



TOWN OF GRAND RAPIDS

WOOD COUNTY, WISCONSIN

SPRING/SUMMER NEWSLETTER - 2016

2410 48th Street South, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 715-424-1821 www.townofgrandrapids.org

Town Board

Chairman Arne Nystrom

Supervisors Kathy Alft
 Bill Clendenning
 Patty Lumby
 Dan Paulsen

Office

Clerk Lisa Dotter-Guyant
Treasurer Kris Ginter
Admin. Asst. Jewell Ninneman
Admin. Asst. Peggy Doughty

Planning/Zoning

Building Inspector Dale Bates
Zoning Admin. Peggy Doughty

Public Works

Rick Austin
Mike Smith
Jake Bielmeier

Fire Department

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

Police Department

Police Chief Mel Pedersen

Officers Sgt. Dave Drinkwine
 Tammy Kubisiak
 Justus Arendt
 Jeremy Anderson
 Seth Thome

Part-Time Officers Mike Wiberg
 Steve Spath
 Robert Krummel
 Mike Bessette
 Don Voit
 Cody Conover
 DeAun Adameczyk

2016 SPRING/SUMMER EVENTS

TOWN OF GRAND RAPIDS

MAY

21st - CHOOSE-TO-REUSE

JUNE

4th - KIWANIS YOUTH OUTDOORS DAY
4th - KELLNER GARAGE SALES
25th - FIREFIGHTER'S CELEBRATION

JULY

21th - 24th - STATE WATER SKI SHOW

AUGUST

6th & 7th - CORVETTES OF THE NORTH
CAR CRUISE & SHOW
13th - SHIRES OF FALCONS KEEP
20th - CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK KOLOR FOR
KIDS FUNFEST

SEPTEMBER

9th - 11th - WORLD WATER SKI SHOW TOURNAMENT
9th - 10th - GRAND RAPIDS LIONS MUSIC FEST
17th - CHOOSE-TO-REUSE

FROM THE TREASURER:

Remember to pay your **2nd installment of taxes** by **July 31, 2016!** 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 Board Meetings

2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

Plan Commission Meetings

2nd Monday 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

ALL voters coming to the polls will be required to show Proof of Identification in order to vote. If a person does not have a Driver License, there are numerous other acceptable documents. Please visit the Town's website or <https://myvote.wi.gov> to view the Acceptable Photo IDs that will be accepted. If you will be registering to vote, you will need to provide **Proof of Residence**. If you are already registered to vote, then you will be required to provide **Proof of Identification**.

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 plate 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.

Pharmaceutical Drop-off Locations

Prevent misuse and protect the environment

Bring all your unwanted, unneeded or outdated prescriptions, and over-the-counter medicines. Please remove medications from their original containers.

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 Department, 715-421-8940.

Check us out on Facebook

"Like" the following pages to stay on top of what's going on in and around the Town of Grand Rapids:

Town of Grand Rapids, Wood County WI

Grand Rapids Police Department (WI)

Grand Rapids Volunteer Fire Department



Did you know?

- ❖ The contract with Advanced Disposal provides residents of Grand Rapids a **15% discount** off the current charge for disposal of bulky waste at Advanced Disposal Services Cranberry Creek landfill. All that a resident needs to do is show a Driver License with a Grand Rapids address.



AGRICULTURAL ANIMALS

The keeping of Agricultural Animals is not allowed in the Town of Grand Rapids, unless the parcel of land is at least 5 acres, and is then limited to one animal unit per 2 acres of grazable land. Agricultural animals include the following: cattle, hogs, sheep, goats, chickens, turkeys, ducks, and horses. (Refer to Ordinance 8 for more animal regulations, which can be viewed at our website at www.townofgrandrapids.org.)

2016 Wood County Clean Sweep

The annual Wood County Clean Sweep will take place on Saturday, September 24, 2016 at the Marshfield Fairgrounds. Collection time is 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. This is a voluntary, state/county program for the legal, safe, and convenient disposal of hazardous wastes from homes, farms, and businesses. All Wood County residents can participate. Households and farms are allowed to dispose of hazardous waste without charge; however, quantities may be restricted. Businesses and schools can use Clean Sweep to dispose of unwanted chemicals in an easy low cost way. To obtain a free, no obligation, disposal estimate, contact Veolia c/o Chris Bahlow at chris.bahlow@veolia.com, or call 715-298-2623.

Examples of Acceptable Materials for the Clean Sweep

AUTOMOTIVE: Ether, Fuel, Anti-Freeze, Degreasers, Brake Fluid, Transmission Fluid

LAWN, GARDEN & FARM: Fungicides, Herbicides, Rodenticides, Insecticides

HOUSEHOLD: Nail Polish Remover, Moth Balls, Drain Cleaner, Silver Polish, Mildew Cleaner, Metal Cleaners, Spot Remover, Swimming Pool Chemicals, Oven Cleaner, Floor Polish, Dry Cleaning Fluid, NiCad Batteries, Photography Chemicals

WORKSHOP: Stripper, Hobby Materials, Gun Cleaning Fluid, Lead-Based Paints, Lacquer, Wood Preservatives, Thinner/Solvents, Turpentine, Varnish, Creosote

LATEX PAINT, MOTOR OIL, EXPLOSIVES AND HIGH PRESSURE CYLINDERS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED. Dry out latex paint and dispose of it in the garbage. Recycle used motor oil.

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

2015 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 \$757,489 on hand. Approximately \$250,000 of that cash balance was used to support the 2016 budget.

The road projects for 2015 were Blueberry Lane, Mulberry Circle, Plantation Court, Branwood Drive, Abby Lane, Rosemary Circle, small parts of 50th Street, 56th Street, and Auburn Avenue. This year we will have \$190,000 for road construction. We have a loan payment of \$125,000 for the next three years for the Townline Road rebuild.

Our main road project for this summer will be the milling and re-blacktopping of Lake Avenue from 42nd Street to 32nd Street. We are hoping to be able to redo the second half of the road next year.

Winter was pretty good for us this year. Large snowfalls were very limited. We plowed about 10,000 miles in 2015 and put 90 tons of salt on the main roads.

Both William Clendenning and Kathy Alft were re-elected for new two-year terms as one of your town board members.

If you have concerns, please feel free to contact our office at 715-424-1821 or myself at my home phone.

Arne Nystrom
Chairman
715-423-0653

LETTER FROM THE FIRE CHIEF'S DESK:

The Grand Rapids Fire Department had a very busy 2015. The department responded to 341 calls for service. The fire department responded to 53 calls in the Town of Grand Rapids, 15 calls in the Town of Grant, 24 calls in the Town of Saratoga and 19 Mutual Aid calls to neighboring communities.

The Grand Rapids First Responders were called out 230 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



GRAND RAPIDS FIREFIGHTERS' CELEBRATION SATURDAY JUNE 25, 2016

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 "Bootleg Hollar" playing from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and "Bourbon Cowboys" from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Children's fun rides, bingo, and raffle drawing.

Help to support your Fire Department and join in the fun. Hope to see

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 at or call the Municipal Building 715-424-1821 or the Fire Station 715-424-1815 for more information.

Grand Rapids Fire Department

LETTER FROM THE POLICE CHIEF'S DESK:

Personnel on the Grand Rapids Police Department remained relatively stable over the last year. One new part-time officer was added within the last year, 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 of the Town of Grand Rapids.

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 2015, the Grand Rapids Auxiliary Police worked a total of 19 events for 613.5 volunteer hours. These volunteer hours saved the town over \$12,000.00 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.

In addition, I want to remind everyone to make sure their dogs are properly licensed with the town. We receive numerous complaints throughout the year regarding dogs running at large. Make sure you keep your pets properly restrained to prevent them from wandering off. By doing so, it will insure a safer community for all residents and their pets.

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
Officer Seth Thome

Part-Time Officers:
Mike Bessette
Mike Wiberg
DeAun Adamczak
Cody Conover
Steve Spath
Don Voit
Robert Krummel

Administrative Assistants: Jewell Ninneman, Peggy Doughty

BICYCLE LICENSES/REGISTRATION: Town Ordinance #17 makes it unlawful for any person to operate a bicycle upon any street in Grand Rapids unless the bicycle is registered. There is a onetime registration fee of \$5.00 from the date of issuance providing the said bicycle remains with the registered owner. Please register your bicycles so we can more readily identify the owner if the bicycle does come up missing. The Town of Grand Rapids recovers numerous abandoned bicycles throughout the year. It makes it nearly impossible to identify the rightful owner when the bicycle is not registered as required by town ordinance. The GRPD will be increasing enforcement of this ordinance in 2016 in hopes of being able to return recovered bicycles to their rightful owner.



CHOOSE TO REUSE EVENTS OF 2016!!!!

Scheduled for 2016 will be two Choose to Reuse events. Mark your calendars for Saturday May 21st and September 17th to attend this event. The Choose to Reuse 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 Reuse 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, and 20” – 24” \$8.00, larger size negotiable.
- TVs and monitors - \$10.00 for 25” and below, \$25.00 for 27” and above.

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

We will be collecting old cell phones including outdated & broken models for the FAMILY CENTER fundraiser.

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

Contact Town of Grand Rapids Supervisors, Patty Lumby (715)423-2449 or Bill Clendenning at (715)423-2469 for more information, or if you would like to help with the event.

Clean Green Action Group earns DNR Recycling Excellence Award

Wisconsin Rapids area grassroots environmental group, Clean Green Action recently received a 2015 Recycling Excellence Award for Innovation from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for its Choose to Re-Use program. This award is given to an organization or community that demonstrates unique and innovative approaches to recycling.

“Choose to Re-Use has helped hundreds of residents dispose of unwanted items without land filling them, and other residents acquire useful items for free,” said Joe Ancel, Clean Green Action chairperson. “It’s a great example of municipalities and towns sharing an idea for the good of all residents. We’re proud that this program has continued to grow in popularity over the past five years and that the DNR recognizes what a unique, valuable program this is.”

Choose to Reuse invites residents to bring items in good working condition that they want to discard, but that perhaps someone else can use. The objective of Choose to Re-Use is simple - reduce the amount of solid waste in our landfills and help someone in the process. In central Wisconsin, residents bring items to a designated location on scheduled weekends. Municipalities of Rome, Saratoga, Grant, Seneca and Grand Rapids hold Choose to Re-Use events for their residents.

The Recycling Excellence Award program celebrates the recycling efforts, innovation and performance of Wisconsin communities of all sizes while highlighting the many ways local recycling programs serve their residents and manage their resources. This is the award program's third year.

“Recycling has long been a priority for Wisconsin communities and a shared value for Wisconsin’s citizens. These awards provide us with an opportunity to tell the stories and share the innovative and effective approaches local programs develop to meet the needs of their individual communities” said Ann Coakley, Waste and Materials Management program director.

In 2015, the DNR recognized 11 communities and organizations for their outstanding recycling efforts. More information on the awards program can be found by going to “[Recycling Excellence Awards](#)” on the Department’s website at dnr.wi.gov.

About Clean Green Action: Clean Green Action is a local grassroots environmental group based in south Wood County. Its mission is to create a sustainable community through education, recycling and conservation efforts. To learn more, go to <https://www.facebook.com/cleangreenwr/>.

Aluminum & Vinyl Storage Structures

- **Building/Land Use Permit required** (which involves attending a Plan Commission meeting for approval)
- Property owner is required to maintain the structure. If damaged, it must be removed or repaired with the same type/color material within 30 days.
- Only one aluminum or vinyl structure is allowed on a residentially-zoned parcel.
- Maximum size for aluminum or vinyl storage on a residentially-zoned parcel is 400 sq. ft.
- Placement must be a minimum of 9’ off side & rear lot line; and also 63’ from centerline of highway or 30’ from the right-of-way line, whichever is greater.

(Refer to Ordinance 52 for more zoning regulations, which can be viewed at our website www.townofgrandrapids.org.)