



TOWN OF GRAND RAPIDS

WOOD COUNTY, WISCONSIN

FALL/WINTER 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
 Jeremy Anderson
 Seth Thome
 Robert Krummel

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

TAX PAYMENT DUE DATES

- ❖ First installment and/or payments in full are due on or before **January 31, 2017**
- ❖ All personal property taxes and special assessments are due by **January 31, 2017**
- ❖ All taxes of \$100 or less per parcel must be paid in full by **January 31, 2017**

All taxes paid after January 31, 2017, 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.

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.

Taxes must be receipted in 2016 to be deductible on 2016 income taxes. Our office will be closed on Friday, December 23; Monday, December 26; and Monday, January 2, 2017. Mailed payments that are postmarked on or before December 31, 2016 will be receipted in 2016.

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

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

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, 2017 ARE NOT COLLECTED BY THE TOWN TREASURER AND ARE PAYABLE TO THE WOOD COUNTY TREASURER

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:

- 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:

Desktop Computers	Printers	Televisions	Cellular Phones (no batteries)
Computer Monitors	Fax machines	DVD players	Gaming and Stereo Systems
Laptops/Tablets/E-readers	VCR's & DVR's	Copiers	Mouse Devices & 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>

Watch our website for the dates of our 2017 Choose-To-Reuse days next year.

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.

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.)



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*

Christmas Tree Pickup

The Town will provide pickup of Christmas trees during the second and third full weeks of January (January 8-21, 2017). Remove bags from trees. Trees with bags, wreaths, lights and garland will not be picked up. Trees should be on top of the snow bank at the edge of the road.

Trees may also be dropped off at the Town Garage, 2811 Two Mile Avenue, or at the Municipal Building, 2410 48th Street South, in the designated drop off areas. All bags, wreaths, lights and garland must be removed from these trees also.

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 snowfall dictate that the banks be rolled back.

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



REMINDERS FROM YOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT

PILING OR PUSHING SNOW ONTO OR ACROSS ROADWAYS

It is illegal for any person or business to allow the piling or pushing of snow or other materials from their private drives or parking areas **onto or across any public roadway, thoroughfare or bridge.** This is prohibited by WI State Stat. §346.94 (5) as well as the Town’s Ordinance No. 4 and carries a fine of \$10-\$100 per incident. Besides being illegal, it can also create a hazard for vehicles traveling the roadways or cause damage to vehicles and snowplowing equipment. This includes snow blowing, especially at the end of driveways. Be aware of oncoming traffic to avoid creating a hazard.

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

2017 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.

BICYCLE LICENSES/REGISTRATION: Town Ordinance #17 makes it unlawful for any person to operate a bicycle upon any street in the Town of 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 Grand Rapids Police Department 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>.

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 neighbors’ 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.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DROP BOX: Reminder, the Town of Grand Rapids prescription drop box is available during normal business hours for residents of the town to dispose of unwanted, unneeded, or expired medications. Please use the drop box to properly dispose of these items so they don’t end up polluting the environment or in the wrong hands out on the street. An informational sign is posted by the drop box indicating what items are acceptable and items that are not.



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”.