

# NEWSLETTER



JULY 2009

## From the Supervisor...

As many of you know Grattan Township has a new Sewer Operation and Maintenance Company. The new company is Infrastructure Alternatives. Their trucks are white or grey and they all have logos on the side of the trucks. These people are very friendly and you should feel free to talk to them whenever you wish.

Just a couple of things I would like to pass on to make their lives easier and to reduce costs for you.

One of the reoccurring problems that the new operators have encountered is grease in the wet wells. It clings to the sides of the wet wells, it hangs on the floats that control the station and collects on every device that is located in the well. Each device in the well system has an important function that is critical to the proper operation of the pump station.

**Please do not put any grease down any of your drains.** This grease never goes away until it is meticulously scraped off each component in the wet well by the sewer operator and discarded in the proper manner. Grease damages the pumps, renders the floats inoperable and has a harmful impact on every component in the pump station. This extra work by the operator costs you, the customer, money that could be better spent on normal maintenance or on upgrades of the system.

Kent County Household Hazardous Waste Program recommends the following: Take small quantities of grease, add flour or kitty litter to it and throw it away in the trash. If you have questions about disposing grease or any other hazardous waste please call Kent Co. Hazardous Waste Program at 336-4617 or 336-3695.

Another request from our operators is the weed control around pump stations. It is their responsibility to cut weeds and grass but it is very difficult to determine how far to cut. If you have a pump station adjacent to your home, please cut the grass as close to the station as possible so the maintenance people

will know where to start and stop.

Remember that this sewer system ultimately belongs to it's customers and Grattan Township appreciates your cooperation to be mindful of the tips relating to it's care:

- Report all power outages
- Do not put anything in your drains that they were not designed for
- Report all warning lights or other irregularities that you may notice
- Limit the use of generators during power outages
- Reroute water softener drains
- Do not put any grease or animal by-products in your drain
- Keep the sewer emergency number handy for your use: 691-7784
- Forward all questions regarding billing and special assessment payoffs to Diane Timmons at 691-8450
- Attend Sewer Advisory meetings for updates on your system (Updates also available periodically on the township website) Meeting dates are announced on the website or through your Lake Association

## On the Clerkside...

### Recycling For Our Future

**Clean-up Day** Grattan Township Trash pick-up day is scheduled for July 18, 2009 from 9:00am to 1:00pm.

**Location** Grattan Township Hall 12050 Old Belding Rd.

#### Charge Items

Batteries-1.00 ea.

Appliances No Freon (washers, dryers, stoves) 3.00 ea.

Appliances with Freon (refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers) 15.00 ea.

#### Rules/Requirements

No liquids (paint, oil, etc)

No brush, cement or shovel offs

No loose trash

All tires must be cut in 4 pieces.

Propane & Fuel Oil tanks must be cut in half.

Fencing must be folded.

## GRATTAN

### Twilight Cancer Walk

A new tradition is beginning in Grattan Township: The First Annual **GRATTAN TWILIGHT CANCER WALK**. Many people in our small community and surrounding areas have been affected by cancer of all types. We wish to raise funds and distribute 100% of profits to **GILDA'S CLUB OF GRAND RAPIDS**. GILDA'S CLUB is a FREE cancer and grief support community of children, adults, families and friends. The event will take place on **August 20, 2009**, at the GRATTAN RACE-TRACK, a two-mile track with beautiful scenery at every turn. Registration will begin at 6:00pm and the walk will begin at 7:00pm. We hope you and your business will join us for this inaugural event, either as a sponsor, as a walker, or as a team of walkers. Thank you for helping us make the **GRATTAN T L C WALK A SUCCESSFUL EVENT**. All donations are tax deductible through Gilda's Club.

Corporate Sponsor Recognition Levels  
Company Sign display around track

**Memory & Tribute Flags**  
**with the name of person you choose**  
**will be displayed around the track**  
**(\$10 per flag)**

Registration Forms are available at Grattan Township Office. \$10 registration fee includes a T-shirt and bottle of water.

**Registrations are due by August 1, 2009. For additional information contact Donna at 481-1718**



**Family, Friends & Neighbors ...**would like to thank everyone who helped make this year's Bridge Walk and Memorial Day a huge success.

Over the summer you will begin to see changes at the Grattan Center Cemetery as we get ready to begin construction of the wall phase of the Veteran's Memorial. If you would like to help with this process, please contact Dianna at 616-826-1872.

# GRATTAN TOWNSHIP

## Dock and Boat Ordinance

It is an appropriate time of the year to remind lakes residents (particularly new residents) that Grattan Township has a "Dock and Boat Ordinance (Ord. No. 08-01)" that was enacted in 2001. Its purpose is to ensure the proper and safe use of our lakes while preserving and protecting the quality of the lakes and shorelines.

The entire ordinance can be reviewed on the Grattan Township website, but following are a few summarized highlights of the ordinance:

- No more than four watercraft shall be utilized, docked, moored, beached, or kept at, on, or adjacent to each separate frontage
- No more than one dock shall be allowed, used, or installed for each platted lot or parcel.
- The owners of a raft or swimming platform shall place a sign or placard on such item that identifies the current lake property address of the owner(s).
- Permanent docks, shore stations, boat cradles and rafts are prohibited.
- All docks shall have a minimum width of two and one-half feet, but shall not exceed a maximum width of six feet. "T" or "L" sections may be used, however, the "T" or "L" section shall not be wider than eight feet and shall not extend laterally a distance of more than 20 feet.
- No dock shall extend more than 75 feet into a body of water, measured perpendicularly from the shoreline, unless necessary to reach water with a depth of three feet.

- No dock shall be placed within ten feet of the side lot lines of a lot or parcel as extended to the center of the lake or body of water.

- No dock or mooring for watercraft (or any boat) shall be located at, or on, any right-of-way, park, road, common area, alley, dedicated walkway, or easement.

- The lawful mooring for watercraft or boats or usage of docks, shore station, boat cradles, or rafts on or from a particular lot, parcel or separate frontage occurring prior to the date of adoption of this Ordinance (September 2001) shall be permitted to continue without change.

The Dock Ordinance is enforced by the Grattan Township Zoning Administrator, Gregg Converse. The Safety Board of Appeals (SBA) interprets provisions of the ordinance, makes recommendations on changes of the ordinance to the Township Board and also considers variance requests to the Ordinance from residents. The SBA operates similar to the Grattan Township Zoning Board of Appeals in regards to the Township Zoning Ordinance.

The Grattan Township Board hopes all residents enjoy a safe summer on our lakes and waterways. If you have any questions regarding the Dock and Boat Ordinance, feel free to contact myself, Gregg Converse or the Township Office.

**Paul Knoerl**  
Trustee

**Safety Board of Appeals Chairman**

## **Notes from the Fire Chief...**

The fire department has been working on a grant for pump stations for water supply, which would benefit the township with our ISO rating and fire suppression throughout the township. We will still pursue this project as resources allow, however, this grant was recently denied.

We are working on our ISO rating to lower the cost of insurance policies to home owners in Grattan Township. We will be filing for the application in the near future. There still are smoke alarms available at the station for anyone that may need one. Please call Ken Brandes at 788-7029.

I want to thank everyone for the great turnout at the Memorial Day pancake breakfast. We appreciate all generous contributions from all of our sponsors as well as the Grattan Fire Personnel, Ann Ward, Stacey Madden, Bobbi Smith, Chris Nikodemski, Ken Brandes and Colleen Smith for all their hard work.

In September Grattan Fire Dept. will be sponsoring a Basic EMS class for those that are interested. Dr. Malafa will be the medical director and the class will be directed by Ann Ward with a host of instructors. If interested please contact Ann Ward at 691-7256.

George Smith III has been appointed Fire Training Officer starting August 1st. Please extend your word of thanks when you see him. Have a great summer and please be safe.

**Lou Kirkbride**  
**Grattan Fire Chief**

### **Grattan Township Business Hours**

Mon—Thurs 9:00 to 4:00

Phone: 691-8450 ♦ Fax: 691-8804

### **Township Board**

Supervisor	Frank Force
Clerk	Jim Fues
Treasurer	Sabrina Freeman
Trustee	Dennis Heffron
Trustee	Paul Knoerl

**SUMMER TAXES  
DUE  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2009**

**CAN BE PAID  
AT THE TOWNSHIP  
12050 Old Belding Rd.  
Mon.—Thurs  
9:00am-4:00pm**

### **Grattan Township Historical Society**

Please join the Historical Society for it's annual Potluck in the Park on August 4, 2009 and the Ice Cream Social on August 18, 2009

Both events are held at the Grattan Roadside Park on M-44 between Wabasis and Nugent. We hope to see you there!



### **Grattan Township Meeting Schedule**

**Location: Township Hall Time: 7:00pm**  
**The public is always welcome!**

Township Board	2nd Mon. each month
Planning Commission	1st Wed. each month
ZBA	3rd Wed. each month
Safety Board	4th Thu. each month
Fire Admin. & Safety Comm.	4th Wed. each month

### **SEWER EMERGENCY**

**GRATTAN TOWNSHIP  
EMERGENCY SERVICE  
PHONE: 691-7784**

**ON CALL PAGER: 444-0031**

### **For info about Grattan Township**

Please check the Grattan Township Website!

[www.grattantownship.org](http://www.grattantownship.org)

or

**Watch Cable Channel 25**

If you have a non-profit event you would like advertised, please email [grattanweb@comcast.net](mailto:grattanweb@comcast.net)