

MICHAEL J. DeVRIES
SUPERVISOR

EDWARD J. ROBINETTE
CLERK

CHRIS AFENDOULIS
TREASURER



RUSTY MERCHANT
TRUSTEE
ROBERT W. ROTH
TRUSTEE
DAVID A. VANDYKE
TRUSTEE
LEE VANPOPERING
TRUSTEE

NEWS BRIEF – SUMMER 2014

NEW BUSINESSES

Grand Rapids Township welcomes the new businesses that have made substantial investments to grow in our community:

- ♦ **Metro Health**, whose purchase of the 80,000 square foot Harley Building (now the Metro Health Building), will add quality health services and jobs to the area with this new multi service health facility. Metro’s decision to locate at Cascade Road and East Paris Avenue builds upon that area as a destination for fine health care services.
- ♦ **MVP Sports** has finished a substantial remodel and upgrade of the Orchard Hills Athletic Club, located on Crahen Avenue north of Fulton Street. The building was in need of improvement and the new investment by MVP has made that a beautiful, viable facility that will service the area residents with a first class athletic facility.
- ♦ The **Spectrum Health** Integrated Care Campus at 3 Mile Road and East Beltline Avenue is opening late this summer. The 100,000 square foot, 3 story building is a state of the art facility built on 25 acres. The beautiful setting will be enhanced by additional support facilities as the properties adjacent to the Spectrum project are zoned for commercial and residential mixed use development. This area will be the northeast regional anchor for health care services.

2014 ROAD PROJECTS

3 Mile Road Construction is now completed and we can forget about those potholes.

This year we begin the first phase, of three, to rebuild the roads in the Greenbrier/Forest Hills neighborhood of over 300 homes. Baywood, Greenbrier and Heather Lane are the most heavily used and will be reconstructed this year. The connector streets will be systematically rebuilt over the next 2 years. Funding for the neighborhood roadwork is evenly shared by Grand Rapids Township and the Kent County Road Commission.

Grand Rapids Township and the Kent County Road Commission have established a revolving 5 year plan and that partnership has allowed our roads to be maintained in good condition. However, stagnant revenues will cause us to fall behind unless a solution to a sustainable funding source for road construction and maintenance is found.

ELECTION INFORMATION

Grand Rapids Township voters have the distinct honor of most often leading Kent County municipalities in voter turnout. In 2012, over 85% of Grand Rapids Township registered voters participated in the November General Election.

The August 5th Primary Election is important because the political parties have contested races for the US House of Representatives, State House and Senate. In addition, there are millage increase requests from the Kent District Library and Kent County for the senior millage.

The current Kent District Library millage is .88 mills and they are requesting an increase to 1.3 mills. The senior millage is currently .25 mills and they are requesting an increase to .33 mills. The impact on the property tax bill for a \$200,000.00 home follows;

	Current Mills/\$	Requested Mills/\$	Potential Increase
KDL	.8800/\$88.00	1.2800/\$128.00	\$40.00
Senior	.3300/\$33.00	.5000/\$50.00	\$17.00

THERE WILL ALSO BE A STATEWIDE *Proposal 1* ON THE BALLOT THAT WOULD ELIMINATE THE PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX, WHILE PROVIDING FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO BE HELD HARMLESS FROM REVENUE LOSSES. PLEASE PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT PROPOSAL.

Michael J. DeVries, Supervisor
GRAND RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP

QUICK NOTES...

STREET LIGHT NOT WORKING?
POT HOLE IN THE STREET?
Drainage Issues?
Report them online from the
GRT website
www.grandrapidstwp.org