



# GRANT NEWSLETTER

## Spring/Summer 2011

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### **The New Elementary School project**

The process of the new elementary school in Grant is moving forward. There will be a Public Hearing in March at the Planning Commission. There have been several public hearings by the 832 School District over the past few months. There have also been meetings by the school district and myself for months talking about the issues that may be of concern to the residents of Grant. After the referendum passed the talks became more detailed and the feedback more important.

The Council recently had an opportunity to look at the plan the school district will be presenting to the Planning Commission in March. There are a few things that Grant residents need to know and the Planning Commission/Council would love to get your feedback on.

County 12 access....there is a car access using the exiting parking lot access on Cty 12.

Bus access...there is a bus only access on Jamaca south of the Gateway trail. No residential land will be taken for this access. State and County land will be used.

Frontage road...there is a frontage road along County 12 with access to the Middle school to keep some between school traffic off County 12.

Gateway trail...the bus/trail crossing will be at grade. The site plan will be drawn to allow a tunnel/bridge for the Gateway trail over Jamaca. This

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### Communication is the key

All City contact information is on the web at [www.cityofgrant.com](http://www.cityofgrant.com) or 651-426-3383

### Clean up day and picnic

Join members of our community as we "spring clean" our roadways

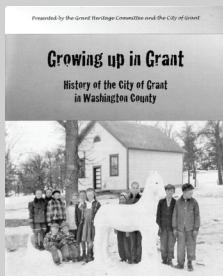


### 4H Aims High

Highlights of 4H member accomplishments

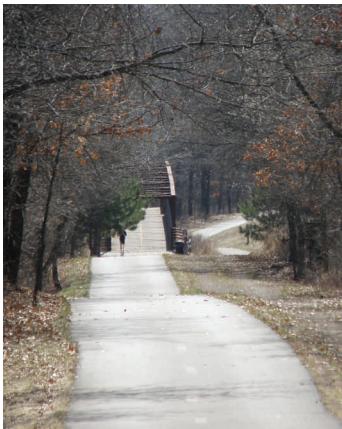


### Growing up in Grant



## Mayor's Column

### What's going on in Grant for 2011



#### The Mayors Corner

#### What in the world is going on?

Politics around the nation has been interesting. There are riots, rallies and runaways. Cuts, increases, confusion and stubbornness. Thank goodness things in Grant aren't like that. Except for the snow it's been relatively calm lately. This hasn't always been the case.

There are some things that are happening that are changes from last year. Some of these issues or changes are normal and part of the process of any city. Which is fine, welcomed and expected. Some are not. Time will tell if there will be any that cause Grant to slip into what seems to be a national epidemic of disruption. Now would be a good time to pay attention to what goes on at the local level. Where you have the most control.

For now the City of Grant is doing well. Our financing is solid, the vendors we have are performing well and the new Council is getting the work of the city done. The snow has strained our budget but we should be ok. The new school is moving forward with a public hearing in March.

I look forward to seeing grass on the ground and the last snowdrift in my yard gone! Have a great spring!

Tom Carr

mayor@cityofgrant.com

### **Grant Local Board of Appeal and Equalization to be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011**

All Grant property owners should receive 1) **Property Tax Statement** (for 2010 taxes payable 2011) and 2) **Notice of Valuation and Classification Statement** (for 2011 taxes payable 2012) from the Washington County Dept. of Property Records and Taxpayer Services by early April 2011.

The Property Tax Statement (tax bill) identifies the amount you owe for last year's taxes- 2010 taxes that are payable in 2011.

Three factors that affect your tax bill are:

- the amount your local governments (City of Grant, Washington County, etc.) spend to provide services to your community,

- the **Estimated Market Value** of your property, and

- the **Classification** of your property (how it is used).

The County Assessor determines the last two factors, which will be identified on the **Notice of Valuation and**

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## Our Town

Building a community is a lot of work but can also be a fun process. Let's make use of our neighbors and friends in Grant to strengthen the beautiful city we live in. There are a lot of activities currently underway - they include; the new school and sport fields, spring cleanup, the tractor parade, and other city council projects to name a few.

There is a lot of information and planning for the new school. It will be of great benefit to your council members if you come to the meetings and let your feelings and ideas be known. It will help to make better policy, if we all take a stake in the process. A quality education program and facility benefits all of us as property owners. It is up to you to help us achieve this goal.

As your council representative, I have been assigned to Emergency Management Preparedness. I am looking for a handful of volunteers to assist me as we look to identify and update our emergency plan. If you are interested , please send me an email or give me a call.

This is our city. Take some time to get to know your neighbors and get involved. You might just find out that there is an entire community out there that wants to get to know you too. You can start with the spring cleanup on April 9th. The Grant Recreation Project is sponsoring this effort with tractor rides and a pot luck picnic for everyone who attends. Let me be the first to officially thank them for their efforts.

Again if you have questions, please contact me.

**Scott Fogelson**



## Spring Road Side Cleanup, Saturday April 9

Spring Clean up and Tractor Ride April 9th. and the rain date of April 16th. Meet at Town Hall at 9:00 am. The spring cleanup will be followed up with a picnic at the Grant City hall / Ball field. The picnic is a pot luck so bring something to share with your neighbors.

Sponsored by the Grant Recreation Project

## The G.R.P. Tractor Parade Sep. 10th.

Once again the G.R.P will be having their second annual Tractor Parade leaving the City Hall parking lot and ending up at the Gasthaus with a Tractor Line up in the field and a picnic lunch on the patio Sponsored yet again by the Gasthaus.

Last year we had a turn out of 275 people with 75 vehicles on the first ever Tractor Parade in Grant. Everyone enjoyed themselves and asked if there would be one this year. YES, we are set for September 10th. So mark your calendars, get your tractors ready and plan for a fun day with your friends and neighbors. Volunteers are always welcome so ask how you can get involved. More info can be found at [www.grp.org](http://www.grp.org).



## From the Clerk's Desk

As spring approaches there is often an uptick in land use and planning applications at the City. Applications can range from small land use requests like a resident building a new accessory structure to major projects like the proposed elementary school, which is a current application at the City. The school review includes a request for Conditional Use Permit to construct the elementary school, expand some of the athletic fields and improve the current high school stadium. The school review will take place this spring, so keep an eye on the City's website for upcoming meetings, and other new projects in the community. Although each project has a different process, many land use applications require a formal application with review by the City's Planning Commission and City Council. If you have any questions regarding a proposed project contact the city clerk and she can help answer some of your questions.

**Kim Points**

## **HOW TO GUIDE for Properly Installed Residential Mailboxes**

**Minimum height of mailbox (not post) needs to be at least 45" up from the road.**

**The face (front) of the mailbox should not be more than six inches from the edge of the road surface.**

**Also newspaper containers need to be at least 40" up from the road.**

**Questions? Please call the City of Grant at  
(651) 426-3383.**



## Pet ID Tags

In the last City newsletter, I encouraged pet owners to put identifying tags on their animals. Goldwood Kennels has very generously offered Grant residents the opportunity to purchase a custom engraved ID pet tag at cost; \$7.00 + tax. Goldwood Kennels offers high-quality tags in a wide range of colors, styles and sizes, all customized and sent directly to the owners home within a week. Stop by Goldwood Kennels and browse their catalog, protect your pet and support a local business.

## “When Are Building Permits Required?”

The question comes to mind as to when are Building Permits required?

Building permits are required by City Ordinance as well as by the State Building Code when a property owner is planning to erect, construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, convert, or demolish any building, structure or any portion of a building. This also applies to the replacement of electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system.

Permits are required for new house construction, garages, accessory buildings, replacement siding, additions, general remodeling, decks, re-roofing, window and window/door replacement (120 square feet or larger) sheds (120 square feet or larger), retaining walls over 4 feet in height, swimming pools (in ground, as well as above ground pools 24" deep or deeper and fences 6 feet tall or taller all require a permit.

HVAC Permits (Heating and Ventilation Permits) are required when installing and or replacing furnaces, boilers, air conditioners and ventilation systems.

Plumbing permits are required when installing new and or replacing drain, waste and venting as well as water supply lines, water heaters, etc. Electrical Permits and inspections are required by the State and the permits can be obtained through the state of MN. Inspections are performed by a member of the State Electrical Inspector for our area.

### **City of Grant Finances**

Like every city in Minnesota, Grant has experienced a large expenditure for snow plowing this winter. However, the City budgets for an average snow fall year after year. Roughly half of the time, we spend more than our budget allows and half of the time we spend less. This means that while we are over budget on plowing for the winter of 2010-2011, we were under budget for 2009 in roughly the same amount. The money not spent in 2009 was put into a reserve account and used in 2010.

At the legislature, they are discussing additional cuts in local government aid. Grant currently (2011) has no aid budgeted from the State and has not received any aid for the last several years. Because our budget is trim and under levy limits, the State cannot take anything more away.

We will be starting our 2011 budget process this June for the year 2012. We will be keeping the residents posted both in the newsletter and on the City website, [www.Cityofgrant.com](http://www.Cityofgrant.com).

**Sharon Schwarz**

Additional permits may be required for zoning, the MN DNR, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Washington Cty Wetland Management.

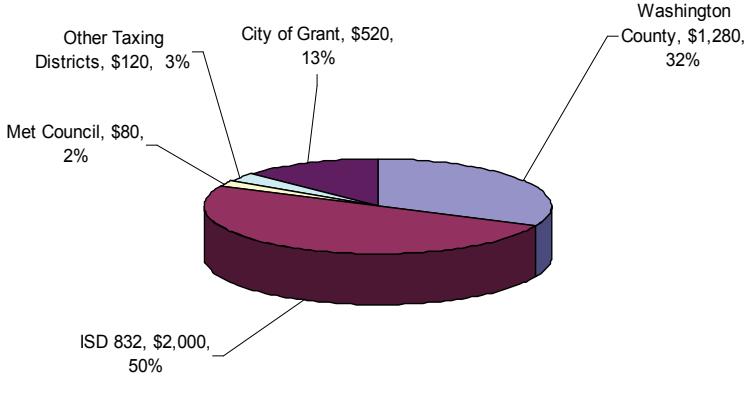
Septic Permits for new and or replacement septic systems is regulated by the Washington Cty Public Health Dept.

The city also requires separate permits and approvals for grading and filling of driveways.

Please feel free to contact the building inspector with any questions you may have. The office number is 651-351-5051 and he is available Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 11:00 pm. Messages can also be left of the weekends and will be returned as soon as possible.

**Jack Kramer**

### **How much of your property taxes go to the City of Grant?**



■ Washington County ■ ISD 832 ■ Met Council ■ Other Taxing Districts ■ City of Grant

**\*\*\*Based on \$4,000 Annual Property Tax/Percentages are approximate\*\*\***

### **Building Requirement Update:**

New State Requirements, Lead Certification: When issuing permits in compliance with the State Building code to a residential building contractor, residential remodeler, manufactured home installer, or residential roofer licensed under section 326B.805, municipalities must verify lead certification qualifications of the licensee required under subdivision 14 for renovations performed on residential property constructed prior to 1978. Municipalities may charge a surcharge for verification of this certification under section 326.B815, subdivision 2.

**Kim Points**

## Grant Local Board of Appeal -Continued from page 2

**Classification**, informing you of the value and classification of your property for the current year- payable next year.

### Estimated market value

Estimated market value is the amount the assessor estimates a buyer would pay for your property if it were offered for sale. Each year the assessor reviews the market valuation of your property to determine if changes in the real estate market or improvements to your property require a change in the estimated market value.

### Classification and class rates

All property is classified by the assessor according to its use. Each class of property (home, apartment, cabin, farm, business) is taxed at a different percentage of its value. This percentage, or class rate, is determined by the state legislature. Like market value, the class rate of your property plays a significant role in how much property tax you pay.

If you believe the **Estimated Market Value** or the **Classification** of your property is incorrect, you may appeal the value or classification of your property to your Local or County Boards of Appeal and Equalization. You must appeal to the Grant Local Board of Appeal and Equalization before appealing to the Washington County Board of Appeal and Equalization. You should always contact the county assessor's office, at the phone number identified on the notice, before making a formal appeal to discuss changing your assessment. Often issues and concerns can be resolved at this level.

The Grant Local Board of Appeal and Equalization is currently planned to be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011, 6:00-7:00PM at Grant City Hall and the Washington County Board of Appeal and Equalization is targeted for June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011 at the Government Center in Stillwater. Refer to your **Notice of Valuation and Classification** statement for most accurate date, time and locations.

Minnesota law assumes that the County Assessor has correctly valued and classified your property. You must present factual evidence to convince the Board otherwise in order to win your appeal. Make sure all facts are presented, and the board understands the information presented, so a decision can be made based on facts. The goal is to make sure your value is warranted and the classification of your property is correct based on its use.

*More information about property taxes and the appeals process can be found at the Minnesota Department of Revenue website: <http://taxes.state.mn.us/property>*

Dan Potter

## AIMING HIGH IN 4H

4-H leaders are critical in providing quality learning opportunities and experiences for the 4H'er. Committed volunteer leaders could not give this kind of leadership without the trained 4-H professional educators who work directly with all projects.

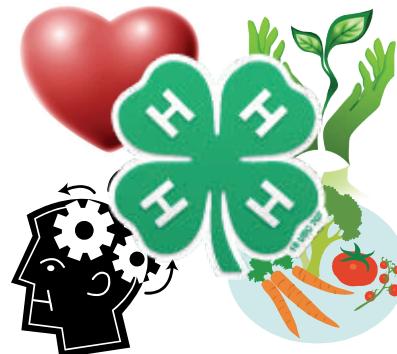
For example, many youth are registered in the highly desired Dog Project. The high number of 4-H'er's necessitates several classes in obedience and agility. In Grant, State honors have gone to the Reinke girls in their high achievements. The Dog Bowl led by leader Lori Lindquist also took high honors in their knowledge as team members in the Dog Project which included feeding, caring and training dogs. All animal project members are required to take Quality Assurance training to be eligible for competition at the State Fair.

Also Aiming High is Lauren Schifsky., who milks and cares for a herd of goats while attending River Falls. She is studying Animal Science and Agriculture. Her sister Catlin is in the Equine project also at River Falls and her brother Tyler participates in 4-H with the Swine project..

Grant Native Andrea Hummel, past 4-H'er, has now opened her own concession business at the Farmers Market in White Bear lake. Dr. Art Rutscher, another Grant native and past 4-H'er is a veterinarian and has his own At Home Vet Clinic in Stillwater and Somerset.

Dr Rutscher along with all the previously mentioned Grant 4-H'er's have not only Aimed High but given back to their community. 4-H teaches youth that volunteering is an important life-long skill. That is why we as leaders and 4-H participants pledge our Heads to Clearer thinking, our Hearts to Greater loyalty , our Hands to larger service and our Health to better living for our Club, our Home, our Community and our Country.

Joyce Welander Organizational leader – Soil-Savers 4-H Club



Presented by the Grant Heritage Committee and the City of Grant

## Growing up in Grant

History of the City of Grant  
in Washington County



## Education in Grant

From the moment our community was settled, planning began to provide for a quality education. There were six rural schools identified and named by Washington County and opened in Grant. Can you name them?

"Near the shores of White Bear Lake, the Grant or Mahtomedi School District (69) was organized in 1890. There are conflicting reports on where the school was taught during the first short season. One historic account tells us that the first three-month school year was held in part of a store owned by E.T. Warner. Another resource explains that school was taught those months in the home of Mr. Hans Johnson..."

**Excerpts from the book Growing up in Grant**

## Eighty Days Into a New Term

The first Eighty days of my new term have given me the opportunity to learn several interesting facts about our road system. I have had the benefit of many residents emailing and calling me with their questions and concerns. These helpful inquiries identified some of the flaws in our snow plowing routes and techniques.

Our cul-de-sacs seem to be a common area of concern. Some residents have expressed a concern regarding the slow response time for plowing in their neighborhoods. Others have frustrations with the plow leaving snow in their cul-de-sacs. Several of us have lost a mail or paper box to the plow this winter.

The terms of our current contract allows the contractor 6 hours to remove 3 inches of snow, 8 hours to remove 5 inches of snow, 16 hours to remove 10 inches. The last ten inch snowfall took the contractor 13 hours to complete their route.

I would like to thank everyone that shared their concerns with me, it has helped me to move fast and correct the immediate problems for you and your neighbors. I am currently looking at ideas to improve our snow plowing practices for next year. Our current snow plowing contract ends at the end of April. Please contact me with any constructive thoughts regarding next years contract. Your input will help us identify what practices need to be improved.

The road restrictions are now on. Please check with me or the Clerk before you truck in any heavy loads. The roads are easily damaged while the frost is working it's way out of the ground.

The potholes are here. Call me if you run across any bad ones in your neighborhood. The sooner that we get them filled the better. Many of the residents that call me apologize for calling and bothering me. When you call it makes my job easier. Every call so far has helped me identify a problem that may have been overlooked otherwise.

Thanks to all who have allowed me to serve Grant. I consider it to be a great privilege.

**Steve Bohnen**

## The New Elementary School project - Continued from page 1

would be at some point in the future without moving the trail on the site again.

Screening...how much? Where?

Please check the website and this newsletter for dates and times for the upcoming meetings. The Planning Commission looks forward to your comments and seeing you at the meeting!

**Tom Carr**





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## The St. Croix River

The St Croix River Basin is full. The soil is saturated which means there will be flooding in the St Croix River areas this spring. The Stillwater bridge will close when the water level reaches 86 feet.

### Some facts:

In 1965 the St Croix River crested at 94.1 feet

In 2001 the St Croix River crested at 92.2 feet

What will the river crest at in 2011??

Please do not drive around police barricades. This is dangerous and illegal.

If you want to assist, you may check with your local city and see if volunteer opportunities are available-you must register to help. Contact the City of Grant or Washington County office for additional volunteer information.

Follow the flood information on the National Weather Service website at: <http://water.weather.gov>

On this site you can check the hydrolic charts for more information on the St Croix river  
**Courtesy Washington County Sheriff Dept.**

