



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2016

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:

Next month will be the culmination of my 12th year as Supervisor of Grattan Township. I feel grateful for the support and goodwill of all the residents that I have encountered during those years. I will confess I enjoy what I do in the Township and I always attempt to serve the residents to the best of my ability. I have an excellent office staff that does most of the tedious work and they take good care of me.

I do take most of the complaint calls so I have the opportunity of conversing with an interesting cross section of the Township residents. I am also available in my office Monday through Thursday and have an “open door” policy for anyone that cares to speak to me about whatever is on their mind. I have opted to serve another four years in the Township and I am looking forward to new challenges.

As many of you know the Township now has a large recycle bin that can be found in the west parking lot of the Township next to the paper trailer. The residents of Grattan Township have really taken advantage of this opportunity to bring their recyclables here and the bin is quickly gaining popularity. Of course all good things seem to attract folks that choose to abuse this opportunity by bringing old tires, mattresses, toxic or flammable materials and other items that bear no resemblance to recyclables. Trash and garbage are also popular items found in the bin. Whenever these materials are found in the bins the provider of the bins penalizes the Township with additional costs. Please observe and follow the instructions clearly posted on the bin describing what is recyclable and what is not so we can all enjoy the use of this service for years to come. Please do not encourage non-residents to use this bin since the residents are paying for it and they should be the ones using it.

Every day, first responders put their own lives on the line to insure our safety. It is estimated that this year alone Grattan Township firefighters will respond to well over 300 calls for fire and medical assistance. Thank you to all who serve as on call firefighters and put their life on the line for the safety and medical care of our residents. As we have just commemorated the fifteenth anniversary of 9/11, let us give thanks to all who serve and

make sure they have all the proper training and equipment needed to get the job done.

Frank Force
Supervisor

FROM THE CLERK’S OFFICE:

2016 ELECTIONS

Our General Election in November ran smooth thanks to our Election Inspectors. This dedicated group shows up at six a.m. and doesn’t leave until everything is completed and put away. This makes for a very exciting but long day. A few even come to set up the day before. Until I became clerk, I didn’t realize how much time and hard work was needed for this one privileged day for all of us to exercise our right to vote. I am listing our Election Inspectors that worked this year, I am so thankful to all of them for all they do. Deb Story, Leslie Heffron, Laura Heffron, Laurie Jones, Kathy Keller, Roxanne Knott, Melissa Kline, Robin Kyburz, Ellie Landheer, Jen Medema, Helen Meyaard, Don and Ruth Meyers, Kirsten Mork, Barb Poulidas, Tim and Ruth Eggerding and last but not least, Lori Zufelt.

When listening to other clerks and their struggles to find good inspectors (they really are hard to find), I count my blessings.

GRATTAN CLEAN UP DAY

I know its early warning, but make sure to mark your calendars for May 20th, 2017 7:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. for our annual Spring Clean Up Day.

ALL OUR BEST

Work is a four letter word. We have all heard the statement and many times probably felt it as well. Then you find yourself in the spot you were meant to be. You enjoy the job, and the people there become your friends. Then the unimaginable happens and your work friend announces she is retiring. You can’t even imagine what it will be like showing up to work and she won’t be there. Knowing that while you are at work, they are most likely still sitting in their comfy jammies sipping coffee!

Well that is what is happening to us at Grattan Township. Mary Kay Groening has decided to take the leap into retirement the end of this year. As much as we will miss her, we wish her the best.

If you come in to the office, make sure you stop by to wish her well.

Kessie Brummel
Clerk

TREASURER’S NOTES:

DATES TO REMEMBER!

December 1, 2016 – 2016 Winter tax bills mailed

December 28, 2016 – Township Office will be open to collect taxes only 9:00am – 5:00pm

February 14, 2017 – Winter taxes due

February 28, 2017 – Last day to pay 2016 Summer and Winter taxes at the Township

Township will be open 9:00am - 5:00pm to collect taxes

March 2, 2017– Taxes sent to Kent County as delinquent

Contact County at (616) 632-7500 after March 9, 2017

You may purchase dog licenses at the Township all year.

Sabrina Freeman
Treasurer

FROM THE FIRE CHIEF:

We are still taking applications for the fire department, if you’re looking for a career or wanting to help others in many different ways please call the Fire Chief or Township Office for an application.

A new supply of fire alarms is on hand at the fire station, we would gladly deliver and install at no cost to you.

Three new firefighters will attend the fire academy, Justin Ford, Kendra Ford and Joey Dillingham. they will be finishing this spring of 2017.

The cold weather is upon us once again; if you burn wood please clean your chimneys often to prevent house fires.

Winter sports are also upon us, have fun and be safe, HAVE A GREAT HOLIDAY SEASON!

Fire Chief PH: 485-5925
Township Office PH: 691-8450

Lou Kirkbride
Fire Chief

GRATEFUL TO GRATTAN:

It has been a pleasure to have had the opportunity to work at Grattan Township for the past 10 years. I have been a part of the most generous and amazing office staff, who have also become great friends. My office administration duties have entailed a wide variety of experiences. Over the years my position at the township was sometimes challenging, but also always very rewarding. I am very grateful to Grattan and to have met and served so many wonderful residents of this Township.

In my years of employment at many different jobs, I must say that having the chance to work with our Supervisor, Frank Force here at the township has been a gift. Frank has been my "go to person" since day one. His office door is always opened and I relied on him to help me with numerous questions in educating me on township issues.

The First Lady of Grattan, Dianna Force is an inspirational figure of our Township. She is the most hard working, dedicated volunteer I have ever met and as a township resident and a friend, I thank her for all of the work she does to help make this a better community.

Much appreciation also goes to Casey Patterson, Jeff Biegalle, Colt Jacobs and Gregg Converse for sharing their knowledge regarding Building and Zoning issues and giving me guidance in assisting our residents. Our Assessor Matt Frain, has kept the office lively with his upbeat attitude and I've observed and admired his ability to help residents with their questions and concerns.

One colorful person who brightens everyone's day is Bob DenHouten. When he stops in the office to get updated on Zoning Enforcement issues, he brings his great smile and a joke or two. Bob has a delightful personality and I have enjoyed working with him these last few years.

Thank you to Sabrina Freeman for keeping the sweets in the candy jar. Her personal gen-

erosity brought smiles to the residents and provided me with my chocolate fix more often than I should admit.

What can I say about Lynnea Glinzak....she is the "Miss Congeniality" of the office, provided warm hugs to many and a positive outlook to everyone she encounters. She has been a great friend over the years and will continue to be in my future.

Amy Brown, was my first trainee...she learned the duties to become an assistant at the front desk but soon moved on to become Deputy Clerk. She has been awesome to work with and I will never forget the outing with her delivering Welcome Packets to new residents. LOL

Kessie Brummel has been a good friend and has been the person who helps to lift our spirits when anyone was going through a difficult time. She has a gift of knowing the right words to express a spiritual message....Thank You Kessie!

Gloria Burns....amazes me. She continues to provide the township with a stellar website and keeps the cable channel updated. I admire her for keeping up with technology and I treasure her friendship...and she has the cutest dog ever!

Senior Meals at Grattan Township is so very successful because of Brenda Greene and her senior volunteers who assist her. This program is very important to the Grattan Community.....and her southern charm brings warmth to everyone.

I have also had the pleasure to work with our Fire Chief, Lou Kirkbride in a variety of concerns for the fire department. Lou is the most dedicated Fire Chief and over the years has done an outstanding job with improvements for our fire department. I plan on continuing to serve on the Fire Administrative and Safety Committee as a volunteer and hope to be able to continue assisting Lou when needed.

Life is precious and I must complete my appreciation message to acknowledge Diane Timmons for being my "soul sister" over the years. She was recently honored at the Annual Appreciation Dinner put on by Family Friends & Neighbors. We had a special friendship at the township and will continue to be "besties" in years to come. She was the person who knew more about the office of the township than any of us. Diane worked in the township for over 20 years transcribing minutes and as the sewer clerk....she also kept us smiling with her many practical jokes.

My township duties will be handled by Laura Kuhnert and Kirsten Mork who have been trained and are both very qualified to carry on at the Front Desk. I have enjoyed working with both Laura and Kirsten and know that they will both continue to successfully serve the residents of Grattan Township.

My retirement years will hopefully be filled with adventurous travel, volunteer work, enjoying family events, meeting new friends and God willing... Good Health!

**Peace be with you,
Mary Kay Groening**

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

Cable TV
Channel 25

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