



GFWC-Big Rapids, Inc. Newsletter

May, 2026

It's May, Spring is finally here, and our year is winding down. It has been a busy club year; you have accomplished so much, and the awards you received show it. I announced earlier that you won "District Club of the Year" in Category II and I am now so proud to announce that you have won "State Club of the Year" in Category II. Congratulations to all of you for the hours, the dollars and in-kind donated to accomplish this. It wasn't just a few members, it was all of you working together, and I was honored to accept this award on your behalf. Great job ladies!

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.

As this year and this administration comes to a close, and we prepare to celebrate 55 years as GFWC-Big Rapids, I want to thank you for the opportunity to have been your club President and to have represented a wonderful group of hard-working and dedicated clubwomen. You truly represent what it means to be a GFWC clubwoman.

Sue

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

May 7 & 8—Club Yard Sale—9:00—6:00—Big Rapids Township Hall (see poster page 4)

May 12—May Banquet—6:00 pm—United Church (see page 3)

May 16—"Swing Time" movie 2:00 p.m. Immanuel Lutheran Church (see page 3)

May 30-31—Free Medical Clinic—Volunteers Needed (see page 5 & 6)

July 14—Bay Cliff Day—Big Bay, MI

July 25—GFWC Michigan 2026 Advisory Board Meeting 9:30 am-Mt. Pleasant

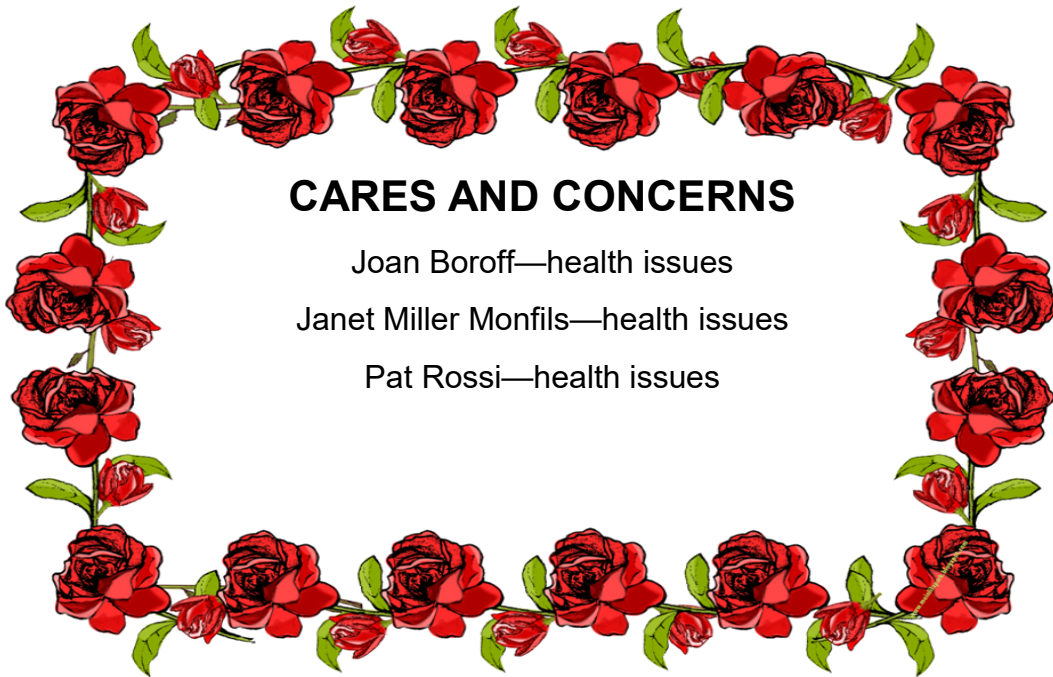
August 11—Annual Club Picnic (more information to come)

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



MAY BIRTHDAYS
10—Cheryl Tessier



CARES AND CONCERNS

Joan Boroff—health issues

Janet Miller Monfils—health issues

Pat Rossi—health issues



GFWC Tidbits.....

55 Years Ago

GFWC International President Mary E. McGowan

GFWC Michigan President—Mrs. Herbert Johe (Sue)

GFWC Big Rapids President Corine Ryman

UPCOMING EVENTS

55 YEARS

MAY BANQUET

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

United Church Parlor—120 S. State St.

6:00 Social and 6:30 Dinner



MATINEES WITH BARBARA

FEATURING

SWING TIME

(with Fred Astair and Ginger Rogers)

May 16, 2026

2:00—4:00 P.M.

Immanuel Lutheran Church—726 Fuller Avenue—Big Rapids

GENERAL FEDERATION WOMAN'S
CLUB BIG RAPIDS



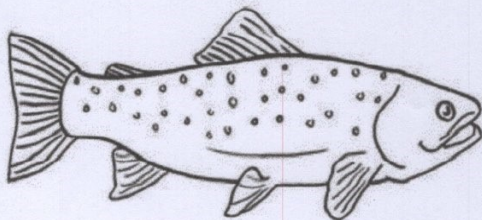
Annual Charity YARD SALE

Thur. May 7 — Fri. May 8

Big Rapids Township Hall
4212 Northland Dr., Big Rapids

Open: 9:00am - 6:00pm

We welcome Donations (*excluding
clothing and electronics*).



All PROCEEDS will help fund the
large recycling TROUT shaped
creation made by FSU Welding
department students and will be
located in our Hemlock Park,
Big Rapids.

SIGN UP TODAY USING THE QR CODE BELOW.....



LEARN MORE
RAMUSA.ORG
865.579.1530

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Support your neighbors in need at our
FREE MEDICAL CLINIC coming to**

BIG RAPIDS, MI

Remote Area Medical (RAM®) provides free,
quality healthcare to those in need:



DENTAL CARE

Dentists, Oral Surgeons,
Dental Assistants, Hygienists



VISION CARE

Optometrists, Ophthalmolo-
gists, Opticians, Vision Techs



MEDICAL CARE

Physicians, Physician Assistants,
Nurse Practitioners, Nurses



GENERAL SUPPORT

Interpreters, Guides, Data Entry,
and Much More!

MAY 30-31, 2026

**R.L. Ewigleben Sports Complex
210 Sports Drive
Big Rapids, MI 49307**

Presented By:



**FERRIS STATE
UNIVERSITY**

HELP IS NEEDED

Continued from previous page.....

Please consider volunteering for the RAM (Remote Area Medical) event to be held Saturday, May 30. The Health and Wellness CSP is looking for volunteers to help the entire day from 5:00 am to 6:00 pm

The event is at the Ferris State's Ewingleben Sports Complex, 210 Sports Drive. Faculty and students from Ferris State's College of Health Professions, Michigan College of Optometry, College of Pharmacy, and several from other fields will work alongside professionals and volunteers from across the region to provide health care.

RAM is an organization that bridges the gap in the American health system by providing free healthcare services to those in need. Using large-scale mobile clinics around the country, RAM partners with local organizations like Ferris State to deliver quality healthcare to underserved and uninsured individuals who don't have access to or cannot afford medical, dental or vision care.

Here's what you'll need to do to register with Remote Area Medical:

1. Go to the website at RAMUSA.org and click on the red **VOLUNTEER** button at upper right.
2. On the next page, click on the red **REGISTER TO VOLUNTEER** button at the center of the screen.
3. On the next page, complete the registration form
4. When you get down to the **Profession or Volunteer Classification** section be sure to select **General Support** (GS) in the Profession/Classification blank.
5. Under **Events & Assignments** you can ignore the first blank and go to the **Event Category** field. There select **Clinics** or **Telehealth**.
6. The next field, **Events & Assignments**, is very important. There you'll select the **event you plan to attend**. **Below that is where you select the dates that you'll be working at the RAM clinic.**
7. The registration system will give you the opportunity to add a picture of yourself. This could make it easier for you when you show up at the clinic location, but it is not required.
8. In the next section please read and sign off on the **Liability Waiver**.
9. Finally, go to the bottom of the page and click the red **SAVE AND SUBMIT** button.

For questions, please contact Sue Bean (231-580-9546) or Vickie Vogel (231-287-2204).

Aiding in the health of others in our community.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING.....

HYGIENE BAGS FOR OUR BROTHERS KEEPER SHELTER



Civic Engagement and Outreach CSP prepared 28 “Cozy Toes and Sparkling Teeth” bags each filled with a pair of socks, a toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, clean wipes and a granola bar and presented them to Our Brothers Keeper homeless shelter in Big Rapids. The dental products were donated by local dentists with the socks and the granola bars being purchased by the club. Each bag had a sticker with a cheerful note and indicating it was from GFWC-Big Rapids.



APRIL GUEST SPEAKER



The Environment CSP hosted Bob Mumby from Mumbee's Honey Farm to educate us on the importance of bees and organic honey.

Joan Boroff was the raffle winner and received a basket of bee and honey items.

Congratulations Joanie!



CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AWARENESS



Thank you to the 10 members who gathered together on a rainy Friday morning to plant pinwheels around Big Rapids for Child Abuse Prevention Awareness. Also a big thank you to Dee Van Horn for sending letters to the area churches asking that they recognize Blue Sunday for this important awareness.



HEIFER INTERNATIONAL



We went from this to ➡



Thank you to everyone who contributed to Heifer International as we went from placing money in this piggy bank each month to sending \$275 to sponsor a child's education for one year.

THE FISH PROJECT UPDATE



February 23, 2026



March 27, 2026



April 17, 2026



May 1, 2026 COMPLETED



May 1, 2026—FSU Students who made it.



GFWC STATE CONVENTION 2026



Thursday's Welcome Party



Linda Telfer (center) being installed as District President



Melissa Povilaitis New State Secretary



State Club of the Year Category II—BIG RAPIDS!!



2027 State Convention—Grand Rapids !!!
April 22-25, 2027—Sheridan Inn



Dancing the Night Away!!!

2026 STATE CONVENTION

WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNITION



Woman of Achievement Dinner—Yes those are tiaras.



Center Left—Linda Telfer—2026 Honoree
Center Right—Ruth York—2019 Honoree



Rae Lynn Hicks, Linda Telfer, Connie Hopkins



Linda Telfer, Escott Tony Telfer

THE NEW DISTRICT LOGO



The new Northern Michigan District logo was unveiled at the State Convention with our very own Delores Simpson submitting the winning logo. The logo will be Royal Blue and White not with a blue background as shown.

FEDERATION DAY RECOGNITION



The City of Big Rapids presented GFWC-Big Rapids with a proclamation at a recent City Commissioner meeting recognizing Federation Day with the club donating 55 years of service to the community. Pictured above L-R-Mel James, Leona Royer, Linda Telfer, Delores Simpson, Sue Johnson and City Manager Mark Gifford.

THE MORE YOU KNOW.....

Spring-New Beginnings

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. What an appropriate month to observe and take note of one's own mental health. May represents new beginnings with the end of cold gray days and the beginning of sunny warmer days. One of the best ways to improve your own mental health is to take a walk outside. Take in sights of budding trees and new brilliantly colored flowers, , maybe even getting a glimpse of a baby bird, bunny or squirrel. Just proving May is the month of new beginnings. Improve your mental health this May by getting out and enjoying a walk outside. Breathe in the new spring air.

FROM THE ENVIRONMENT CSP

6 Essential Things Your Daffodils Need After They Bloom



After your daffodils finish blooming, here's what you should do (and not do) to ensure a spectacular show each year.

Remove spent flowers and seed pods—Once daffodils are past their prime, snip off the faded flowers and seed pods, if they have started to form. If you leave the flowers or seed pods on the daffodil, they'll take energy away from the bulb. The plant puts its energy into making seeds, and that may reduce next year's flowering.

Use a pair of sharp pruning shears to snip off the spent flower head at the base of the bloom, where a seed pod will form.

Leave the leaves—This is the most critical step in post-bloom daffodil care. Resist the urge to tidy up the plant by cutting off the green leaves. Let them turn brown or yellow and wither on their own. Those leaves are like solar panels for the plant, making food for the bulb via photosynthesis.

The leaves are producing food for next year's flowers. Sometimes daffodil foliage can look really ugly after it blooms, and that's why people want to cut it down, especially when the leaves start turning yellow. Cutting off the foliage immediately after the daffodil blooms can reduce the flowering the following year.

If dying daffodil foliage is too much of an eyesore in your garden, plant perennials or annuals nearby that will grow and hide the daffodils.

Provide water in the fall—Give daffodils about an inch of water per week during their active growing period, which is typically from fall when the roots start forming through spring when they bloom.

You won't see any leaves above ground, but that's when they start growing, when the temperatures cool. The exact amount of water depends on your soil type, with clay soils needing less frequent watering because they retain moisture longer than sandy soils.

Keep them dry in summer—After the foliage turns yellow and dies back, the bulbs go dormant for the summer. Watering them during this time can cause the bulbs to rot, especially in warm, humid conditions.

Typically, they get enough rainfall in the spring months that you don't have to put additional water on them. But if you have a hot, dry spell, you may want to add a little bit more water to help the bulb produce good flowers next year.

Wait to fertilize—Don't fertilize after your daffodils have bloomed, fertilize daffodils in the spring when you first see green leaves coming up.

Divide crowded bulbs- every 3 to 4 years, or when you notice fewer blooms, smaller blooms, or see bulbs pushing each other out of the soil.

Taken from BHG.com