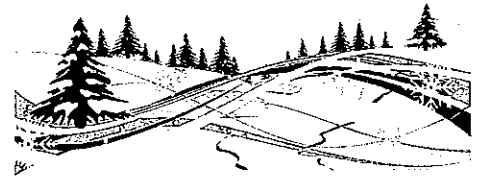




# NEWSLETTER

## Winter 2010



### From the Supervisor....

#### Sewer Update

Probably the biggest issue right now is the irrigation upgrade scheduled for the Grattan/Vergennes treatment site. This upgrade is required by the MDNRE (Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment) and is required to be completed in the spring of 2011.

Most of the engineering work has been done and they are ready to go out for bids to the various trades that will be involved with the different aspects of constructing the new center pivot irrigation system.

Currently the construction plan, submitted by Williams and Works, is being reviewed by the MDNRE and their approval is required before the bids can be solicited. Once the bids are in, contractors selected and bids approved by the Township Board, we will have a good idea what the cost of this project is going to be and what the cost will be for each individual customer on the system. Everyone will be informed of this cost as soon as we have a firm number to pass on. Methods for repayment of this assessment will also be shared at this time. If all goes well and the MDNRE cooperates, this information should be available early next year.

As many of you know our sewer contractors, Infrastructure Alternatives, have conducted a complete systems evaluation of our sewer system and treatment facilities. The results of this systems review were published in a report called the "Assessment of Facilities Report", a copy of which is available on the Township website. This was done in the fall of 2009 and some of the work has been done. The major exception is the control panels which are the brains of the system. We are planning to replace the worst panels and to upgrade the panels that still have viable enclosures. This action should re-

duce the emergency call outs that are so expensive.

Infrastructure Alternatives have been with us now for a year and six months. We are extremely pleased with their professional service, as we no longer have lagoon level challenges at the Grattan site that plagued us for two years. We still have capacity issues at that site, however expansion of the irrigation fields may be required soon.

IA has offered and conducted two field trips last year for the Township Board, Sewer Advisory Committee and any sewer customers that were interested in a first hand look at what makes their system work. More of these field trips will be offered in the warmer months of 2011 and notification will be offered on the web page and our TV station. Our customers can learn of the challenges that we face in maintaining the sewer system by attending these field trips.

Please remember your toilet is not a trash can and should only be used for what it was designed for. If you adhere to this policy our maintenance costs will not go up which will save you money as well.

Please feel free to call or email me at any time if you have questions. My office hours are Mon-Thur 9:00-4:00 but it is a good idea to call first. My email is:

[supervisor@grattantownship.org](mailto:supervisor@grattantownship.org)

**Frank Force**  
Supervisor

### From the Clerks Side.....

#### 2011 Elections

Tentative elections dates for 2011 are Tuesday, February 22, Tuesday, May 3, Tuesday, August 2, and Tuesday, November 8.

Please remember that you must be registered to vote 30 days prior to an election to be eligible to vote in that election.

Also, there is a little confusion about the "Permanent AV (Absent Voter) List". Upon request, we can put you on the Permanent AV List. However, that does not mean that you will automatically receive a ballot! You will automatically receive an application for an absentee ballot. You must complete the application for each election to receive a ballot.

During 2010, Grattan Township implemented an electronic system of recording voters with the use of laptop computers. The system has been very successful for Grattan Township. The laptop computers were provided by the State of Michigan through a grant. The system allows poll workers to more quickly and accurately service voters.

With the success we had in 2010, the laptop computers are now our standard and will be used for the foreseeable future.

#### Budget for 2011

Our budget year is April 1 through March 31. Shortly after the first of each year, the Township Board starts to work on the budget for the coming year.

If you, as a Township resident, have a budget concern, issue, or proposal, this is the time to make yourself heard. Watch for postings for the budget meetings. And, as always, letters can be addressed to the Township Board.

#### Recycling

Thanks to everyone that is participating in the Township recycling efforts! The paper recycling is continuing to be a great success. For those that do not know, we have a semi trailer located at the Township Hall for paper recycling.

ALSO – There is a container located inside the Township Hall for household battery recycling. Please feel free to use this service as well.

**Jim Fues**  
Clerk

# GRATTAN TOWNSHIP

## From the Treasurer...

### Dates to Remember:

**December 1, 2010** – 2010 Winter tax bills mailed

**December 29, 2010** – Township Office will be open to collect taxes only 9:00am – 5:00pm

**February 14, 2011** – Winter Taxes due

**February 28, 2011** – Last day to pay 2010 Summer and Winter taxes at the Township. Township will be open:

**9:00am - 5:00pm to collect taxes only**

**March 1, 2011**– Taxes sent to Kent County as delinquent: **Contact County at (616) 632-7500 after March 9, 2011**

**December 1, 2010 – March 1, 2011** – Purchase dog licenses at the Township

**Have a Safe and Happy Holiday!!**

**Sabrina Freeman  
Treasurer**

**From the Fire Chief's Desk** The Grattan Fire Department lost their newest vehicle due to an accident. We are working with Kent County on its replacement. In the mean time the Lowell Fire Department has loaned us a Pumper truck. We would like to thank the Lowell Fire Department for their kind generosity!

Fire alarms and CO Detectors are available for Grattan residents at no charge. Call the Township at 691-8450 or Lou Kirkbride at 485-5925.

The Grattan Fire Department has hired Rescue Resources for Advanced Fire-fighter Skill Training and for Positive Pressure Attack Training under live fire conditions. We are very pleased with the support from several fire departments around the state for their participation as well.

Please have a Safe and Enjoyable Holiday Season!

**Louis Kirkbride  
Grattan Fire Chief**

## SEWER BILLS

Sewer customers now have the option of receiving their quarterly sewer bill via e-mail. If you would like to sign up for this service, forms are available at the Township office or online at

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

under the forms and fee tab. Please complete the form and return to Diane Timmons, Sewer Billing Clerk.

Several customers have inquired about payment options for sewer bills. Payments can be made by check, money order or cash. We can not process credit card payments at the Township office.

We are currently trying to set up the option of ACH (Automated Clearing House) payments for sewer customers. This type of payment, when authorized by the customer, is automatically withdrawn from a customer's bank account and deposited in the Township's sewer account. If you are interested in setting up your sewer account for ACH payments please contact Diane Timmons, Sewer Billing Clerk @ 616.691.8450 ext:13 or email:

[sewerbilling@grattantownship.org](mailto:sewerbilling@grattantownship.org)

## Toys for Tots

This year's Toys for Tots Campaign is in full swing. Last year we collected almost 600 toys! We have a long way to go to top that! Toys should be new and unwrapped, for ages 1 to 15. You may drop them off at the township offices during normal business hours. All of the toys collected will stay in our area.

## Historical Society

The annual potluck dinner will be held on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at the township hall. Please join us for an evening of good food and conversation. Bring a dish to pass and your own place setting.

The museum is closed for the winter and will reopen in the spring. If you wish to visit the museum now please call 616-826-1872 and we will be happy to set up an appointment for you.

**GRATTAN TOWNSHIP**  
12050 Old Belding Rd. Belding, MI 48809

### Business Hours

Mon--Thurs 9:00 to 4:00

Phone: 691-8450 ♦ Fax: 691-8804

### Township Board

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

## HOLIDAY CLOSING

The Grattan Township Office will be closed from December 24th to January 2nd

## Happy Holidays!

### Upcoming Winter Holiday Closings

January 17th-Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 21st-President's Day

**Parks & Recreation** We are still waiting to hear the outcome of the grant that was submitted in April for land acquisition of an additional 25 acres adjacent to Seeley Creek natural features park. We will be submitting a grant in the spring for the development of the park. We are in the process of raising matching funds and are selling bluebird houses for \$15.00 and oriole feeders for \$6.00. They would make great gifts and are available at the Township Hall.

**Family, Friends and Neighbors** On Friday, December 10, 2010 FFN will be holding a bake sale from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm at the Township Hall. All proceeds will go to Toys for Tots and to buy gifts for residents at the Grand Rapids Veteran's Facility. There will also be a card making station to make cards for local men and women who are currently serving in the military. If you have or know of someone currently serving please bring their name and address to the Township Hall or email the information to: [force.crickel@gmail.com](mailto:force.crickel@gmail.com) and we will make sure that they receive a card from home for the holidays.

**Veteran's Memorial Update** The flagpole has been installed. We are waiting for the electrical work to be completed and the lighting installed before we raise the flag! The Eagle Scout project for the landscaping is in the final stages of approval. All of the engrave bricks have been purchased and are waiting for placement in early spring. It is our hope that all of these things will be completed for Memorial Day!

**Grattan Township Meeting Schedule**  
Location: Township Hall Time: 7:00pm  
The public is always welcome!

Township Board	2nd Mon. each month
Planning Commission	1st Wed. monthly as needed
ZBA	3rd Wed. monthly as needed
Safety Board	4th Thu. monthly as needed
Fire Admin. & Safety Comm.	4th Wed. monthly as needed

**TAX & ASSESSING INFO**  
Free for Grattan Residents  
NOW AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE  
[www.grattantownship.org](http://www.grattantownship.org)  
Go to Assessing & Tax Lookup  
For Sewer Special Assessments  
CALL THE TOWNSHIP  
691-8450