

CITY OF BIG RAPIDS NEWSLETTER

September 2024 Edition



City of Big Rapids Seeks Community Input on Future of Old Jail Building

The City of Big Rapids is inviting residents to participate in a public input session to discuss the future of the historic old jail building. This session will provide a platform for community members to share their ideas and suggestions on how this landmark can best serve the needs of the city moving forward.

A tour of the old jail building will take place Monday, September 23, 2024, 5:30 pm–6:30 pm which is open to the public. The input session will be held following the tour at City Hall in the Commission Room at 6:30 pm. City officials encourage all residents to attend, voice their opinions, and be part of the decision-making process.

This is a valuable opportunity to help shape the future of a key piece of Big Rapids' history. Your feedback and ideas will play a crucial role in determining the best use of this iconic building.

For more information about the event, please contact the Community Development office at 231- 592-4035



New Playground & Splash Pad Nearing Completion at Hemlock Park

The journey of installing the new playground and splash pad at Hemlock Park has been lengthy for both City workers and residents, but completion is on the horizon.

Phase 2 of the Hemlock Park Improvement Project began in January 2024 when the City Commission approved a bid from Gerber Construction for the installation of the splash pad and new playground for \$2,063,000.

Overview of the Hemlock Park Phase 2 splash pad and playground funding:

- Donated funds: \$395,922
- Pledged funds remaining: \$35,000
- DNR grant: \$238,600
- CDBG grant: \$1 million
- General Fund: \$500,000

"This project embodies our commitment to creating vibrant, family-friendly spaces that enhance our community's quality of life." Mark Gifford, Big Rapids City Manager said.

The new playground features an inclusive design with accessible equipment and play areas catering to children of all abilities. Additionally, it includes innovative play structures like climbing walls, monkey bars, and a four-person seesaw to offer something for everyone. To ensure a safe play environment, the playground will have soft surfaces and high-quality materials.

Adjacent to the new playground, the splash pad will also be designed for safety and accessibility, featuring interactive water play zones for everyone to enjoy.

CLERK'S CORNER

If you are a student (or if you have a student) headed to college now is the time to sign up for an absentee ballot for the November Presidential election! Stop by your local clerk's office for more information.

Calling All Snowbirds!

If you are headed out of town for the winter, remember, election mail will not be forwarded. Please plan ahead, and contact the Clerk's office at 231-592-4001 with updated address information and the date range you wish to have mail sent to this address. Providing the proper mailing address will ensure election mail sent during this time is delivered to the correct address.

Join Us for the Big Rapids Master Plan Open House!

Big Rapids City officials are excited to hear from residents during a Master Plan Community Open House scheduled for September 11th from 5:30 pm-7:30 pm. This is an opportunity to collaborate on shaping the future of the City of Big Rapids together.

Join us to explore exciting prospects for future housing, community development, and enhancements within our city. This is your chance to play a part in defining the future growth of Big Rapids.

The event takes place in the Community Room at the Public Safety Building located at 435 N Michigan Avenue.

Scan this QR Code to check out the City of Big Rapids Master Plan (Draft)!



City Happenings!

SEPT 3: CITY COMMISSION MEETING 6:30PM
SEPT 5: BR LIBRARY: HOME FOOD PRESERVATION 6:30PM
SEPT 6: BIG RAPIDS FARMERS MARKET 8AM-2PM
SEPT 9: BR LIBRARY: KID'S YOGA W/ DESI 4PM
SEPT 11: CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION MEETING 5:30PM
SEPT 12: PARKS & RECREATION MEETING 6:30PM
SEPT 13: BIG RAPIDS FARMERS MARKET 8AM-2PM
SEPT 16: BR LIBRARY: KID'S YOGA W/ DESI 4PM
SEPT 16: CITY COMMISSION MEETING 6:30PM
SEPT 18: PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING 6:30PM
SEPT 20: BIG RAPIDS FARMERS MARKET 8AM-2PM
SEPT 21: BR LIBRARY: SEED SAVING 101 2PM
SEPT 23: BR LIBRARY: KID'S YOGA W/ DESI 4PM
SEPT 23: OLD JAIL TOUR & INPUT SESSION 5:30PM
SEPT 25: BR LIBRARY: FIREFIGHTER STORYTIME 11AM
SEPT 27: BIG RAPIDS FARMERS MARKET 8AM-2PM
SEPT 28: NATIONAL GOOD NEIGHBORS DAY BLOCK PARTY 4PM
SEPT 30: BR LIBRARY: KID'S YOGA W/ DESI 4PM



NOTICE

To enhance the beauty of city neighborhoods, New Horizon's Landscaping will be planting 60 small and medium trees of different species throughout the City of Big Rapids.

The trees are provided in part by The Michigan Urban and Community Forestry Inflation Reduction Act Grant Program, funded by the Michigan DNR and the USDA Forestry Service, and also by Consumer's Energy Community Street and Boulevard Tree Planting Grant

The tree planting will take place in mid to late October.