

City of Big Rapids Newsletter

January, 2024 Edition



What's going on with Short-term rentals in Big Rapids?



The City of Big Rapids has been working on an ordinance regarding Short-Term Rentals, more commonly known as Airbnb or vacation rentals, since the spring of 2023. The Planning Commission and City staff began this process by researching what other communities of similar sizes have passed for their ordinances. The commission then worked through a draft ordinance. After taking public comment and discussion among commissioners into account, a final draft ordinance was created. The ordinance was approved by the Planning Commission at their meeting in November and reviewed by the City Commission during a work session in December. At this time, an ordinance for short-term rentals has not been adopted. The recommended ordinance will likely move forward to the City Commission for consideration at a January meeting.

The current proposed ordinance would allow short-term rentals (STR) in all residential zoning districts and the C-2 (downtown commercial) district. The number of people permitted to occupy a STR would be limited based on the zoning of the property. In the R-1 (Residential) and R-P (Residential/Professional) Districts, the ordinance would only allow STR on homeowner-occupied properties. This requirement will be met if the property has a PRE (Personal Residence Exemption) with the city Assessor, but it does not require the owner to be present during the renting/use of the STR. The other stipulation within R-1 and R-P is that the structure can only be rented to a single occupant.

Within the other residential districts and the C-2 district STR occupancy shall be limited to 2 people per legal bedroom with a maximum of 10 people per house. The ordinance also will require an affidavit from the property owner on the overall use of the short-term rental for the previous year. Upon application and approval, the city will provide a mailing to all properties within 300 feet of a new STR. The notification will include the address of the STR and contact information for questions about the STR or addressing violations. STR's would be required to follow all other City Codes and Zoning Ordinances including the Housing Regulation and parking ordinance. The dwelling will be required to receive a rental inspection and certification from the city property maintenance inspector yearly to ensure the structure and use are in compliance.

If you would like more information or a copy of the proposed ordinance, please contact Michelle Stenger in Community Development @ 231-592-4035 or mstenger@cityofbr.org.

Clerk's Corner

The Presidential Primary Election is Tuesday, February 27, 2024, and the City of Big Rapids will have 9-day early Voting available for all registered city voters. Early voting takes place February 17 through February 25 from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at City Hall, 226 N. Michigan Avenue.

If you are a City resident and are not registered, you may do so at the City Clerk's Office .

For this election, there will be two separate ballots, one Republican and one Democratic. For the Clerk's office to know which ballot to issue a voter, a Presidential Primary Ballot Selection form will be sent to those voters who currently vote absentee or perm ballot. Voters must complete this form, choosing the ballot type, Democratic or Republican, and return it to the Clerk's office

If you have any questions? Please call the Clerk's office at 231-592-4020.

HOW TO DISPOSE OF YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

As the holiday season comes to a close, residents will be taking down their Christmas decorations, including their lights and trees.

If you bought a real Christmas tree, disposing of it is easy. In Big Rapids, you can simply place your tree on the curb for pick-up throughout the month of January.

Please remember all tree stands, nails, lights, ornaments, tinsel, and plastic items must be removed from the trees and discarded before placing it on the curb. The collected Christmas trees are chipped into mulch onsite or composted.

Since wreaths and evergreen roping (garland) are generally made with wire or plastic backing, these items should not be dropped off and should instead be placed inside trash carts.

City Happenings!

JAN. 1 & 2: CITY HALL CLOSED

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JAN. 4: DDA MEETING 8AM

JAN. 8: CITY COMMISSION MEETING 6:30PM

JAN. 10: CHARTER REVISION MEETING 5:30PM

JAN. 11: PARKS & REC MEETING 6:30PM

JAN. 15: CITY HALL CLOSED-MLK DAY

**JAN. 17: PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
6:30 PM**

JAN. 22: CITY COMMISSION MEETING 6:30PM

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



Log on to cityofbr.org
Click 'Pay Bills Online' and follow the
instructions

STAY UPDATED!

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City of Big Rapids



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City of Big Rapids



FOLLOW US!

January 5th is the deadline to sign up for CO-ED Volleyball.

During this CO-ED Volleyball season, all games will be played on Sundays beginning January 14th, 2024.

The City has mandated that all fees be paid upfront by their due dates. The fee this season will be \$300.00 per team. NO team will be scheduled for season play without the down payment of \$100.00 turned in by Sunday, January 21st. The other \$200.00 must be paid by March 10th for your team to be entered into the playoff tournament at the end of the season.

For more information or registration forms, you can visit brpr.org or contact Josh Pyles at jpyles@cityofbr.org.

