



# GRAND ISLAND NEWSLETTER

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Emergency  
911

Erie County Sheriff's Office  
(716) 858-2903

Grand Island State Police  
(716) 773-9651

Grand Island Fire Co.  
(716) 773-4334

NYS Park Police  
(716) 278-1777

Poison Control  
1 (800) 222-1222

Grand Island Town Hall  
(716) 773-9600

Republic Services  
(716) 614-3333

Post Office  
(716) 773-5355

Grand Island Library  
(716) 773-7124

E-ZPass  
1 (800) 333-8655

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## FROM THE SUPERVISOR

I've been around the world, but summer in Western New York is my favorite, if less-tropical paradise. I'm truly amazed by how far Grand Island has come in the past two years.

My goal is to help Grand Island as much as I can while I am Supervisor, and to set up a solid foundation for the next Supervisor. We're creating a bedrock for future leadership to build upon, to keep Grand Island beautiful for decades to come.

We passed solar initiatives, upgraded our roundabout, fought for cashless tolls, and protected hundreds of acres of forest. By 2019 we will have sidewalks up and down Grand Island Boulevard, the West River Multi-use Path open, the Holiday Inn Express (former Dunlop building) up and running, and the New York State Welcome Center built.

We should be proud. These are achievements we can all celebrate together. The story of Grand Island continues to echo across the region — what we have done here has had an impact beyond. I talk to people every day who don't live on Grand Island, but want to tell us to keep up the good work, the grants, the initiatives and the projects. They can sense that Grand Island is only getting better.

Our committees and advisory boards are extremely active. More citizens than ever are involved. We've created task forces and subcommittees to make them even more effective. Town Board meetings and workshops are live streamed, and thousands are able to see what goes on in Town Hall.

I invite you to participate in whatever way you can. Reach out to me at my office if you have any questions or comments. I'd be happy to talk to you.

- Nate McMurray

## Grand Island

**20,735** population

**33** square miles

**43** median age

**1,300** acres of State Park land

**48** average temperature

**6** schools

**27** miles of waterfront

# DeGlopper Memorial

## Honoring a local hero

The Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial Expansion Project—located at the intersection of Grand Island Blvd. and Baseline Rd.—is a community endeavor that will result in a memorial park honoring one of Grand Island's most famous heroes.

Charles Neilans DeGlopper was a tall, gentle farmer from Grand Island, New York, who enjoyed swimming in the Niagara River and picnicking and exploring the outdoors with his friends. He was also awarded a Medal of Honor for sacrificing his life during the Battle of Normandy in World War II.

DeGlopper was only 21 when he entered the United States Army. Far from home, his platoon was tasked with securing a bridge spanning the Merderet River in France. DeGlopper's group was cut off from the rest of the company, and faced deadly assault fire. DeGlopper volunteered to distract the enemy while his comrades withdrew.

"I can hold them off," he said to his friends, according to surviving sources, "you go straight back, and you'll be okay." He walked into full view of Germans and began to fire, allowing his comrades to escape through a gap in a hedge. DeGlopper was struck multiple times by enemy bullets.

Though this young man was seriously wounded, he continued to fire, focused only on allowing his friends to retreat. DeGlopper died on that bridge, defending his comrades, but his sacrifice successfully drew enemy fire away from his fellow American soldiers, who regrouped and were able to take the bridgehead, an important tactical victory.

The Town of Grand Island has commissioned sculptor Susan Geissler to create a statue of DeGlopper. The end result of the project will be a beautiful park with a memorial inclusive of all military branches.

Prior to the DeGlopper Memorial Expansion Project, the majority of this site was an abandoned gas station. The structure was removed and the

site cleaned up through community collaboration. The completed DeGlopper Memorial will act as a trailhead for the trails, bike paths, and sidewalks being installed throughout the Island.

Hundreds of residents came together to fundraise and gather support for this project. "We've got a lot of good people working on this," said Erik Anderson, Chairman of the DeGlopper Memorial Expansion Committee.

The DeGlopper Memorial Expansion Committee, the Pfc. Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post No. 9249, the Grand Island American Legion Post No. 1346, the Grand Island Moose Lodge No. 180, the DeGlopper Family, the Town of Grand Island, two Boy Scout troops, and many local businesses collaborated to raise over \$15,000 to date. The donated property and in-kind contributions total over one million dollars.

Supervisor Nate McMurray said, "This project is so important to Grand Island. I want to do the DeGlopper family and the entire Island proud and help make this memorial a reality." Look for the expansion to be completed by 2019.

## Summer Events

The Supervisor's Office compiles a summer event guide that includes Grand Island concerts, walks, meetings, picnics, classes, movie screenings, performances, activities, and more. Most events are family friendly free or low-cost events sponsored by a community group or organization.

**Check our website, Facebook page, and the bulletin board at Town Hall** starting in May for the ever-growing list. If you would like your event to be included, please send information to [ewynne@grand-island.ny.us](mailto:ewynne@grand-island.ny.us).

The Town reserves the right to deny or remove any event from this list. The Town is not responsible for nor liable for these events, unless otherwise noted. This guide is compiled as a public service designed to enhance community involvement in local events.

# Town Board

**Nate McMurray**  
**Jennifer Baney**  
**Beverly Kinney**  
**Mike Madigan**  
**Peter Marston Jr.**



Town Board meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of every month, excluding holidays, (see full schedule on the Town website) at Town Hall. Workshops begin at 6 p.m. in the first floor conference room, and the Town Board Meetings begin at 8 p.m. in the courtroom upstairs.

## ADVISORY BOARDS

The Town of Grand has over 15 volunteer advisory boards and committees, ranging from the Economic Development Advisory Board to the Sidewalk Committee. These groups advise the Town Board on various subjects. All meetings are open to the public. Visit the Town website to learn more.

## DMV AT TOWN HALL

The Department of Motor Vehicles has a satellite office in the Town Hall lobby each Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



## BONFIRE SEASON

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) regulates open burning in New York State. Campfires of clean wood or charcoal under three feet tall and four feet wide are permitted from May 15 to March 15.

The **burning of leaves** or other waste, however, is not permitted anywhere in New York State. More information can be found online at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/58519.html>.

## REMEMBERANCE PROGRAM

The Town of Grand Island offers a Rememberance Program to honor loved ones. For a small donation a bench, tree, or boulder can be dedicated and placed in one of Grand Island's parks or playgrounds. Visit [www.ginyparks.com](http://www.ginyparks.com) or call the **Parks office** at 773-7686 for details.



## Elevator at Town Hall

Coming soon!

The Supervisor's Office obtained a grant to pay for an elevator at Town Hall. This ADA-compliant elevator will provide access to the upstairs of Town Hall for residents who cannot navigate the main staircase. Municipal offices, Town Court, and Town Board meetings will now be more accessible.

"It's a long-overdue addition to Town Hall," said Deputy Supervisor Jim Sharpe, who was instrumental to the process. "It'll be on the Grand Island Boulevard side soon."

## Find us on Facebook!

 Follow @TownofGrandIslandNY for regular updates on events, news, and more.

*VISIT OUR WEBSITE*

[www.grandislandny.us](http://www.grandislandny.us)  
for news, events, and resources

## DRUG COLLECTION

Dispose of unwanted sharps and medications in the black collection boxes in the Town Hall vestibule. Safe disposal keeps drugs and needles out of waterways and landfills and away from anyone who might misuse them.

# Annual Water Quality Report for 2017

Town of Grand Island, 2255 Baseline Road  
Public Water Supply ID#1400451

To comply with State regulations, The Town of Grand Island Water Department issues an annual report describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to enhance your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect our drinking water sources. This report provides an overview of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards.

The Town of Grand Island's report is available at [www.grandislandny.us/departments/engineering\\_department/water\\_quality\\_reports.php](http://www.grandislandny.us/departments/engineering_department/water_quality_reports.php)

The report can be found online at the URL listed above. If you would like a hard copy of the report, please contact the Engineering Department by phone at 716-773-9600 x635, by mail at Robert H. Westfall, P.E., Town Engineer at Town of Grand Island, 2255 Baseline Road, Grand Island, NY 14072, or by email at [rwestfall@grand-island.ny.us](mailto:rwestfall@grand-island.ny.us).

## 2018 Annual Stormwater Management Report

The Town of Grand Island's progress report will be available for public comment on May 18. The report can be found online at [www.grandislandny.us/departments/engineering\\_department](http://www.grandislandny.us/departments/engineering_department), at Town Hall, and at the Grand Island Public Library. **Submit comments** by May 31 to Robert H. Westfall, P.E., Town Engineer at Town of Grand Island, 2255 Baseline Road, Grand Island, NY 14072, or email to [rwestfall@grand-island.ny.us](mailto:rwestfall@grand-island.ny.us)

### WHAT IS STORMWATER?

Stormwater is water from rain and snowmelt that can carry pollutants from streets, construction sites, and land into storm sewers and ditches. Eventually, the storm sewers and ditches empty this water 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 killing aquatic life. Bacteria 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.

### PREVENT STORMWATER POLLUTION

Buy household products such as cleaners and weed spray labeled "nontoxic." 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.

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

Drain pool or spa water into the sanitary sewer system. Follow directions on pesticides and fertilizers; don't over-water or use before a rain. Put pet waste in the trash to avoid spreading bacteria.

Contact Erie County's Household Hazardous Waste program (858-6800) for disposal recommendations.

# Grand Island to Host Solarize Campaign

## Program Offers Limited-Time Solar Discounts to Residents

The Town of Grand Island will be taking part in a Solarize Grand Island Campaign, a program that makes investing in solar power easier and more affordable for local residents and businesses. The Solarize Grand Island campaign will launch May 12, 2018. Residents and business owners can attend events learn about the program, talk to local installers, and find out if solar is the right fit for them.

After a thorough pre-qualification process, Solarize Grand Island will select a designated solar installer to work with residents throughout the campaign. Residents and businesses who sign up for solar installations by the fall deadline will be able to take advantage of group rates below market prices. Historically, Solarize campaigns can lower the cost of solar up to 20 percent.

New York State's Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) helps make the transition to solar easier and more affordable by supporting locally-organized community campaigns aimed at getting a critical mass of area homes and businesses to invest in solar. NYSERDA, a public benefit corporation, offers objective information and analysis, innovative programs, technical expertise, and funding to help New Yorkers increase energy efficiency, save money, use renewable energy, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

The Town of Grand Island has been working to complete High Impact Actions associated with NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities initiative. The Solarize Grand Island campaign will help Grand Island achieve NYSERDA's Clean Energy Community designation while making solar energy more accessible to Grand Islanders.

Solarize Grand Island will be supported by

NYSERDA under Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's NY-Sun initiative. NY-Sun will invest up to \$1 billion in solar power through 2023 to significantly expand solar installations across the State, ultimately allowing New York's solar industry to become self-sustaining.

The Solarize Grand Island Team is excited by the enthusiasm for the upcoming campaign and is grateful to have a dedicated committee of community leaders and residents who are committed to clean energy initiatives.

The campaign kick-off will be held in the courtroom at Town Hall on Saturday, May 12, 2018 from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Details will be posted on our website.



The campaign is led by Councilwoman Bev Kinney. Deputy Supervisor Jim Sharpe and Councilwoman Jennifer Baney are vice leads.

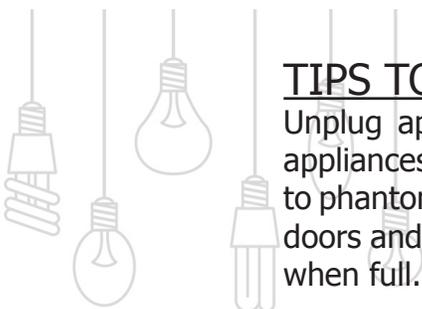
Committee members include Jennifer Peresie, Economic Development Advisory Board; Paul Leuchner, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board; Diane Evans and Jeff Green, Conservation Advisory Board; Roger Cook, community leader; Bryce Shipman, local farmer; Celia Spacone, retired Executive Director of the Buffalo Psychiatric Center; Cyndy Montana, former Assistant to the Supervisor; and Jennifer Jablon Pusatier, Chamber of Commerce.

Technical support provided by Ron Milks and Bill Shaw, Code Enforcement Department; Lynn Dingey and Chris Dann, Engineering Department.

### TIPS TO CONSERVE ENERGY AND LOWER YOUR BILL

Unplug appliances when not in use. "Phantom," or "vampire" power comes from appliances or chargers on standby. Up to 10 percent of total power use is attributed to phantom power. Other tips to lower your monthly electric bill: weather strip or caulk doors and windows to prevent drafts. Run the dishwasher and washing machine only when full. Wash clothes in cold water. Use motion-sensor lights outdoors.

*For more information: [www.grandislandny.us](http://www.grandislandny.us)*



Grand Island Town Hall  
2255 Baseline Rd  
Grand Island, NY 14072

# Town Services

How can we help?

Town Hall is open  
Monday through Friday  
from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## RECREATION

The Recreation Department runs a variety of instructional, competitive, and social **programs** year-round for both adults and kids. Booklets with 2018 registration information will be available on our website and in schools starting in May. Summer youth programs include Sports Craze, Art Studio, Fishing Club, Swim Lessons, Baseball Clinic, Tennis Instruction, and more. Adult softball, soccer, and golf are available. Online registration for both coming soon!

**Celebrations and special events** include the Memorial Day Ceremony, held at 10 a.m. on May 28 at Charles N. DeGlopper Park, and the Independence Day Parade, Dick Bessel Run, and Kids Run, which begin at 9 a.m. on July 4.

The **Tuesday Night Concert Series** runs June 26 to August 7 at the Town Commons. June and July concerts start at 7 p.m, and August concerts start at 6:30 p.m. The Recreation Department is located at 3278 Whitehaven Road. For more information, please contact Joseph Menter at 773-9680, or email [jmenter@grand-island.ny.us](mailto:jmenter@grand-island.ny.us).

## TOWN CLERK

The Town Clerk keeps records of Town meetings, births, deaths, and other archival material. Town Clerk Pattie Frentzel can be reached at 773-9600 x622. Pattie and her staff are **notary publics**.

## Apply for a License or Passport

- Dog license
- Fishing license
- Hunting license
- Marriage license
- Passport

## Also at the Clerk's Office...

- Pay a water bill
- Pay a tax bill
- Buy an E-ZPass tag
- Obtain a disabled parking permit tag

## BUILDING AND ZONING

The Building Department is responsible for building and fire safety inspections, building and grading permits, plan review, and the New York State Commercial and Residential Building Codes. They enforce the Town Code and handle code violations and zoning issues. The **Town Code** can be found on our website. It contains information on abandoned vehicles, signs, litter and dumping, and property regulations. Call 716-773-9600 x 646 or visit our website for more information.

**Grading Permits** are required for recreational ponds and when moving over 60 cubic yards of fill on site.

## Building Permits

You need a building permit for the following:

- Additions
- Decks
- Docks
- Structural renovations
- Wood stoves or fireplaces
- Electrical or plumbing modifications
- Finished basements
- Pools deeper than 24"
- Solar arrays
- Standby generators
- All new buildings (except sheds smaller than 140 square feet)

## DOG CONTROL

Barking, aggressive, abused, stray, or unleashed dog? Page the Town dog control officers at 556-1066, leave a message at 773-9654, or email [dogcontrol@grand-island.ny.us](mailto:dogcontrol@grand-island.ny.us) for these or other dog-related issues.

Report **coyote issues** to the DEC at 851-7200. For other animal concerns, contact the **SPCA** of Erie County at 875-7360.

## ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT AND WATER RESOURCES

The Engineering Department staff manages the Geographic Information System (GIS), reviews site plan/excavation/grading applications, oversees Capital Improvement Projects, handles issues pertaining to drainage, traffic lights, filling, grading, water and wastewater, and much more.

### Garbage and Recycling

Republic Services is the contractor for Grand Island garbage and recycling pickup. Both should be placed within 5 feet of the curb by 7 a.m. on the day of collection. Each residence is allowed 10 trash items per week (bags or containers not to exceed 60 lbs.), plus one bulk trash item. Recycling totes should be placed 3 feet away from any other objects to allow the truck mechanism to grab the tote. To see a route schedule or garbage and recycling guidelines, please visit the Engineering page on our website. **Republic Services** can be reached at 716-614-3333.

### Electronic Waste

Nearly 100 percent of e-waste (old computers, cell phones, and televisions, etc) is recyclable. However, e-waste accounts for 70 percent of toxic waste. Most thrift stores accept working electronics, and many manufacturers or stores will take old devices back for a small fee. Other options include recycling centers, such as the ones listed below, that will take e-waste for a per-pound fee.

**Hazman** 177 Wales Ave. Tonawanda, NY 998-8073 (paints, aerosols, pesticides, gasoline, TVs and computers, air conditioners and refrigerators)

**Frey Electric** 100 Pearce Ave. Tonawanda, NY 874-1710 (batteries, fluorescent light bulbs, computers, etc.)

### Water Billing

New: pay your water bill **online** at the Town of Grand Island website with a credit card or check via MuniPAY. ACH debit applications for water bill Auto-Pay are also available on the website.

Did you know: fixing a leak can save hundreds of gallons of water a day. A leaky toilet tank can be detected by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Wait 15 minutes without flushing; if the water in the bowl is colored, there is a leak.

*For more information: [www.grandislandny.us](http://www.grandislandny.us)*

## GOLDEN AGE CENTER

The Grand Island Golden Age Center provides a variety of services to all Grand Island residents aged 50+. Their mission is to provide social, recreational, and educational activities to meet the needs of seniors. Membership is free. This Town-sponsored congregate site provides **transportation services**, home-cooked **meals**, special **events**, and weekly **programs**. The Golden Age Center offers 32 weekly activities (most are free!) ranging from French to Tai Chi to bridge.

Visit our website for a copy of the the Golden Age Center's monthly newsletter "The Golden Voice," which contains an updated activity schedule. Copies can also be picked up at the Golden Age Center, located at 3278 Whitehaven Road, or at Town Hall.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Menter at 773-9682, or e-mail [jrmenter@grand-island.ny.us](mailto:jrmenter@grand-island.ny.us).

## HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The Highway Department is located at 1820 Whitehaven Road. The Superintendent of Highways, Dick Crawford Jr., can be reached at 773-9632.

### Road Ownership

The Town owns 78 of the 185 miles of roadways on Grand Island. For questions on road and roadside maintenance or signage, please contact the respective agency listed below.

#### **Erie County: 825-6996**

Long, Huth, Stony Point, Whitehaven, Love, East River, Baseline, Bush

#### **NYS Dept. of Transportation: 438-2396**

Grand Island Blvd, Beaver Island Pkwy, Stony Point Ext. (under South Bridge)

#### **NYS Thruway Authority: 631-9017**

I-190, Grand Island Bridges

#### **Town of Grand Island: 773-9632**

All other roads and streets

### Branch Pickup

The Highway Department picks up branches less than six inches in diameter from homeowner tree trimming only. Place the branches in a waist-high pile at the edge of your property, cut ends facing out. The branch pickup route time frame varies. Please call the Highway Department at 773-9632 for mulch.

# Cashless Tolling

## Now on Grand Island

On March 29 cashless tolling began on Grand Island. Work started in late February, when the New York State Thruway Authority erected gantries, the overhead structures that scan E-ZPass tags and license plates. The gantries capture data at highway speed, so there is no longer a need for motorists to stop or slow down to pay a toll.

Supervisor McMurray said the new cashless tolling system is "faster, cleaner, and better."

Over the next few months, the Thruway Authority will complete their three-phase plan for transferring to open-road cashless tolling. Drivers should stay alert for temporary traffic pattern changes during this process. By phase three, the old toll barriers will be removed, and traffic will flow smoothly over the bridges in two lanes.

Governor Cuomo's office stated that "the 65,000 motorists who travel through the Grand Island barriers each day" will "benefit from improved traffic flow and reduced congestion."

E-ZPass users will not see a change in their billing. Motorists without E-ZPass will receive a monthly bill at the address associated with their vehicle's registration. The cost of the toll will remain the same. Visit the Town Clerk's Office in Town Hall to purchase an  tag.

## GRAND ISLAND FIRE COMPANY SEEKING EMS VOLUNTEERS



The Grand Island Fire Company created an Active Volunteer EMS membership category. This category only requires emergency medical services skills, and does not include firefighting duties. Although all members receive basic exterior firefighting training, emphasis will be on the EMT-B and paramedic certification.

All Active Volunteer EMS members must maintain paramedic certification, fulfill squad duties, complete nine drills, and attend six general meeting per year. Contact the **Grand Island Fire Company** at 773-4334 for more information.



**GRAND ISLAND**  
HEART OF THE NIAGARA

**WATER MAIN BREAK?**

Call 716-773-9641

### TIPS TO CONSERVE WATER AND LOWER YOUR BILL

Fix a leaky faucet or plumbing joint: save **600** gallons per leak

Check toilet water level, fill valve, and flapper: save **3,000** gallons

Install water-saving shower heads or flow restrictors: save **800** gallons

Run full loads in the washing machine and dishwasher: save **800** gallons

Shorten your showers by 1-2 minutes: save **700** gallons

Sweep, don't hose down driveways and sidewalks: save **600** gallons

Water your lawn only when it needs it, not every day: save **1,500** gallons