



WELCOME HOME WEST MICHIGAN!

A publication of the Grand Rapids Association of REALTORS®

www.grar.com * May 2013

HOME SALES STATISTICS

The Grand Rapids Association of REALTORS®' (GRAR) home sales statistics for the month of April 2013 are now available. **Sales were strong throughout the month and the inventory of listed properties is at a 30-year low.** If you are thinking of selling, NOW is certainly the time!



Please click on the following link to view additional statistical information, including, but not limited to, the average number of days on market, average sale price, number of units sold, and more.

[STATISTICAL REPORT](#) or [HISTORY OF LISTINGS AND SALES](#)

If you have any questions concerning this data, please contact Julie Rietberg (CEO) at julier@grar.com.

SEARCHING FOR A HOME OR PROPERTY IN WEST MICHIGAN?

The Grand Rapids Association of REALTORS®' (GRAR) website is your **local, accurate source** for West Michigan properties for sale, rent, or lease, as well as open houses. Please visit us at www.grar.com. Also, we hope that you will choose to work with a REALTOR®. Why?

- A REALTOR® can help you determine your buying power.
- A REALTOR® has many resources to assist you in your home search.
- A REALTOR® can assist you in the selection process by providing objective information about each property.
- A REALTOR® can help you negotiate.
- A REALTOR® can explain the different financing options and identify qualified lenders.
- A REALTOR® can guide you through the closing process and make sure everything flows smoothly.
- And so much more!



[Click here to learn more](#) about why it makes sense to work with a REALTOR®! Also, feel free to visit our online [membership directory](#).

5 AWESOMELY EASY LANDSCAPING PROJECTS!

Ramp up your home's curb appeal with cool landscaping projects that you can easily pull off in a weekend. [Click here to learn more.](#)



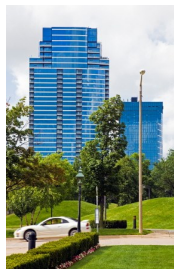
ENOUGH ABOUT GRAR, LET'S TALK ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY!

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Did you know that five (5) public schools in Grand Rapids are in Michigan's top 5% for academic performance? City High-Middle School (7th-12th grade) is THE top performing school in West Michigan and the ONLY school to offer the coveted International Baccalaureate program. Others include Coit Creative Arts Academy (K-5th grade) and 6th grade schools - Blandford School, Zoo School, and the Center for Economicology @ City. What other achievements are the District and its students achieving? [Click here to learn more!](#)



FORBES RECOGNIZES GRAND RAPIDS



Forbes magazine recently recognized Grand Rapids amongst the ten (10) best cities for finding employment right now! The ranking reflects considerations such as: the diversity of industries in the city, the cost of living, the range in size of companies offering employment, and the high level of education among its residents. All those factors were weighed equally. The top industries hiring in Grand Rapids are in the fields of health care, financial services, skilled labor, education, IT, and engineering.

[Click here to read the accolades for Grand Rapids.](#)

CONGRATULATIONS TO OLIVIA'S GIFT!

Olivia's Gift was one of eight finalists for Wood TV's [Fifth Annual Connecting with Community Awards!](#) Olivia's Gift is a model for non-profit residential living for adults with severe disabilities. This first-of-its-kind apartment style living was inspired by Olivia Henrickson, designed by her architect father and brought into being through generous support of many - family, friends, community, church, the families of others with severe disabilities, and REALTOR® Kelly Henrickson.

If you would like to learn more about this great organization and/or show your support, don't miss it's [Summer Beach Bash Party](#) at The Score!



HAVE YOU VISITED YET?



The new Downtown Market in Grand Rapids is the first LEED-certified market in the country? In other words, it's a big, sustainable, delicious addition to wonderful West Michigan where there's something for everyone! 25,000 square feet of market space, a restaurant, a brewery, a farmer's market, retail shops, a commercial kitchen, a rooftop greenhouse and the country's first hands-on kitchen for kids. [Please click here to learn more.](#)

SAVE THE DATE!

[HERITAGE HILL GARDEN TOUR - JULY 13, 2013](#)



RENDEZOO XXIV - ROCK AND ROAR!

Friday, June 14, 2013 from 7:00 to 11 p.m. An evening of food, entertainment and fundraising to benefit John Ball Zoo. Food stations (Terry's Taco Truck, the Mack - macaroni that is - Truck, Smitty's Sliders, etc.), cocktails, rockin' music – Square Pegz (dance music of the 80's) -- and a silent auction featuring some very unique experiences, as well as one-of-a-kind items such as animal artwork, animal prints, fireworks from a deck overlooking the Grand River, Tiger baseball tickets, and so much more. Grab your friends and come celebrate summer at the John Ball Zoo! [Click here to learn more.](#)



GOLFING FOR GREAT CAUSES

Attention Golfers - There are many opportunities coming up to support worthy causes while doing what you love! Please click on the links (no pun intended!) below to take a look!



June 7 - [7th Annual Stepping Stones Golf Outing](#)

June 14 - [Grandville/Jenison Chamber Golf Outing](#)

June 18 - [Hudsonville Chamber Golf Outing for Scholarships](#)

June 19 - [Silent Observer Charity Golf Outing](#)

June 22 - [The Golf Tournament of Hope \(West Michigan Susan G. Komen\)](#)

June 25 - [Grand Rapids Young Professionals 9th Annual Golf Outing](#)

July 15 - [2nd Annual "Support the 1" Golf Outing & Silent Auction](#)

July 15 - [GenerosiTEE Golf Outing for Help Pregnancy Crisis Aid](#)

July 19 - [Women's Council of REALTORS® Golf Tournament](#)

July 21 - [Autism Fight for Change Golf Outing](#)

LOOKING FOR A UNIQUE WAY TO HAVE SOME SUMMER FUN?

Take part in the Saturday Slip-n-Slide to benefit Kids Hope USA! June 15, 2013 from 12:00 (noon) to 5:00 p.m. at Rosewood Park in Jenison. An afternoon of family fun with four waterslides, a 5K fun run/walk, bounce houses, food, children's activities, and much more. [Please click here to check it out!](#)



FANTASTIC CONCRETE FLOOR FINISHES:

Think of a concrete floor as a cold, gray slab? Have we got some ideas for you! [Click here to explore!](#)

DO YOU HAVE NEWS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?

If so, please contact the REALTOR® Liaison who provided you with this newsletter or contact the Editor direct at pamd@grar.com.

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