



Spring 2004

THE GRANT NEWS FROM YOUR CITY COUNCIL

Parks in and for Grant

How many people know we have parks in Grant? Some of you may have been to the ball field, which is located by the City Hall on Kimbro Ave. That is one of Cities Parks. We also have other land that has been owned by the city but not utilized up to this point.

We have been talking about working on these "Park" areas to make them accessible to Grant residents. This would be low impact improvements such

as brushing, trails, marking boundaries and keeping some grass cut. We do have some volunteers that have offered to help work on these projects.

The ball field has been worked on last year so that it is a viable option for baseball practices and maybe games. We need to keep working on it. It's a nice addition to the city.

Various options have been proposed and rejected for funding the upkeep of the ball field and also any new projected projects. At this point one option would be to have a bake sale. Or sell cookies. Flowers? Wreathes? Hmmm? That sound like a lot of work! Just kidding!

There are about 1500 homes in Grant. If each home donated only \$2 that would more than cover what would be needed to support the parks we have for this year. Next year we hope to have other options for funding.

If you would like to help please send your donations to: City of Grant, PO Box 577, Willernie, MN 55090 Attention: "Park Fund" This money can only be spent on the parks and nothing else.

Thanks for your donations! Have a great spring!

Tom Carr

City of Grant 2004 Meeting Dates

City Council Meeting	City Council Workshop	Planning Commission Meetings	All meetings are held at the <u>Grant Town Hall</u> located at 8380 Kimbro Avenue at 7PM unless otherwise noted.
March 3	March 30	March 29	Contact: City Clerk/ Treasurer Barbe Bartholdi Phone (651) 426-3383 Email cityclerk@visi.com Website www.ci.grant.mn.us Mailing Address City of Grant P.O. Box 577 Willernie, MN 55090
April 6	April 27	April 26	
May 4	May 25	May 24	
June 1	June 29	June 28	
July 6	July 27	July 26	
August 3	August 31	August 30	
September 7	September 28	September 27	
October 5	October 26	October 25	
November 9	November 30	November 29	<u>Applications</u> can be obtained from the City Clerk or on the website.
December 7	December 21	December 20	
January 4, 2005			<u>Agendas</u> for each meeting are available on the City website prior to each meeting.

Council Actions October 2003 through February 2004

Rick Vanzwol

October 7, 2003

- Heard a report that some areas in Grant served by the Stillwater Fire Department have an improved ISO rating (from 9 to 6) starting January 1, 2004. Homeowners should contact their insurance agents about potentially reduced fire insurance rates.
- Agreed with the installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of Lake Elmo Avenue and Highway 36.
- Agreed to accept the turn back of County Road 68 in October 2004 after maintenance improvements are completed.
- Approved the Hedin variance application.
- Approved the Peterson major subdivision application.
- Accepted the improvements in Meadowlark Preserve.

November 5, 2003

- Adopted Ordinance 2003-101 and Resolution 2003-26 establishing fees for recycling services.
- Approved Marc Hugunin as the City's official volunteer contact with the Metropolitan Council.

December 2, 2003

- Adopted Ordinance 2003-102 requiring a license for solicitors in the City of Grant.
- Agreed to write off \$6,563 in uncollectible escrow accounts.
- Accepted the draft NPDES Phase II manual regarding stormwater pollution prevention.
- Adopted Ordinance 2003-103, establishing the Electric Franchise Fee.
- Adopted Ordinances 2003-104 and 2003-105 also relating to utility franchise fees.
- Approve a contract to hire NAC as the City Zoning Administrator.
- Approved the purchase of a Caterpillar 143H motor grader for maintenance of City roads.
- Approved purchase of a new computer for the City office.



January 6, 2004

- Agreed to modify the speed limit signing on 110th Street and to add equestrian safety advisory signing.
- Agreed to purchase new QuickBooks software for the City office computer.
- Adopted Resolution 2004-01 establishing escrow fees for land use applications.
- Approved the reappointment list with one addition and one appointment tabled until February.
- Agreed to hire Craig DeWolf as the grader operator for the City.

February 3, 2004

- Approved Resolution 2004-02 affirming that the City of Grant has no intention to install sewers.
- Approved Resolution 2004-03 requiring review by the City of DNR construction projects in the City of Grant.
- Approved the Oleander Hills major subdivision application.
- Extended the Conditional Use Permit for Loggers Trail Golf Course until July 7, 2004 to allow for completion of paving requirements.
- Agreed to accept the MN-DOT recommendation to lower the speed limit on 110th Street to 35 MPH.
- Amended Pet Ordinance 84 to require a five-day holding period for impounded dogs.
- Reappointed the City Assessor.

We need you!



Serve as an Election Judge

September 14, 2004 & November 2, 2004

Barbe Bartholdi

Have you noticed that the person handing out that ballot on Election Day is your neighbor, friend or someone you have seen at a City Council meeting? You too can be an election judge. Election judges are the people responsible for administering election procedures in the voting place on Election Day.

Election judges:

- ✓ Ensure that only qualified voters are permitted to vote.
- ✓ Make certain that each qualified voter is permitted to vote only once.
- ✓ Distribute ballots.
- ✓ Ensure that all votes are cast in secret.
- ✓ Tally the results after the polls are closed.
- ✓ Certify the precinct election results.
- ✓ Help voters requiring assistance.

Election judges must remain impartial at all times while on duty. They must carefully avoid any action that may influence a voter. This includes asking, seeking to persuade, or inducing a voter to vote for or against a particular party, candidate, or question. They cannot use the information about who has voted in any way to influence a person's choice to vote or who to vote for.

In the City of Grant, Election Judges are paid \$7.00 per hour, unless the individual judge volunteers to serve unpaid. Most Election Judges work a morning/afternoon or afternoon/evening shift.

Anyone eligible to vote who can read, write, and speak English can be an election judge. However, an election judge cannot be a candidate in the election or closely related to a candidate. Also, election judges cannot be closely related to another election judge in the same precinct. You do not need any special training other than that provided by the City. Election judges are appointed by the City Council and are required to have at least 2 hours of training. The City Clerk will conduct this training in late August.

If you would like to be an election judge contact me, the Grant City Clerk, at 651-426-3383.

Volunteer for the Planning Commission

Sharon Schwarze

Grant needs interested residents to volunteer on the Planning Commission. You would be involved in the review of applications for variances, conditional use permits and changes to zoning ordinances. After review, the Planning Commission makes recommendations to the City Council. The Planning Commission normally meets the last Monday of each month. You do not have to have any special education or knowledge to volunteer

This is your opportunity to make sure that Grant remains rural and develops in a accordance with the Comprehensive Plan.

There is currently one opening. However, applications are kept on file for future opening. Applications are available from the Grant City Clerk or on the website at www.ci.grant.mn.us/grant/documents. These should be turned into the City Clerk prior to April 2, 2004.

Recycling In Grant

Sharon Schwarze

Grant has changed to the single sort recycling with Waste Management in order to better control the rising costs of recycling. Not only will this method be less expensive for the City, the participation rates for single sort recycling is traditionally much higher. Your participation in this program will help our City attain higher rates too.

Recycling is collected every other week on Monday. Please have your recycling at the curb by 7AM. If you live on Highway 96 or north of this you are on a gold week (March 15 & 29 and April 12 & 26 and so on). If you live South of Highway 96 you are on a green week (March 8 & 22 and April 5 & 19 and so on).

Remember that single sort means that you are only sorting the recyclables from your garbage. All of your paper, cardboard, glass bottles, plastics with necks and cans are placed together in your green recycling can at the curb. Your garbage removal contract is not affected by this change in recycling. You are still responsible for contracting for your own garbage collection service.

If you need a recycling can or a smaller or larger recycling can you can call Waste Management Customer Service Department at (952) 882-2311.



Dog Gone!

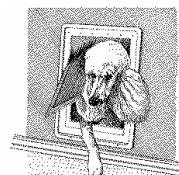
Sharon Schwarze

Dogs continue to be one of the most frequent complaints that the City receives. Please remember that we do have a dog ordinance (http://www.ci.grant.mn.us/grant/minutes/Ord_1998_84.htm) requiring dogs be leashed or kept on your property.

This ordinance has recently been modified so that impounded dogs without identification are only kept for five days. You need to be diligent in finding your dog. Who to call?

- Animal Control Services in White Bear Lake (651) 653-6404
- Joyce Weland, City Volunteer (651) 439-2598
- Barbe Bartholdi, City Clerk / Treasurer (651) 426-3383

If you have a nuisance stray dog in your area call Joyce to find its owner. **If there is a dangerous dog or other dangerous situation call 911.**



How to Pass a Horse

Horse owners and riders are one of the amenities keeping Grant rural. Unfortunately there are very few off road trails for the equestrians and they need to use roads to access the few available. When passing a horse on the road please slow down to 20 miles per hour or less. Give the horse a wide birth. On gravel roads quick acceleration may throw up loose rocks, injuring the horse or rider. Riders need to do their part by going single file on the roads.

Bicyclists should give a verbal warning when approaching a horse from behind. Bikes are so quiet that horses are often startled by their sudden appearance.

Living in a Watershed – Storm Water Pollution Prevention

Shibani Bisson

No matter where you live, you are in a watershed. Watersheds can include entire counties or be separated into an area within your yard. A watershed is an area in which all the storm water run-off is directed to a lake, wetland, river, stream, or depression. Management of the storm water pollution within the watersheds is important to maintain or improve water quality.



The Watershed Districts

The City of Grant's boundary is within the Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD), the Browns Creek Watershed District (BCWD), the Valley Branch Watershed District (VBWD) and the Carnelian/Marine Watershed District (CMWD). The watershed districts regulate projects within their boundaries and require permits for completion. The goal of the watershed districts is to enhance the water quality of the water resources within the watersheds while at the same time controlling flooding. The organizations participate in watershed management with a proactive approach on issues pertaining to water resources, public information and education, regulation of land use, regulation of the use of water bodies and their beds, and capital improvement projects.

City Involvement

The City is included in a group of communities that are federally required to obtain a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit for managing non-point source storm water. Non-point source storm water is generally the overland flow of storm water that does not originate from a single pipe, otherwise known as point-source storm water.

Another storm water pollution prevention requirement is the Phase II National Pollution and Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting process. This requires cities such as Grant to file a Phase II NPDES permit with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) which addresses how the City will regulate and improve storm water discharges. The NPDES Phase II plan addresses the six Minimum Control Measures (MCMs) outlined in the permit requirements. The six Minimum Control Measures of the permit are:

1. Public Education and Outreach
2. Public Participation and Involvement
3. Illicit Discharge, Detection and Elimination
4. Construction Site Runoff Control
5. Post Construction Runoff Control
6. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping.

The permit must include a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) addressing all the requirements of the permit. The purpose of the SWPPP is to promote a regional approach to storm water management that is coordinated on a watershed basis.

The SWPPP is intended to provide guidance during the project design and review process. SWPPP incorporates the use of Best Management Practices (BMP) to provide sediment and erosion control of storm water within and discharging from the construction site. The proper use of BMPs can aid in maintaining or improving water quality of the nearby resources that may be directly or indirectly impacted by storm water leaving the site.

Living in a Watershed Continued.

Resident Participation

Residents living in the City of Grant can participate in the storm water pollution prevention management process to maintain or improve the quality of the natural resources within their watershed. Resident involvement to identify and address non-storm water discharges or flows (i.e. illicit discharges) can aid in improving the water quality of discharges from individual yards. Suggestions to help maintain or improve water quality within a watershed include:

- Maintain a healthy lawn with minimal and appropriate fertilizer applications.
- Plant trees, shrubs, or other species to increase ground cover.
- Reduce yard waste:
 - Don't allow grass clippings, fertilizers, leaves, or soil to accumulate on your driveway.
 - Plant a variety of trees, shrubs, and other plants.
 - Landscaping with native plants that develop deep root systems.
- Redirect downspouts from paved areas to vegetated areas.
- Keep catch basins, culverts and storm sewer grates clean of debris.
- Wash vehicles on your lawn and not your driveway.
- Properly dispose of waste – it is illegal to dispose of waste down any storm sewer.

Actively participating residents in storm water pollution prevention is the first step to maintaining or improving the water quality in the major watershed where you live. The City of Grant and the local watershed districts will participate by regulating and implementing options from the NPDES Phase II to promote a regional approach to storm water management.

Meet Shibani Bisson

Shibani Bisson is our consulting City Engineer. She recently completed Grant's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan. Shibani also reviews applications for engineering issues, prepares road design plans, advises the Grant Road Committee and has many other tasks appropriate to engineering duties.



Shibani is an Engineer with WSB & Associates, Inc. While Shibani has been the primary engineer for Grant for the last nine months, she also worked on our projects prior to this. She has been employed by WSB for four years and previous to this worked at another engineering firm for three years in their airport division.

Shibani grew up in Roseville and now lives in Edina with her husband. Her hobbies include traveling, camping, hiking and lately helping friends with wedding plans. An interesting experience Shibani had was spending a summer in Finland during college working with landfill projects at their Ministry of Environment (similar to the EPA here).

Grant Cleanup Date – Saturday April 24, 2004

Here is your opportunity to participate in the only City sponsored activity – Grant's roadside cleanup. It is a great way to meet some of your neighbors and help keep the ditches and roadsides clean. You can sponsor a road or portion thereof by calling Joyce Welander at 439-2598. However, you can just pick up the trash in front of your home and bring it to the Grant Town Hall on Kimbro Ave. on April 24 from 9am to noon. Limited household appliances will be accepted for a fee (proof of residency required.)

Grant Roads Today

As you can see from the City Council actions summary, a lot has been happening with the road programs in Grant. Perhaps the biggest change is the City's purchase of a motor grader and hiring of an operator. In the past Grant has contacted for these services.

The driving force for this change is to reduce operating costs. Not only do we project cost savings but we also expect to be able to provide better overall service in keeping our gravel roads in better condition on a day-to-day basis. Last year the City spent more than \$130,000 on gravel road maintenance not including any snow and ice control. That's more than \$4,000 per mile on average. Obviously, some roads cost more and some cost less but the challenge of controlling these costs remains. We have gravel roads that carry more than 500 vehicles per day. For those of you who drive on our gravel roads please let me know directly if you have specific problems or concerns so that I can take appropriate actions. The best way to contact me is by email at rvanzwol@aol.com. If you do not have email or prefer to talk to me, give me a call at (651) 426-2378.

There will be an extensive survey done this spring to rate the quality and needs of our gravel roads to allow for extended maintenance planning. Your comments will help in documenting the current conditions of our gravel roads. Last year a similar survey was done for our paved roads.

During calendar year 2003 the City spent almost \$62,000 on snow and ice control through Washington County. We expect to use the new motor grader to help reduce this contract cost but it is clear that one piece of equipment can never meet the quality and timeliness requirements of this task. We will scale this up gradually to avoid any service degradation. By the way, if you have experienced any direct property damage this winter from snow plowing equipment, please let me know so we can evaluate and correct the problem once the snow is gone.

Paved roads also got some attention in 2003 after the road survey last spring and will get even more in 2004. About four miles of paved roads were crack filled last summer and will be seal coated this summer. More crack filling will also be done and this annual cycle should continue at least through 2005.

The Road Committee continues to meet on a monthly schedule. To date, much of the effort has been to gather data on road conditions, traffic volumes, and to develop an outline of a long-range road maintenance plan. Funding any programs will always be a challenge but without planning there will be no progress. I hope that the Committee will have a draft of an updated Road Policy for City Council consideration by sometime this summer. My thanks go to those who have volunteered their time and expertise for this Committee.

Last but not least, I cannot possibly know the conditions on every road every day. There are already some residents who help keep me up to date but if you have any comments or questions, please let me know.

Rick Vanzwol
651-426-2378
rvanzwol@aol.com



What should your ditch look like?

Rick Vanzwol

As you know, last year we had to cut back on road grading to meet our limited budget. Last year we were able to mow the ditches one time. We have tried to improve road funding within the limited means allowed by past practices and the Minnesota State Legislature.

One way that residents can help is to keep the ditches in front of their homes clear of brush and tree branches and by occasionally mowing it. The advantages to this are improved sightlines for getting out of your driveway and for those using your road to be able to see you better too. Thank you to those residents who have been consistently taking care of their road frontage.

Additionally, residents should not plant trees, shrubs or wildlife foliage in the road right-of-way. Placement of fences, rocks and fill in the right-of-way is also not allowed.

Residents should not take any risks. If there is a problem area you should contact me at rvanzwol@aol.com or (651) 426-2378. We do have some limited funding in 2004 for mowing and brushing of ditches. We will be attempting to identify the worst areas for use of our limited funds and as always your input is important.

Welcome Deputy Harris

Sharon Schwarze

Grant welcomes Deputy Tim Harris, our new assigned Deputy from Washington County. Deputy Harris will be patrolling our streets and answering the majority of resident calls to the Sheriff's Office. A patrol officer will be answering calls when Deputy Harris is not available.

Deputy Harris has worked with Washington County for the last four years. Hugo was his assignment for the last two and one half years. He has found that Grant is quieter than Hugo. He also has some experience from working at the Washington County Jail.



Deputy Harris likes to meet people. He may stop by to introduce himself if you are working out in the yard this spring when he passes by. While he is "big into traffic enforcement" his goals are to meet and help people. He would like to help prevent crashes and fatalities. He is also a self described DUI enforcer.

Like many of our residents, Deputy Harris likes to hunt, fish and spend time with his family when off duty. He lives in Wisconsin with his wife and three children (which includes a set of twins.) He was born and raised in Rockford, Illinois and graduated from Winona State University.

In an emergency call 911.

If you have other questions or concerns you can call the non-emergency number for Washington County Dispatch at (651) 439-9381.

Interview with Mike Darrow, Grant's City Planner

Sharon Schwarze

Grant has appointed a new City Planner this year. We are pleased to introduce him to our residents. His primary duties will include advising the City Council and Planning Commission on planning issues and reviewing applications for compliance with our Ordinances and Comprehensive Plan.

Mike, why do you think you were hired to be Grant's Planner?

I believe that NAC was hired for a couple of reasons. First, NAC has been working for communities throughout the metropolitan area for over thirty years. Our firm offers a team approach to planning issues so that if there is a question about a specific planning process or development we have the expertise and experience to answer it. Within NAC there are people with legal, landscaping, architect, GIS, and of course planning backgrounds. Finally, I hope that we were hired because we are friendly people who enjoy working with others and assisting communities in the planning process.



As an experienced City Planner, what advice would you give to our residents?

Advice that I would give residents in keeping their community rural would be to get involved in ensuring that Grant remains the type of community they want it to be. This includes planning processes like maintaining densities that are currently outlined in the Comprehensive Plan as well as developing performance standards that will preserve the rural character of the City. Land use patterns, future development, performance standards, and the goals and policies of a community dictate long range planning and the preservation of a city's character. This can't be done without citizen participation.

Are you really a Packer fan?

I grew up in the east coast of Wisconsin, which makes me a Packer fan by birth.

Is there anything that can mitigate this fact?

I really enjoy taking my dog to the dog park, camping in the Boundary Waters, and golfing. I love golfing! An interesting thing about me is that when I travel I like to take pictures of how parking lots are designed. My wife thinks I am a planning rube. My wife and I have a three-year-old Bloodhound named Rosie but no children.



Gateway Bridge Over Highway 96

Construction of a new bridge of the Gateway Trail at Highway 96 will provide a safer crossing over the busy highway.

Beginning in March, the portion of the Gateway Trail crossing Highway 96 and nearby parking will be closed. Construction is expected to conclude by June. Users are asked to stay off that portion of the Gateway Trail while it is under construction. The remainder of the trail to the east and west of highway 96 will continue to be open, but the public will not be able to cross at Highway 96.

Construction of the new bridge was funded by \$530,000 from the 2002 Legislature, as recommended by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources, and a grant of \$100,000 from the National Recreation Trails Program.

For periodic updates on the status of summer construction as it relates to the trail, users may contact the DNR Area Trails and Waterways office at (651) 772-7935.



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Spring cleanup date – Saturday April 24, 2004.
See page 6 for more details.

Finance Committee Update

Candice Kraemer

The newly formed Grant Finance Committee is starting to get its feet wet. This committee is made up of knowledgeable community volunteers, Barbe Bartholdi (Clerk/Treasurer) and myself. We consult with the City Attorney and Auditor when necessary.

One of our first tasks has been to update and document the old escrow accounts. An escrow account is opened when an applicant for a conditional use permit or variance deposits money with the City to cover the City's legal, planning and engineering costs associated with that application.

The City Council has also changed the procedures for investments. The Finance Committee will be reviewing the cash flow estimates and recommending placement and timing of investments to the City Council. Previously the Mayor and Treasurer made the investments and timing determinations. The Council has approved closing the Schwab account and moving our investments to local banks. A ninety-day and two six-month investments have been made.

The Finance Committee has recommended developing a records retention policy and procedures. The concept has been approved by the City Council. This concept includes hiring a local college intern to develop an indexed digital retention and backup system for storage of official City documents. At the same time a records retention policy will be developed to assure proper retention of documents to meet all legal requirements and City information needs.