



# NEWSLETTER

## NOVEMBER 2011



TOWNSHIP BOARD	
Supervisor:	Frank Force
Clerk:	Jim Fues
Treasurer:	Sabrina Freeman
Trustee:	Dennis Heffron
Trustee:	Paul Knoert

12050 Old Belding Road Belding, MI 48809 616-691-8450 Hours: Mon-Thur 9:00- 4:00

### From the Supervisor....

Here we are again at the end of another year. A lot has been happening with the sewer system this year, some good and some bad.

Lets start with the good: the irrigation upgrade is nearly complete. The new center pivots are in place and have been discharging wastewater for almost a month. Everything works fine and the MDEQ is more than thrilled with our new system. The new system is almost completely automated and requires very little involvement from our maintenance people.

We have leased the land to a local farmer and the ground has been tilled and a cover crop has been planted. This cover crop will remain over the winter and be tilled into the soil next spring. A row crop, probably corn or soy beans, will be planted next spring and will benefit from the irrigation.

All of the new electrical panels have been received for the collection system upgrade and are systematically being installed as time allows. This work should be completed this fall. All of the main pump stations will be automated with the Mission Dialer system which monitors and reports pump station conditions thru email and cell phone lines.

Flow meters have been installed at both treatment sites as well as both main pump stations that deliver water to the treatment sites. These meters will enable the operator to precisely judge the amount of water that is being received by each of the treatment site lagoons and the amount of water that is being discharged onto the irrigation fields.

Some of the bad: power outages have plagued us once again this year even though Consumers has been upgrading their facilities and relay stations. Power outages are fairly frequent and very costly since they require continuous assistance from portable generators to remain in service. Please keep this in mind when using your home generators to provide water for your home when the pump stations are down.

Please remember also to report any power outages or warning lights that you may observe on any of the (53) pump stations.

We have also had more than the usual pump clogs due to debris that is being put into the drains. Pump stations #9 on Causeway, pump station #4 on Woodland Park and pump station #2 at the Big Pine Island boat launch have been hit particularly hard. Pictures of these clogs will soon be posted on the township web site so you can see what a problem this is.

Letters have been sent to each of the residents on each of these stations to alert them to the fact that care must be taken not to flush anything that is not meant to be flushed.

Sodium and Chloride from water softeners has also become a significant problem and we are struggling to find a remedy. Hopefully everyone on the sewer system will make an effort to discharge their softeners somewhere other than the sewer system. Alternative mediums can be used other than salt as well.

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### Committee Opportunities

We would like to encourage Grattan citizens who may be interested in serving the township on one of the committees. As a committee member, you will help establish rules and address applications for various requests by our residents.

Committee applications are available at the township or online or give us a call and we will be happy to mail out the application form. All applications must be submitted no later than December 5, 2011. Committee member terms begin in January 2012.

Please make an effort to become involved with your township by serving on one of the township committees.

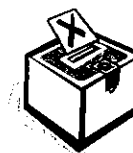
**Frank Force  
Supervisor**



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

#### Elections

The next election in Grattan Township will be February 28, 2012. This election will be a Presidential Primary. Both precincts will be open for this election. Polling hours will be from 7am until 8pm. When ballots are available, we put them on the web site for your viewing prior to the election.



To vote in this election, you must be registered to vote by January 30, 2012. You can register at the Clerk's office at the Township as well as at the State of Michigan Secretary of State offices or the Kent County Clerk's office.

#### Road Repairs

As many in the community know, Grattan Township has authorized several road repair projects this fiscal year. Those repairs have been started and we expect all projects to be completed by the end of Spring 2012. We would like to thank all of those that attended the meetings and provided input regarding those repair projects.

#### Budget Meetings for Fiscal year 2012/2013

The Township Board will be working on the budget for next fiscal year during our scheduled Board meetings in January, February, and March of 2012. Please watch for postings on the website/cable TV or on the front door of the Township for specific dates and time.

Early in the agenda of every Board meeting is a time for public comment. I would encourage anyone that would like to have input to the budget to attend any one or all of those meetings and share your ideas and concerns during the public comment section of the Board meeting.

**Jim Fues  
Clerk**

**From the Treasurer...**

**Dates to Remember**

**December 1, 2011** – 2011 Winter tax bills mailed

**December 28, 2011** – Township Office will be open to collect taxes only 9:00am – 5:00pm

**February 14, 2012** – Winter taxes due

**February 29, 2012** – Last day to pay 2011 Summer and Winter taxes at the Township Township will be open 9:00am - 5:00pm to collect taxes

**March 1, 2012**– Taxes sent to Kent County as delinquent - **Contact County at (616) 632-7500 after March 12, 2012**

**December 1, 2011 – March 1, 2012** – Purchase dog licenses at the Township

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday!!

**Sabrina Freeman  
Treasurer**

**2011 Sewer Assessment.....**

Sewer customers received a new sewer assessment bill this July. I would like to clarify payment options for that assessment. If you chose to make an installment payment in 2011, you will receive an annual assessment bill each July until 2020 or until the assessment is paid in full. The annual payment, if received before the past due date, is \$74.96 each year.

**Customers can pay off their assessment at any time. Please call the Sewer Billing Clerk (691-8450 ext. 13) for the correct assessment payoff amount.**

Also, any customers who would like to receive their sewer bill via e-mail can complete a sewer e-bill authorization form and return to the Township office attention Diane Timmons. Forms are available at [www.grattantownship.org](http://www.grattantownship.org) or by phone request 616.691.8450.

**From the Desk of the Fire Chief...**

We have been working towards having our ISO rating reviewed by the Community Outreach Department Insurance Services Office out of Chicago and sent a letter of request for review of our Fire Department. We feel that with the new facility and additional equipment and training exercises, we have accomplished the means to lower our insurance rating.

Recently the Fire Department purchased a Pumper/Tanker, which will improve our Fire Ground operations and give us a additional 3000 gallons water immediately. It has a 1500 GPM pump and is equipped to transfer water directly to our first out Pumper. We are very pleased with this upgrade and want to thank the Township Board for their help in purchasing this truck.

The weather is getting colder and that means the wood stoves will be fired up once again. Please take all precautions possible. Grattan

Fire Department responded to 16 house fires last year and all were related to wood stoves and fireplace inserts. PLEASE CHECK YOUR FIRE ALARMS.

Fire alarms are available at the fire station: If you are in need of one please call the Fire Department @ 691-7404, or the Fire Chief @485-5925, or the Twp. Office @ 691-8450.

The Fire Administration Safety Committee has been working on difficult addresses to find, the fire department has had numerous occasions where addresses are not well marked. **So please help us find you.** The Ladies Auxiliary has order forms for green reflective address signs at the township office. The cost is \$15.

The Holidays are just ahead of us once again, so please have a safe one.

**Lou Kirkbride  
Fire Chief**

Grattan Township Meeting Schedules	
Township Board	2nd Mon. each month
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
Location:	Township Hall
Time:	7:00pm

**Parks and Recreation:** In 2006 the Parks and Recreation Committee submitted a grant to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) for the land acquisition of 8.5 acres of land 11950 Old Belding Road. We were awarded the grant and Seeley Creek Natural Features Park was born.

In 2010 the Parks and Recreation Committee again submitted a grant to the MNRTF for an additional 25 acre parcel adjacent to the first parcel. In December of 2010 we were notified that our grant application was accepted. We are now in the process of finalizing this acquisition.

In April of 2011 the Parks and Recreation Committee submitted a development grant to the MNRTF. Development will include a parking lot, trails, boardwalk with observation deck, educational kiosks and a gazebo. This will be a handicap accessible park. We will hear sometime in December if we were successful.

The grant will not cover all of the development cost so a Friends of Seeley Creek Park fundraising campaign is now underway. Levels of giving are: yellow warbler \$25.00, redwing blackbird \$50.00, little green heron \$100.00 and the great blue heron \$500.00. Donations in other amounts are also appreciated. Checks should be made payable to the Parks and Recreation and mailed or dropped off at the Township office. Donors will be recognized on plaques located throughout the park. Thank you for your help. Friends of Seeley Creek Park brochures are available at the Township Office.

**Toys for Tots:** This year's Toys for Tots Campaign is in full swing and the need this year is great, so our goal is 400 toys! (We collected over 350 last year). We will be collecting toys (new & unwrapped) for ages 1 to 16, until December 15<sup>th</sup>. Grattan Township drop off locations are: Grattan Township Offices (during normal business hours), Grattan Fire Station and Crickets Crop Shop (across from the General Store) All of the toys collected will stay in our area.

**Veteran's Memorial:** Anyone driving down Old Belding Road past the Grattan Center Cemetery can see the wonderful progress that has been made on the Veteran's Memorial. It was a long process, but well worth it. Family, Friends and Neighbors would like to thank EVERY-ONE who has helped with this project.

**LAST CHANCE TO PURCHASE BRICKS:** Deadline to purchase a brick is March 16, 2012. There are still a few bricks left to be engraved and this will be your last opportunity to purchase one. Don't miss the chance to be part of the Memorial. Brick order forms are available on the Township's web page or you may pick one up at the township office. All bricks that have been purchased will be engraved and placed in the Memorial in time for Memorial Day.

**Historical Society:** The annual potluck dinner will be held on December 6th at 6:00 pm at the township hall. Please join us for an evening of good food and conversation. Bring a dish to pass and your own place setting.

The museum is closed for the winter and will reopen in the spring. If you wish to visit the museum now please call 616-826-1872 and we will be happy to set up an appointment.