

Parents in Grand Rapids have a wide range of school options. Besides **neighborhood schools**, the **GRPS** also offers many **specialty schools** and a charter school, the **Child Discovery Center**, run by Aquinas College, at the former St. Adelbert's School. There are also many other Charter Schools, nearby school districts open to transfer students, plus private and parochial schools - many offering scholarships. The **Education Freedom Fund** (459-2222) offers scholarships to many local **Catholic** and **Christian** schools for qualifying families.

There are more and more public and private transportation options. A new **airport shuttle** with three downtown stops operates seven-days-a-week. 7am-9:30pm (\$15 / \$25 round-trip). Info at: www.grandrapidsairport.com DASH lots on the Westside and downtown offer safe parking and free downtown shuttle service. Maps & info at: www.ci.grand-rapids.mi.us or call Parking Services at **456-3290**



Carol working with State Representative Michael G. Sak

School Info & Choices

- Headstart:**453-4145**
- Grand Rapids Public Schools:**819-2000**
- Catholic Schools:**243-0491**
- Grand Rapids Christian Schools:**574-6370**
- Schools of Choice info:Kent Intermediate School District **364-1333**
- School Comparisons & Ratings:www.greatschools.net
- Specialty Schools:
 - City Middle/High**819-2380**
 - Zoo School**819-3344**
 - Blandford Nature Center**819-2555**
 - Child Discovery Center:**459-0330**
 - C. A. Frost**819-2550**
 - Montessori**819-2405**

Transportation

- Airport:Gerald R. Ford Int'l Airport **233-6000**
- Train:Amtrak **800-872-7245**
- Local Bus:The Rapid **776-1100**
- Rides for Seniors & Disabled:GO Bus **456-6141**
- Anywhere in County for \$14:County Connection **800-849-1191**
- Taxi Service:Vets & Yellow **459-4646**
-Port City **243-5314**
-Calder City **454-8080**
-American **776-7272**
- Free or discount Rides for Seniors, Disabled or Needy:
 - ACSET, Seniors only**336-4180**
 - Medicaid patients**800-390-7102**
 - Drs. Appointments only (free but limited area)**774-2045**
 - Anywhere for \$2.50/mile**261-2400**
 - Red Cross (low-income, advance application)**456-8661 x 3**

"Healthy families and neighborhoods are my top priorities. Let's make them the County's top priorities, too."

CAROL HENNESSY FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Phone Numbers and Information for Homeowners, Families & Seniors

Emergencies & Crime

- Police, Fire & Medical Emergencies:**911**
- Noise, petty crime & public nuisance:GR Police **456-3400**
- Poison Control:**222-1222**
- Silent Observer:**774-2345**

Parks & Public Recreation

- John Ball Park & Zoo: ..**336-4300** Ice Skating: ...Downtown **456-3696**
- Millennium Park:**791-2357**Griff's Icehouse **235-9940**
- Meijer Gardens:**957-1580** County Parks:**336-3697**
- City Parks:**456-3696** ...or www.accesskent.com
- Recreation Hotline: ...**456-3699**



In my community work and talking to people door-to-door in my campaign for County Commissioner, I am frequently asked if I know who they should call about a problem or where they can get information.

I'm glad I can help people with contacts and sources, but I discovered there's no short list of the most needed numbers and even the newest directories have a lot of mistakes and numbers that have changed or are out of service.

So I put together my own up-to-date list of the most frequently needed numbers and information sources. If a need arises I hope you find this useful.

Carol Hennessy



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"It's all about 'HOME' – for all of us."
Democrat 14th District Vote Tues., Nov. 7th



Carol & John Ball Neighbors cleaning Sibley Tunnell.

Neighborhood groups are good at getting help for residents and helping neighbors organize and pressure governments and agencies for help or changes in policies. Active groups in our area include:

John Ball Park Com. Assoc.
458-5814

SouthWest Area Neighbors
456-9190

West Grand Neighborhood Org.
451-0150

Creston Neighborhood Org.
336-8800

Cherry Run Area Neighbors
735-3277

Westside Connection N. A.
453-3313

New Development Corp. (361-7500) and Westtown Jubilee Housing (458-4841) renovate houses and help families become homeowners.

Many people are not aware that **City Curbside Recycling** now accepts almost all plastics, #'s 1-7 plus "V". City trash collectors will also remove **bulky items, furniture and appliances**, with special tags (\$1.50 - \$12.50 max.) available at trash tag outlets. Bring **paints, fertilizers, pesticides, solvents**, etc. to Kent County's **Household Hazardous Waste Program** Saturday, Oct. 28, 9 to noon, at 1500 Scribner N.W.. Other times, call 336-2570. Info at: www.accesskent.com/hhw

Who to call and where to get information

Home & Neighborhood Issues

- Property Tax Appeals & Exemptions:456-3081
- Building Code Violations and Complaints:456-3144
- Trash & Weed complaints:456-3053
- Pothole & Road Hazards:GR 456-3232
.....County 242-6950
- Abandoned cars:on City streets 456-3310
.....on private property 456-3053
- Sewer backups:456-3246
- Power outages:800-477-5050
- Pothole & Sewer Backup Damage Claims:456-4670
- Dog & Stray Animal Complaints:Animal Shelter 336-2092
- Yard Waste Drop-off & Free Wood Chips: ..2001 Butterworth SW
- Help for lower-income Homeowners:Home Repair Solutions 241-2601

Trash & Recycling

- Curbside Recycling & Yard Waste Bins:456-3232
- Recycling Info:GR Services 456-3232
.....County Services 336-2570
- Electronic Equip., Batteries & Chemical Recycling:336-2570
- Furniture, Appliance & Bulky Item Removal: Tags & Info at Stores and Fire Stations
- Free Pick-up of Donated Used
- Appliances & Furniture:Goodwill Ind. 532-4211
.....Salvation Army 452-3133
- Recycling Info Website:www.accesskent.com

and set search for "recycling"

There are many special services available for Seniors. The **Area Agency on Aging** offers referral services and acts as an overall coordinator of Senior services. **Senior Neighbors** offers many services, including daily phone calls to check on homebound Seniors. They also offer minor home repairs. **PATH** offers support classes on managing illnesses such as arthritis, diabetes, respiratory and cardiovascular disease. Information is available through **ACSET**, the **Gerontology Network**, **Senior Neighbors** and **United Methodist Community House**.

Seniors can also volunteer with many of these programs.

Kent County Health Department is best known for its work with mothers and children. One program, the **Nurse Family Partnership**, works intensively with first-time and expecting mothers. Many of the Health Department's low-cost services are open to everyone, not just low-income families. Many doctors recommend their **Child Immunization** services as a better alternative than office visits.

Project Access (459-1111) is a new physician-based program to provide medical care and prescription discount cards to adults who don't have medical or prescription drug insurance.

Help for Seniors

- Flu Shot Hotline:486-3939
- Daily Checks on Homebound Seniors:Senior Neighbors 459-6019
- Independent Ratings of Retirement & Care Facilities:254-9451
- Lowest Prices for Drugs:www.michigandrugprices.com
- Meals On Wheels:459-3111
- Senior Food Pantry:364-1104
- Spanish-speaking Services:Servicios Latino-Americanos 336-4018
- Home Repairs & Housing:Senior Neighbors 459-6019
- Senior Services Referrals:Area Agency on Aging 456-5664
- Senior Resources Guide:www.grcc.edu/olc
- Wheelchair Ramps:Disability Advocates 949-1100
- Senior Centers:Senior Neighbors 459-6019

Family Health & Crisis Help

- Immunizations:632-7020
- Immunizations for foreign travel:632-6990
- Women's Health Screening:632-7283
- Children's Health Screening:632-7191
- Children's Special Health Services:632-7066
- Maternal & Infant Support:632-7058
- Community Mental Health:336-3765
- Service Agency Referrals:United Way First Call for Help 211
- Substance Abuse Crisis Help:742-0351
- Medical, Dental, Hearing & Vision Clinics:
 - Catherine's Care Center:336-8800
 - Cherry St. Centers:Medical 235-7272
.....Dental 235-7289
 - Clinica Santa Maria:913-8400

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