

Michael J. DeVries
Supervisor
Janice K. Hulbert
Clerk
Chris Afendoulis
Treasurer



Rusty Merchant
Trustee
Ed Robinette
Trustee
James R. Saalfeld
Trustee
Lee Van Popering
Trustee

NEWS BRIEFS – SPRING 2009

NEW ONLINE FACILITY RESERVATIONS: Visit our web site to use the new interactive Township Hall or Park facilities rental reservation link. You can view the availability of facilities and lock in a reservation at grandrapidstwp.org

POT HOLES AND ROAD WORK: Spring thaws expose the damage winter freeze/thaw cycles have done to West Michigan roads. We thought this would be a good time to explain how road funding works and what projects are planned in Grand Rapids Charter Township for this construction season.

First let's look at funding. On every gallon of gas purchased the Federal Government collects 18.5¢ that is to be used on the federal highway system for maintenance and improvements. The Grand Rapids Metro area receives about \$9 million dollars each year as our share of the amount the Federal Government allocates to Michigan. We are a donor state and receive back only 95¢ of each dollar sent to Washington DC.

Next, the State of Michigan collects 19¢ per gallon on every gallon purchased to maintain state and local roads. Cities receive an allocation of that tax as do County Road Commissions who administer those funds for the Townships.

In Kent County the funds are used to maintain all public roads and to fully fund primary road improvements for the Townships. Local road repairs in Townships are cost shared with the Kent County Road Commission. The Townships share equally with the County for major maintenance and new construction.

Grand Rapids Charter Township spends about 8% or \$200,000.00 of its General Fund expenditures annually on local road projects with the Kent County Road Commission adding \$200,000.00 for a total outlay of approximately \$400,000.00.

Grand Rapids Charter Township and the Kent County Road Commission work closely together to plan for and fund local road projects. We are pleased that we have been able to maintain our 5 year-revolving road improvement plan which has allowed us to keep our neighborhood roads in good condition.

NOW FOR THIS SEASONS PROJECTS

- The last 1/3 of the Whispering Pines neighborhood road reconstruction will be completed.
- Leffingwell at 3 Mile will be widened to 3 lanes & the bike trail will be extended to Winesap from Orchard View elementary.
- Leonard St from the East Beltline to Crahen may be resurfaced this year also (subject to release of Federal stimulus dollars).

The 2009 – 2014 major road project list budgets permitting:

- 4 Mile Road (Dean Lake Avenue to East Beltline)
- Forest Hills neighborhood (subject to water main upgrade project)
- Dunnigan Avenue ■ Bird Avenue ■ Knapp Court ■ The Orchards

All public roads in Grand Rapids Charter Township come under the jurisdiction of the Kent County Road Commission. Township officials, along with the Kent County Road Commission, conduct surveys of roads for micro surfacing and winter damage repairs. There will be numerous maintenance issues also addressed this construction season.

Have a wonderful spring
Michael J. DeVries, Supervisor