



Spring/Summer 2003

THE GRANT NEWS FROM YOUR CITY COUNCIL

NEW CITY OFFICIALS

Please extend your warm wishes and gratitude to four new City Officials in Grant. You have elected Candice Kraemer to the City Council and the Council appointed three new volunteers to the Planning Commission. David Black and Janelle Wong have been appointed to three-year terms and Joyce Welander has been appointed to fill the end of a term expiring in one year. In moving to appoint Joyce Welander to the one-year term City Council Member Vanzwol stated that he would vote to reappoint her in one year if this was her desire.

Candice Kraemer

You elected Candice Kraemer to a four-year term on the City Council. She has a background consisting of many years volunteering her time with the Grant Planning Commission and as neighborhood representative to the Valley Branch Watershed District.

Candice, using her background as a CPA and business consultant has taken on the task of creating a finance committee for Grant. Most cities and townships have an advisory committee made up of resident volunteers with a financial background to help the entity make better financial decisions.

As a twelve year resident of Grant who grew up on a farm Candice believes “in a rural future for the City of Grant. This will only be achieved through the diligence and dedication of the elected officials along with input and open communication to and from the residents in Grant.”

Janelle Wong

Janelle and her family have enjoyed living in Grant for the last nine years. “I enjoy seeing cows, horses, deer, turkey, bluebirds, hummingbirds and hawks in my neighborhood. I also enjoy the privacy that comes with more open spaces.”

In explaining her desire to be a part of the Planning Commission Janelle stated, “I volunteered to become more involved in the development of our city. As with many of my neighbors, I prefer to see the rural character preserved. However, I also respect the rights of property owners to extract value from their land (something farmers have been doing for years). I am intrigued by the challenge of trying to balance the interests of landowners with that of the public.”

David Black

David and his family have lived in Grant for 19 years. “My favorite thing about living in Grant is the open space and the wildlife that visit us each day. I also enjoy the brilliant night skies and the quiet.”

When asked why he volunteered to be a part of the Grant Planning Commission David stated, “I volunteered to be a part of the Planning Commission because I would like to see the rural character of Grant preserved for the future. This seems to be the desire of most residents in our city and I want to do what I can to honor their wishes and my own.”

Joyce Welander

Joyce has been a Grant resident for 41 years and is married to lifelong resident and former City Council member Art Welander. She was appointed to the first Planning Commission in Grant. She has assisted her husband, Art, in farming Grant–Dale Farm. In addition Joyce has been the volunteer coordinator of Grant City Cleanup for 20 plus years.

Janelle Wong
11335 Grenelefe Ave N
Grant, MN 55110
Phone: 429-3743
Term Expires: 12/31/05
Email: jkwong55110@yahoo.com

David Black
9333 65th Street N
Grant, MN 55082
Phone: 777-9216
Term Expires: 12/31/05
Email: dblack@slwk.com

Joyce Welander
10381 83rd Street N
Grant, MN 55082
Phone: 439-2598
Term Expires: 12/31/03
Email: wejol@aol.com



CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS

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

February 4, 2003

- Agreed to not change the existing lease for the Tri-Star cell phone tower.
- Approved the Madline minor subdivision application.
- Adopted a new definition of “Agricultural-Business, Seasonal” amending Ordinance 50.
- Accepted Mrs. Joan Sprain’s resignation from the Planning Commission.
- Approved the Chris Rohdahl variance request.
- Approved the Scott Olson variance request.

March 4, 2003

- Adopted a procedure for public conduct at City Council meetings.
- Accepted the bid of Miller Excavating to supply gravel in 2003.
- Passed an amended resolution (2003-05) regarding the jurisdiction, content, and maintenance of the City web site.
- Agreed to allow a grace period until April 15, 2003 for paying bounty on gopher feet collected in 2002.

April 1, 2003

- Adopted a contract with Animal Control Services, Inc. as the professional animal control service.
- Adopted Resolution 2003-06 regarding an Animal Control Policy.
- Adopted a Escrow Policy Resolution.
- Approved the Rice variance request.
- Approved the Paddock variance request as Resolution 2003-06 and the Paddock minor subdivision request.
- Adopted Ordinance 2003-97 to control adult use businesses in the City.
- Appointed Joyce Welander, Janelle Wong, and David Black to the Planning Commission.
- Adopted Resolution 2003-09 vacating an easement on the Berg property.
- Adopted Resolution 2003-10 vacating an easement on the Barr property.
- Agreed to hire local people to maintain the ball field and grounds at the City Hall property.

CITY TAKES PREVENTATIVE ACTION AGAINST ADULT ENTERTAINMENT

City Attorney Kevin Shoeberg pointed out a major hole in our Zoning Ordinance during the recent Ordinance review. Grant did not limit adult uses in any zone within the City. The Planning Commission took prompt action in making recommendations to the City Council and holding a public hearing on a new ordinance restricting adult entertainment within the City. This new Ordinance was adopted by the City Council after contacting all of the neighbors of the business district.

Mr. Shoeberg stated that we cannot ban this type of establishment from the City. These are protected under the constitutional right to free speech. This ordinance is being adopted as a preventative measure so we have the most restrictive ordinance possible in place if an application is filed.

Most neighboring cities have also adopted similar ordinances restricting adult entertainment. Some cities have been surprised when adult entertainment businesses have opened in their cities because they did not have this type of ordinance.

You can review this Ordinance at: http://www.ci.grant.mn.us/grant/minutes/Ord_2003_97.htm



GRANT ROADS TODAY

Grant has about 26 miles of paved roads and 31 miles of gravel roads plus about 33 miles of County and State highways. In 2002 we spent almost \$300,000 in the Road and Bridge fund including about \$45,600 for snow and ice control, \$161,800 for road maintenance, and \$55,800 for replacement gravel. Almost exactly one third of the total City spending was for roads. Some details on road maintenance spending are available on the City web site at http://www.ci.grant.mn.us/grant/Road_costs_by_month_2002.htm

The Road and Bridge budget for 2003 is \$269,650 which includes \$90,000 for snow and ice control, \$80,000 for road maintenance, and \$55,000 for replacement gravel.

We have posted an inventory of all the roads in Grant at http://www.ci.grant.mn.us/grant/Road_Inventory_2003.htm You can find a history of maintenance work done on individual roads on this page.

Our biggest challenge to come will be funding the work that needs to be done. We have formed an advisory committee to help us develop short and longer range plans for road maintenance including estimates of how such plans might be funded. We won't know the real impact of the 2003 legislative session on our future budgets for some time yet. Note that this committee's goals are **not** related to paving all roads within Grant.

Short term planning should include such things as our policy on calcium chloride treatments for dust control and seal coating schedules for paved roads. Longer term planning should address the City road policy. You can read this policy at http://www.ci.grant.mn.us/grant/minutes/Resolution_2000-06.htm The advisory committee may wish to review this policy and recommend changes for consideration by the City Council. The committee meetings will, of course, be open to the public and your attendance and comments will be welcome. Watch for the meeting schedule on the City web site <http://www.ci.grant.mn.us>

Meanwhile, please let us know your concerns. Phone Rick Vanzwol at 426-2378 or email rvanzwol@aol.com

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDS CHANGES TO ZONING ORDINANCES

The Grant Planning Commission has been working very hard to bring the Zoning Ordinance into compliance with the Comprehensive Plan as required by state law. In keeping with the goals of the Comprehensive Plan, the Commission looked for uses in Ordinance 50, Section 604 that would keep Grant rural in nature and only allow uses that would be compatible with septic systems. Because Section 604 defines the uses allowed in Grant and where these uses are allowed, it is one of the most important Sections in our ordinances. This is why the Planning Commission has started the review with this section.



In conjunction with the review of the uses allowed is a review of the definitions. The Commission wants to make sure that each use allowed or excluded is adequately defined. These definitions are in Ordinance 50 Section 301.

Prior to adoption of these changes there will be a public hearing at one of the regular meetings of the Planning Commission. Prior to scheduling this hearing, the Commission is looking for input from the public.

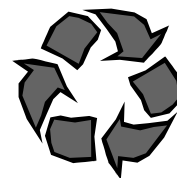
To review Grant's current Zoning Ordinance go to the City Website at: http://www.ci.grant.mn.us/grant/minutes/ord_50_zoning.htm You can reference Section 604 for uses currently allowed and 301 for current definitions.

A summary of the items from Section 604 that have changed is on the Website at: http://www.ci.grant.mn.us/grant/zoning_changes_604.html

If you wish to make comments on these proposals please send your comments to Howard Gochberg, Planning Commission Chairman at howard.gochberg@metrostate.edu who will forward it to the entire Commission.

RAILROAD TIES

Most homeowners realize the Gateway was once a railroad corridor. When the railroad pulled up their ties, economical homeowners were encouraged to re-use the ties for home landscaping projects.



Ties are now rotting out, and many folks are confused and confounded about disposal options. The good news is those old, creosote railroad ties are easier to dispose of than the newer, green treated landscape timbers.

Dan Schoepke, Sr. Environmental Specialist, of Wa.Co. HELM, says the following locations will take railroad ties from residents:

Buberl's Recycling and Composting – Stillwater 651-439-8399

Elk River Landfill – Elk River 763-441-2464

Pine Bend Landfill – Inver Grove Heights 651-467-2778

SKB Demolition Landfill – Inver Grove Heights – 651-450-9022

Whatever you do... DO NOT BURN THESE for your personal health and well being. Dan welcomes calls from county residents and can be reached at 651-430-6714.

THANK YOU....

To all who participated in the Grant Roadside Clean Up day, April 26th! We had an even greater participation rate than previous years, and hesitate to name individuals as there are many unsung heroes who keep the roads and ditches clean year 'round in their "neck of the woods". 4-H continues to give their "hands" to the community on this day...thanks, kids and leaders, once again for pitching in at the town hall.



If you notice a "stash of trash" roadside and you are unable to handle it yourself, please call Joyce Welander (439-2598). Many folks think our rural countryside is one way to eliminate paying for hauling or disposal fees. If you see someone dumping roadside, by all means get the license number, make of car, time and date and call Officer Marc Lombardi (dispatcher 651-439-9381). The fines for littering are greater than the fees for disposal.

We do want to publicly thank Joyce Welander for coordinating this event, once again, and fielding those calls of roadside trash.

A MILESTONE IN THE HISTORY OF GRANT!

On Tuesday, May 6, 2003 the Grant City Council began videotaping its meetings for playback on the Government Television Network (GTN) cable channel 16. Planning Commission meetings are also being videotaped for playback. If you subscribe to cable service you have access to GTN channel 16.



Grant residents who do not subscribe to cable service and whose homes are connected to cable or are within 250 feet of a cable connection can have installation and reception of Universal Service (which consists of Public, Education, and Government (PEG) channels) free of charge. A switch is also provided for viewing over the air television channels. There is an installation charge for homes beyond 250 feet of the cable line in the street.

Contact Comcast, the cable operator, at 651-222-3333 and follow the menu for new service/information to reach a customer service representative to request Universal Service. If cable is available to the home, Comcast is required by franchise agreement to provide Universal Service without charge.

Videotapes of the meetings will also be available at the Wildwood Library and at the City office.

The playback schedule on GTN, channel 16 for City Council and Planning Commission meetings is:

- 8 AM Tuesdays and Thursdays
 - 7 PM Mondays and Thursdays
 - 1 PM Saturdays
-

UPDATE ON THE GRANT HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Currently, there are currently seven members on the Grant Heritage Preservation Committee with Sharon Schwarze representing the City Council and Howard Gochberg and Karen Street from the Planning Commission. Citizen members are Pat Demars, Bob Hagstrom, Barb Ramsden and Margaret Siefert. The Committee normally meets monthly and its current focus is:



1. Locating and identifying historic sites in the City of Grant that would qualify under our Ordinance for recognition.
2. Researching documents and photographs on the history of Grant which could be turned into a pamphlet or brochure for distribution to Grant residents.
3. Evaluating the feasibility and cost of renovating the basement of our City Hall (originally a one-room schoolhouse built in 1900) to accommodate an archive for City records and a repository for material collected by our Committee.

Currently, the shortage of funds in the City, County and State budgets will make the accomplishment of the third objective extremely difficult to achieve in the short run. Hopefully, the residents of Grant will rise to the occasion and offer voluntary assistance to the Committee in its efforts.

We also need help in preserving the memories of Grant from 1858, when it was established as the town of Greenfield, to the present. We would like to hear from residents with knowledge of Grant history who might provide pertinent information or memorabilia. This data would include but not be restricted to landmarks like homes, barns, schools, churches, railroads, cart paths, trails, and original settlements. If you know of any sites that might be of interest, please let us know.

If you agree with City officials that this is a worthwhile project and would like to personally participate in any way, please contact Sharon Schwarze at (651) 429-2153. We need all the ideas we can get. Thanks for your cooperation in this regard.

Howard Gochberg, Grant Historical Preservation Committee Chair



WE ALL OWE A HUGE THANKS TO JUDY NAEGLI

Who has donated countless hours to the city by volunteering her time and energy in organizing office files and attending to other administrative details. With the increased complexity of city clerkship, Barbe is busy tackling other job responsibilities. Judy has cheerfully pitched in to relieve some of the pressure of that never ending “to do” list. Barbe proclaims that, “Judy is my guardian angel and every office should have one!” Thank you, Judy!

MAKING CENTS

Do you have an expertise in Finance? Are you willing to share that expertise and experience?

If you answered *yes* to these two questions, please give some thought to completing an application to be on the all new Grant Finance Committee. The City is in the process of setting up such a group and would love to hear from you. Following the June City Council meeting on June 10, 2003, the application will be available via the city website or at the city office. Applications will be accepted through June 30, 2003.

Candice Kraemer, Grant City Council Member and Finance Committee Chair



LAST MINUTE ADDITION TO ROAD NEWS

The Council agreed to fund 20% of the cost of application of magnesium chloride for dust control on gravel roads where dust control has been applied before. Magnesium chloride is almost \$500 less per mile than the cost of calcium chloride at the time of this writing. Contact Rick Vanzwol at 426-2378 for more information.

BUCKTHORN PULL!

Come to the Grant Town Hall Sunday September 21st, 3 pm for a brief Buckthorn Removal Tailgate Presentation by Master Gardeners (in this case, Un-Gardeners!) followed by a hands on demonstration as we start cleaning up the Town Hall of this invasive, exotic species that is choking out our understory and view.

Learn how to identify this naughty plant before it's a larger pain in the back. Plan a strategy that targets the female, berry producing plants. Find out which methods (mechanical and chemical) have better success rates, and when the best time is to use them. Please bring work gloves, hand saws, shovels and pruners if you have them. Believe it or not, there is a trail on the 10 acres of city hall!

Fall is a great time to work on this project as plants have energy directed towards the roots for winter, and chemical treatments are more successful. Contact Lynn Keller for more information: 653-8244. Sunday September 28th at 3 will be the rain date.

LOST/FOUND PET ANIMAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

City Council, along with active pet owners and rescuers, have developed new policy and procedures for lost or found pets. Loose dogs, increased costs, resident safety, and service were the driving factors around the ordinance. The following summarizes what to do. The ordinance is found in it's entirety on the city website, as well as hard copies in the library and city office.

DOGS

What to do if you find a loose dog and don't know the owner:

If you consider it to be a dangerous dog/situation, call the Sheriff's dispatcher at 651-439-9381.

If you do not consider the situation dangerous, call Joyce Welander at 651-439-2598. If you cannot reach her, call the Sheriff's dispatch at 651-439-9381.

The City now has a contract with a professional animal control company. However, it's expensive and residents are not allowed to contact them directly. Nor will shelters allow citizens to drop off animals "found" in our community. Joyce has voluntarily tried to reunite roaming dogs with their owners for years: she will now receive a fee for her services from the City (much like animal control officers in other cities).

DOG OWNERS: You will be responsible for any costs incurred to the City from your loose dog!

What to do if you lose a pet:

Contact Joyce Welander, 651-439-2598 in case she's already been contacted about a loose dog.

Post a notice on the Grant Website by contact the webmaster: kwohlferd@attbi.com Be sure to remove the notice when you've been reunited.

Contact the White Bear Animal Control Services at 651-653-6404. The Humane Society for Companion Animals in Woodbury is another number to check as Stillwater refers animals to them. 651-730-6008. In all cases, check out the shelter personally if the dog sounds remotely like your lost pet. Be sure to inquire about costs so you have sufficient money to get your dog back.

CATS

The City of Grant does not have an ordinance to control loose or wandering cats, so they will not be impounded. Please call Joyce if you lose a cat as she is a key contact: 651-407-1250.

GRANT TRAIL RANGERS

A low key and local trail riding and cross country skiing group in Grant is looking for new members as well as new private trails within Grant. There are about 50 residents who permit members with id badges to ride or cross country ski across their property. For more information, please contact: Heidi Hambuch at 653-0516.



GATEWAY STATE TRAIL - DNR UPDATE (MAY 2003)

This upcoming summer the DNR plans to conduct a trail user survey to update our information on trail users and the level of use. Information about trail users helps guide trail management and set priorities for trail projects. From Memorial Day in May through Labor Day in August there will be surveyors randomly on the trail counting the number and types of trail users and asking for addresses to mail follow-up surveys. We need your help !! If you would like to help with the survey, please contact Suzann Willhite at the phone number 651-772-7937.

Gateway Bridge Plans - On the existing trail, the plans for bridges over the busy roads of Highway 96 and 12 are still on track. The bridge over Hwy 96 should be installed in the summer of 2003 if the funding is extended by the legislature. The Hwy 96 bridge is a Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) funded project. We are also approved to receive federal transportation dollars (TEA-21) for a bridge over Hwy 12. The Hwy 12 bridge is scheduled in the 2005-2006 Transportation Improvement Program from Met Council. Trail users will benefit greatly by having safe crossings for both of these busy roads.

Gateway Northern Extension - The extension of the Gateway to the north from Pine Point Park is continuing to move forward. This is an incredible cooperative project with the Gateway Trail Association, Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota, and Minnesota DNR working together to extend the existing trail opportunity. Please join us in this effort!

Interested in volunteering on the trail? Opportunities for volunteering include: adopting a section of trail by keeping it free of litter, helping remove exotic plants such as buckthorn, or adopting bluebird houses along the trail. Contact Suzann Willhite, T&W Area Supervisor for information or to report an incident on the Gateway State Trail: 651-772-7937. Please be safe and courteous. Happy trails!

Suzann Willhite
DNR-Trails & Waterways
1200 Warner Road, St. Paul, MN 55106
651-772-7937, fax 651-772-7977



GATEWAY & HIGHWAY 96 BRIDGE

This project has had on again/off again funding. As of May 28th...funding is on again with a June of 2004 completion date. The proposed design featured at the May 28th meeting of the Grant Trail Rangers was a roughed up concrete surface, 12 foot wide bridge, that looked like steel girders. It is intended that cyclists, walkers, runners, in-line skaters and dismounted equestrians share the bridge, much like the Douglas Corridor bridges near Rochester. Most horse folks in attendance think they'll cross at grade (continue at street level) to avoid potential accidents. However, two issues came up: potential speeding on Hwy. 96, and possibly losing the parking at the crossing as the structure goes right over the existing parking lot. Suzann Willhite, DNR manager for the Gateway invited comments, so if you've got issues, now's the time to speak forth. See Suzann's article above for contact information.



GOOD NEWS....

You have the opportunity to exercise those writing and editing skills! Bruce and I are giving up this cherished appointment of *Grant News* Co Editors after several years of volunteering. We're stretched too thin in too many directions. Contact Sharon Schwarze (429-2153), Grant News Liaison for more information. And Bruce and I would be glad to tell you what the task seems to take. This is our last issue. —Lynn and Bruce Keller (653-8244)



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SUMMER TIPS FROM THE SHERIFF ...

Crime prevention continues to be the best method for maintaining Grant's status as a reasonably safe place to live. Two leading factors in crime prevention are awareness and education.



Have you noticed certain patterns in your neighborhood or on your commute? If something appears out of the ordinary – even if suspicious isn't the first word that pops into your mind - please call Deputy Sheriff Marc Lombardi who will gladly check it out (dispatcher 651-439-9381). And if you are planning a summer vacation, please call to arrange vacation checks. Since Officer Lombardi patrols the city, he can easily swing by to double check while out and about.

Grant residents enjoy country living. But that shouldn't mean leaving doors unlocked or garage doors open while you're gone from your home. Remember, too, valuables should not be left in your car even if you have an attached garage. This is all part of prevention, not paranoia!

Operation Identification is one way to protect your personal property such as computers, entertainment equipment, cameras, and even power tools. You'll receive a Permanent Identification Number (PIN) to mark your equipment and record your inventory. This is useful for homeowner insurance purposes. The Rural Crime brochure (copies are in the Town Hall) gives details of the program – or give Washington County's Sheriff's Department a call for details.

Hobby farm related equipment and toys – horse trailers, tractors, boats – should also be safeguarded by keeping the vehicle identification numbers recorded and in a safe location. And the few minutes it takes to lock equipment up can be all the detriment even pranksters may need to look elsewhere for easy pickings.

A few driving reminders: Use your turn signals and seat belts as they were designed with your safety in mind. Use caution when using those cell phones – our deer population is one more hazard than typical commuters face. And remember, passing in the right lane or on the shoulder is not legal unless there is a clearly marked right hand passing lane for you to bypass a car turning left.

Thanks...and have a good summer.
