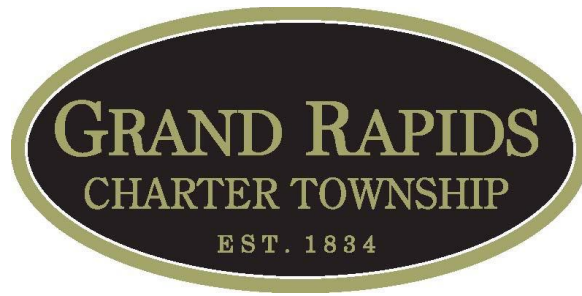


MICHAEL J. DEVRIES  
SUPERVISOR

EDWARD J. ROBINETTE  
CLERK

DAVID A. VAN DYKE  
TREASURER



PHILIP D. YEITER  
TRUSTEE  
VASILIKI CHRISTOPOULOS  
TRUSTEE  
MEGHAN MOTT  
TRUSTEE  
ROBERT ROTH  
TRUSTEE

## *News Brief* - December 2022 -

### **Personnel Updates**

After 36 years of service as a Grand Rapids Township Trustee Lee VanPopering passed away on October 1, 2022.

Lee left a legacy of common-sense good governance to protect the people's tax dollars, believed in limited government to protect individual rights and supported wise land use decisions to protect the integrity of neighborhoods. Lee will be missed.

State law requires that open positions be filled within 30 days of vacancy. The Township Board has appointed Robert Roth to serve the remainder of Lee VanPopering's term.

Grand Rapids Township welcomes Jodi Ryan as the Receptionist/Administrative Assistant, she joins us after many years working in the educational administration field.

### **Planning Updates**

Grand Rapids Township is beginning the 12 to 16-month process to review the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. It begins with an update to each of the Grand Rapids Township maps that illustrate current land uses, population growth patterns and density, define wetlands, drain districts, water and sanitary sewer districts and primary road traffic counts. The Planning Commission will then look at current census data and begin the analysis of the 5 land use areas of the township. The goal is to adopt an amended Plan in early 2024. Please watch for additional information as we will be sharing the compiled maps and data over the next few months.

Grand Rapids Township completed the Fulton Street Fire Station remodel close to on-time and 2% over budget. The project was funded with about 50% of the federal American Rescue Funds that totaled \$1,950,000. Next year the remaining funds will be used to construct a watermain along the East Beltline to provide public water and extend sanitary sewer service to both the Township Hall and Park, and repair trail segments in the park and 63<sup>rd</sup> District Court Plaza.

Forest Hills Public Schools has begun construction on a new administration building between the Aquatic Center and the Fine Arts Center. The building will replace the very old tired former elementary school at Burton and Cascade Rd.

### **Fun Facts**

- The township has adopted the 2023 budget which is balanced with no debt, and provisions were made for continued funding of the endowment funds that provide for future park, trail and building maintenance and improvements. The Grand Rapids Township millage rate remained at 1.5995 mils (\$1.60 for every thousand dollars of taxable value).
- The new Spectrum Orthopedic Center at 3 Mile and the East Beltline is about the same size as the current Spectrum building.
- There are 149 units in the Avanterra project on Knapp St. west of I-96 and east of St. John's Home.
- The November 2022 election had voter turnout of 71.8% of registered voters and over 44% voted absentee.
- The roads in the Cascadia and Beverly Hills Neighborhoods will be replaced and 4 Mile Rd. west of the East Beltline to Bird Ave. will be expanded with a center turn lane.
- A mile of Grand Rapids Township trails will be repaved in addition to a new trail on the north side of 4 Mile to Provin Trails Park will be constructed in partnership with Plainfield Township.

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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 "Report a

Problem" link at:

[www.grandrapidstwp.org](http://www.grandrapidstwp.org)