

## Welcome back!

Welcome back to your Arts & Culture page! This month, we're excited to again celebrate the creative achievements of our talented local students. We also invite you to connect. Are you a local artist with work in a show, or do you have story suggestions? Please share your news with Art Rapids at [ArtRapids@gmail.com](mailto:ArtRapids@gmail.com).



## Walk of Art Stewards spiffing up the park!

At 91 years old, Graydon Decamp and his wife Sherri took advantage of a break in the cold weather to clean up their adopted sculptures, giving them a fresh look for the summer season of park visitors. If you wish to become a steward, as a family, or all by yourself – email [artrapids@gmail.com](mailto:artrapids@gmail.com).



## Student Butterflies Adorn River Street

Downtown River Street is currently adorned with colorful butterflies, creations of 41 young artists (ages 5-11) from the Art Rapids Spring Showcase. Led by board member and artist Wendy McWhorter, the students painted their designs on April 26th during a workshop generously hosted by Art & Connections. Since May 1st, these vibrant artworks have been displayed in River Street businesses, bringing youthful creativity into the community spotlight. Residents can enjoy this cheerful exhibition until June 2nd, after which the butterflies will be returned to the student artists via their schools or Art & Connection.

## Elk Rapids Bands Earn Top State Honors

Congratulations are in order for Elk Rapids student musicians! Both the High School Concert Band and the Cherryland Middle School 7/8 Band achieved prestigious Division 1 “Superior” ratings at the recent Michigan School Band & Orchestra Association (MSBOA) State Festival hosted for the first time in Elk Rapids! This highest possible honor reflects exceptional talent, dedication, and passionate musicianship honed through countless hours of practice under Director Nick Anderson.

A special highlight was the High School Band’s invaluable on-stage clinic with Dr. Cunningham, Oakland University’s Director of Bands. The community celebrates these outstanding achievements and the musical excellence demonstrated by all students, including graduating seniors Jason Jansen, Robbie Doherty, Olivia Williams, and Devin Melton.



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Contact us at [ArtRapids@gmail.com](mailto:ArtRapids@gmail.com) to submit events, information and feedback to keep our community colorful!