



NEWSLETTER

JULY 2010



From the Supervisor.....

Recently folks around Big Crooked Lake have heard that treated biosolids (human waste) will be injected into farmland west of their lake. As unsavory as this may sound it is a perfectly safe practice that has been going on for many years. This sludge has been broken down over the years and bears little resemblance to its original form.

Biosolids or sludge from wastewater treatment sites has been treated over time and has been tested repeatedly for harmful components. The MDNRE and the Federal Environmental Protection Agency permits this activity and it is considered completely safe. This material is agronomically beneficial and is applied at a measured rate to eliminate runoff or offensive odor.

Grattan Township will be taking advantage of this practice in the near future when the sludge is removed from the treatment ponds located east of Big Crooked Lake. The alternative is to transport this sludge to a site out of state and double or triple the already excessive cost of sludge disposal. The cost to remove our sludge and to dispose of it locally is well in excess of \$200,000 per pond. The additional cost to transport it out of state would approach half a million dollars.

To get further information in this regard please contact William Goetsch at Synagro. His number is 616-299-3368. To contact the permitting agency please call the local MDNRE office at 616-356-0500. I can provide the test results from the sludge currently being injected or the chemical breakdown of the sludge in the Grattan/Vergennes ponds that is scheduled to be cleaned late 2010 or early 2011.

I will also have the letter from the com-

pany injecting the sludge in Grattan Township posted on the sewer page of our web site for review by interested parties.

Grattan Township receives many complaints regarding domestic dogs that are running loose and creating a hazard to the neighbors and their children. Dog attacks on children and adults is all too common in Michigan. Many of us have heard the horror stories of mutilation caused by aggressive dogs.

Grattan Township does not have a dog leash law but Kent County does and they will not hesitate to pick a dog up that is not properly leashed and under control of its owner. If a dog bites anyone the owner will be directly responsible for the actions of their pet. Please keep your dogs under control when at home and leashed when away from home.

Grattan Township does not have a noise ordinance but barking dogs that are disturbing the peace can be reported to the Sheriff's department and the proper action will be taken. Even people living in the country have a reasonable expectation of peace and quiet. Please do not allow your pets to take this away from them.

From the Clerk's side....

Upcoming Elections

The purpose of the primary election on **August 3, 2010** is for partisan election for candidates that will run in the general election on **November 2, 2010**. If you would like to request an application to vote absentee, please contact the clerks office. We will be using an electronic poll book with the elections. The voter list will be contained in a laptop computer. The election worker will swipe your driver's license or look up your name and input your ballot number. Then you will vote your ballot as you have in the past. The process is the same as it

always has been. The use of technology will make the operation of an election easier and less costly. As normal, primary and general elections, the August and November cannot be combined precincts. Therefore, Precinct 1 will vote at the Township Hall and Precinct 2 will vote at the Fire Station.

REMEMBER: In the primary election on August 3, 2010 You cannot vote for multiple political parties.

If you plan on voting in the upcoming elections please remember to register. Last day to register for the August 3, 2010 election is July 6, 2010 and for the November 2, 2010 election is October 4, 2010.

Grattan Clean Up Day As in the past couple of years, our clean up day will be limited to one Saturday morning. We are tentatively scheduled for Saturday, July 17, 2010 - 8:00am to Noon.

The event will be managed and operated by the same company that has been running our clean up days for the past several years.

ITEMS CHARGED FOR

Batteries @ \$1.00 each

Units w/o Freon(washer, dryers, stoves, etc) \$3.00 each

Units w/Freon (refrigerators, freezers, air-conditioners, etc.) \$15.00 each

NO LIQUIDS (PAINT, OIL, ETC)
NO BRUSH, CEMENT or LOOSE TRASH
NO SHOVEL OFFS

TIRES MUST BE CUT INTO 4 PIECES
PROPANE /OIL TANKS CUT IN HALF
FENCING MUST BE FOLDED

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP

From the Chief's desk....

Summer is here so let's be safe and have a great summer.

A Word of Thanks to the following lake association's for their generous support on a much needed *mobile pump*. This pump is mounted to the front of one of our 4x4's and can drive up to any type of water source and deliver 700 gallons per minute. This equipment is a great asset for the Grattan Fire Department and the community. The Grattan Fire Department sincerely **THANKS Big Pine Island, Murray Lake, Cowan Lake, and Big Crooked Lake**, their association boards and members for their interest in keeping our community a safe place to work and live.

ITS COMING SOON! F.E.M.A. awarded a grant to Grattan Fire Department for a Mobile Air Trailer for filling S.C.B.A.'s. After a lengthy quoting process, Douglas Safety Equipment was chosen to assemble the trailer. We expect the trailer to be delivered mid to late July. This grant was a total of \$56,600.00, which will add a much needed piece of equipment.

AUNT MILLIES BAKERY donated a truck to Grattan Fire Dept. Thanks to Ken Brandes for his hard work in acquiring this much needed vehicle, which will be used as a command vehicle and utility truck.

Fire Alarms are available at the Fire De-

partment. Call 485-5925 or the Township Office at 691 8450.

Lou Kirkbride, Fire Chief

Sewer Advisory Committee Reports..

On April 27, 2010 there was a tour of the Grattan & Grattan/Vergennes lagoon sites and various pump stations around Big Pine Island, Murray Lake and Big Crooked Lake. The tour was opened to the public and attended by a few residents as well as members of the Sewer Advisory Committee. This informative tour started at the Grattan Lagoon Site, serving BPI Lake. John Rydbeck of Infrastructure Alternatives explained the basic function of the lagoon systems and answered questions on the operation....Our next stop was one of the worst pump stations on BPI, #4 on Abbott St. We learned the reason that it is so important to replace the control panel is to retain the integrity of the system, minimize emergency call outs, which also reduces operating costs....The Murray Lake lift station #8 was our next stop. It was explained that this station is very old and that a major component had been replaced and that it is also set for a redo on the inside. Next we visited the main station on Big Crooked Lake, #1 on Abrahams Drive. Mr. Rydbeck said that since this station was retro fitted with a brand new panel, the unit is running more efficiently. The tour ended at the G/V lagoon site. The site

has approx. 16 acres of lagoon ponds and 17 acres of irrigation area. This area needs to be redone per a MDNRE requirement. We toured the maintenance building that housed storage of spare pumps and generators, one of which needs replacing. John was very knowledgeable in answering questions about the sludge in the ponds as well as the complete operation of all aspects of the sewer system. All who attended gained better understanding of the system and what needs to be done to maintain it.

Alan Rumbaugh, SAC

Family, Friends & Neighbors....

Would like to thank everyone who has donated to the Veterans Memorial Project. Things are finally starting to come together but we still have a ways to go. Over the next few months the flag poles will go in, the pavers will go down and there is an Eagle Scout Project in the process for the landscaping. Your continued support is very much appreciated.

4th Annual FFN Rummage & Bake Sale Will be held July 22, 23, & 24 at Grattan Township Hall. Items needed for our sale include gently used clothes (all sizes) infant & toddler clothing, also toys, books, sports equipment, CD's DVD's & small household items. Drop off at the township or call Dianna at 616-826-1872 for pick-up arrangements.

<p align="center">GRATTAN TOWNSHIP 12050 Old Belding Rd. Belding, MI 48809</p> <p align="center">Business Hours Mon—Thurs 9:00 to 4:00 Phone: 691-8450 ♦ Fax: 691-8804</p> <p align="center">Township Board</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Supervisor</td><td>Frank Force</td></tr> <tr><td>Clerk</td><td>Jim Fues</td></tr> <tr><td>Treasurer</td><td>Sabrina Freeman</td></tr> <tr><td>Trustee</td><td>Dennis Heffron</td></tr> <tr><td>Trustee</td><td>Paul Knoerl</td></tr> </table>	Supervisor	Frank Force	Clerk	Jim Fues	Treasurer	Sabrina Freeman	Trustee	Dennis Heffron	Trustee	Paul Knoerl	<p>FLU SHOTS This year will be given at Grattan Township Hall on October 23rd from 9:00 to 11:30 am. The regular flu vaccine & swine flu vaccine will be combined into one shot.</p> <p>Grattan Township Parks & Recreation The Grattan Township Parks and Recreation committee are selling Bluebird houses for \$15.00 and Oriole feeders for \$6.00. Money earned will be used to start development on Seeley Creek Park. To purchase a bird house or feeder please contact Dianna at 616-826-1872. To make a donation to the Parks and Recreation fund please make checks payable to Grattan Township Parks and Recreation and drop off or mail to the Grattan Township Treasurer, 12050 Old Belding Road N.E., Belding, MI 48809</p> <p>The GT Historical Society Would like to thank everyone who donated to our Raise the Roof campaign. Our new roof is on and looks great. The museum is open on Sunday's 2:00 to 4:00pm. Please stop by and take a look at the new exhibits.</p> <p>Historical Society hosting.. ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL Tuesday August 17 - 6- 8:00pm. Enjoy ice cream with all the toppings & home baked goods. It is open to the public and held at the Grattan Roadside Park on M-44 between Wabasis and Nugent. There is a suggested donation \$1.50 per person. Proceeds to benefit the upkeep of the park.</p>																	
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<p align="center">HOLIDAY CLOSINGS</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Jan. 19</td><td>Martin Luther King Day</td></tr> <tr><td>Feb. 15</td><td>President's Day</td></tr> <tr><td>May 31</td><td>Memorial Day Observed</td></tr> <tr><td>Sep. 6</td><td>Labor Day</td></tr> <tr><td>Nov. 11</td><td>Veteran's Day</td></tr> <tr><td>Nov. 24</td><td>Closing at Noon</td></tr> <tr><td>Nov. 25</td><td>Thanksgiving Day</td></tr> <tr><td>Dec. 24 to Jan. 2</td><td>Christmas Break</td></tr> </table>	Jan. 19	Martin Luther King Day	Feb. 15	President's Day	May 31	Memorial Day Observed	Sep. 6	Labor Day	Nov. 11	Veteran's Day	Nov. 24	Closing at Noon	Nov. 25	Thanksgiving Day	Dec. 24 to Jan. 2	Christmas Break	<p align="center">Grattan Township Meeting Schedule Location: Township Hall Time: 7:00pm The public is always welcome!</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Township Board</td><td>2nd Mon. each month</td></tr> <tr><td>Planning Commission</td><td>1st Wed. monthly as needed</td></tr> <tr><td>ZBA</td><td>3rd Wed. monthly as needed</td></tr> <tr><td>Safety Board</td><td>4th Thu. monthly as needed</td></tr> <tr><td>Fire Admin. & Safety Comm.</td><td>4th Wed. monthly as needed</td></tr> </table>	Township Board	2nd Mon. each month	Planning Commission	1st Wed. monthly as needed	ZBA	3rd Wed. monthly as needed	Safety Board	4th Thu. monthly as needed	Fire Admin. & Safety Comm.	4th Wed. monthly as needed	<p align="center">TAX & ASSESSING INFO Free for Grattan Residents NOW AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE www.grattantownship.org Go to Assessing & Tax Lookup For Sewer Special Assessments CALL THE TOWNSHIP 691-8450</p>
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