



NEWSLETTER

Think Spring



FEBRUARY/MARCH 2009

From the Supervisor...

SEWER NEWS FEBRUARY 12, 2009

During a special township board meeting of Feb. 4, 2009, Sierra Consultants Operation and Maintenance Agreement for Wastewater Treatment Facilities with Grattan Township was terminated by special Resolution per Sect. 6.03 of the Agreement, termination without cause, by a 5-0 vote of the township board.

The township is now soliciting bids from other operation and maintenance providers to run the township sewer system after the 90 day termination period which was allowed in the agreement for a transition period between providers.

MORE SEWER NEWS FROM THE SEWER ADMINISTRATOR

The township sometimes receives requests from sewer users to suspend payments of sewer user fees for one reason or another.

Some of the common reasons are; "Going to remodel and won't be living there for awhile, bought a house as an investment and haven't sold or rented it, I go to Florida for the winter and don't use the sewer, etc." Although many of these reasons appear legitimate, the process for allowing suspension of sewer usage payments is clearly outlined in the Sewer Ordinance.

Following are the rules for suspension of sewer user fees quoted directly from the Ordinance:

"Unoccupied Premises. A User charge shall be charged to each Premises which is connected to the Public Sewer System, regardless of occupancy, until such time as the building sewer is disconnected from the service connection."

In simpler terms if you want to suspend your user fees you have to dig up your sewer line, disconnect it and backfill the hole. Then when you want to reconnect, you have to dig it up again, reconnect it and backfill.

As unfair as this seems at times, the rules have to cover all contingencies that arise from different people. Plus the fact that there is no simple way to turn the sewer service "On" or "Off" in any other manner.

Anyone that deems to be adversely affected by this rule does have the option of an official appeal process. This process is explained in Sect. 902 and 903 of the Grattan Township Sewer Connection, Use and Rate Ordinance which is available online at the township website or at the township office.

Franklin J. Force
Grattan Township Sewer Administrator

From the Clerkside...

Newsletter Changes

As you can imagine, the difficult economic times have forced us to review all of our activities, including our newsletter.

The most expensive component of our newsletter is the postage costs. We have determined that we can eliminate our postage by reducing the size of the newsletter to one page front and back and inserting it with the Assessors statements and the property tax bills.

Of course, to reduce the size of the newsletter, we will be eliminating the advertising. We would like to thank all of our advertisers for their past support, and encourage our residents to continue supporting their businesses.

We anticipate enclosing this new one page newsletter in with the property tax bills that will be sent out July 1st and December 1st. So be sure to watch for the newsletters in these mailings.

ELECTIONS

Our next election is scheduled for Tuesday, May 5, 2009. This election is a school election. Our precincts will be combined in to one precinct located at the Township Hall.

The last day to register to vote in the May 5th election is April 6, 2009.

Recycle Paper Trailer

Thanks to everyone that participates in this program! We are going strong—we are filling about one trailer per month! A special thanks to everyone for placing your papers in the back of the trailer. Your help makes a difference!

Recycle Household Batteries

Remember, Grattan Township is collecting used household batteries for recycling. The container is located in the entry way at the Township Hall. Please do NOT throw your used batteries in the trash. Batteries are a big source of contaminates.

Recycling For Our Future



Clean-up Day Grattan Township Trash pick-up day is scheduled for July 18, 2009 from 9:00am to 1:00pm.

Location Grattan Township Hall 12050 Old Belding Rd.

Charge Items

Batteries-1.00 ea.

Appliances No Freon (washers, dryers, stoves) 3.00 ea.

Appliances with Freon (refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers) 15.00 ea.

Rules/Requirements

No liquids (paint, oil, etc)

No brush, cement or shovel offs

No loose trash

All tires must be cut in 4 pieces.

Propane & Fuel Oil tanks must be cut in half. Fencing must be folded.

TIPS FOR BETTER RECYCLING



Know Before You Throw: If you're not sure whether something belongs in the recycling bin but you toss it in anyway, it could be trashed at the recycling facility. There is annually more than 1.4 million pounds of trash removed from the recycling process at the Kent County Recycling Center in downtown Grand Rapids. When in doubt, either throw it out or give us a shout!

recycle@kentcountymi.gov
Or call (616) 336-2570

Wash Your Containers & Remove the Caps: Unless your container held plain old water, it likely has a food residue left inside when it's empty. For the same reasons you wouldn't want these sticky, slimy residues on your kitchen counter, they're not welcomed at the recycling center. Everything that goes in your recycling bin should be clean and have the caps removed so the insides can dry out.

Save Some Space: Try to remember to flatten cartons and boxes.

Notes from the Fire Chief...

Spring is just around the corner so lets be cautious when going out on dangerous ice conditions.....

The Grattan Fire Department is scheduling C.P.R. and First Aid Classes on the 3rd Saturday of each month, if interested in a class please contact Rockford Ambulance Office for scheduling at 866-0724. All are Welcome!

The Fire Department is looking into placing pump stations in and around the Grattan Township Lakes areas where dry hydrants would not be an option. For more information please contact the Fire Chief at 485-5925 or 691-8450. In addition the Fire Department would be willing to meet with Lake Associations and interested citizens.

Grattan Fire Department recently received their Basic Level Medical License. We want to give Ann Ward and Stacy Madden a special word of thanks for their part in making all this possible.

The Fire Department still has CO Detectors and Fire Alarms on hand, please call the Township Office or the Fire Chief at 691-8523. These detectors were provided by FEMA at no cost. We need to place 50 sets by the end of March!

THE LIFE YOU SAVE MAY BE YOUR OWN!

Louis Kirkbride
Fire Chief

FAMILY FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS

Plans are now underway for the 21st Annual Memorial Day Celebration and Bridge Walk. Information and a schedule of events will be available at a later date. Please check the Grattan Township Website, local cable channel and area businesses for a schedule of the days events. If you have any questions about FFN sponsored events please contact Dianna at 616-826-1872.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Board of Review Dates

March 9th—2:00pm to 9:00pm
March 12th—9:00am to 4:00pm

Budget Public Hearing

March 30, 2009
7:00pm
Grattan Township Hall

Public Welcome!

Grattan Township Business Hours
12050 Old Belding Rd, Belding MI 48809
Mon—Thurs 9:00am to 4:00pm
Phone: 6918450 Fax: 691-8804

Township Board

Supervisor	Frank Force
Clerk	Jim Fues
Treasurer	Sabrina Freeman
Trustee	Dennis Heffron
Trustee	Paul Knoerl

Grattan Township Meeting Schedule
Location: Township Hall Time: 7:00pm
The Public is Always Welcome!

Township Board	2nd Mon. each month
Planning Comm.	1st Wed. each month
ZBA	3rd Wed. each month
Safety Board	4th Thur. each month
Fire Admin. & Safety Comm.	4th Wed. each month

Holiday Closings

Jan. 19	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Feb. 16	President's Day
May 25	Memorial Day Observed
Sep. 7	Labor Day
Nov. 25	Closing at Noon
Nov. 26	Thanksgiving
Dec 24—Jan 3	Christmas Break

Thanks again to our Advertisers for all their support!

Grattan Academy	Grattan Bar	Grattan Raceway
Choice One Bank	Firstbank	St. Patrick's School
Lillie Digging & Dozing	H&W Farms	Heffron Farms
Judy Kelly & Associates		
Cannonsburg Sand & Gravel	Hall's Trucking & Excavating	
Prudential Realtors/Kathy Berry & Jim Fues		
Honey Creek Inn	Finishing Touch Landscape Nursery	
JT Henderson Realtor/Susie Manikowski		