



TOWN OF GRAND RAPIDS

WOOD COUNTY, WISCONSIN

SPRING/SUMMER NEWSLETTER – 2015

Town Board

Chairman.....Arne Nystrom
Supervisors.....Kathy Alft
Bill Clendenning
Patty Lumby
Dan Paulsen

Police Department

Police Chief.....Mel Pedersen
Officers.....Sgt. Dave Drinkwine
Tammy Kubisiak
Justus Arendt
Jeremy Anderson
Part-Time Officers.....Mike Wiberg
Steve Spath
Robert Krummel
Mike Bessett

Office

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

Fire Department

Fire Chief.....Don Bohn
Asst. Chief.....Mark Rusch
Asst. Chief.....Robert Piatt

Public Works

Rick Austin
Mike Smith
Jake Bielmeier

Building Inspector

Bldg. Inspector.....Dale Bates

Town Board Meetings

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

Plan Commission Meetings

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

Fire Department Meetings

1st Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

*meeting dates subject to change...call the Municipal Building to confirm dates, time and location or check our website at www.townofgrandrapids.org

2015 SPRING/SUMMER EVENTS

TOWN OF GRAND RAPIDS

MAY

16th – CHOOSE-TO-REUSE
30th – KELLNER GARAGE SALES

JUNE

6TH - KIWANIS YOUTH OUTDOORS DAY
27th - FIREFIGHTER'S CELEBRATION
(New Day, New Weekend)

JULY

16th – 19th - STATE WATER SKI SHOW
25th -- GRAND RAPIDS LIONS MUSIC FEST

AUGUST

1st - 2nd - CORVETTES OF THE NORTH
CAR CRUISE & SHOW
8th & 9th -SHIRES OF FALCONS KEEP
23rd -CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK COLORFEST
29TH – WORLD RECORD WATER SKI PYRAMID
ATTEMPT

SEPTEMBER

12th – WI STATE VETERANS REUNION
19th – CHOOSE-TO-REUSE

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Bring all your unwanted, unneeded or outdated prescription, and over-the-counter medicines.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*

FROM THE TREASURER:

Remember to pay your **2nd installment of taxes** by **July 31, 2015!** 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.

Town of Grand Rapids

2410 48th Street South
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

PRSRT STD
US Postage Paid
Permit 98
Wisc Rapids WI

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



WHY ELECTRONICS ARE RECYCLED



Because most of us never see the intricate part inside our electronic devices, the impact of recycling electronics can be a vague idea in our minds. However, behind all the screens, buttons and plastic are valuable materials, 99 percent of which can be recovered to make new products. Electronics also contain potentially dangerous materials that could be toxic to humans and harmful to the environment if they are not managed properly. Even though these materials exist in relatively small amounts in each electronic device, the totals add up quickly when you consider the millions of electronics in our world today. Listed here are some of the most common materials that are recovered from our recycled gadgets.

- **Plastic** typically makes up a large part of the outer shell of our phones, computers, TVs and more. It is also used to insulate wires inside devices such as desktop computers. Because it is already the correct grade plastic when it is separated from old electronics, it is easily recycled to go into new electronics.
- **Steel** is the most used metal in the world and the most recycled material in North America. Because of its strength and durability, steel is used in the housing of electronics, giving them structure. TVs and computers are important sources of steel in electronics recycling.
- The circuit board in any electronic device contains **precious metals** such as gold, silver and platinum. These metals are widely used because of their conductivity, and they add up quickly in recycled electronics. In fact, one ton of used cell phones contain more than four times the amount of gold found in one ton of gold ore.
- **Lead** exists in the solder in circuit boards. Exposure to lead can cause brain and nervous system damage, and it is hazardous when present in air, water and soil. Recycling electronics properly ensures safe disposal of any lead that is present in devices.
- **Aluminum** is one of the most highly used metals in the world because of its strength and light weight. Similar to steel, aluminum is used in the housings of many electronics, especially TVs and computers. It is also used in circuit boards because of its conductivity.
- **Mercury** is another dangerous material found in electronics that must be disposed of properly. It is toxic to humans and animals and is known to cause nervous system damage. Mercury is used in circuit boards and computer switches and relays. In flat panel LCD monitors and TVs, the bulbs that backlight the screens also contain mercury.

ACCEPTED RECYCLING ITEMS

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.

PLASTICS: #1 THROUGH #7

- 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

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ASEPTIC CONTAINERS

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

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.

Common Recycling Mistakes

- **Shredded Paper** – Shredding paper reduces its size so dramatically that it ends up mixed with the residue or glass at recycling facilities. Because the machines sort broken glass and other debris by size, the shredded paper often gets destroyed or disposed of because it ends up in the wrong place. Once it is mixed with glass or residue, it cannot be recovered for recycling.
- **Pizza Boxes**- This is one of the most common recycling mistakes. Although they are made of cardboard, the grease from the pizza contaminates the raw material. You can tear off the untarnished parts and recycle them though!
- **Household Glass**- Items like window panes, mirrors, light bulbs and dishes are dangerous and should be left out of your recycling. Light bulbs can be recycled at many hardware and home improvements stores. Dishes, if not broken, can be donated to local charities.
- **Wet Paper**- Paper that has gotten wet can make recycling difficult or impossible. Take care to cover your recyclables to keep them safe from the elements. Wet paper should be discarded with the trash.
- **Milk & Juice Cartons**- These are often coated with a thin layer of wax but can still be recycled in many (but not all) communities. Best bet is to check with the local municipality, hauler or recycler to see if these can be recycled.
- **Aerosol Cans**- While these are made of metal, because of the chemicals used to pressurize the cans; they are classified as a household hazardous waste and should be discarded as such - not with recyclables or with the garbage.
- **Ceramics & Pottery**- This includes things like coffee mugs and old flower pots. Look into donating items like this if they are in alright shape, someone else may be able to reuse them!
- **Paint, Pesticides, Automotive Fluids, Diesel Fuel, Gasoline, Kerosene & Car Batteries**- They cannot be accepted and should be disposed of at a hazardous waste disposal facility.
- **Automotive Parts & Scrap Metal**- These are too large and cumbersome for recycling equipment and could cause injury.
- **Plastic Grocery Bags**- These are the most common item in the bins or cart that shouldn't be there, and they can be the most detrimental. When they get caught in the recycling sorter, they have to shut the whole system down and manually pull them out. Instead, consider recycling them by taking them back to grocery, pharmacy, or big-box stores where there are specially designated bins for recycling plastic bags.
- **Polystyrene (Styrofoam)**- Although Styrofoam is recyclable, it requires highly specialized equipment that single stream recycling facilities are not equipped with. Some restaurants (such as Chick-Fil-A) accept their own Styrofoam cups for recycling.
- **Paper Coffee Cups**- Although often thought of as better alternative to Styrofoam, paper cups pose issues to recycling as well due to the plastic coating applied to prevent leaking. Your best bet is to bring your own mug!



CHOOSE-TO-REUSE EVENTS OF 2015!!!!

Scheduled for 2015 will be two Choose to Re-Use events. Mark your calendars for Saturday May 16th and Saturday September 19th. The Choose to Re-Use will take place from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Town Garage, 2811 Two Mile Ave.

Bring items that you want to discard but someone else can use (e.g. small appliances, lawn care items, household goods, bicycles, seasonal decorations, knick-knacks, office equipment, books, CDs/DVDs/VHS tapes/records, clothes, etc.) Items need not be in working order.

You don't have to bring something in to take items away. The objective of Choose to Re-Use is simple - reduce the amount of solid waste in our landfills and help someone in the process.

Some items may be charged a fee to discard. They include:

- Tires – 15” and below \$3.00, 16”-19” - \$4.00, 20” – 24” \$8.00, larger size negotiable.
- TVs and monitors - \$10.00 for 25” and below, \$25.00 27” – 49”
- Wood Consoles TVs – Projection TVs (Floor Standing) & TVs over 49” \$40.



FREE disposal of car batteries, oil, washers and dryers, refrigerators and microwaves and other large metal items. Computers, stereos and other electronic equipment is also available for free disposal.

Please, **do not** bring in paint and chemicals. We are not equipped to handle this.

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.

What happens to recycled materials?



Recycled cardboard can become:

New boxes Gift Wrap Drywall liner

Did you know...Recycling 1 ton of cardboard saves 46 gallons of oil!



Recycled Paper can become:

Bandages Hospital Gowns Coffee Filters

Did you know...Recycling a stack of newspaper just 3 feet high saves one tree!



Recycled Jars can become:

New glass and plastic jars Fiberglass Reflective signs

Did you know...A glass jar can go from a recycling bin to a store shelf in as few as 30 days!

Recycled Food Cans can become:

Car parts Household appliances New food cans

Did you know...Recycling 7 steel cans saves enough energy to power a 60 watt bulb for 26 years!

Recycled Beverage Cans can become:

New aluminum cans and aluminum foil Airplane parts Bicycles

Did you know...Recycling 1 aluminum can saves enough energy to keep a 100-watt bulb burning for 4 hours!



Recycled Mail can become:

Drywall Egg cartons Insulation

Did you know...1 ton of recycled paper can save 7000 gallons of water!



Recycled Food Boxes can become:

Paper Towels Tissue Cardboard

Did you know...Recycling a food box requires 75% less energy than making a new one!

Recycled Milk Jugs can become:

Picnic tables Deck chairs Recycling bins-talk about full circle!

Did you know...It takes only 1050 milk jugs to make one 6-foot plastic park bench!

Chairman's Update

2014 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 \$1,000,000, on hand. Approximately \$500,000 of that cash balance was used to support the 2015 budget.

The road projects for 2014 were 64th St., Wazeecha to Kellner Rd., Breezy Pine, Gilbertson Ct., Warren Dr. 75th to 76th St., 58th St. from Whitrock Ave. south to the end. This year we will have about \$225,000 to do road work. We have a loan payment of \$125,000 for the next four years for the Townline Road rebuild.

Winter was pretty good for us this year. The road crew only had to plow all town roads eight times. We plowed about 10,000 miles in 2014 and put 90 tons of salt on the main roads. Several of you called me or the town offices with question and or requests. I hope we were able to resolve all of your concerns.

We took ownership of a much newer ladder truck on or about the first of May. The unit has very low miles and engine hours and will serve the towns needs for many years. This upgrade will help us keep the ISO class six insurance rating.

All current town board members that were up for reelection this spring and myself your town chairman were reelected for another two year term. We look forward to serving your needs.

Arne Nystrom 715-423-0653

LETTER FROM THE POLICE CHIEF'S DESK

Personnel on the Grand Rapids Police Department remained relatively stable over the last year. Three new part-time officers were added within the last year; Officer Cody Conover, Officer Seth Thome and Officer DeAun Adamczak. We look forward to serving and working with all the residents of the Town of Grand Rapids, especially the Town Board and fellow employees.



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The Grand Rapids Police Auxiliary continues to excel since the program's implementation. The Auxiliary Officers work hard to remain self funded and of little or no cost to the tax payers. They are a great asset to the department and the Town of Grand Rapids in general. The Auxiliary is a volunteer organization that helps out at various special events in and around town. They are trained for specific tasks at these special events which greatly enhance the effectiveness of the Grand Rapids Police Department and acts as a force multiplier at the event. For calendar year 2014, the Grand Rapids Auxiliary Police worked a total of 14 events for 639 volunteer hours. These volunteer hours saved the town over \$17,000 when compared to a full time officer's rate of pay. 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 know of someone that is interested in joining the Grand Rapids Auxiliary, please have them stop by or call the Grand Rapids Police Department for more details and pick up an application.

Remember, with the nice weather comes more people out and about walking, running, biking and motorcycling. Bicyclists are reminded to obey all traffic laws while traveling the roadways of the town, including stopping for stop signs. Motorists should be extra careful when traveling the roadways, watching for bicyclists, motorcyclists and pedestrians. When mowing ditches and near roadways, make sure mower shoots are down so people and vehicles don't get hit by flying objects. Obey the speed limits and keep it safe for everyone enjoying the great Wisconsin outdoors.

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.



Once again, 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
Mike Wiberg
Seth Thome
DeAun Adamczak
Cody Conover
Steve Spath
Don Voit
Frank Blader
Robert Krummel

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". All dog licenses and Dog Exemption Permits expire every year on March 31st.



LETTER FROM THE FIRE CHIEF'S DESK:

The Grand Rapids Fire Department had a very busy 2014. The department responded to 319 calls for service. The fire department responded to 54 calls in the Town of Grand Rapids, 17 calls in the Town of Grant, 14 calls in the Town of Saratoga and 10 Mutual Aid calls to neighboring communities.

The Grand Rapids First Responders were called out 236 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 Emergency 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



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NEW DAY, NEW WEEKEND GRAND RAPIDS FIREFIGHTERS' CELEBRATION SATURDAY JUNE 27, 2015

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 noon to midnight. **LAWN MOWER RACES WILL BE BACK AGAIN THIS YEAR!** Starting at 2:00 p.m. Live music will also begin at 2:00 with "Rattlesnake" playing from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and "Raised Reckless Band" from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Children's fun rides, bingo, and raffle drawing.

Help to support your Fire Department and join in the fun. Hope to see you June 27, 2015.

8425 WARREN DR

HOME EMERGENCY LOCATION PROGRAM

9584 48TH Street

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.

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

PROPERTY CLEAN UP REMINDERS

In the interest of public safety & preservation of property values in the Town of Grand Rapids, lawn areas shall be maintained with lawn height not to exceed 8". All properties shall be kept free of hazards and clear of debris including, but not limited to brush, weeds, broken glass, roots, obnoxious growths, garbage, trash, refuse, inoperable and/or unlicensed vehicles (except if permitted), old tires and junk. Ordinance 52: Zoning.

No Person shall allow an inoperative or nonregistered vehicle to remain parked outdoors or in open storage for more than thirty (30) days. Ordinance 30: Junk Vehicles

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.

NEW BUILDING INSPECTOR

Larry Gilles the Building Insp/Zoning Administrator left employment with the Town on February 13th. The Town has contracted with Dale Bates of Badgerland Home Consultants to conduct the building inspections for the town.

Dale can be contacted at 715-340-1933 or dmsbates@uniontel.net.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

The Zoning Administrator duties will be fulfilled by our Administrative Assistant Peggy Doughty with support from Administrative Assistant Jewell Ninneman.

Applications for all required permits can be found on the Town's website along with important information on various projects. Zoning Ordinance 52 can also be found on the Town's website for additional information.

Credit and debit cards are 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.

