



## THE GRANT NEWS FROM YOUR CITY COUNCIL

### FROM THE MAYOR by Tom Carr

The fall in Grant has always been one of my favorite times of year. The leaves turn amazing colors and the sun, now low in the sky, makes every sunset an event worth watching. Farmers are harvesting their corn and hay giving us a sense of country life. Migrating birds flock by the hundreds or fly high overhead in V's. All the wildlife is changing--getting ready for the winter months.

This is a busy time for City business, too. Next year's budget has to be prepared as well as other things that come up.

Although we are busy, we--the City Council--do like to hear the concerns of the citizens. Towards the beginning of our meetings on the first Tuesday of the month, we have a public comment time set aside of about fifteen minutes. If you do have a concern but don't want to stay for the whole meeting, stop by the town hall (Kimbrow) and speak up. No appointment necessary.

Overall, things in the City are looking good. There are a couple of issues that will need to be addressed, such as road maintenance as the county has changed its policies. Also, the actual road upkeep has been talked about and the planning commission has been going through the Ordinance 50 use table to clear up some conflicting wording and incorporating all the amendments.

I hope your fall season is a good one.

### LOOKING FORWARD, LOOKING BACK by Lynn Keller

Grant's original book of records is sitting on our desk. We're returning it this evening, terrified that the cats will choose the priceless book as their next napping zone. Or worse.

Starting in 1871, this book record births and deaths in Grant. Birth date, gender, name, birthplace of each parent are recorded. The predominant occupation of the father--Farmer. Deaths are also recorded with similar information recorded. Plus cause of death: consumption, debility, infant "cholera", dropsy, child birth to list a few.

Today, official records and documents can be found in the office, the library or the website. Farmers comprise a minority of residents. And "consumption" has a totally different meaning for most outside the medical community. Grant successfully petitioned to change it's status from township to city. By becoming a city, Grant strengthened it's role in shaping the community through policies, procedures and ordinances. It also means that practices and procedures that were acceptable as a township need to be changed as a different set of standards apply to "cities". The City is revising procedures as issues arise. So if "this isn't the way we used to do it", please bear with us and the changes.

Grant has changed, and continues to struggle with changing times and technologies. Many roadbeds were originally built before two car families and without "pocket" neighborhoods planned. Looking back may help us all understand how the community was established, and why some of our "challenges" exist. Looking forward helps shape policies and decision making that anticipates, not just reacts, to on-going change.

City Council, the City Attorney, and City Engineer continue to seek ways of providing services while keeping Grant specific taxes/costs low. The Planning Commission is currently reworking Ordinance 50 which deals with ZONING. If you have an opinion--or an interest you'd like protected--please get involved with the meetings! Grant's City Council and Planning Commission Members need your input!

Let us know what you want to see in the Grant News or on the website. We're looking for articles--items that interest you. We're

looking for writers--a variety of styles and topics related to living in Grant. And we are looking ways to build community spite of a large geographic area.

Thanks for your time, consideration and involvement. In light of recent global events, please hope and pray for peace and justice in all our actions.

### **MORE ABOUT WEEDS** by Rick Vanzwol

In the last issue of *Grant News* there was an article about prohibited noxious weeds that you must control on your property. It was timely information because this has been a banner year for thistles and many of you have had to work very hard to control them. See the Grant web site at <http://www.ci.grant.mn.us/> for lots more information.

One of the weeds on the list is purple loosestrife. This exotic invader was originally introduced as an ornamental but its invasive nature makes it a major problem in wetlands and marshy areas. It is an upright, hardy, bushy perennial that spreads rapidly and can literally take over an area. You can recognize it by the many tall, purple flower stalks this time of year. It's starting to spring up in gardens and wetlands in Grant. Detailed information can be found on the Minnesota DNR web site at: [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ecological\\_services/exotics/plprog.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ecological_services/exotics/plprog.html)

Currently chemical control of purple loosestrife is most effective with Rodeo or glyphosate. Potential biological controls include two leaf-eating beetles, a root-boring weevil, and a flower feeding weevil. For more information and to get started on a control program, contact Pete Ganzel (651-430-6676) Washington County Agricultural Inspector or Bob Olson (651-430-6800) Extension Educator MN Extension Service in Washington County.

### **GRANT HERITAGE COMMITTEE** by Sharon Schwarze

The Grant Heritage Committee was appointed by the City Council on June 5, 2001. In passing the ordinance authorizing this committee the City Council declared that the preservation, protection, perpetuation and use of areas, places, buildings, structures and other objects having a special historical, community or aesthetic interest or value is of public value and will promote the health, prosperity, and welfare of the community.

The purposes of the Heritage Preservation Committee are to:

1. Safeguard the City's heritage by preserving sites and structures, which reflect elements of the City's cultural, social, economic, political, visual or architectural history;
2. Protect and enhance the City's appeal and attraction;
3. Enhance the visual and aesthetic character, diversity and interest of the City;
4. Foster civic pride in the beauty and notable accomplishments of the past; and,
5. Promote the preservation and continued use of historic sites and structures for the education and general welfare of the City's residents.

Members attending the organizing meeting were: Barb Ramsden, Chair and member of the Grant Planning Commission, Sharon Schwarze, Grant City Council, and Pat DeMars, Bob Hagstrom, and Margaret Seifert, Grant Residents.



*The Rutherford House built in 1849  
Site of many early Grant social and political events  
(on highway 15, north of 12)*

The committee is asking your help in preserving the memories of Grant. Many residents of Grant have memories and pictures of Grant's past. One of our goals is to preserve these memories for the future residents. If you are interested in participating or know of a former resident who is interested please contact Sharon Schwarze at (651) 429-2153. We currently do not have the ability to store original documents and artifacts but hope to some day. What we are hoping to do currently is store copies of documents or stories electronically on our website. We would scan copies of documents, keep copies and return all of the originals to you. We can do this while you are present so that you will not loose control of your personal history.

Another goal is to have the information available for research on our website. We are looking for any information you have on farms, families, schools, trains, airports, original settlements and trails. This is not an exclusive list; we need your ideas too. We have started a list of historical places and want to add to this list. Ultimately we would like to put plaques at these sites denoting their historical value. We are open to any ideas you wish to contribute.

## **CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS** by Rick Vanzwol

The following is a very brief summary of actions taken by the City Council. Please see the official minutes for more detailed information.

City Council actions in May 2001.

1. Approved the environmental review, preliminary plat, conditional use permit for Logger's Trail Golf Course and a resolution vacating Lofton Avenue.
2. Appointed Dave Sherlock to fill a vacancy on the Grant Planning Commission.
3. Accepted the resignation of the City Clerk, Stephanie Marty. Barbara Bartholdi was appointed as a temporary replacement Clerk.

City Council actions in June 2001.

1. Accepted the retirement of the City Police Officer, Tim Adams. Robert L. Carlson will be issuing burning permits and Paul Bergio will operate the Pine Tree pump.
2. Approved the final plat for Virginia Plat.
3. Agreed to change the name of 117th Street Court North to Great Oak Trail North.
4. Approved the Tubbs minor subdivision.
5. Reviewed a draft plan to expand the Indian Hills Golf Course. No decisions were made.

City Council actions in July 2001.

1. Agreed to enter into a lease for a communications tower on the Town Hall property.
2. Approved the Gunderson/May minor subdivision.
3. Approved the Holsten minor subdivision.
4. Accepted the resignation of Deward Chastain from the Grant Planning Commission.
5. Appointed Barbara Bartholdi as the permanent City Clerk.
6. Agreed to hold public information meetings about potentially repaving Indian Hills and Stillwater Ranches areas.

City council actions in August 2001

1. Approved the final plat for Meadow Lark Preserve (Arcand) development.
2. Approved the conditional use permit for a communications tower on the Town Hall property.

## **RAGWEED IN GRANT** by Rick Vanzwol

Ragweed, common (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia* (L.) and Ragweed, giant (*Ambrosia trifida* (L.) are considered secondary noxious weeds in Minnesota. This means that Counties can require control. Washington County has not, so control in Grant is voluntary.

Ragweed plants usually grow in rural areas. Near the plants, the pollen counts are highest shortly after dawn. The amount of pollen peaks in many urban areas between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., depending on the weather. Rain and low morning temperatures (below 50 degrees Fahrenheit) slow pollen release. Ragweed pollen can travel far. It has been measured in the air 400 miles out to sea and 2 miles up in the atmosphere, but most falls out close to its source.

These annual plants are easily overgrown by turf grasses and other perennial plants that come up from established stems every year. But where the soil is disturbed by streams of water, cultivation or chemical effects such as winter salting of roads, ragweed will grow. It is often found along roadsides and river banks, in vacant lots and fields. Seeds in the soil even after many decades will grow when conditions are right.

What can you do to help your neighbors who have allergies to ragweed pollen? You can mow or pull ragweed plants on your property and especially along roadsides where City or County mowers cannot reach. For more information see:

[http://www.aafa.org/asthmaandallergyinformation/aboutasthmaandallergies/asthmaandallergyanswers/Ragweed\\_Allergy.cfm](http://www.aafa.org/asthmaandallergyinformation/aboutasthmaandallergies/asthmaandallergyanswers/Ragweed_Allergy.cfm)

## **BURN PERMITS**

Burn Permits required for anything other than a recreational fire. Please call: Robert L. Carlson 439-7168. Joyce and Art Welander (439-2598) offered to be backups should Bob not be available. Though Bob and the Welanders would prefer to issue permits Monday-Friday between 9 and 5, they understand that doesn't work with everyone's schedule. So please call at a considerate hour to arrange for a permit rather than burning without one.

## **DEER HUNTING SEASON**

Please take extra precautions while being outdoors during the season. Bright colors (blaze orange) are the safest. All hunters must be licensed by the state of MN.