

MARCH

*Spring forward Sunday
March 10 (DST)*

Meetings Scheduled

GOVERNMENT

- March 1: Day One of Fiscal Year 2025
- March 5, 7:00 pm: Village Council Regular Meeting, Village Hall
- March 7, 7:30 pm: Planning Commission Meeting, Village Hall
- March 11, 6:30 pm: Village Downtown Development Authority Meeting, Village Hall
- March 12, 6:30 pm: Grass Lake Charter Township Board Meeting, Township Hall
- March 19, 7:00 pm: Village Council Regular Meeting, Village Hall

COMMUNITY

- March 14, 8:00 am: Grass Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce Meeting, Village Hall

Providing services/planning ahead

The operating budget was approved for March 1, 2024 through February 28, 2025

After a public hearing for the FY25 budget, Council met and approved the budget as presented. Our budget is comprised of fund groups: General Operating, Major Roads, Local Roads, DDA, Building Inspections, Water, and Sewer. Taxes provide a revenue stream for the first four; fees for services provided are responsible for the latter three.

From November through January, open-to-the-public, workshop meetings offered detailed reasoning and visual aids to explain the figures that comprise this "living document." Guidelines for financial management are now in place, as are preparations for future expenditures; a water tower services management contract was signed to provide the best possible service and water quality, maximize our maintenance efforts as state-level requirements for local

testing increases, and portends actual savings to taxpayers within a few years.

By law, fees charged for water and sewer services must cover day-to-day expenses and investment in routine upgrades as well as major overhauls. Fees for water are to cover state-required, daily safety testing and any additional reports it demands. Fees for wastewater cover its safe delivery to Leoni's treatment facility and recognizes our aging infrastructure requires increased maintenance.

Residents can expect notification by mail regarding the financial effect of new rates for services. The FY25 budget is available at: <https://villagegrasslakemi.documents-on-demand.com/>

Questions may be directed to: villagemanager@villageofgrasslake.com.

Calling All Event Planners

Those interested in taking a lead role in a local event in Grass Lake should connect with Grass Lake's branch of **Experience Jackson** for information/encouragement. Contact Grass Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce to learn more: info@glrcc.org 517-522-8838

Park Rental Notice

Reservations for Grass Lake's and other Jackson County Park Picnic Shelters can now be made online at <https://mijackson-countyweb.myvscloud.com/webtrac/web/>

Water rates have been adjusted as follows:

Meter Size	Ready to Serve Charge : <i>No longer includes first 1,000 gallons</i>	Water Tower Debt Service Charge:	Commodity Charge Per 1,000 Gallons <i>Reduced by \$0.30/1,000 gallons</i>	Meter Replacement Charge :
5/8 "	\$18.37	<i>No Change</i>	\$7.70	<i>No Change</i>
1 "	\$39.00	\$9.22	\$7.70	\$3.00
1.5"	\$76.50	\$9.22	\$7.70	\$8.33
2"	\$123.05	\$9.22	\$7.70	\$14.00
Above 2"	\$226.40	\$9.22	\$7.70	\$32.00
				\$42.00

Sewer rates have been adjusted as follows:

Adjusted Rate per REU	Previous Rate per REU
\$77.89	\$72.00

Abbreviations used on invoice: RTS=Ready to Serve charge, WU= Units of 1,000 used. M=Meter, TF=Water Tower Fee, S=Sewer Rate

The Chicken Ordinance

Residents with chickens on their property in the Village should refer to this ordinance, published on the Village website (link here) **\$ 90.20, KEEPING OF DOMESTICATED CHICKENS** (amlegal.com). It provides basic standards for keeping chickens in the village. (4 hens and **no** roosters.) Chickens must be kept in an enclosure or fenced area at all times. Enclosures must be kept in a neat and sanitary condition at all times; and kept in manner that will not disturb the use or enjoyment of neighboring lots due to noise, odor or other adverse impact. Also, **permits are required** to keep chickens in the village.

RAPID RIVER

Below the dam, the river roars, savage in its steep descent, racing as I walk beside it, stumbling over roots and rocks while waves crush boulders splintered white, until at last the slipstream spills into a lake of mirrored blue where water quiets, smooth and deep.

It's here I always come to fish, a place where calm and chaos meet, drawn by what I can't be sure but now, I think, perhaps it's this: how like the river is to prayer, the wild mind when I first sit, the way thoughts tumble, thrashing, quick, until with time, and always, grace, thoughts slow, mind settles, opens wide, spacious as the silent sky. — Sarah Rossiter

CORRECTION

to a public document (Council meeting packet for 2/20/24): January 2024 Sherriff's report reflected 4,448 hours year to date. The correct value is **448.50** hours, year to date.

I Wash My Bottom, Do You?

<https://www.michigan.gov/invasives/news/2024/02/01/notmispecies-webinars-feature-recent-grant-projects>

As of 2019, after trailering boats, and before getting on the road, **Michigan boaters** are required to pull plugs, drain water and remove plants and debris. Yet, the rate of compliance with the 2019 law has been low. In 2021, With help from the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program, Michigan Boating Industries Association (MBIA) launched its "Boaters Prevent AIS" initiative to help boaters understand their role in stopping the spread of aquatic invasive species. **At 9 am, Thursday, March 21**, you can join MBIA's Amanda Wendecker to learn how an industry push, along with an eye-catching campaign, has helped engage thousands of boaters across the state. (see link above)

SPRING REMINDER

MISS DIG 811 should be called for before planting trees, or installing above ground raised beds etc. as long ago buried pipes and wires can be unwanted surprises.

The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) was approved by council at the end of 2023. It is a "living document" that residents are welcome to have say about and offer projects for review. Comments should be submitted

before July for this year. The CIP document is available on the village website.

— INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE —

Completion of the sidewalk crossing over the railroad track along N. Lake Stree is taking shape. This project is fully funded by a line item specifically for this purpose in the current Michigan State budget. Because half of the money is already on hand, the contractor initiated the project work in February.

How does it Work?

It has been mentioned at Village meetings that the purpose of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) isn't clear to many in the community. This is the first of several brief articles to better communicate the DDA purposes and resources.

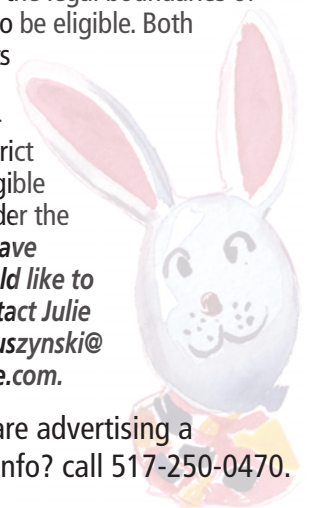
The primary goals of the DDA are the reduction of blight and building deterioration in the Grass Lake Downtown District, and the strengthening of our local Village economy. One tool that the DDA uses to support these goals is Revitalization Grants. Program grant proposals may include improving the physical appearance of buildings and/or maintaining historical facade elements. They may also include updating structural elements, electrical, plumbing and HVAC systems to levels reasonably required by any building tenant (i.e. not busi-

ness specific) and transferable in any later sale of the building.

The DDA budget for FY2025 (starting March 1st this year) has designated the majority of our funding for revitalization and new retail business grants. A property must be located within the legal boundaries of the DDA District to be eligible. Both owners and tenants (with owner permission) are eligible. Any DDA District properties are eligible for assistance under the program. **If you have questions or would like to apply, please contact Julie Muszynski at j.muszynski@villageofgrasslake.com.**

To those reading this on paper: Facebook and flyers are advertising a March 30th Community Easter Egg Hunt at the Pavilion. Info? call 517-250-0470.

The next Town Hall Meeting will be held on Monday, April 22 (Earth Day) @ 7PM





Grass Lake Community **EASTER** **EGG HUNT**

March 30th 1:00 p.m.

@ THE GRASS LAKE PAVILLION
120 BROWN ST. GRASS LAKE

Brought to you by:
Grass Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce
and
Grass Lake Sportsmans Club

Lots of Eggs & Prizes
Kiddos
12 and under please

**Come Meet the
Easter Bunny!**

Complimentary photos
with the Easter Bunny
provided by:



Questions or Donations Call/Text Dana Brown 517-250-0470