



THE CITY OF GRANT IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

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www.cityofgrantmi.com

THE CITY OF GRANT NEWSLETTER



2012 Santa Express

The 2012 Santa Express was successful once again this year! The City would like to extend a special thank you to the Grant Area Chamber of Commerce members and Marquette Rail for partnering with the City to help bring the holiday spirit to the community.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Ordinance #14-Snowmobiles

By ordinance snowmobiles are NOT permitted on ANY City streets or sidewalks to protect them from damage caused by snowmobile spikes. Snowmobiles must also travel 10mph in the City limits and between the street and sidewalk in the public right of way or on private property. Snowmobiles are also not permitted to be operating after 10pm. Please call the Grant Police Department at 231-834-7212 to report any violations.

Planning Commission and Board of Review Members Needed!

The City of Grant has two vacancies, one for the Planning Commission and one for the Board of Review. If anyone has any interest in serving, please contact City Hall for a board application.

Community Center

If you or someone you know is interested in renting the Community Center for a reception or party, all information is available at the Community Center, City Office or the City website: <http://www.cityofgrantmi.com/communitycenter.html>
City Resident Rate: \$140 (includes tables and chairs)
Non-Resident Rate: \$240 (includes tables and chairs)
Deposit \$250
Non refundable deposit to reserve date \$20
These are non-alcohol rates

Be Involved! Other Public Meetings:

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

Grant District Library Board Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7pm at the Library, 122 Elder Ave.

Ashland-Grant Fire District Meetings: Every other month- Feb 25, April 29 and June 24 at 9am at the Fire Building at 62 W State Rd.

M-37 and State Rd Traffic Signal

City staff has fielded several complaints regarding timing at the traffic signal at M-37 and State Rd. This signal is owned and maintained by MDOT. Please help reporting issues with the light directly to the MDOT Muskegon TSC at 231-777-3451.

Winter Tax Bills

Winter tax bills are out and due February 14, 2013.

Credit/Debit Card Payments Available For Your Convenience

The City has expanded payment options for property taxes as well as water and sewer billing. 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 www.cityofgrantmi.com 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.

Water Freezes at 32 Degrees!

Each winter the City DPW responds to several City properties that have not adequately insulated or heated the area where a water meter is located. When the water meter freezes, it will burst and flood the property. Please make sure that there is adequate insulation, heat or appropriate winterization to avoid a mess and costly repair this winter. The DPW can be reached at 231-834-7462.

Grant Police Department Tips

Please remember to keep your homes and vehicles secure by locking them. Most property crimes are crimes of opportunity.

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-Grant PD

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.

Newaygo County Silent Observer: Dial 231-924-0641 or

newaygocountysilentobserver@gmail.com

Winter Parking Restrictions

The City would like to remind 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 November 15 through April 15 (Ord. #18). This aids City plows removing snow from City streets. Signs are posted around the City that have contact information for Newaygo Towing to call if your vehicle is towed.

Public Notices

The City regularly posts and publishes news items, permits, information regarding changes in the City of the City web page under the "public notices" tab.

<http://www.cityofgrantmi.com/publicnotices.html>

Sewer Issues, How Do I Handle It?

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.**

Please DO NOT Flush Household Refuse Into the City Sewer System! During routine maintenance of the sewer collection system, City DPW staff has noticed **unusual items such as shirts, cigarette butts, diapers, rags, female health products and other items like pants and nightgowns that have been flushed down toilets.** These items should never be flushed, but deposited into a refuse container. These items can cause a sewer back up at your own home, burn up pumps (which cost you higher water and sewer bills) and creates problems unnecessary work for DPW staff. Please be courteous and do not flush items down the drain that belong in a refuse container.

Notice of City Commission Meetings:

January 21, 2013
February 18, 2013
March 18, 2013

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

MSHDA's 'Step Forward' Loan Rescue Program is available to pay Delinquent Property Taxes, if you qualify.

Visit: www.stepforwardmichigan.org or call the Center for Non-Profit Housing's MSHDA certified counselors at 231-924-0641 to apply.

Newaygo County Project Literacy

The goal of project literacy is to ensure that all Newaygo County adults with literacy needs have access to services that will help them gain basic skills necessary for success in the workplace, family and community. If you know someone who needs assistance or would like to volunteer to help be a tutor, please contact True-North community services at 231-924-0641.

Winter Plowing Reminder

With winter upon us please remember to be safe and courteous when you encounter City plow trucks.

VITA Site EITC Tax Preparation

Sponsored by the Lakeshore United Way, free tax preparation is available for those who qualify for the earned income tax credit. Appointments are being scheduled after January 15. To find out if you qualify or to schedule an appointment, please call 2-1-1.

(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**
- Grant District Library: 834-5713**

For a list of area business contact information please visit:

www.grantareachamber.com

City of Grant Salt/Sand Barrels

The City of Grant has placed salt and sand barrels on the hill at E. State Rd and also Park Dr. as a resource to assist citizens traveling these roads if additional traction is needed.

2012 General Election

The City of Grant has a **54.1% voter turnout** from the November 6 General Election. If you are not a registered voter, you may stop by City Hall for a registration form or visit the Michigan Secretary of State election information page by going to this link:

http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,1607,7-127-1633_11473---,00.html

Snow Removal on Sidewalks

Ordinance #53 section 302.3- Requires property owners to keep sidewalks adjacent to their property free from anything that will obstruct them or cause a hazard to public safety. Please shovel sidewalks. Per City Policy, the DPW will clear sidewalks during large snow events of 10 or more inches or as time permits during a regular work day.

Community Resources Call 2-1-1

2-1-1 provides callers with information such as volunteer opportunities, mobile food pantries, housing options, senior programs, utility bills, and youth programs.

Blanche Lake Park Improvements

The City has worked hard to improve City parks, both with amenities and increased upkeep and maintenance. This past summer the City treated the lake again for weeds and invasive species, installed a small swim beach and added lighting at Blanche Lake Park. The City has been successful in securing \$23,800 to add three more Stabil-Float docks to the boat launch and swim beach area next spring thanks to the FACF. The City will also have new security cameras installed in the park this next spring as well to help protect the community investments.

Other Local Ordinances to be Aware of:

Ordinance #14 Is an ordinance regulating snowmobiles for the winter season. Snowmobiles must be OFF streets, not on any sidewalks, must travel at a speed not greater than 10mph and may not operate between 10pm and 8am.

Ordinance #53.301-308 Our property maintenance ordinance prohibits unlicensed and nonfunctioning vehicles in the city limits, unless they are located in full-enclosed areas of your property. This prohibits cluttered material present in yards. Please keep your yards and items in your yard, like refuse containers, etc... clean and not left out at the street to help the City maintain a positive image.

Ordinance #20 Is an ordinance requiring anyone plowing snow for hire to obtain a snow plow permit from the City. Permits are **now reduced to \$10 per vehicle.**

Ordinance #37-2 An ordinance that allows for a permit to burn for \$20.

Ordinance #34 Curfew-no minors under 17 out from 10pm to 6am, no aiding or abetting curfew violations for 17 or older.

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

****If you see any of these violations, call the Grant Police Department at 834-7212****