



The Village Spotlight

A Publication of the **Village of Grafton** designed to provide the community with a snap shot of village life today.



Celebrating Grafton's Bicentennial! Happy 200th Birthday!

Message from Mayor Dave DiVencenzo



*Village of Grafton Mayor
David DiVencenzo*

Dear Grafton Residents,

Happy 2017! I hope you and your families had a restful winter and have begun 2017 in a meaningful way.

This year marks a significant celebration for the Village of Grafton as the community honors its 200th Birthday! This Bicentennial year will be full of special events that the wonderful Bicentennial Committee has worked tirelessly to prepare, over the last year or so. A complete Bicentennial Calendar of Events is listed on Page 7 of this publication, along with more information on the fun festivities which are posted online at www.villageofgrafton.org. Village of Grafton Bicentennial shirts are also available, and those interested should visit Grafton Sparkle or Centerra, formally known

as Town and Country Co-Op. Stop in and get your official Bicentennial shirt today! There will be many fun and exciting events throughout the calendar year, so please bring your family and friends to celebrate all the Village of Grafton has accomplished over the past 200 years.

Along with our Bicentennial celebration, several exciting endeavors are taking place within the Village. New economic development projects are in the works that will continue to put Grafton on the map as one of the leading communities in Lorain County. Also, a focus on creating more business opportunities within Grafton to continue the revitalization of downtown is a top priority. Sustaining the Greater Grafton Business Roundtable is of high importance and the Village will work diligently to do so. The Village of Grafton also recognizes the importance of utilizing more innovative ways to communicate to Grafton's residents. The Village Spotlight has become one of the leading avenues to connect

(continued on page 3)



*Families are always welcome at the
Grafton-Midview Public Library!*



*Curious community children have indoor
fun, waiting for the weather to break!*



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A Message from Mayor Dave DiVencenzo

(continued from page 1)

with the community, and I am pleased with all the positive feedback of this publication. The Village will continue to produce this information as well as work on creating more efficient opportunities to expand and grow communication efforts. I look forward to working with Grafton's partners, government officials, residents and local businesses to continue to make positive strides for the entire Village of Grafton.

To close, I would like to express my gratitude to our local businesses. The Village Spotlight has grown to include advertisements from Grafton's local businesses and I thank you for your support in stepping up to help this publication grow to better serve the residents of this fine Village. Community members can express their support



Bicentennial Shirts

Attention Village of Grafton residents! Bicentennial shirts are now available and being sold at our local shops, Grafton Sparkle and Centerra Country Store. Let's celebrate Grafton's 200th year by purchasing a shirt today!

by patronizing these local establishments as often as possible. Thank you for your continued encouragement. I look forward to working hard in furthering the growth and success of the community. I hope to see you all at upcoming Bicentennial events as we celebrate the Village of Grafton. Let's make Grafton's 200th year the best one yet!

-Mayor Dave DiVencenzo

Business Feature: Lu's Pizza

935 Main Street
440-926-2171

Family Owned and Operated for 40 years.

Grafton's very own Lu's Pizza is celebrating its 40th Anniversary on March 3rd, 2017. To give some history on this fine establishment, Lu's Pizza was founded in 1977 by Lula (Lu) Capp who previously worked at two other pizza restaurants, learning knowledge and skills firsthand on how to run a small business. Lu always desired to open her own pizza restaurant and finally did when the current location of Lu's became available, creating what is now, Lu's Pizza.

Lu's Pizza is proud to be a family owned and operated business, as numerous family members have worked at the establishment over the past forty years, including Lu's son and current owner, Scott Bohac. Many may know Scott personally, as he grew up in Grafton, attended Midview High School and began working at the pizza shop when he was only 10 years old. Scott's son, Jesse, currently works at the restaurant as well, making it truly a family effort!

What Makes Lu's Pizza the Best in Town? To start, Lu's proudly makes their own pizza dough and sauce, as well as spaghetti sauce and meatballs. Some top selling items in addition to pizza are spaghetti, salads, wings and meatball sandwiches. Pepperoni is the most popular topping choice for patrons of Lu's Pizza, while their selection is vast. Most commercial pizza chains use a conveyor belt pizza oven; however, Lu's bakes their pizzas in an old-style deck oven which features baking stones that help to ensure each pizza is individually made and baked evenly to perfection.

The restaurant has been part of downtown Grafton for 40 years and is a local favorite enjoyed by generations of residents from Grafton and surrounding areas. It features a small-town charm and menu of fresh and delicious pizzas, spaghetti, sandwiches and more. A common occurrence for adults who grew up in Grafton but now live elsewhere is to request Lu's Pizza when they come home to visit family and friends. Lu and her son Scott have found that recommendations from its loyal customers is the best form of advertisement for the restaurant. Since most orders are carry-out, they know what menu options many of their customers prefer to order. Lu's Pizza delivers, as well as takes carry-out and dine-in orders. Stop in to Lu's Pizza and help celebrate 40 years, located right in downtown Grafton, 935 Main Street or call 440-926-2171 to order. Scott and Lu are proud to celebrate 40 years of serving top-quality pizzas and look forward to more years to come in the Village of Grafton.



Lula Capp with her son and current owner, Scott Bohac in front of Lu's Pizza.



Scott serving up one of Lu's famous pizzas.

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

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Happy Bicentennial!

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Council Commentary

With Councilman Matt Dukles

As a Grafton business owner, I stepped into public service with the hope and trust of many who supported my efforts and belief in the future of Grafton. Like many before me, I first entered office believing that government should run like a business. While that mind set is in many ways true, government adds layers upon layers of checks and balances with regulations not imposed on private business, often slowing progress and sometimes overall growth. Working through this legislative maze has its challenges, however I am happy to say it has been a great success!

As the Village celebrates its Bicentennial, we don't need to look far to see Grafton's past. Many landmarks throughout town are a daily reminder of history, a present part of Grafton's identity and a reminder of the legacy others have left to be preserved. The idea of continuing on in creating a legacy challenges me as I hope to help leave one for the future. Although there is much to be cherished, there is also much need in terms of *repairing, removing, and restoring* existing infrastructure through the Village of Grafton, some now exceeding the better part of the last century.

Updating Grafton's infrastructure has been and will remain at the forefront of council's consideration. Council has dug in to find funding for several improvement projects in recent years. In terms of sanitation, considerable updates to the Village's sanitary system have occurred with more to come in the near future. Looking at street repairs, Grafton commissioned the reconstruction of North Main Street, although this project was an inconvenience to many during construction, the finished improvement greatly improved the gateway to the community and historic downtown district. In

Watch Council Meetings Online!

Council Meetings will be televised
Thursday's at 7:30 PM as well as Friday,
Saturday and Sunday at 11:00 AM and 7:30
PM on Channel 12 or www.gjwb.net

2015, Grafton reconstructed Mechanic Street south from Main Street and this past summer completing Mechanic Street from Main Street to Elm Street. This was another dynamic improvement into the downtown district. In addition, improvements were made to several streets with resurfacing and various pavement repairs. In regards to electric

changes, lighting improvements are underway installing new energy efficient LED lighting. In addition to energy savings, the LED lights provide a greater consistency and quality of lighting. This costly improvement is being done in phases as thirty to sixty LED fixtures

are being installed yearly. The Village hopes to have most replaced by the end of the year in 2019. Touching on water improvements, plans are moving forward to build a new Water Tower in the downtown district. A 'loop' waterline connection under the CSX tracks is to be installed as well as building a new water booster pump station at the site of the former water plant. Stay tuned for more, there is so much to look forward to.

Serving as Grafton's Ward 1 Councilman, has truly been an honor. I thank everyone who made that possible.

— Councilman Matthew Dukles



Councilman Matt Dukles

Did You Know?

2017 marks the Bicentennial year of the Village of Grafton. Our Village is officially 200 years old!



Services Update

Joe Price, Village Administrator

Making greater Grafton even GREATER!

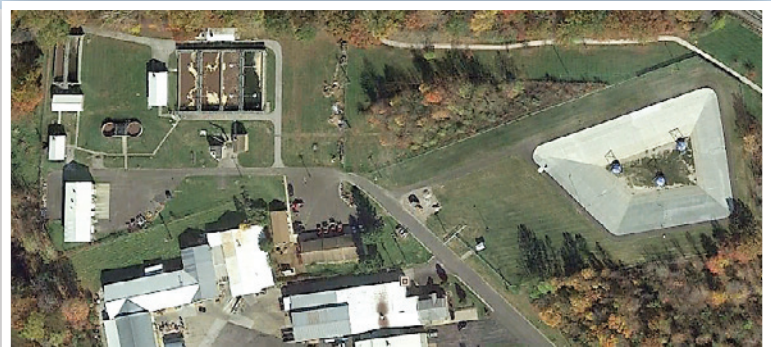
The first of a 4-part series highlighting Grafton's commitment to modern infrastructure

By: Joe Price – Village Administrator

A vital part of a vibrant community comes from its ability to function every moment of every day. Just as a firm foundation is needed to support the structures we build, the infrastructure of a community works to benefit the body of residents and businesses that rely on safe roads to connect us, electricity to power our day, clean water to sustain life and a sanitary system to protect water quality and overall public health.

Out-of-sight to most, the **Grafton Waste Water Treatment Plant** (WWTP) located on McApplin Court, operates 24-hours a day, 7-days a week, receiving the flow of mostly liquid waste, removing foreign materials, treating raw sewage, separating solids from greywater, treating and cleansing the liquids and discharging clear water into the Black River tributary. The entire process from entry to discharge, is under the supervision of three sanitary department employees, all of which are certified waste water treatment operators, and each accountable to the stringent regulatory oversight of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

The WWTP has been and will remain a key component to the



Aerial view of Grafton's Waste Water Treatment Plant

growth and sustainable economy here in Grafton. Representing a lifetime estimated investment in excess of forty million dollars, the plant is capable of treating 1.5 million gallons of sewage daily. Currently, the plant runs at slightly less than two-thirds capacity. With future growth in mind, the plant as it exists was designed to be expanded to treat one-and-a-half times its current maximum capacity.

Storm water has the potential of over running and inundating a sanitary system when storm water enters the sanitary system through cross connections, open sanitary cleanouts or illegal connections to the sanitary system. I & I (Inflow and Infiltration) can create a volume of liquids greater than the system is designed to treat, compromising the treatment plant capacity in a variety of ways, including possibly allowing raw sewage to flow directly into



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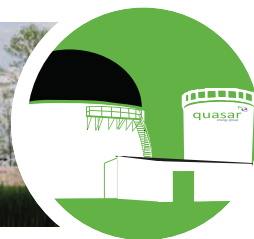
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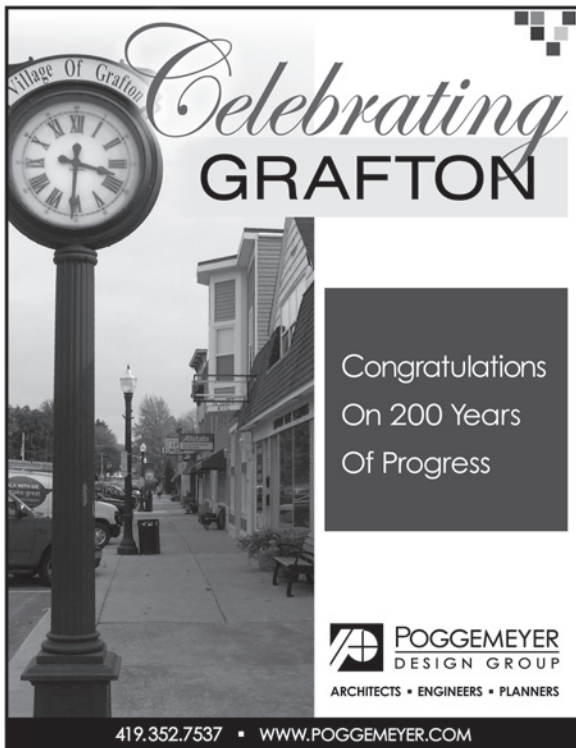


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a Happy Bicentennial!***

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the Black River that may cause sanitary sewage back-up into residential and commercial properties.

Seeing a need and addressing a concern, in 2015 the Village completed construction of a 5 million gallon Equalization Basin, a \$3.5 million investment. The EQ Basin automatically comes on line during server storm events when flow to the plant exceeds normal flow or maximum flow capacity. When activated, three high volume pumps then pull from the sanitary system inlet and pumps the material into the EQ Basin, where it holds the wastewater and keeps the WWTP operating without interruption and greatly reduces the chance of sewage backing up into homes and businesses in a storm event. An additional benefit is the added protection the EQ Basin provides to our Black River watershed and the quality of water that eventually makes it way to Lake Erie. When the storm event ends, pumps in the EQ Basin then slowly release the sewage into the WWTP treatment system for controlled treatment and processing. This process that can take up to four days to complete.

The common factors in every waste water treatment system is: what goes in, must come down; what goes down, must come out; what comes out, better have someone there to decide what needs to be done with it! The Village of Grafton is fortunate to employ the full-time services of three outstanding professionals in the field of waste water treatment. Class 3 Operator of record and WWTP Manager, **Chad Riffle**, Class 3 Operator **Tom Rice** and Class 2 Operator **Jacob Beal**. The next time you see Chad, Tom or Jake... let them know how much you appreciate all they do to keep Grafton regular, and our sewage out-of-sight.

— Joe Price



Bicentennial Events Calendar:

Our Bicentennial year is officially here. Join us in celebrating Grafton's 200th year as our Bicentennial Committee hosts many celebratory events over this next year. Visit our website, <http://villageofgrafton.org> for Bicentennial event updates or contact Bicentennial Chairpersons **Doris Wildenheim** at 440-926-2956 or **Carlee Mahajan** at carleemahajan@gmail.com with any questions. We hope to see the entire Village of Grafton as we commemorate our very special Village!

MARCH

Sunday, March 19th – Settlers' Dinner, Our Lady Queen of Peace Hall, 3 p.m.

APRIL

Wednesday, April 12th – "Heritage Trail", Library 6 p.m.

Saturday, April 22nd – Earth Day- Village Clean Up

Sunday, April 23rd – Church Open Houses, Our Lady Queen of Peace, Methodist, Life Church

MAY

Wednesday, May 10th – "Heritage Trail", Library 6 p.m.

Friday, May 26th – Fireman's Festival Weekend, Willow Park
1 p.m. – 11 p.m.

Monday, May 29th – VFW Memorial Day Parade

JUNE

Wednesday, June 14th – "Heritage Trail", Library 6 p.m.

Sunday, June 18th – Gazebo Dedication, Mechanic/
Main Street 3 p.m.

Patriot Band Concert, Willow Park 4 p.m.

Saturday, June 24th – Police Department Open House,
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

JULY

Saturday, July 1st – Bicentennial Day

5K Walk, TBA

Main Street Party, 4 p.m.

Parade, 6:30 p.m.



"Party in the Park", 7 p.m.

Fireworks, 10 p.m.

Wednesday, July 12th – "Heritage Trail", Library 6 p.m.

AUGUST

Friday, August 4th, Saturday, August 5th, Sunday, August 6th

– Our Lady Queen of Peace Festival, Erie Street

Wednesday, August 9th – "Heritage Trail", Library 6 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 2nd – "Blast from the Past" Yesterday's
Memories, Willow Park 10 a.m – 8 p.m.

Wednesday, September 13th – "Heritage Trail", Library 6 p.m.

OCTOBER

Sunday, October 8th – Fireman's Open House, North Park,
2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Wednesday, October 11th – "Heritage Trail", Library 6 p.m.

Sunday, October 29th – Halloween Parade and Party, Fire Department

NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 5th – Walking Quarry Tour, Parsons Road Park
Entrance 1 p.m.

Wednesday, November 8th – "Heritage Trail", Library 6 p.m.

DECEMBER

Friday, December 1st – Old Fashioned Christmas, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Wednesday, December 13th – "Heritage Trail", Library 6 p.m.

Saturday, December 30th – Last Call Bicentennial, TBA



Upcoming Village Events

MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 7:30 pm Council Meeting	8 "Heritage Trail," Library 6 p.m.	9	10	11
12 Day Light Saving Time—Spring Ahead!	13	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18
19 Settlers' Dinner, Our Lady Queen of Peace Hall, 3 p.m.	20 First Day of Spring!	21 7:30pm Council Meeting TBA Planning/ Zoning Commis- sion Meeting	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 April Fools Day
2	3	4 7:30 pm Council Meeting	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 "Heritage Trail," Library 6 p.m.	13	14	15
16 Easter	17	18 Tax Day 7:30pm Council Meeting TBA Planning/ Zoning Commis- sion Meeting	19	20	21	22 Earth Day-Village Clean Up
23 Church Open Houses, at Our Lady Queen of Peace, Method- ist, Life Church	24	25	26	27	28 Arbor Day	29
30						

MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2 7:30pm Council Meeting	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 "Heritage Trail," Library 6 p.m.	11	12	13
14 Mother's Day	15	16 7:30pm Council Meeting TBA Planning/ Zoning Commis- sion Meeting	17	18	19	20 Armed Forces Day
21	22	23	24	25	26 Fireman's Festival Weekend, Willow Park 1 p.m. – 11 p.m.	27 Fireman's Festival Weekend, Willow Park 1 p.m. – 11 p.m.
28 Fireman's Festival Weekend, Willow Park 1 p.m. – 11 p.m.	29 Memorial Day VFW Memorial Day Parade	30	31			



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Grafton, Ohio 44044

Non-Emergency Contact Information

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Utilities (440) 926-1093 opt. 1

Streets (440) 926-2260

Electric (440) 926-2912

Sewer (440) 926-2765

Fire (non emergency) (440) 926-2075

Police (non emergency) (440) 926-2261