



**Winter 2004**

## **THE GRANT NEWS FROM YOUR CITY COUNCIL**

### **Snow and Ice Control**

Rick Vanzwol

As many of you know, Washington County has done the snow plowing and sanding in Grant for many years on a contract basis. And they have done a great job for us! Last winter the County had two plow trucks working in Grant that stayed here until the City was fully plowed out. We pay for this service by the hour for labor, overhead and equipment. Additionally, we pay a monthly mobilization fee all year to keep our contract in effect.

In an effort to reduce costs, the City is going to do about 17 miles of roads with the City grader this winter. Primarily these are gravel roads in the northern part of the City but there are some paved roads that will be done as well. A grader is actually a better tool on gravel roads because it doesn't push as much gravel into the ditches. The primary objective is still to clear the roads quickly and to maintain the high quality service to which we are accustomed.

The mobilization fee from Washington County will be reduced by \$5,928 annually. Because we already own it, the incremental cost for grader use will be lower than the equipment costs allocated from the County. Our labor costs are lower than the County allocation too. The County charges approximately \$80 per hour for labor and equipment depending on the operator. Depending on snowfall, this will save an additional \$6,000 to \$12,000 annually. Our total savings should be at least \$12,000 annually.

Washington County will continue to assign two trucks to plow the rest of Grant and to do whatever sanding is needed. Since there will be three plows working, the service is expected to be even more timely. The County people and equipment will also be available as backup service in case of an emergency. This plan was worked out with our grader operator and the County drivers and supervision to be the most efficient service for everyone.

This will be a new experience for Grant so we need your feed back about the service. If you have any comments, good or bad, please let us know as quickly as possible. Call the City Road Supervisor, the City Office (426-3383), or email your comments to the City Clerk (at [cityclrk@visi.com](mailto:cityclrk@visi.com)) so that the service plan can be adjusted as needed to make sure everyone gets to work on time.



**Please stay well back from the snowplows for your safety and that of the operators.  
Remember, if you cannot see the mirrors on the trucks they cannot see you.**

## **Fire Protection in Grant**

Our current fire protection is provided by a combination of both the Mahtomedi and Stillwater Fire Departments. This is not proposed to change.

Grant is currently however reviewing the appropriate placement of the fire line for primary service by the Mahtomedi and Stillwater Fire Departments. This would give many properties that are now more than five miles from the Stillwater Station and fewer than five miles from the Mahtomedi Station an opportunity for lower insurance costs. Currently, both fire departments respond for a house fire under their mutual aid agreements. Safety is the primary concern of the City Council in reviewing this issue.

For more insurance information contact your insurance agent and/or the Fire Chief of your service area. An information letter will be sent to any property owner whose primary service provider is changed.

This would not involve any changes to the ambulance services at this time.

The City of Grant is not now nor has ever considered purchasing a firetruck. The Mahtomedi Fire Department has expressed interest in placing one of their existing fire trucks in Grant as a substation. Mahtomedi would continue to own and operate this fire truck. Grant would provide heated storage space by constructing or renting an appropriate facility. Some of the Mahtomedi volunteer fire fighters live in Grant and this would improve their response time. This would further improve safety and reduce insurance costs for many residents in much of northern Grant. This discussion will take place at some future date.



## Manning Avenue Safety and Mobility Project

All members of the public are invited to comment to Washington County as part of the ongoing discussion of the Manning Ave. (Washington County Road 15) upgrade between Minnesota Trunk Highway 36 and 75<sup>th</sup> Street North (Washington County Road 12). The upgrade planned is to widen the road to a four lane divided highway. This upgrade to four lanes is necessary due to increased traffic and safety concerns. There is also funding for a linear park along the road. The type of trail surface and whether it is located on one or both sides are currently being discussed.

Manning Avenue traffic has increased from 300 vehicles per day when built in 1960 to 15,000 vehicles per day today near Highway 36. The needs of drivers, pedestrians and adjacent properties are greater than the capacity of the existing two -lane road can handle. Safety is becoming an increasing concern.

At this phase in the project Washington County is reviewing different design options for aesthetics and functional uses by pedestrians, snowmobiles and horses. Any amenity, such as soundproofing or additional trees, requested by a city would have to be paid for by the requesting entity. This is your best opportunity to have input into the design. You can email comments and also ask questions directly to the Washington County project engineer at the contact information listed below.

Lake Elmo Avenue will be a likely alternate route during construction. You have the opportunity to direct questions on traffic volumes or traffic control plans to Washington County at this time.

This highway improvement project will have three phases. The first phase is study. The design phase will occur in 2005 and 2006. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2007.

### **Washington County Contact Person**

You can also contact Washington County directly with questions and comments.

The Contact person is:

**Joe Lux**

Washington County

(651) 430-4312

Joe.lux@co.washington.mn.us

If you are interested in receiving project updates by email you can contact Joe Lux to have your name added to the list. Updates will start in early 2005.

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## County Providing Assessment Services

By Kevin Corbid

Director, Washington County Director of Assessment,  
Taxpayer Services and Elections

Starting in August 2004, the Washington County Assessor's Office has begun providing property assessment services to the City of Grant and its residents. We appreciate the opportunity to work with the City and its residents and will strive to provide professional and quality services.

Property owners in Grant may be getting a visit from an appraiser from the County. It is important that our records be accurate and up-to-date. In addition, state law requires that each property be physically inspected at a minimum of once every five years. The only way to ensure an equitable and quality assessment is to do an interior and exterior inspection.

All county appraisers will be wearing a county issued photo identification badge.

Finally, state law allows for a property owner to restrict access to their home to the appraiser. However, if a homeowner chooses to not allow access, the law also says they forfeit their right to appeal the value placed on the property without an interior inspection.

If any Grant resident has a question regarding their assessment or the process we are undertaking, please feel free to call Kevin Corbid, Director at (651) 430-6114 or Bruce Munneke, County Assessor at (651) 430-6114.

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## Recycling News

Barbe Bartholdi

### Telephone Directories

Telephone directories can be placed in your Waste Management recycling bin. Please do not place the plastic bag in which your directories were delivered or any other plastic bags into the recycling bin.

### Household Hazardous Waste

As part of Washington County, Grant residents can bring household hazardous waste to the Re-use Facility located at 1900 Hadley Ave. N. in Oakdale. The hours are Tuesdays 12 noon to 7 p.m. and Thursdays and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you have questions, you can call (651) 430-6655 or visit the county website at [www.co.washington.mn.us/publichealth](http://www.co.washington.mn.us/publichealth).

### Items accepted:

Automotive products: brake fluid, gasoline, and antifreeze

Home improvement products: paint, thinners, solvents, adhesives, mercury, switches, and fluorescent bulbs.

Household cleaning products: acids, bases, drain openers, and oven cleaners

Lawn and Garden Chemicals: weed killer, bug killer, and poisons

Oil and oil filters: keep oil separate from other fluids

Recreational Hazardous Wastes: pool chemicals, propane tanks, and some other gas cylinders

Items **not** accepted: Appliances, business waste, computers, TVs and other electronics, construction and remodeling debris (including treated wood and asbestos), dried paint, empty containers, explosives, tires and used cooking oil.

## Council Actions September Through December 2004

Rick Vanzwol



### September 2004

1. Approved the preliminary plat for the Madline Farms subdivision including a variance for an overlong cul-de-sac due to a hardship resulting from numerous wetland areas on the property.
2. Appointed Craig Johnston to the Grant Planning Commission.
3. Approved the improvement plans for Bass Lake Park as presented by the Boy Scout Troop.
4. Adopted Ordinance 2004-111 establishing a fee schedule for the City of Grant.
5. Authorized the City Engineer to poll the residents of 102<sup>nd</sup> Street regarding potential assessments for paving this road.
6. Approved the Conditional Use Permit request from Christine Flug for Team Sorting Events at her stable.
7. Accepted bids for tree trimming and painting at the Town (City) Hall.
8. Requested a speed study from MnDOT on Maple Street in Grant.
9. Voted unanimously against a motion to adopt a park dedication fee for new subdivisions.

### October 2004

1. Requested a speed study be conducted on County Road 9 between County Roads 12 and 7.
2. Approved a Conditional Use Permit for an additional antenna on the monopole communications tower on the DeWolf property.
3. Approved an accessory building setback variance request from Philip Bolea.
4. Adopted Ordinance 2004-112 modifying set back requirements for accessory buildings.
5. Wrote off three escrow account deficits as uncollectible.
6. Authorized the City Engineer to proceed with a feasibility study for paving 102<sup>nd</sup> Street after more than 75% of the affected residents formally agreed to the potential assessments.
7. Agreed that the City will do snow removal on about seventeen miles of City roads. Washington County will continue to serve the rest of Grant and serve as backup as necessary.
8. Agreed to meet with the Valley Branch Watershed Managers in an effort to accelerate flood control measures around Sunnybrook Lake. Four Council members attended the Managers' regular meeting on October 28.

(Continued.)



Swans located in Grant on April 4, 2004

**Learn about Grant. Help preserve our history.  
Enjoy a memorable 2005 Calendar!**

The Grant Heritage Preservation Committee has prepared this second annual wall calendar featuring pictures from Grant's past and present. The Committee will use proceeds from the sale of these calendars to:

- Prepare informational pamphlets about Grant's history,
- Purchase plaques designating historic sites, and
- Preserve donated historic material.

If you are interested in volunteering with the Heritage Preservation Committee contact Howard Gochberg at phone: 429-8480 fax 429-1937 or email: [howard.gochberg@metrostate.edu](mailto:howard.gochberg@metrostate.edu)

If you are interested in nominating a picture for the 2005 or other future calendars contact Sharon Schwarze at (651) 429-2153 or [ksjta@aol.com](mailto:ksjta@aol.com).

**Please support our generous sponsors.**

<b>Aamodts Apple Farm &amp; St. Croix Vineyards</b>	<b>Advanced Self Storage</b>	<b>American Polywater Corp.</b>
<b>Applewood Golf Club</b>	<b>Axdahl Farm</b>	<b>Chariot Construction, Inc.</b>
<b>Costa Farm &amp; Greenhouse</b>	<b>Floyd's Repairables &amp; Auto Parts World</b>	<b>Gasthaus Bavarian Hunter Restaurant</b>
<b>Goldwood Kennels</b>	<b>Guldens</b>	<b>Houle's Farm, Garden &amp; Pet</b>
<b>Indian Hills Golf Club</b>	<b>Johnny's TV</b>	<b>Keller Williams Premier Realty</b>
<b>Kline Excavation</b>	<b>Loggers Trail/Sawmill Golf Clubs</b>	<b>Lutheran Church of Risen Christ</b>
<b>MacKenzie Studios</b>	<b>Maroney's Sanitation, Inc.</b>	<b>Part Three</b>
<b>Pine Tree Apple Orchards, Inc.  Tenere, Inc.</b>	<b>Red Cardinal Farm</b>	<b>T. A. Schifsky &amp; Sons, Inc.</b>

Pick up your calendar at the City Offices 111 Wildwood Road in Willernie, Mon. – Thur. 9am –1pm.

Send Order to:  
**City of Grant**  
**Attn: Heritage Committee**  
**P.O. Box 577**  
**Willernie, MN 55090**

Ship to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Calendars Ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Price includes \$8.00 for the Calendar and \$2.00 Shipping and Handling.

**Know our past and preserve our future.**

## **Council Actions September Through December 2004 Continued.**

Rick Vanzwol

### **November 2004**

1. Accepted the ballot totals for the City election.
2. Agreed to proceed with the project to pave 102<sup>nd</sup> Street at the owners' expense.
3. Agreed to acquire a small parcel of tax-forfeited property along Jocelyn Road.
4. Adopted a resolution establishing a \$50 payment for any mailboxes damaged by the City snowplow.
5. Accepted an offer by a neighbor to repair the City pump house near Pine Tree Lake.
6. Requested the City Attorney and City Planner review the City ordinances for compliance with the Comprehensive Plan.
7. Agreed to install two additional speed limit signs on Jasmine Avenue.

### **December 2004**

1. Conducted the Truth in Taxation meeting.
2. Conducted a Public Hearing on the 102<sup>nd</sup> Street paving assessments.
3. Received the annual insurance review from the City's Insurance Agent.
4. Approved the final tax levy for taxes payable in 2005.
5. Adopted a Capitalization Policy as part of the requirement for the new accounting requirements.
6. Approved the Buberl Conditional Use Permit.
7. Approved the Stillwater Veterinary Clinic amended Conditional Use Permit.
8. Approved the Erichson Variance.
9. Approved the amended Logger's Trail Development Agreement.
10. Approved the contract with Washington County for assessor services.

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## **Thank You To Our Outgoing City Council Members.**

Sharon Schwarze

**Mayor Tom Carr** has served the City as Mayor for the years 2001 through 2004. Thank you for your four years of service for the City of Grant.

**City Council Member Rick Vanzwol** has served the City of Grant as a member of the City Council for the last four years. In addition to this, Rick has previously served the City as a member of the Planning Commission and on the 1998 Comprehensive Plan Committee. Thank you for your Council service and work as a volunteer over the last twelve years.



111 Wildwood Road  
Willernie, MN 55090  
Phone: 651-426-3383  
Fax: 651-429-1998  
www.ci.grant.mn.us  
Email:cityclerk@visi.com

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If you are planning a fire larger than a small recreational fire you need to contact Bob about a burn permit.

**Officer Bob Carlson, Fire Marshall (part-time; burn permits \$10.00) - 651/439-7168**



### **2005 Grant Heritage Preservation Committee Calendars Available**

See inside for the order form for the 2005 Heritage Committee fundraising calendars.

This calendar is also available for sale from many of our sponsors or at the City Offices during office hours (Mon. - Thurs. 9am to noon.)

A special thank you to Kim Shone for donating the cover picture of the original Gasthaus Bavarian Hunter Restaurant as it looked in February 1976.