



THE CITY OF GRANT IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

THE CITY OF GRANT NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2013

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 1

www.cityofgrantmi.com

City staff would like to thank residents and business owners for patience during the winter plowing season. The Department of Public Works puts a lot of hard work and effort to make sure City streets are plowed and salted. Priority for plowing streets is major streets first, then local streets. Once streets are plowed and salted staff transitions to plow sidewalks if time permits. To view a major and local streets map, please visit the City website and click on the DPW tab. Please remember to give plows "room to groom" and remind children NOT to play in snow banks/drifts adjacent to City streets for their safety.

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.

March Board of Review

Property assessment notices are being mailed in February. Questions regarding property assessments may be directed to the City Assessor-Newaygo County Equalization Dept. at 231-689-7244. March Board of Review will be held March 11, 2013 from 9am-3pm and March 12, 2013 from 3pm-9pm at 280 S. Maple St.-City Hall.

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****

Blanche Lake Park Improvements

The City has worked hard to improve City parks, both with amenities and increased maintenance. This past year the City treated the lake for weeds and invasive species, installed a small swim beach and added 18 LED lights. The City has been successful in securing grant funds for 3 more Stabil-Float docks for the boat launch and swim beach area next spring. Other improvements coming this spring include new bleachers for the ball field, security cameras, benches and possibly a new amphitheatre for performances if the City is successful in securing grant funding.

www.cityofgrantmi.com

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](tel:231-834-7462).

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.

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.

Other Public Meetings

Grant Public School Board-2nd Monday of every month, 7pm, Middle School cafeteria

Grant Area District Library Board-3rd Tuesday of every month, 7pm, 122 Elder Ashland-Grant Fire District Board-April 29 and June 24, 9am, 62 W State Rd.

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 and 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:

March 18, 2013
April 18, 2013
May 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.

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.

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. To find out if you qualify or to schedule an appointment, please call 2-1-1.

(Clip this out for the fridge):

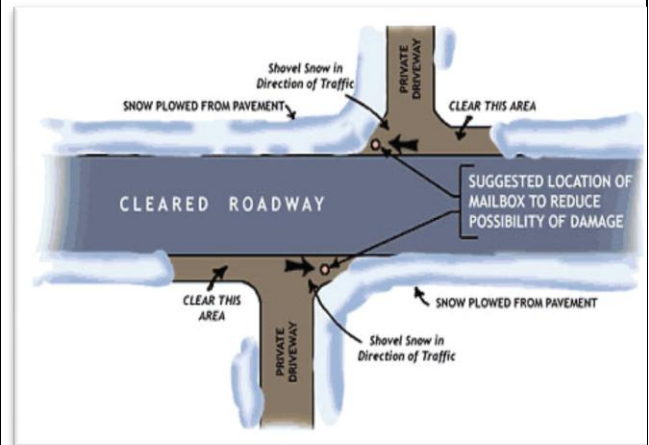
City of Grant Office: 834-7904
A-Waste (Garbage): 834-9913
City of Grant Police: 834-7212
City of Grant DPW/Water/Sewer: 834-7462
Grant Post Office: 834-5966
Newaygo County Sheriff Department: 231-689-7303
City Assessor (Newaygo County Equalization): 231-689-7244
Building Inspector (Newaygo County): 231-689-7216
Grant District Library: 834-5713

For a list of area business contact information please visit:

www.grantareachamber.com

Understanding Plowing Near Driveways

Driveways are always a sensitive issue when it comes to snow removal. DPW crews are sensitive to this problem, however, there is no practical way to plow snow without depositing snow into driveways. Drivers will do their best to minimize filling in or blocking driveways. Below is a graphic showing how a driveway can be initially cleared to reduce the likelihood of the plow filling the entrance. If you shovel or move the snow in the direction of traffic, making a pocket next to the driveway as shown, snow accumulation on the plow will drop into that pocket and only a bare minimum will go into the opening.



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.

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****