



# TOWN OF GRAND RAPIDS

WOOD COUNTY, WISCONSIN

## SPRING/SUMMER NEWSLETTER - 2017

2410 48<sup>th</sup> 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  
Treasurer Amy Cook  
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  
Jeremy Anderson  
Seth Thome  
Robert Krummel

Part-Time Officers Mike Wiberg  
Steve Spath  
Don Voit  
Cody Conover  
DeAun Adamczyk  
James Jaworski

### Town Board Meetings

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

### Plan Commission Meetings

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

### Fire Department Meetings

1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.townofgrandrapids.org)

## 2017 SPRING/SUMMER EVENTS TOWN OF GRAND RAPIDS

### MAY

20<sup>th</sup> - CHOOSE-TO-REUSE

### JUNE

3<sup>rd</sup> - KIWANIS YOUTH OUTDOORS DAY

3<sup>rd</sup> - KELLNER GARAGE SALES

10<sup>th</sup> - FIREFIGHTER'S CELEBRATION

### JULY

20<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> - STATE WATER SKI SHOW

### AUGUST

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> - CORVETTES OF THE NORTH  
CAR CRUISE & SHOW

12<sup>th</sup> - SHIRES OF FALCONS KEEP

### SEPTEMBER

9<sup>th</sup> - CHOOSE-TO-REUSE

### FROM THE TREASURER:

Remember to pay your **2<sup>nd</sup> installment of taxes** by **July 31, 2017!** 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.

### Property Tax & Town Budget

Information on the Town Budget, Distribution of Tax Dollars, and Tax Rate Information can be found on the Town's website at

<http://www.townofgrandrapids.org/community-info/property-taxes-town-budget/>.

# 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 80<sup>th</sup> St. S.), and by mail. The cost at the Municipal Building and at The Store will be \$52 and by mail \$53. If you wish to have a pass mailed to you, please submit the \$53, 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**



### **Building Permits**

Please remember to contact the Town at (715)424-1821, if unsure whether a building permit is required for a project.

Refer to our website [www.townofgrandrapids.org](http://www.townofgrandrapids.org) to review Town Ordinances; which include Building Codes, Zoning Regulations, and Fee Schedules.



### **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](http://www.townofgrandrapids.org).)

## **2017 Wood County Clean Sweep**

The annual Wood County Clean Sweep will take place on Saturday, September 30, 2017 at the Saratoga Town Hall. 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](mailto: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, TIRES, MOTOR OIL, AUTOMOTIVE BATTERIES, FLUORESCENT TUBES, ELECTRONICS, APPLIANCES, ANIT-FREEZE, 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**

2016 was a good year for the Town of Grand Rapids. We were able to stay under budget, ending the year with \$669,965.00 cash on hand. We strive to keep \$500,000 on hand at the start of every year to support operations until taxes and other state payments are received. Some of the cash on hand balance is projected to be used to support the 2017 budget.

Grand Rapids was recognized by SafeWise.com as being the 12<sup>th</sup> safest city in Wisconsin. We have ranked in the top twenty safest cities for the last four years.

Road projects for 2016 were the rebuild of ½ of Lake Avenue; and also short portions of Auburn Avenue, 47<sup>th</sup> St., and 31<sup>st</sup> St. S. This year's proposed project will be the remaining portion of Lake Avenue, from 23<sup>rd</sup> St. to 32<sup>nd</sup> St. As of this writing, the project still needs Board approval to continue.

We still have one payment left for the Townline Road project loan, due in 2018.

Being re-elected this spring, I will again be your Chairman. Re-elected for two year terms as Supervisors were Patty Lumby and Dan Paulsen.

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

Arne Nystrom  
Chairman  
715-423-0653  
715-213-9837

## LETTER FROM THE FIRE CHIEF'S DESK:

The Grand Rapids Fire Department had a very busy 2016. The department responded to 339 calls for service. The fire department responded to 44 calls in the Town of Grand Rapids, 12 calls in the Town of Grant, 25 calls in the Town of Saratoga and 15 Mutual Aid calls to neighboring communities.

The Grand Rapids First Responders were called out 244 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 10, 2017

3:00 p.m. - Midnight

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 & 36<sup>th</sup> St. S.) from 3:00 p.m. to midnight. **LAWN MOWER RACES WILL BE BACK AGAIN THIS YEAR!** (starting at 4:00 p.m.) Live music will also begin at 6:00 with "Raised Reckless", playing from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Children's fun rides and raffle drawing are also planned.

**Help to support your Fire Department and join in the fun. Hope to see you June 10, 2017.**

8425 WARREN DR

### HOME EMERGENCY LOCATION PROGRAM

9584 48<sup>TH</sup> 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.

## LETTER FROM THE POLICE CHIEF'S DESK:

# P O L I C E : D E C I S I O N S : D E P A R T M E N T

Personnel on the Grand Rapids Police Department had some changes over the last year. Full time Officer Arendt resigned to accept a deputy position with the Wood County Sheriff's Department. Part time Officer Mike Bessette retired and Part time Officer Frank Blader resigned because of his military commitments. Officer Seth Thome and Officer Robert Krummel joined our full time ranks. One new part-time officer was added in 2016; Officer James Jaworski. He filled the part-time position created when Officer Arendt resigned and we moved our part time officers over to full time positions. We look forward to serving and working with all residents of the Town of Grand Rapids in 2017.

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.

Why is it safer to walk on the same side of the road as oncoming traffic, while cyclists are advised to go with the flow of traffic? If traffic approaches you from behind while you are walking, you have only your ears to rely on to know it is coming. If it is coming from in front of you, you have both your eyes and your ears to help you know to move off to the side. If you are walking in the early morning or late afternoon, it is even more concerning if drivers have the low-lying sun in their eyes as they approach you. You need to be vigilant.

Avoid the dangers of distracted walking - keep your eyes ahead and looking for vehicles, not on your mobile phone. If you are walking at dawn, dusk, or after dark it is even more important to walk facing traffic and to wear reflective clothing.

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.

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 Jeremy Anderson  
Officer Seth Thome  
Officer Robert Krummel

Part-Time Officers:  
Mike Wiberg  
DeAun Adamczak  
Cody Conover  
Steve Spath  
Don Voit  
James Jaworski

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 2017 in hopes of being able to return recovered bicycles to their rightful owner.**

\*All town ordinances can be found on the Town of Grand Rapids website at: <http://www.townofgrandrapids.org>



## CHOOSE TO REUSE EVENTS OF 2017!!!!

Scheduled for 2017 will be two Choose to Reuse events. Mark your calendars for Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup> and September 9<sup>th</sup> 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; 16” - 19” \$4; 20” - 24” \$8; larger size negotiable.
- **Printers, Desktop Copiers, Scanners** - \$5; **Non-TV LCD computer monitors** - \$20
- **CRT/picture tube TVs & Monitors under 27”** - \$25; **CRT/picture tube TVs over 27”** - \$40
- **LCD TVs under 27”** - \$25; **LCD TVs 27” - 49”** \$40
- **Wood console TVs & Projection TVs over 49”** - \$55

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



### WILD PARSNIP

Wild parsnip is becoming a concern in our area because humans can develop a severe skin irritation from contact with sap from the plant. During late spring to mid-summer, wild parsnip is one of the most visible yellow-flowered weeds in roadside ditches, along railroad tracks, and on many residential properties.

#### **How to Avoid Wild Parsnip Burns:**

1. Become familiar with the wild parsnip plant and know it by sight.
2. Teach children to recognize wild parsnip.
3. Teach children of the potential danger of poisonous plants.
4. Discourage children from picking wild flowers.
5. When working around wild parsnip wear goggles, rubber gloves, rubber boots and coveralls. Thoroughly wash boots and gloves with soap, water and a scrub brush before taking off your protective clothing.

**Please check out Wood County's website for more information on wild parsnip in the coming months.**