



Produced by Village of Grass Lake staff as a community resource. Your feedback is welcomed. All contact and office information is posted on the Village website. [www.villageofgrasslake.com](http://www.villageofgrasslake.com)

## Prompt delivery of utility bills hampered

The Village office is aware that many residents suffered a major delay in receiving their water/sewer bills in January. While all bills went to the Post Office on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, many did not receive their bills until the third week of the month and this has proven inconvenient for everyone.

Village of Grass Lake Water and Sewer utility bills are placed in the mail stream no later than the 4<sup>th</sup> of any month. Regardless of whether or not a bill is received by mail, a resident is still responsible for payment.

If you do not receive your billing as usual, please come in or call the office for billing details. Residents can access their bill details online at the Village website.

Utility bills are viewable online by going to Village website, then Pay Utilities, then log in using the PIN number (Your PIN is

printed on your monthly bills, or else residents can call the office for assistance.). Making a payment is not required to view balances online.

Payments can be made online, in-person, by phone during office hours, and by check deposited in the drop box at the Village Hall.

The Village is looking into alternative notification options to solve the problem long term. These potential solutions include regular envelope mailing of the bills, paperless billing, and auto pay. As options are available, residents will be notified.

## A Recap of Recent, Local Digging Activities

Village Manager Sabrina Edgar reported fielding several complaints from residents regarding consumer-authorized, lateral boring of fiber in yards.

The providers, Comcast and Frontier, were contacted, and as appropriate, company representatives directly reached out to residents.

The Village found that such lateral boring throughout the Village and nearby  
(Continued)

## Public Hearings

After holding five Budget Workshops (open meetings spread out over the last 80 days), the Village Council will present the final draft Budget for FY2026 at a Public Hearing scheduled to take place at 6 PM on February 18, 2025 at the Village Hall.

Citizens are encouraged to participate in the issue discussions at any Public Hearing. The purpose of a Hearing is to receive citizen information and/or opinions. Individuals are encouraged to express themselves, but this is not the place for debating issues. There are limits for how long any individual may talk, but everyone who wishes to be heard will be allowed to speak.

Dismiss the idea that the number of citizens who speak on one side of an issue or the other will determine the decision. One cannot determine whether speakers represent their claimed constituents. Council decisions are the result of careful balancing of the facts and arguments both from the point of view of those directly concerned and of the community at large, with all citizen input given equal consideration if not equal weight.

Again, a Public Hearing is not the place for debates of issues. Council holds the opportunity to state its position and rebut any information or argument as necessary.

### Village 2026 FY

#### BUDGET HEARING NOTICE

TO ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS IN THE VILLAGE OF GRASS LAKE:

Please take notice that a public hearing will be held by the Grass Lake Village Council in the village office, 119 N. Lake Street, Grass Lake on **Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.**

**THE PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE RATE PROPOSED TO BE LEVIED TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED BUDGET WILL BE A SUBJECT OF THIS HEARING.**

The proposed budget is available for inspection. The hearing is open to the public and all those interested are encouraged to attend. Written comments may be directed to the Grass Lake Village Council, P.O. Box 737, Grass Lake, MI 49240.

### Village 2026 FY

## What meetings impact you in February?

### GOVERNMENT

February 4, 6:00 pm: Village Council Budget Workshop Meeting, Village Hall, 119 N. Lake St.

February 4, 7:00 pm: Village Council Regular Meeting, Village Hall

February 6, 6:30 pm: Planning Commission Meeting, Village Hall

February 10, 6:30 pm: Village Downtown Development Authority, Village Hall

February 11, 6:30 pm: Grass Lake Township Board Meeting, Township Hall

February 17, Village Office closed for Presidents Day

February 18, 6:00 pm: Village Budget Public Hearing, Village Hall \*See notice

February 18, 7:00 pm: Village Council Regular Meeting, Village Hall

### COMMUNITY

February 13, 8:00 am: Grass Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce, Village Hall

RECAP, Continued

Township areas has resulted in damage to multiple water service lines, sewer service lines, and the sewer force main along Wolf Lake Rd. In all instances:

- An investigation occurred to determine responsible party.
- The boring contractor and hiring company (Comcast or Frontier) were contacted.
- The Village is assured that whenever the responsible party is identified as Comcast or Frontier, they will reimburse the Village or the Township for damages.
- In addition, all Comcast and Frontier contractors should now have the Village DPW Supervisor's contact information to use before boring with any question regarding location of water or sewer lines.
- The sewer force main damage is estimated to cost \$30,000 for repairs and it is expected to be paid by the provider found responsible. Edgar emphasized that if the cost for this one damage was added to the sewer rate, the increased cost per month in one year would be approximately \$1.79 per REU in both the Township and the Village.

NOTE: Residents can mitigate the risk of a potential increase due to damage by boring companies by not removing the Miss Dig flags placed in their yards.



EARTH DAY CONTEST

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy invites students in kindergarten through fifth grade to enter the annual Michigan Earth Day Poster Contest! Posters must be Michigan-specific and should include wildlife, plants, land or freshwater ecosystems native to Michigan. Entries must be submitted online by March 15. Contact Pam Howd at EGLE-EarthDay@Michigan.gov with questions.

Local Service Groups

There are many ways to support Earth Day 2025. If your group is interested in participating in a volunteer Earth Day activity, please contact Village Manager, Sabrina Edgar, at this email: villagemanager@villageofgrasslake.com

Village News

Change on Council

Elected Trustee, Monica Stevenson, offered a voluntary resignation, effective immediately, to the Village President on January 6, 2025. This was reported at the regular Village Council meeting on January 7. At its January 21 meeting, Council approved the President's appointment of Wes Shemwell to fill this vacancy and complete the Trustee term ending in 2026. Shemwell previously served on the Village Council as an elected Trustee but did not run for reelection in 2022. His return offers continuity and experience.

Council is grateful for the dedicated service of Ms. Stevenson who was active in her position and provided a watchful eye for tax dollar spending throughout her time on Council.

Grass Lake Recreation Plan, 2025-2029 gains approval

During January, the Grass Lake Joint Recreation Committee received the necessary approvals from all three stakeholders—the Grass Lake Charter Township, Village of Grass Lake Council and Grass Lake Community Schools Board—for its proposed Recreation Plan for 2025 –2029. Next, this Plan must be filed with DNR in February so that Grass Lake is eligible for grant opportunities in 2025. Such grants can provide funding to enhance existing local recreation areas and non-motorized trails or add to them. The five members of the Joint Committee represented the Charter Township, the Village and the Community Schools worked together over the past year to create this new plan with the assistance of Jacob Hurt, Region 2 Planning. Thanks go out to citizens who participated in the Recreation Plan online survey last summer; your comments and ideas guided this committee in its work.

Coming Soon!



Mark your calendars for the second Wednesday of the month – starting May through September, from 3–8 PM, for the GRASS LAKE MARKET.

The organization's board has big plans for Grass Lake Market to transform Grass Lake's downtown into a more lively gathering place where neighbors can both shop and connect, where friends can gather and feel the heart of Grass Lake. Lots of shopping is a key factor with opportunities for

musicians, interactive demonstrations, specialty foods, baked goods, food trucks, artisans, food vendors, and of course, farm-fresh produce.

Stay tuned for updates on vendors, activities, and all the exciting surprises we have in store! Please use this QR code or https://bit.ly/3PN1Qnm. The Grass Lake Market board and volunteers are excited about a fresh year and can't wait to have the community on board!