



NEWSLETTER

December 2018

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, 2018– 2018 Winter tax bills mailed

December 27, 2018 – Township Office will be open to collect taxes only 9:00am – 5:00pm

December 27, 2018 – Last day the Township will be selling dog licenses

February 14, 2019 – Winter taxes due

February 28, 2019 – Last day to pay 2018 Summer and Winter taxes at the Township
Township will be open 9:00am - 5:00pm to collect taxes

March 2, 2019– Taxes sent to Kent County as delinquent
Contact County at (616) 632-7500 after March 9, 2019

Have a Happy Holiday and a Safe Winter!!

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!

Kirsten Mork

From the desk of the Clerk...

Hello Grattan Township residents!

We had another smooth election on November 6th. Gratitude from the Clerks department to our Election Workers is an understatement. They average a 14-hour day, only with a couple breaks, and keep smiles on their faces while doing so. We thank you so much for your assistance in keeping our Elections a success!

Another THANK YOU deserved to Family, Friends & Neighbors, and Dianna Force for providing a meal to our Election Workers. We appreciate your generosity and time to prepare the meal. It was delicious!

Recycling Update

As many of you whom regularly recycle may have noticed, the entire Recycling Facility will be terminated as of December 13, 2018. The decision was a long time coming, as the Township staff was constantly cleaning- and often times, even taking "incorrectly dumped" items home to put in their personal trash. Some items included- construction materials, large patio furniture, cardboard from businesses- not even within the Township, kiddie pools, carpet cleaners and the most often dropped off- The Shop Vac. The cost increase was certainly a factor, but the majority of the decision for termination came from the frequent abuse. Prior to this decision, we installed security cameras to catch abusers, sent letters to non-residents dropping materials (that left addresses on) and even confronted some people in the act. The administrative time for cost, clean up and enforcement simply does not make the Recycling Center a feasible option for our Township to offer at this time. Unfortunately, for those of us whom do recycle in the right way, we will now have to pay for pick-up at our own homes or take our materials to the dump located at:

NORTH KENT TRANSFER STATION
2908 Ten Mile Rd.
Rockford, MI 49341
Mon-Sat: 7:30am-5:00pm
Closed Holidays

Again, the Township apologizes to the residents who did not abuse these facilities and we wish that others had followed the clearly marked signs surrounding the bins.

As the saying goes, "It only takes one bad apple to ruin the barrel."

Thank you!

Michelle Alberts

From the desk of the Zoning Administrator...

Now that the temperatures are turning colder it is time to ensure that all docks, shore stations, boat cradles and rafts are removed from the lakes in Grattan Township by December 15th to promote safety on the lakes.

Grattan Township has a dock and boat mooring ordinance (Ord. No. 08-01 with Amendments by Ord. No. 09-002). Section 5.1 of this ordinance does not permit permanent docks, shore stations, boat cradles, and rafts left in any lake in the Township. Portable versions of these are permitted, only if you meet the specific zoning district requirements. Portable versions are permitted in the lakes from March 15th to December 15th of each year.

Some common questions regarding the Dock and Boat Ordinance were:

Q: What is the minimum setback a dock must be from the side property line?

A: Minimum of 10'-0"

Q: What is the setback for a shore station?

A: The shore station can be located on the side of a dock within the 10'-0" minimum setback, however the canopy of a shore station can not be close than 2'-0" from the property line

Q: Do rafts or swim platforms require the property owners address?

A: Yes, they require a sign or placard with the address of the owner and two reflectors affixed to two external sides.

Q: Do all watercraft moored on a dock have to be licensed to the property owner?

A: Yes, for all properties with frontage on a lake in any residential or agricultural zone district only boats or watercraft owned by the owner of the lake property involved may be moored, beached, docked, or stored on that property (or the bottomlands thereof) over night. No back-lot owners can moor a dock on water front lot not owned by them. The MC number from the boat will identify the owner through the Secretary of State's office.

Thank you,

Gregg Converse

From the desk of the Sewer Clerk...

If you are a new home owner in the township or have any updates to your account (name, address, contact phone number) please make sure you let the township know. Contact Kirsten at (616) 691-8450 or by email at sewerbilling@grattantownship.org.

The recent increase in sewer rates was a recommendation from our recently completed SAW grant which reviewed the financial health of our sewer budget and strongly recommended a 1.5 % rate increase annually for the next five years to allow for inflation and to keep our financial health in its current condition. The increase schedule is as follows:

Year	Increase	Total Bill
2018	\$2.10	\$167.10
2019	\$2.13	\$169.23
2020	\$2.16	\$171.39
2021	\$2.19	\$173.28
2022	\$2.22	\$175.80
2023	\$2.26	\$178.06
2024	\$2.29	\$180.35
2025	\$2.33	\$182.68
2026	\$2.36	\$185.04
2027	\$2.40	\$187.44

A Message to New and Existing Sewer Customers

I am writing this message to all of Grattan Township residents who are served by the Grattan Township Sewer System. In the past we have found that many residents are confused by what the expectations are for sewer customers in Grattan Township and some are not even aware that they have sewer service.

Most of the properties around the numerous lakes in our Township are served by a gravity or force main sewer system. The sewer bills are sent to our residents on a quarterly basis and payment is expected by the end of the month billed. Some sewer customers are situated on sewer mains that require grinder pumps which are located in their yards. These pumps remove the wastewater from your home and deliver it to the sewer main and eventually to the wastewater treatment site. These grinder pumps are maintained and checked on a regular basis by the home owner.

Please refrain from depositing anything in your fixtures other than what comes naturally. Items such as handiwipes, dental floss, female and male hygiene products, grease and other materials that home owners are tempted to flush. Water softeners drains cannot be hooked into drains since the salt is very detrimental to the sewer system and the environment.

Thank you!

Kirsten Mork