



NEWSLETTER

July 2018

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:	Michelle Alberts
Treasurer:	Sabrina Freeman
Trustee:	Dennis Heffron
Trustee:	Paul Knoerl

From the desk of the Treasurer...

Dates to Remember:

- September 14, 2018**– 2018 Summer taxes due
Township will be open 9:00am - 5:00pm to collect taxes
- December 1, 2018** – 2018 Winter tax bills mailed
- December 27, 2018** – Township Office will be open to collect taxes only 9:00am – 5:00pm
- February 14, 2019** – 2018 Winter taxes due
- February 28, 2019** – Last day to pay 2018 Summer and Winter taxes at the Township
Township will be open 9:00am - 5:00pm to collect taxes
- March 1, 2019**– Taxes sent to Kent County as delinquent
Contact County at (616) 632-7500 after March 8, 2019

You may purchase dog licenses at the Township all year.

Have a safe and sunny summer!!

Sabrina Freeman

From the desk of the Sewer Clerk...

If you are a new home owner in the township or have any updates to your account (name, address, contact phone number) please make sure you let the township know. Contact Kirsten at (616)691-8450 or by email at sewerbill-ing@grattantownship.org.

The recent increase in sewer rates was a recommendation from our recently completed SAW grant which reviewed the financial health of our sewer budget and strongly recommended a 1.5 % rate increase annually for the next five years to allow for inflation and to keep our financial health in its current condition.

NOW ACCEPTING ALL MAJOR CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS ONLINE AND IN THE OFFICE

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!

Kirsten Mork

From the desk of the Supervisor...

The talk around the Township this summer is whether the lake front residents on Cowan Lake will be getting a brand new sewer system in the near future. The answer will be determined by a board vote within the next couple of months. The Requests for Proposals have gone out to four engineering firms to quote the design engineering and project management services for the project. This system will be a low pressure, grinder pump, collection type system that will pump wastewater to lift station number one on Mac Drive to the Grattan Township Wastewater Treatment site on Lincoln Lake and Heffron. Two public hearings will be held in 2018 to give residents an opportunity to express their opinions on the project and to ask questions. Dates of these hearings will be published in the Greenville Daily News and the Rockford Squire.

This sewer system will be a joint effort between Grattan and Oakfield Townships and will be paid for by the sale of bonds which will in turn be repaid through a Special Assessment by the residents of Cowan Lake. The cost of the project is around 4 million dollars, part of which will be supplemented by a wastewater grant through the State of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. This grant will pay up to half the cost of the project with a maximum of 2 million dollars.

If this project proceeds, the system should be up and running no later than September 30, 2020.

Thank you!

Frank Force

From the desk of the Clerk...

Our election dates for 2018 are the Primary on August 7 and the General Election on November 6. The polls will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. Keep in mind the availability of absentee voting if you meet one of these requirements.

- 60 years or older
- Physically unable to attend the polls without assistance
- Being appointed an election precinct inspector in a precinct other than the precinct where I reside
- Expecting to be absent from the community where you are registered
- The tenets of your religion
- Confined in jail awaiting arraignment or trial

From the desk of the Clerk continued...

2018 Election Year

A few things as voters you may want to remember for Election Day-

- 1) No campaigning within 100 feet of any precinct doorway,
- 2) Do NOT wear any campaign buttons or clothing in the precincts,
- 3) You can NOT take pictures or videos at the polls,
- 4) Do NOT talk on your cell phone once you are in the voting station,
- 5) Do not discuss with ANYONE how you are voting or suggest how they should vote,
- 6) It is permitted that a minor child may accompany and elector in the booth or voting compartment at an election.

Our Election Inspectors are an impressive group of people. They go to training to prepare for our Election Day so it may go as smooth as possible. Please don't hesitate to thank them for their efforts.

Thank you!
Michelle Alberts

From the desk of the Trustees...

Dock and Boat Ordinance

A reminder to new lake residents that Grattan Township does have a dock and boat ordinance that provides reasonable regulations for watercraft, dock and raft usage. If you are unfamiliar with the ordinance, installing a new dock, or are new to the area, we would suggest you visit the Grattan Township website and review the ordinance. There are restrictions to the number of boats you can have on a given parcel and restrictions relative to the length and configuration of docks you can have on a given lakefront parcel. If residents have any questions relative to the ordinance it is suggested you contact the Township office for clarification.

Ordinance for Brine Discharging from Water Softeners

The Michigan DEQ has expressed concerns for a number of years over some of the sodium levels found at our sewer system irrigation fields. Although debate continues over all of the potential causes of these sodium levels/concentrations, it is evident that some of the sodium is introduced into the waste water systems via brine water from residential water softeners.

Most sewer customers may not think about where the brine water goes when your water softener is recharging/recycling. This brine solution eventually makes its way through our sewer systems' piping, pump stations, collection lagoons and then is sprayed onto the irrigation fields. Sodium/salt is not kind to pump station components and eventually collects or concentrates in areas of the irrigation fields.

The DEQ has requested a work plan from the Township to address these sodium levels in the irrigation fields.

Other Townships in the state have addressed brine discharge from water softeners via an ordinance to regulate the installation of water softeners in new home construction where sewer systems are utilized. As part of our work plan with the DEQ Grattan Township approved a similar ordinance at its January 2012 meeting.

Basically, on a new home construction in the sewer district it will be prohibited to install a water softener that introduces "backwash" into the Grattan Township Sewer systems. The water softener discharge must be discharged into a separate below ground infiltration basin (drywell). The plumbing permit and consequent final inspection of the home will involve approval of the water softener and installation.

The Township would encourage any residents on the sewer system currently to install a "drywell" for your water softener when, and if, if you will be replacing it or are making plumbing modifications in your residential water system.

The Township also strongly urges all sewer system users to utilize potassium pellets in their water softeners versus sodium. Although more costly than sodium, if the majority of sewer customers (750) used potassium versus sodium for their water softeners, this would be very beneficial for the sewer systems and reduce the long terms costs for operation of it.

A reminder to all sewer customers that everything that exits your household into the Grattan Township sewer systems eventually makes it way through a number of pump stations, into a number of settling lagoons and eventually is used as irrigation water on a number of agricultural fields in the Township. We continue to experience emergency call outs for inoperable pump stations due to shop rags, diapers and other foreign material that have clogged, damaged or jammed pumps and floats. Grease is also a problem over time as this builds up in the pump station wells and has to eventually be removed mechanically.

Thank you!
Paul Knoerl