

# CITY OF BIG RAPIDS NEWSLETTER

April, 2024 Edition



## **UPDATE: The City of Big Rapids Adopts Short-Term Rental Ordinance**

After extensive discussions by the Big Rapids Planning Commission and the City Commission earlier this year, the City of Big Rapids approved an ordinance last month for short-term rentals like (VRBO & Airbnb) with specific conditions in place to regulate them.



Short-term rentals will be permitted in certain areas as per the ordinance. These areas include R1 residential, RP residential professional, R2 mixed residential, R3 multi-family residential, RR restricted residential, and C2 commercial districts.

Occupancy in RR, R2, R3, and C2 districts is limited to two individuals per bedroom, with a maximum occupancy of 10 individuals per house.

Owner occupancy is required in R1 and RP districts and the maximum number of guests allowed is two.

"The Planning Commission and City Commission researched and came up with an ordinance that would open up some housing options to meet a niche market within the community while still protecting our residential neighborhoods," said Community Development Director Michelle Stenger.

If you have any questions about short-term rentals within the city, please call the Community Development office at 231-592-4036

## **CLERK'S CORNER**

### **IMPORTANT VOTER INFORMATION**

Please note a change in your polling location for the MAY 7, 2024, SCHOOL ELECTION.

All registered City voters will vote at: Big Rapids City Hall  
226 N. Michigan Avenue Big Rapids, MI 49307.

This precinct will be open for voting from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM. If you have any questions, please contact the City Clerk at 231-592-4020.

Absentee ballots may be obtained from the clerk's office. All registered voters will be receiving notification by mail of this polling location change.

## *City Happenings!*

**APRIL 1: CITY COMMISSION MEETING 6:30PM**

**APRIL 10: CHARTER REVISION MEETING 5:30PM**

**APRIL 11: PARK & REC MEETING 6:30PM**

**APRIL 15: CITY COMMISSION MEETING 6:30PM**

**APRIL 17: PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING  
6:30 PM (PENDING)**

**APRIL 30: TAX DAY**

# Painting donated to Roben Hood Airport




Kim Farnham generously donated a painting created by her father, Douglas Farnham, in 1980. The painting depicts Roben Hood Airport.

Besides being an avid pilot, Douglas was a veteran of both World War II and the Korean War.

In 1961, the Farnham family moved to Big Rapids, where Douglas taught at the Ferris Institute for 28 years.

During his time there, he also started the Technical and Applied Arts program and contributed to the design of the Swan Building.

2024

Big Rapids  
Community Library

## SOLAR ECLIPSE SCHEDULE

APRIL 3

**STORYTIME**  
Join Mr. Howard for a special solar eclipse storytime! In the Community Room @ 11:00 AM

MAKE A PINHOLE VIEWER

In the Community Room @ 4:00 PM  
ALL AGES.

APRIL 4

APRIL 5&6

**DECORATE SOLAR ECLIPSE GLASSES**  
Glass are provided. Activity available ALL DAY.

**SOLAR ECLIPSE VIEWING PARTY**

in the Literacy Park @ 2:00 PM

APRIL 8

**MORE INFO: [WWW.BIGRAPIDSLIBRARY.ORG](http://WWW.BIGRAPIDSLIBRARY.ORG)**

DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN PAY  
YOUR CITY WATER BILL,  
PROPERTY OR INCOME TAXES  
ONLINE?



Log on to [cityofbr.org](http://cityofbr.org)  
Click 'Pay Bills Online' and follow  
the instructions

 **STAY  
UPDATED!**

[cityofbr.org](http://cityofbr.org)

City of Big Rapids

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City of Big Rapids










**FOLLOW US!**

Big Rapids  
Community  
Library

4/5: Game ON! @ 3:30pm

4/9: Art & Craft Workshop: Making slime @ 4pm

4/10: STEM Lab ages 9-15 @ 4pm

4/18: Family STEM Night ages 5-8 w/ adult @ 4pm

4/21: Seed Saving 101 @ 2pm

For additional details on programs,  
please contact Sarah at the Library at  
231-796-5234.

## IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

Income tax forms and instructions can be found in the City Hall lobby. Once completed, you can either mail them to:

**City of Big Rapids**  
Income Tax Department  
226 N. Michigan Ave.  
Big Rapids, MI 49307

OR

Drop them in the income tax drop box,  
located in the City Hall lobby.

**TAXES ARE DUE APRIL 30, 2024**