



# NEWSLETTER

## FEBRUARY 2013

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.....

The Township has been humming along nicely, a new budget year is about to start, a new Clerk has been appointed effective February 1, 2013 and we have just finished two major sewer upgrade projects, one for an upgrade of the collection system and one for a major upgrade in the irrigation system at the Grattan/Vergennes site on Murray Lake Road. One last major project remains and that is the removal of the biosolids from the ponds in both of our treatment sites. This long process has begun and we hope to have it completed by early fall of 2013. This project is being paid for thru the Capital Improvement fee paid by the sewer customers. No special assessments or new charges will result from this project.

I would personally like to thank our resigning Clerk, Jim Fues, for the awesome job he has done for the last six years. Jim and his accomplished Deputy Clerk, Monica Burtt have played a major role in bringing the township into the 21st century and creating an environment for making the township fiscally responsible. I wish him the very best of luck with all his future endeavors.

The Township Planning Commission is also reviewing the Township's Master Plan and you may have seen the surveys that were sent out for our resident's input. The Master Plan is a guideline of how the residents of Grattan Township want to see their township develop in the future. The Zoning maps are also being reviewed for updates and possible amendments. Everyone is encouraged to attend these meetings, for about the next six months, to offer input on how they would like to see the township grow. Planning Commission meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00p.m. at the Township Hall.

We are also planning to review our escrow and application processes in an effort to make it somewhat easier and less costly for our residents to apply for Variances and Special Land Uses.

We are also becoming modernized with our Website, and TV cable channel. We have installed a TV monitor in the lobby, for displaying important Township information on Cable Channel 25 for our residents. The Township is also installing audio and visual equipment in the board meeting room to facilitate viewing and hearing of township functions.

As always I encourage Township residents to attend board meetings and take advantage of my open-door policy for any questions or inquiries they may have.

**Frank Force**  
Supervisor

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

Grattan Residents I would like to introduce myself as the new Clerk for Grattan Township, my name is Kessie Brummel. I have lived on Big Pine Island Lake for 18 years. I have been married for 25 years to Chad Brummel and we have two children and four grandchildren.

My career history is in banking and sales. Once our children graduated, I decided to retire and travel with my husband Chad who was traveling for work. For the last four years I decided to retire and travel around the United States with my husband for his job. As the family was growing we decided it was time to be home and enjoy the family. I wasn't ready to be home full time and wanted to do something important and close to home. This clerk position fills that need. I look forward to serving the residents of Grattan Township and this learning experience.

### SPECIAL ELECTIONS

**Tuesday February 26, 2013 in Kent County, Michigan Grattan Township, Precinct 2**

### Proposal

**LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS  
BUILDING AND SITE SINKING FUND  
MILLAGE**

**Kessie Brummel**  
Clerk

### From the Desk of the Fire Chief.....

The Grattan Fire Department would like to thank Grattan residents Glen and Janet Marble for raising funds for a Portable Pump. Together they raised \$8183.18 by collecting metal and cans from several Grattan residents. The Township is very appreciative for their generosity of time and efforts for this wonderful donation. The Portable Pump has

been purchased and has been put to service. The Fire Department thanks the Township Board for their support for the purchase of a used engine to replace the one that was put out of service.

**Attention Residents of Grattan:** The Fire Department has smoke alarms and CO alarms available. Please contact the Fire Chief, Lou Kirkbride at 485-5925 or call the Township office at 691-8450 if you wish to receive one.

A reminder to all residents that Emergency Address Signs are available thru the Fire Department. Applications for the 911 emergency signs are available at the Township or on the Grattan website under Forms & Fees. These reflective green address signs are an important aid for emergency responders in locating your homes. If you have an emergency please call 911.

**Louis Kirkbride**  
Grattan Fire Chief

### Mailbox Policy Kent County Road Commission



Any mailbox damaged by snow as a result of plowing or scraping the roadway is the responsibility of the property owner, when the mailbox is damaged by Road Commission equipment striking or hitting the mailbox, the Road Commission will repair/replace the mailbox.

If you have any questions, please visit this website- [www.KentCountyRoads.net](http://www.KentCountyRoads.net)

### ATTENTION SEWER CUSTOMERS

Due to increased operation costs and at the recommendation of the Sewer Advisory Committee, effective April 1, 2013 sewer usage bills will increase \$5.00 per quarter.

**FAMILY, FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS.....**

**MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS**

May 27, 2013



This year will mark the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Day Celebration and Bridge Walk. If you would like to be a part of the day's events or help with the planning, a meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at Grattan Township Hall. Hope to see you there!

**FEEDING AMERICA**

Family, Friends & Neighbors will be hosting



a Feeding America mobile food pantry sponsored by the Township. The pantry is designed to benefit township families who need a little extra help during our struggling economy.

We hope to have the program up and running by mid April. Participants must pre-register and show proof of residency. Forms will be available at the Township Hall beginning March 11<sup>th</sup>.

**SCRAPBOOKING CROPS:** Over the past couple of years, Family, Friends & Neighbors have been hosting crops to benefit local organizations and projects. To date, several hundreds of dollars have been raised, along with school supplies for area schools and toys for Toys for Tots.

The crops are limited to 25 people and you need to register for each one you plan to attend. The crops are held at the Grattan Township Hall and run from 9 am to 10 pm.

Crop Donations collected on March 1 & 2, April 5 & 6, May 3 & 4 will be used for purchase of Veterans Flag Holders.

Crop Donations collected on June 7 & 8 will benefit Relay for Life.

**CROP REGISTRATION:** Call Dianna at 616-826-1872 or email: [force.cricket@gmail.com](mailto:force.cricket@gmail.com).

**VETERANS FLAG HOLDER PROJECT:** This project is to make sure that every Veteran buried in one of the 4 Grattan Cemeteries has a military flag marker. If you know of anyone in need of one of these markers please contact Dianna at 616-826-1872.

These markers will be made of aluminum and cost approximately \$25.00 each. Donation forms are available at the Township Hall or on the Township web page under the Family, Friends & Neighbors link.

**For information on any of the Family, Friends & Neighbor programs please visit the Grattan Township web page and click on the Family, Friends & Neighbors link or contact Dianna at 616-826-1872 or email [force.cricket@gmail.com](mailto:force.cricket@gmail.com).**

**GRATTAN TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION:** A public meeting to discuss and take comment on the land acquisition application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) to acquire 78.21 acres located at 7301 Nugent Avenue NE, parcel number 41-12-07-200-016 and 11.06 acres located at 7299 Nugent Avenue NE, parcel number 41-12-07-200-008 is scheduled as part of the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting on February 26, 2013 at Grattan Township Hall, 12050 Old Belding Road at 6:00 pm. Public comment can be presented at that meeting.

**GRATTAN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY**



Please visit the Grattan Museum on May 4 & 5 from 11 am to 5 pm as we "Spring into the Past" with the Tri River Historical Museum Network. For more information visit the Grat-

tan Township web page and click on the Historical Society link.

**RAILS-TO-TRAILS UPDATE**



*Fred Meijer River Valley Rail-Trails*

The work on completing the fifth longest trail in the USA continues to progress. The Hartland section, from Greenville to Alma has been paved and open for non motorized traffic. Funding for construction on the Owosso to Ionia trail has been awarded. The trail in the city of Ionia is almost finished. The Ionia to Saranac portion is scheduled to be finished this summer. The trail though Lowell has some sections finished. The rail trail starts at Foremen and runs north, crossing Lincoln Lake just south of Four Mile where our section picks up. Grattan Township has road crossings east of Lincoln Lake at Four Mile, then at Ashley and Montcalm between Four and Five Mile. The trail then continues through Smyrna on to Belding, which hopefully will see construction on the trail this summer and on to Greenville, connecting with their trail and the Hartland Trail.

The DNR will take over the Lowell to Greenville section this week and a grant has been awarded for a master plan on that section. Hopefully we can see construction by 2014. This will be a wonderful asset for Grattan Township and afford all residents a beautiful safe place to ride bikes and hike.

**Grattan Township Meeting Schedules**

Location: Township Hall Time: 7:00pm

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Township Board | 2nd Mon. each month<br>And 4th Mon. as needed |
| 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](http://www.grattantownship.org) & TV Cable Channel 25

CLIP & SAVE

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