



NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2014

12050 Old Belding Road Belding, MI 48809 616-691-8450
Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00a.m.—4:00p.m.

TOWNSHIP BOARD

Supervisor: Frank Force
Clerk: Kessie Brummel
Treasurer: Sabrina Freeman
Trustee: Dennis Heffron
Trustee: Paul Knoerl

FROM THE SUPERVISOR: My apology for a couple of errors made in the July 2013 Newsletter. "From the Supervisor"

Errors/Corrections

The errors occurred In the third paragraph beginning with "An inch of water"...

An inch of water may represent a million gallons in some cases but it all depends on the dimensions of the area it occupies, so this statement is inaccurate.

A second error occurred when I stated that removal of 24 inches of sludge will provide room for about another 24 million gallons of water. This is another comparison that is not valid without knowing the dimensions of the area the sludge occupies.

The Township Board is in the process of composing the budget for the next fiscal year beginning April 1, of 2014. Meetings are held twice a month. The second monthly meeting is held at 10:00a.m. and is normally dedicated to work on the new budget. Everyone is welcome to attend any of the township board meetings. The dates and times of these meetings are posted on the front door and appear on the website. The final budget approval will occur on the second meeting in March of this year.

In the spring of 2014 there will be an upgrade to the irrigation at the Grattan Vergennes sewer treatment site. We now have center pivots in use that are doing a fine job but lack the capability to discharge the proper amount of water in bad weather conditions or in excessively wet years.

There will be (5) solid set sprinklers installed west and east of the northern center pivot. This will nearly double our discharge capability and are not as susceptible to weather conditions.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO FLUSH ONLY NATURALLY OCCURRING THINGS AND REDUCE YOUR USE OF WATER DURING POWER OUTAGES

**Frank Force
Supervisor**

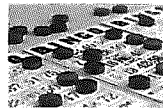
FROM THE CLERKS OFFICE:

Well it's been a full year since I started work-

ing as Clerk for Grattan Township. I have learned so much! I have been to various training classes, and everyone at work has been wonderful in helping me understand the different facets of running the township. I have more training to do and am very much enjoying my job.

A few things to remember-

Seniors, please join us every Monday and Wednesday when Senior Meals come to the Township Hall. Our seniors enjoy a full course delicious nutritional meal at a cost of only \$2.50



We have **BINGO** every second Wednesday of the month at 12:30 p.m. after lunch. Guess who calls the numbers? Yep it's me. We really have a good time.

Every fourth Wednesday is **GAME DAY** for the seniors. This is very new. We just hang out after lunch and play cards.

Clean Up Day is Saturday, May 17, 2014 from 7:30 to 4:00. Plummer's will be working again this year. They did a great job last year. We will be having Comprenew there with a trailer also. Comprenew recycles your old electronics. I hope that helps a lot of people get excited about some spring cleaning.



Elections will be in August 5 for the primary and November 4 for the General election for 2014.

**Kessie Brummel
Clerk**

FROM TRUSTEES OFFICE:

Besides being a Grattan Township Trustee, I serve on the Planning Commission as the Board Representative. It has been somewhat of a quiet year. We have finished doing the five year review of the Master Plan. The Master Plan guides us on how our township

will look in the future.

One thing I want to point out is part of Grattan Township's Master Plan is farmland and farmland preservation. One thing that people may not realize that once a farm has been preserved it is considered fully developed.

Currently, Grattan Township has seven farms that fall into that category that are fully developed. We are hoping to preserve two more farms here in our Township this year. Currently the program is run by the county, there has been talk of turning that over to each township where they would administer their own program.

This would be devastating to Grattan Township's efforts to preserve our farmland and our rural character. We will need to pay close attention to this Fall's county commissions elections. It has a potential to impact us greatly.

This last Fall, I oversaw the cleaning of the sludge from our two sewer systems. This is the first time this has been done since they were built about 25 years ago. We should now be set for another 20 to 25 years before this needs to be done again.

It is always a pleasure to serve the residents of Grattan Township. If ever you have any questions or concerns, please contact me through the township office.

**Dennis Heffron
Trustee**

FROM THE ASSESSOR:

BOARD OF REVIEW DATES

**March 10, 2014 3pm to 9pm
March 13, 2014 9am to 3pm**

Please call the township office to make an appointment if you would like to meet with the Board of Review regarding your Tax Assessment. Office: 616-691-8450

**Matthew Frain
Assessor**

FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION:
Our 2013 year was slow due to the lack of construction. Most of the issues addressed were additions to homes on non-conforming lots. Those are lots of less than 80 feet in width and 10,000 square feet in size. Most of these lots are in the Lake Residential zones. Any additions to homes on those lots require a special land use and at least two meetings with the planning commission.

Because of the smaller size of the lots, setbacks from property lines are the majority of the challenges facing additions or remodeling projects. The ordinance states at least 10 foot setbacks from side lot lines and keeping all structures at least 30 feet from the original high water mark. This includes any structures, out buildings, gazebos, decks, garages, etc.

We anticipate a busier 2014 as the economy and building market increases. We remind all residents to be certain they check with the township before starting any projects. It is much easier to find out the rules and any restrictions before putting effort into planning.

The updated master plan is currently available at the township for your review. The new Zoning Map which will include updates on splits completed by 2012 and a "preserved" category has been added. This map will be available in the near future at the township and on the Grattan Township website at www.grattantownship.org Please call the township to confirm its availability.

FROM THE FIRE CHIEF:

George Smith III retired on January 1st after 39 years of Service in the Fire Department. When you see him, please thank him for the service he has given Grattan Township. George has been a great asset to the Fire Department and we will miss him.

It's been a very cold winter and when that happens structure fires seem to increase due wood stoves, and portable heaters. Please don't leave them unattended. The department has a supply of fire alarms and CO detectors in stock for your protection, if you're in need please call the township or the fire chief @ 691-8523, or 485-5925.

Many of the citizen's of Grattan Township have inquired over the last couple years of our ISO rating, and they have been told that we were working towards a review to lower our rating which is currently a 9. On December 4, 2013 we were Audited by an ISO agent, we were told that we would hear back from them in 3 to 6 months. Here's hoping for a positive result.

Lou Kirkbride
Fire Chief

KENT COUNTY DOG LICENSING

BE AWARE OF NEW PROCEDURES
Changes Effective December 1st, 2013:

1. Dog license expiration is now linked to the month of your dog's rabies vaccination; there is no longer a "season" or a March 1st expiration. Grattan Township is now selling dog licenses year round.
2. One-year and three-year licenses are now available based on your dog's vaccination status.
3. If you need an updated vaccine and a license, one-stop shopping is now available at several local veterinary clinics.

Why license?

1. A dog license helps to get your dog home safe if they become lost.
2. Dog licensing provides funding for animal control in Kent County. This allows us to investigate and prosecute animal cruelty and neglect, as well as responding to loose or aggressive dogs.
3. It's the responsible thing to do. Licensing protects our community by ensuring dogs are vaccinated against rabies.
4. Michigan law requires that all dogs over the age of four (4) months are licensed and all new dogs are licensed within 30 days.

NEW! Several local veterinarians are working with the County to provide a convenient service to their customers by issuing dog licenses at the time of rabies vaccination. Visit www.accesskent.com/kcas for current listing of participating veterinarians.

Options for Purchasing Your Dog's License:

1. **Online:** Apply online at accesskent.com/kcas. You will need to attach a rabies vaccination certificate issued by your vet and proof of spay or neuter. The license

will be mailed to you. Expect three weeks to process.

2. **In Person:** Bring a rabies vaccination certificate and proof of spay/neuter with you to the Animal Shelter, your Township/City or the Kent County Treasurer's Office. The license will be given to you immediately.
3. **By Mail:** Complete an application and mail it to the Animal Shelter. In the mailing, include a rabies vaccination certificate, proof of spay/neuter, check/money order for amount due and a self-addressed envelope. The license will be mailed to you. Expect six to eight weeks to process.

For questions or other information please go to www.accesskent.com or call Kent County Dog Licensing at 616-632-7300.

FROM THE TOWNSHIP BOARD

ATTENTION SEWER CUSTOMERS!!

The lagoon levels at Grattan Vergennes are still at critical levels due to the record breaking rains in the Spring of 2013.

We anticipate **major basement flooding** due to the snow melt this Spring. The Sewer Administrator is imploring all of our sewer customers to evaluate the discharge on their sump pump systems, commonly found in the basement in an effort to reduce the amount of water discharged into the sewer system via your sump pumps.


Please make a determined effort to check the discharge of your sump pump, **ideally prior to the spring thaw**, to confirm if it is indeed discharged into the sewer system. If necessary the township will arrange to provide help with this effort if you care to contact Frank Force at the township; 616-691-8450 or supervisor@grattantownship.org. M-Th, 9-4pm.

If we succeed in reducing inflow to the lagoons by this method we can significantly reduce any high water issues before this irrigation season and keep costs down.

We appreciate your involvement in this most important issue.

Grattan Township Board

Grattan Township Meeting Schedules	
Location: Township Hall Time: 7:00pm	
Township Board	2nd Mon. each month And 4th Mon. as needed
Planning Comm.	1st Wed. monthly as needed
ZBA	3rd Wed. monthly as needed
Safety Board	4th Thur. monthly as needed
FASC	4th Wed. monthly as needed
Sewer Advisory	3rd Tue. monthly as needed
website www.grattantownship.org & TV Cable Channel 25	



SUMMER TAXES
DUE
SEPTEMBER 15, 2014

CLIP & SAVE

SEWER EMERGENCY
GRATTAN TOWNSHIP
EMERGENCY SERVICE
PHONE: (616) 776-9656