

THE GRANT NEWS FROM YOUR CITY COUNCIL

FROM THE MAYOR by Tom Carr

Ahhhhh! Spring in the country. Creeks rising, ponds overflowing, sump pumps pumping and gravel roads with more bumps than you can count. But that's why we moved out here, right? Right? Well, think about it for a while and I'll move on.

Some disappointing news to report is that the Grant festival (Hay Days mentioned last newsletter) has been cancelled for this year. Next year is a possibility, so we'll look forward to that.

Tim Adams, our town constable is leaving after many years of service. If you see Tim out and about, please tell him thanks for the good job he did for Grant. Thanks, Tim.

A big thank you to all the people that helped with the cleanup. It makes a big difference when you walk the streets and the garbage is gone. It also makes an impression on all the visitors we get that visit the trails or our neighborhoods. Thanks again and check out the photos!

That's all I have for now. Have a great summer and I'll see you on the ball fields or around town. Take care.

MANY HANDS AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT MADE IT HAPPEN by Joyce Welander, Coordinator

Special thanks to the RESIDENTS OF GRANT for their time and commitment to make GRANT a CLEAN CITY at the recent Grant Clean-up Day.

First: to the MARONEY FAMILY, residents of Grant, Tim and Tom, Mike and John for the several dumpsters at the hall.

To CITY OFFICIALS who bagged the goodies along the streets - Mayor Tom Carr, Councilman Sharon Schwarze, Rick Vanzwol, Art Welander and his wagon to haul the tires, P.C. member Joan Sprain. Former Mayor Gary Erichson and Mark.

To Bob Hagstrom for fence mending and parking lot repair.

To MEMBERS of the St. Croix Clovers and Soil Savers 4-H Clubs, Taylors, Rienkes, Berres, Kiels, Konchals, Gangnons, Webers, Schifskys, Dimmicks, Houses, Murphys, Sprains, and Millers. Special thanks to Tim and Chuckie Murphy, Teague and Cullen of the Soil Savers 4-H for the extra Sunday hours in cleaning and shining up the Town Hall floor.

To all ROAD WALKERS who participated - Jim and Marlene McKeown, Arnold Johnson, Nancy Havlish, Mary Griffin, Lynn and Jim Spitsmueller, Cal Bangston, Dave Sherlock family, Bob and Cheryl Dengler, Dennis Heuer, Bob Lemere, David Lutz, David and Marilyn Shroeder, Tracy Bauer family, Bob Widderski, Tom Kieger, Angie Dries and boys, Sheryl Palmer, Betty Lundgren, Wally Oien family, Rick Regnier, Jim Schifsky, Pete & Mary Bjurstrom, Sorell and Valerie Slaymaker, Lynn Keller, Kathy Froyland, Mike Kirkva, Clellen Davis, Jody Bystrom, Joel Krueger, Jan Armstrong, Bruce and Juanita Behymier, Reiny-Peterson Lane, Wayne Sarappo, Nancy and Lance Williamson, Bloomstrands, Nelson family, Mike Johnson and family, the Freeman family, and Robert L. Carlson.

We hope we have not missed any of our faithful workers. If I have, it was not intentional. Again thank you to all, and especially to you if you did not give me your name as you left the parking lot.

RESERVE JUNE 28th FOR WATER AND SOIL TESTING CLINIC by Lynn Keller

This summer, the Water Testing Clinic scheduled for June 28th, 4 pm - 7 pm, includes the opportunity to also bring in soil samples to be analyzed by the University of Minnesota's Extension Services. Why the two??? The fertilizer you apply to your yards, gardens and fields directly impacts ground and surface water. So if you use fertilizers, find out what you need and how much to apply by having your soil tested first.

WATER TESTING DETAILS

The city of Grant, Washington County Public Health and Environment and MN Department of Agriculture are hosting this free clinic to test drinking water for nitrate levels in private wells. Nitrate nitrogen is a naturally occurring chemical found in air, soil, water, and plants. It is also the most common contaminant in Minnesota's ground water and nitrate contamination of a well is often regarded as a first sign of deteriorating groundwater quality.

To have your well water tested: Run water from your primary drinking tap for a minute, then place about ½ cup in a clean "zipper" type baggie. Bring it to Grant Town Hall. You will be asked to complete a short questionnaire while your sample is being tested. Distance your well is from your septic system, depth of well, and type of well construction are some of the questions, though not mandatory for testing. You will receive your results that evening with an explanation. Testing for Nitrates (one of the 3 primary ingredients found in most fertilizers!) is free.

On the 28th, residents who wish to have their water tested for bacteria may pick up a sample kit to bring home. Water samples need to be brought to the Washington County Government Center in Stillwater, Tuesdays between 7:30 and noon. The samples will be sent to a contract laboratory for analysis. Results are usually available in 1-2 weeks. The fee for bacteria analysis is \$15.00 and payable when you bring your sample in. For more information, check out www.co.washington.mn.us/pubhlth/welltest.html or call Jon Michels at 651-275-7301.

SOIL TESTING DETAILS

Soil samples from your yard are awkward to mail, requiring a trip to the Post Office, or even the University. Joan Sprain, Planning Commission member and Extension Employee, has volunteered to drive the samples down to the laboratory. This will save you both a trip and the cost of postage. However, there is a \$10 fee for the soil test.

To have your soil tested you will also need a clean "zipper type" plastic bag and a clean bucket.

For lawns: use a trowel and take samples at a three inch depth from 5 or 6 scattered spots in your lawn. Place the samples in the bucket, mix well, and then place about 1 pint (2 cups) in the "baggie".

For gardens: use the trowel and take samples at 6 inches deep in five or more well scattered spots in the garden. Place the samples in the bucket, mix well, and then place about 1 pint (2 cups) in the baggie.

Bring your soil sample and a check for \$10 payable to the University of Minnesota to City Hall June 28th. You will transfer the soil into a University Soil Sample Bag. There will be a short questionnaire to fill out about the soil sample - is it for lawn, vegetable gardens, etc. This sample will be analyzed at the University of Minnesota's Soil testing laboratory so you will not receive results the 28th.

Soil testing evaluates soil fertility and soil pH. Your report, including interpretation of the test results and recommendations for your lawn/garden, will be mailed a couple weeks later. Thanks, Joan, for volunteering to run the samples down to the lab.

CITY CLERK RESIGNS

Stephanie Marty, the City of Grant's Clerk, has resigned and her last day is May 18th. The city will be advertising and interviewing for a replacement. Anyone interested should contact the City Office for more details. Good luck with your new job, Steph!

PROHIBITED NOXIOUS WEEDS by Rick Vanzwol

Under Minnesota statutes there are eleven weeds that must be controlled or eradicated wherever they are growing. They are field bindweed, hemp, purple loosestrife, garlic mustard, poison ivy, leafy spurge, perennial sowthistle, bull thistle, Canada thistle, musk thistle (also known as nodding thistle), and plumeless thistle. Some of these weeds are not common in Grant but many are and you must take action to control any of these plants found on your property.

Every community is required to appoint a weed inspector whose responsibility along with the county agricultural inspector is to conduct routine inspections and to respond to complaints. If prohibited weeds are discovered the property owner will be notified and control measures can be taken.

Control does not necessarily mean widespread spraying of toxic herbicides. There are several control measures that may be appropriate depending on the specific plant and degree of infestation. Mowing at the appropriate times can be very effective with some thistles, for example. Spot spraying may be useful. And biological controls are available and can be very effective on purple loosestrife patches.

There are resources available to help you understand the problems with people who can advise you on the most appropriate controls for your individual situation. Pete Ganzel (651-430-6676) is the Washington County Agricultural Inspector. Bob Olson (651-430-6800) is the Extension Educator MN Extension Service in Washington County. Both are good sources for information on control methods and materials. And I am the City of Grant weed inspector. I don't know how much direct help I can offer but I can be reached at 651-426-2378 or by email at rvanzwol@aol.com. Much more information is available on the Internet at sites such as www.arapcsuext.org/agri/menupage.htm.

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 March 2001:

- Agreed to rezone the Arcand Estates subdivision from AP to A1,
- Agreed to the Waste Management request to replace their existing building,
- Held a public hearing regarding vacating Part of Lofton Avenue for the Logger's Trail Golf Course application.
- Increased salaries for the City Clerk and City Treasurer by 5%,
- At a workshop meeting discussed zoning issues and job descriptions for the City Clerk and City Treasurer.

City Council actions in April 2001:

- Adopted job descriptions and City procedures for the City Clerk and City Treasurer positions,
- Agreed to continue with road maintenance services from Washington County through June 2002. Washington County will not provide these services beyond that time,
- Conducted the Local Board of Review meeting April 23, 2001.

WELCOME TO GRANT NEWS!

We are looking for information and articles for Grant's quarterly newsletter. We can accept any form - e-mail to handwritten articles which we'll type up. Since articles need to be approved by City Council, the deadlines for the remainder of the year are: July 27th (Fall Newsletter), and October 26th (Winter Newsletter). Please note the deadlines if you'd like us to include seasonal information or activities.

If you have any suggestions, please contact us. Help build a stronger sense of community by letting us know what you'd like to see.

Your editors,

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BURGLARY PREVENTION by Marc Lombardi, Deputy Sheriff

It's that time of year again when the sun is shining, the kids are out on summer break and you're taking that long needed summer vacation. Grant is still very much a rural city and a prime target for would-be burglars. Although in the summer months we see less burglaries than in the winter months, I would like to take the time to talk about some burglary prevention measures. Such as:

- Trim shrubbery around windows and doors so a burglar can't hide behind them,
- Doors, door jams, and windows should be of hardwood construction,
- Use dead bolts with a minimum of a one inch throw and use heavy duty strike plates on exterior doors,
- Lock your doors including your garage doors even if you leave for short periods,
- Report any suspicious persons, vehicles, or activities to the police immediately,
- Install a burglar alarm.

These preventative measures I have described could deter, delay, and help detect a burglar. They will increase the chance of a burglar being caught by stopping the amateur thief and slowing the professional.

The Sheriff's Office provides many free services to help prevent burglaries and other crimes through our crime prevention program. Such programs as home security surveys help with forming neighborhood watch clubs, and operation identification; marking easily stolen property with your own permanent identification number. The Sheriff's Office also provides vacation checks to all citizens of Washington County.

Don't forget that burglary prevention goes beyond locks and household security. It is being a good neighbor and reporting to police any suspicious persons or vehicles in you neighborhoods.

For more information on the Sheriff's Office crime prevention programs, you may call me, Deputy Marc Lombardi at the Washington County Sheriffs Office at 651-430-4844. For vacation checks, call Washington County Sheriff's Dispatch at 651-439-9381.

GRANT CITY COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVES NEW WASTE TRANSFER BUILDING; APPOINTS SOLID WASTE OFFICER by Gene House

The Grant City Council, after months of mediations between concerned neighbors, the Planning Commission and Waste Management, unanimously approved the construction of a new waste transfer facility. The old building was destroyed in February when the roof caved in due to heavy ice and snow. The Grant Waste Management location/transfer station has been out of business since then. While continuing to work on the issues, the City Council approved construction of the new facility. Surface and ground water quality are major concerns that are still being addressed. Also, neighbors agreed to rescind petition for an Environmental Assessment Worksheet when Waste Management agreed to:

1. Excavate the existing foundation,
2. Locate the new building in the vicinity of the old building,

3. Remove old house fronting County Road 1,
4. Make the building height to be as low as technically and economically reasonable,
5. Entrance doors to face west (to minimize noise),
6. Berms, lighting, fencing...etc. to be specified by Grant neighbors and Waste Management,
7. Waste Management will guarantee that fencing will not be an eye sore,
8. Waste Management will guarantee that all the above items will be an improvement to the property.


The City Council also approved Waste Management's request to build under the current Conditional Use Permit, which includes no increased tonnage. Earlier in the year, The City Council unanimously approved the appointment of Mr. Eugene House as the Grant City Solid Waste Officer. Gene has summed up the outcome of the many meetings surrounding Waste Management and their desire to be good neighbors in Grant. Thanks for the article, Gene!

4-H IS ALIVE AND WELL IN GRANT

by Joyce Welander & Joan Sprain

4-H IS: A research based educational program of the University of Minnesota funded by the United States Department of Agriculture, the University of Minnesota and Washington County. Members are youth in grades K-12. Parents and interested individuals serve as leaders. For example, Tim Gangnon, City Council member is an aerospace project leader in the Soil Savers 4-H Club.

4-H PLEDGE: I pledge my Head to clearer thinking; My Heart to greater loyalty; My Hands to larger service and my Health to better living for my home, my club, my community, my country and my world.



4-H Helpers at Grant Clean-Up Day!

4-H MOTTO: To Make the Best Better

4-H PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES: 4-H includes many typical rural activities but has grown to meet the needs of all children regardless of where they live. Projects include 1. Animal Sciences: Horse Dog Rabbit & Poultry. 2. Mechanical Sciences: Aerospace rockets, computer electric & shop; 3. Expressive Arts: photography & creative arts; 4. consumer sciences: foods & nutrition, clothing; 5. Soil Sciences: lawn & landscape, flower, indoor and vegetable gardening. 6. Natural Sciences: shooting sports, fishing sports, geology, wildlife and biology 7. Cloverbuds 8. Self Determine

Educational activities also include exchange trips to other states; community service projects, performing arts, leadership training like parliamentary procedure, exhibiting at county and state fair ,judging teams and project demonstrations.

4-H CLUBS IN GRANT:

1. WITHROW WILDCATS - Karen Greenberg, leader
2. ST. CROIX CLOVERS - Joan Sprain, leader
3. SOIL SAVERS - Joyce Welander, leader

Clubs meet at least once per month. To join 4-H call the Washington County Extension Service at 430-6800 or contact one of the leaders listed above.



SPECIAL THANKS TO JOYCE FOR ORGANIZING THE CLEANUP EVERY YEAR!