



GFWC-Big Rapids, Inc. Newsletter

June, 2026

Well, this is my last newsletter as your Club President, and I want to thank everyone for the past two years. It has been my pleasure to work with you, represent you, and accept the various awards that you have won for all the projects you have completed. Being a member of this club for forty years I have seen so much success in the work you as members have accomplished, the hours you put into projects and the money you have raised for this community. It is amazing and as you go forward, I know the club will continue to grow and give to the community as it has over the past two years and beyond. Thank you again for the opportunity to represent you as your President and I look forward to the new Board and all that will be accomplished.

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 -
231-250-2088
Due date for the newsletter is the 25th of each month.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

June 13—Matinees with Barbara—Hunchback of Notre Dame 2:00 pm (See page 3)

July 14—Bay Cliff Day—Big Bay, MI (See page 5)

July 23—Meijer Garden Trip (Chihuly Art Glass) leave 9am (See page 4)

July 25—GFWC Michigan 2026 Advisory Board Meeting 9:30 am-Mt. Pleasant (see page 3)

August 11—Annual Club Picnic and Membership Drive (more information to come)

September 8—First Club Meeting of the Year—6:00 Social/6:30 Meeting @ the Elks

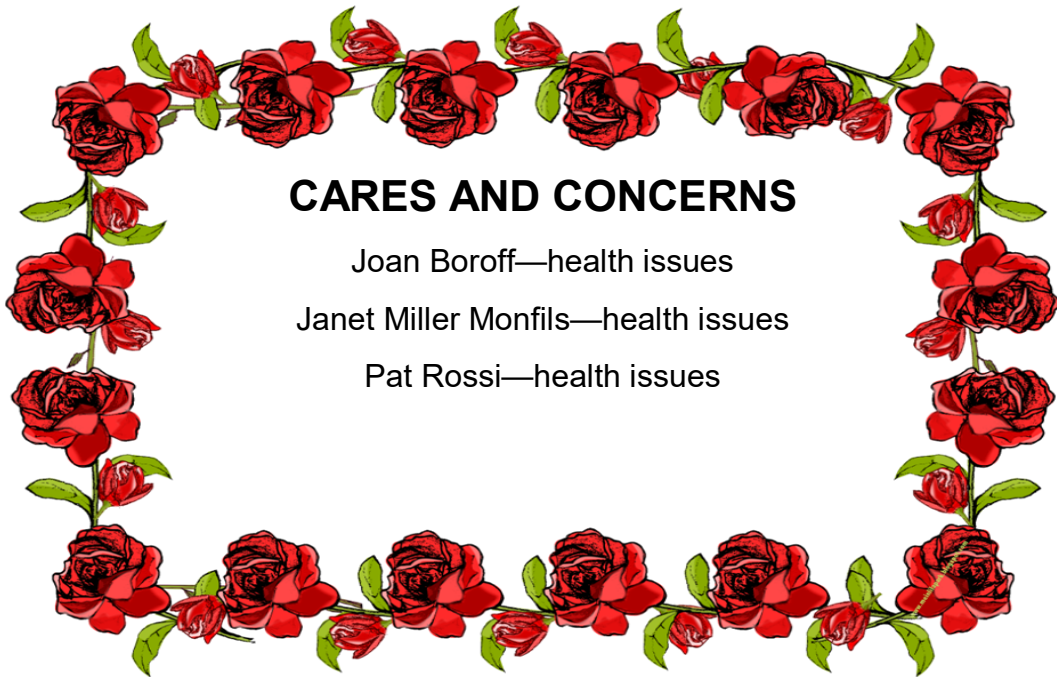
September 26—District Meeting and International Day of Service—Reed City



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

9—Mary Beth Vanderlist

22-Celeste Szczrowski



CARES AND CONCERNS

Joan Boroff—health issues

Janet Miller Monfils—health issues

Pat Rossi—health issues



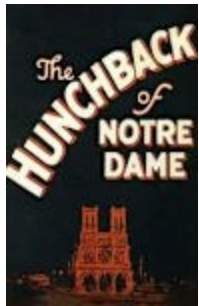
GFWC Tidbits.....

GFWC International—GFWC had its origins in 1890 and five thousand clubs had joined by 1906. The organization's goals included the establishment of an eight-hour workday, an end to child labour, the reform of civil service and conservation. One of the group's important early victories was a massive letter-writing campaign that was instrumental in passing the Pure Food and Drug Act.

GFWC Michigan—Progressive Movement Roots: Like the national organization (founded in 1890), the Michigan federation grew out of the Progressive Movement. Early clubs often focused on literature and culture but quickly pivoted toward civic improvement.

GFWC Big Rapids—In the 30s ans the Big Rapids Women's Club would hold annual dinners inviting their husbands and often partnered with the Rotary Club members and their wives.

UPCOMING EVENTS



MATINEES WITH BARBARA

FEATURING

Hunchback of Notre Dame

JUNE 13, 2026

2:00—4:00 P.M.

Immanuel Lutheran Church—726 Fuller Avenue—Big Rapids

GFWC MICHIGAN 2026 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

July 25, 2026

9:30 am—3:00 pm

Veterans Memorial Library, Annex Meeting Room

301 S. University Avenue—Mt. Pleasant

RSVP to dianec0616@gmail.com



SUMMER FUN!!

SUMMER

GARDEN TOUR AND DALE CHIHULY

"RADIANT FORMS" GLASS ART SHOW

You're warmly invited to join the GFWC Arts & Culture CSP for a delightful glass art show surrounded by blooming flowers and fresh air.

Bring a friend!

AT FREDERIK MEIJER GARDENS & SCULPTURE PARK

JULY 23, 2026

**Carpool at 9:00a.m. from the Park-and-Ride lot
US131, Exit131**

**TICKETS ARE \$25 GENERAL ADMISSION OR
\$20 (SENIORS) AT THE GATE**

RSVP TO DELORES SIMPSON (941) 726-7497





BAY CLIFF DAY

July 14, 2026

If you haven't been to Bay Cliff, now is the time. Mark your calendar and let's go. Leaving on Monday July 13 and coming back on July 15. If you are interested in going, contact Linda Telfer at (231) 250-2088.

BOOK CLUB

The Arts & Culture CSP would like to start a book club that would meet every other month. **Would you be interested?**

Please contact Delores Simpson at (941) 726-7497 if you are interested.



The first meeting would be in July or August.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

***Annual Club Picnic AND
MEMBERSHIP DRIVE!!***

August 11, 2026

6:00 p.m.

MORE INFORMATION WILL BE COMING.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING.....

HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP



Six club members were able to rearrange their schedules to complete the highway clean-up on Monday, May 11. This activity had been rescheduled due to DTE laying pipeline and also due to the weather. The clean-up was done on a beautiful spring evening with six bags of trash collected in the two mile stretch of East M-20. Thank you to those who participated.

GARDEN WORK



The Environment CSP has begun work on cleaning out the gardens. Pictured are Mel James and Sue Johnson getting the Riverwalk Garden ready for planting.





MAY CLUB BANQUET



55 YEARS



2026-2028 Officers Installed

Front Row—Linda Telfer, President

Back Row (L-R): Diane LaBree-Campbell (2026-28 State President, Pam Hughes (Parliamentarian), Cheryl Tessier (Treasurer), Leona Royer (Secretary), Mel James (2nd Vice President), Delores Simpson (1st Vice President) and Melissa Povilaitis (Northwestern District President)

SERVICE AWARDS



Delores Simpson presenting Pat Rossi (L) with a 10 years of service certificate



Delores Simpson (L) presenting a 40 years of service certificate to Sue



Delores Simpson presenting a 40 years of service certificate to Vickie Vogel (L)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE LADIES!!



STATE AWARDS



Category II

Club of the Year for the Northwestern District State Club of the Year



1st Place—Environment CSP



2nd Place—Education & Libraries

2nd Place Advocates for Children

3rd Place Domestic Violence Awareness

2nd Place—Membership

2nd Place—Women's History and Resource Center

1st Place—Newsletter

2nd Place—Website



2026 Banquet



2026 BANQUET CONTINUED.....



Thank you to Melanie Henry, Cathy Chapman and Pat Rossi for organizing this banquet and thank you to everyone that attended. What a fun evening.



2026 CLUB AWARDS



Clubwoman of the Year was Leona Royer, presented by Cathy Chapman



New Member of the Year was Deb Hill (right), presented by Linda Telfer



Community Service Program of the Year—Arts & Culture—L-R Linda Telfer, Delores Simpson & Cathy Chapman



Slick Chick of the Year Award—Mel James (L)—presented by Sue Johnson



4B's Award presented to Cheryl Tessier (R) by Melanie Henry (L)

NEW MEMBERS AND THEIR MENTORS



The new members and their mentors received their pearl sunglasses as part of the State's 2nd Vice President membership drive. Front row L-R—Pam Hughes (New member), Linda Telfer (Mentor). Second Row—Deb lafrate (New Member), Joanna Anderson (New Member), Therese Allen (New Member), Leona Royer (Mentor), Deb Hill (New Member), Jen Dempsey (New Member), Sue Johnson (Mentor). Back Row Mel James (Mentor) **WELCOME LADIES!!!**

AND THE WINNER IS



Yes, that's right Linda Telfer won the Health & Wellness \$100 gift card to Cardinal Spa. Thank you Diane LaBree-Campbell for drawing the winning ticket.

RURAL AREA MEDICAL CLINIC (RAM)



Up early for this picture.

The Health & Wellness CSP joined other volunteers to improve health & wellness in our community. Volunteers come from across the country to work in the clinics. One patient drove from Mississippi to treatment in Big Rapids. Final count was—, RAM registered 288 patients and provided \$284,722 in services. Right-Mary Beth Vanderlist and Vickie Voel take a break from their work as guides.

