

# Grass Lake **express**

AUGUST 2022

## GOVERNMENT

■ **Local Elections: *Breaking News***—The Village Council's August 2 meeting @ 7pm will be held at the Events Pavilion because its normal meeting space is the "Precinct 3" voting location for the Tuesday, August 2 Primary election. Council's August 16 meeting will take place at the regular Village Hall location.

■ **Be a Beautifier** – for Grass Lake; adopt one of the flower beds for tending. This and other opportunities exist within the Village to be part of the solution to keep Grass Lake a Great Place to Call Home. If you, your family, or your service group, are looking for volunteer opportunities within the Village of Grass, contact the Village Manager to find out how best to help ([villagemanager@villageofgrasslake.com](mailto:villagemanager@villageofgrasslake.com)). For many years a team of dedicated individuals volunteered, or were contracted, to build and maintain the flower beds throughout the Village of Grass Lake. During Earth Week 2022, Tenneco employees used paid, volunteered time to complete cleanup projects throughout the Village of Grass Lake, Grass Lake Charter Township, at the Coe House Museum and at the Whistlestop Park. Later this spring a group of volunteers, led by Roaming Goat owner Brit Keene, continued bed maintenance of the flower beds along Michigan Ave. Thanks to all involved, you are much appreciated.

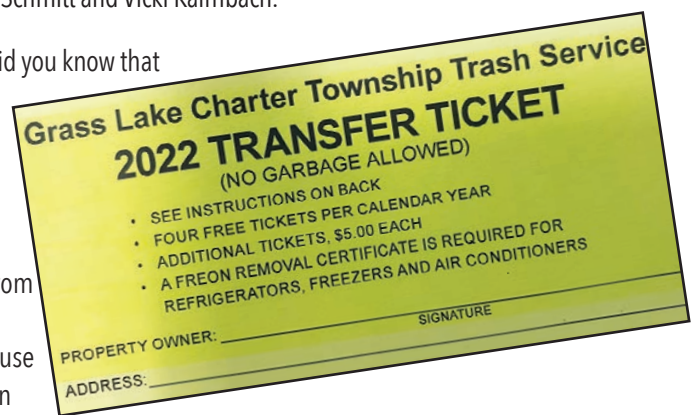


■ **Headlee override needed:** The Village Council approved a proposal that the Headlee issue be placed on the November election ballot. This action is not taken lightly but is necessary to sustain operations residents expect to be provided by the Village. A Town hall meeting is being planned and information should be available in advance for review and discussion. A review of past Council meeting minutes supports acceptance for this step.

■ **DDA funding helps a local business:** The DDA awarded its first New Retail Business grant of \$5,000. to **Grass Lake Nutrition**. Thanks to the Copper Nail, the DDA will be able to encourage and assist two new downtown retail businesses per year for the next six years. For more downtown business grant opportunities, please check out the DDA's website [www.grasslakedowntown.com](http://www.grasslakedowntown.com). Photo shows Grass Lake Nutrition's owner, Colby Lopez, accepting the grant from DDA members (left to right) John Lesinski, Annie Lavergne, Paul Schmitt and Vicki Kalmbach.



■ **Reminder #1:** Did you know that Village of Grass Lake residents and Grass Lake Charter Township residents and may pick up four free tickets per year from the Township's office on Lakeside Drive, to use at Modern Disposal in Napoleon and may purchase more for \$5.00 each? For more information– hours of operation, address, etc., visit [www.grasslakect.com](http://www.grasslakect.com).



■ **Reminder #2:** Michigan's Primary election is **August 2**; for Village residents, Precinct 3's voting location is at the Village Hall. (continued)

**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, is found on the website.

■ **Connect with the Village anytime at [www.villageofgrasslake.com](http://www.villageofgrasslake.com)** ■

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Need for downtown parking: The Village Council and DDA remain committed to increasing downtown parking spots for merchants as well as special events needs. Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) did not pursue discussions with the Village in 2021 about its Brown St. parking idea, but this year a different plan on Michigan Avenue is making progress.

The Village has a Master Plan. Visit the "Documents on Demand" section of the Village website. The Master Plan is updated every 5 years and is worth reviewing to see what ideas for the future have been presented and to have your voice heard with new ideas. The Grass Lake Charter Township is in process of updating its own Master Plan this year.

Inter-governmental Sewer/Water Contract. The original contract was adopted in 2002 and the revised contract was approved in December 2020. This updated contract clarifies the services DPW provides, describes shared expenditures for utilities, and investment in capital improvements, and provides a mechanism for periodic review of future charges and rates. This information is also available on the Village website.

New businesses that help make up the core of our downtown district are now open, or will open soon. Please patronize local businesses and let them know they are appreciated for helping Grass Lake to be "A Great Place to Call Home."

★ The Village of Grass Lake "paper of record" that publishes its public or legal notices is The Exponent, printed in Brooklyn and covers 7 townships in Jackson County. The Exponent, first published in 1881, became the oldest weekly newspaper in the county, after The County Press ceased publication on June 30, 2022. The Exponent also prints the Jackson County Legal News; these two are now the only papers actually printed in Jackson County.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Senior Center's Annual Rummage Sale is scheduled for Friday, August 26 & Saturday, August 27. (No clothes, old computers/printers or old TVs). Drop off times for your donated items are August 19 10am-3pm+August 20 9am-noon.

First Day of School: Wednesday, August 24.

HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATION IS SEPTEMBER 10



On Saturday, September 10, Grass Lake's 2022 Community Fair is back at the Events Pavilion as part of our Heritage celebration. Categories are posted at the Depot. Enter your best efforts in this "patriot dream" contest of Grass Lake friends and neighbors. This year's theme is based upon a line from America, the Beautiful: "...O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years..." Contact chairman Donna Tremain for information. Encourage contestants and spread the news.

FUN. Heritage Day's celebration will offer fun stretching from the Historic Grass Lake Depot to The Coe House Museum (the Henry and Aurora Vinkle home, built in 1871, is on the National Register of Historic Places). In between check out: "Let Freedom Ring" Car Show entries along Michigan Avenue, lots of local vendors and nonprofit booths, the Depot's Silent Auction, from 10 am to 2:30 pm, the Coe House's Quilt Show from 10 am to 2 pm, and the Library's Book Mobile. The Community Fair will have local folks of all ages vying for blue ribbons, painting "patriot dream" rocks, along with childrens' face-painting, and live animals to them to pet. Stoyanna's Ice Cream truck will be on site. Festivities convene at 10am with flag raisings at 3 locations by Vets and Scouts. Celebrate Grass Lake and its legacy. Special alert: Sponsors are buying chairs to decorate. Locate "patriot dream" chairs placed around the Village the week before Heritage Day and prepare to vote for your favorite chair.

LET FREEDOM CAR SHOW RING GRASS LAKE, MI 2022. SPONSORED BY GRASS LAKE American Legion Post 252 & VFW Post 10194. CAR ENTRY FEE: DONATION. PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE VFW AND AMERICAN LEGION. TROPHY FOR TOP 3. PEOPLE'S CHOICE, JUDGE'S CHOICE & POST COMMANDER CHOICE. SEPT. 10TH 10 AM to 2 PM MICHIGAN AVE. REGISTRATION AT VETERAN'S MEMORIAL ON MICHIGAN AVE. Rain Date Will Be Next Day. For information and questions: letfreedomringgrasslake@gmail.com

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