



# NEWSLETTER

## December 2023

12050 Old Belding Road Belding, MI 48809 616-691-8450

Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00AM – 4:00PM

[www.grattantownship.org](http://www.grattantownship.org)

### TOWNSHIP BOARD

Supervisor: Frank Force  
 Clerk: Michelle Alberts  
 Treasurer: Sabrina Freeman  
 Trustee: Dennis Heffron  
 Trustee: Paul Knoerl

**Township Offices will be closed for Holiday Break**  
**December 20-21, December 25- January 2**  
**TREASURERS OFFICE OPEN 12/28 from 9-5 for tax collection only**

### From the Township Board

The Township was awarded grants funds for the demolition of the Grattan School Building in July of 2023. The process for asbestos abatement is underway and the building is projected to be down by early 2024. More information on this decision can be found by reading the Township Board Meeting Minutes (February-October 2023) and the Grattan School Resident Committee Meeting Minutes (Fall of 2022).

As encouraged in previous newsletters, all residents can subscribe to meeting agendas by visiting: <https://grattantownship.civicweb.net/Portal/Subscribe.aspx>. Once the agenda is published, an email will be sent with the information. A 2024 Calendar of important Township dates is included on the last page of this newsletter.

Senior Meals is hosted each Monday and Wednesday at noon at the Township Hall. Visit [www.grattantownship.org](http://www.grattantownship.org) to find a meal calendar.

If residents are interested in serving on committees, applications are available on the website and should be submitted to the clerk’s office by January 4, 2024. Positions are available for the Planning Commission, Fire and Safety Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and Sewer Advisory Committee (Big Crooked Lake representative).

***The Township Board would like to know if you would like more frequent newsletters and how you would like to receive them. Please cut off the completed portion below and turn it in with your next tax bill (or email to [office@grattantownship.org](mailto:office@grattantownship.org))***

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Name:	Address:	How often? Monthly or Quarterly
		Delivery Preference- Check Below
Would you like to subscribe to Board Meeting Agenda notifications via email? YES/ NO	Email Address:	<input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> Email



## Fire Department Updates

The Fire Department has joined a State-wide program offering installations of smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. The installations are performed to the requirements set by the State. If interested in scheduling, please call the Township offices at 616-691-8450.

The 2024 Pancake Breakfast will take place on Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup> from 7am-10am at the Fire Station. Add this day to your calendars!

## From Clerk Michelle Alberts

The passing of Proposal 2 of 2022 has brought many changes to elections in the State of Michigan. Many of these changes are on the administrative side while others are more obvious for voters. Those more obvious changes that may directly affect you are the addition of Early Voting and the changes with Absentee Voting.

For 2024, voters have three methods for voting.

**#1- Absentee Voting:** Any registered voter can vote Absentee (Proposal 3 of 2018). Absentee ballots can be obtained 45 days prior to election day up to 4:00 pm the day before. Absentee Ballots must be returned by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. The envelope **MUST BE SIGNED** by the voter to be accepted and tabulated. The November 2023 Absentee Application allowed voters in Grattan for the first time to choose to be added to the Permanent Ballot List (in the area circled below). If you checked this box (Proposal 2 of 2022) the **PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOT LIST** directs the Clerk to no longer send an application prior to each election, just the ballot when they become available. If you DID NOT check this box, you will still be sent an application **IF** you were previously on the Permanent Absentee Voter List. It is the responsibility of voters to notify the Clerk's office if they are going to be vacationing or at a temporary different address, two months prior to an election, and give the temporary ballot mailing address to be used. Ballots WILL NEVER be forwarded by the postal service.

**APPLICATION FOR ABSENT VOTER'S BALLOT** SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR INSTRUCTIONS

**NOVEMBER 7, 2023 GENERAL ELECTION**

I certify that I am a United States citizen and a qualified and registered elector in GRATTAN TOWNSHIP, County of KENT, State of Michigan, and I apply for an official ballot, to be voted by me in the election above, and the statements in this application are true.

**COMPLETE TO JOIN PERMANENT LIST:**  
 I want to vote absentee in all elections. Automatically send me an absent voter ballot for all elections.

**WARNING: A PERSON WHO MAKES A FALSE STATEMENT IN THIS DECLARATION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR.**

I certify that I am a United States citizen and that the statements in this Absent Voter Ballot application are true.

**VOTER SIGN HERE** X  
Power of attorney is not acceptable Signature of Absent Voter Date / /

**DATE OF BIRTH** / / **3 Complete**

**VOTER CONTACT INFORMATION**  
Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR CLERK'S USE ONLY**  
Filed \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailed \_\_\_\_\_  
Ballot # \_\_\_\_\_  
Returned \_\_\_\_\_  
Wd./Pct. # \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk \_\_\_\_\_

**The U.S. Postal Service will not forward your absent voter ballot.**

**Complete Only If You Want Your Ballot Sent To A Temporary Address. We can mail it to you where you are. If additional addresses are needed or plans change, contact your city/township clerk.**

Date Leaving For Temporary Address / / Date of Return / / (PLEASE PRINT)  
Temporary Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

If you chose this box in November, the **requirements** of the Presidential Primary direct the Clerk's office to mail out a **"Ballot Style Selection Form"** that will provide the Clerk's office with your selection of a Republican or Democrat ballot style.

**#2- In-Person- Early:** Early Voting is required to be offered for 9 consecutive days for 8 hours per day ending the Sunday before Election Day. This is required for every statewide and federal elections but not for local races. This early voting site will serve both precincts in the Township and will be exactly like voting on election day. A mailer will be sent out to every registered voter in the Township in early January notifying you of this early voting site.

**[JURISDICTION] PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**ESTABLISHMENT OF EARLY VOTING SITE[S]**

To All Qualified Electors in [Jurisdiction]

Notice is hereby given by resolution of the [local board] under authority granted in Public Act 81 of 2023, that the location[s] of the early voting site[s] for all federal and statewide election dates will be the following. A site may also serve as an early voting site for additional election dates if approved by the [local board].

Name	Name
Address 1	Address 1
Address 2	Address 2
City, MI, zip	City, MI, zip

All qualified electors in [Jurisdiction] have the right to mark a ballot and deposit the ballot in a tabulator beginning the second Saturday before an election and ending the Sunday before the election, and any additional days prior to the second Saturday before an election that the [local board] designates. Early voting will be available at the early voting site[s] for the following hours:

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
[_am - _pm]	[_am - _pm]	[_am - _pm]	[_am - _pm]	[_am -_pm]	[_am - _pm]	[_am - _pm]	[_am - _pm]	[_am - _pm]

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Clerk's Office at [phone] or [email address].

The mailer will look like this, \_\_\_\_\_  
 and will provide all registered voters with the Early Voting site location and operation hours. Early Voting sites will operate exactly like an election day precinct where you will be issued a ballot by an election inspector and will feed your ballot into the tabulator. These results are not tallied until 8pm on Election Day. Once your ballot has been inserted into the tabulator, you will become ineligible to vote Absentee or In-Person on Election Day.

**#3- In-person ON Election Day:** Polls are open on Election Day from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Elections will take place on February 27, 2024 (Presidential Primary), August 6, 2024 (Primary), and November 5, 2024 (General).

Precinct 1- (Belding School District) – Township Hall- 12050 Old Belding Rd

Precinct 2- (Lowell AND Rockford School Districts)- Fire Station- 12134 Old Belding RD

**OTHER ELECTION RELATED NOTES**

- Always return your Absentee Ballot to the TOWNSHIP HALL.
- Make sure you signed your Absentee Ballot (purple envelope).
- Possible precinct changes will be announced in Spring of 2024.

**Helpful Links**

<https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/voting/early-in-person-voting>

<https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/>

<https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/PublicBallot/Index>



<b>Clean-Up Days</b>
May 18, 2024 from 8am- 3pm
September 21, 2024 from 8am-3pm
<b>Election Days- Township offices closed</b>
February 27, 2024- Presidential Primary
August 6, 2024- Primary
November 5, 2024- General
<b>OFFICE CLOSINGS</b>
Jan 15- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Feb 19- Presidents' Day
May 27- Memorial Day
July 3 & 4- Independence Day
Sep 2- Labor Day
Oct 14- Columbus/Indigenous People's Day
Nov 11- Veteran's Day
Nov 27 & 28- Thanksgiving
Dec 23 to Jan 2- Christmas Break
<b>TAX DATES</b>
Feb 14, 2024- Winter Taxes Due
February 29, 2024 - Last Day to pay
Summer/Winter 2023 Taxes at Township
Treasurer's office available from 9:00a.m. to 5:00p.m.
March 1- Delinquent Taxes sent to County
September 16- Summer 2024 Taxes Due
Dec 30, 2024- Township Office open for TAX COLLECTION ONLY
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
<b>SEWER BILLING DUE DATES</b>
Jan 31st, 2024
April 30th, 2024
July 31st, 2024
October 31st, 2024

12050 OLD BELDING ROAD - BELDING, MI 48809  
 PH: 616-691-8450 FAX: 616-691-8804

OFFICE HOURS- MONDAY thru THURSDAY, 9:00a.m. - 4:00p.m. OFFICE CLOSED ON FRIDAYS  
 SENIOR MEALS SERVED MONDAY & WEDNESDAY AT NOON

# 2024

January							February							March							April											
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa					
1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3																				
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13					
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20					
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27					
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30									

May							June							July							August											
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa					
	1	2	3	4																												
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	4	5	6	7	8	9	10						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17					
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24					
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31					

September							October							November							December											
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7																										
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14					
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21					
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28					
29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31									

## MEETING SCHEDULES

Township Board	2nd Monday of each month & 4th Monday as needed*
Planning Commission	1st Wednesday of each month as scheduled*
Zoning Board of Appeals	3rd Wednesday of each month as scheduled*
Fire Admin & Safety Committee	4th Wednesday of each month as scheduled*
Fire Department Training	2nd Wednesday of each month at Fire Station*
	*SUBJECT TO CHANGE