



More on those DPW yard flags

Our DPW is compiling information for the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) because of 2018 revisions to the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act, 1976 PA 399, as amended, requiring water supplies develop and maintain a Complete Distribution System Materials Inventory (CDSMI). A CDSMI must be submitted to EGLE by October 16, 2024.

Its purpose is to record and maintain a comprehensive inventory of distribution system materials, covering both public and private property. It supports effective asset management planning for our utility service and replacement strategies.

The Village of Grass Lake received a state Drinking Water Asset Management grant

to offset the costs involved.

One of these tasks was to soft dig at more than 100 addresses to verify the service line materials to the identified homes. This task is why Villagers saw so many of those small flags sprinkled in yards throughout town. Data from the extensive review of historical documents combined with visual inspections of the water distribution system is being compiled to provide the final report in the fall.

No lead lines have been identified or discovered at any point in the process. For more information:

<https://www.michigan.gov/egle/about/organization/Drinking-Water-and-Environmental-Health/lead-and-copper-in-drinking-water>

News from the Village

Trudi Whitley has been the Village of Grass Lake Treasurer for six years, since retiring from a long and varied career with UMH. Her experience there included administration, financial analysis and applications system analyst/programmer. All of these skills and experience made her an ideal fit for the Village position.

Trudi announced her (second) retirement earlier this year with plans to spend more time with her husband and family, as well as on her hobbies. She has commented frequently, though, that she will miss the Village residents; the Village will certainly miss her.

Council was pleased to appoint Julie Muszynski as Treasurer effective April 23. Julie is grateful for Trudi's continued training and coaching, as well as for the processes and documentation that Trudi developed.

Coming to the Village ... take note.

County-wide, **Free Museum Day** will be Saturday, May 11.

The Coe House Fabric, Crafts & Book Sale is on May 10th & 11th. Items to donate are welcome; please drop them off at the Museum, (at Michigan Avenue and Wolf Lake Rd.) on the porch on the east side of

the house. For donations to be picked up at your home, or for information, contact Linda Hutchinson, lmhutch48@gmail.com.

The Coe House Museum, home of the GrassLake Area Historical Society, is open for tours during "Free Museum Day" on May 11th.

American Flags will soon be waving again in Downtown. **Thank you to the American Legion and VFW for installing flags in the DDA downtown district.**

Grass Lake's Community Yard Sale dates for this year are **Thursday, June 6 through Saturday, June 8**. Information will be available on Facebook soon.

Take-a-Kid-Fishing is scheduled for Saturday, June 8, from 9 am to noon at the Grass Lake County Park. It is sponsored by the **Grass Lake Sportsmens Club**. Look for the flyer and Contact Dave Harrison (734-260-9184) for questions. June 8-9 is a free fishing weekend in MI; no license needed.

Town Meeting Recap

Village Council hosted a Village Town Hall on April 22. This year-long, trial effort—all volunteer—seeks to increase Village residents' understanding of Council actions. These meetings include a presentation plus time for attendees to engage Council with questions about its work and receive answers. On April 22, the presentation explained what items our tax dollars fund in the Village and Township—including where services overlap, and what goes toward state- and county-level services. One Village resident and three Township residents attended this latest meeting. Email Sabrina Edgar to request a pdf of the presentation: villagemanager@villageofgrasslake.com.

Grass Lake Chamber of Commerce seeks Sponsors for its 17th Annual GLRCC Golf Outing scheduled for June 28 at Calderone Golf Club— those Sponsorships are available now. See its flyer, call 517-522-8838 or contact GLRCC at their website at <https://grasslakechamber.org> (this is their NEW website) for information on Sponsorship opportunities.

Memorial Day is May 27

Take this opportunity to participate in the **Observation of Memorial Day** – to honor and mourn U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. A formal service is conducted by our local military organizations on Monday, May 27 at the Grass Lake Veterans Memorial on Michigan Avenue, Grass Lake; it begins at 10:00 am. Afterward, a procession will go to the Maple Grove cemetery at 1501 Wolf Lake Road for tributes to the fallen buried there.

As spring ushers in warmer weather and outdoor activities, it is important to remember fire safety, especially when it comes to open burning. Whether you are clearing your yard or enjoying a bonfire, here are some things to keep in mind:

Know what you can burn: Avoid burning plastic, rubber, foam, chemicals, chemically treated wood, textiles, electronics, or hazardous materials that can release harmful chemicals into the air. If you are burning trees, logs, brush, or stumps, ensure you are at least 1400 feet away from the boundary of an incorporated city or village.

Open Burning

Prioritize fire safety: Before lighting any fire, ensure you have proper safety measures in place. Keep a fire extinguisher nearby, clear the area around the fire from any flammable materials, and have a water source readily available. It is crucial to avoid burning on windy days, as this can cause fires to spread uncontrollably; and NEVER leave a fire unattended, even for a short period.

Respect local regulations: Be aware of and comply with any additional local regulations regarding open burning. Additionally, some municipalities may have ordinances that prohibit open burning altogether or have specific restrictions in place.

Check for burn permits: In Michigan, a burn permit is required for open burning any time the ground is not completely covered by snow. Be sure to check with your local authorities to obtain the necessary permits. Check Michigan.gov/BurnPermit to see if weather conditions are safe. A map will show by location whether burning is permitted.

Before burning, consider an alternative such as recycling or composting. By exploring these alternatives, you can minimize your impact on the environment while still managing waste effectively.

For more information on open burning visit Michigan.gov/OpenBurning.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources contributed to this article.

May Meetings

GOVERNMENT

May 2, 7:30 pm: Village Planning Commission Meeting, Village Hall

May 7, 7:00 pm: Village Council Regular Meeting, Village Hall

May 13, 6:30 pm: Village Downtown Development Authority Meeting, Village Hall

May 14, 6:30 pm: Grass Lake Charter Township Board Meeting, Township Hall

May 21, 7:00 pm: Village Council Regular Meeting, Village Hall

COMMUNITY

May 9, 8:00 am: Grass Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce, Village Hall

Recreation Planning

Representatives of the Village, the Township and the School system are serving on a Joint Committee tasked to develop a new Grass Lake Recreation Plan. Region 2 Planning will assist. Such plans prove instrumental as part of effective, strategic planning, and to achieve development-ready status for our community. It should contribute to improved quality of life and economic growth in Grass Lake.

— Ordinance of the Month —

PRESENCE OF WEEDS AND EXCESSIVE GROWTH.

Village Ordinance 91.00 regulates weeds and the mowing of lawns in the Village.

Vegetation is to be maintained below eight inches from May 15–September 15 and mown no less than every three weeks. Violations could result in fees of \$500 per incident. Be a good neighbor and **mow your lawn.**

https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/grasslakemi/latest/grasslake_mi/0-0-1229#JD_Chapter91

Have you heard of America 250?

America's Sestercentennial (the easiest-pronounced way to name a 250th event) is not that far away. A successful celebration in Grass Lake must include some community planners and dedicated volunteers. Any residents interested in making America's Sestercentennial into a special celebration here should contact the Village office; it will serve as a hub for initial beginnings of an engaged group to turn ideas into realities, all prepared in time for 2026. Check out the **Nationwide Student Contest, America's Field Trip**, on its site, <https://america250.org>

Recognizing our potential

At the heart of Grass Lake lies a unique synergy between our businesses and community. The Grass Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce is nurturing that connection, ensuring that every interaction becomes an opportunity for growth and collaboration.

The Chamber has a new, visitor-friendly website, <https://grasslakechamber.org> with a community calendar feature. Visit it soon and learn why you should consider joining Grass Lake's Chamber of Commerce.

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HAND IN HAND

It would be a stretch indeed
If everyone in the world
Could pause and join hands,
An endless ring around earth's middle,
A circle of beating hearts, and
peaceful thoughts.

That would be impossible, some would say;
Mountains and oceans would get in the way
But no more so than the gulfs between us,
Rifts of our own making: greed,
suspicion, ignorance.

Holding hands would mean no fists
to clench,

Or fingers free to fire guns, or press a button
To bomb an inoffensive stranger.

For in this weave of humanity we would see
That I am you, and you are me.

— Andrew Armstrong