

MICHAEL J. DEVRIES
SUPERVISOR

EDWARD J. ROBINETTE
CLERK

DAVID A. VAN DYKE
TREASURER



RUSTY MERCHANT
TRUSTEE
DAVID M. PIERANGELI
TRUSTEE
ROBERT W. ROTH
TRUSTEE
LEE VANPOPERING
TRUSTEE

**NEWS BRIEF
- WINTER 2015 -**

WINTER TAX BILL

Michigan Compiled Law states that the winter tax due date is February 14. However, because the 14th is a Sunday, and the 15th is a State Holiday, the winter tax due date for this year is **February 16, 2016**.

Payments must be in our office by 5:00pm on the tax due date. Interest and penalties will apply to all payments made after the due date. There is no grace period.

If mailing payments, keep in mind that Grand Rapids Township does not accept postmarks as on-time payments. It is recommended to mail at least ten business days before the due date and review your bank statement for confirmation that the Township received and posted your payment.

Most banks and credit unions will not guarantee a payment date when using their on-line payment services; most have a disclaimer stating that local tax payments should not be paid through their service. In many cases, the bank or credit union actually prints a check and mails it to the Township.

Late payments will be charged interest and penalty. Please pay early.

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY VALUES

Residential property values in Grand Rapids Township will rise an average of 10% for 2016. The Assessing Department is close to completing their valuations for the 2016 tax year.

The increase in values will result in the State Equalized Value (SEV) increasing by 10%. However, the Taxable Value; which determines the amount of the property tax, is capped this year at 1/3 of 1% for properties owned more than a year which did not incur any improvements.

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT DECLINE

The Street Lighting Assessment will decline 22% for all properties that are in the Residential Street Lighting Special Assessment District. The annual assessment, which is included on the winter tax bill, has declined from \$45 to \$35. The conversion of all the street lights in Grand Rapids Township to more energy efficient fixtures caused the reduction.

2016 BUDGET

Grand Rapids Township adopted the 2016 Budget, and again, we balance our budget, have no debt, and maintain a 'Fund Balance'. The Township's 5 Endowment Funds for; parks, trails, building, courthouse plaza and the East Beltline landscaping, are now 75% funded. Thus ensuring our public facilities will always be able to be maintained without the need to increase taxes.

2016 ELECTIONS

2016 is an election year, and to-date, 3 elections are scheduled: the March 8th Primary Election, the August 2nd Primary Election and the November 8th General Election. The Clerk's Office is ready to process your request for an absentee ballot or answer any questions regarding the voting procedure.

Grand Rapids Township usually leads the County in voter turnout and in Presidential Election years participation exceeds 85%. We should all take pride in that statistic.

NEW FIRE CHIEF

Grand Rapids Township is pleased to announce the appointment of Robert Versluys as the Township Fire Chief. Using his 37 years of experience, Bob will coordinate and direct the Fire Department, and continue to lead our fine staff of fire personnel.

Grand Rapids Township remains committed to our primary responsibilities: provide essential services of Police, Fire and EMS; perform our constitutional duties of election administration, assessment of property and property tax collection; ensure that we promote appropriate land use regulations; support regional economic development; and provide for parks, open space and recreational trails.

Should you ever have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm

P: (616) 361-7391

F: (616) 361-6620

1836 East Beltline Ave NE

Grand Rapids MI 49525

Best Regards,
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