



TOWN OF GRAND RAPIDS

WOOD COUNTY, WISCONSIN

FALL/WINTER NEWSLETTER - 2010

Office

Clerk.....Judy McLellan
 Treasurer.....Kris Ginter
 Admin. Assist.....Jewell Ninneman
 Admin. Assist.....Peggy Doughty

Planning/Zoning

Bldg. Insp./Zoning Admin....Larry Gilles

Police/Fire Departments

Fire Chief.....Scott Bernette
 Police Chief.....Dave Lewandowski
 Officers.....Sgt. Andy Simon
 Rusty Roe
 Tammy Kubisiak
 Dave Drinkwine
 Part-Time Officers....Mike Wiberg
 Mike Bessette
 Brian Turner
 Steve Spath
 Brandon Christianson
 Frank Blader
 Jeff Lieberman

Public Works.....Jim Eichhorn
 Rick Austin
 Mike Smith

Town Board

Chairman.....Don Bohn
 Supervisor.....Arne Nystrom
 Jeanne Fehrman
 Bill Clendenning
 Kathy Alft

M
O
N
T
H
L
Y

M
E
E
T
I
N
G
S

TOWN BOARD

- 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 6:30 p.m.

PLAN COMMISSION

- 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 6:30 p.m.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

- 1st Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

*meeting dates subject to change...call the Municipal Building to confirm dates, time, and location or check our website at www.townofgrandrapids.org

TAX PAYMENT DUE DATES

- ❖ First installment and/or payments in full are due on or before **January 31, 2011**
- ❖ All personal property taxes and special assessments are due by **January 31, 2011**
- ❖ All taxes of \$100 or less per parcel must be paid in full by **January 31, 2011**

All taxes paid after January 31, 2011, must be paid at the courthouse, payable to Wood County Treasurer.

PAYMENT BY MAIL

Return your payment stub with your payment. Make checks payable to: Town of Grand Rapids Treasurer in the exact amount of your taxes. **Enclose a self addressed stamped envelope for return receipt.**

Mail to: Town of Grand Rapids
 Kris Ginter, Treasurer
 2410 48th Street South
 Wis. Rapids, WI 54494

Dog license fees must be on a separate check.

PAYMENT IN PERSON

Taxes may be paid by cash or check at the Municipal Building at 2410 48th Street South during the following business hours:

Monday – Thursday
 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Friday
 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

NOTE: THE TREASURER'S OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM 1-2 P.M. DAILY

Taxes must be receipted in 2010 to be deductible on 2010 income taxes. Our office will be closed on Thursday, December 23; Friday, December 24; and Friday December 31. Mailed payments that are postmarked on or before December 31, 2010 will be receipted in 2010.

TOWN DROPBOX
 (not for US mail or 2nd Half Tax Payments)

A secured drop box has been installed at the Municipal Building entrance. Use this mailbox to leave correspondence for any town office or official, permit application, citation forfeiture, full or first-half tax payment in December or January ONLY. **(NOTE: PAYMENTS AFTER JANUARY 31, 2011 ARE NOT COLLECTED BY THE TOWN TREASURER AND ARE PAYABLE TO THE WOOD COUNTY TREASURER)**



WINTER ROAD INFORMATION!!!!

EDGE OF ROAD REFLECTIVE MARKERS

The Town of Grand Rapids Board has approved a policy of allowing reflective break-away markers to be placed in the road right-of-way to aid the snowplow drivers in determining the edges of the roads before banks are established. The guidelines that have been established are:

- Only approved break-away markers that are purchased through the Town of Grand Rapids will be permitted.
- Markers must not be placed closer than three (3) feet to the edge of the blacktop.
- Markers must not be placed closer than ten (10) feet from each other.

Any markers not following the above guidelines are subject to removal by the Town of Grand Rapids and/or possible forfeiture as per Road Ordinance No. 19 and Schedule of Fees and Forfeitures Ordinance No. 39. In the use of the temporary snow marker, the residents understand that the Town of Grand Rapids will not be liable for any breakage or replacement of said markers.

Under normal plowing conditions, the crews will do their best to avoid hitting the markers but it is possible that there may be some breakage of the markers should the year's snow fall dictate that the banks be rolled back.

The markers are available at the Municipal Building for a cost of \$2.00 each

NEW WISCONSIN LEGISLATION



Wisconsin Act 255 took effect on May 22, 2010. Act 255 changes the requirements, and therefore who is subject to forfeiture, for following snowplows. Under the act, drivers are prohibited from following a snowplow that is engaged in snow removal and displaying its flashing



lamps **no closer than**

200 feet if the speed limit is more than 35

miles an hour and **no**

closer than 75 feet if the speed limit is

35 miles per hour or less. The act also

requires a driver to stop **not less than 20**

feet away, when approaching a snowplow

from the rear, while the snowplow is

engaged and stopped at an intersection.



CHILDREN'S SNOW FORTS AND TUNNELS

As the snow piles up throughout the winter, children are naturally drawn to the piles of snow that accumulate at the end of the driveways. One of the favorite past times of children is to make a snow fort or tunnel out of these piles of snow. While this can bring many hours of fun to the children, it can also be extremely dangerous for them. Even if it has not snowed recently, our plows may be out pushing back the snow banks to allow for future snow falls. If a child should be inside the "fort" and the plow came along, they most likely would be buried under the snow. Our snow plow drivers ask that you please do not allow your children to play in or on the snow piles close to the roadways. Let's all have a safe and fun winter.

PILING OR PUSHING SNOW ONTO OR ACROSS ROADWAYS

Winter is upon us and the snow will be coming. As you plow, snow blow or shovel your driveways, please remember that it is illegal for any person or business to allow the piling or pushing of snow or other materials from their private drives or parking areas **onto or across any public roadway, thoroughfare or bridge.** This is prohibited by Wisc. State Stat. §346.94 (5) as well as the Town's Ordinance No. 4 and carries a fine of \$10-\$100 per incident. Besides being illegal, it can also create a hazard for vehicles traveling the roadways or cause damage to vehicles and snowplowing equipment.

USE OF AN ATV TO REMOVE SNOW

If you use your ATV to remove snow from your property or the property of others, make sure that you are aware of the laws that govern this. The changes that took effect June 1, 2010 can be found at

www.legis.state.wi.us/2009/data/acts/09Act367.pdf. For more information contact your local DNR.

IMPORTANT!!!!!!!

GARBAGE AND RECYCLING INFORMATION

The Town of Grand Rapids contracts with Veolia Environmental for the roadside pickup of our garbage and recycling items. Our contract provides "curbside collection service for the collection of **not more than (4) 30 gallon bags or cans of residential waste** from residential units one time per week". Veolia is not required to pick up residential waste in excess of this amount. An excess of this allowed amount may result in some of your garbage not being picked up by Veolia. The resident is responsible for properly disposing of the excess amount.

Recycling items contracted to be picked up include: Consumer commingled materials such as aluminum cans, container glass, corrugated cardboard, mixed papers, newspapers, tin cans and **#1 through #7 plastic items and aseptic containers**. In the past Veolia only accepted #1 & #2 plastics for recycling but earlier this year after diligent efforts to find new markets for recyclables Veolia announced that they are now able to accept plastics numbered #3 through #7 also.

NEW
RECYCLING
ITEMS

NEW ITEMS!!!

NOW ACCEPTED IN ADDITION TO #1 & #2'S

#3 THROUGH #7 PLASTICS:

- Food & beverage containers, cat litter containers, ice cream pails, 5-gallon pails, medicine/pill containers, bakery containers, flower pots or trays, yogurt or cottage cheese containers, cups & tubs, clear and rigid clam shell packaging.



ASEPTIC CONTAINERS:

- Cartons or boxes used for juice, milk, soy milk, ice cream and broths.



PREPARATION:

- Empty and rinse all containers
- Average or small-sized #3 through #7 plastic and aseptic items can be placed in your container along with other recyclables.
- Large plastic items (>15 gal. containers, furniture items, toys, etc.) are NOT collected at curbside recycling. These items can be delivered to the Portage County Material Recovery Facility in Plover for recycling at no charge.

PLASTICS NOT ACCEPTED

- #1 Brown plastic bottles
- #6 polystyrene foam ("Styrofoam"): Egg cartons, hot beverage cups, plates, formed packing pieces, packing peanuts.
- Motor oil containers
- Plastic film, shrink wrap and bags (all #'s)
- CD cases
- Vinyl items such as window, siding, etc.



E-CYCLE



A new recycling law was signed into effect by Governor Doyle in October 2009 as Act 50. The law establishes a statewide program, now called E-Cycle Wisconsin program, to collect and recycle certain electronic devices. This is based on a product stewardship approach, which assigns primary responsibility for collection and recycling to the manufacturer. The law also bans certain electronics from Wisconsin landfills and incinerators after September 1, 2010. Once fully implemented, the law is expected to provide Wisconsinites with more convenient recycling locations across the state and encourage an expansion of Wisconsin's recycling industry.

With this law in place the manufacturers will be responsible for the cost of recycling the electronics. Businesses that collect the discarded electronics are still allowed to charge a handling fee for collecting the items and transporting them to recyclers.

As of September 1, 2010 the following electronics are not allowed in landfills and will not be picked up by our contracted garbage and recycling hauler.

All Computers	Desktop printers	Televisions	Cellular Phones (no batteries)
Computer Monitors	Fax machines	DVD players	VCR players
Video players	VCR's & DVR's	Copiers	Mice & Keyboards

The following area businesses have registered with the DNR as collectors of electronics:

Best Buy 1145 Commons Circle Plover, WI 54467	Portage Cty Solid Waste Transfer Facility 650 Moore Rd Plover, WI 54467	Staples 2211 8 th St. South Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
Helping Hands Recycling 1025A Patch Street Stevens Point, WI 54481	Midwest Computer Recyclers 2608 Water Street & 1626 W Pearl St. Stevens Point, WI 54481	ODC 1191 Huntington Ave Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
Milwaukee PC 5633 Hwy 10E, Ste 10 Stevens Point, WI 54482		Midwest Computer Recyclers 480 Strodman Ave Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

Please help to conserve valuable resources and prevent pollution. **RECYCLE YOUR ELECTRONICS!!**

For more information check out the DNR website at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/ecycle/>



RECYCLING FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS

A program to facilitate the take back and recycling of fluorescents has been set up by Focus on Energy.

Two area businesses will accept the used compact fluorescent bulbs, **from residential use** and recycle them free of charge. Compact fluorescent bulbs can be taken to Ace Hardware and Home Depot. Express Recycling, 480 Strodman Ave will also recycle fluorescent bulbs for a slight charge. The cost at Express Recycling is: Compact bulbs, .50 per bulb, 4 foot bulbs, .50 per bulb and 8 foot bulbs, \$1.00 per bulb.

Please help to eliminate mercury released to the environment and unneeded landfill waste,

RECYCLE YOUR USED FLUORESCENT BULBS.

Watch our website for the dates of more Choose-To-Reuse days next spring.

Congratulations Grand Rapids Residents!!

In 2009, 175.09 pounds of recyclables per capita were collected from the Town of Grand Rapids residents. The state average for 2009 was 106.55. This puts Grand Rapids 68.54 pounds per person above the average. This number is great but let's see if we can do even better than that. With the new plastics that can be recycled we can decrease the amount of garbage put in our landfills even more!! It wouldn't take much to get to double the state average per person. Let's fill up those recycling bins or bags instead of the landfills!!

NEW TOWN WEBSITE

Check out our new website at www.townofgrandrapids.org. Any photos of the Town or town events that you would like to share on the website can be mailed to j.mclellan@grandrapidswi.org. Also sign up to receive the notices that are posted on the website to your e-mail address.