



Spring 2005

THE GRANT NEWS FROM YOUR CITY COUNCIL

Communication to / from Residents

Your feedback is important!

As the City Council liaison for both the Grant Newsletter and the Grant Website, I have the unique opportunity to, not only, bring news from the City Council to you, but more importantly, to get feedback from you to the City Council.

One of the tools I'd like to utilize is short



surveys in the Grant Newsletter. By focusing on a few timely topics, I hope that the council can make decisions that are in line with the residents we have been elected to represent.

If you have any ideas for future survey topics, please contact me at:

429-9631 or KimLinner@aol.com

Grant Road Update

The subject on most of our minds as spring arrives is: when will my road be in better shape!

Council Member and new Road Supervisor, Nancy Levitz has been busy evaluating past practice and future road needs.

"One of the most important aspects of maintaining our gravel roads," Levitz says, "is the 'set up' or final grading done just prior to the winter freeze. Again, in spring, we need to get out

there as soon as the snow and ice melts and the run-off is gone."



To that end, Grant has advertised for another part-time grader operator to fill in when Craig DeWolfe heads back into his fields.

"Cities that own their own equipment get the most payback when they keep the equipment busy," said Levitz.

As for paved roads, the City Council will be prioritizing projects within the scope of the budget and making long-range plans for the future upkeep of all Grant's roads.

Upcoming Projects:

102nd Street paving project has been bid; City Council action on April 5th moved the project forward to the public meeting phase for special assessments.



Keats Avenue/Indian Hills discussion has led to exploring less costly options than total reconstruction on Keats. A petition by 75% of Indian Hills residents is required to consider repairs to the other streets.

McKusick repair has been discussed, with no definitive action. A resident along McKusick, attending the council meeting, indicated that an overlay would only encourage more cut-through traffic. Future discussions with residents along McKusick seem in order.

Road Restrictions

Road restrictions went on March 26, 2005 and will remain for the next 8 weeks on all Grant roads. There is a 5-ton axle weight limit.

Taken from the MnDOT website:

The current Mn/DOT policy uses actual and forecasted average daily temperature to determine when Spring Load Restrictions (SLR) should be placed and removed. Current law now specifies that all county, township and municipal roads will begin and end SLR in common with the truck highway system, unless these roads are posted otherwise.

Spring Road Statistics

Road Supervisor Nancy Levitz' spring road tour identified: potholes on 24 roads, some spot graveling, 3 culvert replacements, crack-filling on 12 roads, seal coating on 8 roads. These regular maintenance items for Grant roads will be scheduled for spring or early summer.

T.A. Schifsky and Sons will be repairing potholes within a few weeks time.

Inside this Issue

Mayor's Corner

A **NEW** regular feature by our Mayor, Tim Gangnon.



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Roadside Cleanup April 23

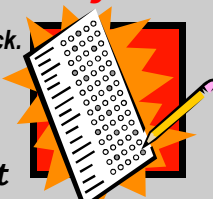
Join your neighbors in this annual Earth Day activity.



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Resident Survey

We need your feedback.
Take this short survey.



Special Insert

Mayor's Corner

by Mayor Tim Gangnon

Hello to everyone living here in Grant.

Citizen Involvement Makes a Difference

As your new Mayor I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who voted in the election last November. As I anticipated, challenges in the City of Grant have not dwindled. The largest challenge continues to be trying to **keep Grant the rural city it is.**

Citizens have spoken to me about the continuous telephone calls they receive from people interested in seeing their property developed. This presents significant challenges to the city, especially when we are working to **keep taxes low by limiting infrastructure.**



County Tax Assessment

On Monday, April 18 at 6:00pm at the Grant City Hall on Kimbro Avenue, the City will hold its annual Board of Review. This meeting is the opportunity for you, the taxpayer, to meet with the County assessors and discuss their valuation of your home for tax purposes.



I would suggest that citizens arrive early if wishing to meet with the assessor. *Remember to bring your tax statement.*

Spring is Here

Finally, as winter wanes and we see spring finally arrive, please remember the City's annual roadside clean up scheduled for April 23, 2005 (rain date is April 30). This is an excellent chance for neighbors to help neighbors clean up debris from streets and ditches.

Dog! Gone?

Lost your dog?

Found a dog?



The animal control policy for the City of Grant is offered as a service to residents, to reunite owners and their pets before expenses are incurred at the designated animal control shelter.

Call **Joyce Welander at 439-2598** for information or assistance with lost pets.

* * *

Remember, the best defense for keeping your pets safe is to get them spayed or neutered, keep them in a fenced area or on a leash, supervise them outside, and have them trained.

* * *

PLEASE NOTE: Beginning in 2005, Grant no longer refers lost cats to the city designated animal control shelter. Residents may take cats to a shelter at their own expense.

New Council Member builds skills at League of Minnesota Cities conference

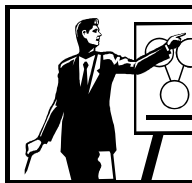
Participants learn how law empowers, limits city council

On the heels of exhausting election campaigns, newly elected city officials are required to hit the ground running as soon as they take office. That's why new mayors and city council members from throughout Minnesota, including **Kim Linner**, recently gathered to participate in a two-day Leadership Conference for Newly elected Officials sponsored by the League of Minnesota Cities. The conference is the only one of its kind offered in Minnesota.

"Like other elected officials just taking office in 2005, I'm ready to roll-up my sleeves and work hard for my community," Linner said. "I've already tapped into the knowledge I gained at the conference and am excited to continue making Grant a better city because of it."

Conference workshop sessions focused on helping newly elected officials build a practical understanding of:

- How to work effectively with fellow elected officials and city staff;
- The capabilities and limits of city councils, and how law both empowers and limits council actions;
- Finance fundamentals, including concepts from budgets to taxes to state aids;
- The open meeting law, conflict of interest, the Minnesota gift law, data privacy, and personal liability from an elected official perspective.



City residents may access valuable information available at the League of Minnesota Cities website: www.lmnc.org.

Fire Ban in Effect

Spring is here, and with that comes thoughts of clearing out all those trees that blew down last year. However, **Bob Carlson**, Grant's Fire Marshall, has received notice that because of the extremely dry conditions, a **burning ban** took effect March 29 and will remain for 4-5 weeks. "The DNR will send me a notice when the ban has been lifted." **This ban also includes recreational fires that normally do not need a burning permit.**



Even small recreational fires are prohibited under the current fire ban.

Call Bob at 439-7168 to find out when the ban has been lifted and to get a burn permit.

*****Permits cost \$10.*****

Grant Roadside Cleanup Day—Saturday, April 23, 2005

Join Your Neighbors!

Joyce Welander continues to coordinate the volunteer efforts for the annual Grant Roadside Cleanup. Residents may choose to clean along their property frontage, coordinate with neighbors to clean along their road, or volunteer to clean other sections of Grant roads.



Please contact Joyce Welander at 439-2598 or weljo1@aol.com to register which roads you &/or your group will cover, or for another road assignment.

Rubber gloves, boots and trash bags are helpful in snagging your 'street finds' that get dropped off at the **Grant Town Hall, 8380 Kimbro Avenue, from 9:00AM - noon.**

The rain date will be Saturday, April 30.



For a Fee: Residents may also drop off large appliances on Saturday, April 23, from 9:00a.m.—noon at the Town Hall. **Payment and proof of residency in Grant are required at the time of drop off.**

2005 Pricing Schedule

TYPE OF APPLIANCE	PRICE
Refrigerator	\$40
Freezer	\$40
Air Conditioner	\$40
Stove	\$35
Washing Machine	\$35
Dryer	\$35
Hot Water Heater	\$35
De-humidifier	\$25
TV (call if over 40")	\$25
Dishwasher	\$15
TIRES	PRICE
Car Tire / w rim	\$5 / \$7
Truck Tire /w rim	\$10 / \$12
Tractor Tire	\$15

Upcoming Events & Meetings

Monday, April 18, 6:00pm

Tax Assessment meeting will be held at the Grant Town Hall on Kimbro Avenue. Meet with the County Tax Assessor about the county's assessment of your property. Grant City Council will be in attendance.

Tuesday, April 26, 7:00pm

A Public Meeting with the Grant City Council will be held at the Grant Town Hall on Kimbro Avenue to discuss changes to the fire boundary lines.



Find out how this may affect your homeowners insurance & your future fire service.

Volunteer Opportunities

Planning Commission Applications Now Being Accepted

This is a volunteer position for a minimum 3 year term. Planning Commission qualifications and duties are listed in the 2005 Planning Commission Ordinance available online: www.ci.grant.mn.us. Call the City Office at 426-3383 for an application.

Town Hall Building Committee

Residents interested in being on a short term Building Committee to explore the feasibility of using the lower level of the Town Hall may contact Kim Linner at 429-9631. Current issues to consider are: handicapped accessibility, heating and ventilation, site drainage, windows, habitability, appropriate public uses, and cost of project vs overall benefit.

Employment Opportunities

Grader Operator

Applications have been accepted for a part time City of Grant grader operator. They will be reviewed and qualified applicants will be interviewed. The hiring decision will take place at a future City Council meeting in May. Meetings in May are scheduled for May 3 and 10.

City Treasurer Position?

The City Council is in the discussion stages of changing the way Grant's city finances have been done in the past 3-4 years. More decisions will need to be made in future City Council meetings.



Residents: Please Take Our Survey

This newsletter contains a 1-page survey that the City Council would like each household to complete. If we get a good response rate, we will continue having residents take similar short surveys on topics that will affect Grant's future.

Your feedback is important to us!

In the near future, the City Council and Planning Commission will be working towards making any updates to Grant's

Comprehensive Plan, which is due to the Metropolitan Council in 2008. These short surveys can help us identify issues of concern to Grant residents.

Are we still an area that wants to remain rural? If so, how do we go forward when pressures of development are seemingly all around us? These issues should cause us all to pause and take stock of what we value here in Grant! ***Be heard!***

Stormy Weather

- When the skies turn dark, tune in to local TV or radio reports.
- **Tornado Watch:** means conditions are favorable to produce a tornado
- **Tornado Warning:** means a tornado has actually been sighted or is being indicated by radar
- Don't open windows—wind damage!
- Don't try to outrun the tornado in a car

Contact Your City Council

Council Member	Appointments	Home Phone	Email Address
Tim Gangnon - Mayor	Emergency Preparedness, Ball Field, Oak Wilt, & Weed Inspector	(651) 439-9311	tgang@landolakes.com
Sharon Schwarze	Deputy Mayor; Liaison to Met Council, Historical Committee & Video	(651) 429-2153	ksjta@aol.com
Candice Kraemer	Liaison to Planning Commission, Parks & Finance Committee	(651) 773-0435	candice@tordahl.com
Nancy Levitz	Road Supervisor, Liaison to Washington County & Cedar Ridge	(651) 439-6882	none
Kim Linner	Liaison to Website, Newsletter, Town Hall Committee & Building Inspector	(651) 429-9631	KimLinner@aol.com



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Visit us on the web!

