

NEWSLETTER



FALL/WINTER 2009



From the Supervisor...

FROM THE SEWER ADMINISTRATOR

The Grattan Township Sewer Systems are going through an important phase at the present time. Our new operations and management company are now in their seventh month of service to the township.

It was a challenge getting used to a new company and their methods of operation. Infrastructure Alternatives has proven to be a highly professional company that really does have the welfare of the township in mind and are doing their best to reduce maintenance costs and still maintain the system in a professional manner.

They have done a complete detailed evaluation of the Grattan Township Sewer Systems, identified repairs and replacements that are needed, a time frame when they should be done and the approximate cost. This information will be invaluable for budgeting purposes in the coming fiscal year and years to come.

The irrigation upgrade preparations are in full swing and by the end of the year we will have selected an engineering firm to complete the project. The project is due for completion by April of 2011.

Both lagoon treatment sites are approaching their year end of irrigation and the ponds are showing the lowest levels that I have ever seen. This will be advantageous for the winter storage of wastewater.

Following are some of the important factors to keep in mind as a user of the sewer system and as a resident of Grattan Township.

1. **FLUSHING 101.** The Sewer System is designed for bodywaste, toilet paper and water **ONLY!** **DO NOT FLUSH** grease, oils, chemicals, sanitary products, disposable diapers or any items that can cause a blockage in the pipes or pump stations. Grease/oils are not to be poured down sinks or put in garbage disposals as well.

Placing such items in the sewer system can

not only cause damage to the system, but it is also costly to remove a blockage from pump stations and pipes. When the system repairs costs go up, the sewer customers are the ones who pay for the repairs. Please remain aware of all materials that go through the sewer system.

The number one cause of pump failure is material caught up in the pumps that does not belong in the sanitary sewer. The cost of repairing/replacing sewer pumps can cost up to \$5,000 each. Most stations have two pumps and the system has 53 pump stations.

2. If possible always drain your water softener somewhere other than the sanitary sewer. Salt does not break down and it ends up back in your drinking wells.

3. All of the sewer properties are off limits to any activity by residents or non-residents. **Trespassing for any reason is not allowed.** Hunters and hikers should pay special attention to this. The township maintains liability insurance on all these properties and anyone that may get hurt will cost the sewer customers more money. The Sheriff's Department will enforce all trespassing laws of the township.

The Grattan Sewer System belongs to the people that are using and paying for it. Please treat it as the valuable asset that it is.

Sewer Assessment Bill Several sewer customers have requested information about the remaining balance on their 2003 sewer assessment. If you would like the information about the remaining balance or a payoff amount for your assessment bill, please call the Sewer Billing Clerk at (616) 691-8450.

Planning to leave for the Winter? The Post Office **WILL NOT FORWARD** the post card sewer bills sent by the township. In order to receive your bills, please provide the Township with your winter address. Contact Diane Timmons, the Sewer Clerk, at 691-8450 ext. 13



2010 Census Cautions

Be Cautious About Giving Info to Census Workers!

With the U. S. Census process beginning, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) advises people to be cooperative, but cautious, so as not to become a victim of fraud or identity theft. The first phase of the 2010 U. S. Census is underway as workers have begun verifying the addresses of households across the country. Eventually, more than 140,000 U.S. Census workers will count every person in the United States and will gather information about every person living at each address including name, age, gender, race, and other relevant data. The big question is-how do you tell the difference between a U.S. Census worker and a con artist? BBB offers the following advice:

**** If a U. S. Census worker** knocks on your door, they will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag, and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. However, you should never invite anyone you don't know into your home.

**** Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information. Do NOT give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone,** even if they claim they need it for the U. S. Census. While the Census Bureau might ask for basic financial information, such as a salary range, it **will not** ask for Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers nor will employees solicit donations.

Eventually, Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail, or in person at home. However, they will not contact you by Email, so be on the lookout for Email scams impersonating the Census.

Never click on a link or open any attachments in an Email that are supposedly from the U. S. Census Bureau.

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP

From the Treasurer...

Dates to Remember

December 1, 2009—2009 Winter tax bills mailed

December 30, 2009—Township Office will be open to collect taxes only 9:00am – 5:00pm

February 16, 2009—Winter taxes due

March 1, 2010—Last day to pay 2009 Summer and Winter taxes at the Township. Township will be open 9:00am—5:00pm

March 2, 2010—Taxes sent to Kent County as delinquent. Contact County at (616) 632-7500 after March 11, 2010

January 2010—March 1, 2010—Purchase dog licenses at the Township

Kent County dog license renewal cards will not be mailed until January. County is sorry for the inconvenience. If you have any questions, you may contact the Kent County Animal Shelter at (616) 632-7300.

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday!

• Sabrina Freeman

From the Desk of the Fire Chief...

I would like to thank the community of Grattan Twp. for the continued support in passing of the millage, its an honor and a privilege to work for a community such as ours. You can count on the continued high standard of service now and in the years to come.

The cold season is upon us once again, Please have your furnace serviced to avoid problems with break downs. We have fire alarms at the station free of charge for those in need.

For Free Fire Alarms Please Call:

691-8523 485-5925
788-7029 691-8450

Christmas is just around the corner and Toys for Tots is in full swing, please be generous and donate. You can drop off New Unwrapped Toys at the Township Office or the Fire Station.

The Grattan Fire Department is sponsoring a Basic E.M.T. Class and Officer Fire Training Class this fall, winter and spring, in which we are now a Certified Training Center for the State of Michigan.

If you do not have a C.O. detector in your home please get one, it may save a life, it may be your own.

• Lou Kirkbride

Family Friends & Neighbors

A Visit With Santa! On Saturday, December 12th from 1:00 to 3:00pm, Family, Friends & Neighbors and the Grattan Township Fire Department will host a Visit with Santa at the Fire Station. Bring in a new, unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots and the kids can visit with Santa and tour the Fire Station. Refreshments will be served.

Veteran's Memorial If you have driven by Grattan Center Cemetery lately you will see the progress that is being made to the Veteran's Memorial. The retaining wall was recently completed and the brick walkway is scheduled to be completed by Memorial Day 2010. Money is still needed

to purchase the flagpoles and monument. To make a donation, mail checks payable to Veteran's Memorial Fund to: Veteran's Memorial Fund, Grattan Township, 12050 Old Belding Rd. NE, Belding MI. 48809. We would like to extend our appreciation to everyone who has donated money, materials, time and talents to the project so far. THANK YOU!

Grattan Historical Society

Annual Potluck Supper Please join us for an evening of food, friends and memories on Tuesday, December 1st at 6:00pm at the Township Hall. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

Museum Winter Hours The museum is open by appointment only from November 1, 2009 to May 1, 2012. To make an appointment contact Dianna at 616-691-6505.

Raise the Roof The museum roof is 23 years old and needs to be replaced. Our Building Fund is about \$2200.00 short of this goal. If you would like to donate to this project, please make your check payable to: Grattan Township Historical Society Building Fund and mail to: Grattan Township Historical Society, 12050 Old Belding Rd. NE, Belding, MI 48809.



Grattan Township Business Hours
Mon—Thurs 9:00 to 4:00
Phone: 691-8450 ♦ Fax: 691-8804

Township Board

Supervisor	Frank Force
Clerk	Jim Fues
Treasurer	Sabrina Freeman
Trustee	Dennis Heffron
Trustee	Paul Knoerl

Township Holiday Closing Dates

November 25th Closing at Noon
November 26th Closed
December 24 to January 3 2010 Closed for Christmas Break.
Office will reopen on January 4, 2010

Elections

Next Election
May 4, 2010 (School)
Register to Vote Deadline
April 5, 2010

TOYS FOR TOTS!

Family Friends & Neighbors, with the assistance of the Grattan Fire Department, Grattan Academy & local businesses will be collecting New Unwrapped Toys for Children 1 thru 5 years of age.

Toys may be dropped off through December 15th at one of the following Locations:

- Grattan Township Hall
- Grattan Academy
- Grattan Fire Station
- Grattan General Store

Grattan Township Meeting Schedule
Location: Township Hall Time: 7:00pm
The public is always welcome!

Township Board	2nd Mon. each month
Planning Commission	1st Wed. each month
ZBA	3rd Wed. each month
Safety Board	4th Thu. each month
Fire Admin. & Safety Comm.	4th Wed. each month

SEWER EMERGENCY

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP EMERGENCY SERVICE
PHONE: 691-7784

ON CALL PAGER: 444-0031

For info about Grattan Township
Please check the Grattan Township Website!

www.grattantownship.org
or
Watch Cable Channel 25

If you have a non-profit event you would like advertised, please email grattanweb@comcast.net