

# Friends of Grass Lake Township News Letter for September 2018

Daddy. Melanie Varney is the Administrator. All Changes will go through the President.

Thank you all for your dedication and drive in making positive changes to our community!

**Rick Murphy**  
President, Friends of Grass Lake Township

## Letter from the President

### Good Morning Friends

First I would like to thank Sally Hoskin for putting together our first monthly newsletter which went out in July. Sally did a fantastic job and we have received many complimentary remarks on the first issue. I would also like to thank those who contributed items to be part of the first issue. It has been a great success.

Since our last issue, there are several things I would like to update everyone on but will keep them short and to the point to save space for other articles,

**URGENT NOTICE JUST POSTED ON TOWNSHIP WEBSITE**  
**Public hearing by MDEQ on Proposed Norvell Road Mining Operation**  
**Grass Lake High School, September 27 at 7 PM**  
**MUCH MORE INFO TO FOLLOW**

**1. Please remember to get your annual dues of \$15 paid prior to our first Annual Meeting on Sunday, September 9, 2018 at 5:00 PM in order to be able to vote for officers at the meeting as well as vote for some bylaw changes required to obtain our Gaming License from the State. You may pay at the door.**

**2. Nominations are being taken for Vice President of the Friends as Roy Marqaneu will be resigning for health reasons prior to the meeting in September.**

**3. Nominations are also being taken for anyone wishing to run against any of the remaining Board Members who have decided to stay on.**

**4. The reconstruction of Norvell Road will take place in the spring of 2019. The entire length of Norvell Road will be widened and repaved with all new drainage installed instead of spreading the project over a 2 year period.**

**5. There is a recount scheduled for the Grass Lake Township Trustee Position on August 28, 2018. The recount will be overseen by the Jackson County Election Commission.**

**6. As members, we should all be talking to our neighbors and trying to get more residents involved in our community. We are beginning to see a change in the operations of the township and hope to do more with increased membership.**

**7. Thank you to Melanie Varney, Bess Miller and Joanne Ackerman who worked very hard to get our Webpage up and running on Go**

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## ***Important Information for All Members***

### **1. Public Notice**

The Jackson County Board of Canvassers will conduct a recount of the votes cast at the August 7, 2018 Election for the office of Township Trustee, in Grass Lake Charter Township.

The recount will be held Tuesday, August 28, 2018 at 8:00 a.m., at the Grass Lake Charter Township Hall, located at 373 Lakeside Drive, Grass Lake, Michigan. All Canvass meetings are open to the public. Please direct any inquiries to the Jackson County Elections Division at 517-768-6759  
Posted 8/15/18

### **2. Subject: DEQ-WRD Public Notice Postings**

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Water Resources Division has posted the following notice to our internet home page.

Comments can be sent directly to field staff by locating the file on MiWaters by clicking the “Add Comment” button.

<https://miwaters.deq.state.mi.us/miwaters/#/external/publicnotice/info/4922974562326987568/details>;

Click the “Documents” button to view the Public Notice Announcement and the appropriate plans for the project.



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***An Interview with Grass Lake  
Resident, Suzanne Crowdis  
RN BSN MSHA***

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Thanks for doing this Suzanne. Would you mind answering some questions?

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

I have lived in Grass Lake township for over 45 years.

**Why have you stayed here?**

I have stayed in Grass Lake because I love Country life, the wildlife, the lakes, the location between Ann Arbor and Jackson, and a small friendly town atmosphere.

**You live quite close to the Bohne road Pit. How has this affected you and what impact has the Pit had on your quality of life?**

My husband and I did not know anything about the Bohne Road Gravel Pit until one morning in 2003 we were awakened with some loud engines and banging noises. It appeared that excavation was going on. We still didn't know until we starting seeing gravel trucks going down the road. We were shocked! How could this happen when it was agriculture property? We nor my neighbors were notified of any planned project, or had any input on it. You could look out my patio and see the green tall grass, the deer that crossed over to my property, a beautiful scene, all gone. The worst thing was the gravel trucks, they drove so fast over the hill on Bohne, gravel would fly out and you would hear a loud boom as it the truck seemed to bounce and hit gaining more speed to travel down Bohne Rd to Mount Hope. One of those stones hit my daughter's windshield and put a crack in it. We had a well go dry about three years ago, a well company came out and was very surprised that our well was very deep, and they had to drive it down father to obtain the water. He did state to me that there had been other homes it had happened to not mentioning any names.

The dust is just terrible, dust all over the house we never had before. The wildlife you never see anymore,

Just mounds of sand, concrete, noise, and green water.

I called the Grass Lake Township to get information and I documented these responses

- Bohne Road Gravel Pit was opened in 2003
- Residents were not notified about the proposed Gravel Pit unless they lived 300 feet from the gravel pit.
- Letters were sent to eleven (11) property owners near the areas, of those eleven, five (5) areas belonged to the same property owner.
- He told me that the Grass Lake Township has no authority over the gravel pit, if I had concerns I need to call the police.
- When I asked him who I could voice my concerns to he stated "I don't know".
- He did inform me that the gravel trucks should be going down Bohne Road to Francisco Road, to Clear Lake Road to obtain access to I-94 East/West, but then those residents had complained too.
- He informed me that renewal was every 5 years, and the last renewal went by for several months and no letters were sent out.

**He also stated that "they put it thru because "they didn't think anyone cared".**



**(Continued on next page)**

“A good life is when you assume nothing, do more, need less, smile often, dream big, laugh a lot, and realize how blessed you are for what you have.”

Submitted by Bob Kraft.

## Upcoming Events

### August 2018

**Jackson County Board of Canvassers** will conduct a recount of the votes cast on the August 7<sup>th</sup> election. It will be held on Tuesday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am, at the Grass Lake Charter Township Hall, located at 373 Lakeside Drive. Open to the public

Township Board Work Session - Tuesday, August 28, 8:00 am - 10:30 am

### September 2018

**9-8-2018** GRASS LAKE HERITAGE DAY - Saturday, 10:00 am to 4:30. Wagon Rides, Arts & Crafts Booths, Tractor Show, 5K Run/Walk, Live Music, War Re-enactments.

#### **Sunday : 9-9-2018**

FRIENDS OF GRASS LAKE TOWNSHIP  
SPECIAL NOTIFIED MEETING/ELECTION  
OF OFFICERS  
Pizza at 5:00 PM meeting 5:30 PM

#### **9-11-2018**

Township Board Mtg. 6:30-8:30 PM  
Township Hall

**9-18-2018** TWP. Board Work Session 8-10:30 am

**9-20-2018** TWP Planning Comm. Meeting 7-9 PM

**9-24-2018** FOGLT Committee Meeting 6:30 PM

**9-25-2018** TWP Board Work Sess. 8-10:30 am

**9-27-2018** MDEQ Public Hearing 7:00PM  
(see President's Letter)  
Location: Grass Lake High School  
7 PM

### October 2018

**10-8-2018** FOGLT Member Meeting 6:30 PM

**10-9-2018** TWP. Board Mtg. 6:30-8:30 PM

**10-13-2018** **HARVEST MOON BBBC  
Bonfire, Band, Brews, and Chews!**

Save the date for more information to come!

## 50 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR KIDS AFTER SCHOOL INSTEAD OF “HOW WAS YOUR DAY?”

- What made you smile today?
- Can you tell me an example of kindness you saw/showed?
- What did you do that was creative?
- Who did you sit with at lunch?
- Was anyone in your class gone today?
- Tell me something you know today that you didn't know yesterday.
- Did you like your lunch?
- What was the hardest rule to follow today?
- If you could change one thing about your day, what would it be?
- What made your teacher smile?  
What made her frown?
- If you could switch seats with anyone in class, who would it be? And why?
- What kind of person were you today?

See full list at [HerViewFromHome.com](http://HerViewFromHome.com)

Neil deGrasse Tyson

“If you want to assert a truth, first make sure it's not just an opinion that you desperately want to be true.”

BYLAWS AMENDMENTS SUMMARY  
FRIENDS OF GRASS LAKE TOWNSHIP  
AUGUST 2018

Here is a summary of the changes that are proposed for our Bylaws:

- Introductory section: Added the date for the latest amendments, replaced the date referencing the previous amendments, and removed shortened references (“the Articles” and “the Act”) since they are not used anywhere else within the Bylaws. Also clarified that “Article III” refers to the Articles of Incorporation, not to Article III within these Bylaws.
- Article III: Added a provision whereby the directors can (by a majority vote) disqualify anyone from becoming a member. This is to avoid a “hostile takeover” a group of people who meet the other requirement for membership (being a citizen or taxpayer in Grass Lake Township). Revised termination of membership (for non-payment of dues) to no longer require us to give written notice of payment due. Clarified that members in good standing (dues having been paid) are entitled to vote. Added associate members (for people from outside of Grass Lake Township) who would pay dues, but would not be able to vote or hold elected office.
- Article IV: Spelled out the election of directors (which was noted in Article VI but never mentioned in the actual section regarding the Board). Changed the annual meeting references to remove the September 10<sup>th</sup> date. Changed the quorum section to always require a majority of directors to agree to any action (whereas currently, a majority of a quorum, which could be just two directors, could approve an action on their own).
- Article V: Changed membership recordkeeping to involve the secretary rather than the vice president. Removed a redundant word (“required”, which appears thrice in one sentence). Changed the final paragraph to allow for non-paid-members to attend the annual meeting, although they would be barred from voting.
- Article VI: Added “Membership” to the heading to distinguish this from Board meetings. Changed September 10<sup>th</sup> from being the fixed date for the annual meeting to being the approximate date. Removed “officers” from election at the annual meeting, as this conflicts with Article V (that says officers are appointed by the Board). Directors (the Board members) are elected, but the officer positions (President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer) are chosen by the Board. Added “in good standing” to the section on calling special meetings. Revised the meeting notification requirements to (1) allow email notification for the annual meeting, and (2) allow notification via Facebook or website postings for other meetings (with a 5-day minimum before the meeting). Noted that voting can be done by proxy.
- Article VII: Changed the requirement that committees keep “minutes” of their meetings, to require only “records” of their meetings, which can be a just written summary.
- Article IX: Clarified that indemnification of directors and officers applies only in their capacity as it relates to FOGLT, and does not cover outside endeavors or issues.
- Article XI: Clarifies again that voting on Bylaw amendments can be done by proxy, and that voting is only by members in good standing (dues paid). REMOVES THE REQUIREMENT that amendments be approved by a majority of the “total membership,” and instead allows email voting, with amendments approved by a majority of votes cast within a specified time frame (7 days minimum). This will help us avoid having to phone / contact all the members who don’t show up at a meeting in order to solicit their vote.
- Article XII: Clarifies that electronic communications are valid both TO the FOGLT, and also FROM the FOGLT.
- Articles XIII and XIV: Added the mandatory language (perpetual non-profit status, and reversion of assets to Grass Lake Township in the event of a dissolution) that are required in order for us to qualify for a raffle license.

# Advertising

**Arbor Meadow Farm**



Bess Ohlgren-Miller  
Lessons & Boarding  
Dressage Huntseat Western

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

Grass Lake, Michigan

**DALE FISHER  
HELIPHOTO**



1916 Norvell Road  
Grass Lake, MI 49240

Dale@DaleFisherPhoto.com  
DaleFisherPhoto.com

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Over 50 Years of Excellence in Aerial Photography

**Friends In Stone**  
*John Hoskin*

Original Soapstone  
Carver

10990 Phal Rd  
Grass Lake MI 49240  
(517)522-3396

www.friendsinstone.com john@friendsinstone.com

# Important Websites

## Water:

[DEQ-WRD-MiWaters@michigan.gov](mailto:DEQ-WRD-MiWaters@michigan.gov)

[https://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3313\\_72753---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3313_72753---,00.html)

[deq-assist@michigan.gov](mailto:deq-assist@michigan.gov)

## Agricultural:

<https://www.michigan.gov/mdard>

## What Can We Do to Help You?

Do you have a project we can help you with? Are you a senior citizen that needs some help?

- Donations to Churches and Coppernail
- Grass Lake Whistle Stop Projects
- Christmas Family Help

Contact our President  
**Rick Murphy**  
1-239-989-5593 (Cell)

It is impossible to think of a colour that doesn't exist.



# Friends of Grass Lake Township

## JOIN TODAY!

Friends of Grass Lake Township is a local, non-profit Michigan Corporation [501(c)(4)], comprised of a group of concerned citizens and taxpayers of Grass Lake Charter Township.

### Our Mission is:

To preserve the quality of life that makes Grass Lake safe, beautiful and "A Great Place to Call Home."

for more information, visit [www.FriendsOfGrassLakeTownship.com](http://www.FriendsOfGrassLakeTownship.com)  
or contact us at [Friends@FriendsOfGrassLakeTownship.com](mailto:Friends@FriendsOfGrassLakeTownship.com)

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## Membership Form

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
(street)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(city, state, zip)

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
(home)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(cell)

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Note: We will not share your information

Next Annual Membership due 9/1/2019

### Membership type (please select):

- Member** - \$15 / person  
Paid Member Priviledges:  
Voting Rights  
Board Positions  
Chair Projects

- Associate Member** - \$15 / person -  
(Non-Grass Lake Township resident/property owner)  
Attend meetings, receive updates, volunteer
- Neighbor** - FREE -  
(E-Mail Notifications)

Please make check payable to Friends of Grass Lake Township and mail to:

**PO Box 762, Grass Lake, MI 49240**

OR bill me (circle one):

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_



Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CV#: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Office Use Only:

Payment Method: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership# \_\_\_\_\_

