

Grand Island News

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REMINDER:

Board of Assessment Review meets on June 5

Go to gigov.com after April 21 for Recreation's summer program booklet.

Registration: June 14, 10 AM-12, Nike Base.

LAST DAY for town/county tax payments is **June 30**. Pay at the Clerk's Office 8:30am – 5pm Monday-Friday

AUTO BUREAU

Erie County **MOBILE AUTO BUREAU** is at GI Town Hall every **WEDNESDAY** from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm.

Grand Island Town Hall
2255 Baseline Road, Grand Island, NY 14072
Phone: 773-9600 Fax: 773-9618

Is Your House Number Visible?

If an emergency vehicle needed to get to you, could your house be easily found on a dark night? Can a delivery person easily distinguish your house from others nearby? Could a school bus driver correctly identify your house?

The answer is yes to all three questions if you have your house number clearly posted on your house and on both sides of your mailbox.

According to the New York State Building Code, in effect on Grand Island, address numbers shall be Arabic numerals, a minimum 4" high, stroke width 1/2" and shall contrast with their background. These rules are an effort to make sure that the numbers are "plainly visible and legible from the street or road fronting the property."

If your house is set back from the road, or if you

have trees and other vegetation buffering your house from the road, posting your house number on a sign near the road or on **both sides** of your mailbox becomes essential. Remember that not every one needing to find your home follows the mail route. The time saved because you have your home clearly marked could make all the difference in the world in an emergency.

Pay Your Water/Sewer Bill Automatically

You can now make arrangements to have your Grand Island water and sewer bill automatically deducted from your personal checking account. A great service to you snowbirds, and others who just prefer electronic payment.

There are many advantages: Avoid late charges, save postage, save unnecessary trips to Town Hall and there is no fee charged for this service.

All you need to do is bring a VOIDED check from the checking account you wish to use, fill out and sign an authorization form. This can be completed in the water billing office in the upper level of Town Hall. Call 773-9600 ext. 614 for more details. Check out the information flyer on the Town's website.

Go to gigov.com then click on:
^Departments
^Water
^Water/Sewer Bill – ACH Debit.



Household Tips to 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 2007 Stormwater Management Annual Report, The Town's annual required progress report will be available for public comment on May 5th 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 23rd 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, 8:00 am until 4:00 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.

ZONING CODE ATTEMPTS TO IMPROVE NEIGHBORHOODS

The Town Zoning Code prohibits several things in an attempt to improve the looks and safety of Grand Island. 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.*" Temporary signs, including garage sale signs, shall not be attached to trees, fences, utility poles, street signs and the like and should be removed as soon as the event being advertised is finished. 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.

PASSPORT APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE AT CLERK'S OFFICE

Passport applications can be processed at the Town Clerk's Office **Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 12 noon and 1:00 – 4:00 pm** and anytime in the evening or on weekends by appointment. Photographs are available for \$7.00 a set. All of the necessary forms are available in the Town Clerk's Office. For more information call 773-9600 ext. 600.

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	Structural renovations
Garages	Wood stoves and fireplaces
Pools	

Projects requiring **LOCATION PERMITS:**

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