

THE 43522 COMMUNITY NEWS

Brought to you by the Historical Society of Grand Rapids

May 2014

Vol. 1 Issue 3

2014 Grand Rapids Blood Drive Dates

The Red Cross host 5 blood drives per year at Hosanna Lutheran Church on Kellogg Rd. in Grand Rapids. Come and donate a pint of blood and help save a life. The blood drives run from 1 to 7pm and they always fall on Thursdays (June 5, September 4 and December 4). You can call Jim or Gloria Kutschenriter to make an appointment at (419) 832-0146 or you can just walk in. We never turn walk-ins away. Afterwards sit down and enjoy a sandwich or cup of soup and a slice of homemade pie. Always remember before donating get a goodnight sleep and drink plenty of fluids and eat within 2-3 hours of donating. Wear clothing with sleeves that can be raised above the elbow. Bring your Red Cross I.D. card or a government issued photo I.D. card. You must be at least 17 yrs. old to donate (16 with parental permission). Hope to see you there.

Rapids Rally Days

Come one, come all! You are invited to participate in "The Dam Parade" for Rapids Rally Days, Saturday, July 12, 2014.

Decorate your bike, dog, cat, car, wagon, tractor, skateboard, yourself or whatever and join us for the Best Dam Parade ever! Just contact Joe Schroeder at Just For You - 419-832-1106 or Mary Poole at Mary's Apple Orchard - 419-832-0835 and let them know you want to participate. The more entrants we have, the longer the parade, the more fun we'll have! Additional details about other activities for Rapids Rally will be published at a later date.

Thank You

I want to extend a very, very heartfelt thanks to all my friends, family and neighbors who helped pack and load and then turn around unload and unpack my store when we were faced with the possibility of a flood. I am truly blessed to have such wonderful people in my life. Thank you, Mary Poole, Mary's Apple Orchard.

Live! in the House

The final program of this year's concert series sponsored by the Grand Rapids Arts Council will be held on Sunday, May 4 at 2:00 p.m. in the Town Hall. Entertainers for the day will be The Muleskinner Band. This band, formed in 1985, has performed in a five-state area. Tight harmony, excellent musicianship, and just plain fun are a part of every performance. Drawing from a number of influences, The 'Skinners will deliver toe-tappin' bluegrass, render some old-fashioned gospel, and have you smiling as you leave their show. No show would be complete without their spin on a few rock classics/r&b and country favorites. Admission is \$10, and children are admitted free with a paying parent or grandparent. Tickets are available at Washers Laundromat, at the door, or call 419-832-ARTS.

Thinking Summer

As we all look forward to warmer weather and sunshine filled days, so does Grand Rapids Area Swimming Pool. We have a projected June 3, 2014 start date for our summer season. Again, we will be selling pool passes preseason during the month of May. More information will be sent out as we get closer to pool season.

With the pool under new management this year, we look forward to new and exciting ideas being offered, especially for our youth. Thank you for all your support to our non-profit organization, GRASP - 17604 Bridge St., Grand Rapids, OH.

Civil War Day Re-enactment/Otsego JH students

On Saturday, May 10th from 9 to 2 pm, on Sycamore Road in Grand Rapids, Ohio the Otsego Junior High students will be doing a Civil War Re-enactment. Everyone is welcome! Come and learn captivating information from actual diaries of Civil War soldiers from our immediate area. Eighth grade students from Otsego will be "manning" 6 stations after studying Civil War life in their classes: camp life, home/farm life, Underground Railroad, training camp/instruction, music/art, and food.

During the day, students will be re-enacting and reading primary documents from that time period. The Grand Rapids Historical Society is supplementing with a tent, food, horse/wagon rides, etc...to bring this important history to life for local students and anyone else interested in attending. This is in conjunction with BGSU, Northwest State, adult area re-enactors, the Grand Rapids Historical Society, Otsego 8th grade teachers from all areas of study, as well as the Otsego Endowment Foundation.

Graduation Memories

The end of May is always graduation time so I asked some people some of their thoughts and memories of their graduations. I will not mention any names but most of these people have not attended high school in a LOOOOONG TIME.

1. I've been waiting for 12 years for this day.
2. I hoped that I would remember my speech.
3. I was in an accident just before, so I walked stiff legged, because I had stitches in my knee. I graduated from Anthony Wayne. There were 120 kids in my class.
4. I remember giving the speech on stage with my knees knocking.
5. I graduated at Weston High School. Only 15 in my class
6. I graduated from Whitehouse High School.
7. I graduated in 1934. Our ceremony was held at the town hall.
8. I graduated from Maple Height High School, 1967. I was looking forward to moving away to college in Bowling Green.
9. Graduated from Grand Rapids in 1955. It was a great time with lots of good friends.
10. I graduated in 1955 from Grand Rapids High. Enjoyed playing piano for chorus and musicals, also the band. Wonderful memories of good friends.
11. I graduated from Grand Rapids 1955.
12. I got to play a solo on my clarinet. Graduated from Grand Rapids in 1941.
13. I got my diploma after I retired.
14. I graduated in 1954 from Napoleon High School. I met my husband at a "sock" dance. They were held after sporting events.
15. I graduated from GRHS in 1948. Our class raised a lot of money. We were fortunate to be able to catch the train in Bowling Green and go sight seeing at Washington DC. We then went on to New York City.
16. I graduated from GRHS in 1967. I remember that we had 44 people in our class, not sure if they all graduated. Our class took the last trip to Washington DC since the class of 1968 was not allowed to take a trip since their were some marches going on in DC.

The class of 1914 of Grand Rapids High School consisted of the following people: Maude (Manor) Stevens, Cleo Katon, Elsie (Cornell) Billings, Orpha (Gill) Culbertson, Vern Smith, Allen Strayer, Charles Clucas, Earl Mattin, LeRoy Huffman, Victor Pilliod, Roscoe Huffman and Roy Hersh and the superintendent was L F. Kosch.

The 1964 class of Grand Rapids High School consisted of 38 people (I will omit names because many are still around and probably don't want their age figured out). But I will list some of the faculty: Audrey Claugus, Maude Frankhauser, Thomas Fisher, Max Fries, Thomas Geschwind, John Grzegorzewski, Roth Hempel, Raymond Hudson, Arlene Kirkland, James Miccichi, Isabell Pettit, Janice Shuster, Robert Snyder and Rebecca Titus. The superintendent was James D. Dean, principal was Rollad Van Ausdale and the secretary was Donna Heckler.

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Grand Rapids South

A group of 26 former and current Grand Rapids residents got together recently for a luncheon in Ellenton, FL on Tuesday March 18th at Popii's Restaurant. The occasion was also celebrated with a cake for the 83rd birthday of Jim Sproull, former owner of the Rapids Grocery Store along with his wife Marilyn. Discussions and reminiscences ranged from the ice going out so smoothly without flooding to who do you still remember in Grand Rapids. Besides Jim and Rae Thomson, who organized the affair; others in attendance were Warren and Diana Baumbarger, Rick and Mary (Baumbarger) Snyder, John and Kathy (Nessle)Knollmiller, Clem and Marge (Miller) Stiving, Gary Beal, Chet and Mary (Shultz) Vollmer, Dan and Sue (Shultz) Tanner, Ferris Kepling, Kip (Kepling) Greener, Jim and Marilyn Sproull, Carol (Box) Perdew, Angie (Hyter) Burditt, Jim and Vickie Zimmerman, Jim and Judy (Overmyer) Price, and Judy Beal. They are thinking to do this again next spring.

Grand Rapids Branch Library

The Grand Rapids Branch Library is on 17620 Bridge Street and is open on Monday and Wednesday from 10 to 7, Tuesday from 12 to 7 and Thursday and Friday from 11 to 4. To contact them you can call 419-832-5231 or visit them at Westonpl.org.

Some of the items available at the library include: books, DVD's, magazines, copier, fax machine. E books are also available through the library. The library will be closed on May 26 for the Memorial Day holiday.

Children from 0 to 17 are invited to join Grand Rapids Branch Library's summer reading challenge and attend fun programs. The summer's theme "Fizz, Boom Read! explores all kinds of science topics with our very own Professor Noodle. All programs are free and open to children of all abilities.

The Grand Rapids Branch Library cares about your children and has planned programs to keep them reading and learning all summer. Whether completing their Reading Challenges or attend the science programs this summer, children who join the summer library program keep their minds active and enter school in the fall ready to learn and ready to succeed. Fizz Boom, Read begins on June 2.

Community News

Dear Readers,

I am neglectful of giving credit where credit is due. The Historical Society of Grand Rapids is footing the bill for the printing and mailing of the 43522 Community News. I wish to thank them very much for making this paper happen. If you don't like what is in the paper it is not their fault, that is all my doing so do not take it out on them so send me any complaints. The Historical Society is now offering a subscription to anyone outside of the 43522 zip code area. Just send \$5.00 check made out the Historical Society of Grand Rapids, PO Box 124, Grand Rapids Ohio 43522. We will start your paper with the next issue.

Our paper comes out every other month (January, March, May, July, September, and November). But if you would like something in the paper that is date sensitive it must be in my hands by the month prior (for January by December 1, March issue by February, May issue by April 1, July issue by June 1, September issue by August 1 and November issue by October 1). I prefer it be sent by email to jltonjes@frontier.com but I will accept type or hand written articles also, just send it to 43522 Community News, PO Box 193, Grand Rapids, Ohio.

Judi Tonjes



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POSTAL CUSTOMER

Rhythm on the River

The Rhythm on the River is sponsored by the Grand Rapids Historical Society. All programs are performed at the Wright Pavilion on the Towpath. The schedule is as follows for this coming summer:

730 Club

4-Piece Soft Rock, Classic Alternative, Jazz/Rock Show Band
4:00 p.m., Sunday, June 22

Russ Franzen

Great Lakes History in Song
4:00 p.m., Sunday, July 6

DelGreco and Gorman

Acoustic Rock/Pop Songwriters and Performers
4:00 p.m., Sunday, July 20

Bliss

Acoustic Rock/Folk
4:00 p.m., Sunday, July 27

Mustard's Retreat

"Folk From the Heart"
4:00 p.m., Sunday, August 3

North Coast Big Band

16-Piece Dance Band
Jazz * Swing Music * Big Band Sound
Director: Gary Keller
4:00 p.m., Sunday, August 24

Melody Road

Husband/Wife Duo Performing Originals
Martina McBride, Michael W. Smith, James Taylor, etc
4:00 p.m., Sunday, September 14

Otsego Show Choir and High School Band

Local High School Organizations
4:00 p.m., Sunday, October 5

Please Join Today!

The Grand Rapids Arts Council is now conducting its 2014 membership drive. The backing and encouragement of our members and supporters enabled us to bring great talent and activities to the Otsego area in 2013. We have planned exciting events for this year, and we hope you will partner with us. For those of you who did not receive one of our membership

mailings, the letter and application are available on our website, www.GrandRapidsArtsCouncil.org. The Arts Council strives to enrich the entire Otsego community, and many of our activities are for children. Our annual Art Camp will be held in June, dates to be announced. Watch The 43522 Community News for other upcoming events!