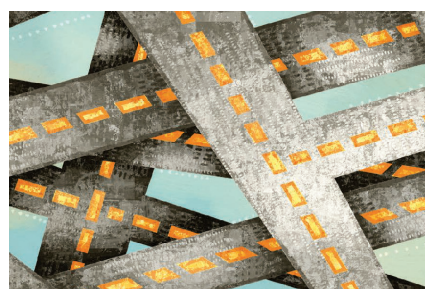
*Session 1: The Process of Finding Good Work*  
Wednesday, February 13  
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

*Session 2: Interviewing for Normal People*  
Wednesday, February 20  
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

*Session 3: Writing for Success*  
Wednesday, February 27  
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

## Life-Long Learning Starts with Lynda.com

Are you interested in learning a new skill that will help you get a new job or grow in your current job? Achieve your personal and professional goals! Lynda.com is a leading online learning company that helps anyone learn business, technology and creative skills.



The lynda.com video library has over 6,300 engaging courses and 267,000 video tutorials taught by recognized industry experts. Grand Rapids Public Library cardholders can gain the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in their career. With tutorials in five languages, including Spanish, French, and German, Lynda.com is a global platform for success.



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- Audio and Music
- Business
- CAD
- Design
- Developer
- Education
- IT
- Marketing
- Photography
- Video
- Web

Visit [www.grpl.org/download](http://www.grpl.org/download) to get started.

# Taste of Soul Sunday 2019

February 17, 2019 | 1:00 – 4:30 pm | Main Library

Join us as we celebrate African American history and culture at Taste of Soul Sunday. Sample African American art, music, literature, history, and food. This event is free and open to the public. Visit [www.grpl.org/tasteofsoul](http://www.grpl.org/tasteofsoul) for more details.

## LISTEN

Tom Cutts

1:00 – 1:30 pm

Yolonda Lavender

1:30 – 2:15 pm

Asamu Johnson and  
the Associates of the Blues

2:30 – 3:15 pm

The Gospel Believers

3:30 – 4:15 pm



## LEARN

Author Visit: Stephen Mack Jones

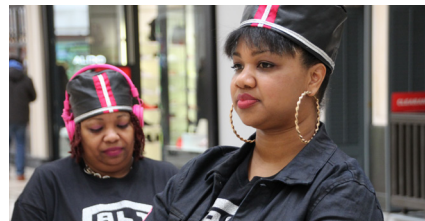
1:30 pm & 3:00 pm

Stephen Mack Jones will discuss his two *August Snow* novels which explore themes such as race and economic inequality.

Scenes from “The Meeting” by Ebony Road Players

2:15 & 3:30 pm

Join us for pivotal scenes from the powerful play “The Meeting,” performed by local theatre troupe Ebony Road Players. “The Meeting” is a 1987 American play by Jeff Stetson about an imaginary meeting between Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X in 1965 in a hotel in Harlem during the height of the Civil Rights Movement.



New Hope Baptist Church Live African American Museum

1:00 – 4:00 pm

Watch some of the most important and influential figures in African American history come to life as they share their life stories, struggles, and accomplishments.

## CREATE

Let’s Move Dance Party

1:30 pm – 2:15 pm

African American Pottery Workshop

3:00 – 4:00 pm

Learn about the life of African American potter, David Drake, and make your own works of art with clay. All materials will be provided.

Sankofa: Black History Through Storytelling

3:30 – 4:30 pm

Shani and Jamari Womack bring their love of community and storytelling in this workshop where they will show the importance of history and how people from all walks of life can find ways to share their own stories. Bring an item important to you or your family for this workshop.



Kids Crafts

1:00 – 4:00 pm

## EAT

Enjoy free food samples provided by The Candied Yam, Flavorful Pound Cakes & Treats, Irie Kitchen, and TaDow! BBQ.

Sponsored by:



## Related Events

Check out these additional events beyond Taste of Soul Sunday:



Music in the Stacks: JRob

Thursday, February 7

7:00 pm | Main Library

JRob is a super talented lyrical emcee. Growing up listening to Nas, A Tribe called Quest, and Tupac, he brings reality and substance to his music. JRob is also big on giving back to his community having put concerts together for causes like Autism Awareness and Back to School concerts. You can find JRob's musical projects “Peace of a King,” and his most recent project titled “Good Aint Enough” on all major streaming sites.

Hustle/Step Soul Line Dance Party

Tuesday, February 12

7:00 pm | Main Library

The library is the perfect place to learn—and why not learn how to Hustle/Step? DJ and dance instructor Andre Posey will be leading us through both simple and complicated hustle soul line dances. Soul line dances are unpartnered line dances that are easy enough that anyone from kids to seniors can join in on the fun.

## Explore Your Family History at the Library

The Grand Rapids Public Library is a great place to learn more about your family history. Join us for these free classes to learn how.



Black Family History Series

Saturdays, February 9 and 23, 2019

10:00 am – 3:30 pm | Main Library

Join us for a series of workshops that will help people of African American ancestry learn and document family history. Local genealogist Joyce Daniels will teach you how to investigate your roots. She will also help you connect with others around family history. Registration is not required, however a free lunch is provided if you RSVP to [rsvp@grpl.org](mailto:rsvp@grpl.org).

Co-sponsor: Western Michigan Genealogical Society.

Getting Started (or restarted) in Genealogy

Thursdays, February 28 – April 4, 2019

7:00 pm | Main Library

Whether you have been working on your family's genealogy for decades or are just getting started, this class is for you. In this six-week series, Susan Rabick will teach basic and advanced research strategies. Learn about four generation charts, family group sheets, and organizing your research. Discover how to use databases and primary sources to research family histories.

*Genealogy topics include:*

February 28 – Introduction and four generation charts

March 7 – Family group sheets and WMGS databases

March 14 – Census records and Ancestry

March 21 – FamilySearch and programs

March 28 – Resources at GRPL

April 4 – GenWeb sites, organizing and preserving research

Co-sponsor: Western Michigan Genealogical Society



## 50+ PROGRAMS AT GARFIELD PARK GYM

These programs are designed for ages 50+, however, everyone is welcome to join in. In addition to these classes, monthly community activities like book club, knitting club and community enrichment programs are available. Stop in to pick up a monthly calendar of activities or to check out any of our classes. Find more information at [grandrapidsmi.gov](http://grandrapidsmi.gov), keyword "50+", or by calling (616) 456-3696 option 1.

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	PRICE
<b>STRETCH AND FLEX (NEW TIME!)</b> This exercise class focuses on increasing strength, balance and flexibility of a participant. The class begins with chair exercises includes hand weights.	MON & WED	10:00 - 11:00 AM	\$3/class
<b>ACTIVE ADULTS FITNESS</b> This class includes a warm-up, standing cardio and strength training. This is a great fitness class for all adults. Classes are drop in and on going. Your first class is free!	TUE & WED	11:30 AM - 12:25 PM	\$3/class
<b>LUNCH TIME BASKETBALL (BEGINS JANUARY 14)</b> Free open gym time for drop-in basketball. Stop in and shoot some hoops or bring in a group and get some games started. Please bring dry shoes to play.	MON	12:00 PM - 1:30 PM	Free
<b>WALKING CLUB</b> Come walk your way to health and meet new friends. You may walk in the Gym or the Park. Everyone welcome!	MON - THU	9:00 - 9:55 AM	Free
<b>LUNCH TIME PICKLEBALL (BEGINS JANUARY 16)</b> Let get together to play this great court game! Never played? We will teach you. We have equipment for new players to use. Come see what Pickleball is all about.	WED	12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Free

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