



FEBRUARY 2023

GOVERNMENT



The repair cost
\$145,000.00

Last April, a large mass of fibrous material damaged the pump in the Water Street Lift Station; it immediately flooded, causing irreparable damage to the electronics, controls, alarm and its data gathering equipment within. During this nine-(9)-month-long sewer system repair, residents near the lift station endured a noisy and physical disturbance of a by-pass pump—a pump that provided life-support for the community's waste pumping until the lift station pump repairs were completed in January. Meanwhile, taxpayers fund the repair of an avoidable problem, the cost of which crested \$145,000; Village insurance coverage was capped at \$120,000.

Accountability for our local sewer system is the responsibility of everyone utilizing it. **Sewer rates are directly influenced by emergency repairs.** The easiest and best way to mitigate emergency repairs and damage to the system is to not abuse it.

Sewers are designed to dispose of very specific things. Just because the package reads "flushable" doesn't mean that it's true; flushables do not degrade like toilet paper. Using your toilet to flush away many modern products will cause problems in the sewer line – clog pipes, tangle pumps and result in messy sewer backups into streets, businesses and homes. The drains that connect your home to the main sewer are only big enough to carry

water, toilet paper and human waste – these pipes are often no wider than 4 inches.

What should be flushed? Just toilet paper and human waste.

Any "wet wipe" type of product should be disposed of in the garbage, and not down the toilet. Flushable wipes packaging that says that it will disintegrate like toilet paper is generally not accurate; **these items can cause sewage backups.**

Do NOT flush any of the following items into our Village sewer system:

- **Wipes** (this includes all baby wipes, moist wipes, disinfectant wipes, etc.)
- **Diapers** (cloth, disposable, "flushable")
- **Facial tissues**
- **Toilet bowl scrub pads**
- **Swiffer's**
- **Paper napkins/guest towels**
- **Paper towels**
- **Dental floss**
- **Hair**
- **Cigarette butts**
- **Personal hygiene items** (Sanitary napkins, tampons, condoms, all non-organic)
- **Egg shells, nutshells**
- **Coffee grounds**
- **Fats, oils, and greases**
- **Food seeds and peelings**
- **Wash cloths, towels, cloth napkins, rags**
- **Clothing** (none)
- **Sheet plastic** (no plastic of any kind)
- **Vitamins, medicines or other pharmaceuticals**

More Grass Lake Express items are on the next page



Grass Lake express is produced by Village of Grass Lake staff as a community information resource and we welcome your feedback. Contact information, including emails, phone numbers, and office hours, are found on the website.

■ **Connect with the Village anytime at www.villageofgrasslake.com** ■



GOVERNMENT

■ The **Village office** will be closed Monday, February 20 for *Presidents Day*, observed.

■ **Meetings:** All meetings take place at the Village Hall.

- A Village Council Special Budget Workshop Meeting, January 31st @ 6-9 PM.
- The Village **Planning Commission** is Thursday, February 2 @ 7:30 pm.
- The **DDA** will meet Monday, February 6 @ 6:30 pm.
- Tuesday, February 7, the regular **Village Council** meeting is @7:00 pm.
- A Village Council **Public Hearing** for the Budget is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21, @ 6:30 pm and the regular Village Council meeting regarding approval of the budget is to begin shortly after the Hearing adjourns.

■ **Your rights:** The Village Council meeting agendas provide opportunity at every meeting for residents to speak at the beginning of each agenda in order to have their opinions heard before decisions are made. I would encourage residents to attend meetings, read meeting packets posted to the website, and to ask questions of the local government in order to factually know what decisions are being made, and what data is being used to make those decisions.

The Village Manager and council members can be reached by phone or appointment during business hours, or via email from contact information posted on the Village website.

■ **Quotation:** "And were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter." - **Thomas Jefferson**

COMMUNITY NEWS

■ **Senior Center:** The temporary location for activities continues to be the United Methodist Church for now. Check the website, grasslakeseniors.org.

■ **Scholarship Information:** The Friends of Grass Lake Township Scholarship program is open to Grass Lake High School Seniors for \$1,000 Scholarships (to be awarded in May 2023). Applications may be picked-up at Grass Lake High School Guidance Counselor's Office or Dale Fisher Gallery at 916 Norvell Road; do call 517-522-3705 to schedule pick-up time (or application drop off time) at the Gallery. Applications must be returned to the Scholarship Committee by April 15, 2023 at 5 PM. Mail to: Friends of Grass Lake Township, PO Box 762, Grass Lake, MI 49240 or (see above) drop off at the Gallery.

■ **Grass Lake Ice Skating & Dance Party!** At the Events Park Pavilion on Friday February 17th from 6 to 8:30 pm. With ice skating/DJ/cookies/hot chocolate and dancing. **Fun for the whole family.**

■ **Discussions held about Grass Lake events:** Interested citizens representing Grass Lake Area Historic Society and Coe House, the Historic Depot, the Community Fair, the Village government and the DDA participated in facilitated open discussions to assess and improve the experience of all involved with Grass Lake events including Heritage Day. Contact the Village Manager to be placed on the email list for future involvement..

■ **Street parking and snow plowing:** The Village of Grass Lake requires, via posted signs at Village entrances and supported by the State of Michigan Traffic



"Be yourself; everyone else is already taken."

Oscar Wilde

Code, that all vehicles are removed from streets during the hours of 2 am-6 am. Beyond the obvious risk of being ticketed or towed, here are just a few reasons why residents should park elsewhere after snowfall.

- Move all vehicles from streets before going to bed and enjoy cleared roadways in the morning.
- **For your own convenience:** By clearing the streets of vehicles, the work of snow removal is efficiently completed by DPW staff. This will save your back, your time, and your wallet.
- **For your property:** The Village is not responsible for damage to vehicles or other property that occurs incidentally by the force of the snow, or any object that may be in the snow. Vehicles left on the street are more apt to be damaged by ice, rocks, and other debris contained within the snow being pushed by equipment.
- **For your safety:** Driver's seat visibility from the plow trucks is limited, especially for the International truck. Vehicles are obstructions that make it even more challenging to see pedestrians and children.