

# Grass Lake



# express

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER/2020

## GOVERNMENT

■ **Local Election Results:** Congratulations to our elected Village Council Trustees. Incumbents Gina Lammers and Joel Grimm were re-elected to 4-year terms. Two Villagers were successful in their write-in efforts: Jane Fitzgerald was elected to a four-year term and Nicholas Zinis was elected to the 2-year, unexpired term. Village residents may not realize that our outgoing Trustee, Carolyn Rees, has compiled decades of service as a Trustee for this Village; we applaud her for such service to this community. Thank you Carolyn.



Congratulations to our Township officials also. Cathy Zenz, was re-elected as Clerk, Tom Loveland was re-elected as Treasurer, and Scott Bray, Tom Brennan, Barry Butterfield, and Tina Bednarski-Lynch were re-elected as Township Trustees. The Village welcomes John Lesinski as the newly elected Supervisor, and salutes outgoing Township Supervisor Jim Stormont for his 16-year tenure of service to this community. The terms of all elected Township and Village officials began on November 20.

County Commissioner Rodney Walz (and a former Village President) was re-elected to a 2-year term on the Jackson County Board of Commissioners. Sarah Lightner was re-elected as our 65<sup>th</sup> District State Representative. The Referendum proposing a millage toward funding Township and Village road restoration failed.

■ **Downtown Sidewalk Leveling Project.** The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is supporting the funding of a sidewalk leveling project in the heart of our downtown. Phase 1— of a three-phase project— was completed earlier this month and eliminated trip hazards, uneven sidewalks or curbs on E. Michigan Avenue and S. Lake Street. Next spring Phase 2 will address similar issues on W. Michigan Avenue; Phase 3 will address them in the remainder of the DDA District.

■ **Adding parking on Brown Street:** The DDA has undertaken a project for a proposed parking area on the south side of Brown St., across from our Events Park Pavilion—home to the Farmers Market and “Music in the Park” concerts. Discussions between the Village and Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) are in progress to allow the black ornamental fence (a railroad track barrier) to be moved south approximately 25 feet. Our Village engineer submitted a plan that accommodates 20 angled, parking spaces within the MDOT right of way. Final paperwork from MDOT with its

(continued)

## DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Village Council meets Dec. 1 and 15.  
Office will be closed on Dec. 24 and Dec. 31.

*Here's one way to dress a turkey.*



*Happy Thanksgiving*

# Season's Greetings

**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)** ■



## COMMUNITY

■ **BUY LOCAL:** Our DDA and Chamber of Commerce encourage you to support our local businesses during this Covid 19 pandemic. Our restaurants are providing carry out service and other businesses are open and complying with state mandates on mask protocol and number of patrons in the building. Stay safe!

■ **CANCELLED for 2020:** **Festival of Lights Parade.** Due to recent health guidelines imposed by the State of Michigan, our annual Festival of Lights Parade that was scheduled for December 5 has been cancelled this year.



■ **Village holiday decorations** are in place, thanks to our DPW team.

■ **DPW leaf pickups** have ended.

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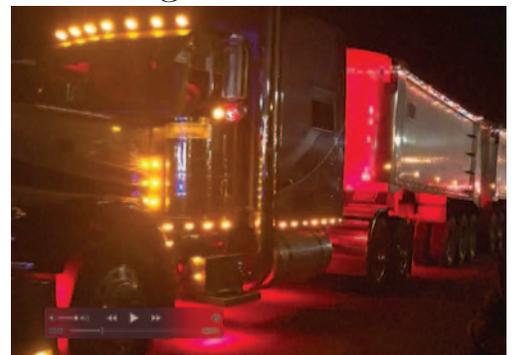
permission for the Village to move forward on this project is expected before the year's end.

■ **You are invited to a Public Hearing:** The Village of Grass Lake Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, December 3, at 7:00 pm, for input on the most recent update of the **Master Plan**. The meeting location is the Grass Lake Township Hall, 373 Lakeside Dr. In consideration of Covid 19 concerns, the meeting can also be accessed virtually via Zoom. The link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7952146959>. For those who prefer to call-in, use 312-626-6799, and enter the conference ID **7952146959** when prompted. The master plan may be reviewed on the Village website [www.villageofgrasslake.com](http://www.villageofgrasslake.com).

■ **Inter-governmental Sewer/Water Contract.** After working through many lines of contract language during this year, Village Council Trustees serving on an adhoc committee have been working with representatives of the Township over the past months to complete negotiations for an updated infrastructure contract. The original contract was adopted in 2002. The Township requested the Village Department of Public Works (DPW) provide maintenance services in the Township, beginning in 2016, that Leoni Township staff had previously performed. This updated contract clarifies the services our DPW provides, defines shared expenditures for utilities and investment in capital improvements, and provides a mechanism for periodic review of any future charges and rates. Both the Village Council and Township Board will be considering this contract at their meetings in December for final consideration and adoption. The public is welcome to attend these meetings.

■ Please frequent the businesses that make up the core of our downtown district and let the owners know how much they are appreciated for their entrepreneurship and helping Grass Lake to be a **Great Place to Call Home**.

*A few memories: Festival of Lights will return next year.*



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