

GRANT NEWS, August 1, 2000

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MEETING DATES:

City of Grant

111 Wildwood Road

Willernie, MN 55090

651-426-3383, www.ci.grant.mn.us

VOTING LOCATION TO BE CHANGED

Starting with the Primary Election on September 12 of this year, residents of Grant will vote at the Lutheran Church of the Risen Christ located at 9050 N. 60th Street, by the intersection of the Highway 36 Frontage Road and Jarvis Ave., just East of Park Nursery.

Polls will be open from 7 AM to 8 PM on Tuesday, September 12 and on Tuesday, November 7. The Church facilities are handicapped accessible, and there are restrooms available. If you have any questions, please contact the City Clerk at 651-426-3383.

BROWN'S CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT BOARD

The terms of two board members for the Brown's Creek Watershed District expire in October. If you would like to be considered as a nominee for one of the positions, please contact the Grant City Clerk by August 25th at 651-426-3383 for an application. Interviews by the City

Council will be held on August 29th.

PLANNING COMMISSION VACANCY

There is one Planning Commissioner vacancy. If you are interested in serving on the Planning Commission, and have not yet submitted an application, please have a letter outlining your interest and experience to the City Clerk by August 25th. Interviews by the City Council will be held on August 29th.

NEWS FROM THE GRANT SHERIFF'S DEPUTY

I would like to take this time to introduce myself. I am Deputy Marc Lombardi of the Washington County Sheriffs Office, and I am the new City of Grant contract Deputy.

Its that time of year again. The weather is warm and people are out and about enjoying the recreational opportunities that the City of Grant has to offer, such as the Gateway Trail and the three golf courses in the area.

In the recent months, Grant has experienced a rise in thefts from motor vehicles at these recreational areas. I would like to take this opportunity to discuss some preventive measures that you can take to prevent yourself from becoming a victim.

Many of the items that have been stolen have been purses, wallets, checkbooks, CDs and car radios. The first items have been the major choices of these thefts.

Take the time to lock your vehicle when using these recreational areas. Keep all valuables out of sight in the passenger compartment. Breaking a car window only takes seconds. Sometimes it's better to leave your purse or wallet at home. If you are going to place valuables into your trunk, do this at home, or before you park. Criminals are watching, breaking into a trunk doesn't take much more time than breaking a car window.

If you are a victim of theft from motor vehicle, call the Sheriff's Office as soon as possible to make a report. Most of the time you can do this over the phone. Call your financial institutions as soon as possible and cancel all checks and/or credit cards that have been taken. Be familiar with your surroundings, report anything suspicious or out of the ordinary to the Sheriff's Office.

Enjoy the recreational opportunities in the City of Grant by being safe, and not becoming a victim. The non-emergency number for the Sheriff's Office is 651-439-9381.

LAKE LINKS TRAIL NETWORK

On July 18 an informational meeting was held at the Town Hall for Grant neighbors to give their comments on a very early draft of a master plan developed by the Lake Links Trail Network. Jeff Schoenbauer of Brauer & Assoc. has been hired by Washington and Ramsey Counties to cooperatively develop a master plan for the trail which would go around White Bear Lake, around Silver Lake, down to Stillwater and hook up to the Gateway Trail and Hugo's North-South trail system.

Jeff led the discussion about possible routes in Grant to and from Stillwater. He presented three options. The first was to purchase the old Burlington Northern railroad corridor that runs a bit south of Hwy. 96 from the neighbors. Jeff pointed out many advantages with this off-road and scenic corridor, however Grant residents in attendance chorused, "over my dead body!"

Jeff's second option was to have a trail along Hwy 96, although it would not necessarily be part of the roadway. Neighbors spoke both for and against this suggestion. Most of the concerns had to do with hazards along the road such as wetlands, and driveways. The idea everyone in the audience liked was to direct trail traffic along Highway 12 (Stillwater Road) where there already is a trail developed.

Jeff will take the input he received from the Grant residents and present it to the larger group of representatives looking at the "big picture". The larger group has citizens from all of the effected communities, the counties, the legislature, MN Dot and trail groups. Jeff sent a personal invitation to this meeting to all those living along Hwy. 96, and those living on the railroad corridor, plus notice was placed in the White Bear Press. The Trail may not be developed until five or ten years down the road – if then. However, as Jeff pointed out, if nothing is done now to discuss the options, there will not be many options in the future.

SPOTTED KNAPWEED

In the *Grant News* March 28, 1999 edition, there was an article describing a biological control for Spotted Knapweed. Now there is one site in Grant where a seed head fly has been released. Another site in the area is at Catherine Abbott Park in Mahtomedi.

This fly lays its eggs on the flower heads of the knapweed and when the eggs hatch the larva burrows into the seed head, eats the seeds, and over winters in this form. In the late spring the new flies appear and the cycle starts again.

Since the fly does not kill the host plants, this control will not eradicate knapweed but it will establish control that will prevent the typical knapweed monoculture. One area at the Lake Elmo Park that previously had a large population of knapweed now only has occasional plants.

To establish new sites, one gathers large bouquets of stems with seed heads containing the larva. This can be done in the late fall or in the spring. These bouquets are then tied to posts or stakes in the knapweed infested areas. (See photo).

There is a possibility of receiving some seed head weevils (*Larinus minutus*) this month. If there are large areas (2-5 acres) of spotted knapweed that would be kept safe (from mowing, spraying, burning, etc) for 10+ years in Grant, a good release of *Larinus minutus* could be worked out for the area.

For more information contact Rick Vanzwol at 651-426-2378 or Pamela M. Deerwood (USDA, APHIS, PPQ) at 612-725-1741 or email her at pamela.m.deerwood@usda.gov.

WATER CLINIC RESULTS

A free water clinic to test drinking water for the presence of nitrate in private wells was held at the Grant Town Hall on June 22, hosted by Grant, the MN Department of Agriculture and Washington County H.E.L.M. Thirty samples were tested. A sample having 4.5ppm (parts per million) nitrate-nitrogen was the highest level found in Grant.

0-10ppm NO₃-N (nitrate-nitrogen) is the U.S. Drinking Water Standard and is safe for all humans, however 10.1ppm and higher is not safe, particularly for infants younger than six months of age.¹ The minimum level of NO₃-N in Grant samples was 0ppm, the median level was 1.1 ppm.

Water tests for lead, coliform bacteria, fluoride, nitrate and other tests can be arranged through Washington County. If you are interested, call Jon Michels at 651-275-7301.

¹From the brochure, "Your Nitrate-Nitrogen Result..." developed by the MN Dept. of Agriculture

LIVING ON A FEW ACRES

Washington and Anoka Counties provide the major funding for the great quarterly magazine *Living On A Few Acres*.

If you are not already receiving this fountain of information, give the University of MN Extension Service a call at 651-430-6800 to get your name on the mailing list (it is free for Grant residents). The magazine is also available on-line at: www.extension.umn.edu/County/Washington.

LOCAL IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE CHAPTER AWARDED GRANT

The Agassiz Chapter of the Izaak Walton League has been awarded a Habitat Restoration Grant from the Minnesota DNR. The project will restore upland marsh habitat along a trail at the Chapter's Shuneman Marsh, located on the west side of

Grant, just south of 120th (aka County Road 7). The focus will be to emphasize marsh ecology, restoring habitat for birds and butterflies. Environmental education stressing sustainable principles will be accomplished through the new trail signs and

the expanded trail guide pamphlet.

The DNR portion of the grant is for \$6580, which will be matched by Chapter labor and funds. Activities include land preparation [grass and weed removal]; plantings of native perennials, grasses, shrubs, and trees; trail signage; and an expansion of the existing trail guide pamphlet. The Chapter will be working with prairie experts from DNR, Landscape Alternative, Outback Nursery, and Prairie Restoration, as well as members from their own Chapter.

The Chapter Grant Coordinator is Howard Markus. If you would like to volunteer, he can be reached at 651-731-8114 or via e-mail at howard.markus@pca.state.mn.us.

MEETING DATES:

City Council: Tuesdays - September 5, October 3, November 14, December 5

Planning Commission: Mondays -August 28, September 25, October 30, November 27, December 18

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Editor