



City Newsletter - February 2023

City of Big Rapids | 226 N Michigan Ave, Big Rapids, MI 49307

Welcome

Welcome to the City Newsletter offered by the City of Big Rapids. To view this newsletter digitally or sign up for the e-newsletter, links can be found online on the City of Big Rapids Facebook page.

Upcoming Meetings

City Commission - Monday, February 6 & 20 at 6:30 PM in the City Commission Room

Parks & Recreation - Thursday, February 9 at 6:30 PM at City Hall

Planning Commission - Wednesday, February 15 at 6:30 PM in the City Commission Room

Special Events Changes

Requests for Special Events will now be handled by the Department of Public Safety, rather than Parks & Recreation.

To submit an application for your special event, visit cityofbr.org or contact Officer Will Sell at (231)527-0005 ext. 1036 or wsell@bigrapidsdps.org.

Property Taxes

PROPERTY TAX DUE DATE IS FEBRUARY 14, 2023. PAYMENTS RECEIVED OR PLACED IN THE DROP BOX AFTER 5:00 PM 02/14/23 OR POSTMARKED AFTER 02/14/23 ARE SUBJECT TO 4% PENALTY. FOR PAYMENTS MADE AFTER 02/14/23, PLEASE CALL (231) 592-4010 FOR AMOUNT DUE. AFTER 02/28/23, TAXES ON REAL PROPERTY CAN ONLY BE PAID TO THE MECOSTA COUNTY TREASURER.

Ives Drain Maintenance

Starting February 6, the Drain Commissioner's team will be working to clear wood debris from the Ives Drain, which runs from the university to the Muskegon River. If you have questions, please contact (231)592-0103 or email drain@mecostacounty.org.

2023 Daddy Daughter Dance

Friday, February 17th is the 2023 Daddy Daughter Dance! The dance will be at the Big Rapids Middle School from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Pre-registration is \$7 per person, while at-the-door registration is \$10 per person. Registration forms are available online and at City Hall. If you have any questions, please call (231)592-4038 or email jpyles@cityofbr.org.

Board & Committee Recruitment

Are you ready to get involved in our city? There are multiple positions open across the city boards, commissions, and committees, such as the Property Maintenance Board of Appeals, Dial-A-Ride, and more!

If you have any questions or wish to express your interest, please contact the City Clerk at (231) 592-4020 or tgillis@cityofbr.org

Tax Forms Available

Tax forms are now ready! Find tax forms in the City Hall lobby or online. Returns must be filed and taxes paid by April 30. Forms must be printed and delivered to City Hall's Income Tax Department. For more information, please contact our Income Tax Department at (231)592-4012

Utility Bills Made Easy

Autopay is a FREE SERVICE to automatically pay utility bills! With autopay, you can designate a bank account for bills to be automatically deducted on the due date. No more forgotten payments, no more stress, for free! Sign up for autopay today at City Hall or online at cityofbr.org.

For more information, please contact Andrea at (231)592-4005 or akuiawa@cityofbr.org.

2023 Festival of the Arts

“Welcome to Festival of the Arts 2023! This year’s festival will take place from February 3rd through February 28th.

The festival looks much like it has in the past with a combination of workshops, entertainments, and exhibits for you to enjoy. As in past years, we have offerings from multiple genres and for all age groups, all free of charge except in cases where workshop materials are required.

February in Michigan offers us special challenges in terms of weather, sometimes in regard to entertainers’ ability to reach us, and sometimes in regard to our own ability to reach events. We will put cancellations and rescheduled dates on the website (brfota.org) and also on Facebook. Please join us on Facebook because it is a great way to keep up with what is in store each day and also to see photos after events.

We are excited to be presenting the community with a new piece of public art. This piece will be by Joey Salamon, who is designing art to be displayed on the west side of the Simonds building. The work will consist of panels that fill the missing windows on the building. We will have four of those panels on display for the opening reception on February 3rd at Immanuel Lutheran Church, and the artist will say a few words about the work prior to the concert that evening.

Thank you to all of our sponsors and donors who make this festival possible. We are



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truly blessed to live in a community that is so supportive of the arts. Enjoy this month of celebration!”

Roxanne Cullen - Secretary, Big Rapids Festival of the Arts

Information for the 2023 Festival of the Arts can be found online at brfota.org. If you have any questions, contact brfota@brfota.org.

Meetings at a Glance

Meeting minutes and packets can be found online for the City Commission or Planning Commission. If you are interested in these materials, please contact the City Clerk at (231)592-4020 or tgillis@cityofbr.org.

Planning Commission Agenda - 02/15/2023

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. January 18, 2023
5. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items
 - a. **Addressing the Planning Commission:** Each person wishing to address the Commission shall be afforded an opportunity to do so. If you wish to comment, please raise a hand to indicate that you wish to speak. When recognized, give your name and address. **Please address all comments to the Chair.**
6. Public Hearing
 - a. Site Plan Review for a facility expansion at 525 N Dekrafft Avenue (Big Rapids Products)
 - b. Site Plan Review for an improved parking lot at City-owned property 201 N Bronson Street (Dial-A-Ride building)
7. General Business
 - a. 2023-2029 Capital Improvements Program
 - b. Annual Report of Planning 2022
8. Unscheduled Business
9. Adjourn

The City of Big Rapids will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at a meeting or hearing upon one-week notice to the City.

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the City by writing or calling the ADA Coordinator, Melissa Hauger, 226 N. Michigan Avenue, Big Rapids, MI 49307 (231-592-4007).

TRS users may dial 711 for service.

The City of Big Rapids is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.