



Spring 2006

THE GRANT NEWS FROM YOUR CITY COUNCIL

Communication with Residents

Your City Council and Planning Commission have joined together to begin the task of updating Grant's Comprehensive Plan, due to Met Council by 2008.

Residents will be called upon to give feedback in the



form of a written survey, public meetings, and talking with their neighbors. This important information from residents is invaluable in updating the Comprehensive Plan.

You are a part of shaping our future here in Grant!

Please plan to give your feedback by completing the survey and attending public meetings.

Budget Meetings Pay Off: 2006 Taxes Reduced

2006 Tax Levy Reduced 30%

The Grant City Council, after extensive discussions during the fall of 2005, reduced City taxes from a 2005 tax levy of \$915,326 to a 2006 tax levy of \$667,000.

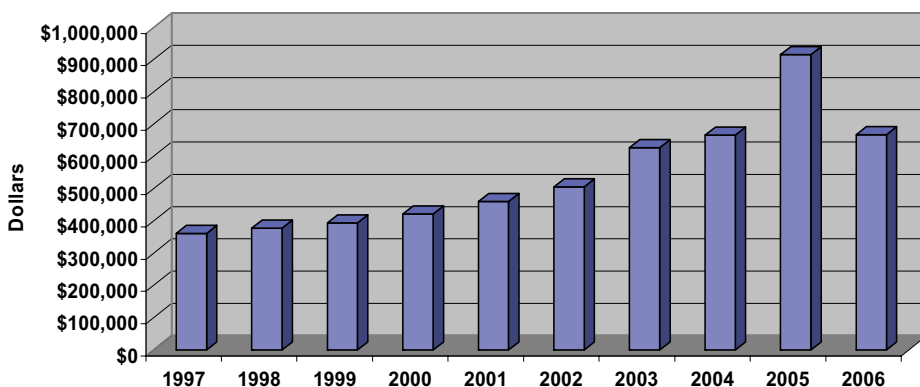
Responding to concerns about past taxation for proposed projects that did not proceed, from lack of support, the Council voted to reduce taxes while increasing money spent to maintain both paved and gravel roads.



Grant held Truth in Taxation meetings, even though the city was not required to do so. (The preliminary tax levy of \$825,000 sent to the county in September 2005 was a decrease, so a Truth in Taxation meeting for public input was not required.)

The majority of those attending the meetings were concerned that if taxes continued to increase, as in

Grant Tax Levy History



the past 4 years, more residents would begin to be "priced out" of Grant. One resident stated "don't raise taxes and force retirees out of the City." Common sentiment favored eliminating funding for proposed projects and continuing to improve on road maintenance.

Former Mayor Tom Carr stated he didn't want the City Council "hoarding" residents' money and that the last election showed that Grant

residents do not want increased taxes.

Council members voting to pass the reduced levy: Tim Gangnon, Nancy Levitz, and Kim Linner; those voting against: Candice Kraemer and Sharon Schwarze. Additional resident comments from the Truth in Taxation meetings can be accessed in City Council meeting minutes on the City of Grant website at: www.ci.grant.mn.us.

Inside this Issue

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See how your input will affect the future of Grant.



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Fun ways to protect our environment and form recycling habits.



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Mayor's Corner

by Mayor Tim Gangnon

Spring Brings Work on City Plan

Hello to the citizens of Grant. Like many of you I am glad to see spring finally coming to the City of Grant. The spring and summer of 2006 will be important to the citizens of Grant. Your Council and members of the Planning Commission are working to complete the City of Grant Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan is a document required as a result of passage of the Metropolitan Land Use Planning Act by the Minnesota State Legislature in 1976. This document is critical to the City of Grant because it details our plans for growth, use of the land and how we intend to maintain our rural character. Public comments are important to this process so if you have questions or comments please contact any member of the City Council.

Pitch In to Clean Up our City

Those citizens involved with spring cleanup of their neighborhoods should mark down April 22 on their calendar. This is the annual spring road-side clean up day for the City. As in the past, refuse collection for items cleaned from road sides will be available at the City Hall starting at 9am. As a side note, many of the residents have had to deal with trash dumping on Grant roads through out the year. When the City cleans up these intermittent dumps it is a cost to the tax payer. If you observe someone involved in road dumping please take time to notify the Washington County Sheriff's Department.

I sincerely hope you have a safe and productive spring and summer.

Tim Gangnon

Road Conditions: A Matter of Concern

Grant residents are not alone in their concerns over the condition of our roads. A quick trip to the store, a longer commute to work, or tuning in to the daily "state of the pothole" reports on the nightly news will verify the fact that all roads in Minnesota undergo the frustrating nature of the dreaded "SPRING THAW."

Road Supervisor Nancy Levitz receives an average of three calls per day from residents with questions such as, "Why haven't they graded my road yet?" or "When will the potholes on my road be filled?"



While the city can do nothing until "the frost goes out of the ground and the water

goes somewhere: because we can't grade mud," Nancy refers areas of concern to Washington County, our current road maintenance contractor, and defers to their discretion as to when the gravel roads are dry enough to grade. So far, they were able to hit a few high-traffic areas before more rain.



Pothole filling will be done utilizing a winter mix on an emergency basis until the annual spring road tour identifies the needed paved maintenance. This maintenance will be a part of the comprehensive summer road contract being prepared by the city engineer in co-operation with the Road Supervisor.

Mn DOT



Spring Road Restrictions

Five ton per axle weight limits went into effect for the METRO AREA March 8, 2006*

Detailed maps and updated Road Restrictions can be accessed on the Mn DOT Seasonal Load Limits website at www.mrr.dot.state.mn.us. Click "Seasonal Load Limits," then click "Spring Load Restrictions."

Winter Load Increases and Spring Load Restrictions are based on how changing weather conditions affect roadway strength. Spring Load Restrictions usually last about 8 weeks.



*Residents-Please Note:

Road Supervisor, Nancy Levitz, regularly updates her phone message with pertinent information for Grant residents.

For instance, if you require emergency septic system service, please **contact Nancy at 651-439-6882**, and she will coordinate the proper authorization for service vehicles to access the roads to your residence.

Dust Control—Revisited

The City Council will again consider a 2006 Dust Control policy. Neighborhood road contact persons may call Nancy Levitz to be added to the list of roads wishing to have dust control this summer. More details on this year's policy for city and resident contribution to the cost of application will be publicized in the near future.

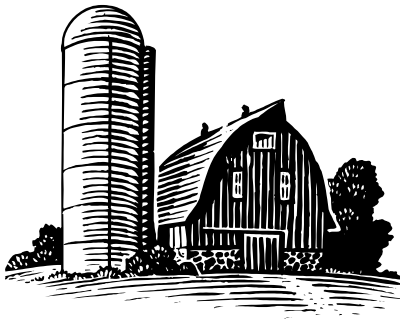
Grant Heritage Preservation Committee

By Chairperson Joyce Welander

Recalling past years' history was just one of the issues discussed at the recent February meeting of the Grant Heritage Preservation Committee.

Of greatest interest at this time is the preservation of the Masterman home (now Axdahl's) at the corner of Manning Avenue and County Road 12. Due to the upcoming widening and reconstruction of Manning Avenue, preservation of this house is in limbo until a decision is reached between Washington County and Axdahl's.

At issue is whether the house can be placed where Axdahl's prefer it, what it will cost to move, and who will pay to have it restored. There is the possibility of some



historic preservation funding, which is being investigated by the chair.

Other residences of interest for historical preservation at this time include the Rutherford home, the Powell-Benson home and the Ramsden home, all north of the Masterman home, along the Manning Avenue corridor.

The size and depth of a "City of Grant History" booklet was also discussed. Eileen Allen, journalist, writer, and photographer, has been interviewing long-time Grant residents and working on the history, starting at its beginning in 1858. Any bits of Grant history you may have would be welcome. Contact Joyce.

Dog Control

OR

Out of Control?

In a 2002 survey conducted in the Grant Newsletter, this question was asked: **"What aspects of Grant would you like to change?"**

Several respondents had concerns about dogs: excessive barking; loose uncontrolled dogs being dangerous or frightening to walkers and horseback riders; stricter enforcement of the dog ordinance; cleaning up after your dog if walking in public.



In Ordinance 98-84, a nine page document, the City of Grant established regulations for dogs within the City of Grant. In it, dogs are:

- Required to be under physical control (either by leash or by voice).
- Not allowed to run at large at any time. (Refer to the ordinance definition of "at large.")
- Not allowed to disturb the peace and quiet of any person.
- Considered dangerous if they chase or approach a person in an apparent attitude of attack; or cause injury to or threaten the safety of humans or domestic animals.
- Considered a nuisance if they damage others' property, or deposit fecal matter which is not removed promptly.

Details of **Ordinance 98-84** can be viewed in its entirety on the city website at: **www.ci.grant.mn.us**.

Gardeners ALERT!

Found circling the internet...

...an alert about buying mulch this year. Supposedly mulch from New Orleans' hurricane damaged trees were being sold around the country at "dirt cheap" prices. The Formosan Termites reportedly infesting those trees would be the bonus in many of those bags of mulch.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture debunks the Internet rumor and has several websites linked to check out more facts about termites in Minnesota.

For more information:

- www.mda.state.mn.us/hottopics/termites
- www.termite.com/termites/Minnesota

Prepared for Disaster?

Horse and pet owners, would you be prepared to rescue and care for your animals if disaster struck? Floods, tornados, fires, even earthquakes, could affect us here in Minnesota!

Kim Linner is working with the MN Horse Council to produce a brochure for the **Horse Expo, April 28-30**.

To be prepared for a disaster:

- Have a plan for your animals.
- Be a part of a neighbor's plan.
- Volunteer to transport animals, provide feed/medical supplies/ time to other disaster areas.
- Help organize community-wide disaster relief plans.

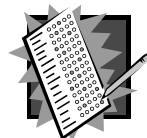
Visit: **www.horses-mn.org**

Click: What We Do; Disaster Relief

Grant Comprehensive Plan

By Kevin Fernandez, Planning Commissioner

Watch for a Resident Survey and give your feedback on the future of our city.



What is Grant?

Responses to that question could be as varied as the number of neighbors we ask. But if we had to put down on paper what we think our small town is, or what we think it should be.... what would it look like?

Drafted in 1998, in cooperation with its adjacent neighbors and approval by the Metropolitan Council, the City's Comprehensive Plan was created to answer the question of what Grant was and what it wanted to be. It is the primary guide, designed to define and protect Grant's unique character by protecting it from "unplanned and uncontrolled development;" development that threatens its sense of community and unique way of life.

According to the writers of the 1998 Grant Comprehensive Plan, rapid deterioration and loss of natu-

ral and cultural resources, lowering of property values and quality of life, misuses of land and the deterioration of its residents' social values are recognized as detriments to a small, rural community. These impending threats were the very reason that Grant's residents and leaders etched out a well defined, visionary approach of the town they chose to make their home.

"THESE VISIONARIES WERE DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN A RURAL CHARACTER WITH DELIBERATE CONTROL OVER ITS LAND AND RESOURCES..."

These visionaries were determined to maintain a rural character with deliberate control over its land and resources and to keep its local government small, as expressed in their very own words:

"...it is paramount that the issue of defining and preserving rural character be given serious and creative attention by the leaders of Grant..."

"City services and government will be provided at a level necessary to maintain a rural quality of life, while minimizing the effects of urban encroachment and controlling municipal expenditures".

"The unique geographic location of Grant between Mahtomedi to the west and Stillwater to the east provides an important buffer of rural land use and scenic amenities between two growing urban areas".

"It is recognized that development will continue to occur in Grant and that it is extremely important that such development be controlled appropriately".

"To provide these values and quality of life the residents of Grant

Contact List: Comprehensive Plan Committee

Review Area	Name	Member	Phone	Email
Demographic & Forecast Data	Candice Kraemer	City Council	(651) 773-0435	candicekraemer@comcast.net
Background & Policies	Tim Gangnon	City Council	(651) 439-9311	timgangnon@comcast.net
	Candice Kraemer	City Council	(651) 773-0435	candicekraemer@comcast.net
Land Use	Craig Johnston	Planning Commission		craigjohnston@popp.net
Historic Preservation	Joyce Welander	Planning Commission	(651) 439-2598	weljo1@aol.com
Aggregate & Critical Area	Sharon Schwarze	City Council	(651) 429-2153	ksjta@aol.com
Inventory of Housing	Chris Bray	Planning Commission	(651) 429-8248	bray0021@tc.umn.edu
	Kim Linner	City Council	(651) 429-9631	KimLinner@aol.com
Transportation	Kevin Fernandez	Planning Commission	(651) 439-7554	Kfernandez@usfamily.net
	Nancy Levitz	City Council	(651) 439-6882	
Water Resources Management	Sharon Schwarze	City Council	(651) 429-2153	ksjta@aol.com
	Joyce Welander	Planning Commission		weljo1@aol.com

Grant Roadside Cleanup—Saturday, April 22, 2006

Every year on an early spring Saturday, the City of Grant organizes a citywide volunteer roadside cleanup. Volunteers are typically assigned a specific section of roadway where they pick up the trash. The City provides disposal and recycling services at the Town Hall parking lot, 8380 Kimbro, from 9:00am—noon.



Volunteering as a family or as a neighborhood makes the work go faster, lightens the load, provides time to visit, and makes our city look **SOOOO GOOD!**

Rubber gloves, boots, and trash bags are helpful in snagging your 'street finds.' The rain date will be Saturday, April 29.

If you are willing to help this year, sign up with Joyce at 439-2598 or weljo1@aol.com



Maroney's will pick up large appliances **for a fee** at the Town Hall from 9:00am-noon (see fee table).

Payment and proof of residency in Grant are required to take advantage of appliance disposal.

TYPE OF APPLIANCE	2006 FEE
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

(Continued from page 4)

choose to limit the level of public services provided by the City...Residents of Grant have come to expect this type of service delivery...and do not desire a change in this policy".

With cooperation from its adjacent neighbors and the Metropolitan Council, the city of Grant created the document that would become the primary guide to define and protect Grant's unique character, by protecting it from "unplanned and uncontrolled development", such development that threatens its sense of community and unique way of life. Consistent with a desire to control the encroaching pressures to develop, the visionaries also sought to keep its local government small.

Grant's Comprehensive Plan is the single most important document

governing all decisions in the areas of land use, transportation/roads, parks and open space, housing, natural and cultural resources, and public facilities. As the blueprint for the future, this Plan represents what the citizens want Grant to remain or to become.

Members of the City Council and the Planning Commission have be-

GRANT'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT DOCUMENT GOVERNING ALL DECISIONS... AS THE BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE, THIS PLAN REPRESENTS WHAT THE CITIZENS WANT GRANT TO REMAIN OR TO BECOME.

gun the process of updating Grant's Comprehensive Plan. As required by the State Legislature for all cities in the seven county metropolitan area Grant must submit its updated Plan before 2008.

With a consensus to make few changes to the original Plan, the actual updated language should pro-

ceed rather quickly. To assure enough time is allotted for adjacent neighbors and the Metropolitan Council to review, it is important to move forward and complete the update in a timely manner.

As with the 1998 Comprehensive Plan, the form the 2008 Grant Comprehensive Plan takes will be in the hands of its residents and leaders.

From 1858 to present may be summed up with the actions of those who came before us as they sought to plan for the future, "without unduly compromising the rural character of Grant."

*Note: The Met Council has provided its preliminary view of a relationship with Grant by **reducing** its projected population growth requirement from its expected levels in 1998 through 2030.*

All Comprehensive Plan meetings are open to the public: 7pm, Town Hall, last Tuesday of the month.

Roots of Recycling...Grow 'Em Young

By Kim Linner

Habits Formed Early

Growing up in northern Minnesota, where most family's livelihoods were centered around farming, where everyone worked hard and nobody had much of anything, utilizing every scrap of food, clothing, and implement, even *after* its useful life, was a common practice.



My environmental conscience developed early from witnessing my grandparents' version of recycling. We learned early which container to throw "just the paper" into, taking labels off cans and bottles before placing them into separate containers. The paper was burned in the "burn barrel" and (unfortunately) the cans and glass were dumped into the grove of trees—but that was common waste management in rural Minnesota at the time.

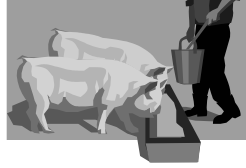
Both of my grandmothers had beautiful yards brimming with healthy flowers. The reason? They watered them with the dirty dishwater. They never had a problem with pests or diseased plants.



My maternal grandparents had a "slop pail" on the porch that all the food scraps went into, and when

full, was regularly given to a neighboring farmer for his hogs. I'm sure my grandparents received something in return, perhaps a butchered hog each year. No money changed hands, and everyone's needs were taken care of.

It was also a common practice to recycle old clothing, wool being the most prized. The material was cut into strips and the local ladies crafted beautiful braided wool rugs or woven cotton rugs from the strips. My husband and I were lucky enough to inherit some of these cherished rugs. We've used them for 23 years of married life, and they are still in almost perfect condition! How about that for "Made in the USA" quality!



I'm sure many of you have similar stories of family life in days gone past. Why not share this kind of knowledge and living with *your* children? Recycling may be considered an optional activity in your household, but to many families in the past it was the *only* option. Our environment may have been the better for it.

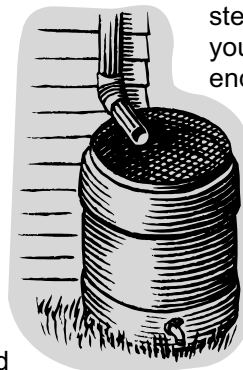
Below are ways you can increase your ability to recycle and save our environment & resources. Get your children and grandchildren involved...our future depends on it!

Reusing Water...

Reusing rainwater and gray water (water from the bath, shower, washing machine or sinks, but not the toilet) in your home can both conserve water and save money. Collect rainfall from downspouts to meet some household water needs.

Gray water is perfect for watering flowers or gardens, while collected rainwater is good for tasks such as watering the lawn and washing your dog or car.

Those with horses can provide additional nourishment to rainwater used for gardening by placing a cheesecloth full of manure in the water. This "green tea" is extremely fertile; watch your plants grow, and grow, and grow!



Food to Hogs...

Washington County has a new program being offered to school districts to reduce costs. Called the "Food to Hogs" program, the county first measures how much food waste students are generating and whether the school might be a suitable candidate for the program. Reusing the school's food waste can reduce the school district's expense for trash collection. County staff coordinator, Dan Schoepke, indicated Stillwater area schools has been contacted, and Councilmember Kim Linner directed him to Mahtomedi school personnel for possible participation in the program.

Making Rugs: A Lost Craft...

My group of eight friends go on weekend retreats twice a year. Traditionally we bring 3 "gifts" and play the "shake the dice, get doubles, take a gift" game. It's a great way to recycle items, in the hopes that "our junk may be someone else's treasure." It's not the gifts that are important, it's the time spent together and the laughs we share—especially in the "timed" round where you get to steal a gift from someone else when you shake doubles. Invariably, we all end up wanting *one* particular gift that's exceptionally attractively appointed, but I digress... Another tradition we have is to make a craft project. This year, we decided to crochet a fabric rug. With 8 yards of fabric cut into 1" strips we bridged the gap from yesteryear and fashioned 8 amazingly different and beautiful rugs. (I should confess that we did not reuse clothing, but purchased the material.) However, we each remarked that it would be rewarding to reuse old favorite clothing for future rugs, as gifts perhaps, for family members. Who knows, maybe they would consider them heirlooms someday!

Children can Help Save the Environment—and have fun too!

Recycling Fun... for Kids

Several wonderful websites can help teach kids about being stewards of the environment. Your kids can go hog-wild surfing the net. Many, like GreenGuardian.com have fun activities for kids to try. Activities change monthly, so there is always something new to check out. The March activity was making your very own recycled paper! (Hmmm...I wonder what April's project is?)

More recycling websites for kids:

- www.kidsrecycle.org
- www.epa.gov/recyclecity
- www.kidsrecycle.org
- www.container-recycling.org/kids
- www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/kidspage
- www.recycleworks.org/kids

THE GREEN GUARDIAN'S STORY

Not long ago, and not far away, in a land of great beauty and abundant natural resources, was the kingdom of Trashalot.

It was a tiny kingdom, but prosperous, and as it grew, the people of Trashalot created more and more garbage and waste, until it covered the landscape and choked the air and water.

The kingdom, once proud and pleasant, became a dark and gloomy place. All seemed hopeless.

Then a group of knights joined together, vowing to clean up the kingdom. Thus was born the **Order of the Green Guardians**, dedicated to the cause of reducing waste through action and education.

Working with the people of Trashalot, they restored the kingdom to its former glory. Then the Green Guardian knights set out to spread their message of hope to new lands throughout the world.

Story reprinted with permission from GreenGuardian.com For more *click on: FOR KIDS*

* THE MISSION OF THE GREEN GUARDIAN

* JOINING THE GREEN GUARDIAN'S NOBLE QUEST

* THE GREEN GUARDIAN'S CODE OF HONOR



Green Guardian to

Winter Wreaks Havoc on Mind / Body / Spirit

By Kim Linner

DO YOU FEEL AS IF YOU'VE BEEN IN A PERSISTENT VEGETATIVE STATE? IF SO, YOU MAY NEED TO *RECYCLE YOURSELF...*

Huh?... If your notion of a blissful weekend this winter was vegging on the couch watching reruns and consuming mass quantities of empty calories, you may want to take a peek outside, and...

OH! What's that? It's a brilliant kaleidoscope of color! Red (cardinals), blue (birds and indigo buntings), and yellow (gold finches) are the eye-candy currently on their way north. **Have you see them?**

Linger a little longer and you may witness a perchance rare sighting of migrating tundra swans, or, as my son and I were lucky enough to view

on Saturday, March 11, five pairs of bald eagles circling and drifting west on the currents above Hwy 96.

When you trudge out to empty the trash, are your ears flooded with a flourish of sound? Is it birds belting out their springtime strains or the deafening din of the marshland maestros, aka frogs?

Stretch your legs a little more and



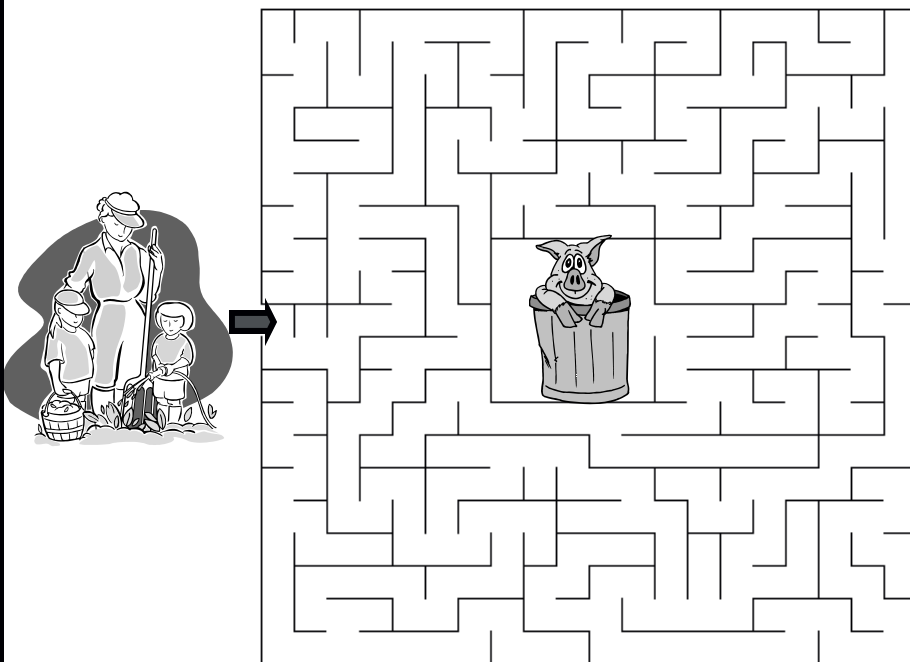
venture along the road. Do you see bumps appearing on the tree branches? You and your kids may want to start a new spring tradition by guessing the "bud-opening" date of your favorite tree. My husband, for the 25 years I've known him, utters these words every spring, "It's really starting to green up around here." So, for the past two years, my son and I have tried to pick the date he will say those words that, to us, mean spring has truly arrived!

If these sensory awakenings bring you out of the winter doldrums, give you the desire to abandon your cabin fever, and lift your spirits to greater heights, just think what a walk, bike, or horseback ride down the Gateway Trail will do for you!

***We live in a great place,
venture out and enjoy it!***

Fun For Kids

Help the kids bring food to the hungry hog.



Mark Your Calendars

Gateway Trail Association ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, April 20, 2006, 7-9 PM
City of Grant Town Hall, 8380 Kimbro

- Construction reports: Hwy 36 in No St. Paul and on the Gateway Trail
- Talk to Committee members

Grant Trail Rangers (GTR) SPRING/SUMMER MEETING

May date to be determined soon!

- Hear Gateway Trail Updates by the DNR's new Gateway Trail Manager, Dan Brevia.
- Sign up for guided rides to private trails & trail maintenance crews

If you haven't received your Meeting Notice by May 1, contact:

President, Tamara Cameron at:
timntam@comcast.net



Visit us on the web!

Mayor: Tim Gangnon
Council Members: Candice Kraemer, Nancy Levitz, Kim Linner, Sharon Schwarze
City Clerk: Karen Christiansen



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