



TOWN OF GRAND RAPIDS

WOOD COUNTY, WISCONSIN

SPRING/SUMMER NEWSLETTER - 2018

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

Town Board

Chairman Arne Nystrom
Supervisors Bill Clendenning
 Patty Lumby
 Dan Paulsen
 Andrew Simon

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
 Seth Thome
 Cody Conover
 James Jaworski

Part-Time Officers Mike Wiberg
 DeAun Adamczyk
 Andrew Merkes

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

2018 SPRING/SUMMER EVENTS

TOWN OF GRAND RAPIDS

MAY

19th - **Choose-To-Reuse**

JUNE

2nd - **Kiwanis Youth Outdoors Day (Red Sands Beach)**

2nd - **Kellner Garage Sales**

8th & 9th - **Grand Rapids Garage Sales**

9th - **Firefighters' Celebration**

JULY

19th - 22nd - **State Water Ski Show**

AUGUST

4th - **Corvettes of the North Car Cruise**

SEPTEMBER

15th - **Choose-To-Reuse**

29th - **Wood County's CLEAN SWEEP (Marshfield Fairgrounds)**

FROM THE TREASURER:

Remember to pay your **2nd installment of taxes** by **July 31, 2018!** 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 received at the Grand Rapids Municipal Building.

GRAND RAPIDS GARAGE SALES

All Grand Rapids residents are invited to join in on what will hopefully be an Annual Community-Wide Garage Sale Event. The weekend chosen is the same as the Volunteer Firefighter's picnic. Dates are Friday, 6/8, and Saturday, 6/9. For more information, email Annette Yach at yachers4@yahoo.com or call/text 715-459-2630. Even better yet, check out

<https://www.facebook.com/GRCommunitySales/>.

THIS EVENT IS **NOT** BEING PUT ON BY THE TOWN - IT HAS BEEN ORGANIZED BY A GROUP OF PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS.

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 \$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.



Pedestrian Safety Reminder

With spring finally here, this is a great time to teach children the rules of the road while out walking, riding bikes, etc.

SHOES on the LEFT (walkers, runners)

WHEELS on the RIGHT (bikers, roller bladers, roller skis)

UPCOMING 2018 ELECTIONS:

8/14/2018 Partisan Primary

11/6/2018 General Election

REMINDER: ALL voters coming to the polls are 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**. This is Wisconsin law!!

The WI DOT provides free state ID cards for voting. Visit their website <http://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/dmv/license-drvs/how-to-apply/id-card.aspx> for more information.



REMINDERS FROM OUR ZONING DEPARTMENT

Tis the season...What? Wait? No, no, not for snow, but to get out the tools and measuring tapes and take on that project you have been thinking about the last few months...Here are a few guidelines to help start you out... Please keep in mind any accessory structure needs to be at least 9 feet off the side and rear lot line and in most cases 63 feet from the center of the road. The only structure allowed closer would be a fence.

Building Setbacks -

Minimum rear yard setback: Principal dwelling building..... 25ft. Accessory buildings..... 9ft.

Minimum side yard setback: Principal dwelling building..... 9ft. Accessory buildings..... 9ft.

Maximum lot coverage: Principal dwelling building..... 30% of the lot size
Accessory buildings..... 5% of the lot size (Up to 2 accessory buildings allowed per lot under 5 acres, may equal the 5% of the lot size)

Maximum building height: Principal dwelling building..... 35 ft. Accessory building..... 18 ft.

52.3(F) Setback

No building or structure shall be placed, in any Residential District, within the following setback areas:

Class A (state or federal) highway setback shall be 110 feet from the centerline of the highway or 50 feet from the right-of-way line, whichever is greater.

Class B (county) highway setback shall be 63 feet from the centerline of the highway or 30 feet from the right-of-way line, whichever is greater.

Class C (town) highway setback shall be 63 feet from the centerline of the highway or 30 feet from the right-of-way line, whichever is greater.

52.3(J)(4) Fences

Location: Except in the Agricultural District, no fence or wall shall be erected along property lot lines with any portion closer than 12 inches to the lot line, except that a fence or wall may be erected on the property line by mutual agreement, in writing, of the adjoining property owners.

Fences or walls located within the setback area of any lot or side yard fronting any street shall not exceed 2 ½ feet in height, except that "Open" fences such as chain link or split-rail may be erected within setback areas if they do not interfere with the vision triangle as specified the Zoning Ordinance. No fence may be erected within road right-of-way without Town Board approval.

8.11 Chickens

The keeping of Chickens in Grand Rapids is now allowed. This is a new addition to Ordinance #8 – Grand Rapids Animal Code. A permit is required and all information is available online or at the Municipal Building.

One of the most asked questions we receive is “Do I need a permit for this?” Most likely the answer is - yes. Please feel free to contact the Town at 715.424.1821 or refer to the Grand Rapids website at: www.townofgrandrapids.org. - Government Tab – Ordinance Tab, for any questions.

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

2017 was a good year for the Town of Grand Rapids. We were able to stay under budget, ending the year with \$656,947 fund balance. 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 2018 budget.

Grand Rapids was recognized by SafeWise.com as being the 7th safest city in Wisconsin. Our ranking moved up from the 12th safest in 2016. We have ranked in the top twenty safest cities for the last five years.

New home construction is booming in our town. Last year 23 new homes were started. It looks like 2018 will be another great year as our Zoning office is seeing many new home permits and inquiries.

Road project for 2017 was the rebuild of Lake Avenue, from 20th St. to 32nd St. This year's proposed project will be 36th St., south of Hwy 54. This project was awarded a TRI State grant of \$19,000. We also plan on rebuilding Whitrock Ave., from Sampson St. to city limits and Golf Course Rd. The final payment for the rebuild of Townline Rd. will be paid this year.

Congratulations to Bill Clendenning and Andrew Simon on being elected for two-year terms as Supervisors.

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 or 715-213-9837

LETTER FROM THE FIRE CHIEF'S DESK:

The Grand Rapids Fire Department had a very busy 2017. The department responded to 316 calls for service. The fire department responded to 40 calls in the Town of Grand Rapids, 11 calls in the Town of Grant, 10 calls in the Town of Saratoga and 13 Mutual Aid calls to neighboring communities.

The Grand Rapids First Responders were called out 242 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 Medical Response.

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 9, 2018

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 & 36th 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 "Cherry Pie", 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 9, 2018.



FIREFIGHTERS NEEDED

THE TOWN OF GRAND RAPIDS IS SEEKING
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS FOR OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Town of Grand Rapids Fire Department is a combination department servicing the Town of Grand Rapids, Town of Grant and a portion of the Town of Saratoga. We are a group of professional volunteers, working together to save lives and property. We provide fire suppression, Emergency Medical Services (Medical First Responders), fire safety education, and fire inspection services. We respond from one fire station, protecting approximately 12,000 citizens in an area covering 100 square miles.

- IN-HOUSE TRAINING
- NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY
- TRAINING AND MENTORING PROVIDED
- PAID ON CALL
- NO ON CALL COMMITMENT
- LOSAP RETIREMENT BENEFITS
- PROMOTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
- SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES
- NON-STRUCTURAL FIRE POSITIONS
- PUBLIC EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

A GREAT WAY TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY

Stop in or contact Chief Don Bohn at (715) 424-1815

AGE REQUIREMENT: 18 / EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Grand Rapids Fire Department

LETTER FROM THE POLICE CHIEF'S DESK:

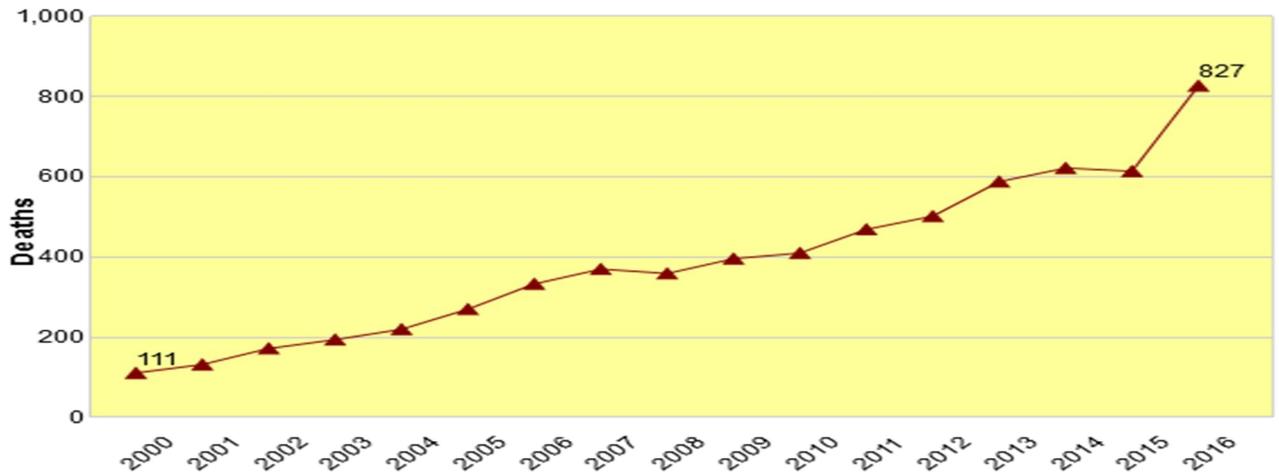
Portage
Police
Department
Announces

The Grand Rapids Police Department had significant personnel changes over the last year. Full time Officer Robert Krummel resigned to accept a deputy position with the Portage County Sheriff's Office and Officer Jeremy Anderson resigned to accept a position with the Plover Police Department. Part time Officers Steve Spath and Don Voit resigned to accept management positions at their full time employment. Officer Cody Conover and Officer James Jaworski joined our full time ranks. One new part-time officer was added in 2018, Officer Andrew Merkes. He filled one of the part-time positions created when 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 2018.

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.

The opioid crisis continues to be a major problem in our community. For those of you who think the opioid crisis only affects major metropolitan areas, THINK AGAIN!!!! According to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, there were 287 Opioid Related Hospital Encounters in Wood County in 2016. Opioid overdose deaths in Wisconsin have been increasing. There were over seven times as many deaths in 2016 as in 2000. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the Midwest Region witnessed opioid overdoses increase 70% from July 2016 through September 2017.

Wisconsin Opioid Overdose Deaths
2000-2016



Wisconsin D.O.T. "Right of Way" Violation Suspensions for Offenses Committed on or after December 2, 2017

Any person who is convicted of a Failure to Yield violation or certain other Right-of-Way violations is required to successfully complete a Right-of-Way course. The expanded list of offenses triggering suspensions and mandatory course attendance effective December 2, 2017 is:

- 346.05(1) Operating left of center
- 346.06 Failure to yield one-half of single lane road
- 346.07(2) Unsafe cutting in while passing
- 346.07(3) Failure to yield to passing vehicle
- 346.09 Passing into oncoming traffic/on hill or curve/in no-passing zone/vehicle indicating left or U-turn
- 346.18 Failure to yield right of way violation
- 346.23 Failure to yield to pedestrian or bicyclist
- 346.31 Improper turns/failure to follow indicated turn
- 346.37(1)(a)1 Failure to yield right of way – green light/intersection/U-turn
- 346.37(1)(c)2 Failure to yield right of way – red light
- 346.37(1)(d)1 Failure to yield right of way – green arrow

- 346.39(1) Failure to stop for flashing red signal
- 346.46(1) Failure to stop/improper stop at stop sign
- 346.46(4)(a) Failure to stop/improper stop at stop sign (mid-block)
- 346.47(1) Failure to stop or yield emerging from alley or private drive
- 346.47(2) Failure to stop for intersecting alley
- 346.87 Unsafe backing of vehicle

For convictions resulting from violations on or after Dec. 2, 2017:

- When the violation results in no harm or bodily harm, Right-of-Way course must be completed within 6 months or your operating privilege will be suspended up to 5 years. May reinstate after successful course completion.
- When the violation results in great bodily harm, mandatory suspension will be for 3 months. May not reinstate until course is successfully completed.
- When the violation results in death to another person, mandatory suspension will be for 9 months. May not reinstate until course is successfully completed.

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 debris. 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.



CHOOSE TO REUSE EVENTS OF 2018!!!!



Scheduled for 2018 will be two Choose to Reuse events. Mark your calendars for Saturday May 19th and September 15th 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, tools, electric motors, vacuum cleaners & etc. Items need not be in working order.

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 27-40” - \$40
- **LCD TVs:** under 27” \$25; 27-49” \$40; over 49” \$55
- **Wood console TVs & Projection TVs:** \$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. Wood County's **CLEAN SWEEP** event will be held 9/29/18 at the Marshfield Fairgrounds.

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.