

Township Newsletter

SUMMER 2020



Dear Grand Blanc Township Residents,

As of the writing of this newsletter, Governor Whitmer has announced that the remainder of our State will move to Phase 4 of the reopening. I know that this has been a very difficult time for everyone, residents and businesses alike. Our concerns, thoughts and prayers are with you as we try to recover from this crisis. The Township, while closed to foot traffic, has remained in operation. When we do open the doors for visitors, you will notice that several steps have been taken to ensure everyone's health and safety. Clear plastic barriers have been erected at our service counters, and we will be limiting the number of individuals inside the building. Cleaning and sanitizing of public areas will also be done on a regular basis.

Prior to the Covid-19 shutdown, the Township had upgraded the options for payments of various services, including taxes, permits, special assessments, miscellaneous billings, delinquent personal property tax and water/sewer bills. Residents and businesses can now pay for the listed services by phone, online, via mail or in person at the Township Offices. Information regarding these online services can be found on the Grand Blanc Township website.

Road construction season is upon us! Grand Blanc Township will see more miles of streets and roads paved than we have accomplished in many years. While the County Road Commission and Grand Blanc Township have been working diligently to get as many miles of local roads paved each year, Consumers Energy has stepped up to assist in a big way! As Consumers Energy replaces a major gas line that runs through our Township, they have worked with the Genesee County Road Commission to ensure that the streets and roads that will be accessed with their equipment will not be damaged. In some cases, Consumers Energy has made it possible for significant upgrades to occur many years before the Road Commission would have been able to financially tackle these road projects. Please drive carefully in the construction project areas for the safety of everyone.

The Dort Extension Project is underway, including an ongoing effort to secure funding for a non-motorized pathway that we hope to construct alongside the road. Due to wetlands mitigation and engineering costs, if this pathway is not constructed at the time the road is built, it will probably not be feasible in the future. Our hope is to complete the pathway along the Dort extension project between Baldwin and Cook Roads. In the next few years, our goal will be to connect this pathway along Embury Road to Grand Blanc Road. The pathway along the Dort Extension would allow residents to access both the trail to Bicentennial Park and the Ascension Genesys Pathways. In future years, as Baldwin Road is expanded and the hopes of developing Tech Village are realized, we could extend the pathway along Baldwin Road.

Feel free to contact me any time I can be of assistance. Please remember to sign up for www.Nextdoor.com to receive regular updates from Grand Blanc Township!

Scott Bennett, Supervisor
bennett@twp.grand-blanc.mi.us
Ph: 810-424-2664

TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT

Enclosed you will find your 2020 Summer Tax Bill. The Due date is September 14, 2020. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or the Deputy Treasurer, Nancy Stilson by phone or email, guzak@twp.grand-blanc.mi.us or stilson@twp.grand-blanc.mi.us Phone: 810-424-2600

- Our Township website is where you can obtain forms, tax information, payment information, water/sewer information, departmental contacts, etc. (www.twp.grand-blanc.mi.us)
- We have a TAN drop box for your payments located next to the post office box in our parking lot.
- We also have a drive through window for your convenience.
- If you are paying by check for tax or water/sewer, we request you write separate checks for each billing.
- Returned check or ACH fee is \$30.00 per return.
- We have listed a copy of the tax codes on the back of the tax bill for your convenience.

CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

ELECTIONS

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT ELECTION YEAR. As of today, with COVID-19 still active, the Clerk's Office is planning on opening ALL the polls for voters on **Tuesday, August 4, 2020, from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., for the State Primary Election.** However, the Governor has the authority to mandate a TOTAL Absentee Ballot Election – like we had in May for the Grand Blanc Schools Election. We will follow State Law and accommodate all voters whatever happens. Call if you have concerns (810) 424-2602.

Drop your Absentee Ballot Applications in the **“tan mailbox”** in the parking lot of the Township Hall, as soon as possible. It takes staff time to enter all the information into the Qualified Voter File before we can mail ballots.

Be sure to review your ballot – including all proposals at the end of your August 4, 2020 Ballot. Township residents in the Lake Fenton Schools and Goodrich Schools will have a proposal on the ballot – be sure to vote.

REMINDER....this is a Primary Election....YOU CAN VOTE ONLY....Democrat, Republican, or Libertarian....YOU CANNOT MIX THE PARTIES IN THIS ELECTION. VOTING IS YOUR RIGHT AND PRIVILEGE – USE IT PROUDLY.

GARBAGE COLLECTION

For \$118.00 a year, Emterra picks up your garbage, recycling, and composting [from the first Wednesday in April through November 25]. If you have been cleaning/clearing out your home or garage, they also provide a “free pass for 1,000 pounds per month to the Brent Run Landfill in Montrose. To get the “pass” bring your driver's license to the Township Hall” and ask for a “DUMP PERMIT.” The Township resident getting the “pass” must be the person taking the “stuff” to the dump and will be given the Emterra and Brent Run rules that must be followed.

MOSQUITO CONTROL

Check the Township Web Site for Rose Pest Solutions' information on Mosquito Control or call them at 1-800-437-6938.

CENSUS

Be sure to respond to CENSUS 2020, acknowledging you reside in Grand Blanc Township and answering a few simple question, helps us receive more federal funds and congressional representation for the next ten years. You can respond online, by phone, or by mail – choose the option that is most comfortable for you. Your personal information is kept confidential by law. To answer by phone in English, call 1-844-330-2020 – for the internet, use www.census.gov

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

2020 brings a lot of excitement for Grand Blanc Parks and Recreation. This year we celebrate 50 years of enriching the community. 2020 also brings a new location and some new faces along with old. Grand Blanc Parks and Recreation has become a department of the Charter Township of Grand Blanc and our offices have moved to the Township Offices on South Saginaw road. Stop by and say hello!

Grand Blanc Parks and Recreation will continue to offer the quality programming that you have come to expect. We are also in the process of upgrades to Bicentennial Park thanks to the gracious support through the Grand Blanc Township Parks Millage.

In late 2020 and into 2021 we invite the public to become involved in our 5-year Master Plan Process, an important process required by the DNR. Please participate in our survey process and attend our planning meetings. We need community input and feedback to help us tailor our offerings and services to meet everyone's needs.

In the coming year we will begin to offer greater outreach so whether it be a new website, social media or email blasts please sign up and follow us to get up to date information of your Grand Blanc Parks and Recreation. Until then please like us on Facebook at Grand Blanc Parks and Recreation.

DPW DEPARTMENT

- Check your utility account history and current balance by choosing the Property Information link under "I want to..." at gbtgov.com
- Grand Blanc Township now uses Invoice Cloud for all of your electronic bill pay needs. By creating an account, you can pay by credit card (additional fee is assessed), sign up for ACH Auto Pay (Free to residents), or make a onetime payment via electronic check. You can also sign up to receive utility bills via email and go paperless. Visit our website at www.gbtgov.com for more information.
- Summer sewer cleaning and inspection has commenced. Visit www.gbtgov.com for up to date information.
- Tired of potholes in your subdivision streets? Creating a Special Assessment District spreads the cost of your road repaving project to each parcel over 10-15 years. Contact the DPW Director to get more information on how to proceed.

PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT

TOWNSHIP MASTER PLAN

Progress continues on the Township Master Plan despite the COVID-19 closure. The Grand Blanc Township Master Plan Steering Committee is nearing completion of the first draft of the document. The project remains on track and is expected to be completed in August. Please check the Grand Blanc Township web page for updates at <https://www.twp.grand-blanc.mi.us/>

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Construction season is here and we are equipped to provide you with the service and assistance needed to complete your most important projects. Our professional building, plumbing, mechanical and electrical inspectors are ready to review your plans, inspect your projects and provide you with the best service you ever had. Please call the Building Department at (810) 424-2782 for assistance.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Firefighters are always asked, "what can I do so I don't have a fire in my home?" The question is difficult to answer, because it changes from home to home. Of course, there are basic things that can be done to limit the chances of a fire occurring. Whether the fire is large or small, it's always devastating.

One thing that you and your family can do to make your home safer is to make sure that your home or apartment is equipped with alarms that provide you with an early warning of fire danger, allowing your family time to get out and stay out. Properly installed and working alarms alert you to smoke inside your home. The National Fire Administration

recommends having working alarms in every bedroom, on every level of the home, and at the top of stairways. Depending on the type of alarm you have, batteries must be changed twice a year or every ten years. They should be tested every month by pressing the test button found on the alarm cover. Lastly, smoke alarms are only reliable for ten years. Do not trust alarms older than ten years, because the unit may not activate properly. All alarms have the manufacturing date stamped on the label along with instructions for its proper disposal.

Also, all homes need to have working carbon monoxide (CO) alarms. Every year the fire department responds to 30 to 40 incidents where a CO alarm activated. Many times the alarm has malfunctioned, but we have been to multiple events where CO gas was present.

An early warning of danger is only effective if you take action. You only have minutes to exit. Have an escape route planned and understood by everyone in the family. Have your family practice the plan both day and night, and also have several ways to escape planned.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

When it comes to crime prevention the smallest things can make the biggest differences. When we reduce opportunity we can reduce crime. We ask that everyone get into the #9PMRoutine by taking three simple steps every night;

- 1.Lock your doors (cars parked outside and your house)
- 2.Secure your valuables (don't leave valuables in your cars or in your yard where they can be seen)
- 3.Turn on your exterior lights

The #9PMRoutine is an easy and effective way to reduce the opportunity for a crime to occur. Be aware of your surroundings and if you see something suspicious please contact us immediately and we will send an officer out right away.

As the weather gets warmer and everyone gets back to their new "normal" we would like to remind everyone to be safe on our roadways. Traffic crashes claim the lives of approximately 1000 people across the state every year. The majority of those crashes are preventable but we all need to do our part. Slowing down, not driving distracted, not driving impaired, stopping for the red flashing school bus lights, and wearing your seatbelt are just a few things that will keep you, your family, and your fellow motorists safe on our roadways. We all play a role in keeping our community safe and when we work together I have no doubt we will be successful.



Join your Nextdoor neighborhood at:
nextdoor.com

When neighbors start talking, good things happen.

Nextdoor makes it easy to communicate with your neighbors about the issues that matter most in your community.



Share recommendations about local services (e.g. babysitters, plumbers, dentists)



Organize neighborhood events (e.g. HOA, neighborhood watch, National Night Out)



Report suspicious activities, help prevent crime, and receive updates from local police



Connect with parents, pet owners, and other groups in your neighborhood



Get to know your fellow neighbors so you can finally call them by name

