



GFWC-Big Rapids, Inc. Newsletter

July, 2025

You've heard of "The Lazy, Hazy Days of Summer . . .well that's what we are truly in. I hope everyone can stay cool and comfortable.

Even though we don't meet as a club during the summer, our CSPs are still busy. The beautiful glistening Arts & Culture arch is in the Post Office Garden, the gardens, both Riverwalk & Post Office as well as the small one at the Elks are planted (flowers and weeds are growing well). I see people stopping by the Little Libraries on a regular basis and I'm sure the other CSPs are doing their part to enhance our community throughout the summer. I also notice our bench in Hemlock Park is getting lots of use. Moms are sitting there on a regular basis watching their children use the splash pad and the playground,

I know I've said it many times, but all you have to do is look around town to see the input and influence of GFWC Big Rapids. Thank you again for all you do.

Sue

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

July 15—Bay Cliff GFWC Day—Big Bay, MI

July 16—Seth Brown Duo—Hemlock Park Bandshell—7 PM

August 11—Community Conservation Day—Hemlock Park— 3:00-6:00 pm

August 12—Summer Picnic—6 PM—Northend Riverside Park—Big Rapids

September 9—First Club Meeting of the Year

September 27—Northwestern District Meeting in Mecosta

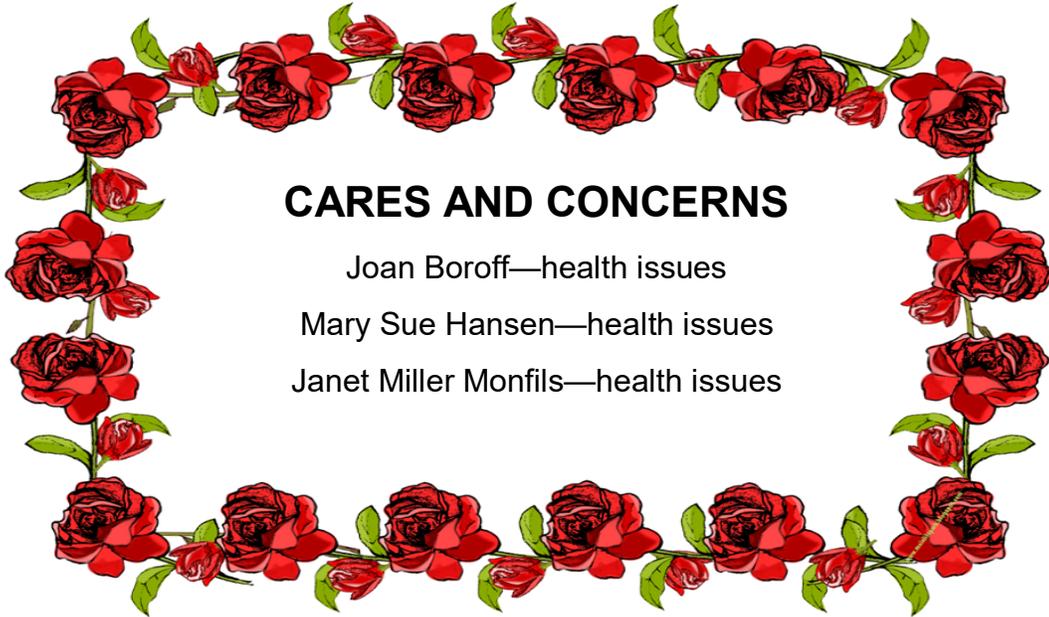
September 27—International Day of Service

November 8—Guiding Harbor Fundraiser in Belleville



JULY BIRTHDAYS

29—Vickie Vogel



CARES AND CONCERNS

Joan Boroff—health issues

Mary Sue Hansen—health issues

Janet Miller Monfils—health issues

***Congratulations to Leona Royer on her recent retirement from
Ferris State University.***



GFWC Tidbits . . .

GFWC International / GFWC Michigan / GFWC Big Rapids

This is not past history this month but a very important announcement. GFWC Michigan will be hosting the GFWC International Convention in 2028. It will be held in Detroit and plans are for the location to be at the General Motors Renaissance Center (RenCen). Those who went on the 2018 State Convention tour are familiar with the center and its beautiful view of the Detroit riverfront. Also, for those of you who have never had the opportunity to attend an International Convention, the timing is right, and the event is in your backyard, so to speak. I hope you will consider planning to attend. There will be more information to come as time goes along but I know all the clubs in Michigan will have some kind of participation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

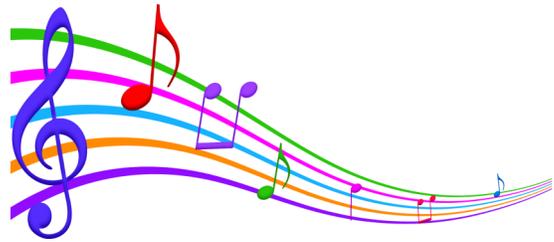
SETH BROWN DUO

Join your GFWC sisters on
July 16th at 7:00 p.m.

Hemlock Park Bandshell

Bring a chair and a snack/beverage

INVITE A FRIEND



SUMMER PICNIC

August 12, 2025—6:00 p.m.

Northend River Park Pavilion

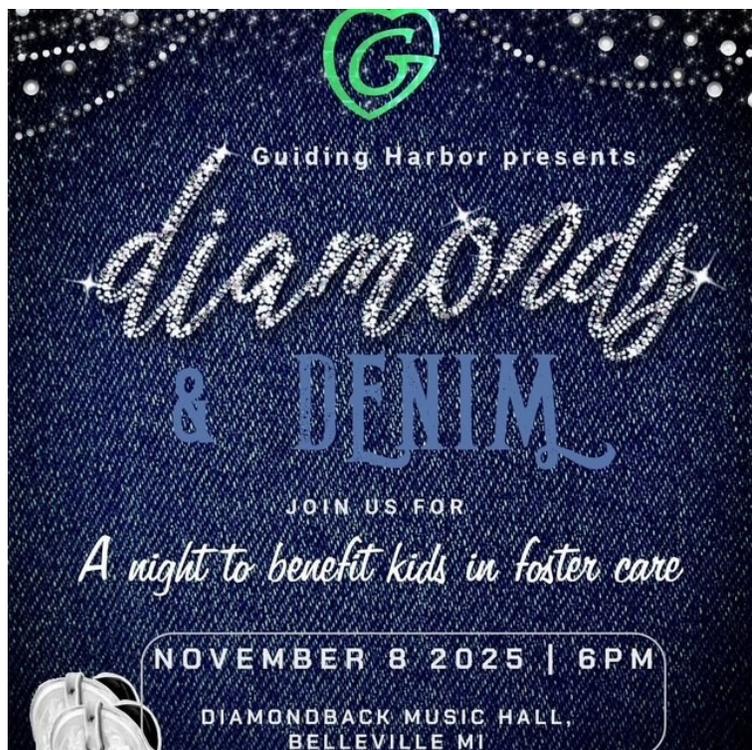
Bring a dish to pass.

Tableware & beverages will be provided.

Invite a friend.



SAVE THE DATE



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MECOSTA CONSERVATION DISTRICT **Tour des Trees**
to Benefit TREE Fund
MICHIGAN 2025

A photograph of three cyclists in white and blue jerseys riding on a paved road. One cyclist in the foreground is pointing towards the camera.

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION DAY
Monday, August 11th, 2025
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
A Free Family Outing Celebrating Nature!

Get outside and join the fun! Community Conservation Day is your chance to meet local conservation groups, explore interactive booths, and learn simple ways to care for the land, water, and wildlife we all share.

Special Guest Alert!
Tour des Trees riders — arborists and tree care professionals from all over the country who are riding to support tree research — will be stopping by! Say hi, snap a photo, and hear their inspiring stories.

A polaroid-style photo showing a woman in a white shirt and glasses holding a sign that says "TREEmendous" and a young boy in a blue shirt holding a colorful globe.

Fun Presentation from Professor Elwood Pricklethorn 3p-4:30p

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

- ✓ Visit booths from local groups
- ✓ Family-friendly Activities
- ✓ Giveaways / Raffles
- ✓ Meet the Cyclists
- ✓ Fun & Engaging Presentation

Bring the kids, your questions, and your curiosity — there's something for everyone!

THE YELLOW WINDOW FOOD TRAILER WILL BE HERE!

Location Hemlock Park
Big Rapids, MI

For More Info www.mecostacd.org/events

If you are interested in having a free booth, visit www.mecostacd.org/events to complete a booth sponsor form. Questions? Please call (989) 309-9229

We are looking for volunteers for the following club activities:

- **Signature Program: Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention**
- **Communications & Public Relations**
- **Legislation and Public Policy**

If you are willing to assist with any of the above, please contact Sue Johnson or Linda Telfer as soon as possible.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING...

GFWC-BIG RAPIDS BANNER

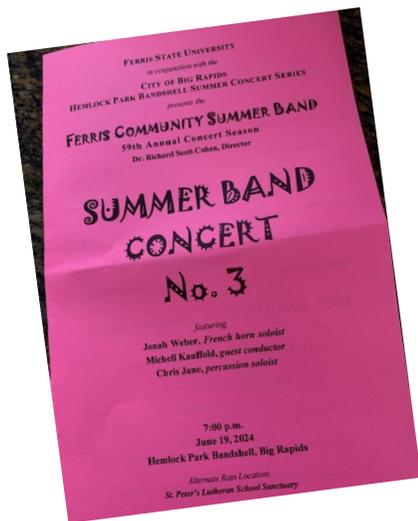


Have you found the GFWC-Big Rapids banner in Big Rapids that was created by members of the Arts & Culture Community Service Program?

ANSWER: In front of city hall on Michigan Avenue. Banner is facing north.

SUMMER BAND CONCERT

Four club members attended the Summer Band Concert on June 19th to enjoy musicians ranging in age from high school students to community members who had been with the band 50 years. The performance was moved into St. Peter's Lutheran Church due to rain and the acoustics in the facility was an added enhancement. The next concert will feature the Seth Brown Duo on July 16th at the Hemlock Band Shell at 7:00 p.m.



SAVE THE PONDS

A check in the amount of \$1226 was delivered to "Save the Ponds" project. Thank you to the Yard Sale Committee, all who worked the yard sale as well as those who donated to the yard sale. This will assist in restoring the Paris Ponds in Paris, Michigan that we enjoyed and hopefully the next generation of residents will be able to enjoy as well.



THE ART PIECE IS FINISHED!!!

Arts & Culture Community Service Program



Last year at the Good Neighbor Day event, the project got started with those attending assisting in stringing beads on wires. Well. . . Here it is!!! Thank you to Ann Stellard for spearheading this project, Tom Stellard for assisting in placing the arbor and drilling holes, and Cheryl Tessier and Linda Telfer for placing the strings of beads with Ann's guidance and all those who strung some beads. Next time you go by the Maple Street Post Office, take a look. Beads were used from jewelry that didn't sell at the 4B's fundraiser as well as donations.

GARDEN WORK continues



Riverwalk Garden work continues.



Plants are planted in the Post Office garden.



Boy was it hot! Mulch is down at Post Office.



New art piece in Post Office garden.

SPECIAL VIOLET FEATURE

Some of you will remember Shannon Penfound, past member who moved to Indiana with her husband and baby Violet. She gave me permission to share the following information with Violet's Michigan grandmas/aunts.

"We are doing well in Indiana! Violet is almost one year old (unbelievable!). She loves mango, watermelon, spinach, peanut butter, and strawberries (!!). She has seven teeth, can wave, gives kisses, loves to 'dance', and is standing, but not walking yet!"

"We are finally out of boxes, but not perfectly organized still! Special thanks to Vickie for the baby shower tip of leaving the vacuum out and telling people "I was just in the middle of cleaning!"

We miss Michigan so much and have some hopeful plans to come visit sometime this summer, Violet in tow.



MANNA FOOD PANTRY

Thank you to Mel James, Sue Johnson, Leona Royer and Celeste Szczerowski for assisting at the Manna Mobile Food Pantry in June with 153 families being served.



HEMLOCK PARK BENCH



Here is the bench that we bought for Hemlock Park. It is between the playground area and the splash pad.



FLOWER OF THE MONTH

Petunia



This Popular Flower Is a Surprising Hummingbird Magnet, According to an Expert

Hummingbirds are among the most beloved backyard birds with their tiny jewel-colored bodies. Luckily, attracting them doesn't require a huge garden or specialized feeders. In fact, one of the easiest ways to draw them into your garden is with a flower you probably wouldn't expect: Petunias, a classic annual that will bloom all summer long with minimal care. Here's why hummingbirds love petunias, and how to best grow these flowers to attract the birds, according to a gardening expert.

Why Hummingbirds Love Petunias

Petunias provide everything a hummingbird looks for in a flower—bright colors, nectar, and a shape that's easy to feed from, says Jenny Rose Carey, a horticulturist and author of *The Ultimate Flower Gardener's Guide*. Tubular flowers are especially attractive to hummingbirds, she notes, because they allow the birds to reach nectar deep within the blossom.

While red flowers are often considered the best for attracting hummingbirds, Carey has found that they're flexible foragers. "Hummingbirds are a fairly equal opportunity feeder," she says, "so as long as it has a nice tubular flower and nectar, they're going to go for it." Carey's favorite petunia color? Hot pink. "I figure there's enough red in there that they will be attracted to that," she explains.

Growing Petunias for Hummingbirds

To attract the most hummingbirds with petunias in your garden, keep the following tips in mind:

1. Plant in containers.
2. Provide consistent care.
3. Cut back instead of deadhead.
4. Avoid using chemicals.

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