



Grant Town Hall

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Emergency Services 911 Ambulance

United Emergency Medical
Services **715-423-7777**

Fire Departments

Grand Rapids **715-424-1815**
Plainfield **715-335-4253**

Severe Weather Alerts

Portage Co. Community Alert

Register:

www.co.portage.wi.us
or call the Sheriff's Dept.
715-346-1400

Summer/Fall 2025

I've never been very philosophical in this snippet for the newsletter, but maybe we're due for a change... Over the past few months every town officer has experienced personal tragedies that have been difficult to reconcile – loss of parents and spouses, difficult surgeries and illnesses, and more. However, through all the losses no one faltered in their role for the Town. Together we helped each other by picking up those varied responsibilities that the others carried. In my view, that is the idea of community – helping each other along with whatever is needed. We hope that we have extended that to you, our residents, as well.

I recently read an article that made me pause. It asked: what if the last words you said to someone were also the last time you saw them? Did the words you spoke sting or were they kind and forgiving? And depending on your response, how does that affect you moving forward?

It seems we are in a time where we are unkind to one another. But I believe and have experienced during my tenure on the town board that we are a community of mostly good people. We are kind for the most part. There are always some that make it difficult, but I think overall we are a community.

Remember to hug your children, spouses, partners, parents, neighbors, pets, whomever. Life is truly too short. Sharon

Monthly Board Meetings

2nd Wednesday each month
6:00 pm

Transfer Station Hours

	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
Sep - Oct	11am – 5pm	9am – 5pm
Nov - Mar	11am – 4pm	9am – 4pm
Apr - May	11am – 5pm	9am – 5pm
Jun – Aug	11am – 7pm	9am – 5pm

Clerk Alert!

by Stefanie Schlapa, Clerk

You can make a real difference in our Town by getting involved—whether it's contributing your knowledge or expertise in a subject matter or simply lending a hand to a neighbor in need. Every act of service, big or small, has a direct impact on improving the lives of those around you and building a stronger, more connected community. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to making our town a better place for everyone.

For more information regarding open part-time positions at the Town of Grant, contact me at clerk@townofgrant-portage.wi.gov

We're hiring!

Snowplow Operator

CDL Required
\$20/hr.

Zoning Administrator (July – December)

[Note: current Administrator willing to split position and work January - June]
\$343.33/month

Plan Commission Secretary

\$18/hr.

Plan Commission Member

\$45/meeting

And always seeking:

- Part-Time Public Works Employees
- Election Workers

STAY INFORMED – You can subscribe to notifications for News, Agendas, and Minutes on the Town website (<https://townofgrant-portage.wi.gov/>). Scroll down the home page to the spot for inserting a subscription request. Please know that according to the State Attorney General your email address is subject to Open Records and may be requested by someone other than a town official.

Do you have any concerns or complaints? In the bottom right of the Home page there's an orange rectangle asking if you have a request. Click on it and tell us all about it. Your message will be received by our clerk, responded to by her or forwarded to another town officer that can assist. Thank you!

Update: CTH WW Bridge over Fourmile Creek
by Nathan Check, Portage County Highway Commissioner

Construction is progressing. The CTH WW bridge project is on schedule and is expected to be open to traffic by the last week in October, weather permitting. If you want to include more details on the project, I attached the previous press release.

August 11, 2025

NEWS RELEASE

Subject: Portage County CTH WW Bridge Replacement to Begin August 18, 2025

The Portage County CTH WW bridge over Fourmile Creek is scheduled to be replaced with construction starting Monday, August 18, 2025. The bridge is located approximately 0.75 miles west of CTH F in the Town Grant, Portage County, Wisconsin (Section 27 Range 25N Township 07E).

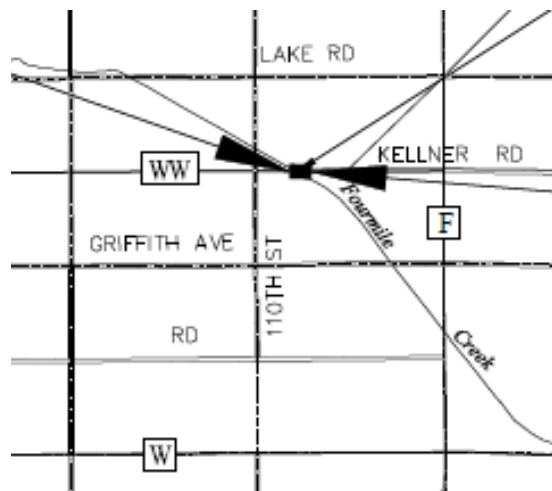
The bridge replacement was selected for funding under the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's (WisDOT) Local Bridge Program as the existing structure condition was structurally deficient and functionally obsolete. The project will include a new two span concrete bridge which will improve structural, operational, hydraulic, and safety deficiencies. The clear width will also be improved and widened to 30 feet over the structure.

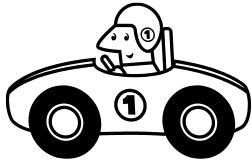
WisDOT has awarded the contract to Sheet Piling Services, LLC out of Custer, WI for a low bid amount of \$948,653. The project is scheduled to be completed in late October, weather permitting.

CTH WW will be closed during construction, and a detour will be posted for traffic to utilize CTH F, CTH W, and CTH U during the closure.

Any questions regarding the project can be directed to the Portage County Highway Department, 715-345-5230 or highway@co.portage.wi.gov.

Project Location





Roads, roads, roads...

by Sharon Schwab, Chair

Recently several residents living in the Mertz Subdivision (that's the one just south of Grant Elementary School) attended a Special Meeting of the Board to discuss how they would like their roads improved. These roads include: 82nd, 85th, 86th, Arbor, Cedar, and Spruce. In 2016 and again in 2023 the Town applied for a Transportation Alternative Program grant in hopes of reconstructing the roads and adding bicycle/pedestrian lanes as part of Wisconsin Department of Transportation's (WisDOT) Safe Routes to School initiative. The Town was not a recipient either year, so the residents asked that we consider a different tact. After hearing from them we now understand that the majority do not want specialty lanes but instead prefer just better roads. Fortunately, the Local Roads Improvement Program (LRIP) is about to start its 2-year grant cycle so we can apply for several programs that might help us finally reconstruct these roadways. You've heard these two from me before – the Transportation Improvement Program (TRI) – Discretionary which is a 50% cost-share and the TRI-Supplemental which is up to a 90% cost-share. Both grant programs are available in early 2026 with \$16M for TRI-D and \$39M in TRI-S available, respectively. Projects must be at least \$100,000 to be eligible.

But the Mertz Subdivision roads are not the only ones we can apply for under this program including Elm Street (90th – 100th) which has been waiting nearly a decade to be repaved, and Lake Road (85th – 100th) which is in disrepair. All three projects are good candidates for the TRI programs; however, the Board is aware there are many more that deserve consideration. The catch to TRI – D and TRI – S is that the grant applications are first prioritized by the Portage County's LRIP committee made up of town and village members. Once the local committee decides their preferred order of projects the applications are then reprioritized by a state committee with safety being one of the most important aspects that they consider. In the end it is the state committee that decides, not the county. It's a highly competitive process. To put the Mertz Subdivision project in perspective, the estimated cost is \$1M. Perhaps the good news is that the Town of Grant leads Portage County in the county in the number of TRI projects received! Hopefully we'll score again for a project(s).

After five bridge projects in just as many years we were unable to consider any major construction projects this season. Hats off however to Supervisors Provost and Steltenpohl who led the way on important maintenance projects. Provost took the lead on the failed and emergency culvert replacement on 90th Street just south of CTH W. Late last year he inspected all the culverts 6' – 20' in length to determine their integrity. Next year we will have to consider abandoning, maintaining, or replacing many of those. Steltenpohl has been leading the public works crew on joint and crack-sealing nearly eight miles of road, patching, sign installations and replacements, daily inspections of roads to name a few... All our part-time employees have been doing a great job keeping up with general maintenance. Thanks to all of them!

By the time you receive this newsletter you might have noticed that our cement and porcelain pile at the Transfer Station is GONE! It's been crushed and the material recycled as road base. Yahoo! Thanks go to our grader operator Steve Dobeck who directed us to a contractor willing to do this work. The recycled road base is scheduled to be distributed onto 100th Street north of Elm to STH 54, a section of road in dire need of material.

Public Works

by Doug, Steltenpohl, Supervisor

As I sit here looking at the calendar, I am wondering where summer has gone as we are already settling into the cooler month of October! Just a quick shout out to Randy Krey for all the work he did in the town garage, and all the hours he put in on the road for public works (especially mowing and plowing). He “officially” retired this summer and will be missed.

The topic of roads is a very frustrating subject as there is both good and bad... I have had so many people talk to me about what roads were going to be done this year, and it is maddening to tell them ZERO and to hear them asking why? Trying to explain how two lawsuits ate into nearly our entire road construction budget is crazy stuff to the ears and minds of our citizens in our great Town. What do I hear? Anger and frustration at using taxpayer money defending the Town of Grant (all of you) and members of the board.

Oh well, there are good things being done... The mowing is done, and some road base has been placed on a few roads to make them a bit better, and the year moves on... One cool thing that we did was to purchase a used tar kettle from the Town of Plover so that we can do our own joint and crack-sealing and save money along the way. YES! I have added up the cost of buying the kettle, including safety equipment and all the other things we needed to get it ready. The cost was approximately \$8,300.00 which seems like a lot but isn't. The workers put in 6 days of work totaling 130.5 hours and cost the Town \$2,345.00 for the labor. The cost of doing approximately 6 miles of road, including the cost of buying the kettle and start up was approximately \$10,645.00. Going back two years ago when we last had the joint and crack-sealing done by outside contractors cost the Town \$26,000.00 for approximately 7 miles and we got a huge break on South Park because one of the bidders put in a bid without looking at the road and that was \$10,000.00 lower than the company that did all of the other roads. So, looking at that, it could have cost us \$36,000.00 and \$10,645.00 is a nice figure plus we do this work on our own schedule. We started up again in September and finished off a few more road sections. I would like to thank our employees Randy Krey, Garry Saeger, Sandy Wood, Larry Wagner, Jim Yetter, Jerry Reinwand and Dominic Devito who worked hard to do all of this. We appreciate their dedication and willingness to do this learn and success at this new skilled work.

As always, feel free to contact me anytime with any concerns or comments or ideas, that is what makes us a great Town. Call me at 715-213-0294.

Plastic Film and Bag Recycling

by Amanda Haffele, Portage County Solid Waste Director

Plastic film and bags are a problem at landfills and material recovery facilities where recyclables are sorted. They blow around creating litter and get stuck causing problems with machinery and other rotating gears. But plastic film and bags are also very valuable. They are needed (and wanted) by manufacturers to make products such as composite boards, car parts, new plastic film and bags, and other similar items. The film collected here in Portage County is mostly recycled with companies that make composite deck boards.

What can be recycled?

Residents and businesses can recycle clean and dry: plastic wrap around napkins, toilet paper and paper towel rolls, bread and produce bags, newspaper bags, dry cleaning bags, plastic wrap around cases of water or other beverages, air pillows and bubble wrap, food storage bags, retail bags, pallet wrap or stretch wrap, bags around clothing, film around electronic components, dried ice bags, clean wood pellet and salt bags as well as cereal box liners. Visit <https://nextrex.com/view/educate> for a complete list.

What can't be recycled?

Any film or bag that tears or rips in a straight line, is crinkly when crumpled, or is bio-degradable or compostable cannot be recycled. This would include candy wrappers, crinkly cellophane film around snack cases or packaged snacks, chips bags or crackers shelves, or pet food bags. Bags that hold frozen foods or prewashed salad mixes are not recyclable either. This film is multi-laminate, meaning there is more than one layer (and type) of film to keep materials fresh. Multi-laminates are not compatible with the plastic film and bags these companies are collecting and recycling. And biodegradable or compostable films cause weak spots in outdoor objects (furniture or deck boards) and no one wants their deck to degrade after a few years of use.

Where can I recycle this material?

Do not put plastic film or bags in with normal "curbside" recycling as these materials can and will only be recycled through drop-off locations. Here in Portage and Wood Counties that would include Festival Foods, Kohl's, Metro Market, Pick 'N Save, Piggly Wiggly, and Save-A-Lot.

Most of these facilities are unaware that they're able to accept more than plastic bags. I'm here to verify that all these locations can accept more than just plastic bags. Years ago, I did some freelance work with the Wrap Recycling Action Program, which has now been moved to NexTrex. One of my duties was working behind the scenes verifying that the facilities listed on their website, <https://nextrex.com/view/findadropoff>, (which these are) recycle plastic films and bags.

Why do things need to be dry?

I cannot stress enough that plastic film and bags need to be dry - bone dry. Companies that recycle plastic film and bags into composite lumber use a 1:1 ratio of plastic film and sawdust to make their products. If the film is too wet, they must raise the temperature of their furnaces, if the furnaces get too hot it burns off the sawdust, ruining the end product. Also, moisture will cause the plastic film to mold. Mold smells horrible and could cause health issues for workers while the bales are being stored.

How clean does the material need to be?

Bags should be free of receipts, crumbs, and other food debris like mustard or mayonnaise. A small amount of dried food crumbs is okay as well as packaging tape or stickers. But still try to keep these items at a minimum please.

As always, if you have any questions give us a call at (715) 343-6297, visit us online at <https://www.co.portage.wi.gov/396/Solid-Waste>, or join our Facebook community @PortageCountyRecycles.

Money News!

by Greg Hakala, Treasurer



We're the WINNER! The Town of Grant exceeded the targeted number of dog licenses issued. For the second year (both 2024 and 2025) we were the ONLY municipality in Portage County to do so. Portage County gives every municipality a target number of dog license dollars based on the population of that municipality. Our target was \$5,465. But we collected \$5,753 PLUS \$516 in late fees for a total of \$6,269. We will be getting a refund from the County for the excess we collected. Thank you to all the dog owners responsible for our continued success. Just so you know, money collected for the licenses goes to the Portage County Humane Society and money collected from the late fees is kept by the Town.

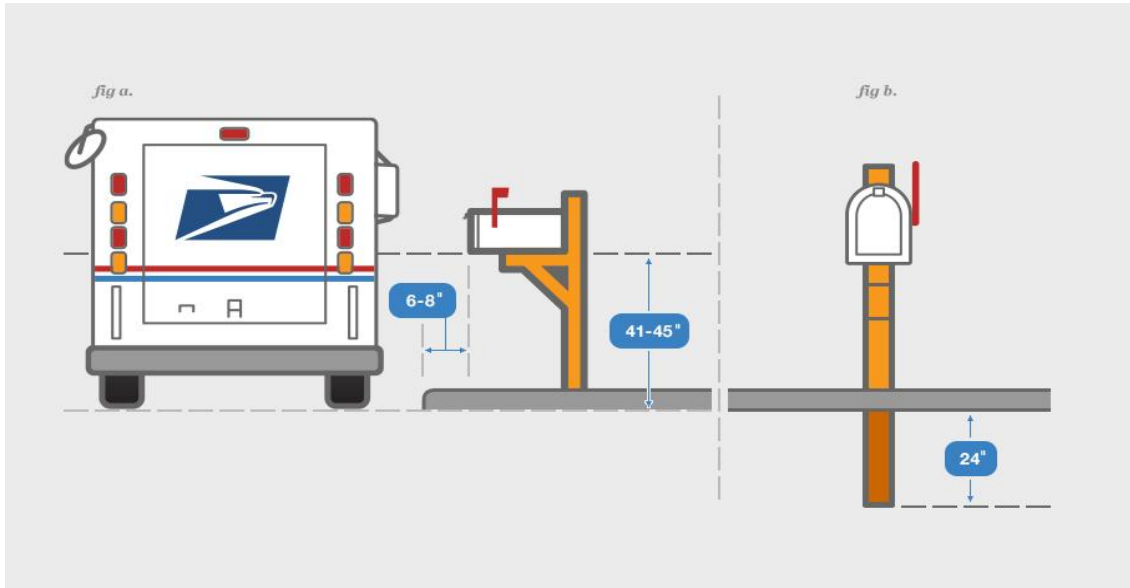
This month we will be making the final payment for our plow truck. It's great to make that final payment! The loan was taken out seven years ago for a total of \$152,935 at 3.50% interest. As was mentioned during a few board meetings I recommended that the Town not take out any new loans in 2025. Thus far we have been able to avoid having to do so. However, we continue to run up legal costs related to the Open Records and Open Meeting lawsuits that were filed by Heather Gry-Luecht, which now exceed \$70,000. As a result, we have had to restrict spending on major road repairs. Until these legal costs end or are resolved we cannot commit to large projects. In addition, I have advised that we avoid taking out a loan at the current interest rates. I will continue to advise that the Board restrict large expenditures unless they are absolutely necessary.

I'm sure most of you recall the big jump in property taxes on last December's tax bills. The biggest contributor to that increase was the equalized value calculated for the Town of Grant by the State. Last year those values went up by 21%. The State recently issued preliminary equalized values for this year and the Town of Grant shows only a 2% increase so that bodes well for property taxes.

*A town resident reminds us that when you register or renew your vehicle with WisDOT's Department of Motor Vehicles that you list PORTAGE County, not WOOD Co. as the place in which the vehicle resides. When we write in Wisconsin Rapids and the 54494-zip code an agent or salesperson may not know that you live in Portage County. This is important for the revenue that goes into the **Registration Fee Trust**.*

Where to Place the Mailbox

- Position your mailbox 41" to 45" from the road surface to the bottom of the mailbox or point of mail entry.
- Place your mailbox 6" to 8" back from the curb. If you do not have a raised curb, contact your local postmaster for guidance.
- Put your house or apartment number on the mailbox.
- If your mailbox is on a different street from your house or apartment, put your full street address on the box.



Town of Grant

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