



THE CITY OF GRANT NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2007

THE CITY OF GRANT IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER

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BEVRA to Host Vintage Snowmobile Events at Blanche Lake

Big Extreme Vintage Racing Association has gained permission from the Grant City Commission to hold up to six vintage snowmobile races this winter on Blanche Lake. The organization holds similar events all over the State of Michigan, including annual events in Lakeview and Charlevoix. The events will be held on Saturdays

between January 6, 2007 and March 31, 2007; weather permitting. If you are interested in watching pre-1985 snowmobiles race on the ice of Blanche Lake, please plan to attend one or more of the races. Further publication of the race times and dates will take place as we get further into the winter. Admission is \$5.00 per person.

Snow on the Sidewalks

In past winters, the City has removed snow from all local sidewalks. Unfortunately, due to the unexpected costs to repair our snow blower, it's unlikely that we will be able to provide this service this winter. Please be a good neighbor and try to have your sidewalks cleared as early as possible. If revenues allow, we intend to purchase adequate snow removal equipment before next winter to ensure that we provide this service in future years.

Parking During the Winter

During the winter months, there is no parking on City Streets from 2AM to 6AM. This gives the DPW workers adequate time to clear the streets for school buses and other morning travel after a night of snowfall. If your vehicle is left on City streets during the times above, it may be ticketed and towed. Also, during daytime snow periods, residents are asked to refrain from parking on the streets. Questions can be directed to the City Manager.

Don't Let Your Pipes Freeze!

If you own property in the City that sits vacant and unheated during the winter, please make sure all precautions have been made to keep the pipes from freezing. Each winter a number of properties are left unattended and suffer broken water pipes. These leaks can be very expensive; aside from the cleanup and property damage costs, the property owner is charged for all water used - even if it just ends up on the basement floor! Please check on your properties regularly. If you would like your water service terminated for the winter, please call the City Offices; a \$75.00 off/on fee would apply.

New Public Board Appointments!

Strong public service and volunteerism are vital parts of City Government. Please join us in welcoming the following residents into the world of public service:

- Planning Commission: Roscoe Ostyn
- Zoning Board of Appeals: Sarah Saur
- Board of Review: Amanda Finley
- Library Board: Eric Irwin

Thank You for Your Service:

The following individuals are stepping down from current Board appointments. The value of their service to the City of Grant has been immeasurable. I would like to extend the City's gratitude to them for their service. Thank You!

- Library Board: Charlotte Campbell
- Board of Review: Charlotte Campbell
- Zoning Board of Appeals: Andrea Karsten

Feral Cats

If you own one or more cats, and they are allowed to run freely in the City, we ask that you fit them with a bell collar. The collar will help warn our area's friendly wildlife population of the hunting efforts that both domestic and feral cats undertake during the nighttime hours. At the greatest risk are small rodents and birds. This is a hot topic issue in many of our Midwestern states; some have even resorted to proposing legislation to hunt feral cats! For example, the Wisconsin DNR has estimated that between 47 Million and 109 Million songbirds are killed in that state each year by free-roaming feral domestic cats!

We are asking that cat owners help us protect all of our area's wildlife, and also ensure the safety of their cats by either keeping them indoors or fitting them with a bell collar. West Michigan is a great place to live and visit, and our wildlife is a great asset to the attractiveness of our community.

Also, if you own commercial or residential property and have accumulated a significant amount of junk on your property, it can be a very attractive place for feral cats, skunks, etc. to live. If your property is attracting these types of nuisance animals, you may be in violation of our local ordinances! Please make arrangements to address this issue before the City has to!

Thank you for your efforts!

Some Local Ordinances to be Aware of:

Ordinance #44 prohibits loud noise generated by radios or other sound amplification devices. Our PD is patrolling for violations of this ordinance on a daily basis, and you may end up with a rather large ticket if your music is too loud!

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 our PD anytime they are deemed to be in violation.

Ordinance #37-1 allows only limited burning within the city limits. Please review the ordinance or contact the City Offices before partaking in any burning.

Ordinance #21 prohibits the barking dogs and dogs at large in the City. If your dog is constantly barking or running freely, you may be ticketed by our Police Department. This is especially important on Wednesday nights and Tuesday mornings, as our A-Waste truck driver was recently bitten by a resident's at-large dog!

Ordinance #20 requires all individuals providing snow plow services for hire to obtain a plow license from the City. The cost for one season is only \$25, but the fine for plowing without a license is \$100.

All City Ordinances are available on our website

Some Information on our New Trash Service

In an effort to keep the roadways cleared for snowplows and school busses, A-Waste will be picking up refuse very early in the morning during the winter months. Each Tuesday, A-Waste drivers will begin picking up refuse before 5 AM. This will allow them to complete the area refuse removal before our snowplows and school busses hit the streets, and help avoid any congestion. If you have any concerns about this early morning pickup, please contact the City Manager.

Having one residential service provider seems to be working out very well for our community. For the most part, all refuse containers are being put out the night before and removed from the street the following day. This goes a long way in keeping our residential areas looking their best. Thank you for your efforts to make Grant an attractive place to live and visit.

Snowmobiles in the City

Our Snowmobile Ordinance does allow for snowmobile use in the City Limits! But, we do have some very important rules to follow to help ensure the safety of our residents:

1. Speed limit is 10 mph!
2. Follow all traffic rules when in public streets!
3. They are not allowed on public sidewalks!
4. Only on private property with owner consent!
5. No snowmobile use between the hours of 10PM and 8 AM
6. Other rules apply as per Ordinance #14

Violation of any of these rules WILL result in a fine of \$100, and may be punishable with up to 90 days in jail! Happy snowmobiling!

Happy Holidays!

The staff and elected officials of the City of Grant would like to wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season, and a very prosperous new year!

Community Building Rental

Please remember that the Community Building is available for private and public events at a very reasonable rate. We have recently made a number of improvements to the building to make it more attractive for renter. I think the new, light-weight banquet tables will be very useful for our renters . . . they're about ¼ of the weight of the old wooden tables! Please contact the City Offices to check the availability of the Community Center for your private gatherings, public events, and other gathering needs.

