



GFWC-Big Rapids, Inc. Newsletter

October, 2026

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

October 1-4—Great Lakes Region Meeting in Wisconsin

October 1—Book Club @ Simpson Home, 2pm

October 13—Club Meeting

October 28—Halloween Party at the Library 11am

October 29—4Bs Fundraiser @ Artworks 4-7 pm

November 10—Club Meeting

November 16—Mitten Tree Created @ Artworks

December 8—Christmas Party

January 12—Club Meeting

January 18—MLK Day of Service

Linda Telfer, President, 231-250-2088

Delores Simpson, 1st VP

Mel James, 2nd VP (Membership)

Leona Royer, Secretary

Cheryl Tessier, Treasurer

Pam Hughes, Parliamentarian

Linda Telfer, Newsletter Editor -

231-250-2088

Sue Johnson, Past Club President

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



CHECKLIST FOR NEXT MEETING—OCTOBER 13

- ⇒ A friend who is interested in GFWC
- ⇒ Can Tabs for Ronald McDonald House
- ⇒ Used Batteries for Recycling
- ⇒ Money for Heifer International
- ⇒ Used Greeting Cards for Senior Center

**AND DUES IF YOU HAVE NOT
PAID.**

Note from your President . . .

Here we are in the second month of our club year and we sure started off with a bang this year. We had a table at the Labor Day Arts & Crafts event; had a baby shower for the WISE shelter; observed International Day of Service both at the club level and the district level; received a City proclamation; had a fall mum sale and assisted with the district meeting with ten members attending the district meeting. Let's not forget the ribbon cutting ceremony for RYCO the recycling fish which just keeps getting and more and more famous. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU for all that you are doing to make our community better.

Linda Telfer



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

2—Sue Bean

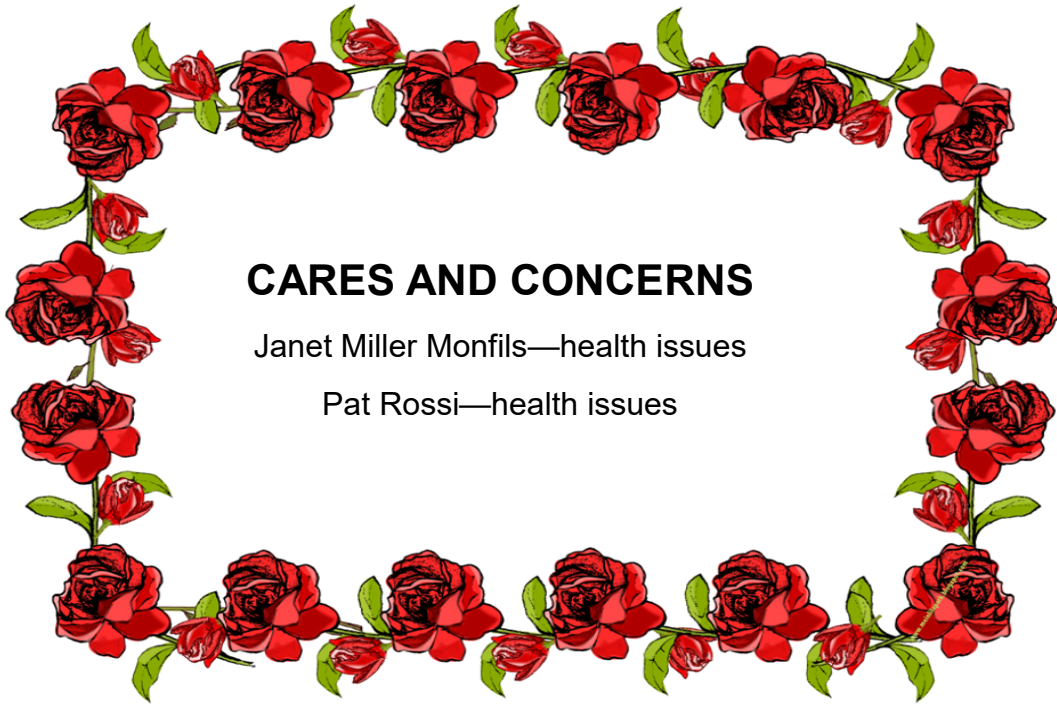
9—Deb Hill

13—Janet Miller Monfils

14—Dee Van Horn

18—Kim Brejcha

20—Deb lafrate



CARES AND CONCERNS

Janet Miller Monfils—health issues

Pat Rossi—health issues

GFWC AFFILIATE SPOTLIGHT



Hope for Justice prevention exploitation, rescues victims, restores lives and reforms society. As a global non-profit, they aim to end human trafficking and modern slavery.

Hope for Justice does more than raise awareness, they act. They are investigators with years of law enforcement experience, they are multilingual outreach workers, accredited trainers, legal experts, social workers, therapists, nurses, policy specialists, campaigners and professionals. Hope for Justice is on the ground in the places that are worst affected by human trafficking and modern slavery.

Hope for Justice runs anti-trafficking projects in the UK, the USA, Ethiopia and Uganda, working directly with victims and survivors. Our community initiatives help to prevent modern slavery happening in the first place.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH



October is recognized as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. It is a time annually devoted to education about breast cancer and the importance of early detection and access to timely, high-quality care.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women in the US besides skin cancer. It accounts for about 1 in 3 new cancers in women each year.

1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime. That's one person every 2 minutes in the US.

The two most common risk factors of breast cancer are being born female and getting older. Knowing your family history is important to partnering with your doctor to create a personalized plan to monitor for signs of the disease.

About 42,140 women will die from breast cancer in 2026. For those of average risk, have a mammogram every year starting at age 40. It is important to know what is normal for you so that if something doesn't look or feel right, you can discuss it with your health care provider.

The most common symptom of breast cancer is a new lump or mass in the breast or underarm. Make healthy lifestyle choices. Maintain a healthy weight, limit alcohol intake and exercise regularly. Early detection and effective treatment are critical to reducing breast cancer deaths.

[Www.komen.org](http://www.komen.org)

Health & Wellness CSP

UPCOMING EVENTS

HELP!!



Do you play the piano, or know someone who does? We're looking for a volunteer to play a few holiday favorites during the GFWC Christmas Party on December 8.

Please contact Delores Simpson or Sue Johnson if interested. Help us make the celebration extra merry!

THE MITTEN TREE



The Mitten Tree will be created in the lobby of Artworks on November 16 and will be taken down on December 7th. The theme this year is based on the Van Gogh "Starry Night" painting. The Health & Wellness CSP is looking for a couple more artificial trees for decorating the lobby. All are welcome to help set up this "Starry" masterpiece beginning on November 16th at 9:30 am.

RED GFWC SHIRTS



If anyone is interested in purchasing a red, black, or yellow 3/4 sleeve shirt? They are currently on sale at J.C. Penney's and we could do a group order for \$9 or \$11 per shirt depending on size, plus shipping. The GFWC emblem would then need to be ordered through the GFWC International Website. A group order can be done for that also. Contact Linda Telfer if you are interested. Bedazzling is free!!

Mark Your Calendar

4B'S FUNDRAISER

*You're Invited
To a Girls Night Out!*



GFWC-Big Rapids, Inc.

4B's Fundraiser

(Bags, Baubles, Bon Bons & Bites)

Thursday, October 29, 2026

4:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

Artworks

106 N. Michigan Avenue—Big Rapids

Gently used purses, jewelry and accessories 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.



**Enjoy refreshments and a beverage
while you shop at this wonderful
event. Something for everyone!**

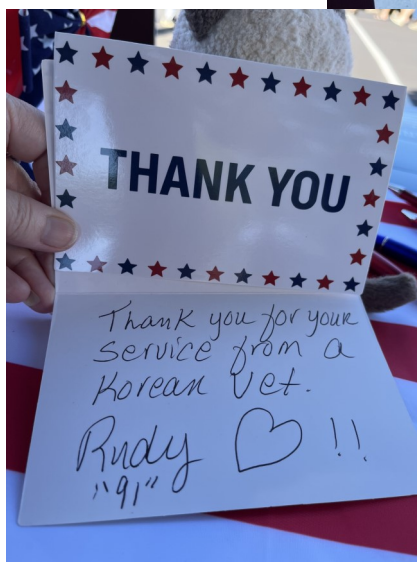
We are currently accepting donations of SLIGHTLY USED PURSES, JEWELRY AND SCARVES.

Drop Off Locations: Artworks Lobby—106 N. Michigan Avenue, Big Rapids
Canadian Lakes Pharmacy-10075 Buchanan Rd., Canadian Lakes
E&M Hair— 209 N. Michigan—Big Rapids
Puzzles Insurance—416 Linden St.—Big Rapids

SIGN-UP SHEETS WILL BE AT THE OCTOBER MEETING.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING.....

CARDS FOR VETERANS



Thank You

Mel James and Leona Royer spent Labor Day at the festival downtown encouraging people to write thank you cards to veterans and current military personnel. Above is Mel and Leona all decked out in red, white and blue. To the right is Rudy, a 91 year old Korean War veteran, who stopped by to send a card.

BABY SHOWER FOR WISE



THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the baby shower for the WISE shelter. We had a 85 items donated plus one case of diapers, 3 packages of diapers, a case of veggie pouches, and two sets of twin sheet sets.



CITY PROCLAMATION

GFWC members accepted a proclamation from Mark Gifford, Big Rapids City Manager, recognizing September 26, as International Day of Service to End Domestic and Sexual Violence.



FALL MUM SALE



The Education and Libraries CSP had a successful Fall Mum Sale. A total of 72 mums were sold netting a profit of \$360 for their projects. Thank you to everyone who assisted and/or bought mums.

FLEECE BLANKETS



Four Arts & Culture CSP members gathered to cut fleece blankets so they would be ready to be tied at the Northern Michigan District Annual Meeting. Approximately 50 blankets were given to three women's shelters.

RYCO THE RECYCLING FISH IS NOW IN HOMECOMING PICTURES





NORTHERN MICHIGAN DISTRICT MEETING



Ten GFWC-Big Rapids club members attended the 1st Northern Michigan District Annual Meeting in Reed City on Saturday, September 26. Three State Officers shared their initiatives for the year; members tied blankets for International Day of Service, participated in fundraisers, heard what other clubs were doing and made new friends. All seven clubs reported at this meeting.

SURVIVOR'S PLEDGE



Ten GFWC-Big Rapids club members pledged to be a voice for change and a light for hope, when a survivor confides they have experienced domestic or sexual violence. They will stand up, speak up and show up for the silenced, for the brave, and for those still on their journey to healing. Will you join this group?

RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY



RYCO



Thank you to everyone who attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for RYCO the recycling fish on September 18th. It was a perfect day with many people attending. As a group we can be the change in our community and work for a better community. RYCO (pronounced Reco) was the winning name submitted by the 5th grade class at St. Peter's Lutheran School.

SAVE THE PONDS



Vickie Vogel has found the GFWC-Big Rapids fish on the Save the Ponds donation board. In Paris, MI.

HIGHWAY PICK UP



Six club members completed the fall pick up on September 29th along East M-20 where 4 bags of garbage were collected. Thank you ladies.

4B'S FUNDRAISER



The Arts & Culture CSP is assisting with the jewelry sorting for the 4B's Fundraiser. To the left is Delores Simpson and Pat Rossi. On the Right is Cathy Chapman. Not in the pictures are Cheryl Tessier and Linda Telfer.