

March 31, 2008

To: Village Residents

### **WATER RATE & LATE FEE INCREASE**

Village water rates will increase from \$4.50 per 1,000 gallons to \$5.50 per 1,000 gallons effective April 1, 2008. The increase in rates is necessary to pay down the existing debt for prior water projects and the upcoming water project, as well as to cover all expenses associated with the water department.

The rates for your April bill will remain at \$4.50 per 1,000 gallons, with the new rates in effect on the water bill that you receive in early June.

The council has approved an increase in the late fees charged on water billings in an effort to collect water payments on time. The late fee will increase to 10% of the past due amount effective on June 1, 2008. This fee is consistent with the surrounding communities of New Buffalo City, New Buffalo Township and the Village of Michiana.

Please be sure to mail your payment in plenty of time to avoid the late fees. The fees are automatically calculated by the utility billing program on the day that they become past due; therefore it is very important to make sure that you get your payment in on time, as there will be no adjustments made for payments received late.

### **WATERMAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

The Village has been in the planning stages for almost two years for a water project to replace all remaining 4" water lines in the Village. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has mandated this update to the water system which will help to improve pressure in the affected areas and will improve the water flow in case of a fire in the Village.

While every consideration has been given to minimize the disturbance of roads, driveways and landscaping; some areas will be disturbed. Please note that the Village right-of-way extends beyond the paved area of the road, sometimes as much as 15' on either side. Every effort will be made to restore all areas to their pre-construction condition.

Construction is a dusty, noisy period and is expected to be completed by June 20<sup>th</sup>. We will work closely with Merritt Engineering and the contractor to minimize the impact of the construction. Please be aware that there will be times of inconvenience when access to your property may be difficult or water to your home may be temporarily interrupted for short periods of time.

The areas that will be affected include Ridge, Walnut, West McKean, Perkins between Maple and Calla, Calla and Lake Avenue. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Village office or our consulting engineers, Merritt Engineering, Inc. at (269) 428-4424.

I hope that you all have a very enjoyable year in Grand Beach.

Mary Robertson  
Clerk/Treasurer