



# **GFWC-Big Rapids, Inc. Newsletter**

## **October, 2024**

Where did September go? This has been such a busy month for GFWC Big Rapids, I'm sure you all feel the same way. We started with the first club meeting of the year, on to our CSPs meeting and starting their club year events and programs, then our social event to Stonehouse Winery followed by National Day of Service and ending with National Good Neighbor Day. Thank you to everyone who participated and volunteered their time.

Sue Johnson, President (231)349-5137  
Linda Telfer, 1st Vice President  
Delores Simpson, 2nd VP( Membership)  
Leona Royer, Secretary  
Ann Stellard, Treasurer  
Melonie James, Parliamentarian  
Linda Telfer, Newsletter Editor

Due date for the newsletter is the 25th of each month.

October looks to be another busy time with the upcoming Northwestern District Meeting in Evart and the Great Lakes Region Conference in Mundy Township along with our regular meeting. Looking forward to seeing many of you at all of these events.

Remember everything each of you do for others, no matter how big or small, makes an impact on someone's life. You and they are better for it.

*Sue*

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**October 1—Highway Clean-Up @ 5:30 pm, Meet at 180th & 15 Mile Rd. (E M-20)**  
**October 8—Club Meeting @ Elk's 6:00 Social/ 6:30 meeting (guest speaker)**  
**October 12—NWD Meeting, Evart, MI**  
**October 17-20—GFWC Great Lakes Region Meeting, Mundy Twp. (Flint)**  
**November 7—4Bs Fundraiser at Artworks**  
**November 9—Guiding Harbor Fundraiser, 6-10 pm, Baronette Renaissance, Novi**  
**November 12—Club Meeting @ Elk's 6:00 Socia/6:30 meeting**  
**November 16—LEADS—Midland, MI 9:30 am—4:00 pm**

### **Meeting Checklist**

**A FRIEND**

**Can Tabs**

**Batteries**

**Sneakers**

**\$ for Heifer Intl.**

**\$ for Watch Raffle**

**Used Greeting Cards**

**New books for DeVos**

**Coats**

**Birthday Bag Items**



## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

2—Sue Bean

13 Janet Miller Monfils

14—Dee Van Horn



### CARES AND CONCERNS

Mary Sue Hansen—health issues

Janet Miller Monfils—health issues

Pat Rossi—health issues

Mary Beth Vanderlist—surgery

### GFWC Tidbits . . .



In 1901, the 56<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congress granted GFWC a Federal Charter, which stipulated that it maintain its headquarters in Washington, D.C. GFWC maintained temporary war service and editorial offices in the nation's capital during WWI, and in 1920 adopted a resolution to establish permanent headquarters there that would "be commensurate with the dignity, size and influence of the organization." In 1922, GFWC clubwomen purchased 1734 N Street NW in the fashionable Dupont Circle neighborhood.

The Michigan State Federation of Women's Clubs was established in 1895, a mighty force described as "a group of organized women in every community that can be depended upon to promote what leads to the betterment of life."

The original Big Rapids Women's Club was organized in 1893, 2 years before they became part of the State Federation in 1895.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The Education and Libraries CSP would like GFWC-Big Rapids to support the Big Rapids Department of Public Safety by collecting children's books at our **October** meeting. Please see the note below.



### Big Rapids Department of Public Safety

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For the rest of September through October, the Big Rapids Police Department is partnering with Adalee's Library to collect new children's books for cancer patients at the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital in Grand Rapids.

Adalee's Library was established to bring joy to cancer patients at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital. Our hope is that every patient, big and small, going through cancer treatment will go home with a brand new book after every hospital stay.

You can help us reach our goal of 800 books by donating today!

There is a box in our department where you can drop off new books to be donated. Patients at Helen DeVos range in age from birth to 20 years old. Please keep this in mind when shopping for books! The books will be collected at the end of October and be handed out in November. You can drop off Mon-Fri from 8:00am until 5:00pm. For more information visit [Adalee's Neuroblastoma Fight](#).

## Adalee's Library



- Now accepting donations for our 2024 book drive!
- **\*NEW\*** children's books will be collected until October 31.
- In November, all donations will be delivered to cancer patients at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital.
- Our goal for 2024 is 800 books. Help us reach our goal!

## **NEXT CLUB MEETING**

**Tuesday, October 8, 2024**

**Social Time 6:00 pm and Meeting Begins at 6:30 pm**

**203 E. Pine St (The Elk's) - Big Rapids**

**Our guest speaker will be a  
Representative from 911 Dispatch**



## **GUIDING HARBOR FUNDRAISER**

**Mark your calendar!**

**November 9, 2024**

**6-10 p.m.**

**The Baronette Renaissance**

**27790 Novi Rd.**

**Novi, MI**

## **GREAT LAKES REGIONAL FUNDRAISER**

**President Sue has raffle tickets  
available to purchase for the Shinola  
Watch Raffle.**





The image features a pair of purple sneakers with teal laces positioned at the bottom center on a dark wooden plank floor. Three large, semi-transparent recycling arrows are overlaid on the image: one teal arrow on the left, one teal arrow on the right, and one purple arrow on the top right. In the top center, there is a white circular logo containing the text 'gotsneakers?' in green and blue, with 'A Sneaker Recycling Organization' in smaller black text below it.

**gotsneakers?**  
A Sneaker Recycling Organization

# **Don't Throw Away Old Sneakers**

**Bring your old sneakers to the next club meeting.**



## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING...

### MUM SALE

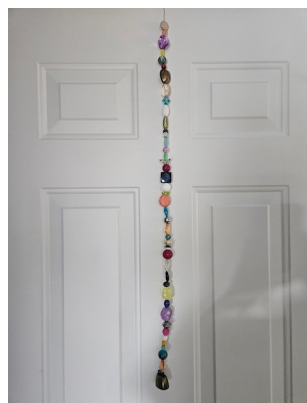


The Education and Libraries Community Service Program held a Fall mum sale. Hopefully all club members were able to participate by selling some plants. This fundraiser raised \$300 this year.



### THE POST OFFICE ART PROJECT

The sorting of beads began for the Post Office Art Project by the Arts & Culture Committee. There might have been a little more than sorting also.



### STONEHOUSE WINERY OUTING



Seven members were able to enjoy the newest winery in the area. It was a beautiful evening to enjoy the wine, the beautiful view and sister-hood.



GFWC Big Rapids recognized the 2024 GFWC National Day of Service by focusing on food insecurities. Below are pictures from the groups at Manna Pantry and Project Starburst on Friday and the Manna Food Pantry on Saturday.



Four members were able to assist the Manna Food Pantry by cleaning their facility. This allowed the workers to continue serving their clients.



Five members delivered food items, sorted socks, folded clothes, packaged hygiene pads, and packaged laundry sheets for Project Starburst Food Pantry. The pantry asked that we assist them as they did not have time to do these projects.



Three of our working members were able to assist with the Manna Mobile Food Pantry on Saturday morning by handing out food.



# NATIONAL GOOD NEIGHBOR DAY

Members of the Arts & Culture Community Service Program attended the National Good Neighbor Day at the Big Rapids Community Library on Saturday, September 28th. Children attending were asked to string beads of their choice on a wire that will be part of an art piece that will be placed in the Maple Street Post Office Garden in the spring.



The Safety Pup was in attendance as well which GFWC-Big Rapids helps sponsor. Pictured is Officer Sall, Safety Pup, and member Delores Simpson.

## FALL DECORATIONS

The corn stalks are up in downtown Big Rapids and GFWC has placed colorful bows on the stalks again this year. Check it out.





# FLOWER OF THE MONTH

(Sponsored by Environment CSP)



Are you enjoying the garden mums that you purchased from GFWC-Big Rapids. Garden mums can survive cold better. Most garden mums are perennials in Zones 5-9 and much more sturdy than florist types. However, some cultivars are less hardy than others and can be killed by an early spring frost.

Both garden and florist mums make excellent container plants. Pop them into a clay pot or a fall window box by themselves or with other fall plants like flowering kale. Making sure your potted mums thrive starts with picking the right plant. Look for a plant with more buds than open flowers; it will last longer, and the re-potting process will be less traumatic for a plant not yet in full bloom.

Speaking of repotting, it's one of the best things you can do for your mums. After sitting in nursery containers, most mums in containers will have very compacted root balls. Gently breaking up the root ball and giving the mum a new home in some fresh potting soil will set your plant up for success.

And don't forget the water. Give your mums a good soak after repotting, then water every other day or whenever the soil feels dry. Try to avoid allowing your plants to wilt. They'll revive well after watering again, but the flower buds may not last as long or look as bright.