**Winter storm hammers Northland**

City of Grand Rapids Public Works crews remove snow piles from NE Second Street on Tuesday. A small winter storm rolled through much of the state early this week, dropping approximately 10 inches of snow in Grand Rapids. See page 8A for story.

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS KICK OFF 2022 WITH NEW YEAR’S EVE FIREWORKS**

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Grand Rapids and Greenway (BGC) are kicking off 2022 with a bang. Actually, a few bangs. They are hosting an all-ages New Year’s Eve party on Friday, December 31, 6 p.m. at Longview Park in Calumet.

The event features a five-fireworks display.

“2021 was another challenging year for families across the region. This is an opportunity for everybody to come together as a community, safely, to celebrate new beginnings with each other,” said Lori Kangas Olson, BGC Area Director.

BGC provides safe and educational off-school opportunities for about 200 children in the Grand Rapids and Greenway communities. Members of the organization benefit from trained, curing, professional staff and volunteers who help them enhance their lives, envision their goals, and achieve great futures.

“An event like our New Year’s Eve party is a notable example of the things we do as a non-profit organization to bring our communities together for the greater good. That’s what the Boys & Girls Clubs of Grand Rapids and Greenway are about,” Olson added.

**ISD 318 APPROVES FINAL LLEVY INCREASE AT 7.1 PERCENT**

BY EMILY CARLSON

The ISD 318 school board held its last regular meeting of 2021 on the evening of Monday, Dec. 20. The meeting kicked off with a recognition of the Grand Rapids High School volleyball and football teams.

The board approved the final 2021 payable 2022 levy in the amount of $14,633,086.55, which is a 7.1 percent increase of $977,742.93. Those in the school district will see a significant reduction on their taxes from the school district in comparison to what stated on their estimated tax amounts.

The school board heard and approved a principal report from Principal of Stanton Education Center (IEC) Clayton Lindner. IEC is a care and treatment facility, owned and operated by North Homes Children and Family Services, in Grand Rapids. The facility provides education to students who are receiving services from North Homes as they are within the district boundaries. Majority of the students are originally from other school districts in Minnesota.

“There is a 35-day evaluation, accreditation unit, intensive residential, and...