



# NEWSLETTER

## July 2017

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 desk of the Supervisor...*

Summer is here and the folks in Grattan Township are busy enjoying their homes or cottages on the numerous lakes in Grattan Township. Many of our residents are now aware of the fact that Grattan Township provides a paper trailer for newsprint and a recycle bin for various recyclable items that are clearly listed on the large sign adjacent to the bin. Recently we have also placed a "cardboard only" container next to the recycle bin to save folks the trouble of trying to stuff large pieces of cardboard into the small holes of the recycle bin. The recycle bin and the "cardboard only" bin are paid for by the residents of Grattan Township and are intended for the use of Grattan residents only. The paper trailer is provided by the Family, Friends and Neighbors organization at no cost to the tax payers.

Sadly many folks have chosen to ignore the rules, clearly stated on the recycle sign, by placing cardboard and plastic bags in the paper trailer. Please empty your plastic bags and place them in the recycle bin. Papers in cardboard boxes can be easily emptied and the boxes placed in the recycle or the cardboard bin. The paper trailer's profits are used for many worthwhile projects in Grattan Township that may otherwise fail due to lack of funding. Please do not place any cardboard or plastic bags in the paper trailer since the company that provides the trailer and pays for the paper deducts part of the payment because of the cardboard and plastic which cannot be recycled for their purposes.

The recycle bin is paid for by our taxpayers and is intended to be used by our residents. It suffers even more abuse than the paper trailer. Everything that is placed in this bin, that is not listed on the sign, results in penalties and additional costs when the material is sorted. This container has become the receptacle for garbage, old carpet and padding, toxic and flammable liquids, waste oil, discarded wood products, discarded auto parts, sheet metal, appliances, old paint and used painting tools, empty propane tanks and the list goes on and on. Items too large to fit in the access holes cannot be left on the ground. When the bin is full additional recyclables cannot be left on the ground, please, please do not do this. The truck drivers that pick up the bin will not clean this up. It should not surprise anyone that this is a formula for all of us losing these privileges.

The new cardboard bin is the only container that has avoided abuse so far. It would be appreciated however if folks would flatten the boxes prior to putting them in this bin so the next visitor will have room for his/her cardboard.

Many Grattan residents have expressed their appreciation for these recycle services so please do not allow the abusers to take these rights away. At times the bins are full and cannot be utilized due to inconsistencies of pick up scheduling but this cannot be avoided. If you have any questions regarding the use of these services please call before arriving to insure that your discarded items are recyclable.

**Thank you,**  
Frank Force

### *From the desk of the Treasurer...*

We are sad to say that after many years of service our Deputy Treasurer, Lynnea Glinzak, decided to retire at the end of March. We enjoyed the many years we got to spend with her and wish her all the best in her new venture!

That being said; Please stop in, grab a piece of candy and give a warm welcome to our new Deputy Treasurer Carol Treynor! We believe you will enjoy her smile as much as we do!

#### *Dates to Remember:*

**September 14, 2017**– 2017 Summer taxes due  
**December 1, 2017** – 2017 Winter tax bills mailed  
**December 28, 2017** – Township Office will be open to collect taxes only 9:00am – 5:00pm  
**February 14, 2018** – 2017 Winter taxes due  
**February 28, 2018** – Last day to pay 2017 Summer and Winter taxes at the Township  
Township will be open 9:00am - 5:00pm to collect taxes  
**March 1, 2018**– Taxes sent to Kent County as delinquent  
Contact County at (616) 632-7500 after March 12, 2018

**Have a safe and sunny summer!!**

### ***From the desk of the Clerk...***

#### ***SPECIAL ELECTION AUGUST 8, 2017***

Voters in Precinct 1 (the township hall) have a Special Election August 8, 2017. It is for Ionia Intermediate Schools and the proposal will be on our website as to what you will be voting on. This Special Election will be combined with the Oakfield residents so you may see some new faces when you come in to vote. Don't forget that if you will be out of the township that Tuesday, you can call and we will send you an absentee ballot.

As always, remember to thank the people working at the precinct when you vote. It is a very long day and they give it their all before, during and after the doors are open.

Precinct 2, which is located at the fire station, will not have anything to vote on in August.

### ***From the desk of the Office Manager...***

#### ***Cash Customers...***

Please note that The Township is not a profitable business. Please keep your cash payments as close to exact change as possible. We do not want to turn you away but typically have VERY small amounts of change available.

Thank You!

### ***From the desk of the Sewer Billing Clerk...***

#### ***WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS!!!***

The Sewer Department is now accepting American Express, Discover, Master Card, and Visa over the phone, online, and at the counter. Please understand that this service is provided to the township and our residents by a third party company who adds an additional 3% processing fee to each transaction. You may also pay using a one-time ACH transaction called an e-check for a \$3.00 fee instead of the 3% used when paying by Credit or Debit Card.

**PAY OVER THE PHONE-** Please call Kirsten at (616)691-8450 during normal business hours.

**PAY ONLINE-** Please visit our website, [www.grattantownship.org](http://www.grattantownship.org), and click on the sewer tab on the left hand side to follow the step by step instructions.

**PAY AT THE COUNTER-** Please see Kirsten at the front desk during normal business hours.

#### ***Friendly Reminder...***

Our sewer system is expensive to fix. Please remind your family members and guests that only flushable items are to go down the toilets. Feminine and male hygiene products, "flushable" wipes, grease, and rags do not break down in our sewer system and often times wind around pumps and cause a pump to shut down. Each trip made by the maintenance staff is charged at \$42 per hour and \$60 per hour after regular business hours. Whenever pumps have to be pulled it requires two people working for about 3-4 hours to pull the pumps, clean them out and reinstall them. This money comes directly out of you and your neighbor's pockets when you pay your sewer bill. Rate increases for operation and maintenance of your sewer system stem from poor decisions like this.

The Sewer Department has laminated signs discouraging such behavior. Please see Kirsten to pick yourself up some for your bathrooms.

### ***From the desk of the Fire Chief..***

The Grattan fire dept. would like to thank everyone for the support for their pancake breakfast, it was great seeing everyone. We would also like to thank all of our sponsors for all their support.

We have three new firefighters; please congratulate Kendra Ford, Justin Ford and Joey Dillingham for their achievements!

We are still looking for a few good men or women to join our volunteer fire department. Please call the township office at 616-691-8450 or The Fire Chief at 616-485-5925 for more information or stop in and pick up an application!

Summer is here and there is fun for everyone, please play safely and enjoy the summer activities.

Remember CPR saves lives, Classes available at the fire station, if interested, call 616-485-5925 or 616-691-8450.

### ***From the desk of the Zoning Administrator...***

#### ***Accessory Structures in the Lake Residential District***

Grattan Township receives many inquiries regarding accessory structures on lake front lots. Please visit the following sections of the Grattan Township Zoning Ordinance at [www.grattantownship.org](http://www.grattantownship.org) for answers to the most frequently asked questions: 2.01, 3.01, 3.13, 7.03, and 7.04.

If you have any further questions please feel free to email me at [ggconverse@grattantownship.org](mailto:ggconverse@grattantownship.org)

Thank you, Gregg Converse