

# Letter From the President

## Hello Everyone

Welcome to the November addition of the Friends of Grass Lake Township newsletter. We hope you have enjoyed our previous newsletters as we continue to improve on our mission to keep the residents of Grass Lake Township informed about what is going on in the area.

I encourage everyone to look for a new addition to the newsletter that will list all the important meetings taking place in the township monthly. These meetings, whether they be Township Board Meeting, Planning Commission Meetings or Public Hearing Meetings, as well as the Friends monthly meetings, are where you find out what is going on in your Township.

The meetings are held to inform the public of actions being taken in the Township and may involve anything from ordinance changes, zoning changes or monthly reviews of the departments in the township as well as reports from the Fire Department and the Jackson County Sheriff etc.

In the past these meetings at the township have had very little attendance but lately have been well attended as people are becoming more interested in the operation of their local government and what we can do by working with our local officials to improve the quality of life in the Township.

I encourage all residents to attend these public meetings whenever possible, not just to become informed, but to voice your opinions and get involved. Your Township Representatives are there to serve the public. Remember, if you say nothing, expect nothing.

**The Friends of Grass Lake Township's**  
Appeal of the Planning Commission's approval with conditions of the Norvell Road Gravel Pit in

October of 2017 is still in the court system. Our appeal was recently reassigned to the Honorable Judge John Mc Bain from Judge Thomas Wilson due to a conflict of interest. At this time the appeal is still under study by the court and we have no further information about a hearing date.

The lawsuit against Lester Brothers Excavating and the Jackson County Road Commission brought on by residents of Brills Lake over the operation of the Gravel Pit owned by the County and leased to Lester Brothers near Brills Lake has a Pre Trial Hearing on November 27 at 10:30 AM at the Jackson County Courthouse. We encourage the public to attend this hearing to support the residents fighting the operation of this pit.

**Remember**, anyone is invited to join the Friends of Grass Lake Township and get involved in the community. We have many projects coming up to help those in need in this community and can use your support.

I won't be writing another letter until the December issue so I want to wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving Holiday, enjoy your families and friends!!

**Rick Murphy, President**

Yesterday I changed  
the name of my WIFI to  
"Hack if you can."

Today I found it named  
"challenge accepted"



Important November  
Dates and Information  
to Remember!

**FOGLT Meeting**

**November 5<sup>th</sup> Monday at 6PM**

**ELECTION DAY**

**November 6<sup>th</sup> - 7am-8pm**

**\*\*Planning Comm. Meeting**

**November 8<sup>th</sup> Thursday- 7PM High School**

**Township Board Meeting**

**November 13<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday 6:30 PM**

**FOGLT Committee Meeting Nov 19<sup>th</sup> - 6pm**

**Dale Fisher Gallery**

**\*\*Brills Lake vs. Lester Brothers**

**Pre Trial Hearing**

**Rescheduled to NOVEMBER 27<sup>th</sup>**

**At 10:30 am**

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**Advertising**

**A Write-In Candidate  
A PAID POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

**TOWNSHIP**

**TRUSTEE**

Partial Term Ending 11/20/2020  
Vote for not more than 1

**Barry Butterfield** Republican

**Robert A Kraft, Bob Kraft, Robert Kraft, Bob Craft**

**Write in any of the above and it will count!  
MAKE SURE YOU FILL IN THE CIRCLE**

**Things You Can Do  
For Grass Lake Township!**

- 1. Get out and VOTE!**
- 2. Help a family in need this Christmas.** Contribute to the Angel Tree, located at the Dale Fisher Gallery.
- 3. Write a letter to the MDEQ at this email address** telling them why a Gravel Pit in this area is bad!  
  
<https://miwaters.deq.state.mi.us/miwaters/#/external/home>
- 4. Tell your friends about the upcoming Casino Trip.** Date to be announced.
- 5. Call or email 5 people you know to attend the November 8<sup>th</sup> MDEQ meeting at the High School at 7PM.** This is so important! We need a great turnout!



**Advertising**

**Arbor Meadow Farm**

**Bess Ohlgren-Miller**  
Lessons & Boarding  
Dressage Huntseat Western

734-834-1844  
arbormeadowfarm@msn.com  
www.arbormeadowfarm.com

Grass Lake, Michigan

# An Interview with...

## Brandon Frey

**Hi Brandon. Thanks for talking with me today. I understand that you do not live in Grass Lake, but in Jackson. How did you hear about the Friends of Grass Lake Township and what kind of group they are?**

I do live in Jackson! I grew up and went to college in Indiana where I graduated with a BS in computer engineering from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. I'm currently employed at FCA (formerly Chrysler) as a software engineer.

I learned about Friends of Grass Lake Township from media coverage at the time. I was baffled at first to learn that hundreds of people showed up in opposition to the planning commission meeting as they voted to move forward anyway. FOGLT clearly articulated their reasons for opposing a permit while L&L only deflected. Something fishy was going on and it didn't take long for my confusion to turn to action. I wanted to get to know FOGLT.

**You have been to a lot of our activities and meetings. What brings you back to them? By the way, you made a great walking bush (in a sniper suit – LOL) in the Haunted Forest last week.**



Thanks! I'm inspired by the people standing together and standing up for what they believe in - to keep their community like it is. I want to get to know everyone in the group better and attending the activities and meetings seems to me a natural start. In Jackson where I live, the city proposed a special assessment to every home on my street amounting to thousands of dollars in order to reduce city costs to replace the water main and repave the road. Only a small fraction of the street spoke out with me in opposition at the approval meeting, but the city levied the tax undeterred. This is frustrating because

I want more accountability from our governing bodies, but I understand that there is not much I can do alone. That is why FOGLT inspires me.

**How do you feel about the gravel pits in Grass Lake Township?**

I attended the recent MDEQ hearing which really helped me understand what is at stake. At the hearing I learned about the effects of breathing silica dust and the chronic condition it engenders known as silicosis. I used to work at Tenneco, but now I drive through Grass Lake everyday as part of my commute. This is going to affect me personally. Jackson shares the water table with Grass Lake; so any contaminants introduced into the water have the potential to make their way into Jackson's drinking water. We are hearing now, across Michigan, about the devastating effects from the class of carcinogenic chemicals known as PFAS. We do not have any guaranteed protections against a similar situation if the gravel pit is approved. There is a natural gas pipeline and high school in close proximity to the proposed gravel pit site while no effort has been made to comprehensively consider the risks. There is a laundry list of unaddressed community concern that is appalling to me. I stand firmly against the gravel pit with FOGLT.

**What would you say to the Community about the Friends of Grass Lake Township?**

These people are incredibly welcoming. I am not a very outgoing person, but the group is accommodating and supportive. When I have gone to the activities, they have gone to lengths to help newcomers not feel like outsiders. They are a fun group and I believe they want to do what's best for Grass Lake Township. I encourage everyone in the community who is on the fence about attending any associated event to go ahead and make the commitment.

Thank you Brandon, for your insight.

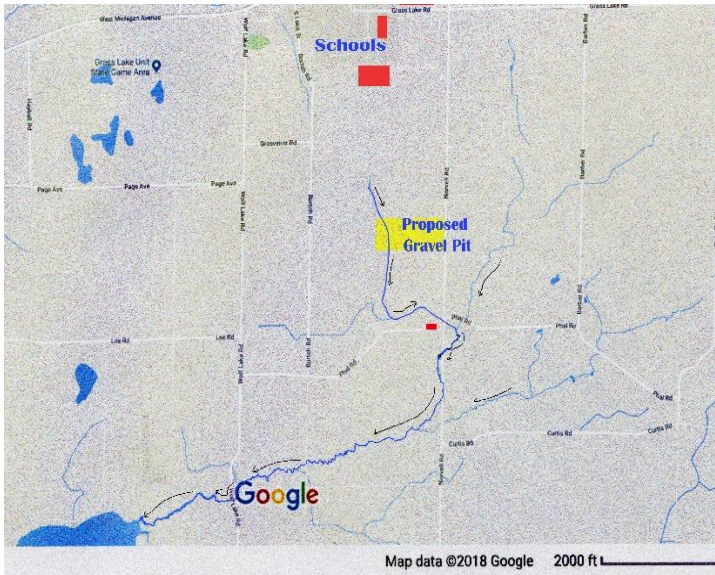
## Advertising

An advertisement for Dale Fisher Heliphotography. It features a black and white photograph of an eagle in flight against a green background. The text includes the name 'DALE FISHER HELIPHOTO', the address '1916 Norvell Road, Grass Lake, MI 49240', contact information 'Dale@DaleFisherPhoto.com' and 'DaleFisherPhoto.com', the phone number '517-522-3705', and the tagline 'Over 50 Years of Excellence in Aerial Photography'. The name 'dale fisher' is written in a cursive font over the eagle image.



# Waterways In Grass Lake Township

Many people don't think about how water flows in Grass Lake Township. We are familiar with Grass Lake, Big and Little Wolf Lakes. But not many people know how many small rivers and creeks flow into these larger bodies of water. The Miller Creek which begins just north of the proposed gravel mining/pit area is a creek which flows all the way to the Wolfe Lakes and eventually to Lake Michigan.



In Miller Creek there are trout and other small fish. This creek provides water for the animals to drink and picturesque landscapes for those that have it run through their property. On the cleared area on Norvell road, it is the home for ducks during the summer.

According to MDEQ website, "Usually, open pit mines are used to extract the sand and gravel. To open-pit mine for sand and gravel, four operations are necessary: (1) site clearing (removal of trees and vegetation, soil, and other overburden; soil must be stockpiled and reused later), (2) mining, (3) processing (crushing, screening, washing, blending and stockpiling of the mined material to conform to standards), and (4) reclamation of the mined area. Bulldozers, tractor scrapers, and front end loaders extract the sand and gravel from glacial deposits like eskers, kames, and outwash plains. Many mining operations also include stone crushers, so that all the rock can be utilized. The

sand and gravel is sieved and sized, to the specs of the particular application."

## Potential Environmental Impacts: EPA

- Potential impairment of water quality on the site, including harm to the aquifer
- The water quality of residential wells close by could be harmed
- The water level of on-site lakes could be reduced, detrimentally affecting provincially specific wetlands
- Heightened summer water temperature in an on-site lake could have a detrimental impact on the viability of cold water fish in an adjacent stream
- Potential harm to on-site and off-site wetlands
- Potential loss and fragmentation of continuous natural environment

All of us need to think about the impact of this potential gravel pit. This is not just a problem for the people of Grass Lake, it is a widespread problem to all the community's north, south, east and west of us.

**SOMEONE ASKED  
WHERE I SAW MYSELF  
IN TWO YEARS.**

**HOW SHOULD I KNOW.  
IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE  
2020 VISION.**

UnKNOWn PUNster @2018



# "Pics From the BBBC"



## Things to Think About...

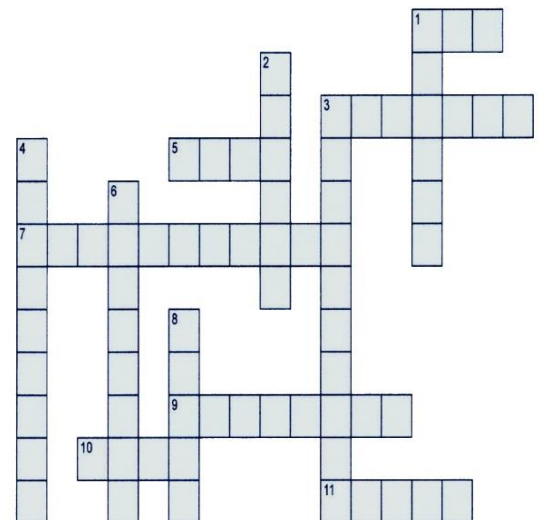
### Points to Ponder...

1. There is no Grass Lake Township ordinance allowing an extension for a Special Use Permit. Therefore, this request for an extension must be denied.
2. The reasons put forth by L & L Development for an extension of the expired conditional special use permit are not credible. This company has had over a year to complete the 12 preconditions. It has not done so. The Friends of Grass Lake Township appeal litigation has not imposed any stay on the property. L & L Development applied to the MDEQ/ US Army COE for the Part 301, inland Lakes and streams joint permit application according to William Lester 's letter as late as July 7, 2018. This company could have easily applied many months earlier if they had wished to do so.
3. There is considerable concern that the preconditions of L & L Development's conditional special use permit will never be completed since there is no oversight of this procedure. There is no member of the Town Planning Committee or Grass Lake Township Board who is responsible to police and or oversee that preconditions have been adequately completed. The preconditions of the working agreement for the Bohne Road Gravel Pit, have not been adhered to. The unfortunate conditions of this Gravel Pit - the dust, the noise, the long hours of operation, the lack of fencing and so much more, have not been addressed. The Bohne Rd Gravel Pit continues to operate with absolutely no changes what so ever regardless of the mutually signed working agreement with Grass Lake Township!

4. There is considerable concern by residents that Bill Lester, Town Trustee, has been given undue favoritism due to his status in the community and his position as Town Trustee. The permit process appears to lack transparency and fairness and is clearly a conflict of interest between the Grass Lake Planning Committee and the Grass Lake Township Board.

## What Do You Know About Grass Lake?

### Puzzle Fun



#### ACROSS

- 1 Enjoying time with your family
- 3 How our food is grown
- 5 a child or young person or a baby goat
- 7 the science or practice of farming, including cultivation of the soil for the growing of crops and the rearing of animals to provide food, wool, and other products.
- 9 a unit of local government, usually a subdivision of a county
- 10 a large body of water surrounded by land
- 11 Freedom from disturbance; quiet and tranquility.

#### DOWN

- 1 A group consisting of parents and children living together in a household.
- 2 an institution that cares for artifacts of cultural, historical, or scientific importance.
- 3 a relationship between friends.
- 4 very pleasing or satisfying.
- 6 a midwest state surrounded by lakes
- 8 Drink this daily