



# GRATTAN TOWNSHIP

12050 Old Belding Road Belding, MI 48809 PH: 616-691-8450 Fax: 616-691-8804

## NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2014

### TOWNSHIP BOARD

Supervisor	Clerk	Treasurer	Trustee	Trustee
Frank Force	Kessie Brummel	Sabrina Freeman	Dennis Heffron	Paul Knoerl

### From the Clerk's Office....

#### 2014 ELECTIONS

For many people election day is just a day. For those working an election, there is so much more to making that day run smooth. It starts with communication, organizing, training, preparing paperwork, testing equipment, and setting up the polling stations, Absentee Ballots and so much more. Grattan Township is very lucky to have such loyal and committed Election Workers. It amazes me every election the work they do on that long day. We are here for hours even after the polls close, however, as tired as we all may be by the end of the night, I see a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction on everyone's faces. We actually had FOUR elections in 2014! With that being said, I want to thank all of Grattan's Election Workers. Deb Story, Leslie Heffron, Ellie Landheer, Amy Brown, Jennifer Medema, Laura Heffron, Lori Zufelt, Kathleen Keller, Laurie Jones, Vivian Sims, Ruth Meyers and Don Meyers. And I can't forget to thank Monica Burt. Her knowledge, attention to detail and dedication to Grattan Township as Deputy Clerk is outstanding.

If anyone is interested in joining this wonderful team, we are always looking for new recruits! There has to be some Democrats out there somewhere-WE NEED YOU! All day, half the day or a few hours in the afternoon. We can be flexible.

**2015 Grattan Clean-Up Day...Mark your 2015 calendars. May 16<sup>th</sup> 2015 is officially Grattan Clean Up Day!** 8:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.

Kessie Brummel

### From the Fire Chief.....

**FIRE FIGHTERS & CADETS NEEDED! ...THE GRATTAN TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT IS IN GREAT NEED OF FIRE FIGHTERS .... WE WILL TRAIN!!!**

#### CONTACT GRATTAN TOWNSHIP FOR APPLICATIONS!!

With the winter weather approaching I would like to educate the Grattan residents on a very important challenge that our Fire Department faces not only during the winter months, but also year around. **Long narrow driveways and shared access roads leading to homes or other structures in the township.**

Much of the problem is that our vehicles and other emergency vehicles are often unable to pass or reach a dwelling on these drives in emergency situations. You can imagine how frustrating it is when we have the tools to help in an emergency, but are unable to reach individuals.

Our larger trucks measure 120" (10 feet) from outside of mirror on driver's side to outside mirror on officer side. Technically we need 20 feet just to pass without any clearance. A driving surface of 16 to 18 feet with a shoulder of 4 to 5 feet would allow us to pull over enough to pass one another. Another option would be to have sections of areas to pull off every 200 feet. A cleared width of 30 feet overall would allow us to avoid trees and brush.

An incline of 10 feet is a common standard. A turning radius of 50 feet is a common recommendation to allow trucks

to be able to turn around once on site at an emergency.

From past experience we know there are homes on access roads or drives that did not have adequate clearance for our trucks to use. The Fire Department is in the process of doing some pre-planning for such parcels so that we would know the length of the drives to structures and how we would be able to respond to calls on these parcels.

Please call the township if you have concerns about your property access, to speak with me regarding pre-planning for emergencies. 616-691-8450

**Another issue of importance** is address identification. The Township Street Address Numbers and Street Name Ordinance (Ord. 2013-003) established requirements for identification of dwellings and other structures by readily visible street address numbers. These numbers are extremely important in aiding our firefighters en route to emergency calls. The Fire Department, as a fund raiser, makes and sells reflective address numbers for \$20 each that can be posted in accordance with the ordinance.

The forms are available on the website [www.grattantownship.org](http://www.grattantownship.org) on the Applications and Forms tab and also on the Fire Department page.

Contact township office if you are in need of fire alarms and carbon monoxide detectors that are now available at the fire station.

**Have a Safe & Happy Holiday Season!**

Lou Kirkbride

**From the Treasurer...**

**Dates to Remember**

**December 1, 2014** – 2014 Winter tax bills mailed

**December 29, 2014** – Township Office will be open to collect taxes only 9:00am – 5:00pm

**February 17, 2015** – Winter taxes due

**March 2, 2015** – Last day to pay ..... 2014 Summer and Winter taxes at the Township, which will be open 9:00am - 5:00pm to collect taxes

**March 3, 2015**– Taxes sent to Kent County as delinquent Contact County at (616) 632-7500 after March 11, 2015

Dog licenses are available at the Township year round

**Have a Safe and Happy Holiday!!!!**

**Sabrina Freeman**

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**Trustees Notes.....**

As one of your Trustees, I also serve as Board Representative on the Planning Commission. As we look back on the year it has been a relatively quiet year for the PC since requests for special use issues were not presented.

Our Building Department reported that construction of new homes in Grattan is up and we are pleased to welcome several new residents to the Township.

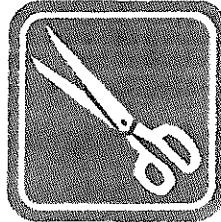
Grattan Township participates with the Kent County Farmland Preservation Program. This last year the Township has preserved one more farm with two more farms that are in the final process. The

Township just received word that the Wege Foundation is going to fund two more farms in the coming year and both are in Grattan Township. With these additional farms, Grattan will have 13 farms that are permanently preserved and will not be developed.

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**FAMILY, FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS**

**Join the Fun!**



If you are a scrapbooker, card maker or quilter come and join the fun! We get together once a month at the township hall. A donation is required to attend. Each month the donation goes to an organization or cause that has a direct impact on Grattan Township residents. Registration is required to attend. To register please contact Dianna at 616-826-1872 or email [force.cricket@gmail.com](mailto:force.cricket@gmail.com).

**2015 Schedule**

- January 2 & 3
- February 6 & 7
- March 6 & 7
- April 10 & 11
- May 1 & 2
- June 5 & 6

July and August summer break

- September 11 & 12
- October 2 & 3
- November 6 & 7
- December 4 & 5

**Sponsored and Hosted by**

**Family, Friends and Neighbors**

**TOYS for TOTS**

Collection for this years Toys for Tots has already begun. The need for toys this year is great. We will be collecting toys until December 18th. All the toys we collect will help local families. Please bring your NEW unwrapped toys for ages 1 to 16 to any of the following locations:

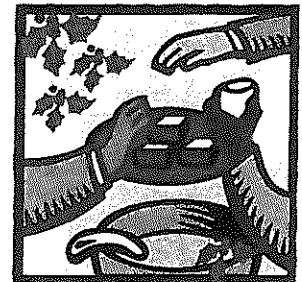
- Grattan Township Hall
- Grattan Fire Station
- Crickets Crop Shop
- Grattan General Store

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**GRATTAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Please join us for:

**Annual Holiday Get Together**



**Tuesday, December 2, 2014  
7:00p.m.**

**Grattan Township Hall  
12050 Old Belding Rd**

**Refreshments, Door Prizes  
& Great Conversation.**

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**From the Assessor.....**

**Reminder Dates:**

**2015 Board of Review  
March 9th & March 12th**

**Grattan Township Meeting Schedules**

<i>Location: Township Hall</i>	<i>Time: 7:00pm</i>
<b>Township Board</b>	<b>2nd Mon. each month And 4th Mon. as needed</b>
<b>Planning Comm.</b>	<b>1st Wed. monthly as needed</b>
<b>ZBA</b>	<b>3rd Wed. monthly as needed</b>
<b>Safety Board</b>	<b>4th Thur. monthly as needed</b>
<b>FASC</b>	<b>4th Wed. monthly as needed</b>
<b>Sewer Advisory</b>	<b>3rd Tue. monthly as needed</b>

Website [www.grattantownship.org](http://www.grattantownship.org) & TV Cable Channel 25

**CLIP & SAVE**

**SEWER EMERGENCY  
GRATTAN TOWNSHIP  
EMERGENCY SERVICE  
PHONE: (616) 776-9656**