



THE GRANT NEWS FROM YOUR CITY COUNCIL

A CITY BY ANY OTHER NAME by Tom Carr

How do you describe the City of Grant to people you come in contact with?

"City? Where's your downtown?" "Ummmmm we really don't have one."

"Oh...well where your city office must be the real center of Grant!" "Actually, our city office is...uhhh... in Willernie!"

"Okay but do all your full time employees like working where they're not in the city itself?" "Well, we only have one part time/fulltime employee and they've not complained."

"So how do you handle all the businesses and homes that are sprouting up all over?" "Yah...well... aaaah...we really don't have a lot of business here and only 13 new homes were built last year. "

"Boy your taxes must be high to make up for the lack of development money coming in!". "Funny, but it's the opposite. There were only 3 cities in the 109 metro area with city taxes lower than Grant - we were ranked 106th out of 109!"

"Wow, that's great! Hey...I'm hungry - let's go grab a quick bite in the neighborhood!" "That won't work as there aren't any fast food places in Grant."

"Well, how 'bout a gas station with a convenience store?" "No gas stations either."

"Then let's fly into Stillwater." "Well, I don't tend to fly on gravel."

"Gravel roads? I just washed my car! It'll get dirty." "No problem, we'll take mine. Besides at a slower speed we're less likely to hit any deer."

"Deer? Sounds more like the country than a city to me. Grant sure is unique." "We

only became a city to keep from being swallowed up by surrounding cities."

"That's going to happen with progress you know." "With an average of 10 acres density per house we are planning that it doesn't happen."

"TEN ACRE AVERAGE PER HOUSE!" "Ten."

"That will never last. People will want to move in and the lot size will shrink." "Grant is trying really hard to keep it the same so that the woods and fields will be here for a long time to come."

"How do you cut all that grass?" "The horses eat it."

"HORSES?!"

ARE WE A CITY? Sure, but we are unique. Whether being a city, or being unique is good or bad, depending upon the person you are talking with. Most people in Grant say they love this way and to keep it the same. This takes more than just a few people. Pull up the web site, check out the meetings and workshops, or send in your opinions. Like all cities, we have a few problems we are working on. But all in all, Grant is still a wonderful place to live.



Road safety concerns? Extra money has been allocated to address safety issues. On the enclosed survey, please identify your most troubling road safety issues, including specific locations. City Council will prioritize according to responses.



IT'S WINTER--AND IT'S TIME TO THINK SPRING?

Now is the time to think of ordering trees for spring planting. Washington Soil and Water Conservation District is offering 23 different trees and shrubs. The tree stock is bare root and will range in size from 8 to 24 inches including roots. Trees are sold in bundles of 25 per species at a cost of \$22.50 including tax. This is the minimum quantity that can be ordered from the District. It is the policy of the District that trees purchased from the District be planted in Washington County.

For our furred and feathered friends, wildlife habitat tree plantings provide year round food, shelter and cover for many game and non-game species in Minnesota.

To receive an order form, go to our web site; <http://www.co.washington.mn.us/soilwater.htm>, or contact our office at 651-430-6827. We can help you plan for the future with a tree plan for wildlife, shelterbelts and field windbreaks.



CELL PHONE TOWERS IN GRANT

Three cell phone towers were in the news in Grant during 2001.

First, a proposed Qwest tower was approved by the City Council last year on the Costa property on Highway 96 east of County Road 9. On March 22, 2001 Judge Carlson imposed an injunction against construction of the tower after a lawsuit was filed by Dudley and Michelle Crow.

Second, to replace the Costa tower, Tristar and Qwest applied in June to build a tower on the Town Hall property. In July the Council agreed to sign a lease with Tristar and in August the Council approved the CUP application. This tower is now in place. Unfortunately, many neighbors did not receive a mailing about the public hearing on this project (although some did). As a result the conditions of the permit have been modified slightly to insure removal of the tower should such become necessary in the future.

Third, the American Tower CUP on the DeWolf property in northeast Grant was denied by the City but reinstated by the District Court. (American Tower challenged the denial of its application in district court, contending that the City was required to issue the CUP as a matter of law under Minn. Stat. § 15.99.) The Appeals Court affirmed the District Court decision and on December 6, 2001 the Minnesota Supreme Court affirmed the Appeals Court decision and ordered the City to issue a building permit. During the interim, the DeWolfs have negotiated with American Tower requiring a monopole design rather than the lattice tower originally proposed.



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 (http://www.ci.grant.mn.us/grant/minutes/minutes_2001.htm) for more detailed information.

Council actions in September 2001:

- Approved the preliminary budget and tax levy for 2002.
- Approved the amended CUP for Tenere's new building.
- Approved the Schaefer minor subdivision.

Council actions in October 2001:

- Adopted a resolution supporting planning for the Highway 36 corridor.
- Agreed to develop three dry hydrants (for better fire protection) in Grant.
- Agreed to buy \$118,000 bonds from Washington County Bank to finance the Jocelyn Road paving project.



Council actions in November 2001:

- Approved the Linnihan lot line rearrangement request.
- Denied the Liberty on the Lake request to construct a mitigation wetland in Grant.
- Approved the Costa amended CUP.
- Instructed the City Engineer to begin the process of resident approval for paving Ironwood Ave.

Council actions in December 2001:

- Approved the Kalland minor subdivision.
- Reappointed Karen Street, Dan Potter, Gene House, and Barb Ramsden to three year terms on the Planning Commission.
- Adopted a new Shoreland Ordinance.
- Completed the Jocelyn Avenue bonding process.
- Noted that the Minnesota Supreme Court affirmed the Court of Appeals decision to allow American Tower to construct a cell phone tower on the DeWolf property.
- Approved the final 2002 budget and tax levy.

City Council Information

Tom Carr - Mayor

Home phone: 653-2517
Pager: 659-5836
9550 Joliet Avenue N
Stillwater, MN 55082
Email address: tom.carr@frostbit.com
Council Appointments:

- Cedar Ridge Committee
- Oak Wilt
- Annual Grant Picnic Chair

Art Welander - Deputy Mayor

Home phone: 439-2598
10381 83rd Street N
Stillwater, MN 55082
Email address: weljo1@aol.com
Council Appointments:

- Road Supervisor
- Animal Control
- Gopher Feet
- Recycling Bins
- Ball Field

Tim Gangnon

Home phone: 439-9311
10850 62nd Street N
Stillwater, MN 55082
Email address: tgang@landolakes.com
Council Appointments:

- Planning Commission Liaison

Sharon Schwarze

Home phone: 429-2153
10707 Joliet Avenue N
Stillwater, MN 55082
Email address: ksja@aol.com
Council Appointments:

- Metropolitan Council Liaison

Rick Vanzwol

Home phone: 426-2378
9750 Jamaca Avenue N
Mahtomedi, MN 55115
Email address: rvanzwol@aol.com
Council Appointments:

- Washington County Board Liaison
 - Grant News Editor
 - Weed Inspector
 - Website Liaison
-



FOR ALL EMERGENCIES CALL 911

Paramedic/Ambulance/Fire Department: 911

(911 will automatically route to Stillwater or Mahtomedi)

City Police: Washington County Sheriff

Deputy Marc Lombardi 651-439-9381

Power emergency or lights out: 1-800-895-1999

City Council

January 8, 2002
February 5, 2002
March 5, 2002
April 2, 2002
May 7, 2002
June 4, 2002
July 2, 2002
August 6, 2002
September 3, 2002
October 1, 2002
November 12, 2002
December 3, 2002
January 7, 2003

City Council Workshops

January 29, 2002
February 26, 2002
March 26, 2002
April 30, 2002
May 28, 2002
June 25, 2002
July 30, 2002
August 27, 2002
September 24, 2002
October 29, 2002
November 26, 2002
December 17, 2002
January 28, 2003

City Planner/Engineer: Jay Kennedy WSB & Associates

763-287-7192 fax 763-541-1700

jkennedy@wsbeng.com

City Treasurer: Pending

City Assessor: Pat Poshek

651-430-0360 fax: 651-351-9160

assessor52@aol.com

City Attorney: Kevin Shoeberg

651-735-9340 fax: 651-735-6746

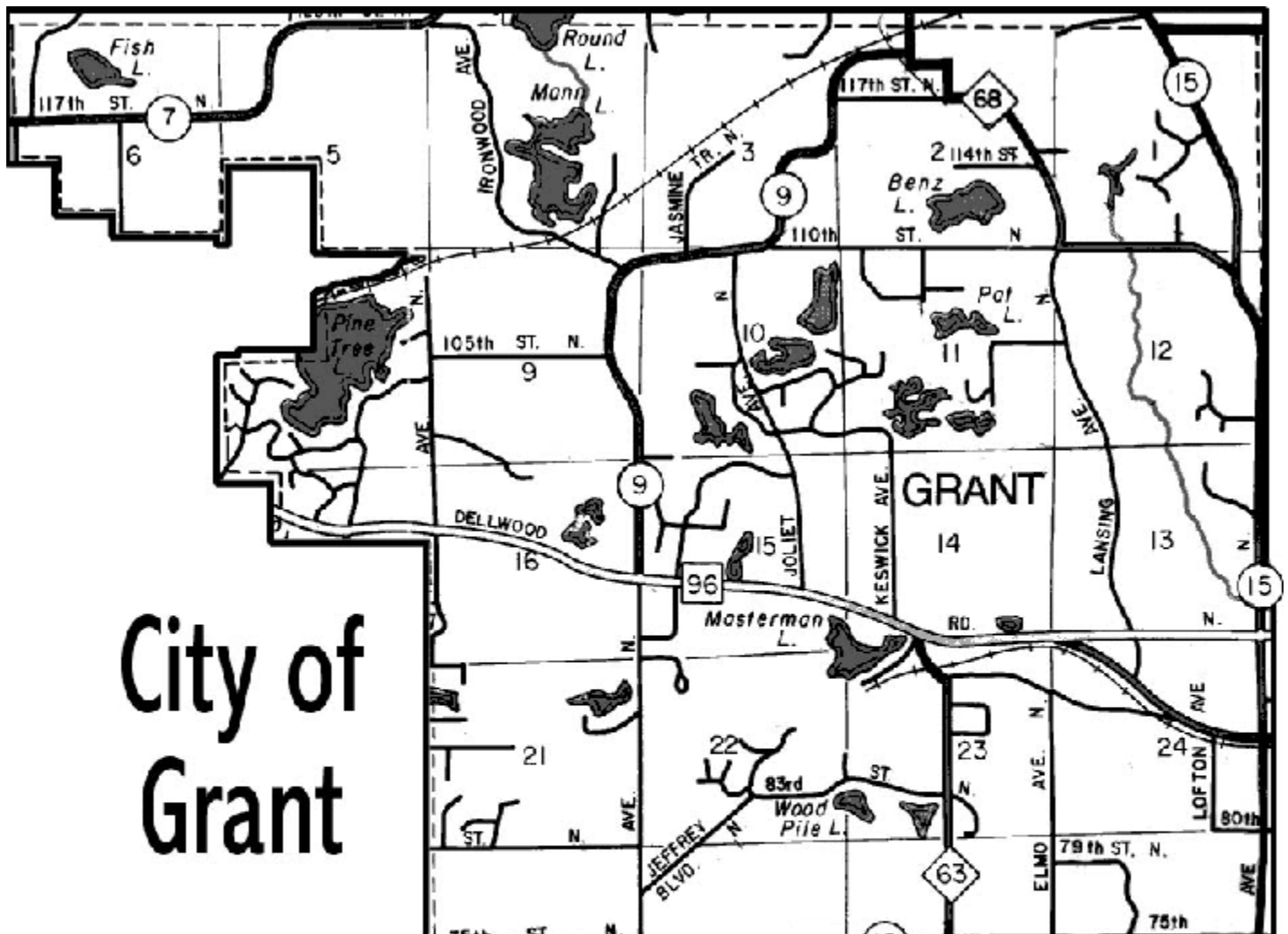
kkspa@aol.com

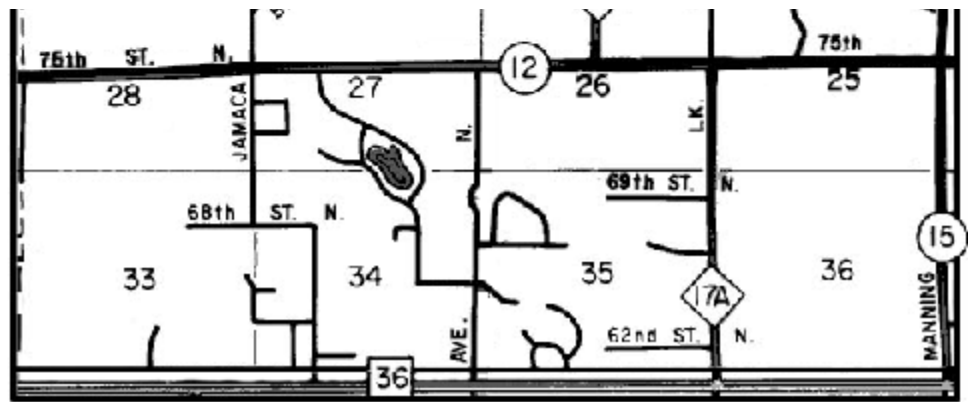
Burn Permits: Fire Marshal Robert Carlson

651-439-7168 (permits \$10, citations up to \$750!)

Recycling bins: Joyce or Art Welander

651-439-2598





WHO ARE YOU?

The 2000 census indicated the population of Grant was 4,026 residents, 51.9% male and 48.81% female. Roughly 1/3 of the households had kids, and we had 83 residents over the age of 75! We can also estimate - by hand counting building permits - that approximately 225 new homes have been added to Grant between 1991 and 2000. But there's much more to Grant than the number and ages of its residents.

Included in this issue of the Grant News is the "not even close to a random survey questionnaire". It is not researched based nor professionally constructed. It's just for fun and a way to get to know the likes and dislikes of Grant residents a bit better. You may remain anonymous, or there's space provided to include name, address and phone number. It's been designed as a mail back - all you need to do is fill it out and put a stamp on it. Try to get it in by April 1st so we can start sharing responses in the next Grant News. Thanks!

COUNTRY CORNER

The 2000 Census indicated Grant had 1213 kids under the age of 19. Be sure to let your dentist know you are on a private well. Some may want to test your water to determine if your kids need fluoride supplements. Fluoride is generally not found in sufficient quantity to provide the dental health benefit.

An aluminum trash can with a "screen door spring" looped from handles through the lid seems to keep raccoons and squirrels out of one residents bird seed. Seems bungee cords



only served as appetizers to the black oilers contained within!

Want to cut down on mowing? Attend the Prairie restoration workshop offered at UW Stout. It's geared for beginners and non-professionals March 23 at Menomonie, WI. Cost is \$25 if you register prior to March 8. Contact Mike Miller for more information 715-425-0397. Or mike.miller@dnr.state.mn.us

Now's the best time to trim up those oaks to prevent the further spread of Oak Wilt in Grant. Aesthetic value is the only thing gained if you seal the wound more than one hour after the cut. Use a water based sealant (even latex paint) as the goal is to mask the odor from the insects that transmit oak wilt and Dutch Elm diseases.

PLEASE contact Lynn with suggestions for next issue's Country Corner: 653-8244 or lynn@bigoakhill.com.

ROADSIDE CLEAN UP - April 27th

Mark April 27th on your calendars for Grant Roadside Clean Up. Joyce Welander remains our faithful coordinator and requests you contact her for assignments. She can be reached at 439-2598 or weljol@aol.com. Remember those rubber gloves, boots and trash bags for your treasures that get dropped off at the Grant Town Hall on Kimbro between 9 and noon that Saturday. The rain date will be Saturday May 4th.

FOR A FEE - residents may drop off large appliances on that day only (April 27th) at the Town Hall. Payment and proof of residency in Grant are required at the time of drop off. Maroney's fee schedule is: Refrigerators/freezers \$30; Stoves \$25; dishwashers, washing machines, and water heaters \$20; dehumidifiers \$10. Thank you, Maroney's for taking on the extra duty that day!

LOOKING FOR TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES?

The **Grant Trail Rangers (GTR)** is a non-profit corporation, established in 1978 to promote responsible horseback riding and cross country skiing in Grant. GTR maintains a system of private horse and ski trails in the City of Grant. To use these private trails, you need to be a member of GTR, commit to responsible trail use and help with periodic work sessions. GTR provides any needed trail maintenance for the club's private trails.

Members sign a code of ethics guaranteeing their behavior while on the club's private trails and are required to display their membership tags at all times when using the GTR trails. Property owners are protected by Minnesota Statute 604A.2 and a release form signed by the GTR members. To obtain membership applications or if you would consider establishing a GTR trail on your property to be used by members, including your neighbors and friends, please contact: **Heidi Hambuch, GTR President, 651-653-0516** or rummsey@mediaone.net. We look forward to hearing from you, so that we can continue to offer unique trail experiences right here in Grant.



THE SHERIFF SAYS by Deputy Sheriff Marc Lombardi

The editor wanted me to take a few minutes to talk about one of the major issues for Grant residents, that of traffic concerns. Although there is less traffic during the Winter months, two of the

most common traffic complaints from City residents are speed and passing on the right. One of the major patrol duties that I have increased since becoming the City of Grant contract Patrol Deputy has been that of traffic enforcement, especially in these two areas. It should be noted that passing on the right, on a marked shoulder or in a posted right turn lane is unlawful and could result in the violator being issued a traffic citation. The amount a person will pay for pleading guilty to a moving violation in Washington County is a minimum of \$85, and moving violations go on your driving record, which could result in higher insurance premiums.

Some of the intersections where passing on the right are a particular problem are, 75th St. at Jamaca Av., Manning Av. at 80th St. and McKusick Rd., and Manning Tr. at 110th St. We have to remember that many residents and nonresidents use the shoulders of county roads to park and walk, so passing on the right could be a dangerous maneuver.

Remember to obey the posted speed limit, do not pass on the right, and always wear your seat belt. Seat belt use saves lives. Have a great and safe Winter.

Planning Commission Information

Howard Gochberg - Chairman

9943 Jamaca Court N.
Mahtomedi MN 55115
429-8480 fax 429-1937
Term Expires: 12/31/2002
howard.gochberg@metrostate.edu

Candice Kraemer

6969 Jocelyn Rd N.
Stillwater MN 55082
773-0435
Term expires: 12/31/2002
candice@tordahl.com

Joan Sprain

6255 Keats Ave N
Stillwater MN 55082
773-5886
Term Expires: 12/31/2003
sprainfamily@netscape.net

David Washburn - Vice Chair

9694 75th St N.
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653-8038
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david@redcardinalfarm.com

Dan Potter

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351-9270
Term Expires: 12/31/2004
dpotter@sjm.com

Karen Street

10856 Ideal Ave N.
Mahtomedi MN 55115
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Term Expires: 12/31/2004

Libbe Erickson

11900 102nd St. N.
Stillwater, MN 55082
430-1221
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hphill@quest.net

Barb Ramsden

8350 Lofton Ave N.
Stillwater MN 55082
439-3762
Term expires: 12/31/2004
ramsglen@uswest.net

Gene House

9337 Keswick Ave N.

David Sherlock

10850 66th St N

Stillwater MN 55082
653-9921
Term Expires: 12/31/2004
JE9337@msn.com

Stillwater, MN 55082
651-430-3962
Term Expires: 12/31/2002
sherlockdav@netscape.net



CITY OFFICE: The Grant City office is located at 111 Wildwood Road in Willernie and is open from 9AM - Noon, Monday through Thursday.

- **City clerk: Barbe Bartholdi**
- **Phone number: 426-3383**
- **Fax number: 429-1998**
- **Mailing address:**

City of Grant
P.O. Box 577
Willernie, MN 55090

- **E-mail: cityclrk@visi.com**
- **Web site: www.ci.grant.mn.us**

At the City Office permit applications are accepted, references such as the Comprehensive Plan, and ordinances are available for purchase at the office.

Planning Commission	Application Deadline	PC Workshops
January 28, 2002		January 15, 2002
February 25, 2002	January 28, 2002	February 12, 2002
March 25, 2002	February 25, 2002	March 12, 2002
April 29, 2002	March 25, 2002	April 9, 2002
May 20, 2002	April 22, 2002	May 14, 2002
June 24, 2002	May 27, 2002	June 11, 2002
July 29, 2002	July 1, 2002	July 9, 2002
August 26, 2002	July 29, 2002	August 13, 2002
September 23, 2002	August 26, 2002	September 10, 2002
October 28, 2002	September 30, 2002	October 8, 2002
November 25, 2002	October 28, 2002	November 19, 2002
December 30, 2002	December 2, 2002	December 10, 2002
January 27, 2003	December 30, 2002	January 14, 2003

WHEN DO YOU NEED TO CONTACT THE CITY?

Grant's housing and use standards exist to protect you - your family, neighborhood and investment in your home. The Planning Commission continues to work on updating and improving the Zoning Ordinances that impact us all. We are looking for your input as the needs of our community continue to evolve. Please get involved. Planning Commission Workshops are open to all, and a casual way to share opinions and ideas. The Planning Commission Workshops are generally held the second Tuesday of the month at 7PM in the Town Hall on Kimbro Ave. For exact dates check the City website or call the City Clerk (426-3383).

The following are brief explanations and examples of common changes to your property that require contacting the city. Barbe Bartholdi, our City Clerk, can answer your questions or direct you to the appropriate party.

Building Permit

Building a house, an addition, or an accessory building, and some remodeling jobs, require a building permit from the City. The Building Inspector issues the building permits in Grant. He will let you know if you need any additional permits, such as electrical (from the state), septic (from the county), a variance, or a certificate of compliance. Generally, hired contractors make all of the appropriate applications for you, but please double check. Initial application is made through the Building Inspector (439-9325)

Driveway Permit

Driveway permits are issued by the Building Inspector and required anytime a new opening onto a public roadway is created.

Certificate of Compliance

A certificate of compliance indicates a unique, proposed use may occur when appropriate codes and ordinances have been fully complied with. They often include a specific condition, use, and location, along with a periodic review. As mentioned, a certificate of compliance may be necessary in conjunction with a building permit. Typical certificates of compliance approved by City Council include a roadside sales (vegetable) stand and farm buildings that meet the exemption from building permits. The City Planner issues a certificate of compliance. Applications are available from the City Clerk or can be printed from the City website and mailed to the Clerk.

Variance

A variance is an exception to use, size or setback as allowed in the ordinances. The standard required for a variance to be granted is for the applicant to show a hardship of the land. Variances have not been granted for things such as building size, height or use. Very few variances are approved in Grant. Some that have been granted are: 1) an accessory building being allowed in front of a home where the landscape behind the home was steep and wet. In this case, the accessory building would not be in view of the neighbors and the neighbors did not object. 2) A side lot minimum distance variance was granted where there was a pre-existing lot where conditions were such that the accessory building could not be practically built elsewhere and would not infringe upon the neighbors.

Because variances can impact neighbors, applications are heard at a public hearing before the Planning Commission. Based on participant comments and individual circumstances the Commission recommends approval or denial by the City Council. Approval or denial by the Planning Commission does not guarantee the same outcome by the City Council. Also, additional requirements may be placed upon the applicant. A variance is applied for with the City Clerk. You can obtain applications and ordinances from the Clerk or print them from the City website and send the application and fees to the City Clerk.

Conditional Use Permit

Ordinance 50 section 604 outlines allowed uses in Grant. It identifies uses that require a conditional use permit (CUP) from the City as well as those allowed without application. Most uses are only allowed together with a home. Ordinance 50, as amended, can be found on the website. Typical uses allowed without a CUP are farming and a personal waterfront dock by your home. Typical uses requiring a CUP are commercial and some private kennels or stables (allowed with CUP in some zoning districts). Conditional Use Permit Applications can be obtained from the City Clerk or the website. A public hearing is held before the Planning Commission who makes a recommendation to the City Council for approval or denial. As implied, conditions will be added to the permit in order to make the use acceptable to the neighborhood. Typical conditions are hours of operation, lighting and screening.

Subdivision Application

You may be able to divide your land if you own 20 or more acres that is not in platted land and has density units. There are many specific rules in this regard to protect you, the neighbors, purchasers and sellers. A subdivision application has a public hearing before the Planning Commission who makes a recommendation for approval or denial by the City Council. Obtain the application from the City Clerk or the website. If you own more than 40 acres and all resulting parcels are at least 20 acres, which are not platted, you are excluded from the need for this application. You must still use the subdivision application if you only want to sell a little land to your neighbor.

Public Hearings

Has all of this peaked your interest in public hearings? These are almost always held at the Planning Commission regular meetings (see schedule and agendas on the website). Any interested person can speak or ask questions about the application before the Commission. Some people come just to find out what is happening in the City.

If you want to know what is going on here are some ways to keep informed. First, look at the pending applications and agendas posted on the website (www.ci.grant.mn.us). Second, read the legal notices in the Press Publication you receive. Third, talk to your City Council and Planning Commission members. Finally, read your Grant News.



SAVE YOURSELF!

Make sure your address (street number) is clearly visible from the street. The Fire Marshal has complained that several homes have been difficult to locate as street addresses are not clearly marked. Emergency vehicles would have the same trouble responding to calls.

FROM OUR CLERK by Barbara Bartholdi

I'm Barbara Bartholdi. I am the new City Clerk for the City of Grant. It is my job to keep the everyday happenings running as smoothly as possible. So far it has been an exciting and exhilarating challenge. My main duty is to attend the Council and Planning Commission meetings and take the minutes for those meeting with all the preparation and follow-up required. But I also supervise all elections, issue licenses required by the City, keep track of land applications, publish all legal notices, complete county, federal and state agency reports and do the miscellaneous clerical and financial duties required. It keeps me very busy.



When I am not busy running the City, I like to quilt, read, and bike. I grew up in Detroit Lakes, MN and graduated from the University of Minnesota in elementary education. I taught first grade in San Diego, CA while my husband went to law school at the University of San Diego. He wanted to race sailboats on White Bear Lake, however, so after graduation we moved back to MN. We have a terrific daughter who is a freshman in college majoring in art.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the City come on in. I would love to meet you.
