



DECEMBER 2010

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 5

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THE CITY OF GRANT NEWSLETTER

THE CITY OF GRANT IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER



In Memoriam

Department of Public Works Supervisor John LaPree passed away on Oct. 30, 2010. John worked for the City of Grant for 31 years. Many citizens do not know that John took care of all of you. John made sure your roads were kept clear of snow, when storms hit, he was there to clear up the trees, he made sure that your tap water was clean and safe to drink, that your sewage was properly treated and City parks were kept. Last year the City named the DPW and Wastewater Complex in John's name to honor his years of service. John will be missed by his family at the City of Grant.

Thank You Voters!

Voter turnout was 41% in the City for the Nov. 2010 election. Locally the Fire and Public Safety millages passed. These were renewal requests, not an increase, so your tax rates remain the same.

Snow Plow Permits

The City requires that snow plow permits be obtained for snow plowing within the City limits. Permits are \$25 and are available at the City Office. It is important to note that if you are plowing your own driveway or a family member's driveway, you do not need a permit. If you are a property owner hiring a plow company, please direct them to the City Office for a permit.

Credit/Debit Card Payments Available

The City has expanded payment options for property taxes as well as water and sewer billing. Residents and property owners now have the option to pay with credit or debit cards **online** via the City website:

www.cityofgrantmi.com as well as via the phone. The company processing the payments will charge a fee of \$5.95 for utility payments and 3% for tax payments. To use this service simply go to the city's website and click on the online payment tab, you can go directly to www.officialpayments.com or by phone **1-800-272-9829**

Our Jurisdiction Code is 7124.

You can pay by:

- Visa, MasterCard, American Express & Discover credit and debit cards.
- Electronic Check

If you have any questions, please contact the city office.

Grant Police Department - Neighborhood Watch Program

The Grant Police Department has started a Neighborhood Watch program to help protect residents and property. The program goal is to create a proactive relationship between citizens concerns and the department. Meetings will be held every other month at the Community Center.

Upcoming meetings will be Dec. 6, Feb. 7 and April 4, 6pm at the Community Center at 105 S Front St. For more information please call the Grant Police Department at 834-7212.

Grant Police Department Tips

The Grant Police Department reminds residents and business owners to call law enforcement authorities when suspicious activity or a crime is occurring. Do not wait to report such activity! If you wait to report suspicious activity or a crime it makes solving or resolving the complaint difficult.

For Emergencies: Dial 911

For Non-Emergencies: Dial 231-834-7212

For Non-Emergencies if there is no answer at Grant PD: Dial 231-689-5288-Dispatch-They will contact the car out on patrol to assist you.

For other information: www.cityofgrantmi.com/policedept.html

Be Involved! Other Public Meetings:

Library Board Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7pm.

Ashland-Grant Fire District Meetings: Every other month- Dec 20th 9am, Feb. 28th at the Fire building at 62W State Rd.

Grant Public Schools: 2nd Monday of every month, 7pm, Middle School Cafeteria.

Remember: If you do not have a computer or internet service, the Grant Area District Library has these resources available to residents at the library on Elder

Santa Claus is Coming to Grant!

The annual Marquette Rail Christmas train will be arriving in Grant on Saturday, Dec. 11. Santa Claus will be exiting the train and heading to the Grant Community Center to talk to Children and take pictures. Santa's reindeer will also be at the event! This event is brought to you by the Grant Area Chamber of Commerce. For details please visit: www.grantareachamber.com

Sewer Issues?

The City has been replacing sewer mains as well as sewer plant upgrades that will keep the sewer system in good condition for the future. If you ever experience slow drains or notice drains bubbling up, first call the City DPW at 834-7462. City staff will check the main line from the manhole to determine if the main line is obstructed or not. If the main line is obstructed, then the city will clear the line and is responsible for any property damage. If the main is flowing, then it is likely you have roots in your lateral, grease plugging your lateral, or you have an old clay lateral that may have collapsed. If it is determined that the issue is your lateral, then you should call a local plumber immediately. You are responsible for your sewer lateral to the main line, just like you are responsible for your driveway to the street.

Winter Parking Restrictions

The City reminds residents and visitors that there is no parking of any motor vehicle upon any public street or alley within the City limits between the hours of 2am and 6am between Nov. 15 and Apr. 15 (Ord. #18). This aids City plows removing snow from city streets. Signs are posted around the City that with a number to call if your vehicle is towed.

Remember: Water freezes at 32 degrees!

Please be sure that your home or business is properly winterized or make sure that the location of your water meter is properly heated so that pipes do not burst when temps drop. The City is not responsible for any pipes that freeze or burst after the water shut off in the right of way. If your pipes freeze and burst, call the DPW first (834-7462) so they can shut your water off, then call one of our great local plumbers to assist you.

Payments

When you pay your water and sewer utility bill and winter property taxes, please make sure the payments are made by separate checks.

Notice of Public Meetings:

December 20, 2010

January 17, 2011

February 21, 2011

March 21, 2011

City of Grant Regular Commission Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 PM
280 South Maple Street, Grant, MI 49327

Important Numbers (Clip this out for the fridge):

City of Grant Office: 834-7904 A-Waste (Garbage):834-9913

City of Grant Police: 834-7212

City of Grant DPW/Water/Sewer: 834-7462

Grant Post Office: 834-5966

Newaygo County Sheriff Department: 231-689-7303

City Assessor (Newaygo County Equalization):231-689-7244

Building Inspector (Newaygo County):231- 689-7216

For a list of area business contact information please visit:www.grantareachamber.com

Sidewalks and Snow Removal Policy

1. City Charter: Chapter 3.1(e): Compels all persons to keep sidewalks which are in the area of streets immediately adjacent to the premises owned, controlled, or occupied, free from anything which obstructs them...that may be hazardous to the public health or safety (meaning it is the responsibility of property owners to keep sidewalks clear of snow).

If you have an elderly neighbor or a neighbor who is disabled, be a kind neighbor and help clear their sidewalk.

2. The DPW will clear sidewalks when snow accumulation hits 10 inches in a snowfall event. This will be done only if there is appropriate time as priority of snow removal is City Streets.

Some Local Ordinances to be Aware of:

Ordinance #44 Prohibits loud noise generated by radios or other sound amplification devices. The PD is patrolling to ensure there are no violations of this ordinance on a daily basis, and you may end up with a rather large ticket if your music is too loud!

Ordinance #15-1and #53 Our local junk ordinance prohibits unlicensed and nonfunctioning vehicles in the city limits, unless they are located in full-enclosed areas of your property. These vehicles may be impounded by the PD any time they are deemed to be in violation. This also pertains to other cluttered materials that may be present.

Ordinance #15-2 An ordinance regulating nuisances prohibits the allowing of dogs or birds to make long continued noises that shall disturb the comfort of any person.

Ordinance #37-2 An ordinance that allows for a permit to burn for \$20. Please review the ordinance or contact the City Offices before partaking in any burning.

Ordinance #52 Sanitary Sewer Use, declares that sewer laterals are the responsibility of the property owner. It's very common for roots to grow into lines. Therefore we recommended that you purchase root killing products to make sure a back up does not occur.

All City Ordinances are available on our website: www.cityofgrantmi.com