

# APSS NEWSLETTER

July 1, 2019

Volume 10, Issue 1

2019 - 2020

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This newsletter is published monthly.

For submission information contact Megan Eding at [edingme@gvsu.edu](mailto:edingme@gvsu.edu).



## 4TH OF JULY Local Fireworks

City	Fireworks	Location
Allendale	Dusk	Allendale Township Park 6676 Lake Michigan Dr. Behind township hall
Ada-Cascade	Dusk	Ada Christian School 6206 Ada Drive Cascade, MI
East Grand Rapids	Dusk	John Collins Park over Reeds Lake 650 Lakeside Dr. SE
Grand Haven	Dusk	Waterfront Stadium 1 N. Harbor Drive
Grand Rapids	July 6 at 10:30 PM	Ah-Nab-Awen Park in front of Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum 303 Pearl St. SW
Grandville	Dusk	Grandville Middle School 3535 Wilson Ave. SW
Holland	10:00 PM	Kollen and Heize Waterfront Walkway 250 Kollen Park Dr.
	Dusk	Holland State Park; 2215 Ottawa Beach Rd.
Kentwood	Dusk	Kentwood City Center 4900 Breton Rd. SE
Marne	July 6 at Dusk	Berlin Raceway 2060 Berlin Raceway
Muskegon	Dusk	Over Heritage Landing 1050 7th Street
Sand Lake	10:30 PM	Village of Sand Lake

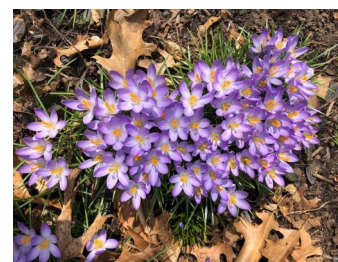
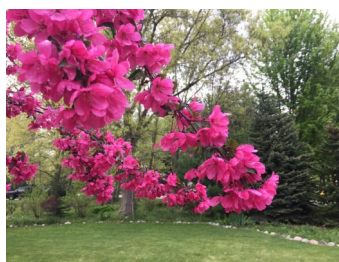
# MEMBER NEWS

## AMAZING GARDENS FROM OUR MEMBERS!!

**Deborah Barko** - This daisy plant was from my dad's memorial/burial held on Saturday and I planted it in my yard on Father's Day.



**Bev Nyhuis** - These are pictures from my fiance's yard in Saugatuck. We're getting married in September! So much fun stuff for me to do when I retire!



**Lori Turnbull** - With the cool weather, everything is a little slow this year, but this was my flower garden last year.



**Susen Brunell** - Oh my! This is soooo my subject! After not being able to work in my gardens for a year pre-surgery and now 2 years post knee replacement, I had a ton of work to do! I started my weeding and thinning out in April and hope to have all beds finished by mid-July. In one bed I ended up pulling thousands (yes, thousands) of grape hyacinth and tossing in my woods in hopes they will take root in there.

I have about 11 garden beds and have now cleaned more than half of them. I have a few pre-weeding and post-weeding pics along with beds after transplanting flowers and putting in annuals. I will be putting a few beds back to grass as it is just too much work for me to handle anymore.



Pink Peony



White Peony



Bowl of Beauty

**Karynn Gregory** - I don't have pictures of my garden, but I wanted to send in an app I found over the weekend. I recently moved into a new home that has TONS of perennials. We moved in during the late summer of 2018, so I am just getting to see everything as it pops up. I am NOT an avid gardener, but I try and I am starting to get better. I found an app called PlantSnap. You take a picture of a plant and the app tells you what it is! It's perfect for me, since I didn't plant my garden, to be able to document what I have and look up care instructions. Super helpful, so I wanted to share with others!



**Erica Bringedahl** - My tulips this year were beautiful. These tulips are from Windmill Island in Holland, MI. Every year you are able to dig up the bulbs from Windmill Island, for a fee, and plant them in your garden.





## UNION NEWS



### **Do you sometimes wonder.....When should I retire?**

*Continued from June newsletter*

#### **What is the Best thing about retirement?**

- Not having to get out on a wintery snowy morning
- Spending more time in Florida
- Staying home and playing with grandkids
- So much to be THANKFUL for that I was able to make this transition
- Freedom to drop things and go wherever/whenever I want
- NO stress about work issues
- I now have time to volunteer
- Time to read, fix things around the house, do more cooking and cleaning
- Life's pace seems much more reasonable
- Dog sitting
- I can take better care of myself and not worry about making it to work if I am not feeling up to it

#### **Anything positive or negative you would like to share with our current members who are considering retirement?**

- I would encourage anyone considering retirement to take a look at the numbers, look at your situation and if you can make it work-DO IT! DO NOT spend years thinking about it.
- Think seriously which pay out option would work best for you... full pay, pay with 10 year guarantee, etc. Tara Bivens will be able to help you with the best decision for you. The HRO website is very well put together, take time to look through it
- Meeting with Tara made me feel confident that I was doing the right thing with my best interest in mind
- I would recommend that everyone attend the seminar "How to retire happy", the information is priceless, in fact you should attend 2 to 3 times since the information is so important
- Be sure you thoroughly study & consider your options for medical insurance in retirement
- I was told by several people that it takes about a year to settle into retirement
- When you retire it is a whole new mindset and you are afraid you forgot to do something that day-Crazy right??

- The hardest thing is to say "No" when asked to do something or to be on a committee, but that is also the best part. These committees give me something to look forward to and keeps me busy when I want to be-kind of a catch 22
- Gives you time to get to know yourself again and what makes you HAPPY
- Keep yourself engaged in activities, travels, whatever makes you happy with how you spend your time

## One Month-Two week (per contract) notice

When preparing a letter to notify your supervisor-start with something like:

*I am writing this letter to inform you of my intent to retire/resign from my position effective (date). I appreciated the opportunity to serve students, staff and faculty during my tenure at GVSU. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.*

*Sincerely,*

## Did you know-

Per our contract (section 12.2.1)

- As a full time employee you can carry over 200 earned vacation hours from one calendar year to the next.
- As a part time employee you can carry over 100 earned vacation hours from one calendar year to the next.
- **\*\*\*If you are retiring or leaving GVSU the payout is 160 earned vacation provided you gave at least a 2 week's notice.**



The APSS union would like to **THANK** Carol Talsma and Janet Potgeter for their service in the union. We very much appreciate their devotion and support through the years. We wish Carol many good years in her retirement and we wish Janet much success in her new position here at GVSU.

## ALSO

**THANK YOU** to Erica for her many years keeping our website up to date and publishing our monthly newsletter as the Communications Director. We appreciated your creativity and we looked forward to our monthly APSS newsletter. Good Luck to you!

## UNION NEWS



### **Welcome to Megan Eding, the new APSS Communications Director!**

I've worked at GVSU for just over a year, but I have eight years' experience in higher education. Prior to my position as a C2 in the Modern Languages and Literatures Department, I was a Financial Aid Counselor at Davenport University and a Senior Academic Advisor at the University of New Mexico, a graduate advising assistant in the Seidman Undergraduate Programs Office, and a graduate teaching assistant at Colorado State University.

Since graduating with my BA in History from GVSU, I've lived in Fort Collins, CO (graduate school), Deer Lodge, MT (graduate internship), Cooperstown, NY (Baseball Hall of Fame internship), Casper, WY, Albuquerque, NM, and now back to West Michigan! I feel blessed to have lived in these amazing places! I've found that each place I lived brought me a little bit more out of my shell and out of my comfort zone and contributed to the go-getter attitude I have today. I'm excited for the opportunity to expand my network here at GVSU and to help support our union and our PSS through the Communications Director position.

Fun and random facts: I am a HUGE sports fan, an avid cross-stitcher, a golf enthusiast, a cyclist, and enjoy many other exercises and physical activities (although right now I'm recovering from shoulder surgery and haven't been able to do any of those things lately). My spouse and I are restoring a mid-century brick ranch on the NW side of Grand Rapids and we have one very energetic dog (a Texas Heeler named Charlotte, who we adopted while living in NM).



## **Participate. Learn. Grow. Make a difference!**

I am stepping down from my position as APSS Building Representative for HRY, PAD and HHLC. I will be an advocate for the APSS as long as I am here, but It's time to let someone else have the opportunity! I have served the COT and APSS for a number of years as a building rep, Membership Director, a member of a contract negotiating team, and probably a couple other positions that have slipped my memory. 25 years ago, I was just a member of the clerical staff at GVSU who wanted to be involved in the decisions that affected my position, and know the value of my participation as a union member. It has been an excellent investment of my time. Some of my most valuable experiences are a result of getting involved with our union, including getting to know many wonderful and smart people from all areas of GVSU, and learning about the great relationship our work group has with the university. I've learned that people with different ideas, but with similar goals will come to a great conclusion. The discussions themselves are a great source of information and learning. All of these experiences have helped me get to the place I am today: proud of my service and the work I have done for GVSU. My wish is for all PSS to have an impact as a member of the GVSU community! ~ Janet Potgeter



# HEALTH & WELLNESS WORKSHOPS & INFORMATION

## Upcoming events at the GVSU Farmers Market:

### BIKE TUNE UPS

Wednesday, July 3

11am-1:30pm

Service is first come, first served.

The [Bike Shop](#) holds regular hours for self-service bike maintenance and assorted bike parts sales. During open hours, the GVSU community is welcome to utilize tools & stands for your bike's maintenance needs. An apprentice or shop mechanic will be on-hand & will be able to guide you through most maintenance tasks if you need assistance.



### LOOKING WITH INTENT

Wednesday, July 10

12pm-12:30pm

Take time to move mindfully and with intention at the Farmers Market following a guided mindfulness practice. Led by Elisa Salazar and Stacy Burns. Meet at the health and wellness table. Register online at [www.gvsu.edu/sprout](http://www.gvsu.edu/sprout)

### COOKING DEMO

Wednesday, July 17

12-12:45pm

Register online at [www.gvsu.edu/sprout](http://www.gvsu.edu/sprout)



### TIAA Financial webinars in July

You can attend live webinars to help boost your financial know-how. Register at [TIAA.org/webinars](http://TIAA.org/webinars).



# HR WORKSHOPS

## Grand Valley Moms Network - Grand Rapids

12:00 – 1:00 PM

Thursday, July 18

303C DEV, PEW campus

Topic: Check in and Networking

Please register on [Sprout](#).

## Grand Valley Pet Network - Allendale

12:00 – 1:00 PM

Wednesday, July 24

1104 KC, Allendale campus

The group will focus on connecting pet parents and how we can support one another in owning a pet. Please register on [Sprout](#).



**2019-2020  
Building Representatives**

Cheryl Bronner 1-3327  
Student Service-1<sup>st</sup> floor

Tami John 1-2350  
Calder Arts &  
Kirkhof Cntr

Bill Grimaldi 1-3859  
Alumni House, Service &  
Central Utilities

Matt Collver 1-5583  
Cntr of Health Sciences,  
& Raleigh J. Finkelstein

Barb Ellis 1-8611  
Copy Center, Laker Store, &  
Kindschi

Lindsey Burns 1-2186  
Mac- A-D

Deb Rotman 1-2566  
PAC, AGS, LHH, LSH

Mark Saint Amour 1-2530  
Manitou & Fieldhouse

Hollie Rago 1-3426  
Honors, Connection, Zumberg &  
Lake Michigan

Katie Haynes 1-3006  
Henry, Holton Hooker, &  
Padnos

Joyce Sullivan 1-3730  
AuSable

Autumn DeRoo 1-5936  
Kennedy, Eberhard, Ferguson

Patti McCarthy 1-6751  
DeVos 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Sandra Jennings 1-6848  
Bike Factory &  
Seidman Center

Vacant Position  
Holland, Muskegon &  
Traverse City

Vicki Helgeson 1-2630  
Library-Allendale campus

Vicki Wenger 1-3898  
Lake Ontario Hall

Lindsay Bogi 1-3266  
Student service 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> floors

Patrick Perry 1-6202  
DeVos 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> floors

**Members Relations Team**  
Rhonda LeMieux -Chair 1-3268

Cheryl Fischer 1-3000

**IMPORTANT DATES**  
**Independence Day - July 4**  
**University Closed - July 4**

**SUGGESTIONS FOR UPCOMING ISSUE**

Do you have any summer vacation photos to share? Please share your photos and vacation location to my email, [edingme@gvsu.edu](mailto:edingme@gvsu.edu) by July 26.

**JULY DATES**

**Birthdays**

**1 - Valerie Palmer**

**3 - Shawn Evans**

**11 - Amy Duwe**

**21 - Bonnie Hudson**

**25 - Patrick Perry**

**29 - Tracy McLenithan**

**GVSU Anniversary**

**15 - Joyce Sullivan**

**27 - Jennifer Glaab**

**31 - Pat Cox**

**Wedding Anniversary**

**23 - Angela Munford**

**Thinking of You Cards:**  
**Do you know someone who is off work because of surgery, illness, or accident? Please let Deb Barko know. She will send a card from our Association.**



If you would like your birthdate, GVSU anniversary, and/or wedding anniversary published in the newsletter email Megan at [edingme@gvsu.edu](mailto:edingme@gvsu.edu).