



GRAND ISLAND NEWS

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NEW SOUTH BRIDGE DECK COMING IN 2010

The northbound south Grand Island Bridge is getting a new deck in 2010. Work during 2009, already underway, is mainly concrete substructure repairs and bearing replacements. For this work, few traffic disruptions are anticipated. In 2010 the northbound bridge will be closed nightly (Sunday - Thursday from March to October) with traffic being maintained on the southbound bridge, one lane

in each direction, while sections of deck are removed and panels placed. For the first time in the history of the bridges, deck replacement will be done one section at a time, allowing the bridge to be opened each morning by 6 AM so rush hour traffic can utilize both bridges. American Bridge Company, based in Pennsylvania, has been awarded the \$48.23 million contract. The Thruway Authority has

required that the deck replacement be complete in one season. While the plan is to have the bridge opened each morning by 6 AM, travelers dependent on using the south bridge should have a plan in case something prevents the bridge from opening. Several information sources are in place to help bridge users learn of unscheduled situations that may occur during construction. The Thruway Authority operates

TRANSalert, a free service that allows customers to receive an Email or text message informing them of a major unscheduled incident that may affect their travel schedule. Sign up at www.nysthruway.gov. The Niagara International Transportation Technology Coalition (NITTEC) is a source of real time traveler information for the Niagara Region. Visit their website at www.nittec.org to learn what is available.

SPECIAL PASSPORT DAY – SATURDAY MAY 2

For your convenience a **special passport day** will be held at Grand Island Town Hall on **Saturday, May 2, 2009 from 9:00 AM until 12 noon**. In addition to special times, the Town Clerk's Office processes passport applications every business day 9 AM-12 noon and 1PM – 4PM. You can make an appointment for evenings or weekends. All of the necessary forms are available in the Town Clerk's Office. Passport photographs are available for \$7.

WIFI NOW AVAILABLE IN/AROUND TOWN HALL

Next time you're around Town Hall, bring your laptop. With a matching grant of \$12,500 from Empire State Development and support from Hodgson Russ the town has installed a wireless broadband system in and around Town Hall. Wired areas are the conference room, courtroom, parking lot, foyer and the Marion Klingel Town Common.

CHECK OUT THE NEW IMPROVED gigov.com

The Town of Grand Island website has been updated and improved for easier navigation and use. The A – Z guide should help you find exactly what you need and you'll notice new photos. Direct links to many other news and information sources are included. Check it out and let us know what you think.

THE TOILET OR THE GARBAGE CAN?

Disposable wipes of all kinds have become extremely popular. It is now possible to purchase a disposable wipe for every purpose from baby diaper wipes to disinfectant wipes for cleaning to polishing wipes for leather items. These wipes are causing ragging problems for the Town's Waste Water System because they do not break down. Additional time and money are spent removing these items from the system. If you have a septic system, these same problems are happening at your home. Solve the problem by tossing the used wipe into the garbage. **DO NOT FLUSH** them down the toilet. The same is true for the disposable toilet brushes and any other "disposable" item.

Household Tips for Preventing Stormwater Pollution

What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow that doesn't soak into the ground and eventually runs off into waterways. It flows from rooftops, over paved areas and bare soil, and through sloped lawns while picking up a variety of materials on its way. As it flows, stormwater runoff collects and transports soil, animal waste, salt, pesticides, fertilizers, oil & grease, debris and other potential pollutants.

What is the Problem?

Rain and snowmelt wash pollutants (pesticides, motor oil, bacteria, nitrogen, lead, chemicals, sediments and litter) from streets, construction sites, and land into storm sewers and ditches. Eventually, the storm sewers and ditches empty the polluted stormwater directly into streams and rivers with no treatment. This is known as **stormwater pollution**.

Polluted stormwater degrades our lakes, rivers, wetlands and other waterways. Nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen can promote the overgrowth of algae and deplete oxygen threatening water quality and can kill fish and other aquatic life. Bacteria from animal wastes and improper sewerage systems can make lakes and waterways unsafe for wading, swimming and fish consumption. Eroded soil clouds the waterway and interferes with the habitat of fish and plant life.

According to an inventory conducted by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), half of the impaired waterways are affected by urban/suburban and construction sources of stormwater runoff.

Things You Can Do To Prevent Stormwater Pollution

General Household

Some household products, such as cleaners, insect spray and weed killers, can cause pollution if allowed to drain into a storm sewer. Buy household products labeled "nontoxic" whenever possible.

Paint & Solvents

Clean water-based paints from rollers, pans and brushes in sinks that go into the sanitary sewer system. Use paint thinners to remove oil-based paint from brushes and rollers but do not rinse down sinks or drains.

Automotive

Keep your autos in good repair and watch for possible leaks. Take leftover or used fluids to a household hazardous waste collection. Clean up leaks and spills with an absorbent material such as kitty litter.

Swimming Pool and Spa

Water, containing chlorine is harmful to aquatic life. Whenever possible, drain water into the sanitary sewer system. There are established guidelines on the amount of residual chlorine, acceptable pH range, coloration, filter media and acid cleaning wastes when draining into the storm sewer system.

Lawn and Garden

Follow directions carefully when using pesticides and fertilizers; don't over water or use before a rain. Pesticides and fertilizers may adversely impact our waterways.

Pet Care

Pick-up pet waste as soon as possible and put it in the trash. Pet waste has harmful bacteria that can get into our waterways.

Contact Erie County's Household Hazardous Waste program (858-6800) for disposal recommendations on the products listed above.

**The 2008 Stormwater Management Annual Report,
The Town's annual required progress report will be available for public comment on May 7th
online at gigov.com, at the Grand Island Town Hall and at the Grand Island Public Library.**

Take a look, see what you think and make a comment.

**Please submit comments by May 22nd to John C. Whitney, P.E., Town Engineer, Town of Grand Island,
2255 Baseline Road, Grand Island, NY 14072. E-mail to jwhitney@grand-island.ny.us**

BRANCH PICKUP SERVICE FOR ROUTINE TREE TRIMMING

The Town Highway Department will pick up branches resulting from routine homeowner tree trimming as weather conditions, equipment, precedent duties and manpower permit. *This service is for routine tree trimming, NOT FOR TREE REMOVAL.* The pickup is done by route in order to cover the entire Island in a reasonable amount of time. Crews start at one end of the Island, continue until the entire Island is completed and then start from the beginning again. If you have any questions, please call the Highway Department at 773-9632 anytime Monday – Friday, 8 AM – 4 PM. Following the guidelines listed will insure that the Town can pick up your branches.

GUIDELINES FOR BRANCH PICKUP

1. Branches no larger than 3” in diameter.
2. Branches piled neatly, waist high, close to the road with all cut ends facing the road.
3. Branches must be free of roots and dirt. No rocks, stumps, leaves, sweepings, twigs, vines or rubbish. They pose a great danger to both employees and equipment and will not be picked up.
4. Town employees cannot enter private property. Please do not request them to do so.
5. Branch pickup is for routine tree trimming only, NOT for tree removal done by a private contractor, clearing lots, trimming trees in wooded areas behind lots or tree trimming to extend lots.

POSTING SIGNS ON UTILITY POLES, PARKING ON LAWN PROHIBITED

Temporary signs, including garage sale signs, shall not be attached to trees, fences, utility poles, street signs and the like. All temporary signs, except political signs, require a permit.

Outdoor storage of abandoned, junked, discarded or unlicensed vehicles upon private property is illegal within the Town. These vehicles are allowed only if “...such vehicle or part or piece thereof is stored or deposited in a completely enclosed building.” No front yard shall be used for parking, except for the driveway.

Call Zoning Officer Mr. John McCarthy at 773-9600, ext. 637 to report violations.

DOGS OWNERS: GET A LICENSE AND PLEASE CLEAN UP

All dogs must be licensed and inoculated for rabies at 4 months of age. A dog owner whose dog is without a license will be issued a summons. It is the responsibility of the dog owner to keep the dog on a leash and under control at all times. It is the owner’s responsibility to clean up dog feces and properly dispose of it. Take a bag when you walk your dog. Our parks and other public place are for everyone’s use and dog feces left behind are a problem for everyone.

Contact Animal Control Officer Greg Butcher at 556-1066 with any concerns.

GET PERMITS BEFORE BEGINNING A PROJECT

Are you thinking about doing a spring or summer project? In most cases you’ll need a permit from the Building Department for projects completed by homeowners themselves as well as those done by contractors. If you start the project without a permit, fees are doubled. Contact the Building Department at 773-9600, ext. 646.

Projects requiring BUILDING PERMITS:

- Additions Sheds, playhouses greater than 140 sq. ft.
- Decks and docks Storage buildings
- Electrical and plumbing modifications
- Garages Wood stoves and fireplaces
- Pools Structural renovations

Projects requiring LOCATION PERMITS:

- Fences
- Sheds, playhouses smaller than 140 sq. ft.

