



NEWSLETTER

JULY 2014

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: | Kessie Brummel |
| Treasurer: | Sabrina Freeman |
| Trustee: | Dennis Heffron |
| Trustee: | Paul Knoerl |

From the Supervisor: For a fair number of years the township has listed parks and recreation in their Master Plan as a high priority item based on past surveys and contact with township residents. The Parks and Recreation Committee have been working on this issue and acquired two parcels of land that are suitable for development through a DNR grant. The P&R Committee applied for a Development Grant in 2011 that failed due to shortage of the funds available. We will attempt to submit another grant application for the 2015 cycle with more up to date cost information.

To encourage this and other improvements the Township Board has budgeted funds for playground facilities and we are in the process of making this happen with the money available. The current plan is to install a playground on the lawn between the Township Hall and the Fire Station. This effort is not directly related to the Development Grant Application for 2015.

Enclosed in this envelope you will find a survey that we hope you will complete and return to the township. Your input is very important so we can develop facilities that the residents really want rather than what we think is appropriate. If you have an opinion regarding the location of the playground noted above, please enter your comments at the bottom of the survey.

From the Clerk's Office: Clean up day was a huge success! Plumbers staff was who you met when dropping off your unwanted articles. 15 dumpsters were filled that day. COMPRENEW was also there and

had to bring an empty trailer by noon. COMPRENEW sent us a letter confirming that any sensitive data was destroyed according to the highest standards in the industry, R2: 2008. We seemed to have a steady flow all day. It was a better turn out this year than the previous year and we have Saturday, May 16, 2015 reserved for next year.

Don't forget! Primary Election is August 5th, 2014 and the General Election is November 4th, 2014. If you have not registered to vote and would like to, it must be done 30 days before the election. You must be 18 or older on the day of the election. Feel free to stop by the Township office to pick up a voters application.

**Kessie Brummel
Clerk**

From the Treasurer: In 2014, the last day to pay summer taxes without incurring any interest or penalty is **Monday, September 15, 2014.** (MCL 211.44) In 2014, the last day to file to defer summer taxes is Monday, September 15, 2014. (MCL 211.51 (7)) In 2014, the available days for required December office hours are Thursday, December 25, through Wednesday, December 31, 2014. Treasurers **must** choose one day (unless a bank assists in collection). (MCL 211.44(2))

Grattan Township will be open Monday, December 29, 2014 from 9:00am-5:00pm for taxes only

In 2015, the last day to pay 2014 property taxes without incurring any penalty (or interest for deferred summer taxes) is Tuesday, February 17,

2015 (February 14 is a Saturday and Monday, February 16 is President's Day). (MCL 211.44) Treasurers **may** choose to hold office hours. In 2015, the last day to pay 2014 property taxes before they are returned as delinquent is Monday, March 2, 2015 (February 28 is a Saturday). (MCL 211.45) Treasurers **must** hold office hours.*

Grattan Township will be open Monday, March 2, 2015 from 9:00am-5:00pm

MCL 8.6 provides that: "This section applies to the statutes and administrative rules. In computing a period of days, the first day is excluded and the last day is included. If the last day of any period or a fixed or final day is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the period or day is extended to include the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday

*NOTE: *Public Act 352 of 2008, effective December 23, 2008, amended MCL 211.78a(2) to require that "if the last day in a year that taxes are due and payable before being returned as delinquent is on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the last day taxes are due and payable before being returned as delinquent is on the next business day and taxes levied in the immediately preceding year that remain unpaid shall be returned as delinquent on the immediately succeeding business day," extending the period in keeping with MCL 8.6.*

Just a reminder that dog licenses are available year round at the Township Office. Have a great summer!!

**Sabrina Freeman
Treasurer**

From the Fire Chief:

NEW ISO RATING

FOR GRATTAN TOWNSHIP!!

ISO (Insurance Service Office) is the principle provider of underwriting, rating and statistical information to the insurance industry in the United States and is recognized by MOST insurance companies for calculating your homeowner insurance rates. After much work and dedication by our fire department we are pleased to announce that Grattan Township has a new public protection classification rating of 6/10. Grattan's previous rating was 9/10. A letter to all residents regarding this new rating is included with your July 1st tax bill statements. Please check with your home/business insurance agent to adjust this rating on your insurance as it should affect your insurance premiums.

Lou Kirkbride
Fire Chief

BOATER'S SAFETY CLASS

There will be a Free Boater's Safety Class held at Grattan Township. The 2-part class will be held on July 15th from 6:00pm to 9:00pm and on July 17th from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. Attendees must plan on attending both classes. Certificates will be sent to attendants who pass the class. It is presented by the Kent County Sheriff's Department.

The class is free and early registration is recommended. However walk-ins are welcome. Please contact Scott DeMeyer for registration at 304-4249 or scott.demeyer@gmail.com

Trustee's Note:

As one of your trustees, I will report that this year has started out on the quiet side. We have not had any issues brought to the Planning Commission. Grattan Township has approved for Kent County to work on some road repairs this summer and we are doing an upgrade at the Grat-

tan/Vergennes sewer treatment site. August 5th there will be a Primary Election....and remember, you have the right to vote....Don't forget!
I hope everyone can get out and enjoy the summer. It is a pleasure to serve the residents of Grattan Township. If you have any questions don't hesitate to call me. 616-794-2527

Denny Heffron
Trustee

**GRATTAN TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Some facts you may not know about the Historical Society: The Historical Society operates and maintains the roadside park on M-44 and Nugent Avenue. We keep it mowed and provide trash pick-up and restroom facilities during the summer season. On August 19th the Society will hold it's Ice Cream Social at the park. Enjoy ice cream with all the toppings and homemade baked goods all for the suggested donation of \$1.50. Money collected will be used to help with the cost of maintaining the park.

The Historical Society is part of the Adopt-A-Highway program. We are responsible for picking up trash along M-44 between Ashley and Tiffany. We do this 3 times a year. Our next road pick-up will be Saturday July 12 at 9am. We meet at the Township Hall. If you can help us please contact Dale Hunt at 616-691-8901 or just show up ready to work.

The Historical Society operates and staffs the Museum located at 12040 Old Belding Road in Grattan next to the Township Hall. It is open to the public every Sunday between 2pm and 4pm during the months of May through September. Volunteers are needed to help staff the museum and greet visitors during these times. If you can donate a couple hours of your time to help out please contact Dianna Force at 616-826-1872.

Our annual potluck in the park will be held on August 5th at the roadside park on M-44 and Nugent Avenue at 6pm. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service. Enjoy stories from the past and meeting others interested in preserving the history of our area.

Membership to the Historical Society is only \$5.00 per year. We meet the first Tuesday of each month at the Township Hall at 7pm. If you would like to join, mail \$5.00 (payable to Grattan Township Historical Society) to: Pat Nugent, 10060 Kehoe Drive NE, Ada, MI 49301.

**FAMILY, FRIENDS &
NEIGHBORS
MILITARY FLAG
MARKER PROJECT**

Our goal is to place a Military Flag Marker on every Veteran's grave in Grattan Cemeteries. The metal markers cost approximately \$25. Any donations are greatly appreciated. (checks payable to Family, Friends & Neighbors and write "flag holder" in memo section of check) More information and donation forms are available on the website: www.grattantownship.org under the Family, Friends and Neighbors tab. If you have any further questions please contact Dianna at 616-826-1872



Grattan Township Meeting Schedules

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

Website www.grattantownship.org & TV Cable Channel 25

CLIP & SAVE

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