

# CITY OF BIG RAPIDS NEWSLETTER



December, 2023 Edition

## **Department of Public Works Wraps Up Construction Season**

Officials at the Department of Public Works are putting the finishing touches on the 2023 construction season.

This season saw several big projects, Heather Bowman, Director of Public Works said.

"Coordination between government agencies, staff, residents, business owners, and contractors made for a year of successful projects. The City accomplished the Replacement of 148 lead service lines, painting of the Dial-A-Ride building, resurfacing of the parking lot adjacent to city hall, water main and sewer replacement at Marion/Pine/Spruce, sewer replacement on State St., water main replacement at Ridgeview/Bailey/Dexter, installing the new kayak launch, painting of the athletic courts and resurfacing and paving the drive/parking lot at Hemlock Park, coordinating with the MRWA to stabilize the Clay Cliffs bluff, coordinating resurfacing with MDOT at Perry Ave./State St./Maple St., coordinating with the Drain Commissioner to resurface River St./Linden St./Lilac Ave./Cherry Ave./Cypress Ct./Cypress St., and coordinating with the Big Rapids Housing Commission to develop the alley at Mechanic St. and Loudon. In addition, crews keep our downtown and parks beautiful for community members to enjoy our wonderful Big Rapids. Thank you to everyone for your patience and assistance in making these important improvements across the City."

Planning for the 2024 construction season has already begun, and is scheduled to commence in May.

## **Holiday Fire Safety Tips from BR Fire Chief Steve Schroeder**

As we head into the holiday season this month, Big Rapids Fire Chief Steve Schroeder has some tips to keep you and your family safe.

### **HOLIDAY DECORATING**

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame-resistant or flame-retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

### **PLACING THE TREE**

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents, or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand.

### **LIGHTING THE TREE**

- Use lights that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

# **WINTER RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES**

## **COED VOLLEYBALL**

**Location:** Big Rapids Middle School Cafeteria

**Cost:** \$5

**Date/Time:** January 14th  
Sundays

## **GROOVE**

**Location:** Big Rapids Middle School Cafeteria

**Cost:** \$5

**Date/Time:** January 11th–May 16th  
Thursday 6 pm–7 pm

## **DELAY THE DISEASE FITNESS FOR PARKINSON'S**

**Location:** Style Station (1619 Catherine Street)

**Cost:** \$2 per participant

**Date/Time:** NOW–May 9th  
Thursday 1 pm–1:45 pm

## **WALKING PROGRAM**

**Location:** Big Rapids Middle School

**Cost:** Free

**Date/Times:** NOW– March 31st  
Monday – Thursday 4 pm–7 pm  
No Walking: Fridays or non-school days

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT JOSH PYLES  
AT 231-592-4038**

## **WATER AEROBICS**

**Location:** University Recreation Center Pool

**Cost:** \$4 per class or \$40 for a 12-class punch card available for purchase at City Hall

**Date/Time:** January 9th–May 10th  
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday  
10 am–11 am

## **LATIN DANCE FUSION**

**Location:** Big Rapids Middle School Cafeteria

**Cost:** \$5

**Date/Time:** January 8th– May 13th  
Monday 6 pm–7 pm

## **PICKLEBALL**

**Location:** University Racquet Facility

**Cost:** \$5 donation to assist with supply costs.

**Date/Times:** Now–May 10th  
Tuesday 9 am–11 am, Wednesday 5 pm–7 pm,  
Friday 8 am–10 am, and Saturday 10 am–12 pm

## **SENIOR FIT TIME**

**Location:** Style Station (1619 Catherine Street)

**Cost:** \$2 per participant

**Date/Time:** NOW – May 9th  
Tuesday 4 pm–5 pm Thursday 3 pm–4 pm

## *City Happenings!*

**DEC. 4: CITY COMMISSION MEETING 6:30PM**

**DEC. 6: BR LIBRARY STORYTIME W/ MR.  
HOWARD 11AM**

**DEC. 12: BR LIBRARY ARTS & CRAFTS  
WORKSHOP 4PM**

**DEC. 18: CITY COMMISSION MEETING 6:30PM**

**DEC. 20: BR LIBRARY STORYTIME W/ MR.  
HOWARD 11AM**

**DEC. 20: PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING  
6:30 PM**

**DEC. 25 & 26: CITY HALL CLOSED**

**DEC. 26: TRASH PICKUP**

**JAN. 1 & 2: CITY HALL CLOSED**

**DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN PAY YOUR  
CITY WATER BILL, PARKING  
TICKETS, OR PROPERTY TAXES  
ONLINE?**



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