



When do you need a building permit? See page 6.

City Code Gets "Reconstructed"

Codification of Ordinances

By Kim Linner

The City Council is pleased to announce that the City of Grant has contracted with the Municipal Code Corporation to undertake a codification of our ordinances. As you will see below, the City Council considered many questions and conditions in order to come to this decision.

Taken from the *League of Minnesota Cities Handbook*:

Purposes of codification

Citizens have a right to know what their government—whether national, state or local—requires of them. This is a fundamental due-process right in our legal system. If a citizen is to know the law on a particular matter, he or she must first know where to find it.

If a citizen is interested in knowing the city's current law on a particular matter, where does the search begin? In the book covering the minutes for the last 65 years? In the clerk's files? In the basement of city hall? Depending on the current state of affairs in the particular city, the answer to any or all of these questions could be "yes."

(Codification cont'd on page 7)



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Learn what to do when you find roadside garbage.

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Mayor's Corner

Well it's been almost a year since the new council was sworn in. I think overall things are going well. I think we all work well as a team and get the work done for the city.

Several initiatives that were brought up during the election by new council members are being implemented. Others that have been ongoing for quite some time are being completed. Some of these issues only take time. Some of them take time and money.

The City Council has made steps toward keeping costs down and staying within the budget. However for some of the new initiatives and ongoing items there is an increased overall cost. The cost to value of these deci-

sions is something I and the rest of the council take very seriously.

I also take very seriously what the people in the city said during the last election with their votes. What I saw was that the residents wanted increased maintenance and services even if the cost to accomplish that went up. Not huge increases in spending but a better level of service. That does increase expenses and we have made that policy decision.

I won't get into the details of all the projects, as I'm sure they'll be included in the newsletter. I'd like to thank all the Council members, Planning Commission members, volunteers and residents that have pitched in to help the city through a



good 2007. I look forward to 2008 and hope to see you all at a meeting sometime! It's better in person!

Tom Carr, Mayor

Country Roads, Take me Home

By Brad Hinseth, Grant Road Commissioner

Grant has a long tradition of self-reliance and community volunteerism. The job of Grant Road Commissioner is itself still a volunteer position. Every Grant resident should view their own road frontage through the lens of this Grant tradition.



In the words of a former U.S. President, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

If you can take care of litter, mowing, brush, and drainage along your road frontage, you keep your road frontage maintained to your standards, and you reduce the necessity of Grant taxing you to hire others to do these jobs.

- **Litter:** pick up litter along your frontage. If some despicable individual has dumped something along the road that's larger than you can carry, call the Road Commissioner.
- **Mowing:** keep a strip mowed along the edge of the road at least 4 feet wide.
- **Brush:** keep brush and branches trimmed back at least 4 horizontal feet and 15 vertical feet from the edge of the road.

Drainage: when and where possible, use a shovel to create a path for water to drain away from the road.

If you don't take the time and effort, Grant will have to. If you don't do these things, don't complain when Grant has to do them. I don't personally own a farm tractor or a bobcat, but I do own a mower, chainsaw, and shovel. Most of us can do the things I've mentioned, but if you can't, don't be afraid to network with your neighbors. If you know of neighbors who are not physically able, offer to help.

I believe I can safely say that very few people move to Grant for an urban lifestyle. People move to Grant to live in the country. We can live out that intention by how we exercise our tradition of self reliance and community volunteerism.

In the words of another famous American, "*Take me home, country roads.*"

Brad can be reached at 651-707-2780 or brad at cityofgrant dot com

Anything cookin' on your roadside?

Or how are roadside garbage & meth labs related?

Grant roads and trails are popular places to get exercise. Recycling and garbage pick up days offer additional opportunities for stretching, bending and ab work, by stooping, reaching, and retrieving various articles that have missed their target. But all roadside garbage is not created equal. Finding trash bags filled with some common household items can spell danger to you and your health.

Meth is a drug made from many common household chemicals and products. Many of these ingredients, by themselves, are toxic, but when mixed and "cooked" to make this dangerous drug, they can be deadly.

Meth labs are found in houses, apartments, barns, and even motels, but did you know meth can be made in the trunk of a car or the back of a pickup? These mobile labs use rural roads, wooded areas or fields to produce the drug.

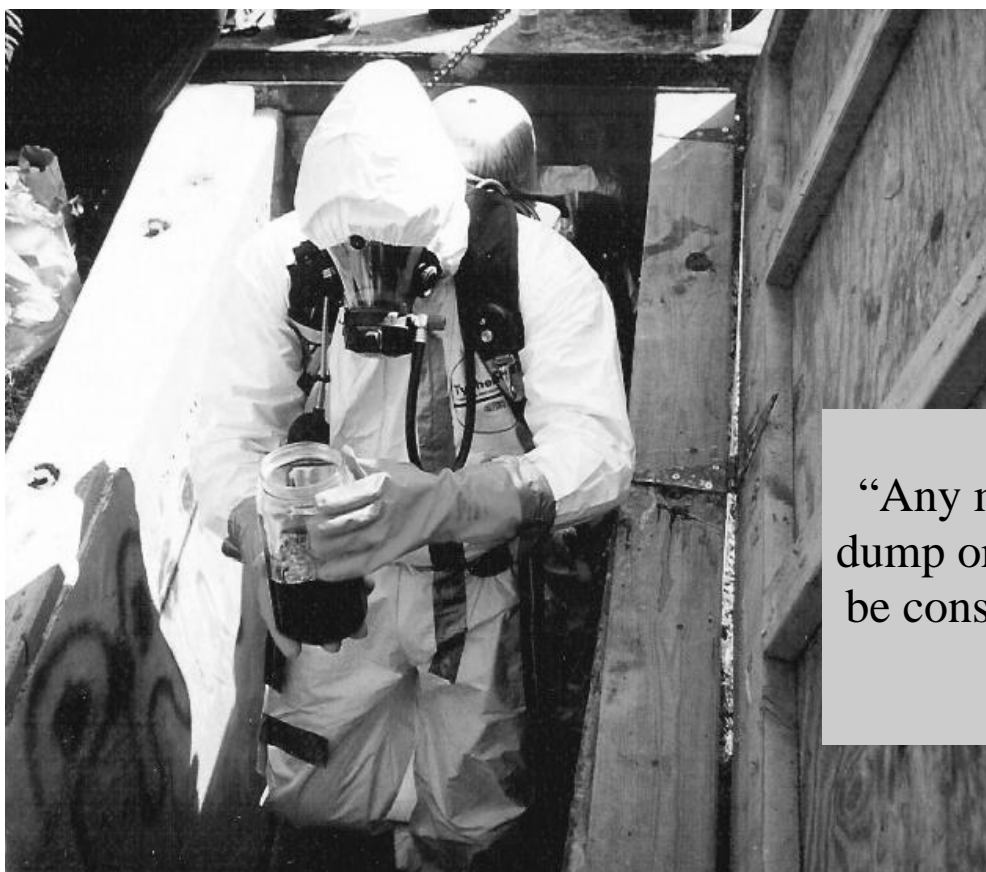
Hazardous by-products from making meth contaminate buildings, groundwater or soil where they are dumped. Substituting "ingredients" in meth "recipes," or errors in the cooking process, can lead to fires, explosions, or the release of toxic gases. Even one accidental exposure from breathing the toxic vapors is considered a great health risk.

According to the MN Department of Health, if you notice any of the above signs, or find suspicious spills, dumps or garbage bags along your property or roadside, do not attempt to intervene or clean up the site. Call 911 immediately. Any meth lab site, spill, dump or by-product should be considered a hazardous waste site. Various local, state, and federal agencies may need to be involved in investigating, evaluating, sampling or cleaning up the site.

Learn more at the MN Department of Health website:
www.health.state.mn.us

Here are some things to look for in identifying drug activity:

- Covering or blacking out windows.
- Frequent visitors at all times of the day or night.
- Security measures (video cameras or baby monitors outside of buildings, alarm systems, guard dogs, reinforced doors).
- Excessive trash including large amounts of items such as: antifreeze containers, starting fluids, red stained coffee filters, lye or drain cleaners, and paint thinner.
- Unusual amounts of clear glass containers.
- Strong chemical odors (like ether, ammonia, acetone or solvent smells).
- Burn pits, stained soil or dead vegetation indicating a dump site.
- Packaging from over-the-counter cold, diet or allergy pills.
- Compressed gas cylinders, or camp stove (Coleman) fuel containers.
- Packaging from epsom salts or rock salt.



“Any meth lab site, spill, dump or by-product should be considered a hazardous waste site.”

A Home to Return to

By Kim Linner

You've no doubt heard about win-win situations. Well, the City has entered into a win-win-win situation with a local youth and some very important Grant residents.

It seems, unbeknownst to the City, that the Town Hall has been the home for several families of "migrant workers" in recent years. Truth be told, no one really knows how long this housing arrangement has been going on. Since the city doesn't allow multi-family housing in its Town Hall zoning district, something had to be done.

At its September City Council meeting, council members awarded a contract for maintenance and repair to the attic rafters, roof, and chimney of the historic Town Hall, the area inhabited by the interlopers. Within this contract, the remaining migrant workers will be sent packing. They are not being jailed, deported, or harmed in any way. They will

leave of their own accord; after all, they have work to do in diverse parts of the world.

In its consistently strict, but benevolent fashion, the current City Council, aware that next spring would find those returning without housing, put a call out for assistance. Enter a local youth, taking advantage of the situation presented, to contribute positively to our community.

Herein lies the win-win-win situation:

1) The Boy Scout completes valuable leadership skills, required to complete the rigorous Eagle Scout standards, for coordinating the two part project.

2) The city benefits from the free, cheerful service of the many Boy Scouts volunteering to accomplish the project, which includes a new nature trail connecting the upper level of Town Hall to the lower level.

3) Lastly, the "migrant workers" benefit by having newly constructed housing

in which to return, come spring.

Their new digs include three sets of two multiple housing units to be located at the edge of the woods, at the top of the rock garden wall, between the Town Hall and the ball field. Painting the houses black accomplishes two things: it allows absorption of solar energy to reach the comfortable 80 to 100 degree temperatures these residents enjoy. And since these residents work the night shift (around Halloween, we might even call it the "graveyard" shift), the black interior, together with extremely close quarters, helps to keep solar illumination to a minimum, amounting to a good day's sleep.

By keeping these "workers" close (but not too close) the ball field and Town Hall grounds can be kept as mosquito-free as possible. Now, if you think some past council actions have been "batty," rest assured, after these projects are complete, this council will have no more bats in its belfry!



Bat facts: How much do you know?



- Contrary to popular misconceptions, most bats have very good eyesight, do not become entangled in human hair, and seldom transmit disease to other animals or humans.
- Having bats around Town Hall is not dangerous. Playgrounds, sports, and car accidents contribute to more injury or deaths than do bats. Consider statistics for death due to: bat rabies--1 per year, compared to attacks by "man's best friend"--10 deaths per year.
- Stay away from bats that are unable to fly or seem weak, they are more likely to be rabid. Taking precautions, such as wearing gloves when moving wood piles, offers protection from inadvertent exposure to bats.
- There is not one big reason for conserving bats. Rather, there are millions of

little reasons to protect them. Little brown bats (most common here) can eat over 1,000 mosquitoes in an hour. This environmentally friendly, no-tax, pest control is invaluable in Grant!

- Bats serve as natural insect repellents. Many yard pests, especially moths that attack gardens, lawns, and shrubs, can hear bats from over 100 feet away and try to avoid them by leaving the area.

KIDS CHECK THIS OUT!

Two famous bats from literature are Stellaluna, the young fruit bat from the enchanting children's book by Janell Cannon, and Sunshine, the friendly little bat whose rescue was described in the book "The Bat In My Pocket", by Amanda Lollar.

- Bats benefit agriculture. In the Midwest, big brown bats protect corn crops by eating up to 33 million rootworms each summer. In other parts of the world, plants such as bananas, mangoes, cashews, dates and figs rely on bats for seeding and pollination.
- Bats have a slow reproduction rate, giving birth to only one pup a year. This, and the loss of natural habitat, are making them very vulnerable to extinction. Losses are occurring at alarming rates worldwide. This will have repercussions in the crop and food industry!
- Preserving our bat population by installing adequate-sized bat houses will provide evicted bats a home to roost, hibernate and raise young. We don't want them to invade a neighbor's house! *We do want their many benefits for pest control and agricultural health!*

Town Hall project updates

The Town Hall has seen a flurry of activity this month. Work began on the maintenance project to the Town Hall's attic and chimney area, which includes dismantling and re-installing the exterior chimney. It also includes removing the remaining ten feet of chimney brick in the rafter area, cleaning and re-insulating the attic, and sealing all holes and openings to prevent re-habitation of some furry friends.

Work is scheduled to continue in 2008 to correct site drainage, improve accessibility, install minor landscape features, and complete miscellaneous maintenance to the lower level.

The City has been very fortunate to have youth interested in contributing many hours of service in providing improvements to the Town Hall property. In exchange for small donations approved by City Council, the City has reaped far greater benefits from these eager volunteers. These young people can be proud of their tangible accomplishments *now and into the future!*



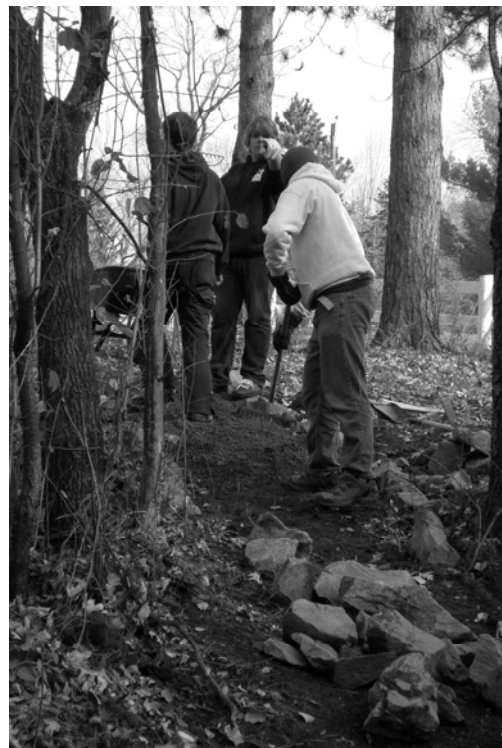
Youth serving our Community

Congratulations to Soil-Savers 4-H Club! They received a Grand Champion Award of Excellence in August at the Washington County Fair for their Community Service project at the Town Hall Park, earning them a trip to the State Fair. Community businesses donating materials were Buberl (black dirt) and Costa and Axdahl Farms (perennials). Former 4-H leader and Master Gardener, Cynthia Hammel, directed planting. The Grant City Council gave additional funding for the rock retaining wall. The Soil-Savers Club also worked as a food vendor for Llama Magic to raise additional funds. The project will continue in 2008 constructing picnic tables as a 4-H woodworking-shop project. Overseeing the on-going project is Organizational Leader, Joyce Welander, who recently received recognition for 45 years of Leadership service. Caitlyn Warmka was project photographer. The Warmkas produced a scrapbook of the project and a board of her photos is displayed in Town Hall. Thanks to Soil-Savers 4-H Club for beautifying our grounds!

Eagle Scout project gives City gift of service and volunteerism

Grant continues to be a popular place for Boy Scout service projects. In October the City Council approved \$1,200 for funding materials to be used in an Eagle Scout project to enhance our Town Hall property. Consisting of two parts, the project accomplishes two things for the Town Hall maintenance project. A nature trail through the south stand of trees will connect a future "flagpole/bench/flower planter" on the upper level with the lower level of Town Hall. This connection will replace the concrete stairs, which had become undermined from drainage runoff, to be removed during next year's scheduled site work. The second portion of the project includes constructing six large bat "condos" and installing them on predator deterring metal poles. This project will effectively house the bats evacuated from Town Hall that will be migrating back next March.

The trail portion of the Eagle Scout project was constructed on Saturday, November 17. The brisk, late autumn day did not dampen the spirits of over 15 Boy Scouts who, with the supervision and leadership of the Eagle Scout candidate, cut deadfall, grubbed underbrush, and leveled the ground for the trail. Gray class 5 trail rock was hauled in wheelbarrows, packed down, and edged with matching gray fieldstone. The portion of the Eagle Scout project for erecting bat houses will occur later this year. The Boy Scouts will gather off site to build the houses. The poles will be set into the ground and the bat houses attached prior to spring migration in March. Thanks Scouts! We appreciate all your time and efforts put into making our Town Hall property more nature friendly!



What do I need a Permit for...?

The City requires permits for many types of work to ensure the final product meets all applicable zoning and building codes. The following is a general guide for when permits are required. Many of these projects also require other approvals from the City. **Please contact the City Clerk at 651-426-3373, or the Building Inspector, Jack Kramer, at 651-351-5051 if you have questions regarding permits and/or city approvals.**

You will need a building permit if you're...

- building or remodeling a house
- building a shed greater than 120 sq. ft. of floor area
- installing a fireplace, woodstove, or chimney
- adding a garage, an addition, or another structure
- constructing a barn or agricultural building
- re-roofing or re-siding
- finishing a basement
- replacing a window
- changing or installing heating, air-conditioning, or plumbing
- constructing a retaining wall over 4 feet high
- constructing a fence over 6 feet high
- building a deck or porch
- completing electrical work
- installing an above-ground or in-ground swimming pool deeper than 24"
- constructing or altering a commercial business establishment



You will need a grading permit if you're...

- moving more than fifty (50) cubic yards of material not in conjunction with a building permit
- conducting any excavation or grading within a wetland, floodplain, or shoreland district
- creating new wetlands
- changing natural drainage patterns

You will need a driveway permit if you're...

- constructing a new driveway
- reconfiguring an existing driveway

You will need a septic permit if you're...

- installing or repairing a septic system.

Additional permits or approvals may be required from the Watershed Districts (Grant has four within its boundaries), Washington Conservation District, the MN Pollution Control Agency, or others. Contact them directly.

Please be aware: Work begun without the proper permit may result in additional permit fees, fines, and/or delays for your project. Contractors beginning work without a permit may have their license revoked and/or fines by the State of Minnesota.

Protect Grant's Surface Water

Follow these tips to reduce the amount of pollution in storm water runoff and surface water:

Lawn and Garden

- Use pesticides sparingly. All fertilizer applied within the seven-county metro area is required to have zero phosphorous by law.
- Compost or mulch yard waste. Do not leave it in areas where storm water runoff is conveyed.
- Cover dirt piles and mulch with a plastic tarp to avoid washing into ditches and storm water conveyance systems.

Automotive Care

- More oil washes down storm drains each year than was spilled by the Exxon Valdez oil tanker. Never place automotive fluids, used filters, lead batteries, or tires in the ditch, on the ground, or in the garbage. Refer to the Washington County website: co.washington.mn.us/info_for_residents/public_health for disposal locations.
- Do not put oil on gravel roadways for dust control. Reference the City's web site (www.cityofgrant.com) regarding dust control procedures.
- Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand. Do not rinse the spills directly into the environment. Remember to properly dispose of the absorbent material.
- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface to minimize the amount of dirty soapy water flowing into the storm water system. If available, use a phosphorus free soap.

Construction

- Divert storm water away from the construction site area.
- Install silt fences or other erosion-control applications around the perimeter of the construction site to prevent soil erosion and sediment deposition from leaving the site.
- Minimize the disturbed areas and cover (sod, seed and mulch) the area as soon as possible.

Home Repair and Improvement

- Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris such as concrete and mortar.
- Purchase paint, solvents and cleaners in small amounts. Store them properly to avoid leaks and spills. Clean up spills immediately and dispose of waste properly.

Clean Up After Animals

- Animal waste contains phosphorus as well as harmful bacteria. Animal waste should not be allowed to enter water courses, wetlands, ponds or lakes. Dispose of animal waste with your solid-waste collection.
- Don't feed the geese.



Submitted by City Engineer,
Diane Hankee

In assessing the need for codification, a city should begin by asking the following questions: What condition are the ordinances in? Are they organized in one place? Are they properly indexed? Are they cross-referenced? Are they up-to-date? Are they internally consistent? Are they in compliance with state and federal laws? Are they complete?

A codification of city ordinances allows city officials to respond affirmatively to all of these questions. A proper codification project encompasses all of the following:

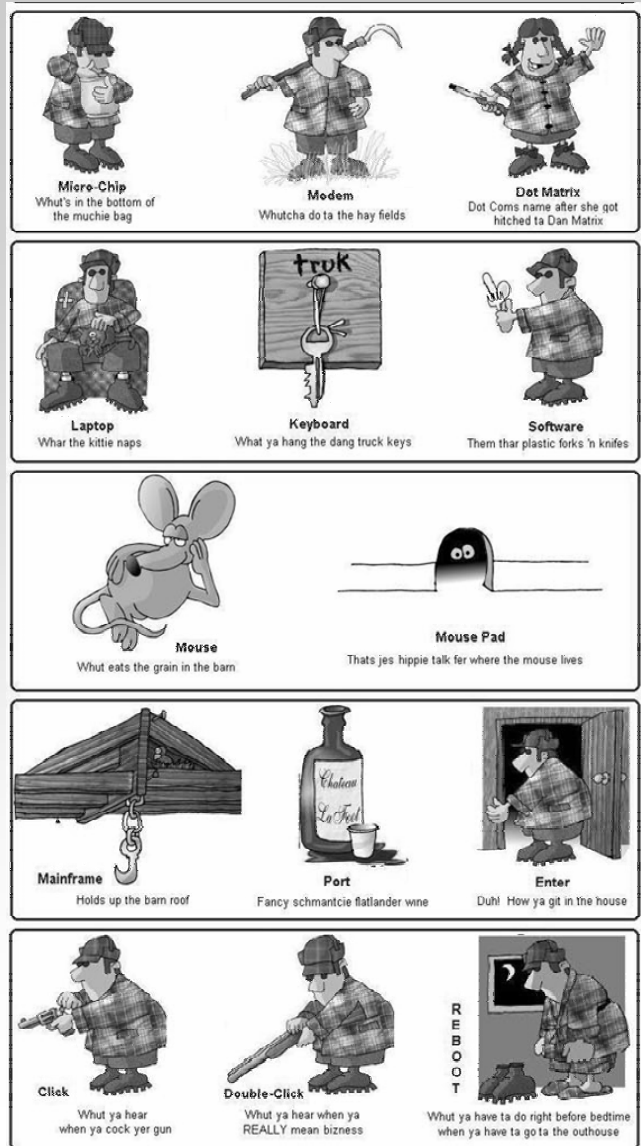
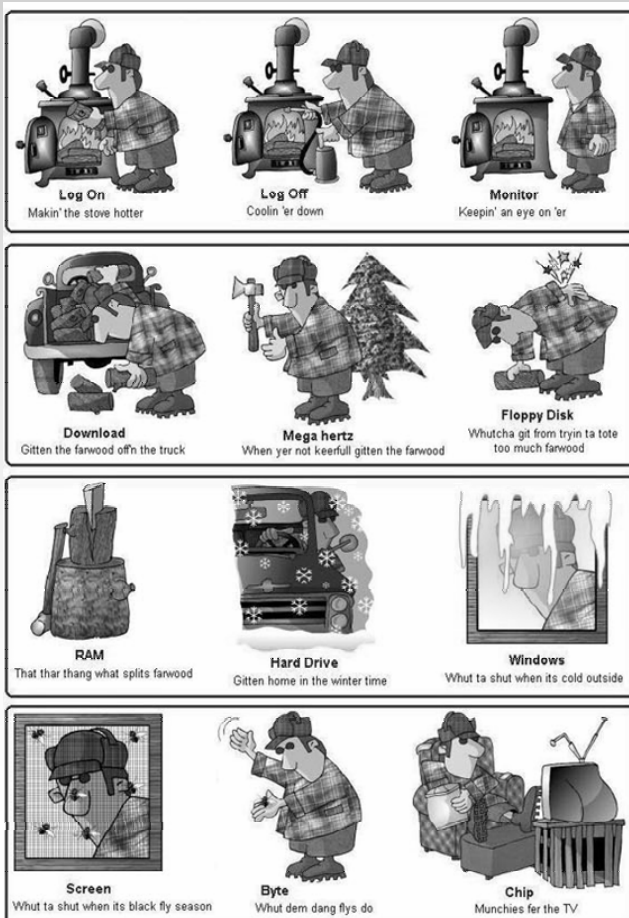
- Identifying conflicting ordinances, and repealing or re-drafting inconsistent or unclear ordinance provisions.
- Removing archaic and unconstitutional ordinances.
- Developing a system that facilitates access to the city's laws and provides for continuous updating.
- Developing comprehensive indexing and cross-referencing.

- Reviewing of the entire body of city ordinances for omissions.
- Organizing city ordinances into an easy-to-use reference book known as the city code.

A well-drafted city code helps a city operate efficiently and effectively. Ordinances are grouped together by subject, not by the chronological order in which they were passed. This eliminates the need to sort through stacks of loose ordinances to find a regulation on a particular subject.

By codifying our city ordinances, residents, staff, council members, and planning commissioners alike, will have a clear, concise, organized city code to guide us. This should translate into applicant awareness of city requirements; the city should see greater compliance and less need for enforcement actions. Codified ordinances will facilitate reduced staff time required for permit and application reviews. This increase in clarity and efficiency will garner dividends in time, *and cost savings to all!*

Technology For



Dedication to a Dream

by Noreen Farrell

A dedication was planned for Aug. 9, 2007 to celebrate the tunnel that had been built under Washington County Highway 12 for the Gateway State Trail. I asked the current president, John Olen-dorf, if I could say a few words at this event. I have been involved with the trail since 1980 when neighbors got together to support the Department of Natural Resources in a purchase of the Soo Line Railroad track that was being abandoned. I have been involved ever since. This was an event that had been dreamed about for a long time.

I was put in touch with a neighbor, Peter Seed in 1980. He helped to gather a group of neighbors who were interested in having the trail. I became chair-man of the Soo Line Trail Association and we worked to get the support of towns and cities along the rail line.

We worked very closely with the DNR, neighbors, other interest groups and legislators who supported this effort.

Some of the landowners who abutted the track fought the trail. The Minnesota Parks Foundation (Parks & Trails Council of MN) became involved at this time and gave us advice. They gifted money to the DNR for the purchase of the property for a trail. The case went all the way to the State Supreme Court with the 1983 decision found in favor of the DNR purchase.

The Soo Line Trail Assn. continued to support the development of the trail. It was finally opened in 1993 and the members voted to become the Gateway Trail Association. We continued to be involved and one of our big concerns was a safe crossing at County Road 12. We suggested a traffic light at Jamaca, a blinking yellow light, a stop sign, a lowering of the speed limit and other ways to make it safer for users to use the trail. None of these suggestions worked. In the meantime, funding became available for a bridge crossing Washington County Highway 96.

Finally the DNR was able to get



funding to make a safe crossing at County Road 12, and I am overjoyed. Many of the original members are still very active in the GTA and continue to work on issues to insure having a safe and fun trail for all of the users of this non-motorized trail. We are excited about the funds that are still in the pipeline for a bridge over Highway 15 (Manning Avenue) and continue to work on extending the trail into St. Paul and to Taylor's Falls.

It is amazing what individuals can accomplish when they are dedicated to a dream.

For information about recreation opportunities and to become a member, visit the **Gateway Trail Association** online.

Hunting Seasons and Deadlines

For more information, please visit the **Department of Natural Resources** website at www.dnr.state.mn.us.



BEGIN	END	DESCRIPTION
Sept 15	Dec 31	Deer-Archery Season
Sept 29	Nov 27	Waterfowl Season
Oct 13	Jan 1	Pheasant Season
Oct 20	Mar 15	Fox (Gray and Red)
Oct 24	Oct 28	Turkey Fall 2nd Season
	Nov 2	Deer-Firearm license deadline
Nov 3		Deer-Firearms Opener
Nov 24	Dec 9	Deer-Muzzleloader Season
Nov 24	Dec 2	Trapping (Fishing and Marten)
Nov 24	Jan 6	Trapping (Bobcat)

Mahtomedi Community Education decides to surcharge Grant residents for programs; is directed to cease

At the July and August City Council meetings, Russ Fraenkel, Mahtomedi School District's Community Education Director, presented a request for the City of Grant to contribute more than \$17,000 to Mahtomedi Community Education to cover their \$100,000 planned deficit spending in 2008. He pointed to "common unity" as goals of Community Education and felt cities contributing funds would help accomplish this mission. Several residents of Grant were in attendance to speak of their support and the benefits of the programs.

While the Grant Council expressed their overwhelming support of Community Education, they felt it would be unfair and problematic for all Grant residents to be taxed more than \$17,000 for Mahtomedi's Community Education, as it would have obligated Grant residents outside of Mahtomedi's school district to contribute to the funding. Several Council members pointed out that they

did not believe cities to be the proper funding mechanism for Community Education. Instead, they believed the School Board to have control over funding programs they feel are of value to residents in the school district. (Further inquiry with the Secretary of State's office has confirmed this belief.)

The City Council offered some suggestions for Community Ed to accomplish its funding, such as, raising user fees throughout the district, conducting a private donation funding drive, and/or cutting programs as warranted.

On Tuesday, November 6, 2007, Grant Council members were contacted by concerned parents and made aware of the **decision by Russ Fraenkel to surcharge Grant residents \$50 per person per program**, beginning in January 2008. Council members were disturbed to find several pieces of misinformation on the Mahtomedi School District's Community Ed Advisory Council web

page about the meetings with the Grant Council. Of particular concern was a statement that Community Ed had no choice but to set up a "separate and exclusive" delivery of programming concerning Grant residents.

Several Council Members contacted Mahtomedi Superintendent Mark Wolak and various School Board members. A number of concerns were brought to their attention, including:

1) The surcharge decision and implementation was a complete surprise to the Grant Council. We felt this total lack of communication of the decision by Mahtomedi's Community Ed Director was unprofessional.

2) It was dishonest for the Community Ed Director to state verbally, and in print, that the Grant Council agreed to the surcharge.

(Surcharge cont'd on page 10)

In an Emergency, you'd want...

...the sheriff, fire department, or ambulance to come to your house in the shortest amount of time, right? What if your address has worn off your mailbox? What if it is too small to read, or doesn't have a contrasting background? What if your mailbox is grouped with others and there is no address at your driveway entrance? These little things can cause precious time to be wasted when emergency personnel need to find your home!

Keep you and your family safe by following some simple home safety tips (right). But if an emergency arises, it's worth your time, RIGHT NOW, to walk out and check whether your driveway entrance is CLEARLY MARKED for emergency vehicle's immediate access!

**Saving precious time
saves precious lives!**



Burglary Prevention Tips

By Deputy Breana Fry

Safeguard your home, family, and property by following these tips:

- Get in the habit of securing and locking ALL doors and windows when you leave your home, this also includes your garage service door. Doors should be secured with a dead-bolt if possible.
- NEVER hide a spare key outside your home. Instead, give it to a trusted friend or neighbor.
- Install adequate lighting around your home. Consider installing motion sensor lights.

(Burglary cont'd on page 10)

(Surcharge cont'd from page 9)

3) The \$50 surcharge to Grant residents is prejudicial and divisive. We asked to know why Grant alone was surcharged while other communities that did not honor the funding request were not.

After these many conversations between Council Members, the Superintendent, the Community Ed Director, and School Board members, Grant Council learned that false information about our position on the Community Ed matter was again presented at the school board meeting on November 8.

Solutions

The Grant Council has reiterated to the Mahtomedi School District its support of the goals of Community Education, and has expressed willingness to explore the city's role in that effort. Council members thanked Superintendent Wolak for his interest in learning the truth and correcting the record.

Superintendent Mark Wolak was appreciative of the Grant Council's interest in clearing the air in order to move



A picture from Mahtomedi Community Ed's web site shows Middle School students enjoying Community Ed's Ski Club.

forward on Community Education efforts together, stating, "The proposal to add a surcharge for Grant residents is

tabled until further joint review by the school board, administration and city leaders."

(Burglary cont'd from page 9)

- Keep bushes and landscaping trimmed. Large hedges provide good hiding spots for burglars.
- Remember to lock or secure any outdoor utility/garden sheds, pole barns and garages.
- If you leave for vacation, check with the US Postal Service about stopping your mail while you are gone. Put lights on timers. Ask for a vacation check through Washington County Sheriff's Office while you are away.
- Keep a list of all your valuable possessions, along with photographs, and put the list in a safe place. Mark your valuables with an engraving pen; this will make it harder for thieves to sell or pawn your items, and easier for police to identify them.
- Consider installing an alarm system.

- Report any suspicious activity or persons to the Sheriff's Office immediately.
- Organize a Neighborhood Watch in your area.

For more information on crime prevention and Neighborhood Watch Programs, contact the Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit at (651) 430-7889.



Dryer Safety

from Underwriter's Laboratories Inc.

With clothes dryers found in 80% of U.S. homes, it now seems to be an appliance of both convenience and necessity. Proper installation, use, and maintenance will prolong the life of your appliance, help conserve energy, and help prevent injury to your family.

Did you know that?

- A full load of wet clothes contains about 1/2 gallon of water. As water is removed, lint is created from the clothes.
- Clothes dryers are one of the most expensive appliances in your home to operate. The longer it runs, the more money it costs you.
- There are about 15,500 fires a year associated with clothes dryers. These fires cause an average of 10 deaths, 310 injuries and about \$100 million in property damage. (cont on next page)

Volunteer Opportunities

FOOD SHELF DONATIONS ACCEPTED

**On December 3 at Town Hall
between 6:00 and 10:00 P.M.**

Volunteers will deliver the donations to Second Harvest Heartland.

**The City of Grant is accepting
applications for appointments to the
PLANNING COMMISSION.**

Applications are due
in the City Office by Dec. 31.

Print an application form at:
www.cityofgrant.com

Sheriff's Office Volunteers

The Washington County Sheriff's Office recognizes the need for enhanced civilian participation in the functioning of the Sheriff's Office. The Volunteer Services Office maintains a variety of programs designed to assist the Sheriff's Office while enhancing civilian awareness and participation in goals and activities of the Sheriff's Office..

The following programs are currently available:

**Reserve Deputy Sheriff
Mounted Patrol
Water Recovery Unit
Chaplain Corps
Explorer Post**

Additional information about programs & applying for a volunteer position with the Sheriff's Office, can be found at:

www.wcsheriff.net/volunteer_services



- On a positive note, the number of clothes dryer fires has dropped by 35% from the 24,000 fires that occurred annually, on average, in the late 1970s.

Clean the lint

Not cleaning the lint trap is the #1 cause of dryer fires. Cleaning the dryer venting also reduces the chance of fire and improves airflow. Reduced airflow causes the dryer to take longer to dry a load of clothes, uses more energy and costs more money to run. It also causes a dryer to operate at higher temperatures, and possibly overheat, causing dryer damage, or worse yet, a fire.

Venting

Dryer duct venting should be as short and straight as possible, use only metal vents designated for use with dryers, and have seams sealed with tape, never screws (screws collect lint inside the vent pipe). *Never* vent a dryer with plastic or vinyl exhaust materials. Rigid metal vents work better than flexible

because they resist crushing, allowing better airflow and lint to be carried out of the system.

Dryer dos and don'ts

- DO – keep your dryer lint-free; clean lint traps after each load, use a vacuum to remove lint from under the lint trap on a periodic basis.
- DO - clean the vent system for proper



airflow if the drying time increases.

- DO - vent dryers directly to the exterior. NEVER vent dryers to the attic or crawlspace.
- DO - read manufacturers' manuals that accompany new dryers. Warning markings can also be found inside the dryer's lid and take only minutes to read.
- DON'T - dry clothing/fabric that has anything flammable on it (alcohol, cooking oils, gasoline, spot removers, dry-cleaning solvents, etc.). Flammable substances give off vapors that could ignite or explode.
- DON'T - put items like foam backed rugs or athletic shoes in the dryer. Air dry them instead.
- DON'T - let your dryer run while you are out of the house or even worse, when you are asleep.
- DO - use an old-fashioned clothesline. There have never been any reported clothesline fires!

Learn more safety tips online at:
www.ul.com/consumers/product

Truth in Taxation Meeting

Monday, December 3, 6:00pm

PLEASE COME!

The Truth in Taxation meeting is held for residents to voice their opinion on proposed city taxes!

It's not too late!

The taxes on your recent Property Tax Statement are from the Preliminary Budget proposed for 2008.

Budgets are allowed to be cut, but not raised, prior to final tax certification to the county in December.

Are taxes too high? Can we get by with less?

Don't let this chance for direct input on your taxes pass you by!

Your City Council needs to hear how you feel!



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