



Summer Events in the Community 2008

SUMMER FUN ACTIVITIES

Maranda's Summer Park Parties

Get ready to rock the park again! The countdown is on to Park Parties 2008. WOTV 4 and Maranda are ready for another summer of fun, bringing FREE food, activities, games and prizes to children across West Michigan over six weeks in June and July. Maranda's Park Parties will be from Noon-2:00pm at the following locations:

Park Party Lineup

- June 19: Garfield Park, Grand Rapids
- June 26: Berlin Raceway, Marne
- July 10: Kollen Park, Holland
- July 17: Public Schools Complex, Cedar Springs
- July 24: Mayor's Riverfront Park, Kalamazoo
- July 31: Allegan County Fairgrounds, Allegan

John Ball Zoo Society

Please call (616) 336-4301 or visit www.johnballzoosociety.org for more information on any of the activities.

Dollar Days

On July 16 and August 1, visit the John Ball Zoo for only \$1 dollar. Coupons for this special discount will be available at Spartan and Family Fare stores prior to the actual dollar days. Details regarding availability of coupons will be advertised.

Budgie Aviary

Walk through an exhibit full of colorful Budgies native to Australia. You can even purchase a seed stick and have birds feeding right out of your hand! Open during the summer season.

Pygmy Goat Petting Corral

This petting corral is perfect for toddlers because the goats and lambs are babies too!!

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Kent District Libraries

For all activities, please contact your local KDL branch or visit www.kdl.org in their events section and get a monthly calendar of all activity dates and times for each library. For any further assistance please call KDL's main number 616-784-2007.

Please join us at your local KDL library for **Babytime** (ages 0-18 months), **Laptime** (ages 3 and under), **Storytime** (ages 3-6), **Pajama Storytime** (ages 6 and under), and **Family Storytime** (ages 6 and under).

La Hora de Los Cuentos en Espanol

Join us for stories, crafts, and tons of fun in Spanish! For families with children of all ages at the Wyoming and Cascade KDL branches.

Summer Carnival

Celebrate Summer Reading Club with games, crafts, prizes and tons of carnival-style fun! Registration required. For all ages. Offered at most KDL branches.

John Ball Traveling Zoo

Can't get to the zoo this summer? Z's Kid's Club will bring the zoo to you with live animals in the library! For all ages. Offered at most KDL branches.

Animal Crackers

Hang out with animals from one of the largest exotic traveling petting zoos in this area. For all ages. Offered at most KDL branches.

Connections is a program of the Child and Family Resource Council in partnership with the Kent County Health Department.

Art Attack

Help decorate banners to hang up in the library and create works of art to take home with you. Registration required. For all ages. Offered at most KDL branches.

Bee Amazed at the Fascinating Life of the Honey Bee!

Participants will learn about bees, watch them in an observation hive and do a bee-related craft. For all ages. Offered at most KDL branches.

PALamazoo Puppets

Get ready to sing, dance and laugh in an interactive concert with Susan Harrison and pals from PALamazoo Puppets! For all ages. Offered at most KDL branches.

Spoon Man

“Get Spooned” with Jim Cruise as he creates all sorts of music with two ordinary household tablespoons. Held at the most of the KDL branches through the month of June. For all ages.

Bubbleology

The amazing Geoff Akins can create bubble caterpillars, smoke-filled volcano bubbles, fully functioning merry-go-rounds, and even the

impossibubble square bubbles! Offered at most KDL branches throughout the month of June. Registration required. For all ages.

Grand Rapids Public Libraries

For all activities, please contact your local GRPL branch or visit www.grpl.org for activity dates and times. For any further assistance needed please call GRPL's main number 616-988-5416.

Storytimes

Join us each week for stories, songs and play activities! At all Grand Rapids Public Libraries, dates and times vary. Please call your local GRPL library for more information or visit www.grpl.org.

It's Magic! With Jeff Wawrzaszek

Don't miss this high energy performance of unforgettable magic and laugh-out-loud, family friendly fun. Smiles and laughter guaranteed. Admission is free. Runs from June 17-20, call your local GRPL location for date and times.

Pippin Puppets

Critters from summer camp--skunks, spiders, bunnies, bears and bats--are all in the house! Enjoy big, colorful puppets and lots of audience participation. Runs from June 24-27, call your local GRPL location for date and time

Grand Rapid's Civic Theater

For more information on the show, please call (616) 222-6650 or visit www.grct.org for more information. This show is suitable for children under the age of five.

Alice

August 2, 6, 8, 10

Wed-Sat: 7:30pm, Sun: 3:00 pm

Alice is a “sassy little black girl” on a journey to claim “the sweepstakes of a lifetime.” Joined by her two best friends an “imaginary” rabbit named Sal, and a real-life “nerd” named Robin she travels to New York where she encounters all kinds of crazy people and situations that help Alice discover the real treasure in life, but will it be too late?

Grand Rapids Children's Museum

Regular admission is \$5.00 per person; children under age 2 are free. Please call (616) 235-GRCM (4726) or visit www.grcm.org for more information. Also open on Mondays for the summer starting June 9.

The Mane Event

June 19, 2008, 11:00 am-3:00 pm

Check out the brand new lions at the John Ball Zoo, experience face painting and mane-styling at the Douglas J Salon, and play at the Children's Museum all in one day! Parking is free at the zoo and a trolley for transportation with snacks and prizes is provided. Visitors will receive a gift certificate for a free haircut to get their “manes” tamed. Tickets are \$8.00 per person for 2 years or older; 2 years or younger are FREE! For more information contact the Grand Rapids Children's Museum.

Building Our World Exhibit

May 8 through Nov. 2, 2008

It's back, new and improved! Haul out your hard hats and get to work at the GRCM construction site! Children can wear construction gear while they dig into more than 2,000 pounds of play gravel! Stack foam rocks, transport kid size wheel barrows, and play with shovels, flashlights and other fun tools!

Have a Ball 2008

July 24, 5:00 pm at Fifth Third Ballpark. Families are invited to take part in baseball-themed stations on the BIG field before the Whitecaps game at 7:00 pm. Kids will have the chance to bat and run bases on the BIG field, pitch to their friends, and create a take-home baseball project. GRCM guests will have chances to take part in on-field events once the game starts! Tickets are \$8 each for Pal Members and \$10 each for the general public.

PARENT INFORMATION

Safe Kids Greater Grand Rapids

Please visit www.grandrapidsafekids.org for further safety information.

Upcoming free Infant Car Seat Safety Classes: A class for expectant or new parents wanting to keep baby safe.

June 18, July 16, and August 20, 6:30-8:00pm. Please call 391.5000 for location information and to register.

Upcoming Car Seat Inspection Stations:

July 11 and August 1 at Algoma Fire Department

July 10 and August 14 at Cutlerville Fire Dept.

June 26, July 24, and August 28 at Grand Rapids Fire Dept.

All stations are open noon-3:30 (no appointment necessary), please call 391.7233 for more information.

Safe Kids Bike Helmet Distribution

Safe Kids Greater Grand Rapids will distribute 30 free bike helmets to kids ages 1-12. A parent or guardian must be present.

For more information, call 616-391-SAFE.

June 14, 1:00pm at Kent District Library's Gaines Twp and Wyoming branches.

June 14, 1:00-3:00pm at Grand Rapids Public Library's Madison Square and Van Belkum branches.

Michigan's New Booster Seat Law

More than 90 percent of children between ages four and eight, who are seriously injured in auto accidents, are not restrained in a booster seat. Effective July 1, 2008, the new law requires all children in a motor vehicle, under the age of eight and shorter

than 4 feet 9 inches tall, to be securely fastened in a child safety seat.

Summer Safety Tips

The following safety tips were taken from the American Academy of Pediatrics

Fun in the Sun!

Babies under 6 months: Avoiding sun exposure and dressing infants in lightweight long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and brimmed hats are still the top recommendations from the AAP to prevent sunburn; however, when adequate clothing and shade are not available, parents can apply a minimal amount of sunscreen to small areas, such as the infant's face and the back of the hands.

For toddlers and young children: Apply sunscreen at least 30 minutes before going outside, and use sunscreen even on cloudy days. The SPF should be at least 15.

Bug Safety!

1. Don't use scented soaps, perfumes, or hair sprays on your child.
2. Avoid dressing your child in clothing with bright colors or flowery prints.
3. To remove a visible stinger from skin, gently scrape it off horizontally with a credit card or your finger nail.
4. Insect repellents containing DEET are the most effective.
5. DEET should not be used on children under 2 months of age.
6. To prevent Lyme Disease, check for ticks on children's skin after playing outside in grassy or wooded areas.
7. For more info on DEET please visit www.aapnews.org/cgi/content/full/e200399v1

FEATURED LEARNING LINKS

www.wholesomebabyfood.com

www.wholesometoddlerfood.com

Would you like ideas for how your baby/toddler can eat more healthy? Do you have a picky eater? Please check out these two websites for healthy, nutritious, wholesome, easy, and fun ways to prepare baby and toddler foods, recipes, and meals for your little one(s).

Child and Family Resource Council
118 Commerce SW, Suite 220
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
616.454.HOPE (4673) 616.454.2059 FAX
www.childresource.cc

PARENTS SEAL OF APPROVAL

"Connections has taught me to be more patient and also new ways to play (and interact) with my daughter at different ages. I consider myself a well informed parent, but I learn something new with each communication from Connections".

What is Connections?

Connections is a free program through the Child and Family Resource Council for families with children ages 0-5 that provides critical developmental information to parents during the first five years of their child's life. Parents involved in Connections are sent a series of age-specific surveys called the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ). These questionnaires utilize playtime to help parents and caregivers both encourage healthy development of their children as well as identify any potential developmental delays.

How does Connections work?

ASQ's are sent to your home every 2-6 months depending on how old your child is. It asks simple questions about your child's development and only takes about 10-15 minutes to fill out. Parents are given a pre-paid envelope to return each ASQ. Trained workers will review each ASQ and provide feedback to each family. All information is kept confidential! Visit www.agesandstages.com for more information on the ASQ.

What are the Benefits?

Developmental activities; developmental newsletters; parenting ideas and tips; safety information; playtime ideas for you and your child; information on what to expect from your child; seasonal community event newsletters; phone number if you have any questions; confidential resource for help; connections to community resources.

Tell Me How to Sign Up!

Call (616) 454-HOPE (4673) and ask for Connections or sign up online by visiting www.childresource.cc and click on "Programs and Services" then "Connections".



ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Parents and Child Protection

Parents naturally want to protect children from harm, to hold their hands when crossing a busy road or fix a wound when a child scrapes his or her knee. Yet, when a child is intentionally hurt as a result of abuse by another caregiver, parents often do not know how to respond. A caregiver is any adult responsible for the child's care such as: parent, babysitter, daycare provider, teacher, or family friend. Children's Protective Services (CPS) is responsible for responding to any report of child abuse, child neglect, sexual abuse, and sexual exploitation. Anyone in Kent County who has concerns that a child may have been intentionally harmed by a caregiver can and should call CPS at (616) 247-6300.

Child Care

Finding good child care can be a difficult and time consuming task, but there is help. Kent Region Community Coordinated Child Care (4-C) connects parents and employers to child care providers and services. Please contact them at (616) 451-8281. www.4cchildcare.org

Lead Poisoning

Lead poisoning is most harmful to children under the age of six. Lead poisoning occurs when children breathe or swallow lead from dirt and dust or chew on things that contain lead. If your home was built before 1980, you could have a problem with lead. Lead is found in lead paint dust and chips, old furniture, toys made of or painted with lead, in dirt near roads and buildings and in food or drinks stored in glazed dishes. To learn more, contact Get the Lead Out! at (616)734-9443.

