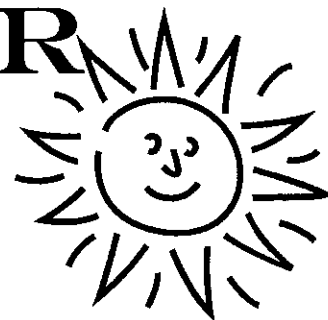
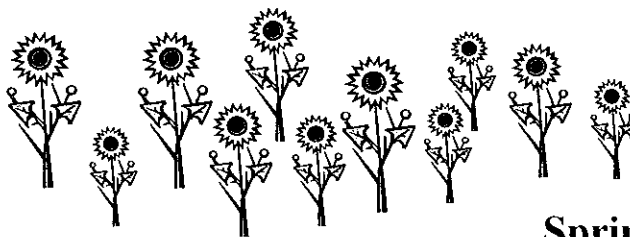




# NEWSLETTER



Spring/Summer 2008



## 20th Annual Grattan Township Memorial Day Celebration & Bridge Walk May 26, 2008

### Schedule of Events

- 7:00-10:00 PANCAKE BREAKFAST -Fire Station  
Grattan Fire Department
- 9:00-2:00 HISTORICAL SOCIETY BAKE SALE  
& RAFFLE- Grattan Museum
- 9:00-2:00 \*LETTER WRITING STATION-Township Hall  
Send a Thank You to our Troops  
Girl Scout Troop 3305
- 9:30 TURTLE RACE-Township Hall  
Bring your own Turtle & see who finishes first!
- 10:00-2:00 \*HANDS ON FUN-Township Hall  
Make and take crafts for ALL ages
- 10:00-2:00 FACE PAINTING-Township Hall
- 10:00-11:00 DECORATING OF BIKES-Township Hall
- 11:00-11:45 MEMORIAL SERVICE-Grattan Cemetery
- 11:45-12:00 BRIDGEWALK & FOOT PARADE  
Grattan Cemetery across bridge to new Fire Station  
(a shuttle will be available for those not able to walk that far)  
Bridge Decoration Courtesy of Grattan Bar
- 11:00-2:00 \*FOOD BOOTH- Township Hall  
Family, Friends & Neighbors
- 12:00-2:00 25cent SINGLE DIP ICE CREAM CONES  
Grattan General Store
- 11:00-2:00 \$1.50 DOG & SUDS SPECIAL  
Grattan Bar
- 12:00 PENNY SCRAMBLE-Township Hall
- 12:30 FROG JUMPING CONTEST-Township Hall  
Bring your own frog!
- 10:00-1:00 SHUTTLE SERVICE  
Courtesy of Klackle Orchards
- 3:00 MOMENT OF SILENCE  
Flag Pole at Township Hall

\* These activities are closed during the Memorial Service

### From the Supervisor....

This Spring has been a busy time for the Sewer Administrator.

Two sanitary sewer overflows and the critical water levels at the Grattan lagoons have kept me very busy.

We have also mailed our April sewer billings with the increased quarterly rates and many folks have been calling to ask questions. I do not mind fielding these calls and I believe it helps to inform people and answer any questions they may have. Letters were included with the sewer bills that gave a short review of the reasons that the sewer user rates were increased. If you did not get one please let me know.

It is worth mentioning that a "typo" also occurred on the sewer bills that has been causing confusion. The "typo" is that the billing period is from 4-1-08 to 4-30-08, when it is in fact 4-1-08 to 6-30-08, as usual. I apologize for scaring everyone.

Lagoon Levels: As of April 9, 2008 the Sewer Administrator, with the Township's board's support, elected to give Sierra Consultants permission to begin an early discharge of the waste water in the Grattan lagoons. This was done to preserve the integrity of the lagoon berms that serve to contain the waste water and were threatened by the extremely high water levels. This decision was also supported by the township engineers who had been monitoring the water levels for the last month. The MDEQ were notified by phone and in writing before this discharge took place. Detailed information will be maintained throughout this illegal discharge for follow information to the DEQ. This decision was based on the choice of possible fines versus possible collapse of the lagoon berms.

Sanitary Sewer Overflows: Progress is being made to reduce the chances of future SSO's as experienced last winter in Big Pine Island and Big Crooked Lakes.

Seven dialers have been ordered to be installed on pump stations which currently are without dialers. This will arm the entire number of main pump stations with this early warning system.

We have also increased our operations and maintenance budget to enable our operations company to conduct more frequent inspection tours to the sewer systems pump stations.

We still have not financed a capital fund for anticipated major repair projects or money to upgrade the irrigation system at the Grattan/Vergennes treatment site. We are currently working to reduce the cost of this upgrade.

I am going to attempt the release of two annual newsletters, to the sewer customers, as important events dictate. I will also present articles in our usual Spring and Fall township newsletters. If any important developments occur in between letters, I will notify the Chairman of the Lake Associations. I am also available to attend the Lake Board meetings and answer any questions I can.

As usual please treat your sewer with care. Do not flush floss, napkins, paper towels, baby wipes or any other foreign objects that tend to jam our very expensive sewer pumps. If any warning lights are observed or any unusual events catch your eye, please call the emergency sewer number; 691-7784 or the township supervisor at 691-8450. We really do need the help of our township citizens to watch our sewer system.

• Frank Force, Supervisor

### The Clerk's Side....

Elections - The next general election is May 6, 2008. This election is a "School" election. Because of historically lower turn out, we are combining the precincts for this election. Both precinct 1 and precinct 2 will be combined and will be located at the Township Hall. Hours are 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

There are two more elections this year. Those dates are August 5 and November 4. Both of these elections have normally had higher voter turn outs. So, both of these elections will have the precincts divided per normal. Precinct 1 will vote at the Township Hall and precinct 2 will vote at the Grattan Fire Station.



Continued inside.....

**Clean Up Days** – Our clean up is scheduled for Saturday, July 19, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The operation and collection rules will be the same as last year. That is:

### Charge Items

Batteries - surcharge of \$1.00 each  
Appliances without Freon – surcharge of \$3.00 each  
Appliances with Freon – surcharge of \$15.00 each

### Rules/Requirements

No Liquids (paint, oil, etc.)  
No Loose Trash – All trash must be in bags or boxes  
No cement or concrete.  
Fencing must be folded and compressed.  
All tires must be cut into 4 pieces each.  
Propane and fuel oil tanks must be cut in half.

**Paper Recycle Trailer** – The paper recycle trailer located at the Township Hall is continuing to be a success! Thanks to everyone that is using this service.

Just to reaffirm, the funds generated by the paper recycling are NOT controlled by the Township. The funds are controlled by Grattan Township Family, Friends, and Neighbors. The funds are used for community service projects and major conservation projects in the Township. These projects are generally performed by Boy Scouts and or Venture Scouts. The funds are also used to fund some of the Senior activities such as bingo.

**An important note**—Recently, we have had other materials dropped of in the trailer such as plastic and metals cans. The trailer is for the recycling of paper and paper products only. Please do not put any other items in the trailer.

**2008/2009 Budget** – has been approved. Copies are available through the FOIA process.

### Do's & Don'ts for Sewer & Septic Systems AND Do's and Don'ts for Lake Friendly Living

I have several flyers and articles available. These articles give you information on how to ease pressure on the environment. If interested, just give a call to the Clerk's Office and we will get you a copy!

**Reminder, Fertilizer Ordinance** – Remember, the fertilizer ordinance is in effect! Commercial contractors must be registered with the Township. There are also requirements that apply to individuals that are fertilizing their own yard. Please make sure you are aware of the requirements.

• **Jim Fues, Clerk**

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Sat.—Sun. 9:00am-3:00pm  
Call: 616-485-4680

## Zoning Notes....

The return of warmer weather provides residents with the opportunity to pursue various building projects. Residents considering a project need to be aware of township requirements, to avoid unnecessary delay and frustration.

Sometimes, property owners spend a large amount of time and money preparing for a project, only to learn that they cannot lawfully do the project, or that it must be modified or delayed. Contacting the Grattan Township Zoning Administrator well ahead of time will avoid these problems.

Township permits or approvals are required under the Zoning Ordinance before construction can begin in most cases. Some common examples of projects requiring advanced approval include building decks, sheds, fences, gazebos, garages/polebarns, and home additions. These are all subject to setback requirements and may require a building permit. Regulations differ depending upon the zoning district of the property.

Some requests must go before the Planning Commission for a special land use permit; or reviewed by the Board of Zoning Appeals for a variance, which is essentially a license to violate the zoning ordinance and very strict standards must be met.

Some requirements may require outside State agency approval (e.g. construction of seawalls and bottom sanding for beaches)

Building without a building permit or zoning permit or outside agency permit is a major mistake. This violates township ordinances and in some cases, violates state law. Besides any legal ramifications, the property owner could be required to remove or redo the work if it violates ordinance requirements (for example, not meeting setbacks, building codes, etc.)

• **Greg Converse  
Zoning Administrator**

## 2008 Photography Contest



Eastern Township of Kent County Open Space Council is encouraging our local photographers to participate in this years contest. The event theme "Wetlands and Water" is intended to expand public awareness and understanding of the abundant water and wetland resources found in the Eastern Townships of Kent County, and enhance public stewardship of these resources.

All entries must be submitted between Monday September 22 and Friday September 26, 2008 at your township office. Individual Township office hours vary, so be sure to check with the township you select regarding their hours. Entry forms and contest rules are available at the following participating townships: Ada, Cannon, Cascade, Grattan, Lowell and Vergennes.

## From the Fire Chief....

The Grattan Fire Department received a Grant from the Homeland Security Office for a complete set of extrication equipment, a portable hydrant and a portable pump. Many thanks to those personnel who contributed there time and efforts, a special THANKS to Matt Johnson for his efforts in writing the grant.

Our Fire Department also received a Grant from the DNR for 22 sets of wildfire turnout gear. A special THANKS to Ken Brandes for his efforts on the DNR application.

Currently Grattan Fire Department is providing a class at the basic license level. We are hopeful this will enable us to upgrade our 1st Response License Level to a Basic Response License Level. We owe a special THANKS to Ann Ward for her hard work for presenting this class.

Mark Rosenberger is putting the Fire Practice Plan together for burning a mobile home, which has been donated to the department for training exercises. This will provide valuable experience to our department. THANKS Mark for your hard work.

Spring is around the corner and burning permits are available. Please call Al Heintzleman for permits at 691-7735 or Lou Kirkbride at 691-8523.

The Annual Bridge Walk is coming up soon and the Fire Department will be hosting their Pancake Breakfast...Hope to see you there! Thanks to All!

• **Lou Kirkbride  
Fire Chief**

## Family Friends & Neighbors

### VETERAN'S MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Mark your calendar for our first annual golf tournament to benefit the FFN Veteran's Memorial Fund.

Sunday, May 25, 2008 at Arrowhead Golf Course  
2170 Alden Nash Road, Lowell, MI at 1:30pm.  
The 4 person scramble will be limited to the first 32 teams to sign up.

**\$45.00 singles, \$80.00 pair, \$160.00 team**

Price includes: 18 holes w/cart, food & prizes, 1st Place team plaque.

### Prizes for men & ladies

Closest to the pin  
Longest drive  
Longest putt  
Hole in one

Many wonderful items and services have been provided from local business for a **Silent Auction**. All proceeds will benefit the Veteran's Memorial at the Grattan Center Cemetery.

Registration forms are available at the Township Office or for more information please contact Dianna at (616)826-1872 or Vivian at (616)691-7105.





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**Township Board**

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

**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

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FAX — 691-8804



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MONDAY: Buy one Sizzler Dinner **GET ONE FREE**

TUESDAY: **THO** Burritos for \$9.99

WEDNESDAY: **ALL YOU CAN EAT** Fish Fry \$7.99

FRIDAY: BUY A BEVERAGE GET ONE FOR 1.00 9-11

SUNDAY: PIZZA \$5.00 & ALL BASKETS \$1.00 OFF!

Call 691-8221 for TAKE OUT!

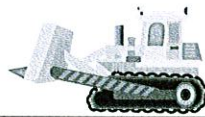
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