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VASILIKI CHRISTOPOULOS
TRUSTEE
MEGHAN MOTT
TRUSTEE

News Brief

- WINTER 2021 -

Lt. Luke Werdon Appointed Fire Chief

Effective October 4th, Grand Rapids Township appointed Lt. Luke Werdon as Fire Chief. Chief Werdon began his career with the township in the spring of 1996 as a paid-on call firefighter and progressed to a full-time position in 1999. His record of over 25 years of experience, with progression to Shift Sergeant and then to Lieutenant, allowed him to develop the skills and leadership qualities to lead the Grand Rapids Township Fire Department. "I'm excited to take on the role of Fire Chief and my goal is to lead our team to strengthen our prevention and training programs to better serve the residents and guests of Grand Rapids Township."

2022 Election Preview

If you vote in Precinct 8 at Lincoln School there will be a change in location to the Forest Hills Baptist Church located at 3900 Fulton Street SE. The change was necessary due to the school's concerns about safety, health and security for the staff and students at the Lincoln School Campus. There will be future notifications and reminders sent to the voters in that precinct prior to each election in 2022. The Township is appreciative for the use of that facility for many years and understands that safety and security take priority. Thank you to Forest Hills Baptist Church for their cooperation in providing the space for both Precinct 3 and Precinct 8.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds

Grand Rapids Township will receive a total of $1.94 million in restricted use funding to be authorized for expenditure by 2024. The Township Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) includes the listing of priority projects from essential to desirable and this one-time funding will allow Grand Rapids Township to accelerate a number of projects. The Fire/EMS Station on Fulton St SE will be extensively remodeled at a cost estimated at $850,000. The design and construction drawings are being finalized with a completion date in 2023. The Township will allocate $550,000 to a watermain connector along the East Beltline that will provide water service to the Township offices, fire department and park shelter. The remainder of the funding will be allocated to qualifying CIP projects at Crahen Valley Park.

Development Projects

Kuyper College sold the south portion of their property to Wheeler Development and they are constructing 52 townhomes. Construction will begin shortly on a Daycare Facility on the north side of the former Sunshine Church entrance on the East Beltline. The Planning Commission is reviewing a Spectrum Health expansion proposal at 3 Mile and the East Beltline.

2022 Road and Trail Projects

The list of road maintenance work is dependent on contractor and material costs which will be finalized early in 2022. The February Grand Rapids Township News Brief will confirm the neighborhood roads that will be included. Trail reconstruction will take place in and around the township park with additional segments being prioritized that require special attention due to erosion, settling or other issues.

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