

# Friends of Grass Lake Township

## July 2018

### ***A Message From the President...***

**Welcome to THE FIRST ISSUE of the Friends of Grass Lake Township's (FRIENDS) Newsletter!**

It is hard to believe it has been **one year** since we first formed. We have made remarkable strides and progress over this period of time.

First and foremost, I would like to thank everyone for their hard work, dedication and support on fundraisers and community events. This small group of neighbors has become a well- established forum for the citizens of Grass Lake Township to have **their voices heard**.

The FRIENDS' accomplishments have been **far-reaching** with the community and the township. There have been an average of 20 attendees at all Township Board and Planning Commission Meetings and actual progress is taking place. Our input has initiated a more detailed agreement between Target Trucking, the Operators of the Bohne Road Gravel Pit, and the Township that will improve conditions, if they are enforced. Target Trucking and the Township are aware that the 2019 Special Use Permit Renewal will not be a "Rubber Stamped" approval as in the past. To the Township Trustees' surprise, the **citizens** do care about their quality of life, environment, safety, and **are willing to get involved**.

As a result of the Norvell Road Mine "**Claim of Appeal**" case, we have been contacted by other groups in Michigan and now realize this is not just a Grass Lake problem, communities statewide are experiencing similar issues. There are other lawsuits being discussed by private citizens in Grass Lake and nearby townships against other operators of existing pits. We have also been in contact with a group from Saugatuck Township that are just starting a similar legal battle. **The FRIENDS' have increased awareness through education of gravel pit issues locally and statewide.**

### ***To keep this movement alive, we need help!***

*You can Help Us Continue to Help Our Community by:*

**Volunteer** – We have many projects planned.

**Pledge** – the enclosed pledge card makes donating convenient.

**Join** – The \$15 annual Membership fee grants voting rights at the September Special Notified Annual Meeting.

Speaking of helping our community... We coordinated the Whistlestop Park fountain donation. Held in mid-July, Traffic Jam-In has asked us for volunteers. At the Grass Lake Township's request, we are helping solve the recent recycling problem. **Most importantly to continue helping our community we need help with our membership drive.**

Please attend our meetings and bring your thoughts, ideas, concerns and potential members interested in...

***'KEEPING GRASS LAKE A SAFE, BEAUTIFUL AND GREAT PLACE TO CALL HOME'***

**Thank You,**

Rick Murphy, President

**WANTED**  
**POSTED & VISIBLE**

**YOUR HOUSE NUMBER**  
**HELP US FIND YOU SO WE CAN HELP YOU.**

MAKE SURE YOUR HOUSE MARKER SIGN IS POSTED  
CLEARLY VISIBLE FROM BOTH DIRECTIONS ON THE ROAD  
BE SURE TO KEEP ALL TREES AND GRASS TRIMMED AROUND THE SIGN  
MAKE SURE THE SIGN IS REFLECTIVE

EVERY SECOND COUNTS IN AN EMERGENCY ... CAN RESPONDERS FIND YOUR HOME?

The green reflective address signs are available for \$25 through the fire dept. aux. and can be ordered with payment at the Grass Lake Twp. office.

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*Business card sized ads in the Newsletter for just \$10.00.  
WHAT A GREAT WAY TO GET THE WORD OUT ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS!*

**DALE FISHER**  
**HELIPHOTO**

1916 Norvell Road  
Grass Lake, MI 49240

Dale@DaleFisherPhoto.com  
DaleFisherPhoto.com

517-522-3705

Over 50 Years of Excellence in Aerial Photography

# What's Happening in Grass Lake Township?

**IMPORTANT!** You must be registered to vote in the Primary by July 7, 2018. Register online at: <https://www.dmv.org/mi-michigan/voter-registration.php> **OR** You can also register to vote or get an absentee ballot at the township office.

**More than ever... We need to exercise our "Right to Vote" in the August 7 primary election.**



**2018 Traffic Jam'in – July 13 & 14-** The two-day event is filled with various activities taking place on Friday afternoon and evening with the main event taking place on Saturday evening.

For more information contact the Grass Lake Chamber of Commerce or check out their facebook page: [www.facebook.com/events/251451485592751](http://www.facebook.com/events/251451485592751)

**FRIDAY, JULY 13<sup>TH</sup>**

**GRASS LAKE TRAFFIC JAM'IN  
GRASS LAKE, MI**

**REGISTRATION AT 4PM  
PULLS BEGIN AT 5PM  
AGES 3 - 10**



**MONDAY, JULY 9 - 6:30pm Friends Membership Mtg.**  
Dale Fisher Gallery- 1916 Norvell Road

**TUESDAY, JULY 10 - 6:30pm - Grass Lake Township Mtg.**

**THURSDAY, JULY 19 - 7pm - Planning Commission Mtg.**

**MONDAY, JULY 23 - 6:30pm Friends Committee Mtg.**  
Dale Fisher Gallery- 1916 Norvell Road

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 7- Primary- Don't forget to vote!**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 – Special Notified Annual Meeting. Must be PAID member to vote.**

## **Meet Matt...**

### **An Interview with a Member of the Friends of Grass Lake Twp.**

**How long have you been in Grass Lake Township?**

"My name is Matt Powaga. I have been a Grass Lake Township resident my entire life and my parents lived here before I was born."

**Why have you stayed here, Matt?** "I love this area, the woods to hunt, the quietness, my family is here and I have never wanted to live anywhere else."

**Why did you join the Friends Of Grass Lake Township?**

"Things are changing here in Grass Lake and not all of it is good. We expected growth; it's a good place to raise a family. But we never expected to have to deal with things like Gravel Pits in our backyards. The noise and traffic alone will play havoc on our neighborhood. FOGLT are trying to change the way these types of things are allowed to happen by being a big part of Grass Lake Township."

**What worries you the most about these changes?**

"On my property there runs a small river – a creek if you please. This also runs through the property that has the proposed gravel pit on it. They need somewhere to put the runoff from their extraction and cleaning of the gravel. **There is no way to prevent the creek from being polluted.** That is one thing, but the thing that worries me the most, is that all these gravel trucks must pass by Warrior Trail, where the kids exit the High School. That is a pure *accident waiting to happen*. If you love your kids, you wouldn't want them to have to take the chance of pulling out in front of – from north or south, a fully loaded gravel train. *They just can't stop!* **This should be a concern for all of Grass Lake,** not just all of us that live on Norvell Road. Friends of Grass Lake Township are working as concerned citizens in an area they love... to try and be a part of what is going on here. That's why I joined..."

**Thank you Matt for your thoughts!**

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**The Friends of Grass Lake Township is a 501(c)(4) Non-profit organization. Donations are not tax deductible. For more information go to [www.FriendsOfGrassLakeTownship.com](http://www.FriendsOfGrassLakeTownship.com) OR... Visit us on Facebook!**