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April 2022 | Vol. 20 | Issue 4 | Section A

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Manager Committed to Full Transparency and Making Our Community a Safe Community for All



It has been nearly two weeks since the officer involved shooting which resulted in the death of Patrick Lyoya. Many in our community – including myself – continue to grapple with what's happened. I continue to offer my prayers and condolences to the Lyoya family and prayers for the officer and his family.

Each of us are processing in our own way as we navigate the range of emotions these events bring out. For some, that involves difficult private conversations with friends, family and faith leaders. For others, it means engaging more publicly at City Commission meetings, community forums, or peaceful demonstrations in the streets. All are ways of working through what our community is currently experiencing.

I am committed to full transparency and making our community a safe community for all. The City has a policy that requires all officer involved shootings be independently investigated by the Michigan State Police. As I write this, the prosecutor and the City are still awaiting the results of the Michigan State Police investigation. I hope the State Police

will expedite its investigation to help provide further clarity around what happened. Our Community, the Lyoya family, and the officer involved in the shooting deserve a fair and impartial process that results in justice.

When I saw the video, I immediately had questions. What caused this to happen? What more could have been done to prevent this from occurring? I continue to ask those questions and will be looking for those answers within a completed investigation. Additionally, I expect our new Chief to enhance de-escalation training and continue to improve our policies and practices to help mitigate such situations in the future. As a nationally recognized expert on the use of force, our new police chief, Chief Eric Winstrom, is well-positioned to help us find answers, identify accountability and propose improvements.

The public has my promise to cooperate with any external investigation fully, conduct all internal investigations with integrity and make decisions related to the findings with transparency. As we move forward there will be understandable expressions of shock, anger and pain. This City has the courage to embrace the tough questions and find the answers that our city deserves. The release of the body camera video prior to the completion of the external Michigan State Police investigation shows we are committed to operating with full transparency and accountability to ensure that justice prevails.

I want to thank our many community partners for providing the necessary support, while still holding us accountable to make sure your government not only does things right in terms of process but also does the right thing. I also want to thank Chief Winstrom for his commitment to transparency. He is new to this community and to his role, but has taken our community values to heart.

There will be difficult questions and tough decisions to come as we continue through this investigation. I know there will not be easy answers, but I believe that this community will rise to the occasion as we find the answers together. I ask that you stay engaged and continue to help us improve our community.

Mark Washington, City Manager

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Mental Health Resources

There are many mental health resources available in our community. Below are resources to help you through this difficult time.

Disaster Distress Helpline

24/7 emotional support and tips for coping.
800-985-5990 or text "TalkWithUs" to 66746

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

800-273-8255
Text "Talk" to 741741
En Español: 888-628-9454 Para obtener asistencia en español durante las 24 horas

Network 180

Mental health services for those on Medicaid or uninsured
616-336-3909
800-749-7720

Pine Rest Urgent Care Center

Provides immediate assessment and treatment for people experiencing acute psychiatric symptoms.
616-455-9200

Arbor Circle

Mental health services for all ages.
616-456-6571

Cherry Health

Mental health services for all ages.
Adults: 616-965-8291
Children: 616-965-8291

Mental Health Foundation

Navigating Your Mental Health During COVID-19
Resources, videos, & activities to help stay mentally healthy.
<https://www.benice.org>

24/7 Mental Health Hospitals

Forest View Hospital
800-949-8439
Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services
800-678-5000

**ECRWSS
Postal Customer**

GRPS my choice
Grand Rapids Public Schools
1331 Franklin S.E., PO Box 1117
Grand Rapids, MI 49501-0117

Community Generates More Than 100 Potential PBGR Projects; Submission Portal Closes May 31



With just over one month remaining to collect community project ideas, the Participatory Budgeting Grand Rapids (PBGR) Steering Committee says it has hit the 100 ideas milestone.

The list of all ideas submitted through PBGR initiative are preliminary and have not yet been vetted to ensure that the ideas meet American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) qualifications or have been determined to be feasible. However, PBGR Chair Michael Scholten said he is encouraged by the quantity, quality and creativity of the ideas submitted. The full vetting of all ideas will only be made after the project submission window closes May 31.

The PBGR Steering Committee reports that ideas have been submitted by residents living in all three City wards and that would benefit all residents. Ideas range from “accelerating replacement of lead service lines in city neighborhoods” to “becoming the first city in the world with 1000gb connection to the internet.”

Fiscal Year 2023 City Budget Review Schedule Finalized

The Grand Rapids City Commission's Fiscal Committee has finalized the schedule to receive and consider the City Manager's proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Preliminary Fiscal Plan.

- Tuesday, May 3 - Introduction of the FY 2023 Preliminary Fiscal Plan and Budget Review Workshop (9 a.m.)
- Tuesday, May 10 - Budget Review Workshop (COW 10 a.m.)
- Tuesday, May 10 - Budget Review Workshop (1 p.m.)
- Tuesday, May 17 - City Commission Public Hearing (Budget and Fees) (7 p.m.)
- Tuesday, May 24 - Budget Discussion and Deliberation (COW 10 a.m.)
- Tuesday, May 24 - City Commission Adoption (7 p.m.)

The public is invited to participate by watching and sharing their thoughts on the City's proposed spending plan. All workshops, meetings and the public hearing will air on Comcast Channel 26 and be live streamed on the City of Grand Rapids Facebook page (@CityOfGrandRapids) and YouTube channel. Those wanting to comment on the FY 2023 Preliminary Fiscal Plan are invited to attend the 7 p.m. May 17 public hearing. Written comments can be submitted to the cityclerk@grcity.us.

Some ideas address the economic and health impacts of COVID-19: “Covid continues to impact all health care workers in hospitals and long-term care facilities. A lot of overtime and mandatory long shifts are exhausting those who care for the sickest, doing everything to bring health to the sick while their health (mental and physical) is declining. I would like to see free gym memberships and/or therapy classes that is tailored to improve their own well-being.” Others address investments in housing and re-housing: “In the spirit of the origins of Participatory Budgeting from the pilot project in Brazil...My proposal is to provide a path to home ownership for folks who are typically relegated to renting due to lower income and social status within the community.”

Still others provide general ideas to improve the quality of life of Grand Rapids: “More street sweeping, mowing and cleanup,” “Pave the alleys near downtown,” and “Provide every home a yard waste bin.”

The PBGR Committee, responsible for overseeing the PBGR initiative, is now accepting community project ideas by way of its idea submission portal at PBGR.org. The City of Grand Rapids has reserved \$2 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to fund community projects across all three Grand Rapids City wards. Those who have a great idea to improve the quality of life in your neighborhood can submit an idea and PBGR and can make your idea a reality.

Ideas that meet specific ARPA funding priorities may be submitted for consideration through May 31 in one of four

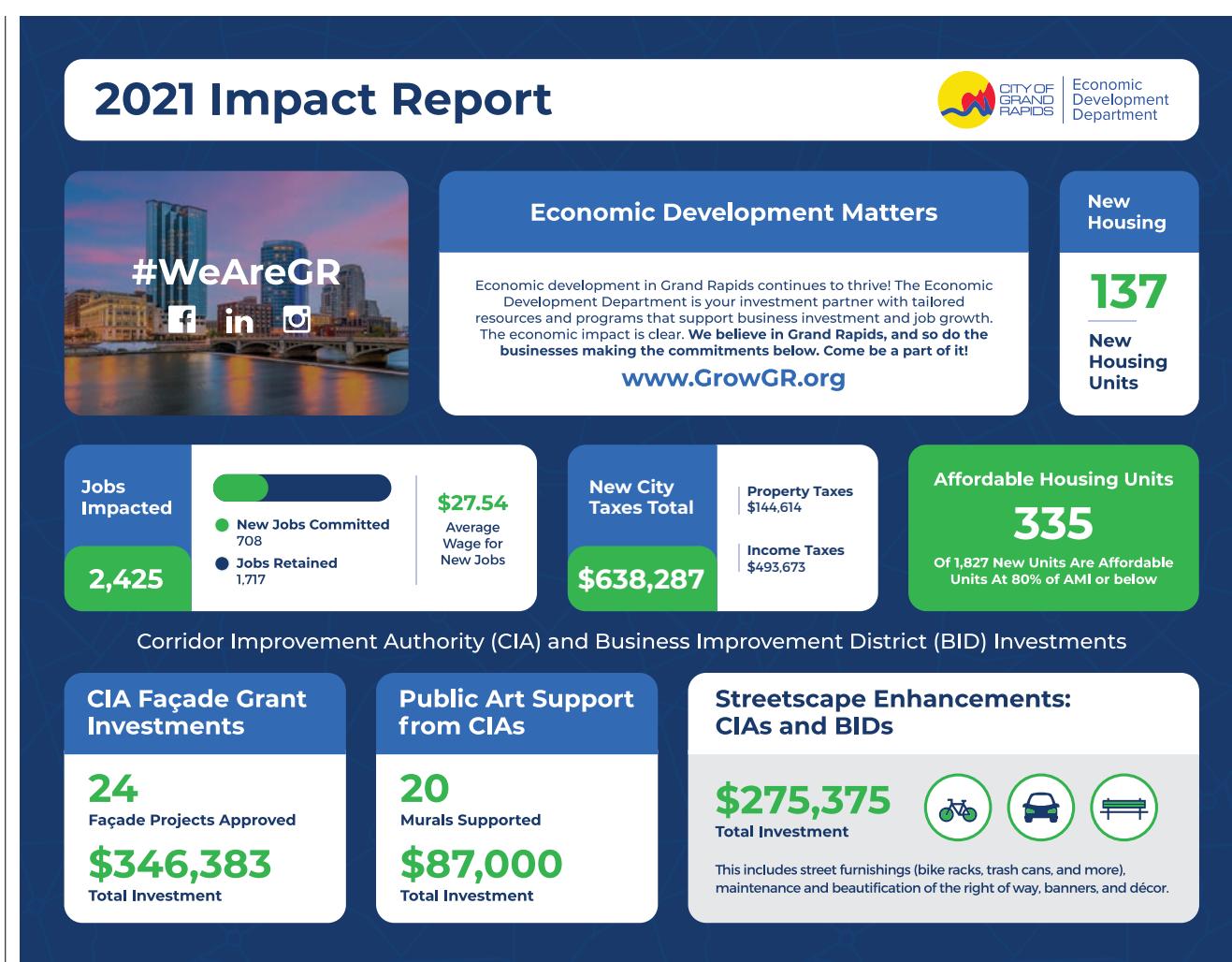
ways:

- Completing the PBGR Idea Submission Survey at: publicinput.com/PBGrandRapids
- Texting “pb” to 73224
- Calling and providing your idea to 311 or dialing 616.456.3000
- Printing the idea submission survey PDF at PBGR.org, filling it out and returning in-person or via U.S. Mail to the City's Customer Service Center located at: 300 Monroe Avenue NW Grand Rapids, MI 49503. Multiple ideas may be submitted, but each should be submitted on a separate form and returned.

Submitted ideas must fit within one or more of the following categories to be considered and eligible for funding:

- Infrastructure investments related to water, wastewater and broadband
- Evidence-based violence reduction strategies
- Remediation of lead paint or other lead hazards in homes
- Economic and health impacts of COVID-19 (includes assistance to households, small businesses and nonprofits)
- Incentive pay to front-line workers
- Investments in housing and re-housing
- Addressing educational disparities
- Investing in healthy childhood environments

To learn more about the project, the steering committee, or sign up for the newsletter, please visit PBGR.org, facebook.com/PBGrandRapids and twitter.com/PBGrandRapids.



State Awards Major Grant to Grow Grand River Greenway in Grand Rapids

Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer recently signed a historic infrastructure investment plan into law that awards Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. (DGRI) significant grant funding to support the ambitious transformation of the Grand River corridor as it flows through the urban core of Kent County.

Representative Thomas Albert, of Lowell in Kent County, led passage of the deal through the Michigan Legislature. DGRI will work with local partners to guide investment of the funds and help achieve two critical community goals:

- Rehabilitating and expanding the public park system along the riverfront in the urban core.
- Building nonmotorized public trail segments that better connect people to riverfront parks and the regional trail system.

"Thank you to Governor Whitmer, Representative Albert, Senator Huizinga, Senator Brinks, Representative Hood and all the other state leaders for their partnership and investment in this transformative project for Grand Rapids and West Michigan," said Grand Rapids Mayor Rosalynn

Two GR Streets, Fire Station Names Officially Change to Honor Civil Rights Heroes

Civil rights heroes César E. Chávez and Martin Luther King, Jr. are now memorialized along two major throughfares in Grand Rapids thanks to the work of the Moving Ahead for Remarkable Civil Rights Heroes (M.A.R.C.H.) Committee. We are the first Michigan city to have cross streets named in honor of these two civil rights leaders. In March, City leaders, M.A.R.C.H. Committee members, Paul Chavez, son of César E. Chávez, and Reverend Dr. Derek King, nephew of Martin Luther King Jr., gathered at the intersection of César E. Chávez Avenue SW and Martin Luther King Jr. Street SW – once was known as Grandville Avenue SW and Franklin Street SW – for a signage installation ceremony in Grand Rapids.

The ceremony comes after M.A.R.C.H. brought a proposal forward last year asking the Grand Rapids City Commission to formally change the name of Grandville Avenue to César E. Chávez Avenue between Clyde Park Avenue SW and Weston Street SW, and Franklin Street to Martin Luther King Jr. Street between Oakland Avenue SW and the boundary with the city of East Grand Rapids.

City Secures Funding For Key Public Safety and Infrastructure Projects



Our City will receive nearly \$1.5 million in federal funding as part of the recently signed consolidated appropriations act. The money will be used to bolster ongoing public safety programs and accelerate investment in a key infrastructure project along César E. Chávez Avenue SW. The investment reflects continued support for key City initiatives from West Michigan's congressional delegation.

"We're very appreciative of the continued support and engagement by our elected leaders in Congress," said Grand Rapids City Manager Mark Washington. "Senator Peters,

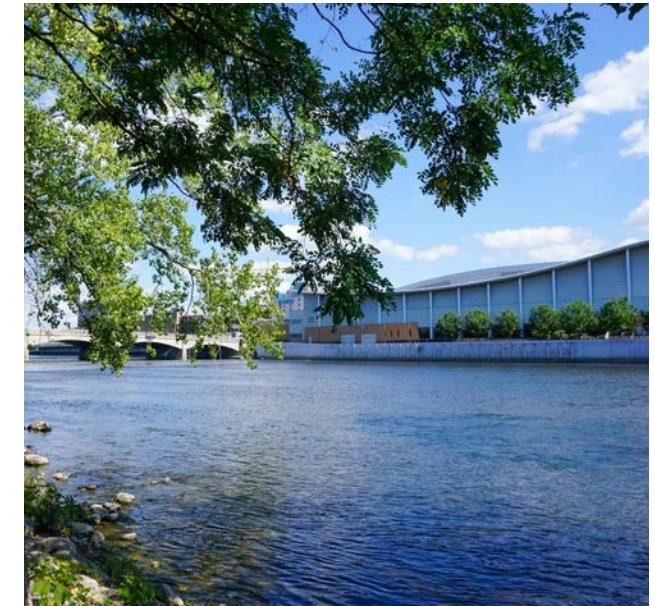
Bliss.

"With this additional funding we will significantly accelerate our work to build a River for All, keep moving GR Forward and unify the regional recreational trail system across Grand Rapids, Kent and Ottawa Counties."

A greenway is a connected corridor of parks and green spaces used for recreation and urban commuting. In West Michigan, the idea for the Grand River Greenway originated in Ottawa County, which for the past two decades has steadily worked to acquire riverfront property, expand public parks and build the Idema Explorers Trail aspiring to connect Grand Haven to Grand Rapids.

Grand Rapidians also have carefully planned and organized to establish the Grand River as a renewed cultural, environmental and economic asset. The full vision involves intimately intertwined initiatives along the waterway and the waterfront.

For more information on the Grand River Greenway, please visit downtowngr.org/announcements/2022/03/state-funds-growing-greenway



Station officially becoming the Martin Luther King Jr. Fire Station.

Station officially becoming the Martin Luther King Jr. Fire Station. It is the first fire station in the country that carries Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s name.

City leadership, GRFD personnel and residents attended the celebration, along with representatives from the National Forum for Black Public Administrators (NFBPA).

"Names are important," said City Manager Mark Washington. "Today's action by the fire department further recognizes the legacy of Dr. King and how this city actively chooses to honor him. The recent renaming of Franklin Street as Martin Luther King Jr. Street, which coincided with the renaming of Grandville Avenue as Cesar E. Chavez Avenue, continues to reverberate through our community. The renaming of this fire station is an important example of the renaming's impact on public service. I appreciate the work of the City Commission and Moving Ahead for Remarkable Civil Rights Heroes (MARCH) Committee in making this moment possible."

In conjunction with the name change, the Grand Rapids Fire Department (GRFD) celebrated its Franklin Street

Senator Stabenow, and Congressman Meijer understand the challenges and opportunities facing our City and their support in securing this funding reinforces their commitment to a shared vision for a community that is safe, prosperous, and successful."

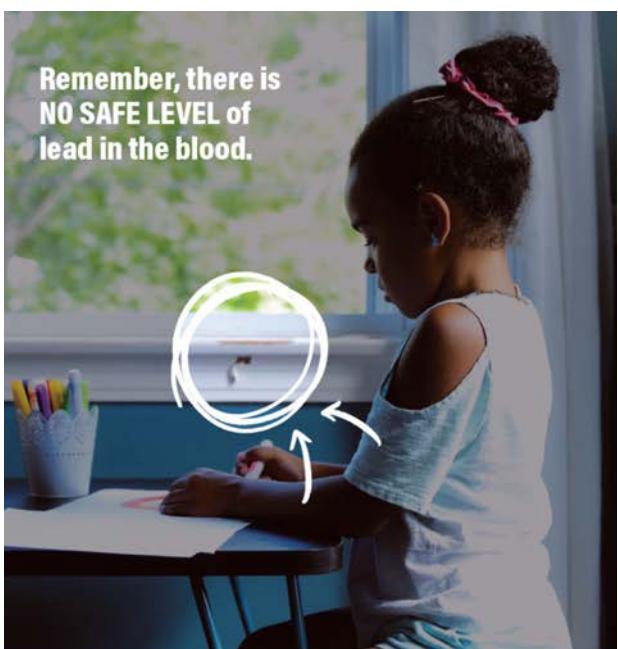
The bill provides direct funding to three specific programs: Cure Violence, Mental Health Crisis Co-Response, and rebuilding César E. Chávez Avenue SW – formerly Grandville Avenue SW.

The \$600,000 in funding for Cure Violence was secured by Rep. Peter Meijer and is intended to provide support for a proven, community-based violence reduction program. Cure Violence stops the spread of violence by using methods and strategies associated with disease control – detecting and interrupting conflicts, identifying and treating the highest risk individuals. The City selected the Grand Rapids Urban League last year to implement to program. This new federal

funding will augment existing investments by the City and local community partners.

Another key public safety initiative, Mental Health Crisis Co-Response, will receive \$180,000. Senators Peters and Stabenow identified funding for the Grand Rapids Police Department's ongoing pilot program. This funding would support a co-response model that deploys a trained crisis intervention team (CIT) officer and a trained mental health professional into the field to respond to calls where a mental health crisis exists.

Senator Peters also obtained \$700,000 for the City to invest towards rebuilding César E. Chávez Avenue SW. The street, formerly known as Grandville Avenue, serves as a key roadway in a rapidly growing and changing area of the City. This funding will help in rebuilding this critical thoroughfare. We are eager to put these funds to work improving public safety and infrastructure.



Lead doesn't play around.

Parents. Landlords.

The City of Grand Rapids can help you fix lead hazards in your home.

Call (616) 456-3030 today.

DON'T PLAY AROUND WITH LEAD.

VISIT DONTPLAYAROUND.ORG FOR HELP

Grand Rapids Pays to Make Homes Lead Safe

Lead is playing hide and seek in our neighborhoods. Whether you are a parent or a landlord, it's time to stop playing around with lead.

Together, through partnerships and resources, we can end lead poisoning in Grand Rapids. The City of Grand Rapids provides up to \$20,000 to fix lead paint hazards in homes where children under age six live. To qualify:

- homes must be built before 1978.
- households must be low to moderate income (for example, income for a family of four must be no more than \$64,000).

The Lead Hazard Control Program is available for both owner-occupied homes and rental properties with four or fewer units. For more information call (616) 456-3030.

Visit dontplayaround.org for more ideas to help you win against lead.

We've Got You Covered for the 2022 Elections

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

New this year: There has been a change to the election year for City Elected Officials. City elections will now be held in the even year, making 2022 an election year. The positions of Comptroller, City Commissioners (all three wards) and Library Commissioners will appear on this year's ballot. If more than double the number of candidates to be elected file to run, the City will host a primary. For example, if three candidates file for Comptroller, there will be a primary and the top two will move to November. If there are only two, then the election will be held only in November.

August 2: Primary election for federal, state and county races – Democratic and Republicans candidates are listed on the ballot. You need to select one or the other – can't cross between parties. Judges and proposals also may be on the ballot. City Officials may be on this ballot depending on the number of candidates filed.

November 8: Gubernatorial general election – You may vote a straight party or select candidates individually. This ballot includes federal, state, county, judicial, city and school races as well as proposals.

Some reminders before you head to the polls:

- **Absentee voting** – All registered voters are eligible to receive an absentee ballot (AV) without a reason. To receive an AV, simply fill out an application before every election. The application is available at grandrapidsmi.gov/Services/Apply-for-an-Absentee-Ballot or in the second-floor City Clerk's Office at City Hall, 300 Monroe Ave. NW, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Validated parking is available in the Government Center Ramp off Monroe and Ottawa avenues. Or, you can be placed on a permanent AV list to receive an application before each election by signing up at grandrapidsmi.gov/avlist or contacting the Clerk's Office at 616.456.3010.
- **Straight party voting (for November only)** – You can vote the partisan section of the ballot by selecting the party only.

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

New Districts drawn for Federal, State, and County Districts. Every 10 years following the Census, U.S. House, State Senate, State House, and County Commission Districts are redrawn to make sure each district contains the same amount of the population. This process is call reapportionment. Because every voter in Grand Rapids will have at least a new number for their State House District, we will be mailing every voter a Voter Information Card that lists their name, address, precinct number, precinct polling location and list of their districts. This is an information card only and not used for voting.

There has been some slight adjustment to a couple of the boundaries of precincts and precincts 7 – 77 have been renumbered 7-74. Although your precinct number may have changed, most likely your polling location did not. City Ward boundaries did not change. You can go to michigan.gov/vote to view your voter information as well.

Need a passport or document notarized? We can help

Your City Clerk's Office offers passport and notary services. If you need to apply for a passport, simply make an appointment calling 616.456.3010. If you need a document notarized, visit the second-floor City Clerk's Office at City Hall, 300 Monroe Ave. NW, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The fee for notarization is \$5 per signature. No appointment is needed. To learn more about these services and all that the Clerk's Office has to offer, visit grandrapidsmi.gov/clerk.

How the Environmental Site Assessment Grant helps you and why you need it

Are you planning to buy property for a new or existing business, or for a development project? You may need to invest in environmental assessments on the property to protect yourself from liability, and to understand if any contamination could impact your plans. And, most lenders require them. Don't worry, the Environmental Site Assessment Grant can cover your costs!



TO LEARN MORE AND APPLY

Call (616) 456-3431
or Email econdevshrd@grcity.us

Are certain projects or businesses prioritized?

- Projects being proposed by first-time developers
- Projects that will help retain or grow existing businesses
- Projects or businesses located in Neighborhoods of Focus
- Projects that will help attract new business to Grand Rapids

What gets funded?

Grants will be used to pay for some or all of the costs below. Not all of these investigations may be required.

- Phase I and II Environmental Assessments
- Baseline Environmental Assessment
- Hazardous Material Survey
- Due Care Planning (take measures to prevent unacceptable exposures to hazardous substances or create conditions that worsen the contamination)

Summertime Events Spark Our Grand Awakening

They're back! Grand Rapids' packed schedule of special events makes a comeback this summer after nearly two years. From quaint neighborhood gatherings to national events, the wall-to-wall events schedule offers unique, fun and creative activities for all to enjoy. The events, run by various individuals and organizations, contribute to our community's vibrancy, diversity and contribute to our city's Grand Awakening. Please take some time this summer to visit, participate and enjoy these great events. (List of events as of April 1. Events, schedule dates and times are subject to change without notice.)

May Events

She Runs Grand Rapids

Sunday, May 1 · 6 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Calder Plaza + Race Route, 300 Monroe Ave. NW

Mid-American Collegiate Rowing Assn.

Sunday, May 1 · 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Riverside Park, 2001 Monroe NE

Access Walk for Good Food

Sunday, May 1 · 2 to 4 p.m.
Briggs Park + Walk Route, 350 Knapp NE

Tuesday Night Swing Dance

Tuesday, May 3 · 7 to 9:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 10 · 7 to 9:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 17 · 7 to 9:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 24 · 7 to 9:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 31 · 7 to 9:30 p.m.
Ah-Nab-Awen Park, 220 Front Ave. NW

Church Street Ministries

Thursday, May 5 · 3 to 7 p.m.
Saturday, May 7 · 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursday, May 12 · 3 to 7 p.m.
Thursday, May 14 · 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursday, May 19 · 3 to 7 p.m.
Saturday, May 21 · 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday, May 28 · 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Corner of Madison and Hall

March for Missing and Murdered Indigenous People

Thursday, May 5 · Noon to 3 p.m.
Ah-Nab-Awen Park + route

Restorative Practices Training

Thursday, May 5 · 6 to 8 p.m.
Thursday, May 12 · 6 to 8 p.m.
Thursday, May 19 · 6 to 8 p.m.
Thursday, May 26 · 6 to 8 p.m.
Coit Park, 727 Coit Ave. NW

Donkey Cinco de Mayo

Thursday, May 5 · 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Henry (Wealthy – Donavon)

Outdoor Storytime with GRPL

Monday, May 9 · 11 to 11:30 a.m.
Roosevelt Park 739 VanRaalte SW

Riverbank Run

Saturday, May 14 · 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Calder Plaza + Race Route, 300 Monroe Ave. NW

After Dark Market

Saturday, May 14 · 3 to 10 p.m.
Monroe North Lot, 601 Monroe Ave. NW

Pik Nik with...

Saturday, May 14 · 5 to 10 p.m.
Friday, May 20 · 5 to 10 p.m.
Saturday, May 21 · 5 to 10 p.m.
Saturday, May 28 · 5 to 10 p.m.
Sullivan Field, 650 Valley Ave. NW

Eco Friendly Products Market

Sunday, May 15 · 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Wilcox Park, 100 Youell Se

Outdoor Storytime with GRPL

Monday, May 16 · 11 to 11:30 a.m.
Briggs Park, 350 Knapp NE

Fit Fest Grand Rapids

Thursday, May 19 · 4 to 10 p.m.
Calder Plaza, 300 Monroe Ave. NW

Armed Forces Thanksgiving

Sunday, May 20 · 9:30 a.m. to Noon
Ah-Nab-Awen Park, 220 Front Ave. NW

Girls on the Run Celebration 5K

Saturday, May 21 · 9 a.m. to Noon
Calder Plaza + Race Route, 300 Monroe Ave. NW

Stomp Out Stigma

Saturday, May 21 · 9 to 11 a.m.
GVSU Eberhard Center + Riverwalk, 301 Fulton St. W

Walk MS

Saturday, May 21 · 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Fulton Heights + Sidewalk route

Connecting and Thriving Together Mental Health Wellness Community Event

Saturday, May 21 · 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Garfield Park, 2111 Madison Ave.

Ole to Mole

Saturday, May 21 · 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Sunday, May 22 · 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Burton Heights Corridor, 2146 Division Ave.

Roll'n Out Food Truck Fest 2022

Sunday, May 22 · 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Calder Plaza + Ottawa, 300 Monroe Ave. NW

G.L.I.D.E. For Change Carnival

Sunday, May 22 · 1 to 5 p.m.
Riverside Park + Bandshell, 2001 Monroe NE

Kent County Health Dept HIV Outreach Testing Events

Thursday, May 26 · 1 to 6 p.m.
MLK Park, 900 Fuller Ave. SE

Saturday Afternoon

Saturday, May 28 · 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Lookout Park, 801 Fairview Ave NE

Baxter Community Summer Event Series: Memorial Day Cookout

Saturday, May 28 · Noon to 4 p.m.
Joe Taylor Park, 1038 Bermis SE

Memorial Day Parade

Monday, May 30 · 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Veterans Park + Parade Route, 101 E. Fulton NE

June Events

Church Street Ministries

Thursday, Jun 2 · 3 to 7 p.m.
Saturday, Jun 4 · 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursday, Jun 9 · 3 to 7 p.m.
Saturday, Jun 11 · 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursday, Jun 16 · 3 to 7 p.m.
Saturday, Jun 18 · 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursday, Jun 23 · 3 to 7 p.m.
Saturday, Jun 25 · 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursday, Jun 30 · 3 to 7 p.m.
Corner of Madison and Hall

Relax at Rosa

Thursday, Jun 2 · Noon to 1:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jun 9 · Noon to 1:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jun 16 · Noon to 1:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jun 23 · Noon to 1:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jun 30 · Noon to 1:30 p.m.
Rosa Parks Circle, 135 Monroe Center NW

Restorative Practice Training

Thursday, Jun 2 · 6 to 8 p.m.
Coit Park, 727 Coit Ave. NW

First Thursday Family Fun Day

Thursday, Jun 2 · 6 to 8 p.m.
MLK Park, 900 Fuller Ave. SE

Pik Nik with...

Friday, Jun 3 · 5 to 10 p.m.
Friday, Jun 10 · 5 to 10 p.m.
Saturday, Jun 11 · 5 to 10 p.m.
Friday, Jun 17 · 5 to 10 p.m.
Saturday, Jun 18 · 5 to 10 p.m.
Friday, Jun 24 · 5 to 10 p.m.
Saturday, Jun 25 · 5 to 10 p.m.
Sullivan Field, 650 Valley Ave. NW

Festival of the Arts

Friday, Jun 3 · Noon to 10 p.m.
Saturday, Jun 4 · 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Sunday, Jun 5 · 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Calder Plaza, 300 Monroe Ave. NW

Lids for Kids

Saturday, Jun 4 · 10 a.m. to Noon
Garfield Park, 2111 Madison SE

Parish Unity Festival

Sunday, Jun 5 · Noon to 5 p.m.
Maple + Sheldon

Tuesday Night Swing Dance

Tuesday, Jun 7 · 7 to 9:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jun 14 · 7 to 9:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jun 21 · 7 to 9:30 p.m.
Rosa Parks Circle, 135 Monroe Center NW

Storytime in the Park

Tuesday, Jun 7 · 6:30 to 8 p.m.
Tuesday, Jun 14 · 6:30 to 8 p.m.
Tuesday, Jun 21 · 6:30 to 8 p.m.
Tuesday, Jun 28 · 6:30 to 8 p.m.
Garfield Park, 2111 Madison SE

Salsa Wednesday

Wednesday, Jun 8 · 5 to 9 p.m.
Wednesday, Jun 15 · 5 to 9 p.m.
Wednesday, Jun 22 · 5 to 9 p.m.
Wednesday, Jun 30 · 5 to 9 p.m.
Rosa Parks Circle, 135 Monroe Center NW

Three Fire Pow Wow

Saturday, Jun 11 · 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Sunday, Jun 12 · 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Riverside Park, 2001 Monroe NE

Royal Dog Mural Unveiling Street Party

Friday, Jun 10 · 4 to 10 p.m.
Grandville (Williams and Bartlett)

Grand Rapids Asian Pacific Festival

Friday, Jun 10 · 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Saturday, Jun 11 · 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Calder Plaza, 300 Monroe Ave. NW

Anishinaabe Circle Annual Sobriety Walk

Saturday, Jun 11 · 9 to 11 a.m.
Sixth Street Park + Sidewalk Route, 647 Monroe NW

Rock the Block

Saturday, Jun 11 · 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Madison Ave (Hall to Garden)

After Dark Market

Saturday, Jun 11 · 3 to 10 p.m.
Monroe North Lot, 601 Monroe Ave NW

Bridge Blast 2022

Saturday, Jun 11 · 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Sixth Street Park, 647 Monroe NW

Outdoor Storytime with GRPL

Monday, Jun 13 · 11 to 11:30 a.m.
Roosevelt Park, 739 VanRaalte SW

Baxter Youth Summer Program

Monday, Jun 13 – Friday, Jun 17 · 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday, Jun 20 – Friday, Jun 24 · 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday, Jun 27 - Thursday, Jun 30 · 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Joe Taylor Park, 1038 Bermis NW

Walk for Life

Saturday, Jun 18 · 8 to 11 a.m.
Cherry St. + Walk Route
Sponsored by Pregnancy Resource Center

K9K Race

Saturday, Jun 18 · 9 to 11 a.m.
Riverside Park, 2001 Monroe NE

Stop the Violence

Saturday, Jun 18 · 1 to 6 p.m.
Dickinson Buffer Park, 1635 Willard SE

Lighthpoint 5K

Saturday, Jun 18 · 8 to 10:30 a.m.
New Holland Brewing Company + Race Route, 417 Bridge St. NW

Baxter Community Summer Event Series: Juneteenth Celebration

Saturday, Jun 18 · Noon to 4 p.m.
Joe Taylor Park, 1038 Bemis SE

“Begin Again” Music Dance Festival

Friday, Jun 18 · Noon to 8 p.m.
Saturday, Jun 19 · Noon to 7 p.m.
Heartside Park, 301 Ionia

Justice 4 All Juneteenth Jam!

Sunday, Jun 19 · Noon to 4 p.m.
Rosa Parks Circle, 135 Monroe Center NW

Juneteenth Pop Up Shop

Sunday, Jun 19 · 1 to 8:30 p.m.
MLK Park, 900 Fuller Ave SE

GR Juneteenth 2022 Dickinson Park

Dundunba
Sunday, Jun 19 · Noon to 7 p.m.
Dickinson Buffer Park, 1635 Willard SE

Outdoor Storytime with GRPL

Monday, Jun 20 · 11 to 11:30 a.m.
Briggs Park, 350 Knapp NE

Eastown Bizarre Bazaar

Saturday, Jun 25 · 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Ethel Parking Lot + Ethel (Wealthy + Sigsbee)

Saturday Afternoon

Saturday, Jun 25 · 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Garfield Park, 2111 Madison SE

Kent County Health Dept Outreach

Testing Events
Monday, Jun 27 · 1 to 6 p.m.
Thursday, Jun 30 · 1 to 6 p.m.
MLK Park, 900 Fuller Ave. SE
Garfield Park, 2111 Madison SE

July Events**Baxter Youth Summer Program**

Friday, Jul 1 · 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday, Jul 4 – Friday, Jul 8 · 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday, Jul 11 – Friday, Jul 15 · 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday, Jul 18 – Friday, Jul 22 · 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday, Jul 25 – Friday, Jul 29 · 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Joe Taylor Park, 1038 Bemis NW

Pik Nik with...

Friday, Jul 1 · 5 to 10 p.m.
Saturday, Jul 2 · 5 to 10 p.m.
Friday, Jul 8 · 5 to 10 p.m.
Friday, Jul 15 · 5 to 10 p.m.
Saturday, Jul 16 · 5 to 10 p.m.
Friday, Jul 22 · 5 to 10 p.m.
Saturday, Jul 23 · 5 to 10 p.m.
Friday, Jul 29 · 5 to 10 p.m.
Saturday, Jul 30 · 5 to 10 p.m.
Sullivan Field, 650 Valley Ave. NW

Church Street Ministries

Saturday, Jul 2 · 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursday, Jul 7 · 3 to 7 p.m.
Saturday, Jul 9 · 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursday, Jul 14 · 3 to 7 p.m.
Saturday, Jul 16 · 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursday, Jul 21 · 3 to 7 p.m.
Saturday, Jul 23 · 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursday, Jul 28 · 3 to 7 p.m.
Friday, Jul 22 · 5 to 10 p.m.
Saturday, Jul 30 · 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Corner of Madison and Hall

Grand Rapids Fireworks

Saturday, Jul 2 · 5 to 11 p.m.
Ah-Nab-Awen Park + Gillett Bridge, 220 Front Ave. NW

Hollyhock Lane Parade

Monday, Jul 4 · 8:30 to 10 a.m.
Parade Route

Tuesday Night Swing Dance

Tuesday, Jul 5 · 7 to 9:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jul 12 · 7 to 9:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jul 19 · 7 to 9:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jul 26 · 7 to 9:30 p.m.
Rosa Parks Circle, 135 Monroe Center NW

Storytime in the Park

Tuesday, Jul 5 · 6:30 to 8 p.m.
Tuesday, Jul 12 · 6:30 to 8 p.m.
Tuesday, Jul 19 · 6:30 to 8 p.m.
Tuesday, Jul 26 · 6:30 to 8 p.m.
Garfield Park, 2111 Madison SE
Briggs Park, 350 Knapp NE

Salsa Wednesday

Wednesday, Jul 6 · 5 to 9 p.m.
Wednesday, Jul 13 · 5 to 9 p.m.
Wednesday, Jul 20 · 5 to 9 p.m.
Wednesday, Jul 27 · 5 to 9 p.m.
Rosa Parks Circle, 135 Monroe Center NW

First Thursday Family Fun Day

Thursday, Jul 7 · 6 to 8 p.m.
MLK Park, 900 Fuller Ave. SE
Sponsored by Grand Rapids Diversity in Arts Music Festival, Inc.

Relax at Rosa

Thursday, Jul 7 · Noon to 1:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jul 14 · Noon to 1:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jul 21 · Noon to 1:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jul 28 · Noon to 1:30 p.m.
Rosa Parks Circle, 135 Monroe Center NW
Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.

Movies in the Park

Friday, Jul 8 · 7 to 11 p.m.
Roberto Clemente Park, 546 Rumsey SW

After Dark Market

Saturday, Jul 9 · 3 to 10 p.m.
Monroe North Lot, 601 Monroe Ave. NW

Annual Commemoration of Genocide in Srebrenica

Monday, Jul 11 · 6 to 7:30 p.m.
Sixth Street Park, 647 Monroe NW

Outdoor Storytime with GRPL

Monday, Jul 11 · 11 to 11:30 a.m.
Roosevelt Park, 739 VanRaalte SW

Baxter Community Summer Events Series:

Pitmaster Grill-Off Challenge
Saturday, Jul 16 · Noon to 4 p.m.
Joe Taylor Park, 1038 Bemis SE

Grand Rapids Neighborhood Summit

Saturday, Jul 16 · 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Garfield Park, 2111 Madison NE

Outdoor Storytime with GRPL

Monday, Jul 18 · 11 to 11:30 a.m.
Briggs Park, 350 Knapp NE

Beer City Pickleball Championship

Wednesday, Jul 20 – Sunday, Jul 24 · 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Belknap Park, 30 Coldbrook NE

Saturday Afternoon

Saturday, Jul 23 · 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Wilcox Park, 100 Youell SE

Cross Country Team Challenge

Tuesday, Jul 26 · 5 to 7 p.m.
Richmond Park, 1101 Richmond NW

Kent County Health Dept Outreach

Testing Events
Thursday, Jul 28 · 1 to 6 p.m.
Heartside Park, 301 Ionia SW

Watercolor Jazz Fest

Friday, Jul 29 · Noon to 10 p.m.
Rosa Parks Circle, 135 Monroe Center NW

Gospel in the Park

Saturday, Jul 30 · 2 to 7 p.m.
MLK Park, 900 Fuller Ave. SE

List of events as of April 1. Events, schedule dates and times are subject to change without notice.

Find a full list of events and up-to-date information online at grandrapidsmi.gov/events or on our Facebook page @GrandRapidsEvents



**Office of
Special Events**
CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

Events + People =
Community & Vibrancy



4 WAYS TO GET ACTIVE THIS SUMMER

Community fitness happening May through September

1 VIRTUAL FEE-BASED

PAGES
7 - 8

PRICING:
\$40 per 8-week class
\$35 per 7-week class

LOCATION(S):
Wherever you are!
Live on Zoom

2 OUTDOOR FEE-BASED

PAGES
8

PRICING:*
\$40 per 8-week class
\$35 per 7-week class

LOCATION(S):
Parks and public spaces
across Grand Rapids

3 INDOOR FEE-BASED

PAGES
9

PRICING:*
\$40 per 8-week class
\$35 per 7-week class
\$30 per 6-week class

LOCATION(S):
Parks and Rec Studio
201 Market Ave SW

4 OUTDOOR FREE

PAGES
10 - 11

PRICING:
Free, no registration.
Just drop in!

LOCATION(S):
Parks and public spaces
across Grand Rapids

*Add \$10 for nonresidents

*Add \$10 for nonresidents



Register online
grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr



Register by phone
616.456.3696, option #1



Register in person
201 Market Ave SW

VIRTUAL YOGA

CLASSES RUN FOR 8-WEEK SESSIONS, STARTING THE WEEK OF MAY 9, UNLESS NOTED

Register online: grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr ↗
Registration for Jul/Aug opens June 1.

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* WED SAT**	5:30 - 6:25 PM 6:00 - 6:55 PM 9:00 - 9:55 AM	VIRTUAL VIRTUAL VIRTUAL	TERRI S. SARA R. 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 THU	9:15 - 10:10 AM 9:15 - 10:10 AM	VIRTUAL VIRTUAL	TERRI S. TERRI S.
SLOW FLOW RESTORATIVE YOGA End your weekend and set the tone for the week ahead with this calming and gentle yoga class. Each class will begin and end with a variety of restorative postures, with a slow yoga flow in between. Find a cozy comfortable space, light a few candles, and grab as many blankets and pillows as you can!	SUN	7:00 - 7:55 PM	VIRTUAL	SARA R.
POWER YOGA This energetic class is designed to build strength, flexibility, and balance! Challenging peak poses, breath to movement flows, and mind body connections will encourage students to find their edge. Modifications are always offered and body awareness is always encouraged.	TUE	6:30 - 7:25 PM	VIRTUAL	SARA R.
VITAL MOVEMENT Strength, flexibility and balance are vital to our well-being. This class combines yoga stretches and poses (from the chair and standing only), along with light core work. No mat required. Perfect for anyone needing to stretch, improve their range of motion, or modify their practice as they recover from injuries. This class is great for any age, especially those 50+.	WED	9:15 - 10:10 AM	VIRTUAL	TERRI S.

*7-week class

**6-week class

VIRTUAL DANCE FITNESS

CLASSES RUN FOR 8-WEEK SESSIONS, STARTING THE WEEK OF MAY 9

Register online: grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr ↗
Registration for Jul/Aug opens June 1.

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR
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.	WED	5:30 - 6:25 PM	VIRTUAL	TERRI S.

VIRTUAL CARDIO & STRENGTH

CLASSES RUN FOR 8-WEEK SESSIONS, STARTING THE WEEK OF MAY 9, UNLESS NOTED

Register online: grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr ↗
Registration for Jul/Aug opens June 1.

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR
BARRE Barre is a low impact, high intensity total body workout that incorporates elements of Pilates, Ballet and Yoga. This workout is fast paced and set to fun upbeat music. During the workout you will use light hand weights, resistance bands, and your own body weight. You will complete small range movements at high repetitions meant to fatigue your muscles to build strength and endurance, and then stretch everything out to increase your flexibility. Barre is a great workout for any fitness level as there are options to level up or down based on your own body. Barre is for EVERYBODY.	THU	6:00 - 6:55 PM	VIRTUAL	KELLY B.
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	VIRTUAL	KRISTIN P.
STRONG30 STRONG30 packs a total body workout into 30 minutes. It combines HIIT (high intensity interval training), body weight exercises, and cardio moves. In every class, the music and moves sync together in a way to help push you past your limits and reach your fitness goals.	SAT*	9:00 - 9:30 AM	VIRTUAL	AMY K.

*7-week class

OUTDOOR FEE-BASED CLASSES

CLASSES RUN FOR 8-WEEK SESSIONS, STARTING THE WEEK OF MAY 9, UNLESS NOTED

Register online: grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr ↗
Registration for Jul/Aug opens June 1.

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* MON* TUE WED SAT	12:00 - 12:45 PM 5:30 - 6:15 PM 5:45 - 6:30 PM 5:30 - 6:15 PM 8:15 - 9:00 AM	COLDBROOK AT RIVER'S EDGE	PATRICK F. CAROL S. MICHELLE D. JULIE S. CAROL S.
NEW! CYCLING/ROWING COMBO Find strength through the power of cycling with fast flats, hill climbs and intervals set to fun music, and then hop off the bike and continue your cardio burn by igniting your upper body with our low impact rowers where you will complete power and intervals.	WED	6:30 - 7:30 PM	COLDBROOK AT RIVER'S EDGE	CAROL S.
PADDLE BOARD BASICS In this introductory class (meets twice) we'll provide the basic tips and tricks for navigating and stability on a paddle board. You'll become aware of all the muscles and benefits received. All levels welcome. All equipment is provided. \$25/residents, \$35/nonresidents.	JUN 7 & 14 JUN 21 & 28 JUL 12 & 19 JUL 26 & AUG 2 AUG 9 & 16	7:45 - 8:40 PM 7:45 - 8:40 PM 7:45 - 8:40 PM 7:45 - 8:40 PM 7:45 - 8:40 PM	RICHMOND POOL	HEATHER W.
ROWING Row like you are preparing for a true race! This high-intensity cardio series is designed to get you stronger and faster. New rowers are welcome!	THU	5:30 - 6:15 PM	COLDBROOK AT RIVER'S EDGE	JESS W.
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, JUN 7-JUL 5 SAT JUN 11-JUL 9 TUE, JUL 12-AUG 9 SAT JUL 16-AUG 13	6:15 - 7:10 PM 9:00 - 9:55 AM 6:15 - 7:10 PM 9:00 - 9:55 AM	RICHMOND POOL MLK POOL RICHMOND POOL MLK POOL	KATHLEEN H.

*7-week class

INDOOR YOGA

CLASSES RUN FOR 8-WEEK SESSIONS, STARTING THE WEEK OF MAY 9, UNLESS NOTED

Register online: grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr 
Registration for Jul/Aug opens June 1.

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR
NEW! YOGA EXPRESS Discover your inner yogi in this 45 minute express class that builds strength and body awareness. We will start with gentle stretching and move to flowing through and holding poses.	THU	12:00 - 12:45 PM	201 MARKET AVE	SARA R.

INDOOR DANCE FITNESS

CLASSES RUN FOR 8-WEEK SESSIONS, STARTING THE WEEK OF MAY 9, UNLESS NOTED

Register online: grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr 
Registration for Jul/Aug opens June 1.

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR
BEGINNER BALLROOM DANCING A beginner class targeted toward couples wanting to learn ballroom dancing. Learn the Salsa, Waltz, Foxtrot, East Coast Swing, Cha Cha, Rumba and Tango.	TUE	8:00 - 8:55 PM	201 MARKET AVE	BYRON D.
ZUMBA Zumba is a high energy, dance fitness class that incorporates Latin and international music. All fitness levels are welcome.	THU	6:30 - 7:25 PM	201 MARKET AVE	AMY K. & BRI C.
WERQ WERQ is a nonstop cardio dance class with fun and unique routines set to the hottest pop and hip hop music. Participants will get a high calorie burn, and a non stop workout, combining repetitive athletic moves with fresh dance steps. Anyone can WERQ it! Bring your own water bottle and towel.	MON	6:45 - 7:40	201 MARKET AVE	JEANNIE W.

INDOOR CARDIO & STRENGTH

CLASSES RUN FOR 8-WEEK SESSIONS, STARTING THE WEEK OF MAY 9, UNLESS NOTED

Register online: grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr 
Registration for Jul/Aug opens June 1.

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR
BARRE Barre is a low impact, high intensity total body workout that incorporates elements of Pilates, Ballet and Yoga. This workout is fast paced and set to fun upbeat music. During the workout you will use light hand weights, resistance bands, and your own body weight. You will complete small range movements at high repetitions meant to fatigue your muscles to build strength and endurance, and then stretch everything out to increase your flexibility. Barre is a great workout for any fitness level as there are options to level up or down based on your own body. Barre is for EVERYBODY.	MON*	5:45 - 6:40 PM	201 MARKET AVE	LENOX N.
HIGH FITNESS HIGH Fitness is an energetic, fun, fitness class that incorporates interval training with pop music, and easy-to-follow fitness choreography. This dance based class produces a high caloric burn and full-body toning through its carefully formulated choreography, alternating between intense cardio peaks and toning tracks. No equipment necessary, and options will be given for all fitness levels..	TUE	5:30 - 6:25 PM	201 MARKET AVE	AHNA V.
NEW! KETTLEBELL AMPD Kettlebell AMPD is a group fitness format that takes heart-pumping music and kettlebell moves and combines them into a calorie torching fun workout! The program uses lightweight kettlebells, in both traditional and non-traditional ways, to create a fun, effective, full body workout. Combining the benefits of strength training, functional movements and cardiovascular exercise, this program is a safe and effective workout for all ages and fitness levels. No experience necessary!	THU	4:30 - 5:25 PM	201 MARKET AVE	MONICA S.
NEW! STEP & SCULPT AEROBICS Get your cardio fix in this fun class choreographed around an aerobics step and set to fun music. The instructor will lead you through cardio based intervals where you are up and down on the step, and then you will sculpt it out doing strength based moves utilizing light weights and your own body weight.	WED	5:30 - 6:25 PM	201 MARKET AVE	KRISTIN P.
STRONG NATION Strong Nation is a HIIT (High Intensity Interval Training) class that includes body weight strength exercises, fast cardio moves, plyometrics, and agility training. Music and moves sync together to help push you past your limits to reach your fitness goals.	WED	6:30 - 7:25 PM	201 MARKET AVE	AMY K.

FREE OUTDOOR CLASSES

CLASSES RUN FOR 15 WEEKS STARTING MAY 23. DROP-IN, NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED!

All outdoor classes are weather dependent. Follow us on Facebook @GRParksandRec or call our cancellation hotline at 616.456.3699 for up-to-date cancellation information.

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR
BARRE Barre is a low impact, high intensity total body workout that incorporates elements of Pilates, Ballet and Yoga. See full description above in previous section.	WED	6:00 - 6:45	THE BLUE BRIDGE	CORI M.
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 THU	6:00 - 6:45 PM 7:00 - 7:45 PM	MULICK PARK MLK PARK	JEN B KAYLA M.
GROOVE Sweat away stress and dance some joy into your heart while following simple steps and easy toning moves. See full description above in previous section.	TUE	6:00 - 6:45 PM	THE BLUE BRIDGE	HEATHER W.
NEW! KIDS YOGA Children will use the theme of the week to develop their own postures and yoga flow- Encouraging creativity, confidence, and fun. This class will be geared towards ages 2-10 years old.	SAT	10:00 - 10:45 AM	PLEASANT PARK	JEN B.
KICKBOXING Mix up your routine with balance, coordination and strength-building moves. Strengthen your legs, upper body, abs and burn calories	TUE	6:30 - 7:15 PM	555 MONROE	VALARIE J.
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	THE BLUE BRIDGE	KRISTIN P.
SLOW FLOW YOGA Dedicate time to stretch, strengthen, and recharge your body with an hour of slow flow Yoga. Slow flow Yoga is known for its relaxing, calming and healing effect. Class will be slower paced with thoughtfully chosen postures which are held for multiple breaths. This is the perfect compliment to all other workouts and outdoor activities. All levels welcome.	FRI	7:00 - 7:45 PM	LOOKOUT PARK	NICOLE H.
SOULFUL MOTION SoulfulMotion is an exciting class of fitness and inspiration. This is a high intensity interval training (HIIT) class set to Christian and inspirational music. Designed for anyone regardless of age or fitness level.	MON SAT	6:30 - 7:15 PM 10:00 - 10:45 AM	GARFIELD PARK 555 MONROE	AMBER M.
SUNRISE YOGA Add some relaxation to your day. Begin with gentle stretching and move to flowing through and holding poses. Class will come to a restful end.	WED	6:30 - 7:15 AM	INDIAN TRAILS GOLF COURSE	DARCEL S.
SUNSET YOGA Add some relaxation to your day. Begin with gentle stretching and move to flowing through and holding poses. Class will come to a restful end.	TUE	7:00 - 7:45 PM	LOOKOUT PARK	AMY K.
TAI CHI Practice gentle movement and simple, modified Tai Chi to bring vitality to your mind and body. Combining breathwork and gentle mindful movement, this class will help soothe and rebalance you. Perfect for all levels.	THU.	7:00 - 7:45 PM	BRIGGS PARK	ALESHEIA H.
WERQ WERQ is a nonstop cardio dance class with fun and unique routines set to the hottest pop and hip hop music. Full description on page 8.	WED	7:15 - 8:00 PM	RICHMOND PARK POOL DECK	JEANNIE W.A
ZUMBA Zumba is a high energy, dance fitness class that incorporates Latin and international music. All fitness levels are welcome.	MON FRI	6:30 - 7:15 PM 6:15 - 7:00 PM	ROSA PARKS CIRCLE ROOSEVELT PARK	AMY K. & BRI C. CECILIA V.

FREE OUTDOOR CLASSES (cont.)

CLASSES RUN FOR 15 WEEKS STARTING MAY 23. DROP-IN, NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED!

All outdoor classes are weather dependent. Follow us on Facebook @GRParksandRec or call our cancellation hotline at 616.456.3699 for up-to-date cancellation information.

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR
30-MINUTE HIIT 30 minutes is all you need to get a full workout in! This class uses high intensity interval training (HIIT) to increase your heart rate, strengthen your muscles, and boost your metabolism. Participants will be given 30 seconds to do as many reps of a single body weight exercise as possible. Then rinse, repeat, with a new move! Exercises will have modified options as well as progressions, allowing each person to decide their own intensity. All fitness levels welcome!	TUE	6:15 - 6:45 PM	LOOKOUT PARK	AMY K.

OUTDOOR CLASS LOCATIONS

555 Monroe - 555 Monroe Ave NW
The Blue Bridge - Between Front Ave and Campau Ave
Briggs Park - 350 Knapp St NE
Coldbrook at River's Edge - 1101 Monroe Ave NW
Garfield Park - 2111 Madison Ave SE
Indian Trails Golf Course - 2776 Kalamazoo Ave SE
Lookout Park - 801 Fairview Ave NE

MLK Park - 900 Fuller Ave SE
Pleasant Park - 620 Madison Ave SE
Mulick Park - 1632 Slyvan Ave SE
Richmond Park Pool - 1101 Richmond St NW
Roosevelt Park - 739 Van Raalte Dr SW
Rosa Parks Circle - 135 Monroe Center St NW

FREE CLASSES MADE POSSIBLE BY



KAYAKING ADVENTURES

Enjoy a 90-minute guided kayak adventure on the Grand River! The Grand River is the longest river in the state of Michigan and offers beautiful sceneries with views from downtown Grand Rapids and a variety of recreation activities.

Whether you are an experienced paddler, want to learn, or just crossing an activity off your bucket list, you will love this kayaking trip! Must be 18 years of age or older, no experience necessary. Our Parks and Recreation staff will provide all participants with basic instruction and set-up including paddle personal flotation device and kayak. Register online at grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr.

Tue at 6:00 pm
May 10 - Sep 13

Sat at 10:00 am and 12:00 pm
May 7, 14, 21 Aug 6, 13, 20
Jun 4, 11, 18 Sep 3, 10, 17
Jul 2, 9, 16, 23

Sat at 11:00 am
May 28, Jun 25, Jul 30, Aug 27

YOUTH TEE BALL & BASEBALL

Our youth tee ball and baseball programs are open to all kids ages 4-12. All programs meet for practice on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning July 12. Final game is played August 6. Practices are 1 hour (5:30 or 6:30 start time). Baseball glove and athletic shoes are required.

Register online at grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr. \$45/residents, \$55/nonresidents. Register by June 24 to avoid a \$10 late fee.

Age Groups

- Tee Ball (4-6)
- Coach Pitch (6-8)
- Player/Coach Pitch (9-12)

Locations

- Huff Park (north)
- MacKay-Jaycees Park (south)

YOUTH DANCE

CLASSES RUN FOR 6-WEEK SESSIONS STARTING MAY 17. \$42/RESIDENTS, \$52 NONRESIDENTS

Register online: grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr

CLASS	DAY(S)	TIME(S)	LOCATION(S)	INSTRUCTOR
YOUTH MOVEMENT (AGES 4-8) This class combines creative movement and basic dance skills. The class focuses on coordination, motor skills, musicality, and overall to get the wiggles out and heart rate up! This non-stop action packed class will include foundations in mostly hip hop and jazz dance, so please wear a pair of clean sneakers or ballet slippers.	TUE	4:30 - 5:15 PM	201 MARKET AVE	HANNAH T.

BRICKS 4 KIDZ

4-CLASS SESSIONS. \$58/RESIDENTS, \$68 NONRESIDENTS

Register online: grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr

CLASS	DATES	TIME(S)	LOCATION
GAME ON: MARIO EDITION! (AGES 5-11) In this interactive class, you will use LEGO® bricks to create and build different characters from your favorite video games. Themes such as Super Mario Bros, Beyblades, and Pokémon come to life through the use of our moving models, all made out of LEGO® bricks. Each session will be a new adventure as the virtual and LEGO® worlds combine!	MAY 3, 10, 17, 24	4:30 - 5:15 PM	201 MARKET AVE
CRUISIN' THE JUNGLE (AGES 5-11) During this adventure down the Amazon River, campers will build the Jungle Boat Cruiser to search for the secret Tree of Life. On the way, they will encounter the wonders, dangers, and surprises the wild jungle has to offer! Kids will have to navigate around the chomping crocodiles of the river and make friends with the animals of the jungle like gorillas, elephants, and much more! Build them all with LEGO bricks!	MAY 5, 12, 19, 26	4:30 - 5:15 PM	201 MARKET AVE
MINING AND CRAFTING (AGES 5-11) Minecraft is a game about placing blocks to build anything you can imagine. At night monsters come out, so players need to make sure to build a shelter before that happens. Experience the world of Minecraft with LEGO® bricks in this fun after school enrichment class. Kids will start by crafting their shelters, critters and tools using LEGO® bricks. Students will face new challenges each day, building moving technic models and crafting key elements from the popular Minecraft game.	JUN 7, 14, 21, 28	4:30 - 5:15 PM	201 MARKET AVE
WORLD OF IMAGINATION (AGES 5-11) Get excited for a World of Imagination! Join the adventure as we dive into the world of Disney. Students will build models from great movies such as "The Little Mermaid," "Mulan," "The Lion King," and more! LEGO Bricks come to life as we travel through Disney's popular characters and themes. Spark your imagination as we build your Disney inspired favorites!	JUN 9, 16, 23, 30	4:30 - 5:15 PM	201 MARKET AVE

YOUTH SWIM LESSONS

INDOOR AND OUTDOOR CLASSES HAPPENING MAY THROUGH AUGUST

Register online: grandrapidsmi.gov/recgr

SWIM LESSON LEVELS	SWIM LESSON LEVELS
PARENT CHILD (AGES 6M-3Y) Introduce water safety and basic swim skills to parents and children. Parents will learn skills to safely work with their child in the water, including how to correctly support/hold them in the water and how to encourage them. Children will gain confidence in the water through games and songs and receive an introduction to swim foundations, like submerging and kicking.	YOUTH LEVEL 2 (AGES 6+) Builds on the foundations in Level 1 to support the correct execution of foundational swim skills. Focuses on proper technique of foundational skills to ensure participants are strong and capable in the water independently. Repetition is used to build endurance and muscle memory. Participants will learn how to float, glide and move forward in the water with no support and will continue to develop the foundations for future swim strokes.
PRESCHOOL LEVEL 1 (AGES 3-5) Introduces water safety and basic swim skills. Children will work with instructors to gain confidence, develop positive attitudes around the water, and receive an introduction to swim foundations like submerging, floating, and the movements of front and back crawl.	YOUTH LEVEL 3 (AGES 6+) Aims to increase proficiency of previously learned skills by providing additional practice with an emphasis on technique. Participants will learn and practice survival floating and improve their front crawl, back crawl, breaststroke, and elementary backstroke technique while swimming longer distances. Participants will also learn safe headfirst entries and begin learning the foundations of butterfly. After successfully completing Level 3, participants will have achieved basic, independent water competency in a pool environment.
PRESCHOOL LEVEL 2 (AGES 3-5) Builds on the skills introduced in Preschool Level 1. Children will continue to develop a positive relationship with the water while mastering swim foundations like floating, submerging, and the basics of front and back crawl.	YOUTH LEVEL 4 (AGES 6+) Participants will improve their technique and increase endurance in previously learned strokes. Swimmers will gain better control over front crawl, back crawl, and breaststroke and will continue to learn butterfly foundations. Emphasis will be placed on headfirst entries and swimming underwater to provide the basic skillset for competitive swimming. After successfully completing Level 4, swimmers will be well equipped with the skills needed to transition to a swim team setting.
YOUTH LEVEL 1 (AGES 6+) Youth Level 1 aims to develop positive relationships with the water while mastering swim foundations – like floating, submerging, and the basics of front and back crawl. At the end, participants will be able to perform swim foundations independently or with minimal assistance.	



**Pools and splash pads
will open June 10!**

Learn more at
grandrapidsmi.gov/aquatics



Visit any of the Grand Rapids Public Library's 8 locations

Main Library

111 Library Street NE • 49503
616.988.5400

Madison Square Branch

1201 Madison SE • 49507
616.988.5411

Ottawa Hills Branch

1150 Giddings SE • 49506
616.988.5412

Seymour Branch

2350 Eastern SE • 49507
616.988.5413

Van Belkum Branch

1563 Plainfield NE • 49505
616.988.5410

West Leonard Branch

1017 Leonard NW • 49504
616.988.5416

West Side Branch

713 Bridge NW • 49504
616.988.5414

Yankee Clipper Branch

2025 Leonard NE • 49505
616.988.5415

For more information and hours, visit www.grpl.org.



616.988.5400 • www.grpl.org

Kyd Kane Presents The Postcard Poetry Project [A Space to Speak]

March 15 – September 2, 2022

Create poetry. Share it with your community. Use your Space to Speak.

The Grand Rapids Poet Laureate Kyd Kane invites poets and artists of all ages to create poetry and share it with your community. Poems and artwork will be featured in a digital and in-person exhibit during the summer.

1. Pick up a postcard at any GRPL location.
2. Use your 'space to speak', answering questions and filling your postcard with poetry and art.
3. Drop off your card at any GRPL location.
4. Watch for our digital and physical exhibits during Summer 2022.

The Postcard Poetry Project is on view during open hours at the following library locations:

May 14 – May 31 | Main Library
June 1 – June 14 | Madison Branch
June 15 – June 28 | Ottawa Hills Branch
June 29 – July 12 | Seymour Branch
July 13 – July 26 | Van Belkum Branch
July 27 – August 9 | West Leonard Branch
August 10 – August 23 | West Side Branch
August 24 – September 2 | Yankee Clipper Branch

Poetry Prompts

Need some inspiration to write your poem? Here are some prompts to get you started.

Write a poem inspired by:

- a piece of art
- a photograph
- best/worst day
- a news item
- what you see out the window
- a favorite word, quote, or idea
- Write a letter poem to a fictional character or someone in history



in between, each creation allows her to fill holes, to feel whole, to feel real and to connect with others. Kyd uses self expression to generate social dialogue about the

good and bad of the human experience, by exploring themes such as; poverty, privilege, gentrification, resilience and identity through community conversation, poem, installation, video, and photography.

Kyd's work has taken her to stages, institutes, galleries and theaters including the Detroit Masonic Temple, the Michigan State Capitol building, Kalamazoo Institute of Art, Unity Center of Peace in Chapel Hill, NC, Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts and SiTE:LAB, among others. Her voice has been featured on NPR, WYCE Electric Poetry, TEDx, and on the intros, interludes and outros of various musical artists from all over the country.

The Postcard Poetry Project and the Grand Rapids Poet Laureate Program, are funded by a generous grant from the Grand Rapids Public Library Foundation – Dyer-Ives Foundation Poetry Fund.



Dyer-Ives Foundation Poetry Fund

Job Help at Grand Rapids Public Library

Drop In: Job Seeking with West Michigan Works!

Wednesdays, May 25, June 1, June 8, June 15, June 22, June 29 | 2:00 – 5:00 pm
Madison Square Branch | 1201 Madison SE

Job seekers can drop in and connect with trained staff from West Michigan Works! and GRPL. We can help you look for jobs and submit applications, connect you to other expert community organizations, review your resume, and help practice for an interview. No appointment needed.

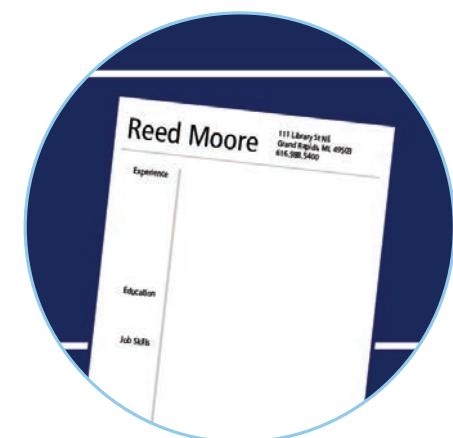
Masks are highly recommended to participate in this program. If you do not have a mask, GRPL can provide one to you for free.

Resume Review Service

Need help with your resume? The Grand Rapids Public Library is here to help you put your best foot forward with Remote Resume Review.

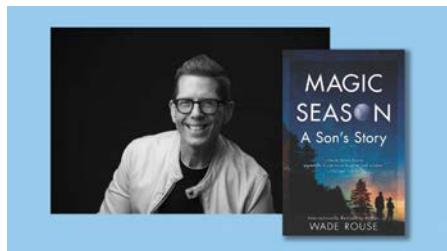
We are pleased to offer this service to the City of Grand Rapids patrons and the residents of Kent County.

Simply load your resume in the form on www.grpl.org/resume as a .doc or .docx file along with the required information. Trained library staff will review your resume and give tips to improve content, format, and effectiveness.



Events for Readers

This spring GRPL is welcoming bestselling authors and exploring great books. Join us for these free events.



An Evening with Wade Rouse

Thursday, May 5 | 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Main Library | 111 Library Street NE

Wade Rouse, internationally best-selling author of 13 books, is back with his first memoir in a decade. *Magic Season: A Son's Story*, a touching narrative on family and forgiveness. With honesty and humor, Wade forces the reader to rethink how “unconditional” unconditional love ought to be. Wade will read from his new book and lead a lively discussion. A book signing will follow the event.



Black Lit Book Club

Tuesdays, May 24, June 28, July 26,
August 23 | 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Seymour Branch | 2350 Eastern SE

Come explore the works of African American authors at this monthly outdoor book club led by a GRPL librarian. Participants will discuss the work of contemporary Black novelists.

- May 24: *The Care and Feeding of Ravenously Hungry Girls* by Anissa Gray
- June 28: *The Last Days of Ptolemy Grey* by Walter Mosley
- July 26: *The City We Became* by N.K. Jemisin
- August 23: *Transcendent Kingdom* by Yaa Gyasi

Summer Series: Writers and Readers

This monthly book series will inspire writers and readers alike. Grow your writing skills in workshops led by local authors. Hear the stories behind the books written by internationally best-selling authors. Meet area booksellers and book lovers. Enjoy delicious eats from area food trucks. Free. For more information visit www.grpl.org.

Sponsor: 



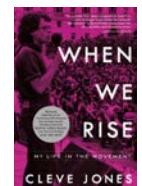
Thursday, June 23

- 5:30 pm | Main Library
Writing Workshop led by Mursalata Muhammad. Register: grpl.org/register
- 6:30 pm | Fountain Street Church
24 Fountain St NE
An Evening with James McBride, author of *Deacon King Kong*
- 7:45 pm | Outside the Main Library
Food, Games, Book Vendors, Community Resources



Thursday, July 28

- 5:30 pm | Main Library
Writing Workshop led by Meryl Wilsner, author of *Something To Talk About*. Register: grpl.org/register
- 6:30 pm | Fountain Street Church
24 Fountain St NE
An Evening with Cleve Jones, LGBTQIA+ activist and author of *When We Rise*
- 7:45 pm | Outside the Main Library
Food, Games, Book Vendors, Community Resources



Thursday, August 25

- 5:30 pm | Main Library
Writing Workshop led by Kayla Chenault, author of *These Bones*. Register: grpl.org/register
- 6:30 pm | Fountain Street Church
24 Fountain St NE
An Evening with Silvia Moreno Garcia, author of *Mexican Gothic*
- 7:45 pm | Outside the Main Library
Food, Games, Book Vendors, Community Resources

Database Spotlight: Law and Legal Forms

Looking for information about a legal issue? These free, online databases can help. Grab your GRPL library card and visit www.grpl.org/research to get started.

Legal Source

- Authoritative database for current issues, studies, thoughts and trends of the legal world

Legal Forms

- Thousands of downloadable, customizable legal forms
- Includes professionally drafted documents for bankruptcy, bill of sale, contracts, divorce, employment, incorporation of an LLC, landlord/tenant, living wills, power of attorney, real estate, last will and testament, and more

Michigan Legal Help

- From the State of Michigan, excellent help for the self-representative! Automated forms for divorce, family, housing, expungement and more

Nexis Uni

- Features more than 15,000 news, business and legal sources from LexisNexis—including U.S. Supreme Court decisions dating back to 1790—with an intuitive interface that offers quick discovery across all content types
- Library Express provides access to more than 6,000 news, business, and legal sources. Includes *The New York Times*, June 1980 – current



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616.988.5400 • WWW.GRPL.ORG

Outdoor Storytimes

Spring Fun on the Lawn

Join us for outside fun! Enjoy stories read by GRPL staff and sing, dance, and play outside on our Library on the Lawn. For ages 0-5. In case of inclement weather, this event series will be moved indoors.

Mondays, April 4, 11, 18, 25 | 10:30 am
Main Library | 111 Library Street NE

Wednesdays, April 6, 13, 20, 27 | 10:30 am
Seymour Branch | 2350 Eastern SE

Thursdays, April 7, 14, 21, 28
10:30 am | Yankee Clipper Branch
2025 Leonard NE

Explore Great Films this Summer at GRPL

The Grand Rapids Public Library has an extensive film collection—both on DVD and via streaming. This spring, the library will host events to highlight some of the collection.

Short Film Discussion Group

Mondays, June 13, July 11, August 15
6:00 – 7:00 pm
Yankee Clipper Branch | 2025 Leonard NE

Do you enjoy discussing short films? Each month we will watch a short film from our Kanopy collection and then talk about it. A film expert and community stakeholders will be on hand to help get the conversation started. Light refreshments provided.

Black and African American Voices
Monday, June 13 | 6:00 – 7:00 pm
Yankee Clipper Branch | 2025 Leonard NE

Watch a short film featuring Black voices and join in a conversation led by Carolyn Ferrari, National Manager of Regional Directors for American Immersion Theater; Lisa Knight, CEO of DV Apple Logistics LLC; and Grand Rapids Public Library film expert, Sarah Nawrocki (she/her).

Queer Voices with The Grand Rapids Pride Center
Monday, July 11 | 6:00 – 7:00 pm
Yankee Clipper Branch | 2025 Leonard NE

Watch a short film featuring LGBTQIA+ voices and join in a conversation led by Aaminah Shakur (they/them) and Jazz McKinney (they/them) from the

Grand Rapids Pride Center and Grand Rapids Public Library film expert, Sarah Nawrocki (she/her).

Queer Voices with YWCA

Monday, August 15 | 6:00 – 7:00 pm
Yankee Clipper Branch | 2025 Leonard NE

Watch a short film featuring LGBTQIA+ voices and join in a conversation led by Janelle LeBlanc, Director of Crisis Intervention Services & LGBTQ Specialist at YWCA West Michigan and Grand Rapids Public Library film expert, Sarah Nawrocki (she/her).



Movies on the Lawn

Fridays, June 17, July 8, August 5
7:30 – 10:00 pm
Yankee Clipper Branch | 2025 Leonard NE

Bring a chair or blanket and join us for an outdoor family movie! Free refreshments and a take-home craft will also be available. Events will be weather permitting. Activities on the lawn begin at 8:00 pm and the movie will begin by dusk.

June 17: *Encanto* (PG)
July 8: *Raya and the Last Dragon* (PG)
August 5: *Moana* (PG)

This program is presented in partnership with Wealthy Theatre.



Kanopy is the best video streaming service for quality, thoughtful entertainment. Find movies, documentaries, foreign films, classic cinema, independent films and educational videos that inspire, enrich and entertain. Free with your library card, Kanopy offers an ad-free experience that can be enjoyed on your TV, mobile phones, tablets and online.

Visit www.grpl.org/download to get started.

Outdoor Storytimes with GRPL

If you love stories, songs, and rhymes, join the Grand Rapids Public Library for outdoor storytime. This fun event for kids ages 0-5 is the perfect way to get some wiggles out. Each child will take home a free Storytime Kit at the end of the program (while supplies last).

Mondays, May 9, June 13, July 11, August 8
11:00 am | Roosevelt Park
1340 Godfrey Ave SW

Mondays, May 16, June 20, July 18, August 15
11:00 am | Briggs Park
324 Knapp St NE

Storytime in the Park with Storytime GR

Join us on Tuesday nights at the park for stories, free books and ice cream, special guests, and a whole lot of family fun! StorytimeGR is a partnership of the Grand Rapids Public Library, Read GR, Grand Valley State University, the Grand Rapids Office of Special Events, and Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation.

Tuesdays, June 7–August 30 | 6:30 – 8:00 pm
Garfield Park | 2111 Madison SE

Tuesdays, June 7, 21, July 5, 19, August 2, 16
6:30 – 8:00 pm | Martin Luther King Jr. Park
900 Fuller Ave SE

Tuesdays, June 14, 28, July 12, 26, August 9, 23
6:30 – 8:00 pm | Lincoln Park
1120 Bridge St NW

Family Storytime on the Lawn

Join us for this outdoor storytime held on the lawn of your favorite GRPL branch! Children ages 0-5 and their caregivers will love this half-hour event that features stories, songs, rhymes, and playing on the lawn. In case of inclement weather, this event series will be moved indoors.

Tuesdays, June 7 – 28, July 12 – August 16
10:30 am | West Side Branch
713 Bridge St NW

Wednesdays, June 8 – 29, July 13 – August 17
10:30 am | Seymour Branch
2350 Eastern SE

Thursdays, June 9 – 30, July 14 – August 18
10:30 am | Yankee Clipper Branch
2025 Leonard NE

Summer Reading Program

June 1 – August 13, 2022

Become a world explorer this summer! Kids 18 and under can join the Grand Rapids Public Library to discover the people and places that make our world so special. Track your reading journey on your map and get inspired with fun events and activities. Complete your reading map to earn a prize pack. Sign up www.grpl.org/summerreading starting June 1.

Continents of the World Craft Kits

Available June 11 – August 13, 2022

Each week, grab free take-home craft kits for kids ages 5 and up! Included in the kit are all the materials you need to help explore and learn about our fascinating world! Each week features a different culture and continent.

Events to Explore Your World



Summer Fun Kick-off with Leah Ivory African Drum & Dance

Leah Ivory and friends will offer a performance demonstration of traditional drumming rhythms and dance from West Africa. Learn about the drumming rhythms and their meaning and then learn traditional dance moves with the performers for a drum and dance celebration!

Wednesday, June 15
10:30 – 11:30 am
Yankee Clipper Branch | 2025 Leonard NE
1:30 – 2:30 pm
Seymour Branch | 2350 Eastern SE
4:30 – 6:30 pm
Main Library | 111 Library Street NE



Animals of America with Blandford Nature Center

Come on out and meet a few of Blandford's Wildlife Ambassadors! The animals you'll meet are native to Michigan and cannot survive in the wild. See birds, mammals, and reptiles—some animals can even be gently touched! Natural artifacts like furs, feathers, and skulls will be passed around during the program.

Wednesday, June 22
10:30 – 11:30 am
Yankee Clipper Branch | 2025 Leonard NE
1:30 – 2:30 pm
Seymour Branch | 2350 Eastern SE
4:30 – 6:30 pm
Main Library | 111 Library Street NE



Cultural Showcase by Golden Tiger Kung Fu & Extended Learning Academy

Join the students from Golden Tiger Kung Fu & Extended Learning Academy, who will perform a traditional Chinese Dragon Dance, followed by a demonstration of traditional Kung Fu. See Kung Fu moves using the long fist, monkey fist, bamboo fans, swords, staffs and spears! After the performance, Shifu (master) Mei will lead participants in a 5–10-minute class teaching them one of the foundational forms, or movements, of Kung Fu. Free related book giveaways will be available during the event, while supplies last.

Wednesday, June 29 | 4:00 – 5:30 pm
Yankee Clipper Branch | 2025 Leonard NE
Wednesday, July 13 | 4:00 – 5:30 pm
Seymour Branch | 2350 Eastern SE
Wednesday, August 3 | 4:00 – 5:30 pm
Main Library | 111 Library Street NE



Pasta 101 with The Local Epicurean

Wednesdays, July 6, 20, 27

11:00 am – 1:00 pm
The Local Epicurean | 1440 Wealthy St SE

Join us on a pasta making adventure! Learn how to make delicious pasta at home with no special equipment. For ages 11 & up. Registration is required. Sign up at grpl.org/register.

Caregivers are welcome but not required to attend.

G'Day Nature! Clay and Sand Sculpting

Australia is home to many animals that live in a variety of landscapes, including deserts and beaches. Learn to sculpt an Australian animal out of clay. While your clay creation is baking, make a batch of kinetic sand to take home.

Wednesday, July 6 | 1:00 – 2:30 pm
Main Library | 111 Library Street NE
Wednesday, July 20 | 2:00 – 3:30 pm
Yankee Clipper Branch | 2025 Leonard NE
Wednesday, July 27 | 2:00 – 3:30 pm
Seymour Branch | 2350 Eastern SE



Antarctic Survival

How do penguins stay warm? Why do Antarctic explorers need to pack sunscreen? Find out in this "cool" interactive program.

Wednesday, June 29 | 1:30 – 2:30 pm
Seymour Branch | 2350 Eastern SE

Wednesday, July 13 | 10:30 – 11:30 am
Yankee Clipper Branch | 2025 Leonard NE

Wednesday, August 10 | 4:30 – 6:30 pm
Main Library | 111 Library Street NE

Join us for a Summer Reading Program afterparty immediately after the August 10 event.

Breakout Box Challenge

Monday, July 25 | 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Main Library | 111 Library St NE

A breakout box is like an escape room, except instead of trying to break out of the room, you're trying to break into a box full of treasures. Can you crack the codes and solve the puzzles in time? Bring your friends, or come solo and we'll assemble a team for you. For ages 13–19. Registration required. Sign up at grpl.org/register.

Comic Geek Out

Saturday, July 16 | 1:00 – 5:00 pm
Yankee Clipper Branch | 2025 Leonard NE

Celebrate the comic books you love, and geek out on your favorite fandom. Join us for special guests, hands-on activities, snacks, free books, a comic workshop, and other fun events!

Meet Voice Actress Colleen O'Shaughnessey



Grand Rapids native Colleen O'Shaughnessey will make a special appearance at this year's Comic Geek Out. In addition to signing autographs, Colleen will discuss her role as Tails in the *Sonic 1 & 2* movies, what it is like to work as a voice actor, and her favorite voice work. Attendees will get a chance to ask questions during the special Q&A.

Other events include:

- Comic Strip Workshop
- Vault of Midnight Drop-In
- Tabletop Extravaganza
- Artists Alley
- Comic Crafts
- Comics 101 Exhibition
- Professional Cosplay Meet & Greet
- Cosplay Contest

For more event details and times visit our website at www.grpl.org/comic-geek-out

Partners: Cody Coppernoll, Vault of Midnight, Hackley Public Library, Cosplay Crusaders, League of Enchantment, 501 Legion, Rebels, MI Geek Scene



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Preschool, Here I Come

- April 29 from 9:30 am - 2:30 pm at all elementary schools

Regional Neighborhood Enrollment Events

- April 26 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm at Boys & Girls Club Steil Center
- April 28 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm at Second Congregational UCC
- May 3 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm at LINC Up
- May 5 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm at the Hispanic Center



April 2022 | Section B

GRPS Foundation: 9

Early Childhood: 10

Spring Athletics: 13

Promise Neighborhoods Program Led by WMU Will Infuse Grand Rapids With Almost \$30 Million

Local organizations and educational institutions come together to support Southeast Side students

By Phil de Haan, Courtesy of School News Network

A decade-old program from the U.S. Department of Education that creates “Promise Neighborhoods” – places with great schools and strong supports for students – will infuse Grand Rapids with almost \$30 million over the next five years thanks to one of the largest grants in the history of Western Michigan University.

WMU education faculty Patricia Reeves and Jianping Shen were awarded \$29.5 million for the Grand Rapids Southeast Promise Neighborhood Project.

They will partner with a variety of Grand Rapids-based organizations to strengthen Grand Rapids Public Schools in a southeast quadrant of the city. The neighborhood being served by the grant includes one high school and a dozen feeder schools. Partners will include GRPS, Baxter Community Center, Early Learning Neighborhood Collaborative, Family Futures, Grand Rapids Community College, Grand Valley State University, Kent ISD and LINC UP.

“Children are the future of our society,” Shen said in a WMU statement. “Our team looks forward to working with partners in Grand Rapids to improve children’s outcomes there.”

Each year the project will serve about 9,500 children from birth to grade 12 in areas including “school readiness, literacy and math success, transitions to middle and high school, postsecondary preparation, and a variety of student and family health and security targets,” according to the statement. It further aims to “add to the body of evidence of methods that can be used to improve all impoverished neighborhoods as well as their schools, children and students.”

GRPS officials are thrilled by the grant, the partnerships it will fund and what the programs will mean for district students.

Superintendent Leadriane Roby earned her Ph.D. at WMU and said she is eager to partner with her alma mater and the other partner organizations in improving students’ educational success.

“The Promise Neighborhoods grant will empower all of us to increase capacity for programming that will enhance our ‘cradle-to-career’ solutions,” Roby said in the statement. “We are excited to roll up our sleeves and work collaboratively to improve developmental, educational and social outcomes for the children of Southeast Grand Rapids.”

‘A True Collective Impact’

Bridget Cheney, executive director of early childhood, elementary, and K-8 schools for GRPS, told School News Network that the district has already begun the initial planning for different sorts of programming that will be funded by the grant. Cheney said she and her colleagues are ecstatic about the



Each year the project will serve about 9,500 children from birth to grade 12

“true collective impact” the grant will have on Grand Rapids.

“The model being used is designed intentionally to address areas of need,” she said. “And it aims to increase cooperation, collaboration and alignment among and between the project partners.

“We are proud to be working alongside community partners in this endeavor,” she continued. “That is a tremendous strength of the project. It is a true school and community support network in which children are at the center.”



Dr. Jianping Shen (courtesy)



Dr. Patricia Reeves (courtesy)

Since its inception in 2010 the vision of the Promise Neighborhoods project is that “all children and youth growing up in Promise Neighborhoods have access to great schools and strong systems of family and community support that will prepare them to attain an excellent education and successfully transition to college and a career.”

John Helmholdt, spokesperson for GRPS, said schools being supported by the grant will include Ottawa Hills High School; Alger Middle School; Brookside, Campus, Congress, Grand Rapids Montessori Academy, Ken-O-Sha Park, Mulick Park, Ridgemoor Park Montessori Academy and Sherwood Park Global Studies Academy elementary schools; Dickinson Academy; Gerald R. Ford Academic Center; and Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Academy.

WMU noted that the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, which has invested in Grand Rapids and built the prototype for the partnership, helped bring the cooperating organizations together for the project.

Yazeed Moore, a W.K. Kellogg Foundation program officer, said simply that the award will “ensure our community partners and stakeholders in the city have the support and resources they need to make sure all children, regardless of zip code and address, have the ability to succeed in school, work and life.”

Innovation Central Earns \$300,000 STEM Grant

Money will support equipment, training and assessments of industry needs

By Phil de Haan, Courtesy of School News Network

Innovation Central is one of 16 schools across the state to benefit from recent grants from Michigan-based SME Education Foundation, the philanthropic arm of SME, an international nonprofit that serves the manufacturing industry.

Innovation Central will receive \$300,000 total (with an opportunity to reapply for future grants).

That money will go toward a variety of improvements for its Academy of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math program, including industry tools and equipment, professional development and training, curricula, and both internal and external assessment of industry needs and how current assets at Innovation Central line up with industry and where they might need to be beefed up.

First-year Innovation Central principal Jason McGhee said teachers, staff and the almost 100 students in the program were “shocked, surprised and filled with gratitude” when they heard they had won the award.

“This is the product of working with your community,” he said. “One of our advisory council members suggested that we should apply for the grant. We did, and we got it.”

McGhee said that the grant will help Innovation Central put its students in prime positions to gain access to opportunities in STEM fields and experiences that they may not have otherwise.

“We want students to leave our program with certifications, experience and expertise so that when they take the next step after high school, they are more prepared and credentialed than some of their competition,” he said.



Jason McGhee



16 New Awards Part of Expanded State Funding

In a statement, Grand Rapids Public Schools Superintendent Leadriane Roby said the academy “offers rigorous college-career prep opportunities for our scholars that will be significantly enhanced by the SME Education Foundation’s PRIME program.”

The \$300,000 is part of an influx in state funding targeted at helping schools build and expand manufacturing and engineering programs. The SME Education Foundation received \$6 million from the state of Michigan as part of the 2021 education budget to expand its SME PRIME initiative across the state with the 16 new awards almost doubling the number of participating schools from 17 to 33.

The PRIME stands for Partnership Response In Manufacturing Education and, as the name suggests, the idea is to build manufacturing and engineering programs in high schools across the country that will serve industry. The effort includes providing equipment but also curriculum, professional development, scholarships and more, as will be the case at Innovation Central.

SME PRIME schools aim to provide hands-on instruction that fits both industry needs and industry-recognized certifications. The goal is to provide a pipeline to the approximately 500,000 U.S. manufacturing positions that the Foundation says are currently unfilled, a shortage that is expected to grow to 2.1 million unfilled jobs by 2030.

At Innovation Central, the Academy of Science, Technology, Engineering & Math is one of five academies at the school. It has two tracks of classes: an engineering track and a biomedical track.



At Innovation Central, the Academy of Science, Technology, Engineering & Math has an engineering track and a biomedical track (courtesy)

Grand Rapids Public Schools WE ARE GR

April 2022
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Equal Opportunity Institution: Grand Rapids Public Schools, as an Equal Opportunity Institution, complies with federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and harassment, including Title IV and Title VII (with amendments) of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the Educational Amendment of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Veterans Readjustment Act of 1974 as amended 38 USC 20-12 and the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990. The District will not discriminate against any person based on race, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and expression, height, weight, color, religion, national origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, disability or veteran status. The District's Civil Rights Compliance Officer is Anya Lusk. Ms. Lusk may be contacted at 1331 Franklin SE, P.O. Box 117, Grand Rapids, MI 49501-0117, (616) 819-2030 or (616) 819-2028. 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) 819-6339 or titleix@grps.org.

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.

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GRPS Communications Office
Grand Rapids Public Schools
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GRPS School Receives National Honor, Local Gift

Prestigious academic designation emphasizes global awareness, artistic expression

By Phil de Haan, Courtesy of School News Network

A Grand Rapids Public School has two new plaques to hang on its walls as 2022 begins.

One comes as a result of Sherwood Park Global Studies Academy, a GRPS PK-6 theme school, just being named an International Baccalaureate World School for the Primary Years Programme. It is one of two such schools in Kent County so named at that level (joining Coit Creative Arts Academy), and just the 26th school in the state.

The Primary Years Programme is for ages 3 to 12, and points of emphasis in the curriculum include developing student connections to the local and global community and expression through the arts.

Which leads to the second plaque. Titled "Around the World," it includes words from Jill Bouwma, a Sherwood Park neighbor since 1983, and it hangs by a 24-feet-long, almost 6-feet-high puzzle that Bouwma completed over a year and then donated to the school.

Sherwood Park Global Studies Academy Principal Sherrie Ross said it is contributing to the educational opportunities that make her school worthy of its recent accolade.

"Not only is the puzzle a display of patience and perseverance, its intricate showcase of landmarks and physical features throughout the world complements our Global Studies theme and International Baccalaureate curriculum framework," Ross said. "Staff and student scholars have commented that each time they walk by the puzzle, they discover something new in our world."

Rigorous, Three-Year IB Process

And while the puzzle took a year to complete, the process of applying to become an International Baccalaureate World School for the Primary Years Programme was even longer – some three years from start to finish.

International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme Coordinator Susan Lee said the process was rigorous.

It began in 2018 when the building applied for and was granted candidacy status, she said. During the three-year candidacy phase, academy staff completed IB-specific training, aligned curriculum, created school policies required by the IB, and implemented PYP elements into teaching and learning as well as school culture and climate. Teachers, she said, spent hours on professional development and even now the work is ongoing.

Then, after three years in the candidacy phase, Sherwood Park

■ CONTINUES ON PAGE 4



A peek inside one of the classrooms at Sherwood Park Global Studies Academy, the newest International Baccalaureate World School for the Primary Years Programme



'Around the World' includes glimpses of iconic Americana, and global icons such as Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

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, the 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 be 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). 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.

Global Studies Academy went through a verification or authorization visit with two IB team members sent to review curriculum documents, building policies and more.

Rice added that the team also interviewed students, parents, staff, district administration, community partners and school board members.

Ross said the work is well worth the final outcome.

"The Primary Years Programme is a student-centered approach to education," she said. "It reflects the best of educational research, thought leadership and experience derived from IB World Schools. It's an example of responding to the challenges and opportunities facing young students in our rapidly changing world."

Thinking Global, Giving Local

For Bouwma the puzzle-maker, nearby Sherwood Park has been a constant for almost her entire life in said rapidly changing world. For her, puzzles pass the time when she's not assisting customers as part of her duties at Meijer, where she has worked for 12 years.

The Sherwood Park puzzle depicts not just scenes of classic Americana, but also iconic symbols from around the globe. Bouwma said that as she was working on this puzzle, and thinking about a home for it, she and her parents thought of Sherwood Park and its global focus.

"We were so glad to offer the puzzle to the students and staff to enjoy and learn from," she said. "Our hope is that the students will be



Susan Lee, International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme coordinator, left, and Sherwood Park Global Studies Academy Principal Sherrie Ross with the plaque naming it as an International Baccalaureate World School for the Primary Years Programme

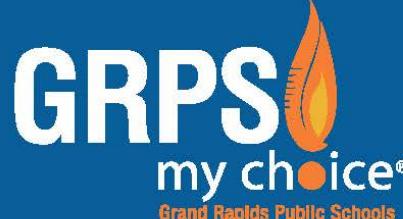
inspired and want to learn more about different countries and these wonderful places around the world."

Her first big puzzle, Bouwma said, had 18,000 pieces. She also has a 41,320-piece Disney-movie-scenes puzzle displayed



Puzzle maker Jill Bouwma, left, and Sherwood Park Global Studies Academy Principal Sherrie Ross

permanently at Celebration Cinema North. "Around the World," the puzzle that she donated, is at 42,000 pieces, perhaps her magnum opus.



WE ARE HIRING



Scan to view complete list of vacancies.

JOIN OUR TEAM! COME BE PART OF THE GRPS TRANSFORMATION

**Are you ready:
To change the world? To work with children?
To transform public education?**

GRPS is looking to fill current and future vacancies for the 2022-2023 school year.

Positions include:

- Teacher
- Food & Nutrition
- Paraprofessional
- Custodial/Maintenance
- Clerical
- Security & Safety
- Child Care Worker
- And More!

INTERESTED CANDIDATES MAY VIEW OPENINGS AND APPLY AT CAREERS.GRPS.ORG.

Strong Team Made Her a Strong Teacher

By Phil de Haan, Courtesy of School News Network

When Buchanan Elementary's Jill Niewiadomski was summoned to her principal's office in mid-October, she admits that there was a moment of uncertainty.

Recalling the moment a couple months later, her eyes sparkle behind her mask as she sits in her brightly lit classroom, her second-grade charges on the playground for recess.

"You know, when you get called to the principal's office, you're like, 'That's probably not good,'" she said with a hearty laugh.

Her curiosity soon became disbelief as her principal then got Grand Rapids Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Leadriane Roby on the line via speakerphone, so Roby could congratulate her on being one of the district's three Jean Hamilton Cope teacher of the year honorees.

She joined Grand Rapids University Prep Academy's Sheri Kraai and Union High School's Nicole Durso (one for elementary, one for middle school and one for high school). The honors were created thanks to donors Laurie and Mark Grand, who set up the award through the Grand Rapids Public Schools Foundation, which administers and gives the \$1,000 that each honoree receives.

Criteria for the award include:

- Knowledge and use of effective instructional methods
- Passion for teaching and students' learning
- Leadership in and outside of the classroom

■ CONTINUES ON PAGE 6



Buchanan Elementary teacher Jill Niewiadomski was described in nomination materials for the Jean Hamilton Cope Teacher of the Year as an amazing and friendly teacher



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS PRESENTS

PRESCHOOL, HERE I COME
A FREE OPEN HOUSE EVENT
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2022 | 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
AVAILABLE AT ALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
OFFERING THE GREAT START READINESS PROGRAM



DEVELOPED UNDER A GRANT AWARDED BY
THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- Collaboration with colleagues, students, and families
- Advocacy for GRPS

Each GRPS winner also becomes a nominee for the Michigan Teacher of the Year award.

GRPS Superintendent Roby said she is proud of Niewiadomski and her fellow honorees for their commitment to their students and the district.

"These are three wonderful teachers," Roby said. "Their students past and present are fortunate to have access to these strong and capable women, and it is an honor for me to count them among the many, many amazing teachers we have at GRPS. The pandemic made us all realize and remember the value of good teachers, so it is truly great to be able to recognize Jill and Sherri and Nicole in this way."

'You pitch in, do what needs to be done'

"I was stunned," Niewiadomski said of the recent honor. "Just stunned. I was trying to take it in and not cry. It's very humbling. We have so many good teachers here (at Buchanan) and in the district. I did sort of think, 'why me?'"

Her colleagues at Buchanan know why.

Niewiadomski was described in nomination materials as an amazing and friendly teacher who continually goes above and beyond to make sure her class is well run and respectful to everyone.

Several nominators noted the school currently is missing a teacher for its other second-grade classroom, but Niewiadomski is preparing lessons for that class that substitute teachers can deliver, so that those students can keep pace with her students.

Of that extra effort, Niewiadomski is nonchalant.

"It wasn't fair to (the students)," she said. "They needed to have that same education as the students in here, in my room. So that's what teams do, right. You pitch in, do what needs to be done."

That team approach is not lost on her colleagues.

In nomination materials, one fellow teacher said: "She is an amazing colleague, friend and teacher!" From another: "She has been a part of our school instructional leadership team for several years. She ensures that the best interest of students is always the focus for any decisions made in the building. And she is always willing to collaborate with others, both within and across grade levels."

Mid-Career Switch

Niewiadomski said her background prior to becoming a teacher taught her the value of working as a team. She has been in the classroom for a dozen years, after a mid-career switch from accounting to education.

When the youngest of her four children was in second grade, she started helping out in his classroom, and at a certain point remembers thinking, "I was meant to be a teacher."

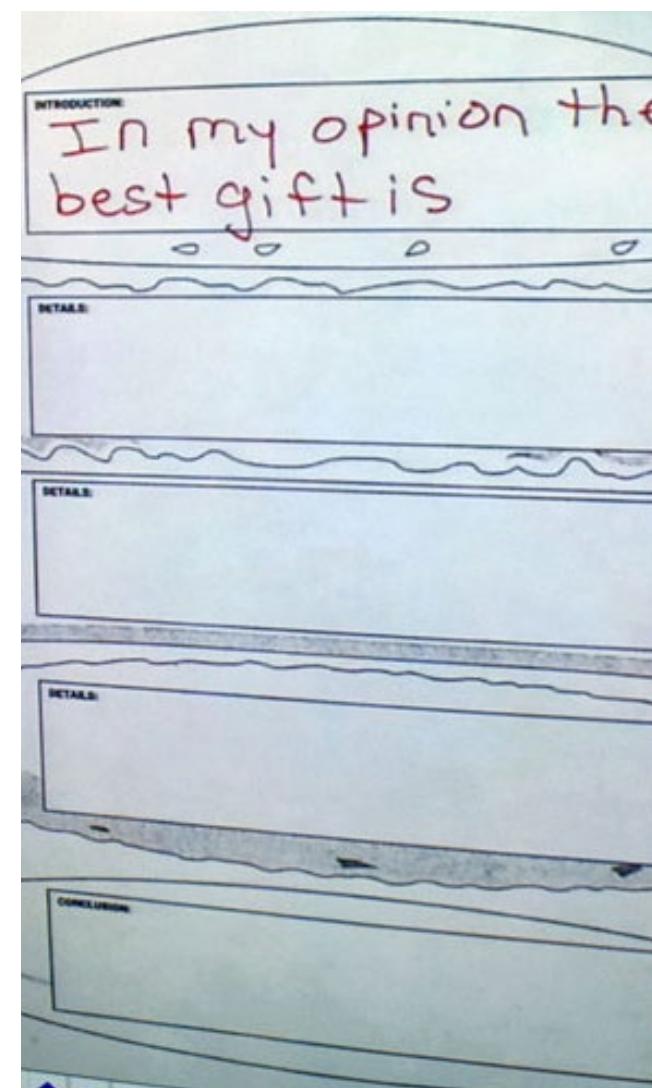
She decided to go back to Grand Valley State University, her alma mater, for her accounting degree, and pursued a second degree in Spanish and elementary education (She also has a Master in the Art of Teaching degree from Aquinas). At GVSU, she did her student teaching at Burton Elementary, and when an opening arose at Buchanan she jumped at the chance.



GRPS Teacher of the Year Jill Niewiadomski walks the room as her students work on a writing assignment



A student in Jill Niewiadomski's second-grade class works on a writing assignment tied to her favorite Christmas gift



A prompt for a writing assignment for Jill Niewiadomski's second-grade students at Buchanan Elementary

"I love the staff at Buchanan," she said. "The last couple of years have been so difficult for so many people on a personal and professional level. I think there have been times when I've thought it's too much, but that is when you need to rely on your friends and your team. I must give a shoutout to Abby Boyer, who was my mentor when I first started teaching and has been on my second-grade team until this year. She has been a great friend, resource and sounding board."

And, Niewiadomski added, she loves her students.

"I love all the potential they have, and I think their kindness and generosity has really shown through during the pandemic," she said. "It warms my heart! Also, how they will see me years after I've had them in second grade and they'll say, 'Do you remember me?' Of course I remember them; how could I forget them."

'You Have to Teach Them How to Love Themselves'

Teacher Sherri Kraai feels called to be in the classroom

By Alexis Stark, Courtesy of School News Network

As her first-hour students filed into her classroom, Sherri Kraai greeted each of the 10 sixth-graders with a high five.

"It's Mrs. Kraai's birthday!" Brooke Brisco announced from her desk.

Kraai said she was getting a crown for her birthday, paused, then clarified it would be a crown at the dentist.

The only gift she needed, she told them, "is the gift of your learning."

Her alma mater's chant "Go Green!" is the theme of Kraai's classroom: Michigan State University Spartan posters, green plants and vines that frame the white board.

Photos of her family, inspirational plaques and posters ensure that if students' eyes wander during class, the walls remind them they are loved, to be kind, that life is good and to believe in themselves.

Kraai also has a regular response when she hears students wielding insults in her classroom.

When she hears her students calling each other ugly, she uses it as an acronym. "I tell them 'You are UGLY: unique, gorgeous, lovely and why? Because you're you,'" she said. "You have to love on them. This world is way too selfish and this school has the biggest heart."

'Like Ms. Frizzle in the Classroom'

Principal Kenyatta Hill-Hall calls Kraai, who has taught sixth- and seventh-grade science at Grand Rapids University Preparatory Academy for 11 years, "the mom of the school" and said she's "so incredible at what she does."

One of Kraai's teaching colleagues likens her to Ms. Frizzle and her magic school bus, "taking her students on adventures and opening their eyes to the world of science and possibilities."

Said another: "She is known around school for her positive attitude and her engaging classroom."

Kraai's colleagues sang her praises and contributed to her receiving the Jean Hamilton Cope Teachers of the Year from the district for grades 6-8.

She was honored alongside Buchanan Elementary second-grade teacher Jill Niewiadomski for grades PK-5, and Union High School biology teacher Nicole Durso.

Kraai said the news still hits her at random times of the day.

"You don't teach because you try to win awards, but it's such a blessing to come to work because I love my job," she said.

A couple of Kraai's sixth-graders shared what they like about their teacher.

Sarie Lopez-Gonzalez said her favorite thing is Kraai's personality, and "when I need help with something, she always helps me."

"When I first got here I didn't really like science," Brooke said, "but (Mrs. Kraai) was so nice and cool and makes a lesson so that it's fun to learn, like planting plants in the summertime. Even if it's not my favorite subject, she makes it fun."



Sherri Kraai, sixth-grade science teacher at Grand Rapids University Preparatory Academy, was one of three GRPS teachers awarded the Jean Hamilton Cope Teachers of the Year

Trusting God's Plan

Kraai said she had no idea she wanted to be a teacher when she was growing up.

Her father's education had stalled after sixth grade, so when he completed a chaplaincy degree, he credited his daughter for helping him get through school.

"When you get recognized for doing just what you're supposed to do, you're living your God-given purpose in life," Kraai said.

She dipped her toes into teaching with starting a preschool program two mornings a week at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Parish in Grand Rapids

"That program grew to five days a week for a few years, and then I knew I needed more," Kraai said.

Her original plan was to teach students with visual and auditory impairments, so she learned Braille while earning a master's degree at Michigan State University. Her interests evolved and she dabbled in occupational therapy, physical therapy and working with older adults in nursing homes.

"I knew when I found what I was meant to be doing, I would know it," Kraai recalled. "It happened when I was assisting in the blind and deaf classroom at Ken-O-Sha Elementary and the kindergarten teacher asked me to take over their class. That was it."

She taught third grade at Blessed Sacrament Catholic School, before it consolidated with three other parish schools to form All Saints Academy, then found her way to GRPS.

Empowering Student Teachers

Today, Kraai admits middle school is a "tough age group of students."

"You need to be supportive, creative, understanding and have a heart for the total student," she explained. "You have to teach them how to love themselves at that age."

One way she encourages her students to get involved in what

■ CONTINUES ON PAGE 8



Sherri Kraai greets her sixth-grade students with a high five on their way into science class at Grand Rapids University Preparatory Academy

they're learning is by allowing them to be the teacher for a day.

Every class period she assigns the role to one student. They sit at a special desk in the middle of the room, pose the question of the day to their classmates and walk around to check work and answer questions.

"It's a fabulous way to teach," Kraai said. "You let the kids take over and I sit and just watch. It's so empowering for them."

On Jamie Jimenez Gonzalez's day to be the teacher, he posed the objective of the day — understanding heredity — and led a discussion about Punnett squares until they discovered the outcomes of the feather colors an offspring of two owls would have.

"You have to make it fun and enjoyable so it doesn't feel like a chore," Kraai said. "It's an opportunity to grow with the students, and they make it fun."

She also attributes a fun learning environment to her fellow teachers and administrative support at Grand Rapids University Preparatory Academy.

"We're such a well oiled machine, and our leadership is the reason I get to be this creative and go outside the box."

'Even if it's not my favorite subject, she makes it fun.'

— sixth-grader Brooke Brisco

Beyond the Classroom

In addition to a nurturing family at school, Kraai is grateful for her husband and two kids.

"My family has been so supportive about coming along on this journey with me and are interested in the weird things Mom does," she said with a laugh.

Her extended family also includes the track and cross-country team she coaches, partnering with teams from Ottawa Hills High School and Grand Rapids Montessori.

Kraai said she has enjoyed every step of her teaching career.

"I'm still so honored to be acknowledged for doing what I love and my purpose in life," she said. "The older I get, the more I get along [with] and understand students. You get older and wiser." team she coaches, partnering with teams from Ottawa Hills High School and Grand Rapids Montessori.

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Sixth-grade teacher Sherri Kraai shows her students the different kinds of dried beans they will use in their experiment



Sixth-grade science teacher Sherri Kraai leads students in a discussion about genetic traits

A NOTE FROM THE GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION:

For over 25 years, the Grand Rapids Public Schools Foundation has uplifted scholars by ensuring they have resources to learn, develop, and thrive.

We continue to expand our reach and impact. Striving to work closely and strengthen our relationship with Grand Rapids Public Schools, the community, and private donors, we endeavor to provide every GRPS student with the best educational experience.

The GRPS Foundation is an independent nonprofit organization serving as the strategic fundraising partner of the Grand Rapids Public Schools. Our purpose is to raise, grow and steward funds and other community resources to support the Grand Rapids Public Schools for the benefit of its students.

Our vision is to provide resources needed for the students of the Grand Rapids Public Schools to learn, develop and thrive and for the Grand Rapids Public Schools to meet its own goals of education excellence.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mindshare '22: A Summer Celebration

June 1: A Summer Celebration

We believe that every child in our community deserves the chance to dream and engage in opportunities that allow for the discovery of their gifts, talents, and possibilities. Mark your calendar for an evening outdoors celebrating GRPS and the work of GRPS Foundation:

*Wednesday, June 1 from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
GRPS University - Under the Tent
1400 Fuller Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505*

As an advocate of public education, we invite you to help us reach our goal of raising \$300,000 to support the pillars of arts, music, environmental education, literacy, STEM, and physical wellness through sports.

This year's outdoor evening event will honor GRPS champion, Joan Secchia, highlight outstanding alumni from our school district, and showcase talented scholars going through the GRPS campus today – all while enjoying a beautiful early summer night in Michigan.

Learn more at grpsf.org/mindshare.html.

Questions about sponsoring MindShare '22? Email Holly Visser at holly@grpsf.org.



November 24: Turkey Trot

Join us for the 30th Annual Grand Rapids Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving day.

Proceeds from the race help to offset the cost of Grand Rapids Public Schools athletics so that all students have the opportunity to participate.

To learn more and register online, go to runsignup.com/Race/MI/GrandRapids/GRPSThanksgivingDayTurkeyTrot

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

Battle of the Brackets

March: A month comprised of wins and losses. We will always remember Coach K's epic last game with Duke and the Cinderella Saint Peters run. We are grateful to our corporate competitors that made this year's Battle of the Brackets-Great Sports campaign a success. We look forward to presenting a trophy to first-place winners, in both the men's and women's categories making them reigning champions for the year! Will it be you next year?

Top three in both categories as follows:

MENS:

- ASM Global/Van Andel Arena & DeVos Place
- Dean Transportation
- Flow Cleanrooms & Supply

WOMENS:

- Dean Transportation
- Voiard Asset Management Group
- ASM Global/Van Andel Arena & DeVos Place

Thank you to all who participated, for providing essential sports funding to our scholars. Together we are all winners!

Are you a sports enthusiast and want to get involved in events like this? Email Holly Visser at holly@grpsf.org.

MEET THE TEAM

We're all dedicated to the mission of the Grand Rapids Public Schools Foundation and impacting the students of Grand Rapids Public Schools.



Stephanie (Adams) Andrews
CEO and President
stephanie@grpsf.org

"I am absolutely thrilled to have this opportunity to lead the organization. As an alum of Ottawa Hills, a Latina and active member of the GR community, there is no greater pride than being able to raise money for our schools."



Holly Visser
Development Director
holly@grpsf.org

"I am excited for the opportunity to impact the next generation of change makers. We get to make ripples every day that will span further than I will see in my lifetime, and that's truly gratifying."



Suzanne Prell
Project Manager
suzanne.prell@grpsf.org

"Grand Rapids is such a giving and caring community, and I am excited to be able to connect others with a way to support our young scholars to grow and thrive. Isn't that what life is all about?"

We invite you to call, email or contact us with any questions.



**Grand Rapids Public Schools
FOUNDA TION**

Office: 616.819.6895
Email: info@grpsf.org
Website: www.grpsf.org





NEIGHBORHOOD ENROLLMENT NIGHT

**LEARN MORE ABOUT SCHOOLS NEAR YOU
AT OUR UPCOMING NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS!**

We're hosting events to share important information with parents and guardians.

Meet school staff from neighborhood schools, ask questions, and have some fun as you learn about GRPS.

EAT FREE FOOD

WIN PRIZES

MEET SCHOOL STAFF

**ENROLLMENT
ASSISTANCE**

**TAKE-HOME
GIVEAWAYS!**

NORTHWEST REGION

April 26, 5-7 PM
Boys & Girls Club | Steil Center
235 Straight Ave NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

NORTHEAST REGION

April 28, 5-7 PM
Second Congregational UCC
525 Cheshire Dr. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

SOUTHEAST REGION

May 3, 5-7 PM
LINC Up
1167 Madison Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507

SOUTHWEST REGION

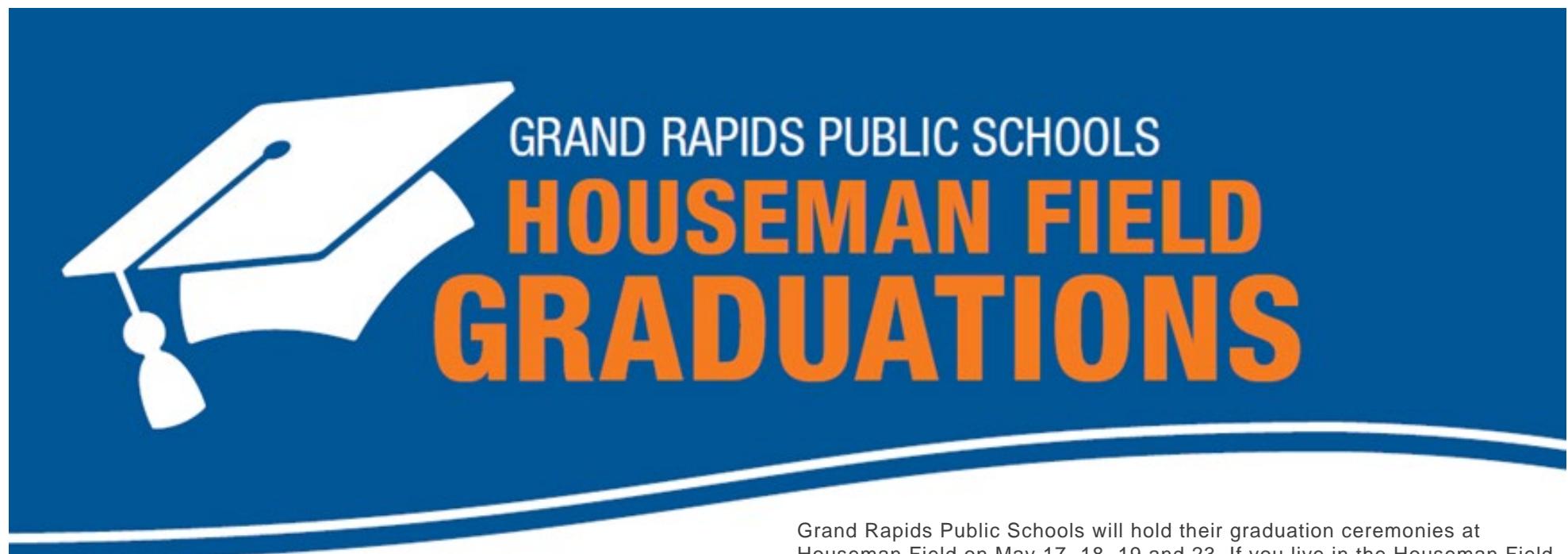
May 5, 5-7 PM
Hispanic Center
1204 Cesar E. Chavez Ave SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503



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GRPS
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NUTRITIOUS SUMMER MEALS FOR KIDS 18 AND UNDER

SPONSORED BY: **GRPS**
my choice®
Grand Rapids Public Schools

GRPS will be sponsoring nutritious summer meals for the 2022 season.

Look for We Are GR and the June school menu for more information.

We look forward to serving your children!

MEET UP and EAT UP™

Grand Rapids Public Schools will hold their graduation ceremonies at Houseman Field on May 17, 18, 19 and 23. If you live in the Houseman Field neighborhood, please remember there will be heavy traffic in and out of the neighborhood before and after each graduation. To help reduce traffic and parking, we are providing shuttle busses to and from Houseman Field for each ceremony. The Grand Rapids Police Department will also have officers helping with traffic control.

Thank you in advance for your patience and support. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call 616-819-2149 or email us at communications@grps.org.

Tuesday, May 17, 2022 (Houseman Field)

CA Frost Middle High School	5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Innovation Central/GR Montessori	7:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Wednesday, May 18, 2022 (Houseman Field)

Ottawa Hills High School	5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Museum High School	7:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Thursday, May 19, 2022 (Houseman Field)

University Preparatory Academy	5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Union High School	7:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Monday, May 23, 2022 (Houseman Field)

City High Middle School	6:30 pm – 7:30 pm
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RAIN DATES: Saturday, May 21 between 9:00 am – 4:00 pm (based on need), Tuesday, May 24 or Wednesday, May 25 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm

GRPS



FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Parent University

If you haven't already, explore the Parent University website at parents.grps.org. This website contains Digital Learning links, Trending News, the Power Parent magazine, K-12 Milestone videos, family engagement events, caregiver courses, and more.

Discover the Power Parent magazine. This publication targets caregivers and families with timely articles supporting scholar success. The April 2022 edition focuses on "Academic Transitions." Learn tips and strategies to support scholars as they navigate grade level changes, particularly in grades preschool to kindergarten, kindergarten to first, second to third, fifth to sixth, eighth to ninth, and twelfth grade and beyond.

Check out the Parent University calendar and register for courses, events, and family field trips. A variety of courses have been created to meet the needs of our families.

Power Parent Magazine

Check out April's edition of Power Parent Magazine.

- Learn how to support your little human while transitioning into PreK in GOOD TO KNOW: Jump to PreK.
- Delve into Michigan's 3rd grade law in CHECK IT OUT: 3rd Grade Guide.
- Navigate FAMILY CONVERSATIONS: 12th Grade and Beyond and read through the 12th grade parenting guide.
- Search SETTING GOALS: To and From Kinder to learn about kindergarten expectations. F
- Find specific ways to support your middle and high school scholars in NAVIGATING ACHIEVEMENT: Middle and High School Transitions.
- Discover ways to support your scholars as they transition from 5th to 6th grade in NETWORK FOR SUCCESS: Graduating Elementary School.

PALs - Parent Action Leaders

PALs are Parent Action Leaders who serve as liaisons between families, schools, and GRPS. Every school has at least one PAL and they support their school families.

The PALs continue to lift family and community voices, opinions, and ideas with district leaders. In late April the PALs will meet with Larry Oberst, CFO of Grand Rapids Public Schools, to continue discussions about the district's Federal ESSER 3 funds.

F.A.C.E. in the Community

F.A.C.E. partnered with the Grand Rapids Civic Theater. GRPS families attended a live performance of *Dragons Love Tacos*. They also participated in a musical theater dance class where Mr. Torrey Thomas, a Civic Theater choreographer, worked closely with the families and taught a dance routine to the song "Now I'm a Believer." Every participant danced on the big stage!



Dragons Love Tacos



Musical Theater Dance Class



Middle School Golf



Join Middle School Golf Today!

First Tee Coaches are excited to lead middle school golf! Even if you've never played before but want to learn, join the team! All needed equipment will be provided.

Practices and matches will take place at:
Indian Trails Golf Course (2776 Kalamazoo Ave SE).

Practice & Match Times

Tuesdays | 3:00-5:00 pm | April 19 - May 24
Thursdays | 4:30-6:30 pm | April 21 - May 26

To Sign Up:

**Visit your athletic office or visit the
athletic Facebook page called GRPS
Middle School Athletics
(@GRPSmsathletics)**





Strong



Minds



Future



Champions

Middle School Athletics

PURPOSE STATEMENT

Middle School Athletics offers the important opportunity to prepare student-athletes for high school. Our middle school programs focus on all the key elements. These elements include academic achievement, overall improved school performance, athletic and life skill development, and involvement in community.

Having a quality middle school experience gives student-athletes a well-prepared transition into high schools to continue their path towards higher levels of success, academically and athletically.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Our goals and objectives include:
- Continue to offer free athletics to students in Grand Rapids Public Schools
- Improve overall academic performance of student-athletes
- Increasing the number of student-athletes participating in at least one interscholastic athletic team
- Broaden our base of community support, including fan and spectator participation
- Continue to establish competitive athletic programming
- Increase out of district participation
- Seamless transition into high school athletics

PRINCIPALS

As the leaders of the buildings, principals will:

- Set high expectations for all involved in athletic programs
- Communicate what is expected from you to all student-athletes, parents and staff
- Promote and encourage participation on teams and programs

ATHLETIC DIRECTORS

As the athletic administration in the buildings, athletic directors will:

- Promote the athletic offerings
- Ensure the successful operation of all athletic programs
- Monitor student expectations
- Impose corrections/penalties when expectations are not met
- Supervise coaching staff
- Generate high levels of school spirit

COACHES

As the instructional coaching staff, coaches will:

- Provide high quality coaching instruction
- Operate, organize, and safely supervise all practices and competitions
- Monitor student-athlete expectations
- Promote, recruit and retain student-athletes
- Communicate regularly with athletes and parents
- Prepare student-athletes for transitions into high school

SPORTS AND SEASONS

FALL

Cross Country, Football (7th/8th),
Boys Soccer, Volleyball

WINTER 1

Boys Basketball, Competitive Cheer, Swimming

WINTER 2

Girls Basketball, Bowling, Wrestling

SPRING

Baseball, Golf, Girls Soccer, Softball, Tennis, Track and Field

HOST MIDDLE SCHOOLS

The host middle schools are used as a home for practices and competitions for their schools and any cooperative programs.

Host middle school programs are located at:
Alger, Burton, CA Frost, City, Ford, Harrison Park,
Riverside, Sherwood Park, SWCC, University Prep or
Westwood.

COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS

Cooperative programs combine schools with each other and host middle schools to form one team. The following schools are part of this program: Aberdeen, Blandford, Center for Economicology, Dickinson, Grand Rapids Montessori, Museum School, North Park Montessori, Ridgemoor Park Montessori, Shawmut Hills, Sherwood Park, and Zoo School.

*We do not provide transportation to and from practices cooperative programs.

STUDENT-ATHLETES

Participating in athletics along with representing the school on athletics teams is a privilege.

Students must accept and commit to a high degree of responsibility when joining an athletic team. GRPS Middle School Student-Athletes must:

- Place a focus on improving their school performance (academically, attendance, behavior, practices and performances)
- Maintain all eligibility requirements for practice, competitions and throughout the school year (not just during the season)
- Cooperate with all coaches and athletic staff operating programs
- Follow all rules that govern athletics and represent the team and program well at all times
- Maintain a high level of sportsmanship

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

- grps.org/athletics
- facebook.com/GRPSAthletics
- instagram.com/grps_athletics
- twitter.com/AthleticsGrps

Union High School



Union High School Athletic Office

Phone: 616.819.3168
Website: unionredhawks.com

Vision Statement

The Union Athletics Department will strive to develop champions excelling in both classroom and in competition.

Participation Requirements

- Pass 66% of classes
- Maintain a 2.0 GPA
- Have good attendance
- Pay \$10 insurance fee
- Have an up to date sports physical on file in the athletic office prior to any form of participation

You may receive a physical from your own doctor/physician or you can set an appointment with Cherry Health at Union HS. Cherry Health: 616.791.6593

If you have any questions or concerns about the requirements to participate, please the Athletic Department at 616.819.3168.



Ottawa Hills High School



Ottawa Hills High School Athletic Office

Phone: 616.819.2879
Website: ottawahillsbengals.com

Mission Statement

The OHHS Athletic Department will maintain a high quality athletic program with excellence in the classroom and in athletic competition.

Contact Coaches to Sign Up for Spring Sports

Baseball Coach, Jon Duncan

Phone: 616.502.8369
Email: duncanJ@grps.org

Boys Golf Coach, Ben Hart

Phone: 616.951.9497
Email: ben.hart@maplehillgolf.com

Girls Soccer Coach, Edward Hilton

Phone: 616.558.0080
Email: coach.ed.hilton@gmail.com

Softball Coach, Mary Dekker

Phone: 616.284.0786
Email: mjd62@calvin.edu

Girls Tennis Coach, Andre Posey

Phone: 616.821.2393
Email: dreposey@sbcglobal.net

Track & Field Coach, Tony Shellman

Phone: 517.414.6228
Email: tonecapone3000@yahoo.com

Track & Field Coach, Dan Ebright

Phone: 616.608.2209
Email: dan.s.ebright@usdoj.gov

Contact Coaches to Sign Up for Spring Sports

Baseball, Eric Zudweg

Phone: 616.337.4128
Email: ezudweg@gmail.com

Golf, Contact the Athletic Office

Phone: 616.819.3168

Tennis, Bill Schaefer

Phone: 616.214.1476
Email: schaeferbill@yahoo.com

Soccer, Juan Zavala

Phone: 616.485.7955
Email: jmzavala323@gmail.com

Softball, Sam Meert

Phone: 616.308.0526
Email: sammeert97@gmail.com

Track & Field, Dan Droski

Phone: 616.260.2669
Email: droskid@grps.org

Participation Requirements

- Pass 66% of classes
- Maintain a 2.0 GPA
- Pay \$10 insurance fee
- Have an up to date sports physical on file in the athletic office prior to any form of participation



JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS



Grand Rapids Public Schools Middle School Tennis Team

Practice and team tennis match play for 6th, 7th and 8th graders
Come learn to play tennis, players with no tennis experience are welcome!

Practices and Matches will take place after school at Ottawa Hills and Union
High tennis courts on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
April 19th-May 26th

Register: Talk to your AD to sign up

Questions? Contact Sydney Whitfield - sydney@midwest.usta.com; 317-440-6691





FREE TO APPLY

\$500 STIPEND
PROVIDED TO ALL
PARTICIPANTS

HIGH SCHOOL COLLABORATIVE STUDIO

Let's empower high school students to address complex problems with design solutions that help build a better future, for people and the planet.

KCAD's Wege Prize High School Collaborative Studio is a summer workshop that immerses student participants in the solving of complex "wicked" problems through the lens of whole systems design thinking, sustainability, and the circular economy.

Based on the framework of KCAD's international collegiate student design competition, Wege Prize, the two-week workshop provides participants with an active learning experience in which they'll work in facilitated collaborative groups—led by highly-qualified instructors—to research and concept solutions to wicked regional problems through the design process and present their work to community leaders.

Along the way, Wege Prize High School Collaborative Studio participants will build skills, knowledge, experience, perspective, and professional connections that will expand their career opportunity and inspire them to become more actively engaged with the world around them.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE?

- The Wege Prize High School Collaborative Studio is open to Michigan high school students entering their junior or senior year of study.
- Interested students must apply for consideration and be accepted in order to participate.
- Each summer cohort will be made up of 15 student participants.
- There is no cost to participate.

WHAT WILL I GET OUT OF THE EXPERIENCE?

- A \$500 stipend
- Daily lunches (provided free of charge)
- A certificate of completion
- Community network building and professional mentoring
- Letters of recommendation (for college and/or internship applications)
- Portfolio-quality design work



**NOW ACCEPTING
APPLICATIONS!**

2022 Program Dates
July 25–August 5, 2022

Application Deadline
June 27, 2022

Learn more
GayleDeBruyn@ferris.edu



Kendall College of Art and Design
of Ferris State University

17 Fountain NW, Grand Rapids, MI 40503