



Have you been enjoying

the fall colors?

# Grant's Sesquicentennial

By Eugene Eastlund

**"In 1858, Minnesota became a state." This slogan was imprinted indelibly in the minds of 4<sup>th</sup> grade Minnesota history students of my era. As you know, this year is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our state. It is also Grant's 150<sup>th</sup> year.**

Prior to 1858 pioneers began arriving in the area mainly from New England and New York lured by the lumber industry and potential farmland more productive than the stony, exhausted farms of the Northeast. When Minnesota gained its statehood from its status as a territory, there was a sufficient enough populous in the Grant area to allow the establishment of a township government.

The original township was the standard 36 square miles (36 sections) running westward from present day Manning Avenue to the Ramsey County line. Grant's original name was Greenfield Township named after a resident's hometown in Massachusetts. During the

Civil War (1861-1865) several young men from the community served in the Union Army. By 1864 President Lincoln had appointed Gen. Ulysses S. Grant as Commanding General of the Union Army. Hope was in the air that the Union would finally triumph. There was another Greenfield Township located in Hennepin County. So with the twofold purpose of eliminating a duplicate name and honoring a war hero, the residents renamed the township as Grant.

Over the first 60 years a pattern of settlement took place. The eastern 2/3 of Grant was agricultural. The western 1/3 situated on or near the waters of White Bear Lake developed into cottage and residential areas. In the early part of the last century this difference in lifestyle came to a head. In 1918 the western portion separated from Grant and became Lincoln Township; the more settled communities in that area incorporated over the years to become Mahtomedi, Dellwood, Willernie, Birchwood Village, and a portion of Pine Springs. There are even small parcels of the original township located along East County

Line Road that are a part of the city of White Bear Lake.

In 1972 the balance of the southern portion of Lincoln Township merged with Mahtomedi. The remaining rural part of Lincoln which included portions of Sections 5 and 6 had rejoined Grant making up our northwest corner. Present day Grant consists of 27 square miles (approximately 17,000 acres).

## *A Happy 150<sup>th</sup> To Grant!*

**A little footnote:** If you have ever had a question about that charming little area called Withrow, this may be your answer. Withrow was never incorporated even though it had at one time a bank, a lumber yard, and a store. It sits on the border and is actually part of Grant, May Township, and Hugo.

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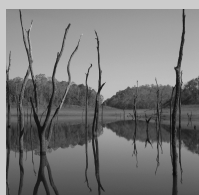
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**Alert readers will notice that this spot is usually reserved for a message from our Mayor. However, Mayor Tom Carr has graciously agreed to sit this one out in order to allow outgoing City Council Member Nancy Levitz an opportunity to say farewell. Take it away, Nancy!**

*Citizens of Grant,*

*I want to thank all of you who have supported me in my term on City Council. I believe that this council has been very proactive. We have accomplished a staff that is well qualified and non-political. We have made steps to catch up and improve on road maintenance.*

*I leave City Council feeling good about most of the issues that this council has addressed. However, there is a very wrong idea about our CUP update and review. We are not "out to get" anyone nor "cushion our coffers." We are looking for compliance on a privilege, not a right. Good land stewardship rewards all of us and keeps us safer from Metropolitan Council interference.*

*I'm proud to have served the residents of Grant!*

*Thank you, Nancy Levitz*



## Residents "Get Caught" Recycling

By Kim Linner  
Grant Recycling Coordinator

**Congratulations** to the residents that recently "Got Caught" Recycling! Let me explain.

**The "Get Caught" Recycling program** is one of four programs the city committed to doing in 2008 in order to bring in \$7,968 in revenue (*free*) from Washington County's Recycling Grant Program.

**How it works:** In appreciation of residents actively participating in recycling, 5 random addresses were chosen the morning of recycling day. For residents south of Hwy 96, September 29 was recycling day, while recycling day for residents north of Hwy 96 was October 6. If the residents chosen had their recycling bin out at roadside, they received a City of Grant hoodie sweatshirt as thanks for participating.

**That's the way you "get caught" recycling!** From the south end, the city

thanks: the Adams' on 62<sup>nd</sup> St N, the Kollander's of 75<sup>th</sup> St N, the Ostlund's from Jocelyn Rd N, the Brunell's on Leeward Ave N, and the Vack's on McKusick Rd N. From the north end, the city thanks: Griesse & Kappus on 118<sup>th</sup> St N, the Petersen's on Manning Trl N, the Leach's from Dellwood Rd N (Hwy 96), Rog & Quiram on 110<sup>th</sup> St N, and the Hanson's on 115<sup>th</sup> St N.

***The more you REUSE products and RECYCLE, the more you REDUCE waste. For many, this could mean reducing the size of your trash can, saving you even more money!***

**The city pays for recycling** through its contract for service, currently with Waste Management. This amount is already included in the Grant portion of your property taxes.

The more you REUSE products and RECYCLE, the more you REDUCE waste. For many, this could mean reducing the size of your trash can, saving you even more money!

As Grant's volunteer Recycling Coordinator, I was impressed to see so many residents taking part in recycling. While some neighborhoods had nearly 100% participation, others could use a little inspiration to get the bin out there!

**If you are a new resident** of Grant and have not received your recycling bin yet, please contact the City Clerk at 651-426-3383.

**Recycling saves the environment and can save you money—all you need to do is participate!**

**Thanks to those who already are!**



# Recycling Booth Huge Success at Grant Picnic

By Kim Linner  
Grant Recycling Coordinator

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Hay Days Picnic was held at the Town Hall picnic area on Saturday, June 28. Food, beverages, fire trucks, and a jumping castle kept all busy!

Over 30 people visited the recycling booth and played games to learn more about recycling, reducing packaging to reduce waste, and to see the amazing products being made from recycled materials.

The young and young-at-heart enjoyed playing “Recycling Yahtzee” for fun prizes. Many different strategies

were used to “Guess the Cans” in the crushed block of aluminum cans. Niklas Fernandez came away the lucky winner of the most fabulous prize by guessing the closest number of crushed aluminum cans in the block! For his fantastic guess, he won a “City of Grant” hoodie sweatshirt!

Thanks to all who came to the Grant picnic, visited with neighbors, enjoyed the food, marveled at the Sheriff Deputy and his canine demonstration, and visited the recycling booth!

A special thanks to our City Engineer, WSB, and to Washington County’s

Department of Public Health & Environment for providing the many prizes that were won at the recycling games!



The crowd is attentive as the Sheriff's Deputy demonstrates with his canine partner.



The Eagle Scout project picnic tables were filled with appreciative picnic goers.



The food tent offered traditional picnic fare & beverages.

# Wetland says: "I want to be left alone."

Submitted by Diane Hankee  
City Engineer

## Vegetation and sediment in wetlands near residential areas

Wetlands have many functions and are important resources. Wetlands are natural areas that hold and filter rainwater, protect shorelines from erosion, recharge groundwater, and provide habitat for fish, birds, frogs, and other animals. Because of their importance, any alteration to a wetland is regulated under State and/or Federal law.

When people think of wetlands, they often think of open water and ducks. However, not all wetlands have open water. Some wetlands are only wet in the spring. Some wetlands have grasses, wildflowers, cattails, or other vegetation growing throughout the area. While some residents are interested in native plants and enjoy the different vegetation of the wetland near their home, others may think it looks messy or weedy. However, this vegetation pro-

vides a critical function to filtering water, providing habitat for wildlife, and can keep the geese out of your lawn.

***The City receives many questions every year about what residents can do to the wetlands near their homes. The answer is that the best thing to do for a wetland is to leave it alone.***

Many wetlands in the City are directly connected to the larger watershed. During heavy storms, the runoff, such as sand and other debris can be deposited in the wetland. While sediment or garbage



deposited from storm runoff can generally be cleaned out, excavating a wetland simply to remove vegetation generally should not be completed. This type of activity is regulated under State and Federal rules as a negative impact to the wetland. These rules prohibit excavation of the wetland and/or the removal of the vegetation for aesthetic purposes. Additionally, a new wetland would need to be created to mitigate for the wetland impact. Therefore, the City discourages

removing wetland vegetation or excavating out wetlands.

Grant is committed to working with each of the four watershed districts to protect wetlands and water quality throughout the City. If you have concerns about sediment or garbage being deposited into a wetland, please call the City Office at 651-426-3383 or your local watershed district.

## Advice from the Sheriff's Deputy

by Deputy Breana Fry

Recently there have been several break-ins to vehicles, especially those located in public parking lots at several different area parks.

In Grant, the Gateway trail parking lots have been specifically targeted. Most thieves will smash out a window and are gone in just a few moments, even in well populated areas.

Here are some things the public should know about these incidents:

- The most likely target vehicles are ones that have items visible.
- The most common items taken are: purses, laptops, gym bags, wallets/checkbooks, ipods, digital cameras, stereos, cash, credit cards and anything else that is of value.
- In most thefts in which a credit card or checkbook is taken, the thieves will immediately go and make a large purchase before the victim has time to close their accounts.



***If you are a victim of a vehicle break-in call the police immediately and try not to touch any possible evidence.***

What citizens should do:

- Always lock your vehicle and keep valuables out of sight-such as the trunk (not under a visible blanket). It can also be helpful if you are going to put an item in the trunk, to do so before you get to your destination as some thieves may be watching the area they are targeting.
- Install a car alarm.
- Report suspicious persons or activities immediately to the police. If they leave the area try to get an accurate description, a license plate number, etc, without confronting them.
- If you are a victim of a vehicle break-in call the police immediately and try not to touch any possible evidence.

## Manning Avenue Update

Submitted by Joe Lux,  
Washington County Public Works,  
Senior Transportation Planner

We wanted to send a quick update on the status of the Manning Avenue project.

On Friday, October 10 we opened up the southbound lane between Highway 36 and 62nd Street on the permanent southbound alignment. Northbound traffic was kept in the permanent northbound lane. However, we have opened up only the outside lanes until work in the median is finished.

Shifting traffic in this manner allows us to have a separate lane for right turns, which should help greatly in reducing delays at the traffic signal. We understand that the traffic situation last weekend was very difficult and hope that this change will help us avoid anything like that this coming weekend.

Since we have the first two layers of pavement on the entire job, we've been asked about when the road will open.

There are several items that must be completed before we can pave the final layer of asphalt: There is still quite a bit of concrete sidewalk in the median that must be installed and that must cure before topsoil and sod can be installed next to it. It is critical to get the median work completed before we finish the paving, so that the median work does not damage the new pavement and also because we cannot pave next to the concrete until it is cured.

While the median work is being done, sign installation will be completed. Once the medians are completed and other work in the roadway is done, we can pave the final layer of asphalt surfacing. Then we must paint the stripes and other pavement markings, such as right-and left-turn arrows. After that is complete, we can open the road. We hope to complete the final paving this fall, but if the weather does not allow it, we could open up the road without the final layer of pavement.

Please let us know of any questions or concerns. Thanks for your patience!

## Looking Forward to Winter (NOT!)

Submitted by Diane Hanke  
City Engineer

### *Do your part to make snow removal easier*

**Snow and ice removal on our city's streets** is a time consuming and dangerous job. To do the best job in the quickest time, snow plow operators need the cooperation and assistance of residents.

#### *Please be reminded of the following:*

- ◆ Do keep up on the weather forecast. Be prepared for varying conditions. Drive carefully, even if the streets look sanded.
- ◆ Do be patient. Plowing and sanding take time.
- ◆ Do expect maintenance vehicles to back up frequently.
- ◆ Do clear areas around mailboxes without throwing snow onto the street.
- ◆ Do not leave trash cans or recycling bins near the roadway on a regular basis otherwise you will be expected to clean this area.
- ◆ Do not park your car on the street after a snowfall.
- ◆ Do not throw the snow from your driveway onto the street.
- ◆ Snow plowing can cause additional snow to be deposited in driveways. Operators are instructed to attempt to minimize these instances. However, it is not practical to completely eliminate this situation. Residents should be aware they may have to clear their driveways a second time after their street has been plowed.

### *Use caution when driving near snowplows*

**Winter requires Minnesota motorists to switch** to a new driving mode, including using extra caution when snowplows are operating.

#### *Motorists are advised to:*

- ◆ Reduce your speed. Plows travel slower than other vehicles.
- ◆ Keep a safe distance away. Large vehicles, such as snowplows and semi-trailer trucks, may produce dense clouds of blowing snow and hinder the vision of motorists. Do not attempt to pass it until the blowing conditions have changed.
- ◆ Be certain which lane a snowplow and its blade are in before trying to pass. Snowplow trucks may have a plow blade on either the right or left side of the vehicle. Plow drivers have limited visibility and cannot see directly behind their trucks. Also, plows can suddenly move sideways from hitting drifts or by cutting through packed snow.

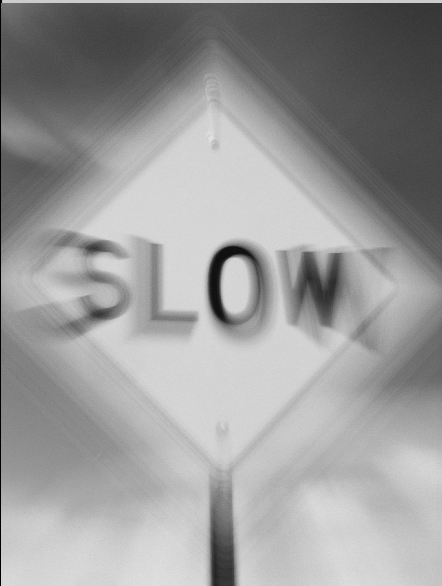


## *Have a safe winter driving season!*



## Friendly Reminder

***Slow Down,  
Give 'Em Room***



***When you see folks along  
our Grant roads***

***... riding horses***

***... walking***

***... riding bicycles***

***... mowing***

***... trimming brush***

***... shoveling snow***

***... or getting their mail***

***slow your vehicle down and  
give them plenty of room.***

***It's not only safer,  
it's the "spirit of Grant."***

Brad Hinseth  
Grant Road Commissioner

## 10 Practical Tips for Eco-Driving

With the high cost of fuel, we can all use some tips on how to save money and energy. You've probably heard these tips before, but in the current economy perhaps a renewed commitment to change some of our habits can offer some added benefits.

Have you considered that biking your commute can add exercise to your day; car-pooling with a neighbor can give a boost to your social life; living closer to work can give you more time for family, friends, animals, and leisure activities; cleaning out the car may inspire you to continue in your closets. You get the idea...we can grumble about the state of the economy, or we can seize the opportunity to make a positive difference in our lives. Give it a try!

- 1) **Drive less (duh!)** The best way to reduce fuel use is to drive less.  
a) Live closer to work; b) carpool; c) bicycle; d) walk; e) take public transit.
- 2) **Park and ride** Travel to a point with your car, then bike the rest of the way or take public transportation.
- 3) **Clean junk from your trunk** The additional weight you carry in your vehicle doesn't ride for free. Removing unnecessary stuff from your vehicle saves fuel.
- 4) **Check tire inflation regularly** Make sure that your tire pressures are set to manufacturer specifications. Below normal pressure causes more rolling resistance. Tire pressure is affected by temperature, so keep track as the seasons change.
- 5) **Drive like you ride a bike** If you spend energy as wisely in your car as you do when you bike, you should become aware of the following:  
a) Properly inflated tires & vehicle in good mechanical condition reduces rolling & mechanical resistance.  
b) Smart braking: coast up to stops (you don't pedal madly towards stop signs and then jam on the binders, do you?)  
c) "Drive with load" on hills (you don't usually power up hills trying to maintain your previous cruising speed, do you?)  
d) Reduce speed (cyclists are attuned to the relationship between aerodynamic drag and the energy consumed to travel at high speed).
- 6) **Listen to slower music** Fast paced music can make a driver more impatient, more aggressive and likely to speed. Slower paced music is more relaxing and tends to promote a more sensible driving style while also reducing stress.
- 7) **Leave early and don't rush** The enemy of efficient driving is finding yourself in a rush. Leave for your destination a little early so you don't feel pressure to drive faster, brake later. Driving efficiently can be much more relaxing but you need to allow a bit of extra time.
- 8) **Combine errands: do the longest leg first** Combine multiple trips into one journey. Go to your farthest destination first, and work your way back. This ensures the vehicle is warmed up before subjecting it to multiple starts and stops.
- 9) **Minimize air conditioning use** Air conditioning requires a lot of power. Use it sparingly. Driving at city speeds, you'll save fuel by using your flow through vents and opening windows.
- 10) **Look well ahead & anticipate** Your ability to drive efficiently depends on being able to anticipate changes in the driving environment. Scan well ahead in your intended path. In city driving you should know what's happening at least 10-15 seconds ahead. On the freeway, at least 30 seconds visual lead time is appropriate.



➡ **Remember, only two months of changing a behavior commits it to habit!**

## Fall Pasture To Do List

Reprinted with permission from:  
Betsy Gilkerson, Technical Advisor,  
U of M Extension Service

Fall is a busy and important time of year for pasture care. Here is a list of things you can do to keep your pastures looking great, and give them a boost for next year.

**Seed pasture and lawn grasses** - August 15th to September 15th is the best time to seed or reseed your pastures. Common grass species used are Timothy, Orchard Grass, and Smooth Brome. Turf-type lawn grasses like Kentucky bluegrass can be used for higher traffic areas and serve as a good base for your pasture.

**Take Soil Samples** - See if your pastures need any nutrients. Anytime from now until the ground freezes is a good time to take samples because the soils are drier and more stable. The plants have also taken up the majority of nutrients for the season. Contact your county Extension office or the [University of Minnesota Soils Lab](http://www.extension.umn.edu/soils) for a sample kit. The lab's phone number is 612-625-3101.

**Take Manure Samples** - If you are going to fertilize your pastures with manure, sample the manure first so you know how much you should spread. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture has a list of Certified Manure Testing Labs. Only spread manure on your pastures if you have more than 2 acres per horse. Spreading additional manure (other than what the horse naturally leaves behind) on your pasture can result in greater chances of parasite exposure.

**Fertilize** - Use manure, compost, or a commercial fertilizer. As stated above, test your soils first, so you know how much you need. Often, only nitrogen is needed in pastures since manure provides quite a bit of phosphorus and Minnesota soils tend to be naturally higher in phosphorus and potassium.

**Weed Control** - If you want to control perennial weeds with an herbicide, now is the time. Perennial plants are storing nutrients for winter in their roots. As the nutrients go into the roots, so will the herbicide, giving the best chance for a successful kill. It is best to have mowed the perennials throughout the summer so they are not so mature. Herbicides usually work best on re-growth or plants that are 4-8" high.

**Check fences** - Make sure your fences are in good shape before the snow flies.

**Rest The Pasture** - If you have a pasture that is over-grazed, rest it for the remainder of the year. This will give the grass a chance to store up nutrients for next year, so the pasture will be healthier in the spring. On average, a pasture needs 30 days of rest after 2-3 weeks of grazing. However, this depends on time of year, number of horses, acreage, quantity and quality of forage, and soil fertility. Generally speaking, pasturing horses over winter causes damage to plants and offers the horse no nutrition. Keeping the horses in a "sacrifice" paddock where they have access to hay, water and shelter is preferred.

**Get Ready to Take Animals Off Pastures During Frosts** - Hoof traffic after a frost can damage grasses. Have a sacrifice area set aside where the animals can be held until the grass thaws.

*Betsy grew up in Grant and still keeps her horses at her parents' place in Grant.*

Check out more from the U of M Horse Extension website at:  
**[www.extension.umn.edu/horse](http://www.extension.umn.edu/horse)**

## Just a Horse

From time to time, people tell me, "Lighten up, it's just a horse," or, "That's a lot of money for just a horse." They don't understand the distance traveled, the time spent, or the costs involved for "just a horse."

Some of my proudest moments have come about with "just a horse." Many hours have passed and my only company was "just a horse," but I did not once feel slighted. Some of my saddest moments have been brought about by "just a horse," and in those days of darkness, the gentle touch of "just a horse" gave me comfort and reason to overcome the day.

If you, too, think it's "just a horse," then you will probably understand phrases like "just a friend," "just a sunrise," or "just a promise."

"Just a horse" brings into my life the very essence of friendship, trust, and pure unbridled joy. "Just a horse" brings out the compassion and patience that make me a better person. Because of "just a horse" I will ride early, take long walks, and look longingly into the future.

So for me and folks like me, it's not "just a horse" but an embodiment of all the hopes and dreams of the future, the fond memories of the past, and the pure joy of the moment.

"Just a horse" brings out what's good in me and diverts my thoughts away from myself and the worries of the day.

I hope that someday they can understand that it's not "just a horse" but the thing that gives me humanity and keeps me from being "just a woman" or "just a man."

So the next time you hear the phrase "just a horse," just smile, because they "just" don't understand.



## **\*\*NOTICE TO ALL GRANT RESIDENTS\*\***

### **Grant's DRAFT 2008 Comprehensive Plan has been posted to the city website [www.cityofgrant.com](http://www.cityofgrant.com)**

- ♦ **Go to the Home Page under "What's New" to review the document**
- ♦ **Follow the directions to register your comments, and/or**
- ♦ **Attend an upcoming Public Hearing at the November PC and December CC meetings.**
- ♦ ***This is YOUR city plan; be informed!***

**(The current Comprehensive Plan is also online under Documents, 2005 Comp Plan)**

**Thank  
You!**

The City would like to thank a number of businesses in Grant that have been very supportive of the City picnic. The people from Risen Christ Lutheran Church, American Polywater, Windy Acre's Bar, Sawmill and Loggers Trail Golf Courses, Needham's Distributing, Costa Farm and Greenhouse, Washington County Sheriff's Office, and the Stillwater and Mahtomedi Fire Departments were great this year. We look forward to their support in the future.

We will be organizing a citizen committee to organize the picnic yet this fall. Please contact me if you are interested in being part of the process. We hope to have a considerably larger event next year and want to get an earlier start on the process.

Scott Fogelson  
Grant City Picnic Coordinator



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