

# Grass Lake



# express

JULY 2021

## SESQUICENTENNIAL EVENTS

It is a busy year of celebration for Grass Lake as the village commemorates its 150<sup>th</sup> birthday; it was officially incorporated by the State of Michigan on March 31, 1871. Multiple, family-friendly events are scheduled throughout this year and we encourage you to attend them— see the enclosed flyer highlighting events presently scheduled. Information on some of the events is also available on the village website: [www.villageofgrasslake.com/sesquicentennial](http://www.villageofgrasslake.com/sesquicentennial).

## Sesquicentennial Commemorative Plates

*If you would like to have a keepsake to commemorate the village's 150<sup>th</sup> year, plates are available for sale at \$25.00 each. Plates can be ordered at the village office or through organizations such as the VFW and Lost Railway Museum. The Friends of Grass Lake are taking orders and have a booth at the weekly Farmers Market with a plate on display. The Chamber of Commerce has two locations in town where plates can be purchased: the Grass Lake Pharmacy and the Copper Nail Community Resale Shop.*



## GOVERNMENT



**Meetings:** As of June 1, all meetings of the Village Council, Planning Commission and Downtown Development Authority are held in person. For the months of the covid pandemic, these public bodies had met virtually via Zoom.

### Road Construction Projects:

Construction should begin on July 6 for the repaving of S. Union Street between Michigan Avenue and the east end of the village limits near the Grass Lake Middle School. Engineering design and oversight of the project is coordinated by Jackson County's Department of Transportation. Michigan Paving is the contractor that was awarded the paving contract; it is scheduled for completion

before school begins in late August.

**Water Project:** A water line replacement project is scheduled during the month of July for **Watson Street** between W. Michigan Avenue and Water Street. The current water line has been repeatedly repaired during the past few years and was identified for replacement. After the new water line is installed, along with a new fire hydrant at the corner of Watson and Michigan Avenue, the street's roadbed will be reconstructed with new base material and 3 1/2" of asphalt.

### Planning Commission Appointment

We are pleased to announce that Kevin Caldwell has been appointed to the Planning Commission (PC) to fill a

vacancy for a term that expires in December 2023. Kevin and his family have been residents in the township for 20 years. Many of you may know Kevin; he is the pastor of the Grass Lake Baptist Church on E. Michigan Avenue. Currently the PC is reviewing action plans that were developed with the adoption of the updated Master Plan approved last December. The PC meets on the first Thursday of each month if business items necessitate a meeting but have a mandatory quarterly meeting. Check the Village website for meeting announcements, agendas, and packet materials.

### 2020 Annual Consumer Confidence

**Report:** DPW Supervisor Paul Lammers completed this report that includes the

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results of water quality tests submitted to EGLE for last year; there were no quality violations. The report is accessible on the home page of the village website at [www.villageofgrasslake.com](http://www.villageofgrasslake.com) by clicking on the link next to the announcement.

**New Flagpole Brackets:** The DDA with support from the American Legion Post 252 and VFW Post 10194 procured new flower brackets that adorn the downtown ornamental light poles. The brackets include a sleeve for the new flags that the American Legion and VFW purchased. This project removes the flagpoles that were originally lining the sidewalks in the downtown district that could impede the progress of people walking in the area. Thanks to the DDA, American Legion and VFW for this enhancement to our downtown.



## COMMUNITY



**Independence Day Events:** Grass Lake's July Fourth Celebrations are back in full force on Sunday with its Parade commencing at 10 am at the elementary school and ending at the County Park, where the Sportmans Club is grilling up its annual chicken BBQ and the beloved Cardboard Boat Races are scheduled to begin at 2 pm. Ghost rider DJ Services will be providing music throughout the afternoon, and in honor of Grass Lake's Sesquicentennial celebration, Tripp's Auto Shop sponsored a fireworks display at dusk; there will be a good view from the park.

**Hydroplane Boat Races on Grass Lake:** The Michigan Hydroplane Racing Association will be having their boat races again this year. If you enjoy boat racing, come out and view the two week-end events this year, scheduled for August 7-8 and September 11-12.

**Heritage Day Events:** In addition to the annual activities associated with Heritage Day, a Community Fair for Sesquicentennial, complete with special contests, is being planned for this year's Heritage Day celebration on September 11. More details to follow next month.