

### **Rockford Public Schools**

# **WEATHER CANCELLATIONS:** www.rockfordschools.org

When Rockford Public Schools are closed or dismissed early due to bad weather, Rockford Community Services activities will also be canceled.

#### **ACTIVITY LEVELS**

Look for our Activity Levels in our newsletters to indicate the level of physical activity required to participate.

**LOW:** Low Activity Level, Handicapped accessibility

**MEDIUM:** Medium Activity Level, including a moderate amount of walking, may include a few stairs or hills. Handicapped accessibility is limited.

**HIGH:** High Activity Level, requiring a high amount of walking, including stairs. Handicapped accessibility not readily available.

#### **HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS**

Area Agency on Aging 616.456.5664

Medicare 1.800.medicare

Senior Meals Program – If you are interested in assistance with your meals, please call 616.459.3111

North Kent Connect 616.866.3478

Senior Transportation for the Rockford area Ride Link 616.774.1288 or 866.425.3848

Hope Network Transportation 616.243.0876

Good Samaritans 616.217.6973

Senior Neighbors 616.459.6019

Access Kent 616.632.7590

#### **CLASS LOCATIONS**

RAB - Rockford Administration Building

RFC - Rockford Freshman Center

NRMS - North Rockford Middle School

ERMS - East Rockford Middle School

RHS - Rockford High School



# Happy Holidays!

I want to take a moment to spotlight our annual Christmas dinner! This is traditionally a popular event for us where everyone comes together to celebrate the season with friends, meet new people, enjoy a lovely meal and hear a beautiful performance by the Rockford Community Choir (with maybe a special visit from the children's choir). The cost is just \$10 and there are still seats available!

This year our Christmas dinner is on Thursday, December 14 and will be held at the Rockford Freshman Center, located at 4500 Kroes Street (next to the high school). The event starts at 5:30 pm.

Call our office at 616.863.6322 to register or if you have any questions. We hope to see you there!

Kim Evers Community Services Coordinator



Christmas Dinner
Thursday, December 14
5:30pm
Rockford Freshman Center
4500 Kroes Street



#### **COMMUNITY SERVICES' HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS**

Please note the times that our office will be open and when it will be closed this holiday season

Closed: Wednesday, November 22 – Friday, November 24 Closed: Monday, December 25 – Monday, January 1

Reduced hours of 8:00 am - 3:00 pm Tuesday, January 2 - Friday, January 5

We will re-open to regular office hours on Monday, January 8



#### **COOKIES FOR 2 OR MORE!**

Want to learn how to decorate cookies using Royal Icing? Then this class is for you! Grab your friends and family and join Ashley Buchinger of Buchinger Baking Co. for an evening of fun! This class is designed for friends and family of any size group of 2 or more (Note: the fee is per person). All children under the age of 11 must be accompanied by an adult! In this class you will learn the basics of cookie decorating including the tools and techniques required to make beautifully decorated royal icing cookies. Each person will make their own set of themed cookies that they will bring home with them! No experience is needed as Ashley will teach you step by step how to decorate your cookies!

Deadline to register: 1 week prior to class. No refunds given after registration deadline, however if you cannot attend the class, Ashley will have a cookie kit available for you to pick up.

Instructor: Ashley Buchinger is the face behind Buchinger Baking Co. She specializes in custom cookies and cake pops to help sweeten up any celebration. She is a middle school math teacher by day and a baker by night. The teacher in Ashley loves helping others to learn new skills. Check out her website here: https://buchinger-baking-co.square.site/

Monday, November 20 (1 wk) 5:30-7:30pm NRMS \$50 #2551-F23B

Wednesday, December 13 (1 wk) 5:30-7:30pm NRMS \$50 #2551-F23C

Wednesday, December 20 (1 wk) 5:30-7:30pm NRMS \$50 #2551-F23D



**ROCKFORD COMMUNITY SERVICES** 

# Register at rps.digitalsignup.com

#### FREE LEGAL ADVICE FOR SENIORS!

Attorney Michael Herring offers free legal advice to our seniors on the last Tuesday of every month at the Rockford Community Services office, located at 350 N Main Street, Rockford.

If you are interested, you must call our office at 616.863.6322 to get on the schedule.

Each appointment is scheduled for 30 minutes Tuesdays, 10:00am-12:00pm November 28 (No appointments scheduled in December) We will have more appointments in the new year!

## TRAVEL SERIES

It is always a great time to start planning for upcoming adventures! Come to a travel seminar and start PLANNING! Kate has traveled to over 75 countries (and still counting). She loves to share her experiences, ideas, and travel scenarios. Having been in the travel industry for years, she knows all the ins and outs of travel. She's traveled for work, play, 'in style', on a budget, and as a volunteer. Whether you are traveling solo, with friends, or with a group, Kate can advise all the pros and cons of each. So, pick a destination or two, or a few, and start DREAMING of faraway lands and adventures! Instructor: Kate Engel is a veteran of the travel industry and a foreign language fan. She prefers to be a traveler rather than a tourist. Join her to learn about the culture of a country and create a better understanding of the world! It is an experience that can change your life.



#### **ISRAEL - A JOURNEY OF CONFLICT & AMAZEMENT**

Israel is one of the most controversial countries in the world. It is entrenched in history, and conflicted in politics...nevertheless, it is a country of beautiful sights, sounds, amazing people and food. An amazing travel destination and easily traveled and experienced! It is truly a 'learning' experience!

Tuesday, December 5 (1 wk) 6:30-8:00pm RHS \$8 #1030-F23D



Stimulate your mind, meet new friends, and read books you may not normally read. Books are from the Kent District Library, "Book In A Bag".

The group size is limited to the number of books available in each month's "Book In A Bag" so get your copy soon! Books can be picked up in the Community Services office. Call 863.6322 for info.

There is no cost to join.

Third Tuesday of each month 10:00-11:00am
Community Services Meeting Room
350 N. Main St., Rockford
Come to the Community Service entrance on
Lewis St. (across from Parkside Elementary)

#### **UPCOMING BOOKS**

NOVEMBER 21, 2023

The House In The Cerulean Sea by T.J. Klune

DECEMBER 19, 2023

The Midnight Library by Matt Haig





# **GR Walking Tours**

Tours conducted by Caroline Cook, Chief Tour Ambassador for Grand Rapids Running Tours

# TIME, TALENT, TREASURES...THEN WALKING TOUR (PART 1)

This is the history of philanthropy in Grand Rapids. We are a success story of ordinary citizens and courageous leaders who never stop believing in our community and our future. From our earliest settlers in the nineteenth century until present time, our city has been blessed with a spirit of generosity in vision and action. Criss-cross downtown to visit those places and spaces which were gifted to us to enjoy. For better. For good. For all. Meet in the lobby of the JW Marriott, 235 Louis St. NW. GR.

Monday, November 13 (1 wk) 6:00-7:30pm JW Marriott \$20 #1424-F23A

#### HERITAGE HILL VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS WALKING TOUR

Let's pretend it's December at the turn of the century, during the reign of Queen Victoria. Grand Rapids has earned the title of Furniture City, USA. The owners of the impressive mansions are celebrating the holidays in style. As we move through the beautiful neighborhoods in the evening, we'll enjoy the festive lighting, learn about the original owners of the homes and share Victorian Christmas traditions. Meet in front of the Masonic Center, 233 Fulton St., GR.

Thursday, December 14 (1 wk) 6:00-7:30pm Masonic center \$20 #1427-F23A

# OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH BUS TRIPS

#### **NOVEMBER - TANGER OUTLETS SHOPPING TRIP**

Want to tackle a lot of your holiday shopping list without having to worry about dealing with driving or parking? Join us for a trip down to the Tanger Outlets in Grand Rapids where we will get dropped off right at the entrance! Over 60 outlet stores await you! Each person will receive a coupon book upon arrival. Lunch is on your own at one of the delicious eating spots right at the outlets! We will have approximately from 10:00am-1:00pm to browse the shops! Activity level: High. Transportation will be provided by Rockford Public Schools.

9:30am departure from the Rockford city parking lot south of Shoe Depot's parking lot on Main Street, Rockford. 1:30pm approximate return to Rockford. Thursday, November 30 FREE #1075-F23A



#### **NEW- DECEMBER BUS TRIP GUN LAKE CASINO**

Are you feeling lucky this holiday season? Join us for a trip down to Gun Lake Casino in Wayland, Michigan! Spend some time enjoying this lovely casino at your leisure. Lunch is on your own. Transportation provided by Rockford Schools. We will be at the casino from approximately 9:30am-1:00pm.

9:00am departure from Rockford city parking lot on Main Street (south of the Shoe Depot store).

1:30pm approximate return to Rockford Friday, December 8 \$5 #1650-W23A



**ROCKFORD COMMUNITY SERVICES** 

Register at rps.digitalsignup.com



#### **ROCKFORD COMMUNITY CABIN**

Located at 220 N Monroe Street, Rockford 2nd Monday of the month - **1:00-3:00pm** 

Join other local residents for some fun conversation, coffee & cookies and chances to win prizes!

Please call 616.863.6322 and let us know if you will be attending. We must have a minimum number of participants to play, as well as a max group size limit. \*\*Deadline to sign up is 9:00am the morning of BINGO.

\$1.00/3 Cards \$2.00/6 Cards or \$3.00/9 Cards Pay at the door!

2nd Monday of the month 1:00pm Our 11/13 Bingo is full! Call now to get your spot for 12/11

# **SENIOR CITIZENS**

60 years of age or older

We offer a Lifetime Golden Age
Pass which entitles you to
admission to school sponsored
sporting events.

Stop by the Community Services
Office to get your free pass.

**QUESTIONS?** Call us at 616.863.6322







# JOIN US AND BECOME A PART OF QUILTS OF VALOR!

Quilts of Valor is a nationwide foundation created to "cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing quilts." A Quilt of Valor® (QOV) is a quality, handmade quilt that is machine or hand quilted. It is awarded to a Service Member or Veteran who has been touched by war. The Quilt says unequivocally, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation."

Quilters/sewers meet once a month to work together on quilts that will be awarded to a service member. We welcome anyone with a little sewing experience! If you don't sew, we can still use help in cutting and preparing fabric that will be used in our quilts. You also maybe be interested in donating fabric for our quilts. We hope to see you there!

Third Monday of every month, 2:30–4:30pm Rockford Community Cabin, 220 Monroe St, Rockford



Rockford High School 4100 Kroes Ave. Rockford 9:00am-3:00pm Saturday, November 11

- Lunch available for purchase
- Unique vendors!
- Lots of wonderful gifts!
- One-of-a-kind stocking stuffers!





## **MOXIE FITNESS**

#### WARRIOR RHYTHM™

Did you ever wish you loved yoga? This class is fitness-focused with yoga undertones, WARRIOR Rhythm™ increases strength, flexibility, and balance. It's yoga + weights + HIIT + mindfulness rolled into one insanely rhythmic experience! Grab a yoga mat, and weights and get ready for unconventional yoga flows and unforgettable playlists designed to unleash your inner wild thing! NOTE: Success options are always given for standing versions of poses, as well as variations to suit all levels and abilities. Bring YOGA BLOCKS, a yoga mat, and water – the class can be done barefoot, with yoga socks or flexible shoes.

Mondays, November 13 (6 wks) 6:45-7:45pm MDR \$58 #1490-F23B

#### **CARDIO DRUMMING & CORE**

March to the beat of your drum with one of the most fun fitness trends around! Cardio drumming takes a simple movement - drumming - and turns it into a full-body workout that will leave you smiling, sweating, and feeling great. What is cardio drumming? It brings together drumsticks, an exercise ball, and a bucket/stands to create one of the most fun workouts you'll ever do. Using the exercise ball and the floor as your drum, and mixing in fun moves, cardio drumming turns keeping a rhythm into a workout you won't want to stop. YOU WILL NEED TO BRING A LARGE EXERCISE BALL, a water bottle, supportive exercise shoes, and a mat for core work and stretching/cooldown. Instructor: Michelle Pozan is a fitness veteran with over 30 years of experience, Certified in Group Fitness & personal training, WARRIOR Rhythm & Revelation Wellness. Michelle also has certifications as a Holistic Nutrition Coach with a menopause wellness specialty (& experience!!). "I believe Health is a complete package of Mind-Body-Spirit for total wellness."

Thursdays, November 9 (6 wks) 6:45-7:45pm MDR \$48 #1489-F23B \*skip 11/23



## **WERQ Fitness**

#### **WERO DANCE FITNESS**

Ages 13 & Up. A fiercely fun dance fitness class for ALL LEVELS based on chart-topping pop, rock, and hip-hop music and high-energy dance steps. The WERQ® warm-up previews the steps to be used in class, and the cool-down combines yoga-inspired static stretching with balance poses. NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY. Bring a water bottle and a sweat towel, and expect to burn around 500-900 calories while dancing to your favorite songs!

Tuesdays, November 7 (7 wks) 6:30-7:30pm MDR Gym \$56 #1449-F23C

#### **WERQ FITNESS KETTLEBELL AMPD**

Ages 13 & Up. Kettlebell AMPD is a group fitness format that takes heart-pumping music and kettlebell moves and combines them into an hour of calorie-torching fun! The program uses lightweight kettlebells, in both traditional and non-traditional ways, to create a fun, effective, full-body workout. Combining the benefits of strength training, functional movements, and cardiovascular exercise, this program is a safe and effective workout for all ages and fitness levels. No experience necessary! Instructor: Monica is an AFAA Certified Group Fitness Instructor and has been teaching a variety of fitness classes in the greater Grand Rapids area since 2010.

Wednesdays, November 1 (7 wks) 7:00-8:00pm MDR Gym \$60 #1450-F23C \*skip 11/22



Register at

rps.digitalsignup.com



## Tai Chi Chuan



"Whether you are stressed out, continually exhausted, treating a health problem or just wanting to get in shape and feel good again, Tai Chi is just what you need for better health and well-being." Ruth Kizer, 25 Year Level 4 Certified Tai Chi Chuan Instructor.

#### **BEGINNING TAI CHI CHUAN**

Tai Chi Chuan is the Chinese system of slow meditative physical exercise designed for relaxation and improving your balance and health. For adults of all ages. Promotes a comfortable and enjoyable way to learn the very basic movements. A highly significant factor to mention in the growing interest in Tai Chi is the ongoing biomedical research that shows many positive effects on brain activity and other health benefits. Instructor: Ruth Kizer, 25-year Level 4 Certified. Instructor: Cheryl Medvedenko, Level 4 Certified. Please wear comfortable clothes and shoes.

\*skip 12/26 and 1/2

Tuesdays, November 7 (8 wks) 10:00-11:00am Rockford United Methodist Church \$65 #1405-F23C

Tuesdays, November 7 (8 wks) 6:30-7:30pm Rockford United Methodist Church \$65 #1405-F23D



#### **CONTINUING TAI CHI CHUAN**

For students who have completed the beginner-level class and are committed to a deeper level of study, this class invites you to a better understanding of the principles of movement. With the encouragement of fellow students and instruction from your teacher, this fascinating art form gives you great value for the time invested in your ongoing health, including physical, emotional, and mental. Instructor: Ruth Kizer, 25-year Level 4 Certified.

Instructor: Cheryl Medvedenko, Level 4 Certified.

\*skip 12/26 and 1/2

Tuesdays, November 7 (8 wks) 11:00am-12:00pm Rockford United Methodist Church \$65 #1406-F23C

Tuesdays, November 7 (8 wks) 7:30-8:30pm Rockford United Methodist Church \$65 #1406-F23D



**Rockford Seniors Unlimited** 

**ANNUAL** 

# CHRISTMAS DINNER

**DECEMBER 14, 2023** 

Registration is Open!

Social Hour 5:30pm | Dinner 6:00pm Rockford Freshman Center \$10.00/person Call us at 616.863.6322 to register!

Pre-registration is required: no walk-ins.

## APTITUDE FITNESS

Aptitude Fitness+Yoga, 251 Northland Drive NE

All Classes at Aptitude Fitness + Yoga 251 Northland Dr NE, Rockford MI 49341

#### APTITUDE STRENGTH AND STRETCH

Half the battle is just showing up, let us take care of the rest. Sculpt, tone, and strengthen your entire body. Discover new exercises to challenge yourself using body weight, resistance bands, and free weights for a total body sculpting. We will strengthen + stretch our muscles using yoga-inspired postures and breathing techniques designed to tone your whole body.

M/W/F, November 27 (4 wks) 5:30-6:15am Aptitude Fitness \$90 #1467-F23D

#### STRENGTH AND STRETCH-TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

Half the battle is just showing up, let us take care of the rest. Sculpt, tone, and strengthen your entire body. Discover new exercises to challenge yourself using body weight, resistance bands and free weights for a total body sculpting. We will strengthen + stretch our muscles using yoga-inspired postures and breathing techniques designed to tone your whole body.

Tuesdays & Thursdays, November 14 (6 wks) 6:00-6:45pm Aptitude Fitness \$75 #1466-F23C \*skip 11/23

#### **CARDIO STRENGTH**

Cardio Strength takes both a cardio workout and a weight training workout and mashes them together. This 30 min class will use both body weight, Kettlebells, Free weights, and bands. Full body workout that can be done in a tight time frame.

M/W/F, November 27 (4 wks) 8:30-9:00am Aptitude Fitness \$90 #1477-F23D

# JOIN US FOR FUN AND SOCIALIZATION

Invite your friends! Everyone is welcome to all senior events.

If you have any suggestions for future outings or classes please contact Kim at 616.863.6322 or email KEvers@Rockfordschools.org



#### RISE AND SHINE VINYASA

Wake up with the sun! This all levels Vinyasa focused flow will get your day started in the very best way. Build strength, find your balance, and link your breath to your movement, moving from one posture to another while building balance and strength.

Wednesdays & Fridays, November 15 (6 wks) 9:15-10:15am Aptitude Fitness \$75 #1482-F23C

#### **SLOW FLOW**

Practice self-love, self-care, and take some time for yourself. This all levels Hatha Yoga practice is great for those who are seeking a softer, nurturing, slow-paced, and well-supported practice.

Thursdays, November 16 (6 wks) 4:00-4:45pm Aptitude Fitness \$60 #1493-F23E \*skip 11/23

Mondays, November 20 (6 wks) 4:00-4:45pm Aptitude Fitness \$60 #1493-F23F \*skip 12/25 and 1/1

#### \*NEW CLASS\* WERQ

WERQ is the fiercely fun dance fitness format combining pop and hip-hop hits with fresh dance moves and athletic moves. It's a great cardio and endurance workout that feels like a dance party! WERQ is for EVERYONE- no experience necessary!

Wednesdays, November 15 (6 wks) 6:00-6:45pm Aptitude Fitness \$60 #1496-F23C



ROCKFORD COMMUNITY SERVICES

Register at rps.digitalsignup.com

# PARKS & RECREATION MILLAGE RENEWAL

#### WHAT IS THE PARKS AND RECREATION MILLAGE?

Public Act 156 of 1917: "Operate a system of public recreation and playgrounds; Acquire, equip and maintain land, buildings or other recreational facilities; Employ a superintendent of recreation and assistants; Vote and expend funds for the operation of such system".

Funds cannot be used for the core educational program.

#### RENEWAL WOULD ALLOW FOR...

Ongoing revenues would continue to be used for basic operational expenses (custodians, maintenance, and utilities) of recreational facilities which allows after-school programs at all levels (Early Childhood and DK-12). This also would preserve school funding for classroom use.

#### CONTINUED REVENUES WOULD ALLOW FOR ...

Reduction of athletic pay-to-participate fees by 50%

#### **COMMUNITY SERVICES OPPORTUNITIES**

Classes offered at No Charge, included but not limited to:

- Medicare Made Simple 101 and 102
- · Home Buyers Class
- Understanding the Basics of Home & Auto Insurance
- Understanding the Basics of Term & Whole Life Insurance
- · Chronic Disease Self-Management

Classes offered for a Nominal Fee, included but not limited to:

- Retirement Income
- Youth Soccer
- Youth Basketball
- Pickleball
- Swim lessons & classes

#### **USE OF FACILITIES**

- · Use of Elementary playgrounds after school
- Use of facilities for clubs and group meetings, included but not limited to:
- Boy & Girl Scouts
- · Law enforcement training
- Firefighter training
- Special Olympics
- County professional development
- Access to pools
- Access for community recreational groups (Rockford Little League, Rocket Football, Youth Lacrosse)

#### **SENIOR OFFERINGS**

- Community Garden (tools/water/maintenance/mowing)
- Golden Age Pass
- Free Monthly Legal Assistance from attorney
- Annual Christmas Dinner
- Annual Summer Picnic
- Newsletter
- Book Club

#### ANNUAL COST TO HOMEOWNER

HOME Cash value	TAXABLE VALUE	CURRENT MILLAGE .9125	PROPOSED 2024 MILLAGE .9125	CHANGE
\$200,000	\$100,000	\$91.25	\$91.25	\$0
\$400,000	\$200,000	\$182.50	\$182.50	\$0
*Taxable value can not be more than 50% of the true cash value, but could be less.				

## **Proposed Ballot Language**

PARKS AND RECREATION MILLAGE PROPOSAL

Rockford Public Schools

Millage Renewal Proposal to Provide Funds to Operate a System of
Public Recreation and Playgrounds

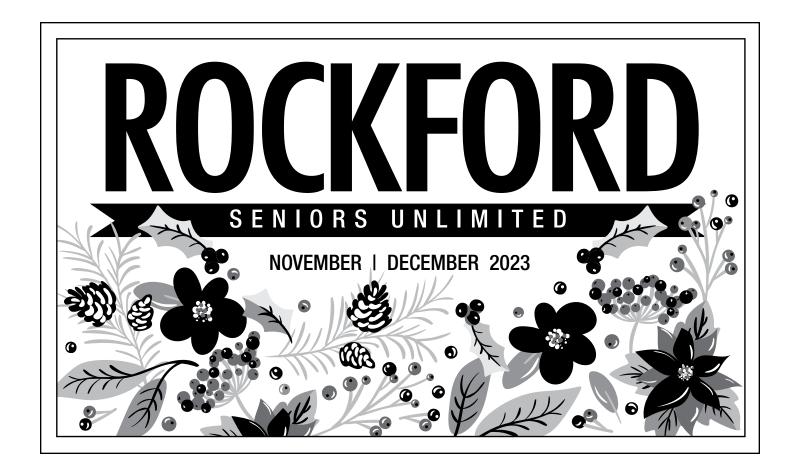
This proposal will allow the school district to continue to levy public recreation millage previously approved by the electors that will expire with the 2023 levy.

Shall the currently authorized millage rate limitation of .9125 mill (\$0.9125 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in Rockford Public Schools, Kent County, Michigan, be renewed for a period of 20 years, 2024 to 2043, inclusive, for the purpose of providing funds for operating a system of public recreation and playgrounds; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect for such recreation program if the millage is approved and levied in 2024 is approximately \$2,356,733 (this is a renewal of millage that will expire with the 2023 tax levy)?

# Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Polls will be open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm You can register at any time up to 8:00 pm on Election Day

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:** Please call the Rockford Public Schools Administration Office at 616.863.6555.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG PAID POCKFORD, MI PERMIT NO. 13 Rockford Public Schools 350 N. Main Street Rockford, Michigan 49341

