



Lone Goose on Ice

(But not for long...his mate arrived the next day, to melt not only his heart, but the pond as well!)

Grant begins annual CUP reviews

By Mayor Tom Carr

The City has recently adopted a process by which CUPs (Conditional Use Permits) could be reviewed for compliance on an annual basis. The City has always had the authority to review its CUPs; this is stated in all the CUPs signed by the applicants. So, as far as doing CUP reviews, this is nothing new.

Process

What is new is the process. So I'd like to explain a bit as to how that works and why the Council chose to implement it.

A Conditional Use Permit (CUP) contains a list of conditions for which an allowed use on the property needs to comply. If the property is sold, the CUP transfers with the property. Several CUPs in Grant are quite old and the original owner of the property is not the current owner.

The City hasn't had a process to review these CUPs as they changed hands or as the years went by. Some uses allowed on the original CUP may

have been dropped or some may have been added. Unfortunately for the land owner, neighbors, or the Council, we never hear about it until there is a problem. The new process assures everyone of a review on the selected CUPs, hopefully, before complaints are received.

Criteria

The criteria for this year's CUP reviews were any that COULD affect the land or the neighbors. Obviously not all CUPs are the same in this regard. Out of 53 CUPs on file, we chose 15 for review this year. In the future any CUPs that do have complaints or violations, or that the Council wants to monitor, can be added to the list.

Review Fee

There is a \$100 review fee that is used to offset the cost of staff to make a site visit and file an opinion on the CUP conditions. Any issues that are noted in the opinion will be addressed by city staff until the CUP reflects the allowable uses occurring on the property. After a review of these opinions the Council

will decide whether to keep a CUP on the 2009 review list or remove it.

The new process will cut down on complaints, enforce the CUPs in a professional way, and keep Grant from experiencing undesirable effects to our quality of life. I hope after a few years the Cup review list will be down to less than a handful. I know as Mayor it will make my job less difficult. I know as a citizen it makes me thankful that Grant is doing the follow up on the permits it issues.

CUP Review Update

The CUP review process is going very well. The 15 CUPs being reviewed this year have been notified, and only 4 site visits remain. Everyone has been very cooperative.

City staff and City Council thank you for your patience as we work through this new process!

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***URGENT NOTICE from Fire Warden: The DNR has issued a FIRE BAN for the next 4-6 weeks.**

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Mayor's Corner

By Mayor Tom Carr

It's another wonderful spring day in Grant! Time to go into the yard that hasn't been seen for months and see what's been going on.

Looks like the moles have been busy on top of the drain field! Don't those little guys hibernate?

What's that? Rabbit fur? Uh oh!

The voles have made their little trails toward the bird feeder.

Dang it! That buck totally ruined that little birch tree!

The kids wanted a dog but will they help? No!

Those tire ruts when I slipped off the driveway aren't too bad.

I'm going to need some lime on these yellow spots!

That wet snow snapped that branch right off!

Antlers! Cool!

I have to clean up that pasture!

As we head out to our yards to do our spring chores, let's stop a minute to think about city government! State government? How about Federal politics? No?



I think I like working outside because I don't have to think about it. It keeps my mind off of politics.

And I'd like, for Grant at least, not to have to hear or think about politics, too. Just keep it Grant --the same. Keep it affordable. Keep it quiet.

I just want to let you know, from my point of view, that we've done a good job in 2007 of doing that, and we have a good start in 2008. The staff, planning commission, and council have all been working hard-- so you can work on the yard with no distractions!

Oh, no! The rose bush cover blew off! I hope it's ok!

Crocuses!

I'm going to have to trim back that tree.

That plow sure throws gravel!

Gotta go!

Tom

Catch 22, The Road Version

By Brad Hinseth
Grant Road Commissioner

One of the most interesting aspects of being Road Commissioner is the varied expectations some Grant residents have about our roads.

Some residents actually prefer rough roads--but just in their neighborhood. I have occasionally had requests to defer road maintenance to both slow down and to discourage traffic. On the flip side, some residents, as near as I can determine, want perfect roads. Astronomical price tag aside, a more urban community than Grant, might be a better fit for them.

One resident wants me to plow snow starting with the roads with the most taxpayers. You guessed it, he lives on one of the more populated roads in Grant. By his priority system McKusick Road would be one of the last roads plowed. Another resident wants to bill the school district because they drive



busses on her road. She has no kids in school, of course. Still another resident expressed contradictory complaints in the same anonymous phone message, "The snow plowing is too slow. By the way, the plow driver should slow down."

Occasionally I hear "the roads are the worst they've ever been." If that were the case, residents would be parking their car and walking the last half mile home, because that's what Grant residents did years ago when the roads actually were "the worst they've ever been."

Folks, there is no denying the variety of opinions about roads, and there are a few abusive individuals who have simply worn out their welcome. But by far, most residents are both appreciative and respectful in the course of relaying their concerns, and I appreciate that kind of constructive input.

From the Clerk's Chair

Having never heard of the City of Grant, I had no idea what a beautiful place it is! It did not take long to fully appreciate the unique, rural character of the City. I want to thank each and every Council Member for making the transition at the City office as smooth as possible. A big thanks also to the residents for their support and patience.

Quite often, as with every City, personal opinions, beliefs and politics at times get confused with facts. I encourage all residents to feel free to call the City Office for clarity regarding any issues the City may be facing.

I believe if we all work together we can continue to make Grant an even better place to live!

Kim Points, City Clerk
426-3383

Right to Farm: per Ordinance 2000-88

Compiled by Kim Linner

Did you know? The City of Grant has an ordinance expressly providing for the “right to farm?”

What does that mean? Grant began, and continues to this day, as a community with a farming history. Grant’s citizens prize and cherish the rural atmosphere that has been maintained. They also recognize that that rural atmosphere cannot be protected unless the family farm is also protected.

“Right to Farm” laws are designed to discourage persons from suing farmers on the basis that a farm operation, even when conducted according to generally accepted agricultural standards, is a nuisance. These laws help established farmers who use good management practices to prevail in private nuisance lawsuits.

“All of the City of Grant is designated a ‘Right to Farm’ area.”

“Right to Farm” laws also document the importance of farming to the state, or locality, where they exist. They also help to “put on notice” non-farm residents that generally accepted agricultural practices are reasonable activities to expect in designated areas.

Finally, “Right to Farm” laws provide farm families, and others who prize the farming atmosphere, with a psychological sense of security that farming is a valued and accepted activity in the community.

For all of these reasons, all of the City of Grant is designated a “Right to Farm” area. Farming operations are afforded the following property rights in the City of Grant:

- Farmers shall have the right to farm without unreasonable restrictions, regulations, or harassment. Complaints against the operations of farms shall be considered to be unwarranted

and frivolous as long as the farming activities are being conducted according to generally accepted agricultural standards.



- These farming activities shall include, but not be limited to:
 - ⇒ The right to operate equipment in the fields, on the roads, or on any farm or homestead property, at any time and on any day of the week.
 - ⇒ Farming activities that generate noise and dust. This can be caused in a variety of ways including fieldwork, caring for livestock, harvest, or care and maintenance of the farm.
 - ⇒ The generation of odor from livestock, manure, fertilizer, feed, and farm-related other sources.
- Farmers have a right to farm even if development is taking place around them. If the farm was in operation before the complaining person moved to the area, the complaining person shall be deemed to have “come to the nuisance.”
- All farming operations that lawfully exist in Grant shall be protected by this Ordinance.

Grant has had a strong commitment to rural values that is evident in the vision, foresight, and fortitude of leaders able to stand up for and steadfastly protect our City’s rural way of life.

Let’s maintain it!

The Saga of the Sagging Chimney

By Kim Linner

As warmer weather approaches, the attic phase of the Town Hall maintenance draws to a close. The exceptionally frigid conditions this winter took a toll on the progress of the outdoor work. These last few weeks has seen a flurry of activity—or maybe it was just flurries.

Come on winter, enough already!!

At some point in time, the chimney inside of town hall had been removed. The attic portion, however, remained, with the entire weight of that brick being supported only by the ceiling joists. This created a hazard, with the chimney having the potential to fall through the ceiling at any time. In order to fix this problem, the entire chimney, both from inside the attic, and the portion extending through the roof, had to be removed.

Using guidelines from the State Historic Preservation Office, contractors followed a methodical process to evaluate repairs to the chimney. The bricks were cataloged for reuse as they were removed. It became apparent that the chimney was not original, as different sizes and colors of brick were discovered. Due to damaged bricks and interior brick not being suitable to replace them, there were not enough to rebuild the chimney. New bricks were selected to match the color and texture of the removed ones.



The rebuilt chimney now has adequate structural support in the attic and was constructed to match historical photos of the building. It is now watertight and the city should expect a long life from the new chimney.

Other exterior work being completed: crown molding at the eaves, installing new half-round vents, and re-insulating the attic. A new sealed bulletin board has been installed next to the entry door for weather-tight postings of city notices.

The Secret to Leisurely Landscaping

Warmer weather is just around the corner and it's time to plan spring and summer gardening projects. The Blue Thumb – Planting for Clean Water website, www.BlueThumb.org, contains a variety of resources for gardeners, including plant selection guides, links to local retailers, how-to manuals and garden blueprints.

You can also contact the Washington Conservation District (651-275-1136) to schedule a free site visit with a landscape ecologist who can help you develop a landscaping plan to beautify your yard and protect natural resources and connect you with local watershed cost-share grants.

What is a Raingarden?

A raingarden is a beautiful landscaping addition to a home or business. Raingardens capture water from roofs, streets and driveways during storms, and briefly hold the water until it is absorbed by the soil. By helping the water soak into the ground, raingardens prevent pollution to nearby lakes and rivers and ensure a steady supply of water to our wells and aquifers.

If you are interested in learning how to install a raingarden at your home, the Blue Thumb program will be teaming up with Metro Blooms to host two raingarden design workshops in Washington County this spring:

April 26, 11:30am – 1:30pm, at the Mahtomedi District Center

May 17, 10am-12pm in St. Paul Park.
Pre-registration is required. Register online at www.metroblooms.org.

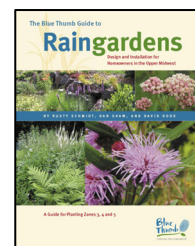
Blue Thumb Guide to Raingardens

With years of experience under their belts and literally hundreds of raingardens designed and planted throughout the Midwest, Rusty Schmidt, Dan Shaw and David Dods have created a guidebook which is colorful, entertaining, and easy to use.

The book ensures that virtually any homeowner in the upper Midwest, whether a novice or a Master Gardener, can plant a beautiful raingarden that will add visual appeal to the yard and help to prevent water pollution from stormwater runoff within the neighborhood.

The Blue Thumb Guide to Raingardens can be purchased locally from the Washington Conservation District for \$17.95.

For more information, call Angie Hong at (651) 275-1136 ext 35, or e-mail angie.hong@mnwcd.org.



Water, water everywhere?...

Submitted by
Diane Hanke, City Engineer

It's Our Watershed

From your back yard, to the local wetland, to the St. Croix or Minnesota River, to the Mississippi River, to the Gulf of Mexico – *it is our watershed!*

Any pollutants we create or place in our back yard eventually arrive at the Gulf of Mexico.

Thinking on a scale this large may overwhelm us or make us feel powerless in improving our water quality. However, by thinking on a smaller scale, we can affect water quality within our local watershed.

Things you can do now to improve water quality in your watershed:

- Sweep, bag, and/or compost lawn clippings to prevent them from running into wetlands and lakes. Yard waste is one of the largest contributors to degrading water quality.

- Maintain a buffer strip of native vegetation around the wetland or lake in your back yard.
- Use fertilizers without phosphorus. A non-phosphorus fertilizer has a middle number of 0 (Nitrogen-Phosphorus-Potassium NPK rating). An example would be 22-0-12 NPK rating.
- Clean up pet waste to prevent it from running into wetlands and lakes.
- Check your car fuel, oil, and anti-freeze for leaks, and fix any leaks to prevent these chemicals from entering your local wetland.
- Wash your car on your lawn instead of your driveway to keep pollutants and detergents out of the lakes and wetlands.

Landscaping to Protect Water Quality

Thinking about landscaping this spring? Here are some tips to ensure a watershed friendly project:

- Select hardy plants that are relatively pest free and suited to your site.
- Consider reducing the amount of maintained lawn area and increasing the amount of naturalized area.
- Provide 15' to 25' buffers of unmowed grass or native species plantings along wetlands and lakes.
- Mulch flower beds, shrubs, and trees to retain moisture, reduce weeds, and prevent erosion.

Spread the word about water quality protection to friends and neighbors!

Celebrate Earth Day...Do a little work...Have a little fun!

Grant Roadside Clean-up...

Don't wait to be asked! This is your invitation!

What? ALL RESIDENTS are encouraged to pick up litter and trash, MINIMALLY along their property frontage, IDEALLY sharing with neighbors to pick up along your entire road.

Where? Deposit roadside finds at Grant Town Hall on Kimbro Avenue.

When? Saturday, April 26, 9 a.m.- Noon

Why? To be a part of something bigger than ourselves, to contribute positively to saving our environment, to keep our roadsides free of ugly trash, to set a good example for those who would mindlessly and carelessly litter our pristine countryside... Need I go on???

New! Did the snowplow toss valuable gravel off the road or into the ditch? You & your neighbors can extend the life of the road by raking it back onto the roadbed or shoulder! A little effort and elbow grease reduces higher road maintenance costs!

Same... As always, Grant residents may dispose of other non-hazardous items for a fee.

Every bit of help will keep our city clean & beautiful!
Thank you!

...what did the melting snow reveal along your roadside?



If you feel community minded, contact Joyce at 439-2598; other roads can use additional volunteer "pick up power."

Rite of Spring!

Saturday, April 26th, 9 a.m. – Noon
Mahtomedi District Education Center

FREE & FUN EVENT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

What to Do:

- FREE Stuff—First 200 people
- Rain Barrel Workshop—pre-register
- Pre-purchase fabricated rain barrel
- Build a Community Rain Garden
- Seminar: Create your own rain garden
- Green building & remodeling options
- Local, organic, sustainable produce
- Master Gardeners
- Home energy audits
- Solar, wind & geothermal options
- Composting & hazardous waste
- Shoreline stabilization
- SEE what our schools are doing
- Alternative transportation & demos
- How to reduce junk mail
- Coffee/pottery sale-benefits Burn Camp
- Write to a legislator—get a free t-shirt

What to Bring:

- Donations for our local food shelf!
- FREE Electronics Recycling!
- Recycle old ink cartridges
- Recycle old Mercury thermometers

Children's Events:

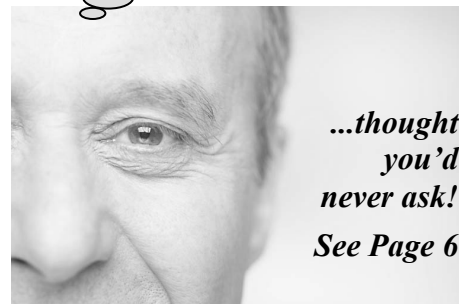
- Petting Zoo
- Earth Day Art Projects
- Clancy the Mercury Sniffing Dog
- Meet Green Guardian & Energy Hog
- Try out the Energy Bike
- Play games, win prizes & learn about the environment

Pre-register, Pre-order & get more info:
[www.mahtomedi.k12.mn.us/
communityeducation](http://www.mahtomedi.k12.mn.us/communityeducation)

Free!!

**E-waste recycling
now offered by
Washington County!**

What is E-waste?



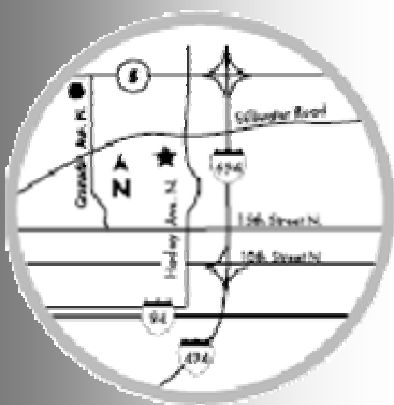
**...thought
you'd
never ask!
See Page 6**

FREE! Electronics Recycling for RESIDENTS

Did You Know?

TVs and computer monitors are banned from being put in the trash in Minnesota due to the hazardous materials they contain.

Washington County, partnering with CRT Processing, LLC, is now offering **FREE electronics recycling** for residents at the following locations and times.



- **CRT Processing, LLC**
3350 Granada Av N, #150, Oakdale
Tues: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Thur: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- ★ **Hazardous Materials Collection Site**
1900 Hadley Av N, Oakdale
Tues: 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Sat: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Electronics Accepted:

Computers & Computer Monitors
Peripherals (keyboards, mice, speakers)
Printers & Fax Machines
TVs
DVD & VCR Players

Extended hours are offered for household hazardous waste. Please call or visit the Washington County website below for hours and accepted materials.

www.co.washington.mn.us
651-430-6655

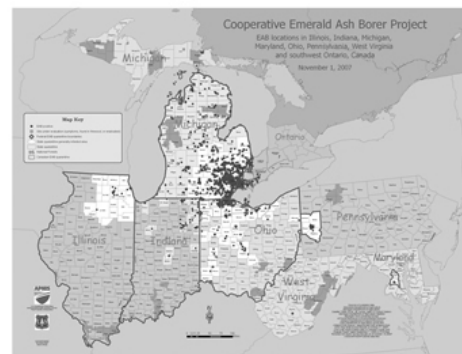
Emerald Ash Borer

From the DNR website

Submitted by Craig Johnston
Planning Commission Member

- **What is EAB?** EAB is an insect that attacks and kills ash trees. The adults are small, iridescent green beetles that live outside of trees during the summer months. The larvae are grub or worm-like and live underneath the bark of ash trees. Trees are killed by the tunneling of the larvae under the tree's bark.

- **Where is EAB?** EAB is native to eastern Asia but was discovered in Detroit, Michigan and Windsor, Ontario in 2002. Indications are it may have been introduced to this area as early as 1990. EAB has been spread in ash firewood, nursery stock and possibly other ash materials to a number of new areas.



- **Why should I care about EAB?** All ash trees are susceptible to EAB and millions of ash trees have been killed in infested areas already. Minnesota has one of the highest volumes of ash on forestland in the U.S. with an estimated 867 million forestland ash trees and ash is a prominent component of our urban forests as well. The potential economic and environmental impacts of losing these trees is substantial. The cost of removing and replacing a single tree can range from hundreds to thousands of dollars – how many ash trees are in your yard?

- **When will EAB reach Minnesota?** No one knows. EAB has not yet been found in Minnesota but it inevitably will be. In other areas, EAB has been present for a number of years before building to detectable levels. The arrival of EAB in Minnesota can be postponed by preventing the movement of infested ash materials into Minnesota.

MANNING AVENUE PROJECT—OPEN HOUSE

WHEN: Thursday, April 24, 2008

WHAT TIME: Open House – 4:00 to 7:00 PM

WHERE: Washington County Government Center, Room 560

With the start of construction approaching, Washington County invites you to attend an open house to discuss the reconstruction of Manning Avenue / County Road 15.

Construction will begin in late May / early June. During portions of the project, most of Manning Avenue between 62nd Street and County Road 12 will be closed to all but local traffic. Information will be available about the various phases of the project, detour routes, and other information to make the process less painful. Work is scheduled for completion by late fall, with additional landscaping to follow in 2009.

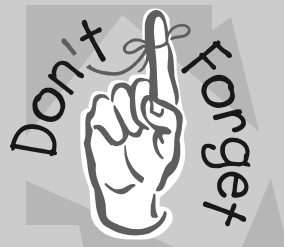
The project includes expansion of the roadway to four-lanes, divided by a median, with curb and gutter on the east side and in selected locations on the west side. The majority of the west side will be constructed with a ditch to provide drainage. Shoulders and right and left turn lanes will be included in the project. The project also includes the construction of a separated pedestrian/bicycle path on the east side.

The public will be able to ask questions and discuss the project informally with representatives from the County and SEH, Inc., the project consultant. Maps, drawings, and other information will be available for public inspection.

Please bring your questions about how the project will affect you!

If you have any questions about the project but are unable to attend, please contact: Joe Lux at 651-430-4312 or by e-mail at joe.lux@co.washington.mn.us.

Horse owners...Check this out!



TO GET YOUR 2008 HORSE PASS

- **What?** 2008 Horse Trail Pass.
- **Who?** Anyone riding a horse in State Parks and on State Trails.
- **When?** Now. Good Jan 1 to Dec 31.
- **Where?** Fleet Farm, and other DNR authorized license vendors or online at www.dnr.state.mn.us/outdoor_activities/horseback_riding/horsepass
- **Why?** The \$21 annual fee raises revenue needed to sustain and operate horse trails and facilities.

GTR Spring Meeting Planned

* * *

THE GRANT TRAIL RANGERS (GTR)
SPRING MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
TUESDAY, MAY 13 AT 7 P.M.
AT THE WILDWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY.

* * *

If you are interested in horseback riding or cross-country skiing in Grant, the spring GTR meeting is a perfect opportunity to learn about the GTR and meet others that share your interests.

GTR members will have an opportunity at the meeting to renew their annual membership, which runs from May to April each year.

For more information,
contact Tamara Cameron at (651)
429-3999 or timntam@comcast.net

or visit the GTR website at
www.granttrailrangers.org



Many Topics To Choose From:

- **Horse Health**
- **Horse Care**
- **Nutrition**
- **Forage:** Pasture & Hay
- **Weeds:** Weed ID & Control
Poisonous Plants
- **Manure**
- **Animal ID**
- **Safety**

View or Print these Factsheets:

- **Barn Disaster Planning**
- **Fly Control Around Horses**
- **Horse Behavior and Stable Vices**
- **Preventing and Treating Colic**
- **Equine Vaccinations and Deworming**
- **Vitamins & Mineral Nutrition of the Horse**
- **Plants Poisonous or Harmful to Horses in the North Central United States**

FOUND CIRCLING THE INTERNET

Sweet sixteen and growing up with a horse

Submitted by Jody Rooney

My daughter turned sixteen years old today; which is a milestone for most people. Besides looking at baby photos and childhood trinkets with her, I took time to reflect on the young woman my daughter had become and the choices she would face in the future. As I looked at her I could see the athlete she was, and determined woman she would soon be.

I started thinking about some of the girls we knew in our town who were already pregnant, pierced in several places, hair every color under the sun, drop outs, drug addicts and on the fast track to no where, seeking surface identities because they had no inner self esteem. The parents of these same girls have asked me why I "waste" the money on horses so my daughter can ride. I'm told she will grow out of it, lose interest, discover boys and all kinds of things that try to pin the current generation's "slacker" label on my child. I don't think it will happen, I think she will love and have horses all her life.

Because my daughter grew up with horses she has compassion. She knows that we must take special care of the very young and the very old. We must make sure those without voices to speak of their pain are still cared for.

Because my daughter grew up with horses she learned responsibility for others than herself. She learned that regardless of the weather you must still care for those you have the stewardship of. There are no "days off" just because you don't feel like being a horse owner that day. She learned that for every hour of fun you have there are days of hard slogging work you must do first.

Because my daughter grew up with horses she learned not to be afraid of getting dirty and that appearances don't matter to most of the breathing things in the world we live in. Horses do not care about designer clothes, jewelry, pretty hairdos or anything else we put on our bodies to try to impress others. What a horse cares about are your abilities to work within his natural world, he doesn't care if you're wearing \$80.00 jeans while you do it.

(article is continued online—see below)

To view this entire article, log on to:

www.cityofgrant.com

From Home Page click **Community**, then **Recreation**.
Click on **Horses**, then **"Growing up with a horse."**

Mark the Date



2nd Annual Grant Hay Day is coming!

Saturday
June 28, 2008

Games, Food and Lots of Fun!
Watch for details to be mailed!

Those interested in helping plan this event should attend:

A Planning Meeting
April 24, Town Hall,
7pm - 8pm.

Or contact:
Scott Fogelson
651-285-0301 or
LuAnne Fogelson
651-285-0223
luannefogelson@comcast.net



Recycling—A game we can all play, and WIN!

The City of Grant is committed to Reuse & Recycling efforts in order to reduce the impact on the environment. Last year alone, the City collected over 816 tons of recycled materials from residential pick-ups.

The City of Grant contracts with Waste Management for the pick up of recyclables. The cost of recycling is included in your property taxes. More information about Waste Management and their commitment to the environment can be accessed from their website at: www.wmnorthland.com. They even have a link called, *For The Kids*, that explains environmental benefits such as composting, and provides fun puzzles for kids to do and learn!

Waste Management picks up recyclables every other Monday of the year. They send all residents a yearly calendar. Waste Management does not require recyclables to be sorted. That makes it even easier to do your part.



New Recycling Incentives for Residents in 2008!

- Win \$\$ or gift cards in our "Get Caught Recycling" program!
- Win PRIZES at the Recycling Game Booths at the City Picnic, June 28
- LINK to recycling information on the www.cityofgrant.com website, Click on Services, then Recycling.

www.cityofgrant.com

Visit us online — OFTEN!

Mayor: Tom Carr
Council Members: Scott Fogelson, Brad Hinseth, Nancy Levitz, Kim Linner
City Clerk: Kim Points
Newsletter Editor: Kim Linner
Graphic Editors: Kim Linner, Tyler Linner

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