



2014 Spring Newsletter

Town Board

Arne Nystrom, Chairman
Bill Clendenning, Supervisor
Kathy Alft, Supervisor
Patty Lumby, Supervisor
Dan Paulsen, Supervisor

Staff

Office

Clerk.....Judy McLellan
Treasurer.....Kris Ginter
Admin. Support Staff.....Jewell Ninneman
Peggy Doughty

Planning and Zoning

Bldg Insp/Zoning Admin....Larry Gilles

Police / Fire Protection

Fire Chief.....Donald Bohn
Police Chief.....Melvin Pedersen
Police Officers... Sgt. Dave Drinkwine
Officer Tammy Kubisiak
Officer Justus Arendt
Officers Jeremy Anderson

Public Works

Rick Austin Mike Smith
Jake Bielmeier

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Town Board

2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 6:00 p.m.

Plan Commission

2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 6:00 p.m.

Fire Department

1st Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting dates are subject to change... check our web site or call the Municipal Building to confirm dates, time and location.

2014 SPRING/SUMMER EVENTS

TOWN OF GRAND RAPIDS

MAY

17th - CHOOSE TO RE-USE

JUNE

7th - KIWANIS YOUTH OUTDOORS DAY
22nd -- FIREFIGHTER'S CELEBRATION

JULY

17th - 20th -- STATE WATER SKI SHOW
26th -- GRAND RAPIDS LIONS MUSIC FEST

AUGUST

2nd & 3rd -- CORVETTES OF THE NORTH
CAR CRUISE & SHOW
9th & 10th --SHIRES OF FALCONS KEEP
TBA - CHOOSE TO RE-USE

SEPTEMBER

6th - WI STATE VETERANS REUNION
20th - WORLD RECORD WATER SKI PYRAMID
ATTEMPT

FROM THE TREASURER:

Remember to pay your **2nd installment of taxes** by **July 31, 2014!** Taxes must be made payable to the **Wood County Treasurer** and paid at the **Wood County Courthouse**, or sent by mail to PO Box 8095, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-8095. Payments will not be receipted at the Grand Rapids Municipal Building.

Pharmaceutical Drop-off Locations

Prevent misuse and protect the environment

Bring all your unwanted, unneeded or outdated prescription, and over-the-counter medicines. Please leave the medications in their original containers. The patient's name may be crossed out.

Accepted:

Pills Salves Capsules Syrups Creams

Not Accepted:

Inhalers Nebulizers Oxygen tanks Sharps
Radioactive cancer medications

Locations:

Town of Grand Rapids Municipal Building
Wisconsin Rapids Police Department
Wood County Sheriff's Department

For more information contact: Nancy Eggleston, Wood Cty Health Dept.
715-421-8940

YARD WASTE DISPOSAL

Town of Grand Rapids residents may again purchase a season long, annual pass for the compost site. Passes may be purchased at the Municipal Building, The Store, (4010 80th St. S.) and by mail. The cost at the Municipal Building and at The Store will be \$37 and by mail \$38. If you wish to have a pass mailed to you, please submit the \$38, your name, address and the license number of the vehicle that will be hauling the compost. We cannot mail you a pass without all of this information.

Yard waste shall include grass clippings, leaves, pine needles, garden waste, and brush.

Town of Grand Rapids Website

Check out the Town of Grand Rapids website at www.townofgrandrapids.org for lots of information on building permits and requirements, ordinances, meeting agendas and minutes, recycling information, past newsletters, FAQ's and election information. The website also contains a "Sign up for Website Notices" which will send you the notices as they are posted on the site.

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 and the Town of Grand Rapids 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

LETTER FROM THE FIRE CHIEF'S DESK:

Fire Department

The Grand Rapids Fire Department had a very busy 2013. The department responded to 305 calls for service. The fire department responded to 40 calls in the Town of Grand Rapids, 24 calls in the Town of Grant, 19 calls in the Town of Saratoga and 26 Mutual Aid calls to neighboring communities.

The Grand Rapids First Responders were called out 196 times. The First responder program has become a very important part of the services that the fire department offers to the citizens of the area. When the first responders are called out, we provide additional manpower to assist United Ambulance Service.

The department always welcomes anyone who is interested in serving as a Firefighter or Medical First Responder to stop in and see what is involved in becoming a member of our department and serving your community. We have a great department and hope for your continued support. We also look forward to seeing all of you at our Firefighter's Celebration in June. Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Fire Chief Don Bohn



GRAND RAPIDS FIREFIGHTERS' CELEBRATION SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 2014

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us at this year's celebration. The event will be held at the Grand Rapids Lions Club (CTH W & 36th St. S.) from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. The day will start with a pancake breakfast from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., food stand open all day, Cranberry Blossom Fest Parade at 12:30 p.m., Raised Reckless Band 1-4:30 p.m., Boogie & the Yo-Yo's 5-9:00 p.m., children's fun rides, bingo, and raffle drawing. **NEW THIS YEAR!!! LAWNMOWER RACES ALL AFTERNOON.**

Help to support your Fire Department and join in the fun. Hope to see you June 22, 2014.

HOME EMERGENCY LOCATION PROGRAM

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. The Fire Department members will be going door to door with information and order blanks but if you want to order your sign before they are able to get to your neighborhood please stop or call the Municipal Building 715-424-1821 or the Fire Station 715-424-1815 for more information.



LETTER FROM THE POLICE CHIEF'S DESK:

The Grand Rapids Police Department has gone through some personnel changes over the last year. Officer Jeremy Anderson became a full-time officer in April 2013, joining us from the part-time officer ranks. Officer Dave Drinkwine was promoted to Sergeant in May 2013. Former Chief Dave Lewandowski retired on July 31, 2013. We wish him well in retirement. Finally, I reported for duty as the new Chief of Police on January 13, 2014. I look forward to working with everyone in the Town of Grand Rapids, especially the Town Board and fellow employees of the Town of Grand Rapids.

The Grand Rapids Police Department has been very busy over the past year. Calls for service are up and we are focused on working with the citizens of Grand Rapids to keep our community safe. The department serves the town in many ways on a daily basis, ensuring that the town remains a safe place to live and play. I would like to thank everyone who has supported the Grand Rapids Police Department over the years. Hopefully, with your support, we can continue to grow and improve, providing dedicated professional services and support for the entire community.

The Grand Rapids Police Auxiliary continues to excel since the program's implementation. The Auxiliary Officers work hard at fundraisers to be self funded and of little cost to the tax payers. They are a great asset to the department and the Town of Grand Rapids in general. The Auxiliary helps out at various special events in and around town. Please take a minute to thank these individuals for their hard work and time they donate to your community. I would also like to add that the Grand Rapids Auxiliary is always looking for and recruiting highly motivated individuals to join this dedicated group. If you are interested, please stop by or call the Grand Rapids Police Department for more details and pick up an application.

Grand Rapids Police Department is on Facebook. Please "Like" us and become a fan to receive information on upcoming community events, helpful websites and updates on what's happening within our community.

Remember, with the nice weather comes more people out and about walking, running, biking and motorcycling.

When mowing ditches and near roadways, make sure mower shoots are down so people and vehicles don't get hit by flying objects. Please be extra careful when traveling the roadways and watch for others. Obey the speed limits and keep it safe for everyone enjoying the great Wisconsin outdoors.

Once again, I'd like to personally thank everyone from the Town of Grand Rapids for the warm welcome back to the area. If you have any questions or concerns, please stop in and see us. My door is always open and I welcome everyone's feedback.

From all of us at the Grand Rapids Police Department, we hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Chief Melvin K. Pedersen
Sgt. Dave Drinkwine
Officer Tammy Kubisiak
Officer Justus Arendt
Officer Jeremy Anderson

Part-Time Officers:

Mike Bessette
Robert Krummel
Steve Spath
Brian Turner
Don Voit
Mike Wiberg

Administrative Assistants: Jewell Ninneman, Peggy Doughty

Dog Licenses are required in the Town of Grand Rapids and available at the Municipal Building.
Anyone having more than 2 dogs must apply for a "Dog Exemption Permit".
Dog Licenses expire on March 31st and Dog Exemption Permits now expire March 31 also.

Credit and debit cards are now accepted for payment of fees, fines, permits or taxes at the Grand Rapids Municipal Building. The Town has contracted with GovPay to process the payments which is done at no cost to the town. A fee is charged to the person using the credit or debit card based on the amount being charged and/or the type of payment. Over the phone payment can also be accepted. You may inquire at the Municipal Building for more information.

UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

2013 was a year with a lot of changes within our township. The good news is that we were able to keep within our budget. The town ended the year with just under \$800,000.00 on hand.

The road project for 2013 was the total rebuild of Town line road. This road is shared with the Village of Port Edwards and the Town of Saratoga. The total cost of the rebuild was 2.2 million and Grand Rapids was responsible for 36% of this amount. A state Trip-D road grant was applied for and was granted with a state payment of \$877,151 towards the project costs, of this \$316,697 came back to the town. The Town has taken out a State Trust Fund loan in the amount of \$500,000 which will be paid back over the next five years.

July saw the retirement of our Chief of Police David Lewandowski. Our Police and Fire Commission selected Melvin Pedersen as our new Chief. Mel is originally from this area and is excited to be back home. Mel's last position was the Resident Agent in Charge-Supervisory Special Agent with DHS/ICE/Homeland Security investigations out of O'Hare Airport in Chicago. Mel is taking the philosophy of being a working Chief, so you will see him not only leading our Police Department but patrolling our town roads.

Winter has been tough on our Snow and Ice maintenance budget. We will need Mother Nature to cooperate this fall and winter to keep within budget. Several of you called me or the town offices with questions and or requests. I hope we were able to resolve all of your concerns.

February 2014 saw the retirement of James Eichhorn. Jim had 43+years working for our Maintenance Department. We wish him well in his retirement. He indicated he may be willing to part time snow plow for us next winter.

On March 31st we welcomed Jacob Bielmeier as Jim's replacement for our Maintenance Department.

Arne Nystrom 715-423-0653

CHOOSE-TO-REUSE EVENTS OF 2014!!!!

Scheduled for 2014 will be two Choose to Re-Use events. Mark your calendars for Saturday May 17th and watch for posting of the date in August to attend this event. The Choose to Re-Use will take place from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Town Garage, 2811 Two Mile Ave.

Choose to Re-Use is an event where residents bring items in good working condition that they want to discard but that perhaps someone else can use. Or you may take any item that you can use. You don't have to bring items in order to take items away. The objective of Choose to Re-Use is simple: Reduce the amount of solid waste in our landfills.

Photos or descriptions of large items (sofas, chairs, etc.) along with contact information will be posted at the Town Garage. Items that have fees associated with them (e.g. refrigerators, microwaves, etc.) must be signed for and will be charged if no one chooses that item by the end of the day.

Contact Town of Grand Rapids Supervisor Bill Clendenning at 715/423-2469 for more information, or if you would like to help with the event.

As of April 10, 2012 "Burn Barrels" are no longer allowed in the Town of Grand Rapids. Please check our Burning Ordinance (can be found on the town's website) for more information on burning within the town.

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.

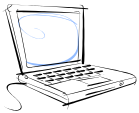


PREPARATION:

- 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 window, 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
Computer Monitors
Video players

Desktop printers
Fax machines
VCR's & DVR's

Televisions
DVD players
Copiers

Cellular Phones (no batteries)
VCR players
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>