



GFWC-Big Rapids, Inc. Newsletter

October, 2025

Well, it's officially fall, and the leaves are turning although it is still summer like weather. I don't know about you, but I am enjoying the warm days and cool evenings.

We've had our first club meeting and welcomed three new members. What a way to start our year! Thank you to their sponsors and I know you will be great mentors to them.

October is another busy month for us as we have our next meeting, followed by the Great Lakes Conference and the 4Bs, our big fundraiser for Artworks. Thanks to Linda Telfer for having the invitations ready, we passed them out to all the members in our district attending the Northwestern District meeting this past Saturday.

As always, I thank everyone of you for all that you give to and do for your community on behalf of GFWC and GFWC Big Rapids.

Sue

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

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

October 10-12—Great Lakes Region Conference—Columbus, OH

October 14—GFWC-Big Rapids Club Meeting 6:00 social/6:30 meeting @ The Elks

October 23—4B's Fundraiser 4-7 pm at Artworks

November 8—Guiding Harbor Fundraiser in Belleville

MEETING CHECKLIST

- * **\$65 Dues (if you haven't paid)**
- * **A FRIEND**
- * **Can Tabs (Ronald McDonald House)**
- * **Used Batteries (Recycle)**
- * **Used Sneakers (name brand) (Reuse)**
- * **\$ Heifer Intl. (GFWC Affiliate)**
- * **Used Greeting Cards (Senior Center)**



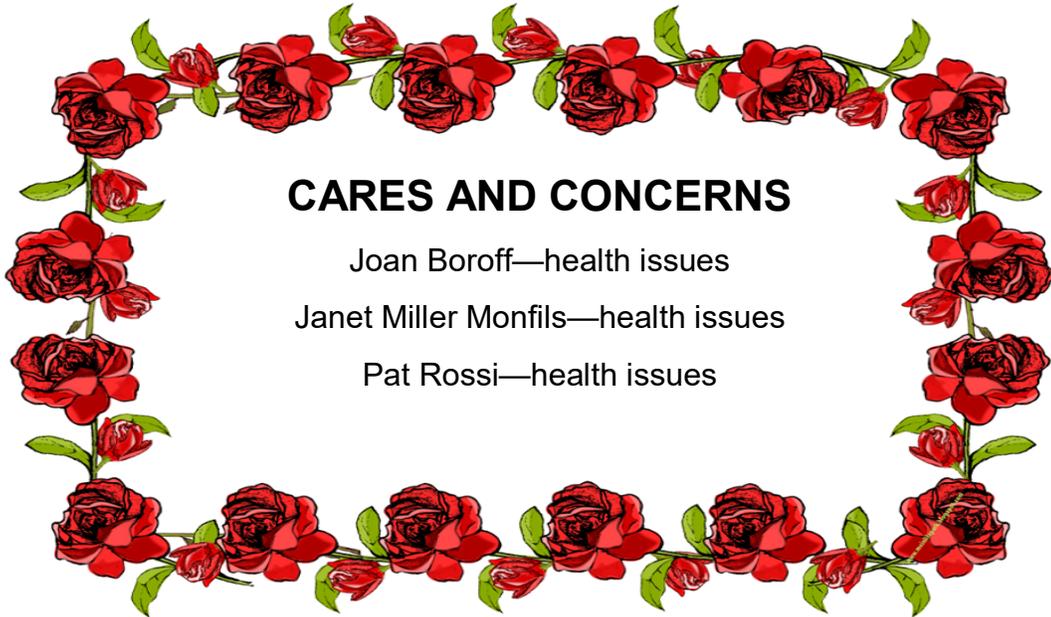
OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

2 — Sue Bean

9—Deb Hill

13 — Janet Miller Monfils

14 — Dee Van Horn



CARES AND CONCERNS

Joan Boroff—health issues

Janet Miller Monfils—health issues

Pat Rossi—health issues



GFWC Tidbits . . .

GFWC International - The following numbers were given to us at the NWD Meeting from this past year's reports: 106,509 projects completed, 5.3 million volunteer hours, 4.3 million dollars in donations and 10 million dollars in-kind.

GFWC Michigan – 125 new members have joined GFWC Michigan clubs from 7/1/2024 to 9/27/2025.

GFWC Big Rapids – December 27, 1948 the Big Rapids Woman's Club became a "Life Member" of The Emma A. Fox Federation Club which became the Fox Foundation with a total donation of \$100.

UPCOMING EVENTS



4B's Fundraiser

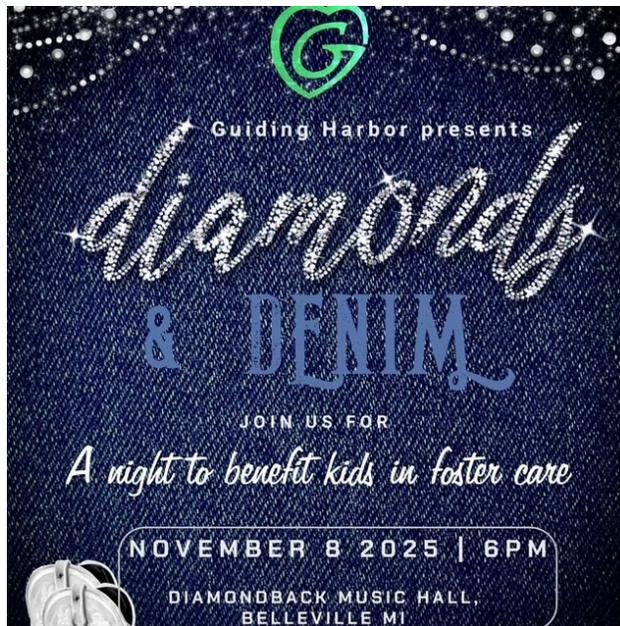
October 23, 2025

4:00—7:00 pm

Artworks in Big Rapids

(See Poster on Page 4)

SAVE THE DATE



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Pink seems to be popping up everywhere. It is the color of October, the color of breast cancer awareness. It's a reminder to schedule your mammogram.

Did you know one in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime? When breast cancer is caught in its earliest stages the five year relative survival rate is 99%. That's pretty good odds in my book.

Please check with your healthcare provider and schedule your mammogram.

This message brought to you by the Health and Wellness CSP



GFWC-BIG RAPIDS 4B's FUNDRAISER

(Bags, Baubles, Bon Bons & Bites)

Thursday, October 23, 2025

4:00 – 7:00 pm

GIRLS' NIGHT OUT
GUYS WELCOMED



HOLIDAY SHOP

Gently used purses, jewelry and scarves will be available to purchase for \$1.00-\$10.00 and boutique items priced accordingly. All proceeds from the above will be donated to the Children's Programs at Artworks.

We are currently accepting donations of SLIGHTLY USED PURSES, JEWELRY AND SCARVES.

Drop Off Locations: Artworks Lobby-106 N. Michigan Avenue-Big Rapids
Lerner Financial-15505 Waldron Way-Big Rapids
Puzzles Insurance Agency-416 Linden Street-Big Rapids
C.B. Lakes Realty-8520 100th Avenue-Canadian Lakes
C.L. Pharmacy—10075 Buchanan Road—Canadian Lakes
E & M Hair—209 N. Michigan Avenue—Big Rapids



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE
(End Domestic and Sexual Violence)

As part of the International Day of Service we will be distributing WISE fliers around the community which have the WISE telephone number to tear off to call.

**DO YOU KNOW OF ANY PLACES
THAT WE MIGHT PLACE THEM?**

Sue Johnson has the fliers. Let her know if you have ideas of somewhere to place them (your church, workplace, etc) or if you can assist in placing them.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING.....

MUM FUNDRAISER

Thank you to everyone who organized and bought mum plants this year in support of the Education and Libraries CSP. A total of 53 mum plants were sold resulting in a profit of \$265.00 which will be given to a female pursuing a career in the trades. See mum tips on last page.



GARDEN WORK CONTINUES.....

BEFORE



AFTER



As you can see, the weeds did well again this year. It was a difficult year to work in the gardens due to the extreme heat, even early in the morning. However, the post office garden is looking pretty good and work will begin on the Riverwalk Garden. Thank you to the Environment CSP for all the hard work.

HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP



Four members conducted the September highway clean-up on a warm September evening. Only four bags of garbage was collected and 1/2 a bag of returnable cans. Thank you to Cheryl Tessier, Sue Johnson, Leona Royer and Linda Telfer for doing this.

NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT MEETING

September 27, 2025—Morton Township Library



Melissa Povilaitis, NWD President



Rae Lynn Hicks, GFWC MI President



Rae Lynn Hicks &
Sue Johnson
Receiving award



Sue Johnson nominating
Melissa Povilaitis for State
Secretary



Group Picture

2026-2028 Northwestern District Officers



L-R Dawn Montague-Treasurer (Reed City) Rachael Bishop-Secretary (Ewart), Angela Bittner-2nd VP (Reed City), Connie Hopkins-1st VP (Ewart), Linda Telfer-President (Big Rapids), Diane LaBree-Campbell-GFWC-MI President (2026-2028)



FLOWER OF THE MONTH

From the Environment CSP

Chrysanthemum

Chrysanthemums, commonly called mums, benefit from proper timing when pinching and cutting back to maximize blooms. For fall displays, growers usually pre-prune them, so no immediate trimming is needed—and they don't require cutting back for winter either.

For vibrant blooms next autumn, though, mums planted in pots or garden beds should be pruned at the right times. Following these guidelines will [help keep your garden mums](#) vibrant and healthy.

Deadheading Mums

The [fall mums you bought this year](#) won't need cutting back. However, regular deadheading is essential. This means removing old, wilted flowers to tidy up the plant and encourage new blooms. When you remove the spent flowers before they turn into seed heads, it prompts the plant to focus on producing more flowers instead. Think of it as giving your mums a reason to bloom anew.

TIP: Get in the habit of deadheading your mums a few times a week and it will only take a minute. Don't let the entire plant's worth of blooms get old, or the task will seem overwhelming.

When to Cut Back Mums

Many people purchase mums in late summer to add vibrant fall colors to their garden then discard them at the season's end. Yet, when cared for properly, garden mums can be perennials in [USDA Hardiness Zones 5-9](#). The best time to prune mums and clear away dead foliage is in the spring. Before the new growth appears, trim the plant to a couple of inches above the soil. Remove any dry and brittle material. If a stem bends instead of snapping, it's likely still alive and may regrow.

TIP: If you [plant those potted mums](#) you used for fall decor in your garden in late autumn, they usually won't make it through the winter because the roots won't have enough time to adapt to the new environment. However, garden mums planted in spring and summer have time to adjust and develop roots, so usually survive pretty well.

Tips for Pinching Mums

Pinching is just what it sounds like. You use your fingers to gently remove the tender ends of stems. Unlike cutting back, pinching is a gentle way to promote bushier growth, helping to shape and control your mums so they produce more blooms.

If mums grow unchecked, they can become tall and "leggy" with floppy stems later in the season. Regular pinching creates the compact, dense shape that makes mums so appealing. Mums typically grow about 1.5 inches in all directions each week, and though this seems slow initially, they really take off by mid-season.

FROM BHG.com