



TOWN OF GRAND RAPIDS
 WOOD COUNTY, WISCONSIN
FALL/WINTER NEWSLETTER - 2014

2410 48th Street South, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

715-424-1821

www.townofgrandrapids.org

<p><u>Town Board</u> Chairman.....Arne Nystrom Supervisors.....Kathy Alft Bill Clendenning Patty Lumby Dan Paulsen</p> <p><u>Police Department</u> Police Chief.....Mel Pedersen Officers.....Sgt. Dave Drinkwine Tammy Kubisiak Justus Arendt Jeremy Anderson</p> <p>Part-Time Officers.....Mike Wiberg Steve Spath Robert Krummel Mike Bessett</p>	<p><u>Office</u> Clerk.....Judy McLellan Treasurer.....Kris Ginter Admin. Assist...Jewell Ninneman Admin. Assist...Peggy Doughty</p> <p><u>Fire Department</u> Fire Chief.....Don Bohn Asst. Chief.....Mark Rusch Asst. Chief.....Robert Piatt</p> <p>Don Voit Cody Conover Seth Thome</p>	<p><u>Public Works</u> Rick Austin Mike Smith Jake Bielmeier</p>	<p><u>Planning/Zoning</u> Bldg. Insp/Zoning Admin...Larry Gillis</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Town Board Meetings</u> 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 6:00 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Plan Commission Meetings</u> 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 6:00 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Fire Department Meetings</u> 1st Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>*meeting dates subject to change...call the Municipal Building to confirm dates, time and location or check our website at www.townofgrandrapids.org</p> </div>
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TAX PAYMENT DUE DATES

- ❖ First installment and/or payments in full are due on or before **January 31, 2015**
- ❖ All personal property taxes and special assessments are due by **January 31, 2015**
- ❖ All taxes of \$100 or less per parcel must be paid in full by **January 31, 2015**

All taxes paid after January 31, 2015, must be paid at the Wood County Courthouse, payable to Wood County Treasurer.

PAYMENT BY MAIL

Return your payment stub with your payment. Make checks payable to: Town of Grand Rapids Treasurer in the exact amount of your taxes. **Enclose a self addressed stamped envelope for return receipt.**

Mail to: Town of Grand Rapids
 Kris Ginter, Treasurer
 2410 48th Street South
 Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

Dog license fees must be on a separate check.

Taxes must be receipted in 2014 to be deductible on 2014 income taxes. Our office will be closed on Wednesday, December 24; Thursday, December 25; and Thursday January 1, 2015. Mailed payments that are postmarked on or before December 31, 2014 will be receipted in 2014.

PAYMENT IN PERSON

Taxes may be paid by cash, check, debit or credit card (a fee is charged by Gov Pay to process the debit or credit card transaction) at the Municipal Building at 2410 48th Street South during the following business hours:

Monday – Thursday
 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
 Friday
 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

TOWN DROPBOX

(not for US mail or 2nd Half Tax Payments)

A secured drop box has been installed at the Municipal Building entrance. Use this mailbox to leave correspondence for any town office or official, permit application, citation forfeiture, full or first-half tax payment in December or January ONLY.

NOTE: PAYMENTS AFTER JANUARY 31, 2015 ARE NOT COLLECTED BY THE TOWN TREASURER AND ARE PAYABLE TO THE WOOD COUNTY TREASURER

NOTE: THE TREASURER'S OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM 1-2 P.M. DAILY

GARBAGE AND RECYCLING INFORMATION

The Town of Grand Rapids contracts with Advanced Disposal for the roadside pickup of our garbage and recycling items. Our contract provides "curbside collection service for the collection of **not more than (4) 30 gallon bags or cans of residential waste** from residential units one time per week". Advanced Disposal is not required to pick up residential waste in excess of this amount. An excess of this allowed amount may result in some of your garbage not being picked up by Advanced Disposal. The resident is responsible for properly disposing of the excess amount.

Recycling items contracted to be picked up include: Consumer commingled materials such as aluminum cans, container glass, corrugated cardboard, mixed papers, newspapers, tin cans and **#1 through #7 plastic items and aseptic containers.**

NEW ITEMS!!!
NOW ACCEPTED IN ADDITION TO #1 & #2'S

#3 THROUGH #7 PLASTICS:



- NEW RECYCLING ITEMS**
- Food & beverage containers, cat litter containers, ice cream pails, 5-gallon pails, medicine/pill containers, bakery containers, flower pots or trays, yogurt or cottage cheese containers, cups & tubs, clear and rigid clam shell packaging.

ASEPTIC CONTAINERS:

- Cartons or boxes used for juice, milk, soy milk, ice cream and broths.

PREPARATION:

- Empty and rinse all containers
 - Average or small-sized #3 through #7 plastic and aseptic items can be placed in your container along with other recyclables.
 - Large plastic items (>15 gal. containers, furniture items, toys, etc.) are NOT collected at curbside recycling. These items can be delivered to the Portage County Material Recovery Facility in Plover for recycling at no charge.

PLASTICS NOT ACCEPTED

- #1 Brown plastic bottles
- #6 polystyrene foam ("Styrofoam"): Egg cartons, hot beverage cups, plates, formed packing pieces, packing peanuts.
- Motor oil containers
- Plastic film, shrink wrap and bags (all #'s)
- CD cases
- Vinyl items such as windows, siding, etc.



E-CYCLE



In October 2009 a law was put into place banning certain electronics from Wisconsin landfills and incinerators after September 1, 2010. With this law in place the manufacturers will be responsible for the cost of recycling the electronics. Businesses that collect the discarded electronics are still allowed to charge a handling fee for collecting the items and transporting them to recyclers. As of September 1, 2010 the following electronics are not allowed in landfills and will not be picked up by our contracted garbage and recycling hauler:

All Computers	Desktop printers	Televisions	Cellular Phones (no batteries)
Computer Monitors	Fax machines	DVD players	VCR players
Video players	VCR's & DVR's	Copiers	Mice & Keyboards

Please help to conserve valuable resources and prevent pollution. **RECYCLE YOUR ELECTRONICS!!**

For more information and to find a registered recycler check out the DNR website at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Ecycle/electronics.html>

Home Emergency Location Program

5328
POINTE PLACE

WE CAN'T HELP YOU IF WE CAN'T FIND YOU

The Grand Rapids Volunteer Fire Department is working to improve the efficiency of emergency response in your area. In the case of an emergency, a rapid



response can be critical to ensure the safety of life and property. Too often time is lost locating a residence in need of help. Due to the difficulty of reading address signs because of darkness or inconsistent placement of these signs, your fire department is offering reflective signs to be placed as visibly as possible near the entrance of your property. The difference in saving lives and property may be the proper identification of your address.

8435
WARREN DRIVE

If interested in purchasing an address sign, please fill out the order form (under General Forms on the Town's website) and return with payment to the Grand Rapids Fire Department, 2410 48th Street South, Wisconsin Rapids. Or for more information phone 715-424-1815 or 715-424-1821.



Contracted Town Services

Did you know?

- ❖ In a medical emergency situation within Grand Rapids, United Emergency Medical Response, the Town's contracted ambulance service, will be dispatched, but in a non-emergency situation such as a transfer from one medical facility to another, you may request United Emergency to do the transfer. They can be contacted at 715-423-7777
- ❖ The contract with Advanced Disposal for Recycling & Solid Waste does not cover the collection of large items or building materials but Advanced Disposal will make special pickups of these items for a fee. They can be contacted at 715-421-3939.
- ❖ Questions on the assessment of your home? The Town's contracted assessor is Bowmar Appraisals. They can be contacted at 920-733-5369

EMBERS MAY BE SMALL....

You wanted a haven, surrounded by trees and all that nature has to offer, but sometimes that dream home comes with the risk of wildfire. During a wildfire, tiny embers are carried by the wind and they can rain down like an ember blizzard. Your house is fuel to a wildfire and all it takes is an ember landing in the wrong place to ignite it. Embers landing in accumulated dry leaves, pine needles, trash and other debris can easily ignite a home in minutes. This is especially true in the spring time, when the woods are dry. To watch a short video on how you can prepare your property for embers, go to dnr.wi.gov and enter keyword "firewise."

GRAND RAPIDS

#3 SAFEST CITY/TOWN IN WISCONSIN

The SafeWise Report released its "50 Safest Cities in Wisconsin" earlier this year and Grand Rapids was listed as # 3 safest city/town in the state. To compile this report, SafeWise used the most recent FBI crime data from 2012 to analyze and rank these cities, which all have a minimum population of 5,000 people.

The report stated: Grand Rapids promises an excellent quality of life and is certainly beautiful. Grand Rapids boasts a typically suburban lifestyle with many, over half-acre, pine, and oak-forested lots that serve its population.

Grand Rapids can boast not having reported a single violent crime in 2012. Part of these safety statistics is likely the direct involvement of the town's proactive police department, including the neighborhood watch and vacant home and business checks it conducts regularly to keep its citizens safe.

The entire article can be found at:
<http://www.safewise.com/blog/50-safest-cities-wisconsin/>

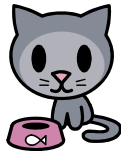
Watch our website for the dates of our 2015 Choose-To-Reuse days next year.

Greetings from South Wood County Humane Society!



The Humane Society is a busy place, having taken in 795 stray or unwanted animals, re-homed 415 pets and administered 175 microchips to public pets, so far this year. Included with this newsletter is a voucher for \$15 pet microchipping. Please consider microchipping your animal and protecting them for life, should they ever go missing. It can take just a split second for your pet to run out the door or escape from the back yard. A microchip is the most effective method for shelter workers or veterinarians to identify your pet.

As the New Year approaches, build your resolution around getting involved with the Humane Society. There are a number of ways you can improve the lives of homeless pets including: donating food or supplies, offering your expertise by volunteering special skills, opening your home to foster an animal, sharing Humane Society updates and pets for adoption on Facebook, getting personal with an animal by volunteering to socialize a pet, or by giving money. South Wood County Humane Society offers a flexible volunteer schedule and can accommodate students (over 16 years of age) or large groups.



Stay connected with South Wood County Humane Society online at www.swchs.com and Facebook www.facebook.com/swchs. Receive email updates by sending an email to swchs@swchs.com with 'newsletter' in the subject line. The Humane Society is located at 3621 64th St N in Wis. Rapids. We are open Monday, Thursday and Friday 12-5pm, Tuesday, 12-7 pm and Saturday 12-4pm, closed Sundays, Wednesdays and holidays.



EDGE OF ROAD REFLECTIVE MARKERS

The Town of Grand Rapids Board has approved a policy of allowing reflective break-away markers to be placed in the road right-of-way to aid the snowplow drivers in determining the edges of the roads before banks are established. The guidelines that have been established are:

- Only approved break-away markers that are purchased through the Town of Grand Rapids will be permitted.
- Markers must not be placed closer than three (3) feet to the edge of the blacktop.
- Markers must not be placed closer than ten (10) feet from each other.

Any markers not following the above guidelines are subject to removal by the Town of Grand Rapids and/or possible forfeiture as per Road Ordinance No. 19 and Schedule of Fees and Forfeitures Ordinance No. 39. In the use of the temporary snow marker, the residents understand that the Town of Grand Rapids will not be liable for any breakage or replacement of said markers.

Under normal plowing conditions, the crews will do their best to avoid hitting the markers but it is possible that there may be some breakage of the markers should the year's snow fall dictate that the banks be rolled back.

The markers are available at the Municipal Building for a cost of \$2.00 each

Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs)

Compact fluorescent lamps are used extensively in homes and businesses, and, besides being recyclable, have many environmental benefits. CFLs use up to 75 percent less energy than a standard incandescent bulb, and can last up to 10 times longer, and save \$30 or more in electricity costs over the life of the bulb.

Mercury, lead and other heavy metals all have the potential to be hazardous wastes. If bulbs are broken, burned or landfilled, metals and other toxic substances can be released into the environment. This risk makes it important to properly dispose of CFLs and other light bulbs.

CFLs contain trace amounts of mercury and should be properly recycled. While the amount of mercury in each bulb is small, mercury pollutes the air and water when it ends up in landfills or incinerators.

Local retailers that recycle CFL's are: Dollar General, Dollar Tree, Goodwill, Home Depot, Walgreens and Walmart.

TOWN WEBSITE

Check out our website at www.townofgrandrapids.org and sign up to receive notification of the notices that are posted to the website to your email

REMINDERS FROM YOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT

BE A CRIME STOPPER: If you have information regarding a crime and would like to remain anonymous, plus be eligible for a reward up to \$1,000, you can contact Wood County Crime Stoppers in one of four anonymous methods:



1. Text a tip: WCCS to 274637 starting with the keyword WCCS.
2. Call 877-325-STOP (7867)
3. Go to www.woodcountycrimestoppers.com and leave a web tip.
4. Go to www.facebook.com/WoodCountyCrimeStoppers

SNOWMOBILE TRAILS: A safety reminder to all snowmobilers utilizing the snowmobile trails/routes in the Town of Grand Rapids. Please stay on the designated snowmobile trails/routes and obey all signs and speed restrictions for your safety and as a courtesy to friends and neighbor's property adjoining those trails and routes. We want everyone to have a safe and enjoyable winter season.

WINTER SURVIVAL ITEMS: Please consider stocking your vehicle with a few winter survival items in case you get stranded along the roadway during the upcoming winter season. Items such as blankets, spare gloves and hats, snack bars, reflective safety markers, hand warmers, etc. are all good items to have with you in case of an emergency. When traveling, make sure your cell phone has a full charge so you can make a call in case of an emergency. Also remember to keep your gas tank over half full to avoid gas line freeze-up, especially during extremely cold weather.

2015 DOG LICENSES: If you are a dog owner, a reminder to make sure you pay the annual license fee to obtain a license and collar tag for "man's best friend". Per town ordinance, this shall be done "at the time and in the manner provided by law for payment of personal property taxes". This also applies to dog exemption permits, those households with more than two dogs. Make sure your dog's rabies vaccination is current prior to coming in and paying the annual license fee.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DROP BOX: The Town of Grand Rapids has suspended the Prescription Drug Take Back Program and temporarily removed the drop box. With recent law changes at the federal and state level and the cessation of the DEA sponsored National Prescription Drug "Take-Back" Day, means of storing and disposing of the unwanted medications remains up in the air. Proper storage and disposal of these medications can be very costly. This issue is being addressed by many organizations at the state and federal level. Once a remedy has been reached, the Town of Grand Rapids will resume collection of unwanted, unneeded, or expired medications for disposal. In the meantime, Wood County Sheriff's office continues to accept used prescription drugs and Walgreens Pharmacy in Wisconsin Rapids has drug mail back envelopes for sale. They cost \$2.99, postage is paid, and any drug **EXCEPT controlled**, can go in the bag and mailed for disposal. The pharmacist said it's a pretty big envelope and you can fill the bag at no added cost.

Want to stay on top of what's going on in and around the Town of Grand Rapids??

Check out these 2 ways:

1. "Like" Grand Rapids Police Department on Facebook
2. Go to www.nixle.com and click on "sign up now" or text your zip code to 888777.

Nixle allows you to choose the information you want to receive, for the addresses you want, all delivered free to you via text message, email, and web.

Looking for something for the kids to do this winter, check out the Kiwanis Youth Outdoor Day, January 17, 2015 at the Nepco Lake Shelter.



REMINDERS FROM YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT AND FIRST RESPONDERS



CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES: When you set your clocks back in November, did you remember to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors? Also if your detectors are more than ten years old, it is time to replace them with new ones. A properly functioning smoke detector increases your chances of surviving a fire in your home by 90%.

SNOW REMOVAL: When removing snow from your driveway and sidewalks, remember to pace yourself. Make sure you are well hydrated by drinking a glass of water prior to starting and again when you are done. Keep children away when using a snow blower. The snow blower may pick up a rock, a piece of chipped concrete or even a piece of ice, which can become a dangerous missile. Never refuel a snow blower while it is running or inside your garage. Let the engine cool for several minutes before refueling. Spilled fuel on a hot engine can ignite and cause a fire.

PREVENT ELECTRICAL FIRES: Never overload circuits or extensions cords. Do not place cords and wires under rugs, over nails or in high traffic areas.

ALTERNATE HEATERS: Portable heaters need their space; keep anything combustible at least three feet away. Never leave these units unattended.

FIREPLACES AND WOOD STOVES: Have your chimney or wood stove inspected and cleaned annually by a certified chimney specialist. Clear the area around the hearth of debris, decorations and flammable materials. Keep air inlets on wood stoves open, and never restrict air supply to fireplaces.

CHRISTMAS TREES: Christmas trees are a part of the traditional holiday celebration. If not handled properly, they can cause an extremely dangerous fire threat. A dried out tree can catch fire and burn a living room in just 30 seconds. When buying a live tree, look for one that is not shedding needles. If branches snap when bent, the tree is already too dry. Keep trees watered. A mixture of lemon-lime soda and water will keep a tree moist longer. Keep trees away from all heat sources including fireplaces, room heaters or wood stoves. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label “Fire Resistant”



Recycling-----Doing more



Wisconsin is a leader in recycling – to remain at the forefront, each of us can do more. Consult the DNR website <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Recycling/> for ideas on further reducing your waste stream.

- **Compost** yard materials and vegetable food scraps. Composting is a smart way to keep valuable materials out of the landfill. Making your own compost saves you money and makes your plants happy.
- Eliminate **open burning**. Burning even brush can cause pollution and health problems for you or your family and neighbors. It is illegal to burn treated wood, plastic, household garbage and most all other trash. State law allows burning of clean wood or brush and non-recyclable paper, but local ordinances may be more stringent than statewide requirements.
- Recycle **electronics**. Keep these out of the landfill by recycling your used electronics, cell phones, fluorescent bulbs and rechargeable batteries. Your public works department or recycling program should have information about recycling options in your area.
- Recycle used **automotive materials**. Used oil, oil filters, lead acid automotive batteries and used antifreeze should be recycled.
- Reuse or recycle **construction and demolition materials**. Much of this material is a mix of reusable or recyclable material that should be kept out of the landfill.
- Properly manage **fluorescent and other light bulbs**. Many types of bulbs contain metals such as mercury at toxic levels. These bulbs should be properly disposed of to avoid contaminating the environment or harming human health.
- Buy products in recyclable containers with as little packaging as possible. Look for packaging that can be recycled in your community and items which you can repair or reuse. Also, support recycling markets by buying and using products made from recycled materials.
- Reduce use of **disposable shopping bags** and use canvas or other reusable bags instead.