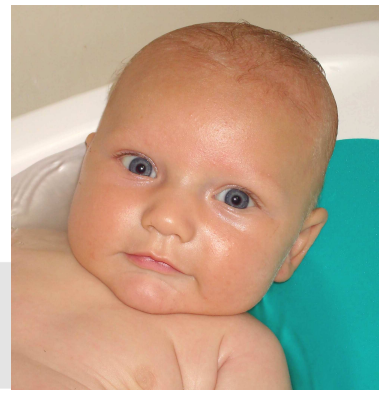


September 2007



OUR CITY'S CHILDREN

Youth Leadership School Gets a Opportunity

Now entering its ninth year, the Mayor's Youth Council (MYC) has given 120 young people an opportunity to develop their leadership skills and be a voice to city government. Nearly two thousand youth have participated in MYC facilitated youth forums and other activities.



"I had fun working hard and making a difference."

Alexis Bates - 2003 - 2004 MYC Member



"The MYC teaches youth on how to better interact with each other."

Dustin Flake - 2004 - 2005 MYC Member



"As long as you're making a conscious decision to involve youth, I don't think you can go wrong."

Floyd Wilson, III - 2005 - 2006 MYC Member



"The MYC has helped me grow so much as a person, student, peer and leader."

Lizzie Mac - 2006-2007 MYC Member

Grand Rapids residents in the 9th - 12th-grades can apply by Friday, September 21, 2007 by downloading an application from www.grcity.us/ocyf or by calling Shannon L. Harris, Program Coordinator, at 616.456.3558.

Makeover

A \$25 million expansion and renovation project that began in the spring of 2006 is now ready for students to enjoy during this upcoming school year at Harrison Park Elementary and Middle School. The school will host an open house for the public on September 20 from 4 to 6 p.m. The following are just a few new school features:

- New two-story, 162,000 sq. ft. school can serve 950 students in grades Pre-K - 8th grade
- New school has 50 core classrooms, special education classrooms and resource rooms
- New middle school gym seats over 500
- Renovated boys and girls gyms and cafeteria
- "Green" building features energy management, stormwater management and natural lighting in student occupied areas
- New rain garden will direct storm water back into the site
- New wireless networking, student and staff portable computers, and state-of-the-art classroom technology systems

School resumes on Tuesday, September 4, 2007

Motorists be sure to watch for children walking to and from school.

What Makes Youth Happy is ...

The Associated Press and MTV recently revealed results from a survey of over 1,200 American 13 - 24-year-olds about how faith, family, money, race, sex and technology affect the happiness of youth.

Below are just of few findings from the survey.

- 44% said that religion and spirituality are very important or the single most important thing in their lives
- 46% said that spending time with friends, family and loved ones makes them happy
- 65% said that they are happy with their lives in general
- 70% said they want to be rich in the future
- 2/3 said that cell phones and the internet make them happy

Log onto www.mtv.com/thinkmtv/research/ for complete survey results.

Community Resource Fair

Presented by

Community Voice Forum on Violence Prevention

**Thursday, September 20, 2007
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

**New Hope Baptist Church
130 Delaware Street, SE**

Faith-Based Resources

Employment Opportunities

Human & Health Care Services

Door Prizes & Free Food

Call Kevyn Milton at 616.243.0926 for more information.

September 2007



OUR CITY'S CHILDREN

Community Forums for New Police Chief Search



Grand Rapids' City Manager Kimball is facilitating five community forums in September in which citizens can voice their opinions about who should become the city's next police chief. Citizens can also log onto www.grcity.us/chief to submit their opinions and concerns.

Former Grand Rapids Police Chief Harry Dolan will assume the position of police chief in Raleigh, North Carolina on September 4 after having served nine years as chief in Grand Rapids.

Forums:

September 10 - Grand Rapids Development Center (1120 Monroe, Room. 201); noon - 1:30 p.m.

September 10 - West Side Complex (215 Straight NW); 6:30 - 8 p.m.

September 24 - City High/Middle School (1400 Fuller NE); 6:30 - 8 p.m.

September 26 - Martin Luther King Jr. Leadership Academy (645 Logan SE); 6:30 - 8 p.m.

September 27 - Alger Middle School (921 Alger SE); 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Alcohol & Drug Recovery Awareness Month

September is National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month. Recovery Month aims to promote the benefits of receiving treatment, applauds treatment providers and encourages those who have courageously and successfully completed a treatment program to continue a life of sobriety.

According to the 2005 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 23.2 million people aged 12 or older needed help for alcohol or drug addiction but only 2.3 million received treatment.

Those needing assistance locally may contact Network180 - 616.336.3909, Project Rehab - 616.776.089, Alcoholics Anonymous of Kent County - 616 913.9149, or by calling the Heart of West Michigan's United Way's 211 phone directory for a more extensive list.

The earlier drug use is initiated, the more likely a person is to develop drug problems later in life.

- Office of National Drug Control Policy

Mission:

The Office of Children, Youth & Families evaluates public policy and promotes caring partnerships to ensure our children, youth and families thrive within the Grand Rapids community and hold promising futures.

The Office of Children, Youth & Families is a partnership program of the Grand Rapids Public Schools and the City of Grand Rapids.

Office of Children, Youth & Families
City of Grand Rapids
300 Monroe Ave. NW
Grand Rapids MI 49503
Phone: (616) 456-3558
Website: www.grcity.us/ocyf

