



Fall 2002

THE GRANT NEWS FROM YOUR CITY COUNCIL

A LETTER FROM THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Grant Resident:

In recent months you may have received a letter from the Mahtomedi School District asking you to support their request to have land detached from Grant to Mahtomedi. If this happens the Mahtomedi School District will receive a donation of land valued (as a Grant Parcel) at about \$1.25 million for \$250,000. The School District must first have a public meeting in which they petition Mahtomedi to start this detachment procedure. The School District has now informally told us that they will not be asking the City of Mahtomedi to begin the detachment procedure. Grant has assured the School District that adequate services would be available at a school site.

While the Grant City Council indicated that a school would be allowed on that property under our ordinances, we were very clear that we would **never** support detachment of any property into Mahtomedi. A resolution stating our opposition to any detachment or annexation of Grant's property was passed." This is available for review on our website at www.ci.grant.mn.us/grant/minutes/Resolution_2002-06. Grant's residents, elected officials and staff have worked long and hard to maintain our rural atmosphere, borders and density. Your current City Council intends to maintain the rural future directive from our residents.

Why the Grant City Council opposed detachment/annexation:

1. This is in direct opposition to our approved Comprehensive Plan to maintain a rural growth plan.
2. Developers are hoping to open the floodgates of development. Once this begins detachment applications could be made and approved at all sides of our borders. This would be setting a dangerous precedent to the future of Grant.
3. Residents of Grant would be next to a 300 plus home development rather than a 15 to 16 home development.
4. We have all heard complaints about the traffic on Stillwater Road and Hilton Trail. Three hundred additional homes would create an additional 9 trips per home per day or 2,700 daily trips on each of these roads.
5. All of the residents of the school district should equally pay for the land acquisition as they have voted to do. Grant should not be asked to carry so much of this burden. Half of the residents of Grant attend Stillwater Schools. Mahtomedi Schools also have students from Mahtomedi, Dellwood, Pine Springs, Hugo, Lake Elmo, Oakdale, Willernie, and White Bear Lake. These people should pay their fair share.
6. Grant will lose tax revenue.

The Mahtomedi School District is currently investigating other options in cooperation with the Grant City Council. Grant will do its best to keep you informed of developments concerning this and any other proposals that will deviate from our comprehensive plan.

Sincerely,
Grant City Council

ELECTION INFORMATION; CITY OF GRANT

The GENERAL ELECTION: Tuesday November 5, 2002

POLLING HOURS: 7 am until 8 pm.

VOTING LOCATION: Lutheran Church of the Risen Christ

9050 N. 60th Street (intersection of Jarvis and Hwy. 36 frontage road)

There is plenty of parking in back, accessible indoor restrooms, and enough space for privacy when voting. Thanks for sharing your space!

Safe eastbound access from Hwy 36: service road off Keats

Safe westbound access from Hwy 36: Demontreville crossover

HOT TOPICS OF THE SUMMER – Tom Carr

This is a thank you letter. A letter to say that I appreciate that the citizens of Grant are ready willing and able to respond to something that had huge impact on what we are and what we will be.

If you haven't heard, there was an attempt to gain support for Mahtomedi to annex part of Grant. I won't go into the details here. When the "news" first hit, you may remember the articles which included my strong opposition to the idea. Then the residents of Grant rallied to voice their opposition and clearly letting their opinion be known. The strength of our community's voice was not expected by those behind the annexation concept. Grant residents were shocked, mad, disappointed and felt misled. They responded with determination, conviction and common sense. I'm not sure it's over yet but as your mayor I want you to know that you've all said what needed to be said far better than I could have. I still do not support annexation and watching Grant residents rally to support our low density was neat. Thanks again.



This year's budget will be an interesting one. An anticipated increase in fire contracts and a very real increase in Washington County road maintenance contracts are causing the biggest jump in our budget. Our attorney, Kevin Shoeberg, continues to work on those contracts to ensure that Grant is not underwriting the costs of servicing neighboring developments. Right now we are at a 17% levy increase with expenses at an 8.5% increase. We are working to reduce that number and have until December to determine a final Grant levy.

Ways to help keep taxes lower in Grant: Our volunteer newsletter editors have volunteered to reduce the GRANT NEWS to two issues a year and are still asking for another team to take over the task! And there are ways you, personally can help as well. Keep the trees, brush and weeds trimmed around your road frontages. Clearly mark your addresses so time isn't wasted looking for your address for any reason. And see the new Animal Control procedure in this issue. Your input is appreciated so let us know your thoughts.

DEAR CITY OF GRANT RESIDENTS by Mahtomedi Mayor Yale Norwick



I would like to thank Mayor Carr and the Grant City Council for allowing me this opportunity to communicate with you once again. Mayor Carr and myself are committed to keeping the lines of communication open between our cities.

As a result of considerations being made by our school district, the topic of annexation has come up. Although issues related to the school's needs may be viewed differently by different people, one thing is very clear - a contested annexation makes no sense and would absolutely defeat the intended purpose.

We are sister cities that are part of a larger community. Our relationship depends on the respect for each other's autonomy and rights. Although we may view some issues uniquely from time to time, I am committed to a lasting relationship that is respectful, open, and positive.

Thanks again for this opportunity and I hope your summer has been happy and safe.

CITY OF GRANT ELECTIONS

Two seats are open in the Grant City Council Election. The Candidates Forum, moderated by the White Bear/North Oaks/Mahtomedi Area League of Women voters, will be held 7 pm Tuesday October 8th at the Mahtomedi Middle School - the 2nd floor 6th grade resource center. There is an elevator and restrooms available. Please confirm date and time with city office or web site. Thanks in advance for voting, those who serve as election judges, and to Barbe, our City Clerk, who has many more tasks and responsibilities during this time of an election year.

MOSQUITOS

West Niles Virus... among other mosquito borne illnesses is a real concern. Watch for a letter from The Minnesota Mosquito Control District (MMCD) this fall. They are updating their "RESTRICTED ACCESS DATABASE". Homeowner's that have requested "no mosquito control" on their property are listed in this database. Most folks don't pass that information along when a home changes hands. And with more mosquito borne diseases, some folks who requested "no control" may now want some additional help. The letter will explain how to add or remove your name from the "NO CONTROL" list.

In the meantime... get rid of those old tires, drill holes in the ones used for recreational purposes, and eliminate as much standing water in buckets or other "catches". For more information, check their website out at: <http://www.MMCD.org>. The local phone number is 651-645-9149, though they are swatted... oops swamped...with phone calls now and ask you wait until post season to make your calls.

PERSONAL SAFETY by Lynn Keller

Tidbits from city council meetings and conversations with our Deputy Sheriff include:
Most burglaries in Grant seem to target guns and jewelry. Because hunting is allowed, we have more known guns than many other cities. Tips on prevention include:

1. The Master Bedroom is the first place the crooks look for jewelry;
2. Even if your garage is attached, make sure valuables - including purses or wallets - are not left in the car, but brought into your home at night.
3. Items left on trailers are quick getaways for thieves with pick ups and hitches. Lock your trailer if leaving toys (snowmobiles, ATVs, etc) or tools (bobcats, tractors, etc.) on board.

Help your kids with street smarts! The Gateway Trail is a fine choice for meeting up with friends you know, but a bit too remote for

a first date. Be mindful of your surroundings and other trail users, particularly if you are out there alone. If you see anything suspicious on the trail or by trail parking, call 911 and report it.



HERE WE GO AGAIN – CLEARLY MARKED STREET ADDRESSES!

For the past several issues, we've requested residents clearly mark their street address for emergency response vehicles. It's amazing how many "unmarked" homes we still have. So here are the facts.

(A paraphrase of) Ordinance 65 **REQUIRES** property owners clearly mark their street numbers in letters that are at least 3 inches in height, in a contrasting color to the building and either lighted or in a reflective material. These numbers must be clearly visible when seen approached from either direction.

Now... mailbox numbers work **if** they are three inches in height, **and** the mailbox is on your property. With clustered mailboxes and/or boxes across the street from your home, you must attach the numbers to a separate post which shall be placed within 30 feet of your street. It's for your safety.

Council Member Rick Vanzwol has a trial 911 address marker at his driveway. It is reflective with the street number on both sides. Six fire department units reached him very quickly after a lightening strike in August.



The Hall property on Jamaca. The old Hubman farmstead.

HUNTING SEASONS:

Goose, duck and deer seasons keep hunters active most of the fall. Remember to **wear bright colors** during hunting season. Also... if you allow hunters on your land, be sure they are licensed and are clear about your property boundaries.

If a wounded deer is staggering around your property, the Washington County Sheriff's department will send an officer out to humanely put it out of its misery. 911 is okay for this type of call.

RECREATIONAL FIRES:

Fires smaller than 3 feet do not require a permit. Bon fires or Brush pile burns require a visit by fire marshal Robert Carlson and a \$10 fee. Call 439-7168 to schedule that visit from Robert to ensure a safe burn.

BRUSH HIDING YOUR VIEW? Art Welander, Road Supervisor

Simple. You may and should cut that brush on your road frontage, 30 - 33 ft. from the road Center. The listed noxious weeds also need to be dealt with. Thanks for your help.

And just in case we have snow before the next newsletter...remember that snow cannot be plowed, blown or shoveled into the roadway. Again, keep your driveway entrances cleared for both visibility and access.

ANIMAL CONTROL AND YOUR TAX DOLLARS??

Last month the city got hit with a whopping big bill of nearly \$900 for "stray" pets that were dropped off at the animal shelter. In an effort to control the animal control budget, procedures for dealing with strays have changed.

If you catch a stray - cats or dogs - you need a permission slip from either Council Member Art Welander (Joyce in his absence) or the Grant City Clerk, Barbe. The Humane Society Shelter for Companion animals **WILL NOT ACCEPT** stray animals from Grant Residents without these slips.

Summary of the June 2002 Newsletter Survey re: Cablecasting City Meetings.

Seventy-three responses were received. Of these:

40 (55%) have a cable connection now, 11 (15%) others have access, 8 (11%) do not have access, and 12 (16%) don't know if they have access.

52 monitor City activities. 30 by attending meetings, 7 through the library, 40 through the web site, 31 by personal contacts and, 3 through the Grant News.

Should the meetings be videotaped? Of 128 individual responses 77 checked "Yes", 21 "No", and 30 "Don't object". This is 60% "Yes", 16% "No" and, 23% "Don't object".

(Of the 33 respondents who do not now have cable there were 56 individual responses. 21 (38%) checked "Yes", 15 (27%) checked "No", and 20 (36%) checked "Don't object".)

28 responses were signed although one was illegible.

There were 24 written comments which were recorded verbatim and can be found at http://www.ci.grant.mn.us/grant/cable_survey_comments.html.



Pat Demars is busy preserving the rural character of Grant in her own back yard. She grew up in Grant on her parent's farm. She is on the city's Historic Preservation Committee too.

PRESERVING GRANT'S HISTORY by Sharon Schwarze

History is preserved through stories and places that remind of us those stories. Sometimes we have places but don't know the story. One of our goals is to begin the process of gathering these stories and listing those places. We need your help in order to do this.

If you own or know of a place or have a story that is more than 50 years old we would like to hear from you. What type of place? A house, barn, historic marker or graves are examples of what we are looking for. If you know a story that goes with it we would love to hear it. However, if you don't know the story or don't have time today to tell it we still want to hear from you. Simply fill in the form below and send it to our City Clerk. Feel free to add more information.

Mail to: Barbe Bartholdi, City Clerk
City of Grant Grant Historical
P.O. Box 577 Committee
Willernie, MN 55090 Survey Form

Email: cityclrk@pop.visi.com

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Place _____

Approximate construction date _____

CITY OF GRANT LOGO CLOTHES

There are still a few sweatshirts, baseball hats and t-type shirts available. Could be that perfect holiday gift. Check with Michelle Smith at 653-0600. Originally the inventory included windshirts, T-shirts, Sweatshirts and baseball caps.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN A rare letter to the GRANT NEWS EDITOR

I have to admit the article in the Spring Grant newsletter prompted me to write this letter. I think it's a bit ridiculous to write an article of importance from a "dog's point of view" rather than from people of this community about the dog problem in Grant. This is a real issue, not a story book tale.

Get real folks, and write from a human perspective and tell dog owners point blank, your dog or dogs in many cases, cannot run loose, there is a leash law. Your dog cannot bark and disturb the peace. Your dog must not "litter" your neighbors' property, harass walkers, bikers, etc. There will be fines. This is the law. When we speed we get a ticket, when we disturb the peace we get a visit from the police, etc.

Come on tell it like it is. Do you really think that dog owners will take that article seriously?

Concerned resident,
Fluffy the Cat





COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY by Rick Vanzwol

May 2002

- Adopted a revised accessory building ordinance.
- Appointed Raleigh Trucking to do gravel road grading this year.
- Denied a preliminary plat application for Indian Hills 5th addition.
- Met on May 14 with the Planning Commission to discuss potential changes to the zoning ordinance.

June 2002

- Approved an amended Conditional Use Permit for the Mahtomedi High School and Middle School construction.
- Agreed to post Ideal Avenue for No Parking during school day for 1200 feet south of County Road 12.
- Agreed to move forward toward paving Irish Avenue and part of Ironwood Avenue at the residents' expense.
- Rescinded the Indian Hills application denial.

July 2002

- Approved an amended preliminary Plat for Indian Hills.
- Adopted Resolution 2002-06 opposing any annexation of Grant lands into Mahtomedi.
- Adopted Resolution 2002-07 allowing sewer and water hookups for any potential new District 832 school buildings in Grant meeting several conditions.
- Adopted Resolution 2002-08 expressing intent to join FEMA.

August 2002

- Adopted revised versions of Resolutions 2002-06 and 2002-07.
- Approved the Chris Rodahl variance request.
- Adopted a resolution appointing election judges for 2002.
- Approved spending \$14,105 (half the cost) for a phase II study of the Bellaire Sanitation property as a potential school site to replace the Bruggeman property.

ACCESSORY BUILDING CHANGES by Lynn Keller

Nothing's easy in Grant, and one look at the Accessory (Out) Building Ordinance 2002-93 is proof. Our ordinances are complex because our city has lots of varying sizes and geographic features, such as lakes, that we are trying to accommodate. Many older homes have detached garages, which if located more than six feet from the home, eat up a good portion of allowable square footage. Add to that vocations and hobbies that include larger tools and toys, factor in varying opinions such as old farm equipment adds to rural character or is an eye sore, and you find the reasons behind the modifications and complexity of the Accessory Building Ordinance.

Regardless of parcel size, all accessory buildings require a building permit, and any building larger than 1,000 square feet, or any building that shall house animals, ALSO require a certificate of compliance. Most of the Maximum Total Square Footage changes impact parcels greater than 5 acres, all have a maximum height of 35 feet, and the following summarizes changes:

Acreage Max. Combined. Sq. Ft. # buildings allowed

Less than 1 1,000 2

1.01 to 2.99 1,500 2

3 to 4.99 2,000 2

5 to 9.59 2,500 3

9.6 to 14.99 3,500 4

15 to 19.99 4,000 4

20 or more no limit no limit

Be sure to reference the complete ordinance 2002-93 prior while planning your accessory building. The city office, local libraries or the Grant Web site (<http://www.ci.grant.mn.us>) has the complete document.

ORDERING TREES

Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District has gone through a couple of changes, including a name change. Watch now for Washington Conservation District (WCD) information and most likely an e-mail address change in the future. The new name is more inclusive as the WCD includes forestland, prairie establishment, open space, air and noise pollution and other items. There are also new boundaries so board members are more in alignment with other county boundaries. Grant falls under Conservation District 1.

Washington Conservation District will continue providing trees and shrubs at nominal costs for county residents. This is a great program that promotes conservation and native/indigenous species, critical for habitat. Call Wendy Griffin at 430-6827 or check out the website at <http://wscd@co.washington.mn.us> for a list of trees and shrubs as well as pricing. Fall's the time to order for spring plantings, and popular species often sell out before year end.

GATEWAY TRAIL UPDATE by Lynn Keller

Did anyone else notice the surveyors at Hwy. 96 and the Gateway Trail end of August?

Suzann Willhite, Area Supervisor for the Gateway State Trail, says LCMR funding for a safe road crossing has been approved, and the August surveying was part of the design phase. Construction of the bridge over Hwy. 96 should begin in spring of 2003 and will include room for cyclists, walker/runners, inline skates, skiers, and willing horses. There will also be an "at grade" crossing for horses -or people - that prefer solid ground.

Suzann said that safety is the DNR's critical goal in establishing and maintaining the trail system. She knows that parking along 96 - as well as Cty. Rd. 12 - is also a safety issue. The 96 bridge will include a parking area, and that is limited by the size of the easement. Hwy. 96 may be closed for a minimal period of time during phases of that construction project.

The DNR has also received federal T21 (transportation) funding for a bridge over Cty.12 in the future. This project could be as far out as 2005, but Suzann is communicating with both the school district and Waste Management to explore shared opportunities as the school district looks at additional land for expansion. Sharing parking facilities could be a good dual use. Safety again is the driving need, and Suzann is committed to helping Grant preserve the country feel. That's the prime reason the Gateway State Trail is so popular!

Suzann wants dialogue with Grant residents! She can be reached by phone at 651-772-7937 or can field e-mail at suzann.willhite@dnr.state.mn.us.

Who's using the trail? The DNR survey of trail users indicated 70% of the users come from Washington or Ramsey County, traveling less than 10 miles to pick up the Gateway. That's very unique in the state trail system.

Gateway State Trail Extension is well underway. The trail will continue easterly from Pine Point Park until the DNR easement ends. Private land easements are being purchased for continuing the trail northward. A big thanks to John and Nancy Baird for donating the first private segment as the trail heads toward William O'Brien State Park and eventually to Taylor's Falls.

GRANT NEWS

Bruce and I are hoping someone else wants a chance to polish or exercise those writing and editing skills. Please contact a City Council member, our city clerk, or us for more information. Thanks.

Bruce and Lynn Keller. 653-8244



COUNTRY LIVING....

BUCKTHORN?

Fall is a good time to continue controlling this monster that is overtaking the understory in Washington County and particularly Grant. Personally, I found applying TORDON RTU around the trunk of the still standing trees the most effective control method. The chemical will be drawn down into the root system as the invasive/noxious shrub starts storing energy for winter. Target the berry producing female trees. Shrubs/trees can then be cut at a later date, and burned once you've pulled that burn permit. Tordon is a harsh chemical - be sure to follow the cautionary statements. Call me if you have questions or want more information: Lynn Keller 653-8244.

ENJOYING THE BIRDS??

Adding a heated birdbath during winter is a real asset in taking care of our feathered friends. Of course, you'll find the squirrel discovers the spa like temperatures perfect for their liking as well!

LADYBUG PROBLEMS END OF WINTER???

The metro area has been infested with "lady bugs" properly identified as Multicolored Asian Lady Beetles. Though beneficial insects that feed on aphids among other insects, they are annoying with reports of hundreds a day plaguing homeowners with the first warm days of spring. NOW is the time to caulk up those outside holes and double check windows. They will be looking for places to hibernate... make sure your home isn't an invitation!

CRITTERS IN THE BASEMENT????

Hardware cloth over the end of your sump pump pipe and even between the cover and your floor will keep some of the creatures at bay.
