



2410 48<sup>th</sup> Street South  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494  
(715) 424-1821  
[www.townofgrandrapids.org](http://www.townofgrandrapids.org)

**Town Board**

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

**Staff**

**Office**

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

**Planning and Zoning**

Bldg Insp/Zoning Admin....Larry Gilles

**Police / Fire Protection**

Fire Chief.....Scott Bernette  
Police Chief.....Dave Lewandowski  
Police Officers..... Andy Simon & Rex  
Tammy Kubisiak  
Rusty Roe  
Dave Drinkwine

**Public Works**

Jim Eichhorn Rick Austin  
Mike Smith



**MONTHLY MEETINGS**

**Town Board**

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month at 6:30 p.m.

**Plan Commission**

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of the month at 6:30 p.m.

**Fire Department**

1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting dates are subject to change... check our web site or call the Municipal Building to confirm dates, time and location.

**2011 SPRING/SUMMER EVENTS**

**TOWN OF GRAND RAPIDS**

**MAY**

14<sup>th</sup> – CHOOSE TO RE-USE

**JUNE**

11<sup>TH</sup> --KIDS FISHING DERBY  
26<sup>TH</sup> -- FIREFIGHTER'S CELEBRATION

**JULY**

9<sup>TH</sup> – CHOOSE TO RE-USE  
21<sup>st</sup> - 24<sup>TH</sup> -- STATE WATER SKI SHOW  
23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>TH</sup> -- GRAND RAPIDS LIONS MUSIC FEST

**AUGUST**

6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> -- CORVETTES OF THE NORTH  
CAR CRUISE & SHOW  
13<sup>TH</sup> – CHOOSE TO RE-USE  
13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> --RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL  
26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>TH</sup> - CMN BALLOON RALLY & MUSIC  
FEST

**FROM THE TREASURER:**

Remember to pay your **2<sup>nd</sup> installment of taxes** by **July 31, 2011!** Taxes must be made payable to the **Wood County Treasurer** and paid at the **Wood County Courthouse**, or sent by mail to PO Box 8095, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-8095. Payments will not be receipted at the Grand Rapids Municipal Building.

## **Preparing Your Home for Spring Wildfire Season**

By: Amy Luebke, WDNR Wildland-Urban Interface Specialist

Spring is the busiest time for wildfires in Wisconsin with the majority of fires occurring in March, April and May. Now is the perfect time to be thinking about getting your property ready for wildfire season. The simple steps you take on a weekend could make the difference when it comes to you home surviving a wildfire.

### **Firewise Spring Clean-up Tips:**

- Remove pine needles and leaves from the roof and gutters.
- Rake leaves and pines needles from under decks and around wood fences. Move flammables, like spare lumber or firewood, away from these areas to a distance of at least 30 feet.
- Remove tree branches that overhang the roof and the lower branches of evergreen trees up to a height of 6-10 feet.
- If you're replacing mulch, consider using rock instead of wood mulch.

Remember, the most important person when it comes to protecting your home is you! Go to [www.dnr.wi.gov/wisburn](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/wisburn) for more information, give me a call at 715-421-7875, or contact Grand Rapids Fire Department Chief Scott Bernette at 715-424-1815 or at, [fire.chief@grandrapidswi.org](mailto:fire.chief@grandrapidswi.org) .

## **RECYCLING FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS**

The use of compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) is becoming increasingly popular and has many environmental benefits. They last up to 10 times longer and save \$30 or more in electricity costs over the life of the bulb. These bulbs can still pose an environmental hazard if not disposed of properly. Tube and Compact Fluorescent light bulbs contain metals such as mercury, at toxic levels. Local merchants, (Ace, Home Depot & Lowe's) will accept the compact bulbs free of charge for recycling. Fluorescent tube bulbs also need to be recycled. The tube bulbs can also be taken to Ace as well as Express Recycling and recycled for a small fee (\$.50-\$1.00 each depending on the length). Please do your part and help to eliminate mercury released to the environment and unneeded landfill waste,

**RECYCLE YOUR USED FLUORESCENT BULBS.**

## **YARD WASTE DISPOSAL**

Town of Grand Rapids residents may again purchase a season long, annual pass for the compost site. Passes may be purchased at the Municipal Building, The Store, 4010 80<sup>th</sup> St. S. and by mail. The cost at the Municipal Building will be \$35, at The Store will be \$37 and by mail \$36. If you wish to have a pass mailed to you, please submit the \$36, your name, address and the license number of the vehicle that will be hauling the compost. We cannot mail you a pass without all of this information.

Yard wastes shall include grass clippings, leaves, pine needles, garden wastes, and brush. Town residents can also contact ADEAL Wood Recycling or Wolosek Landscaping for disposal of individual loads (a fee is charged per load) if you do not have a need for a season pass.

## **TOWN ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAYS, DITCHES.....SHOULDERS**

Private use of road right-of-way is limited to lawns. Trees, shrubs or other plantings, decorative structures such as split-rail fences, basketball backstops, underground sprinklers, driveway marker posts, (with the exception of reflective winter markers purchased through the Town), or other structures within the right-of-way require Town Board approval. Most right-of-ways in the Town extend 33 feet from the road centerline to the lot line.

These signs, markers, objects and other private structures within the road right-of-way are a safety hazard to motorized vehicles and their occupants; and prohibited as stated in Grand Rapids Ordinance No. 19. The Town Board shall have the right to order the removal of any object or structure which lies within the bounds of the road right-of-way.

Ditches and swails along roads should not be filled in or altered without Town Board approval.

If you have specific questions, please call the Municipal Building before beginning any projects that involve the road right-of-way.



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**FROM OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

The Grand Rapids Police Department is proud to announce its newest full time officer. Please welcome Officer Dave Drinkwine to the community. Dave came to us from Amery Police Department and started working in August 2010. Dave has moved to Grand Rapids and is a welcome addition to our department.

The Grand Rapids Auxiliary Police are doing very well since the program was implemented over 2 ½ years ago. They have been a big part of this Police Department and they save tax dollars by doing things that we would have paid part-time officers to do. If you see them in the community please thank them for their hard work and the time they donate.

Grand Rapids Police Department is now on Facebook!! Become a “Fan” of our Police Department to receive information on upcoming community events, helpful websites, and updates on what’s happening within our community.

Due to the large number of residents that have signed up for the e-mail notification program, we will need to switch to a different server in order to continue to send out the community notification information. There may be a slight lull in receiving the e-mails until we are able to get this switched. For those of you who are unaware of this program, if you wish to be notified of things that are happening in Grand Rapids just send your e-mail address to the Department to be added to our list. When something happens in the Town, the Department will send out an e-mail notification to you. This might be to let you know of break-ins that have occurred, looking for a missing person, a suspicious vehicle that has been noticed in neighborhoods, or other items to keep the residents of Grand Rapids informed. If you have any questions about this program please feel free to call.

Remember, with the nice weather approaching, more people are out and about. Please be careful for people walking and biking. Obey the speed limit. Let’s keep it safe out there.

From all of us at the Grand Rapids Police Department, we hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Chief Dave Lewandowski  
Sgt. Andy Simon & Rex  
Officer Rusty Roe  
Officer Tammy Kubisiak  
Officer Dave Drinkwine

Part-Time Officers: Mike Wiberg  
Mike Bessette  
Brian Turner  
Steve Spath  
Brandon Christianson  
Frank Blader  
Jeff Lieberman

Administrative Assistants: Jewell Ninneman  
Peggy Doughty

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**LETTER FROM THE FIRE CHIEF’S DESK:**

The Grand Rapids Fire Department is currently staffed with a full-time fire chief, nine officers, thirty members, fifteen associate members, and five associate EMS members. Some members serve as both firefighters and first responders. If you are interested in joining the fire department and serving your community as a firefighter, a first responder, or both; stop by the fire station or visit our web site at [www.grandrapidsfd.com](http://www.grandrapidsfd.com) for more information.

With Spring/Summer upon us, burning permits are now required. Please review the Town’s Ordinance #2 regulating controlled burning in any part of the Town of Grand Rapids on our website: [www.townofgrandrapids.org](http://www.townofgrandrapids.org). Please note that our town ordinance has several additional restrictions to the DNR rules and regulations. Your “FREE” annual permit for controlled burning can be obtained from the Municipal Building, Fire Station, approved authorized Fire Wardens for the Town of Grand Rapids, or the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Service Center. See DNR website: [www.dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fire/fire\\_danger/Wis\\_Burn/StateCounties.asp](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fire/fire_danger/Wis_Burn/StateCounties.asp) for more information on annual permits.

**Town of Grand Rapids is now a “Firewise Community”**

The Department would like to thank the Town Board for taking a proactive approach to reducing the chance of a wildfire within the township. The Firewise Communities/USA program is designed to provide an effective management approach for preserving wildland living aesthetics. Participating in this educational program gives communities the means to balance sustainable ecological lifestyles with effective wildland fire protection. The Firewise Communities/USA program works to help its citizens reduce the threat of wild fires. To find out more, contact Chief Scott Bernette at 424-1815, [fire.chief@grandrapidswi.org](mailto:fire.chief@grandrapidswi.org) or check out the DNR website on line at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fire/prevention/firewise/>

Please mark you calendars and plan to join us at this year’s Grand Rapids Firefighters’ Celebration on Sunday, June 26, 2011. The event will be held at the Grand Rapids Lions Club (CTH. W & 36<sup>th</sup> St. S) from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. The day will start with a pancake breakfast from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., food stand is open all day, Cranberry Blossom Fest Parade at 12:30 p.m., music: Polka Band 1-4:30 p.m., Boogie & the Yo-Yo’s 5-9:00 p.m., children’s fun rides, bingo, and raffle drawing. Hope to see you there.

Fire Chief, Scott Bernette

## CHOOSE-TO-REUSE EVENTS OF 2011!!!!

They say one person's trash is another's treasure.

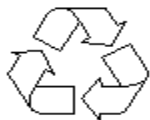
Hundreds of residents experienced this last year at three Grand Rapids "Choose to Re-Use" events, bringing and taking home items like furniture, fishing poles, bikes, lawnmowers, chairs, tables, clothes, and more ... all for free.

Scheduled for 2011 will be three Choose to Re-Use events. Mark your calendars for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the months of May, July and August to attend this event. The Choose to Re-Use will take place from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Town Garage, 2811 Two Mile Ave.

Choose to Re-Use is an event where residents bring items in good working condition that they want to discard but that perhaps someone else can use (e.g. small working appliances, lawn care items, household goods, bicycles, seasonal decorations, knick-knacks, office equipment, books, CDs/DVDs/VHSs tapes/ records, clothes, etc.). Or you may take any item that you can use. You don't have to bring items in order to take items away. The objective of Choose to Re-Use is simple-reduce the amount of solid waste in our landfills.

Photos or descriptions of large items (sofas, chairs, etc.) along with contact information will be posted at the Town Garage. Items that have fees associated with them (e.g. refrigerators, microwaves, etc.) must be signed for and will be charged if no one chooses that item by the end of the day.

Contact Town of Grand Rapids Supervisor Bill Clendenning at 715/423-2469 for more information, or if you would like to help with the event.



The 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. After September 1, 2010 certain electronics were banned from Wisconsin landfills and incinerators.

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

Our contracted garbage and recycling hauler will not pickup any of the banned electronics. The following electronics need to be recycled at a registered recycling agent:

Computers	Desktop printers	Televisions	Laptop computers
Computer Monitors	Fax machines	DVD players	VCR players
Video players	DVR's		

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

Staples 2211 8 <sup>th</sup> Street South Wis. Rapids, WI 54494	Express Recycling 480 Strodman Ave. Wis. Rapids, WI 54494	ODC, Wood County 1191 Huntington Ave. Wis. Rapids, WI 54494
Best Buy 1145 Commons Circle Stevens Point, WI 54467	Midwest Computer Recyclers 2608 Water St. Stevens Point, WI 54481	Milwaukee PC 5633 Hwy 10E Stevens Point, WI 54482

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/>