



# NEWSLETTER

## December 2017

12050 Old Belding Road Belding, MI 48809 616-691-8450  
Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00a.m.—4:00p.m.

### TOWNSHIP BOARD

Supervisor:	Frank Force
Clerk:	Michelle Alberts
Treasurer:	Sabrina Freeman
Trustee:	Dennis Heffron
Trustee:	Paul Knoerl

### *From the desk of the Treasurer...*

#### **Dates to Remember:**

**December 1, 2017** – 2017 Winter tax bills mailed

**December 28, 2017** – Township Office will be open to collect taxes only 9:00am – 5:00pm

**February 14, 2018** – Winter taxes due

**February 28, 2018** – Last day to pay 2017 Summer and Winter taxes at the Township  
Township will be open 9:00am - 5:00pm to collect taxes

**March 2, 2018**– Taxes sent to Kent County as delinquent  
Contact County at (616) 632-7500 after March 9, 2018

Have a Happy Holidays and a safe winter!!

Sabrina Freeman

### *From the desk of the Office Manager...*

#### *Cash Customers...*

Please note that The Township is not a profitable business. Please keep your cash payments as close to exact change as possible. We do not want to turn you away but typically have VERY small amounts of change available.

Thank You!

### *From the desk of the Supervisor...*

Hunting season has come and gone and again I find the need to remind our residents that hunting and trespassing are not allowed on any Township property and especially the Sewer Treatment Sites. Our treatment sites are ideal habitats for waterfowl, deer and turkeys which thrive there due to the vegetation and water supply. The Township would like to allow hunting on these sites but it is just not possible due to liability issues, lack of room for everyone and being the location for vandals to destroy the property. People cut holes in the fences, cut trees and vegetation for shooting lanes and firewood and just do not seem to care about this property. Any tree stands or trail cams found on the Township property will be confiscated without notice. This property belongs to the customers that pay for sewer service and they would not appreciate this behavior either. PLEASE DO NOT TRESPASS OR HUNT ON TOWNSHIP PROPERTY.

Recently the Township sewer system benefited from a grant from the State of Michigan that did a very thorough job of checking all our sewer lines, pump stations, treatment ponds and all aspects of the system. Flow testing showed that too many of our customers are hooking up their roof drains, foundation drains and sump pumps to the sewer system. All of this extra rain and groundwater go into our system and have to be treated along with the wastewater. I do not think any of our customers want to pay for treating groundwater nor does the Township. Please do not hook up sump pumps, foundation drains, roof drains or any other drain to the Township sewer system. Water softeners cannot be hooked up to the sewer either since they add sodium and chlorine to the system which ends up back in the ground and into your wells.

Thank you,

Frank Force

## *From the desk of the Clerk...*

Hello Grattan Township residents! The Township has some updates in the clerking department. Though we are saddened to lose our previous clerk, Kessie Brummel, we wish her the best in her future endeavors and are grateful for her service over the past 4 years. With that, I would like to introduce myself as the newly appointed Clerk. I am Michelle Alberts, though some of you may recognize me as Shelly Mercer. I am a long-time Grattan resident, growing up on the west side of Big Pine Island Lake and now residing on the east side of the lake with my family. My husband grew up where we are now raising our two young boys and it's exciting to be involved with the community that I have always lived in. I am grateful to our Deputy Clerk Amy Brown for all of her knowledge and help in this learning experience. Thank you Amy!

Here are two of many things I have learned in the last three months I have been serving.

As a resident on the sewer system I would always complain of the "high cost" when I would get the bill. Why is my sewer bill so much? Why do my friends that live in Belding or Grand Rapids not pay as much as me? One of the Clerk's responsibilities is to maintain the general ledger and do the accounts payable; therefore I see the costs associated with maintaining and improving the system. Grattan Township only has around 740 residents on the sewer system. This small amount of residents on the sewer system makes the division of cost higher than a larger community and is one of the reasons I had perceived the bill as high. Now as a Township employee I do not see the bill as high and know that my money is being well spent to maintain the system.

If you would like to have your voices heard on the sewer system please get involved! The Township Board meets monthly and the sewer system is always on the agenda.

Confession: before becoming the Clerk I was a bad recycle resident, yet I did not know that I was. I tossed unrinsed plastic and glass items in a plastic bag and dropped them off in the bin. **This is NOT the way to recycle.** My reasoning was that I was wasting water to clean them out, but NOT cleaning them out makes them un-recyclable and potentially contaminates any paper products. My recommendation to become a "Good Recycle Resident" is to get three separate plastic totes **NOT** lined with trash bags. Load "**empty, dry & clean**" plastic/glass/metal cans/aerosol cans/plastic bags (bagged within each other) in to one tote and dump it in the large blue Republic recycle dumpster. Load paperboard, newspapers, magazines and shredded paper in the next tote and dump in to the large semi-trailer marked "Paper Trailer." Next, break down corrugated cardboard and empty in to the small blue dumpster marked "Cardboard only." Please do not dump your trash or large items off next to the trailers. With the holidays coming up, please know that **tissue paper and wrapping paper ARE NOT recyclable.** This bad behavior could potentially eliminate the service many of our residents enjoy having!

As always, the Clerk's office door is open.

Please come and say Hi! I look forward to meeting you.

Thank you,

Michelle Alberts

## *From the desk of the Sewer Billing Clerk...*

**WE ARE ACCEPTING CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS!!!**

The Sewer Department is now accepting American Express, Discover, Master Card, and Visa over the phone, online, and at the counter. Please understand that this service is provided to the township and our residents by a third party company who adds an additional 3% processing fee to each transaction. You may also pay using a one-time ACH transaction called an e-check for a \$3.00 fee instead of the 3% used when paying by Credit or Debit Card.

**PAY OVER THE PHONE-** Please call Kirsten at (616)691-8450 during normal business hours.

**PAY ONLINE-** Please visit our website, [www.grattantownship.org](http://www.grattantownship.org), and click on the sewer tab on the left hand side to follow the step by step instructions.

**PAY AT THE COUNTER-** Please see Kirsten at the front desk during normal business hours.